

# Catholics for Renewal - News Update

## The Synod on the Family - will the people of the Church be heard?

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The 14th General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops Rome, 4-25 October 2015 "The vocation and mission of the family in the Church "



### Editorial Abstract

In March 2013, the most promising change in the Church since Vatican II took place with the totally unexpected election of a very pastoral Pope prepared to criticise the Church's institutional failings. The calling of the Synod of Bishops to consider the pastoral challenges of families is arguably the most important step taken by Pope Francis towards renewal of our Church.

The Synod's focus on the family presents an opportunity to expose the desperate need for major changes in the institutional Church. But that won't happen without the involvement of the faithful envisaged by Vatican II. As the synod approaches, we suggest that a key question is: "Will the people of the Church be heard?"

We consider this question in examining the following:

- \* What are synods, especially this Synod on the Family?
- \* Why should the People of God be heard?
- \* What might we expect from the Synod on the Family?

The Synod on the Family is a very real opportunity for the Church to renew and to focus on its God-given mission in the world. The test for this synod is whether the institutional Church is ready to listen to the people of the Church.

Read full Editorial [HERE](#)



## The Jesus Movement Part VI - the end of the Apostolic Era.

David Timbs\*, September 2015

The previous article in the Mutations series explored key aspects of Paul's understanding of the centrality of Christ and how his message quickly precipitated a profound theological rift not only between himself and Pharisaic Judaism but also between him and his fellow Judeo-Christian missionaries. The disputes were largely about the conditions on which Gentiles would be

accepted and integrated by the Jesus Movement. Paul steadfastly refused to accept the principle that conversion required not only Baptism but also observance of Jewish dietary law. For Paul, the issue reduced to the absolute and exclusive centrality of Christ and that authentic humanity together with its inalienable freedoms is realisable in him alone.

This essay will cover key developments in the community life, worship, leadership and the redirection of its evangelical outreach as the Jesus Movement was gradually transformed into 'Church' during the century after the Apostles and Evangelists. Read full paper [HERE](#)

*\* David was a Redemptorist priest for 25 years. He is trained as a scripture scholar and has taught at the Catholic Theological College and the Yarra Theological Union. David has done extensive research on the issue of Catholic Church history, structure, organisation, culture and clericalism.*

## Remarriage in the Church: Pastoral solutions

Extract from OMG! A Journal of Religion and Culture July 2015

"A statement by the board members of the Association for the Rights of Catholics in the Church (ARCC)"



A vast number of U.S. Catholics who stay away from the sacraments (and hardly ever go to Mass) do so because they think they are in "a bad marriage." That is, they were divorced and, without getting a declaration of nullity from the Church, they married again. The good news is that they may very well be in a good marriage, annulment or no. The bad news is that no one has bothered to give them the good news. We, the board members of ARCC, who, by and large, represent a mainstream in American Catholicism, feel it is time for us to bother — to report the news that people who are remarried without an annulment need not stay away from Mass and the sacraments. We feel we have a duty to bring our informed understanding to this issue, an issue that has, up to now, been the subject of much misunderstanding, a misunderstanding leading to needless alienation from the Church, and a ruinous decimation (or, more accurately perhaps, a quadrimation) of Church membership. This need not be.....(read full paper [HERE](#))

## News and Opinion Pieces

The following Catholics For Renewal website News & Opinion items may be read [HERE](#)

**What can progressives realistically expect from Pope Francis these next two months?**

**Bishop Robinson at Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse**

**Women protect humanity against evil, says Francis**

**"Those in irregular situations can teach us something too"**

**U.S. Catholics Open to Non-Traditional Families**

**Synod on the Family - Vatican releases Synod list: 279 participants,**

**Pope asks Cardinals to review how Bishops are chosen**

**Archbishop to accompany Sydney families to Philadelphia**

**Welby sets up global Anglican meeting to avoid split**

**German priest wants more action, transparency from Vatican to clear sex abuse cases**

**TJH Council calls for new national law on abuse reporting**

**Pope reforms marriage annulment process**

**Reporting of sex abuse not standard**

**Conservative dissent is brewing inside the Vatican**



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