

Catholics for Renewal - News Update



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Amoris Laetitia: Now for the Discernment

Newsletter No.3 April 12 2016

Read full Editorial [HERE](#)

Editorial Extracts:

"No one can be condemned forever, because that is not the logic of the Gospel!"

-Pope Francis, March 8, 2016

The title and the tone set the context for Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation in response to the Bishops Synods on the family..... The joy and love in marriage, family and associated human relationships are central to the theological and pastoral ecology of the letter. What the Letter does primarily is to affirm that the family is the essential foundational unit of the Universal Church..... The need for discernment involves process and extends beyond Amoris Laetitia. The Church has an urgent need to address its gravely dysfunctional governance specifically in its inadequate involvement of its people and the inclusion of women in decision making at the highest levels. The Church also needs to establish structures that will enable a culture of respect and listening which has already been critical to the development of Francis' insights in Amoris Laetitia..... **Amoris Laetitia** is built upon unprecedented consultation across the diverse Church, imperfect though that process was. It paves the way for further, much needed, Church renewal, but is only just the start of a new, continuing, journey. What is needed now is much discernment, collectively by all of the people of God, and recognising and supporting the cultural and social differences that characterise even a universal church based on Christ.

A key quote:

".....We have been called to form consciences, not to replace them." #37. Read full Editorial [HERE](#)

Vatican II, Gaudium et Spes, Francis and Mercy

David Timbs

Read Full article [HERE](#)



Extracts:

".....Francis' papacy has occasioned the return of sound Moral theology, finally out of the catacombs after forty years of close scrutiny, and therefore, being understandably cautious. It's no wonder Francis appeals to the very best in sound moral theology in his major writings so far. He wants people to recognise that the Christian life is primarily informed by the Gospel of Christ which is incarnated in human history and human experience. Francis has made it a priority to support his teaching with the great moral thinking of St Thomas Aquinas. Thomas' moral doctrine is founded on the Christian virtues of Faith, Hope and Love and not on Church Law. His doctrine of free will and the primacy of conscience make possible safe and integral solutions to problems intractable in Church Law and even in the best Sacramental Theology....."

"..... Francis has served the Church well in reclaiming the collective memory of Vatican II, in validating its authority and affirming its vision. The Council led the People of God out of a tired old near static ecclesiastical world into a stunning new human environment with all the challenges of modernity. A major accomplishment of Vatican II was to shift the Church's centre of gravity away from itself into the very centre of human society, to embrace the world and evangelise it from the inside as its citizens and not from the outside as strangers....."

".....Another likely unstoppable initiative is that Francis has also taken almost all Catholic people with him so far down the path of renewal, re-imagining, 'conceptual relocation' and recovery of the genius and vision of Vatican II that it will be near impossible for these to be reversed easily by anyone..... (read full article [Here](#))



Selecting Australia's Bishops: Finding a Role for All

Peter Wilkinson

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"Catholics for Renewal will shortly be proposing means of involving the people of dioceses in the selection of their bishops (watch this space!). Nine new diocesan bishops could be appointed in

Australia this year. Peter's paper explains how and why the involvement of the laity is critical to the renewal of the Church."

Read full paper [HERE](#)

Introduction:

Peter J Wilkinson puts forward a proposal for a process to select new bishops that respects the history of bishops' selection and current laws and practice. This article will be followed by another reprinted article following the next edition of The Swag. The second article focuses on an analysis of bishops' appointments in Australia and a way to improve these in the future. **Read full paper [HERE](#)**

Spirituality in the Pub

The Synod on the Family - the start of major reform?

Peter Johnstone OAM

8pm, Wednesday 4th May 2016

The PUMPHOUSE HOTEL Hotel, 128 Nicholson Street Fitzroy

The Pumphouse Hotel provides a spacious and comfortable atmosphere. Meals available from 6.00pm –7.30pm.

Remember: Support the Pub that supports SIP – Dine at the Pumphouse!

Full details [HERE](#)



News and Opinion Pieces

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

Archbishop: We must stay in touch with messy reality of marriage
Bishop Mulkearns won't be interred in Ballarat Cathedral crypt
Publication of Amoris Laetitia and a summary document
Journey implied in 'Amoris Laetitia' may never be over
Exhortation a radical shift to see grace in imperfection, without fearing moral confusion
Reactions to pope's reflection on family life
Top Ten Takeaways from "Amoris Laetitia"
Amoris Laetitia, start with chapter 4
Amoris Laetitia: Francis challenges the church
Out today: Amoris Laetitia, Pope's hope for greater inclusion
Pope's exhortation will focus on 'dialogue', says Vatican
Vatican guide says Francis' family document puts doctrine 'at service of pastoral mission'
In meeting with Fellay, Pope Francis shows double standard in the 'culture of encounter'
A Listening Church
Cardinal insists Papal text will be on marriage, not divorce
Six things to look for in 'Amoris Laetitia'
The Exhortation Expectations Game
Statement from Bishop Paul Bird following the death of Bishop Ronald Mulkearns
Bishop Ron Mulkearns
Why social media will shape 'Vatican III'



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