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How should PC2020 listen to what the *sensus fidelium* is saying?

- launch of the first summary document "*Sensus fidelium*" as part of our planned incremental set of Plenary Council key issue resources

Newsletter 19 December 2019

Larger text .PDF version of Newsletter [Here](#)

Sensus fidelium summary document (*read below*) [Here](#)

Key issues underlying the 2020/2021 Plenary Council

1. *sensus fidelium*

The Church as 'Communion of the people'

"We are members one of another"
(Eph 4,25)

"The Church herself is a network woven together by Eucharistic communion, where unity is based not on "likes", but on the truth, on the "amen", by which each one clings to the Body of Christ, and welcomes others"



The Last Supper, Elise Boysaw, 2014, "a simple image of a profound moment" www.eliseboysaw

- extract from message of Pope Francis for the 53rd World Communications

Day, 2019.

Launch of set of Summary Documents - beginning with 'Sensus fidelium'

Over the ten years of Catholics For Renewal existence an important learning has been that however many words are used to describe and explain significant issues it cannot be assumed that all readers share background knowledge or clear understanding of key terminology, phrases and issues that are fundamental to our faith, effectiveness of our Church, and objectives of the 2020/2021 Plenary Council. There are times when for busy people fewer words that are highly focused and very accessible can be more helpful than lengthy detail, particularly when these also optionally point to further resources.

For this reason we are embarking on a program over the next six months or so to incrementally produce a set of very short but highly focused statements and explanations to help raise awareness and general understanding. These are not substitutes for lengthier more complex treatises but intended to provide a set of readily accessible short explanations, with optional connection to fuller resources.

These documents are for use by our subscribers and may also be freely used, for example, as printed inclusions for parish newsletters, as discussion papers for groups such as parish Pastoral Councils, Liturgy Teams, Scripture Groups, Faith Formation Groups and School Religion Groups etc.

One critical issue, amongst others, is the 'sensus fidei fidelium' (sense of faith of Christ's faithful - commonly abbreviated to 'sensus fidelium') which underlies the whole P2020/2021 process. This is the subject of a summary document now available [HERE](#) and launched with this Newsletter as the first of a progressive series of short accessible key issue documents over the next six months or so.

This initial 'summary document' resource and those that follow will also be progressively available as part of 'Document No. 93' on our website [Documents](#) page.

Planned set of 2020/2021 Plenary issue summary documents

- 1) Sensus fidelium (sense of faith of Christ's faithful) [Dec. 2019]
- 2) Co-responsibility: Accountability, Transparency and Inclusion [Jan. 2020]
- 3) Diocesan/Parish Pastoral Councils and Synodality [Feb. 2020]
- 4) Women and Ministry [March 2020]
- 5) Clericalism [April 2010]
- 6) Priests and celibacy [May 2020]
- 7) Subsidiarity [June 2020]
- 8) Signs of the times [July 2020]

Christmas 2019

Whilst other brief news follows may we take this opportunity to wish you and all those around you a joyous and holy Christmas, and a year of hope ahead as 'members one of another'. May '2020' be the year of renewal.



*Nativity, Hanna Cheriya Varghese
omsc*



*1895 2nd Australian Plenary Council, published
with kind permission of the Melbourne Diocesan
Historical Commission*

Further papers in the series Early Australian Councils / Plenaries available below

Adding to his earlier articles in the series on the 'particular' (plenary and provincial) councils held in Australia since 1844 and progressively published in *The Swag*, Peter Wilkinson has now completed a further article on the 1905 3rd Australian Plenary Council which were published in two Parts in the 2019 Spring and

Summer editions of *The Swag*. These will be followed by two further articles on the 1907 1st Melbourne Provincial Council and the 1937 4th

Australasian Plenary Council to complete the series.

Articles in the series already published in The Swag as listed below, and with kind permission from The Swag are republished as Document 78 on the Documents page of the Catholics For Renewal website [HERE](#)

1. 1844: First Australian Provincial Council, held 10-12 September in Sydney (Vol. 25, No. 4, Summer 2017)
 2. 1862: Non-recognised Australian Provincial Council held in Sydney (Vol. 25, N. 4, Summer 2017)
 3. 1869: Second Australian Provincial Council held 18-25 April in Melbourne (Vol. 26, No.1, Autumn 2018)
 4. 1885: First Australasian Plenary Council held 14-29 November in Sydney (Parts 1 and 2) (Vol. 26, Nos 2 & 3, Winter & Spring 2018)
 5. 1895: Second Australian Plenary Council held 17 November-1 December in Sydney (Vol. 27, No. 1, Autumn 2019)
 6. 1905: Third Australian Plenary Council Part 1
 7. 1905: Third Australian Plenary Council Part 2
- Further papers in this series will be added later.

The following recent Catholics For Renewal website News & Opinion items provide a snapshot of current Church issues and may be accessed [HERE](#)

** Note that publication of links to these items does not necessarily indicate editorial support.*



Pope Francis abolishes 'pontifical secret' in clergy sex abuse cases

CSSV Announces New Executive Director

Number of priests refusing to be bishops on the rise

Archbishop Coleridge discusses 'tough year'

Who will fill the future pews?

Diocesan Catholic Community Profiles released

Vatican calls Greta Thunberg 'great witness' of Church's environmental teaching

Movement for Church renewal keeps growing

Synodality and the abuse crisis: The Church is still stuck in Trent

Year of milestones' for child protection organisation

Pope, council of cardinals discuss greater role for lay men and women

US Married father-of-five approved for ordination

German Catholic women call for change as 'synodal path' gets underway

Dublin Diocese begins process of significant change in Sacramental Preparation

German synodal reforms launched

The Plenary, Catholic doctrine and 'Catholics for Renewal'

W mandatory reporting extension would include confession

Promoting women in the Church 'unfinished business'

Papal encyclical on nonviolence on the cards

Italian bishops face blowback for opening to divorced/remarried Catholics

Parishes in trouble; the people have spoken

German bishops' general secretary: The church should not fear the 'synodal way'

NZ Royal Commission - Invited Australian Input



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DONATIONS [HERE](#). Our work is a labour of love - much labour and much love for our Christ-given Church. Please help support our intensive voluntary and mostly self-funded ongoing work. Purchasing a copy of *Get Back on Mission* ([here](#)) will also help.

(thanks to those who have responded)

eMail: info@catholicsforrenewal.org.au

Website: www.catholicsforrenewal.org.au

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