

Issue #3 GA Respond to the Church at a Crossroads

Abuse of youth and vulnerable adults, cover-up by the hierarchy and clericalism have hurt those who trusted in the Church and caused many to lose faith. We, the baptized, are the church and standing at the crossroads with the abused and betrayed, will work to create a culture where all Christians are empowered to confront and root out abuse of all kinds, much as Jesus did when he cleansed the temple (Matthew 21:12-13).

Imagine

1. I think there is too much action going on in this area, specifically the Synod process interacting with GA Responds. Maybe we need to see what the Synod outcomes may be, then GA Responds.
2. A church of love, not just rules. A more just church contributing to a more just society.
3. Push the envelope on creating opportunities for women on the altar, in leadership and visible positions.
4. Train all on VIRTUS.
5. Imagine lay preachers, women deacons, women priests.
6. Leadership at the parish and archdiocesan level is shared equally between clerical and nonclerical people of God.
7. Bring back the lay preachers, communal penance, for Lent and Advent.
8. Lay preaching training and process.
9. I was surprised to hear that victims are considered responsible for trusting clergy and looking up to them and being abused. Isn't this blaming the victim? This is not part of healing process to blame the self.
10. There are many levels of "hurt" and "hurting". How to break the superiority of Catholic leadership? How to be more inclusive to the other half of the church—women.
11. More women involved in ministry. Women priests bring back lay ministers, more communal penance services.
12. Servant priests—where priest sits among the congregants—where priest and communion distributors take communion last—such powerful visuals. Input from parish on preaching emphasizing CST. Pastoral Council decides what priest "fits" our church when we transition to a new priest— "calling".
13. Imagine a place of safety where all are equal and feel equal. Imagine a church where there are clear, posted info for reporting abuse.
14. Need to see more women in leadership roles and in worship roles.
15. We wouldn't be paying out millions of \$ to victims of sexual abuse. We would accept and welcome LGBTQ people.
16. Women would speak from the altar and give the homily.
17. Reinstate lay minister of both sexes. Understand it as a community problem, not just a problem of individuals. Be sure all parishioners know to report all abuse, not keep under wraps.
18. Women priests.
19. I would like to see us promote a positive approach to the problem. Acknowledge that we have a problem and we are all a part of the problem and the solution. Promote and celebrate the positive things that are happening. Ministerial review board—LAB—Synod Build positive energy.
20. Do we (GA) have the courage to defy the doctrines of the church and implement---total inclusivity, total participation acceptance of all? Do we stand to the injustices of the church towards those "not like us"? We are the church!

21. Didn't know about GA Responding group. WOW! Our church is doing this, and we should all be proud. Be the change.
22. A wider understanding of what people can do to be better empowered in the church and have greater involvement.
23. Offer a group for those effected, directly or indirectly by clergy abuse. It would not be a "counsel session" but a safe place to share their thoughts and feelings.
24. Share with those who have been affected or disenchanted that there is work being done within the parishes and processes—to make the church a better place. Ask those who are affected: What do you say can be done to remedy or make a difference.
25. We need a plan for 30 years from now when we have forgotten or less impacted by this tragedy. How do we prevent this from happening again?
26. Clearly publish procedures for oversight in protecting (2 often)
27. How do we get local media to report out the positive changes?
28. This is so good to hear out loud that our parish is trying to make change happen.
29. Summary of what this archdiocese has done so can communicate this to others. Lots of positive things have been done.
30. Keep using a system that makes things two people deep to protect kids and vulnerable adults.
31. Problem of clericalism—lay preaching—must expand ordination to women, married clergy—open communication on decisions—LGBTQ marriages and roles in the church. Good to see use of the deanery representation today.
32. All would be respected equally.
33. Actions are self-evident. Implement what was identified in presentation.
34. Ask why questions and encourage others to also do so.
35. If we just do what Crossroads committee talked about, we might have a chance to keep this parish alive.
36. Urge archbishop Hebda to release all the investigation data on former archbishop John Nienstedt. Turning up rocks on all his abuse and disclosure of the destructive actions of this man, the epitome of clericalism, is important.
37. We need lay ministers to proclaim the gospel and give homily. We need community confession several times a year---communal confession can build community.
38. Support groups for healing individuals or families. It might not always be super obvious if someone needs help so more community outreach.
39. Communal penance—laity women preachers.
40. Become more involved in the day to day growth of the parish. Have the courage to question and expect all to be participants.
41. Do we have the guts to stand up to the church to make this GA Community inclusive, welcoming---we are 1 pastor away from all these good thoughts being gone.....?
42. Learn it, live it, share it. Keep the ball rolling, prayer and action. A million ways to solve problems. Approach change with creativity, respect, and courage.
43. Increase lay involvement in the church, at mass, homily, baptisms, deacons....
44. Taking the first few minutes before each mass to pray/moment of silence for those victims. Actively hold a session 1 time/month to hear other stories. Who may have been affected by the abuse or know someone who has been affected?

45. Speaker/panel on how to be Catholic when I feel betrayed or have some concerns. And/or support group or forum where folks can talk about their concerns, betrayals, in a safe place and how to move forward.