



Council 50 : Towards a Church Inspired by the Gospel, for the world

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After 50 years, help relight the flame of Vatican II in order to enlighten our changing world with the Good News of Jesus !

I Council 50 an ongoing process

The Synod showed, once more, the difficulties of our Church to move, despite the energy and the willingness of our Pope Francis, from a dogmatic view and behavior to a pastoral and evangelic approach for enlightening our 21st century world with the “Good News” of Jesus.

The flame of Vatican II needs being relighted in order to change into wonder the present disappointment of a larger and larger number of people who thus disregard our Church and, even worse, the “Good News” of Jesus.

This is why, on line with the appeals of Pope Francis in his exhortation “Evangelii Gaudium”, several international and national associations of reform Catholics launched the project **Council 50**. They are also developing contacts with the Vatican in order to insure that Council 50 generates constructive responses to the appeals of our Pope Francis and resonates with his speech of October 28th to the meeting of international popular movements.

Council 50 is a process towards the future for

- contributing to shape our Church for the future so that it behaves according to the Gospel and enlightens with the Good News of Jesus Christ our 21st century world;
- doing this together with all the Church, including those that do not think in the same way as we do;
- making awareness, worldwide and within our Church, of experiences, reflections and actions, inspired by the Gospel, already developed in local Churches, parishes, groups, associations, and communities in the spirit of Vatican II;
- bringing together reform and renewal focused people from these associations, groups, communities and parishes who are working locally to keep churches going and communities supported in a spirit of the Gospel;

- sharing energy and motivation, exchanging ideas, inspiration as well as concerns for creating a future for local Catholic Churches, parishes and communities inspired by the light of Vatican II and involved more efficiently to turn our world towards the material and spiritual well-being of all its inhabitants, with social justice, solidarity and peace;
- establishing permanent contacts and developing a networking to help each other in the years to come;
- drafting, in the spirit of Council Vatican 2, a Charter presenting our vision and suggestions for the renewal, inspired by the Gospel, of the Catholic Church and its actions in the world;

II. How to proceed? What to do from now on?

Every group, community, association, parish willing to meet these challenges is invited to send already either by email or postal mail what they are ready to share now: documents, reflections, questions, practical experiences or actions, etc... and submit them for publication on the website of Council 50 to the webmaster :

Valerie Stroud: valeriejstroud@btinternet.com

They are also invited, according to their interests and procedures, to:

- organize, or contribute to already planned, events, debates and/or workshops for reflections and proposals on key topics of interest to them for the renewal of our Church and its actions for our world (including on the topics of the synod) ;
- develop possibly if they are interested a reflection on:
 - * The past: What are the five most central pastoral decisions of our Church that you think are errors, made since 1965, when the council ended?
 - * The present: What are the five major pastoral reforms that could have been envisioned world-wide in the fifty years since Vatican II ended?
 - *The future: What are the major benefits for the People of God that will follow from these five reforms?
- prepare reports, videos, documents, etc. on experiences, celebrations, liturgies, and practice, as well as on reflections, proposals, requests, and statements;
- submit them to the webmaster for publication on the website of Council 50;
- prepare a poster and a contribution to the Charter for the gathering on 20-22 November 2015 in Rome;
- delegate someone to the gathering on 20-22 November in Rome (see below).

First results will be presented in forthcoming letters

III. The gathering in Rome 20-22 November 2015

First, note the change in the dates due to the non-availability of the appropriate place on 13-15 November period.

Goals

This event aims at being the loudspeaker of, , what is done and thought of throughout the world for reforming our Church according to the Gospel in the spirit of Vatican II. It will be a place, open to the world via internet, to report and discuss for future actions, and other key events such as the synod.

This event will be an opportunity to:

- * meet fellow working in their communities , parishes, for renewal in the spirit of Vatican II, and hear their stories, know better each other, make the participants aware of what is done in different parts of the world for reform;

- * develop networking; listen to representatives of other religions;

- * respond to interviews, participate in Workshops to share ideas on how Catholic communities can thrive despite current challenges, and exchange experiences with a diverse group of people from all over the world;

- * produce the “Council 50 charter” to be published after the November 2015 gathering

- * create an event

- * celebrate and pray together for our Church, all humankind and for the world

Provisional Agenda (suggestions are welcome)

Friday 20 November 2015:

5.30 pm. Welcome

Posting contributions of the different groups, and draft of the Charter, open discussions, comments

-Dinner and evening

Saturday 21 November 2015:

09.00 walk in : reading the various documents posted, meeting participants, etc...

10.00 plenary session (2h)

- opening prayer or symbolic ritual or both (*suggestions are welcome*)

- *two speakers* a man and a woman, one from the south the other from the north, reporting on the work done in the different countries, groups and association

- *after the first and the second speaker:* comments of the people , flash interviews of some people we want to hear. Music or community singing (to be prepared by one or several countries).

12.00 Free time, until lunch: fair, reading documents posted, etc...

13.00 lunch together on the place of the meeting

14.00 Freetime : Fair, reading documents posted, discussions etc...

15.00 Pleanary : Opening of the afternoon and launch of round-tables, workshops, talks:

15.10 to 17.30 :

- Round tables or workshops, either in in plenary or in parallel sessions on different issues and topics, about 1h each with a break of 15 minutes (*proposals of Topics are welcome*)

- speaker corner (*place to present and discuss issues*)

- finalisation of the Charter

17.30 Plenary to close the afternoon

Discussion and finalisation of the “Council 50 charter”

End of session : praying our mother/ father in their own language.

Dinner either on site or elsewhere (depending on the evening event)

Saturday evening – Event / show / party

Sunday 22 November 2015

10.00 Celebration/Liturgy open to the public (*prepared in advance in cooperation with voluntary groups, communities or associations*)

Pact of the Catacombs - understanding

Public Event / demonstration in the city

Do not hesitate to provide us with your comments, remarks, information.

Furthermore if you want to join the organizing committee, do not hesitate to contact us.

IV Financial contribution

In order to support the organisation of the project (renting rooms, organisation, secretariat, etc...) and to contribute to the travel fees of delegate living far from Rome, donations are welcome:

Account for donations: Réseau Européen (EN-RE) 'Concile 50'

IBAN: FR76 1027 8060 7500 0210 5210 423 BIC: CMCIFR2A

On 15th of November 2014, your sisters and brothers in Christ:

Name	email	association represented
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