

Possible Actions: Parish

Stronger Lay/Female Representation

- ▶ Regular preaching by women and lay men.
- ▶ Greater participation and ownership in the parish mission and values by the lay membership.
- ▶ Preparation for an eventual pastor transition by institutionalizing values often embodied by Leo.
- ▶ Greater financial transparency and accountability.

Prayer

- ▶ Individual or group prayer for healing and changes within the church.
- ▶ Regular ongoing prayers of the faithful during Masses.

Support for Victims

- ▶ Encourage any additional victims in the wider area to come forward, ensuring full support from the parish.
- ▶ Hold a memorial prayer service or healing service for victims.

Education

- ▶ Increased preaching and/or formation on the role of the laity, history of women's deacons, and other related topics.
- ▶ Utilize resources from national reform organizations such as the following:
 - ▶ **Catholic Women Preach** (CatholicWomenPreach.org) features preaching on the Sunday readings.
 - ▶ The **Women's Ordination Conference** (WomensOrdination.org) has been a visible feminist advocate for the ordination of women as priests, deacons, and bishops into an inclusive and accountable Roman Catholic Church since 1975.
 - ▶ **Future Church** (FutureChurch.org) also advocates for change in the church. They were big in the push to get Pope Francis to reconsider instating women deacons again.
 - ▶ **Voice of the Faithful** (VoTF.org) is a lay organization of faithful Catholics who organized in 2002 as a response to the sexual abuse crisis in the Catholic Church. Their mission is to provide a voice through which the faithful can actively participate in the governance of the Catholic Church.

Possible Actions: Diocese

Stronger Lay/Female Representation

- ▶ Reinstatement of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, consisting of lay leaders elected by the laity themselves.
- ▶ Assignment of lay people to senior leadership positions within diocesan administration.
- ▶ Meaningful participation and decision-making authority of parish members in assignment of pastors and priests.
- ▶ Host listening sessions for the bishop to hear feedback from lay people.
- ▶ Hold regular diocesan synods with a significant lay representation.

Affecting the Wider Church

- ▶ Represent lay recommendations for changes to the wider church within the U.S. Bishops' conference and at synods.

Addressing Abuse

- ▶ Release full diocesan records, as Diocese of San Jose has committed to doing.

Strategies for Influencing the Diocese/Bishop

Creative "third way" strategies may have to be employed to gain attention and influence change, since there are no normal mechanisms for lay people to do so otherwise.

- ▶ Write a letter to Bishop Barber requesting changes at diocesan levels and in the larger church.
- ▶ Collect individual personal statements from parishioners (possibly written during Mass) and deliver them to the bishop.
- ▶ Publish open letter in an area newspaper and or the National Catholic Reporter.
- ▶ Organize walk-outs/"strikes" at Mass, possibly during October Mass counts (which are used to make parish financial assessments).
- ▶ Isolate financial giving to avoid automatic "tax" of parish donations.
- ▶ Picket diocesan offices.
- ▶ Coordinate actions with other parishes, or possibly a local chapter of Voice of the Faithful.
- ▶ Invite local news organizations to cover any actions.
- ▶ Utilizing social media or flyers for grassroots campaigning.

Possible Actions: Wider Church

Make Ordination More Inclusive

These steps would regularly bring the perspective of women and married men into preaching and the priesthood in general. We believe most of the abuses would not have been covered up and allowed to continue if that had been the case.

- ▶ Restoring women's position in the diaconate.
- ▶ Making celibacy optional for the priesthood.
- ▶ Women's ordination to the priesthood.

Stronger Lay/Female Representation

These steps could give lay members of the church (both women and men) a stronger influence on church governance and hold clergy to a higher level of accountability.

- ▶ Significant lay representation in synods, with voting authority.
- ▶ Increased lay leadership roles within the Vatican (curia), bishops conferences, and dioceses.
- ▶ Restore the practice of electing bishops by a popular vote of all the faithful, as occurred in the early church. (See <http://bit.ly/2D8pl7K>)
- ▶ Assign lay people to the title of cardinal.

Accountability for Leaders

- ▶ A system for holding bishops and cardinals accountable for their actions.

Subsidiarity

- ▶ A decrease in centralized papal power, and increased empowerment of bishops' conferences and dioceses in decision-making, such as selection of liturgical texts.

Strategies for Influencing the Wider Church

- ▶ Ask Bishop Barber to lobby on our behalf.
- ▶ Publish an open letter in a national newspaper.
- ▶ Coordinate actions with national reform organizations, such as Call to Action, FutureChurch, and the Women's Ordination Conference