

**Corpus Christi Town Hall Meeting**  
**Saturday, September 15, 2018 6:30pm**

43 attending plus Leo & Ann

Leo read Acts 15:4

When Paul & Barnabas arrived in Jerusalem they were welcomed by the church, the apostles and the presbyters.

The church is the *people* of God, not the pope, bishops and priests.

The pope, bishops & priests support us.

**Parishioner Sentiment about Problem**

- We are tired of apologies, our souls have been scorched, this is the deepest kind of pain and it lasts a lifetime
- We need to follow Christ not the hierarchical church
  
- The catechism says the “laity duty is to obey not to command”
- The problem is that the clergy has been raised to a higher level
- But Catholic education has taught us critical thinking
- Problem will not be solved by continuing to focus on the 1% priesthood, vs the the 99% church
- Change threatens their power, this is last and largest men’s club
  
- There is a shortage of men who want to be celibate, not who want to be priests
- We have a right to have a full life
  
- The problem is the priests cover up scandal not the sexual abuse scandal
- There is no data that suggests abuse by Catholic priests is at higher level than faiths or other professions with adult access to children
- The level of cover up and secrecy is the problem
- Other scandals are rampant but they don’t make the news like Catholic does
- It’s not just children, young adult women are also abused and often ashamed to report
  
- Holy spirit is speaking before the church falls apart
- It’s evil infiltrated, dark and scary
  
- Most violence and sexual assaults are committed by men
- Women have been systematically excluded
- Women involved in positions of leadership would have stopped this
  
- Many laypeople have been paid to hush up, when that happens we are sacrificing our children for money, parents “sold” them, families were complicit

## Parishioner Ideas for Solutions

- Call a conclave that is totally dedicated to the priesthood – maybe a Vatican 3
  - Selection: who gets to be priest, women phased in, have rigorous psychosexual evaluation, allow married people, welcome those who quit to marry to come back  
*Comment: Rigorous psych evaluations won't work, people figure out how to pass and then lie*  
*We need open data to help us understand the problem*
  - Training: much more open vs isolated – they are going to be priests in the world
  - Eliminate celibacy rule: history of instating it was related to property not holiness
- Prayer and penance and fasting is part of solution
- Take the church back for the people of God
  - Protestants can start a new church
  - We value our global church but can evoke change via economic pressure
- Parishioner had a chance to meet with apostolic delegate to pope as representative of black Catholics – that influenced Gospel music and increase black priests
- We as a lay community have power.
  - If you are going to say something say it to someone who can make a change
  - Otherwise we are voices of protest but no one listening
- Say our truth and make a change
- Make that statement and back it economically
- We are the beautiful body of Christ, want kids to know they are safe, loved and valued – need to deepen our faith not abandon it
- Change won't happen without help from outside, must welcome an independent study
  - Diocese of San Francisco & Oakland is starting external review boards and internal review boards
  - Allow priests to marry
  - Allow women to be priests
  - Have a review board of laity
  - Petition to take forward
  - And remember “Rome was not built in a day”
- There are Catholic communities led by laity – happening in Latin America
- A woman and lay man have led parishes in Oakland in past, removed by Bishop Barber

**Agenda for next meeting**

- Come back with recommendations
- What we can do in this parish?
- What can we recommend to diocese?
- What can we recommend to larger church?
- “If you abdicate your power, those with power are still powerful”