

Parish Meeting - St. Joseph, Vancouver
September 30, 2018
2:00pm – 3:30pm

3:30pm Notes in Response to: Clericalism

1. Turn the Church hierarchy away from an “old boy network” – perpetuating their positions/opinions/privileges. Turn Church from medieval hierarchy – no more kissing Bishop’s rings as a sign of fealty. Less pomp and circumstance – the clergy seen as closer to the people. Less concern for “Reputation of Church” – more to victims.
2. Take Clergy off pedestal – should be in service to Church and the Lord. St. Paul remained a tent maker – to not be a burden. Incorporate women into all clerical positions – including priests. Listen to the other half of humanity. Allow marriage as an option for priests and clergy – experience the whole of human life.
3. Require the Establishment of lay Pastoral Councils at all parishes and at the Archdiocese. Larger representation of women and lay ministers at the Archdiocesan level. Positions of power for women.
4. Regarding respect: This must be a two-way exchange between clergy and laity. Lay people may be guilty of giving too much responsibility to the clergy, not questioning the judgement of a priest or bishop. All due respect but not to the point that we, the laity, relinquish our responsibility for the governance of our church. This has fostered the atmosphere that allowed cover ups to occur.
5. Sixteen years after the initial U.S. revelations – WHY hasn’t this been cleared up?
6. Example needs to be set at the top. I am an avid supporter of Pope Francis. However, for the good of the Church, he needs to address the issues raised by Cardinal Vigano in a transparent, thorough, and public manner.
7. Thorough vetting and background investigations need to be done on all candidates for seminary and/or advancement in the Church. More women!! Review Board should include lay people.
8. People would sincerely appreciate a personal response to letters sent to the Bishop expressing their concern. More opportunities for sharing with us “the Sheep” should happen.

9. The issue of the abuse of authority must be addressed. Cannon Law must be updated.
10. Will need to see the bishops respond with total humility and submit to accountability that goes beyond just being accountable to each other. There needs to be a change – bishops need to be accountable to outside sources.
11. Involving the Laity in Church Governance. To open up spaces in parishes where there is proportion in the participation of lay people in the decision-making process where the Pastor does not directly participate but the unity is preserved. He can be kept informed and can validate or not the agreements but will listen and respect the discernment made by a community.
12. Harsher penalties for abusers (clergy and workers). Prison; death. This includes those who hide it.
13. We need to reflect on the way the church was set up before Constantine made Christianity “okay” (for lack of a better term). When we weren’t so obsessed with preserving status/power, our faith was more genuine. It was literally about loving God and our neighbor.
14. Every aspect of how our church is set up needs to be evaluated – from what members of the priesthood and clergy wear, to who gets to be part of the priesthood and clergy (women).
15. We want to know how long this abuse of children and cover up has REALLY been going on.