

"The days of cover up are over. For a long while the Church's principle of forgiveness was falsely interpreted and was in favour of those responsible and not the victims."

Cardinal Christoph Schönborn to Austrian Catholic news agency, Kathpress

"The climate in the church, which allowed abusers to go unpunished, will only change once there is a renewal, a willingness to publicly accept responsibility for one's actions and greater involvement by lay people in all areas of Church life."

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, as reported in the *Irish Independent* by John Cooney

Voice of the Faithful invites everyone to become a disciple in the 21st century, actively involved in reforming our Church.

Get involved in your parish! Join our work in Voice of the Faithful. Whatever you do, don't do nothing.

The future of our Church depends on your actions today, just as the future of the Church depended on the actions of the apostles in the times of the early Church.



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BECOME A
21ST CENTURY
DISCIPLE

TEN THINGS YOU CAN DO AS A 21ST CENTURY DISCIPLE TO REBUILD OUR CHURCH

1 **GET INVOLVED IN YOUR PARISH**

More than ever, your parish relies on the involvement of all the laity. Join a ministry, volunteer for a committee, share your time and talents.

2 **PROTECT CHILDREN IN YOUR PARISH**

Does your parish have a Safe Environment training program and monitoring committee? If not, perhaps you can start one.

3 **REACH OUT TO SURVIVORS OF ABUSE**

Get together with fellow parishioners to plan repentance services and healing services for survivors.

4 **SUPPORT YOUR PRIESTS OF INTEGRITY**

Work to help our priests of integrity in any way you can. Look for ways to share their workload.

5 **SEEK ACCOUNTABILITY IN CHURCH LEADERS**

Bishops who transferred known abusers should examine their consciences and, where appropriate, step down for the good of the Church.

6 **PROMOTE LAY INVOLVEMENT IN THE SELECTION OF BISHOPS**

It is time to revive a long tradition in the Church of lay involvement in the selection of a new bishop.

7 **STUDY THE CAUSES OF THE CURRENT CRISIS**

Every thinking Catholic needs to be informed about the causes of the sex abuse scandal, so that it can never happen again.

8 **SUPPORT A CHURCH-WIDE INVESTIGATION OF ABUSE**

News reports have already uncovered major problems in the U.S., Canada, Australia, Ireland, Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Italy and elsewhere. The Church needs to conduct a survey of the problem in every country worldwide.

9 **WORK FOR FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY**

The scandal has cost the Catholic Church more than \$2.5 billion in the U.S. alone. Management of Church finances at the parish and diocesan levels needs to be open and transparent, with active lay involvement.

10 **LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD**

People are already calling for a new global council to address the many problems we face. Be sure your voice is heard in the great global conversation now beginning.