

IECs and the Larger Church Reform Picture

Background

- American Catholic Council: conference in Detroit, June 2011
- Institute on Non-Violent Action, December 2012
- Catholic Church Reform International: Forum in Rome, October 2014
- Response for Synod on the Family, April 2015
- Council 50: conference in Rome, November 2015
- People's Synod: Mexico, 2020

A

Current Focus

- “Grass roots” participation
- ACC “Listening Circles”

B

“The Catholic Listening Circle has exactly the attributes we are hoping for: a) a community (where the participants trust one another) that b) is independent (i.e. not dependent upon authorization from the Magisterium) and c) is self-sustaining (i.e. the endorsement by one another is sufficient motivation for continuity), while d) maintaining a sense of connection (i.e. calls itself "Catholic") to a larger community than itself (e.g. the Catholic Church, or the even larger People of God).”

CCRI “Local Gatherings”

C

“This is not a cookie cutter template. It is a simple framework for allowing the Spirit to work through all of us. Begin with a local group of people who work well together. When this group has coalesced, so that they speak from the heart and listen to the hearts of each other, then consider how best to extend this model to the larger community. A particular challenge is to engage the many people who are comfortable with how things already are in the Church. Find a way to help bring these people to a level of comfort with encounter -- Pope Francis loves this term -- so that they, too, listen to the hearts of those who are 'other' to them. If the local pastor or bishop is agreeable to this framework, their support may smooth the process of encounter among those who have different views of the balance between welcome -- "all are welcome" -- and adherence to Church discipline -- "it is our identity as Catholics". Without their support, it will be more challenging to gain access to parish bulletins and the like to spread the word and extend the practice of this dialogue of the heart. You may be on your own here, and feel alone. Know that we are praying for you. Let us know what you are doing, and we will let you know what others are doing. In the end, the outcome of your efforts will be measured by new patterns of welcome for those whose hearts are reconciled but whose outward status -- reflected in current Church teaching or practice -- has excluded them from the table of the Lord. It is the Year of Mercy, when those who are reconciled are welcomed.”

Web sites

- NOVA: www.novacommunity.info
- ACC: www.americancatholiccouncil.org
- CCRI: www.catholicchurchreform.org
- Council50: www.council50.org