



American Catholic Council

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NOTE: Media accreditation is available; Contact johnhushon@aol.com to register. ACC will host a press room at Cobo Center during the Council. Please address questions prior to the Council to co-chairs Janet Hauter at jmwauter@aolc.org or John Hushon at johnhushon@aol.com.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (June 5, 2011)

Grassroots Movement of Catholics Declares “Catholic Bill of Rights and Responsibilities”

Catholics from all over the United States, including representatives from Canada, Germany, Ireland, South Africa, Australia, France, Spain, Mexico, Italy, and Portugal, will convene an **American Catholic Council** in Detroit the weekend of June 10-12, 2011.

After holding nearly a hundred local “listening sessions” around the country during the past eighteen months, attendees will gather to consider the state of the Church, and review the promises of Vatican II to include the People of God in a shared-governance, transparent and inclusive model of the Church. The listening sessions were instrumental in developing a “Catholic Bill of Rights and Responsibilities” which reflects what many Catholics yearn for in their Church.

And what do these faithful Catholics want?

- Revitalized parish and diocesan councils;
- A voice in the selection of pastors and bishops;
- Optional celibacy;
- Open and meaningful progress on the role of women in the Church;
- Availability of full sacramental life for all who wish it;
- Renewed emphasis on conscience and morality;
- Effective resolution of the abuse crisis, including holding perpetrators and their enablers responsible;
- Sincere ecumenism and theological freedom of inquiry;
- Financial transparency;
- A recommitment to social justice that responds to the many problems of the poor, hungry and homeless in our world;

A full weekend of worship, education and dialogue will bring people together to build plans for a renaissance of Vatican II in the Church today. Vatican II brought needed reforms to the Church but it has not yet been fully implemented and there is a growing tendency among some to return to pre-Vatican II norms. Attendees believe that Vatican II holds solutions to the ills plaguing the Church today, including the exodus of millions of “cradle” Catholics.

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Join this historic gathering and hear world renowned, Vatican II *peritus* (expert) and theologian, Dr. Hans Kung; Benedictine religious leader, NCR columnist, and well-known speaker, Sr. Joan Chittister; globally recognized speaker, priest and theologian, Dr. Anthony Padovano; well-known author and professor, Dr. Jeanette Rodriguez; Boston Globe columnist, Kennedy Center scholar and author, James Carroll; and author and theologian, Dr. Matthew Fox. All will speak on aspects of the spirit, vision and hope of the People of God as captured in the themes of Vatican II.

Breakout Sessions will promote dialogue and foster action plans for renewing the Church. Facilitators of breakout sessions include well-known authors, professors, and Catholic reform leaders. Attendees can network with a diverse representation of people and organizations developing solutions that have local, regional, and national implications. The Council will conclude with the first performance of a participatory Pentecost Mass of the Spirit with chorus, brass chorale, and congregation.

Registration and additional information is available at www.americanCatholicCouncil.org Walk-on registrations (daily or for the entire Council) are welcome at Detroit's Cobo Convention Center, near Wayne Hall at the Registration Desk, Friday, June 10 from 4 to 8 pm and Saturday, June 11 from 8 to 12 noon.

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