

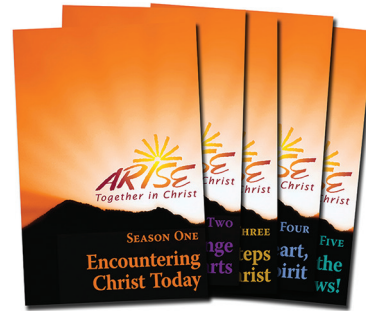
A PRAYER FOR THE HEALING OF OUR CHURCH

Good and gracious God,
we ask for healing for our wounded Church
and a way forward through this time of despair.
We cry out to you for healing for the victims of abuse and for their families.
We cry out to you for healing for the lay faithful.
We cry out to you for healing for the clergy.
Grant our bishops the courage and wisdom
to work with the laity for the transformation of our Church.
Embrace your people with your compassionate mercy,
and restore our trust in the Church and its ministers.
Give us hope that the Church can be reformed by your grace
working in and through us.
May Jesus, the compassion of God,
draw us to himself in Word and Sacrament and send us forth
strengthened in faith to share his love with the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen.

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WHAT'S NEXT?

Healing our Church is a beginning, not an end. While it will provide a path for working through the immediate issues, we need to look beyond to what is possible for our church. *ARISE Together In Christ* is a parish-centered process for spiritual renewal that will encourage participants to encounter Christ and grow as missionary disciples. We encourage you to explore *ARISE* as a follow-up to *Healing our Church* to continue the momentum.

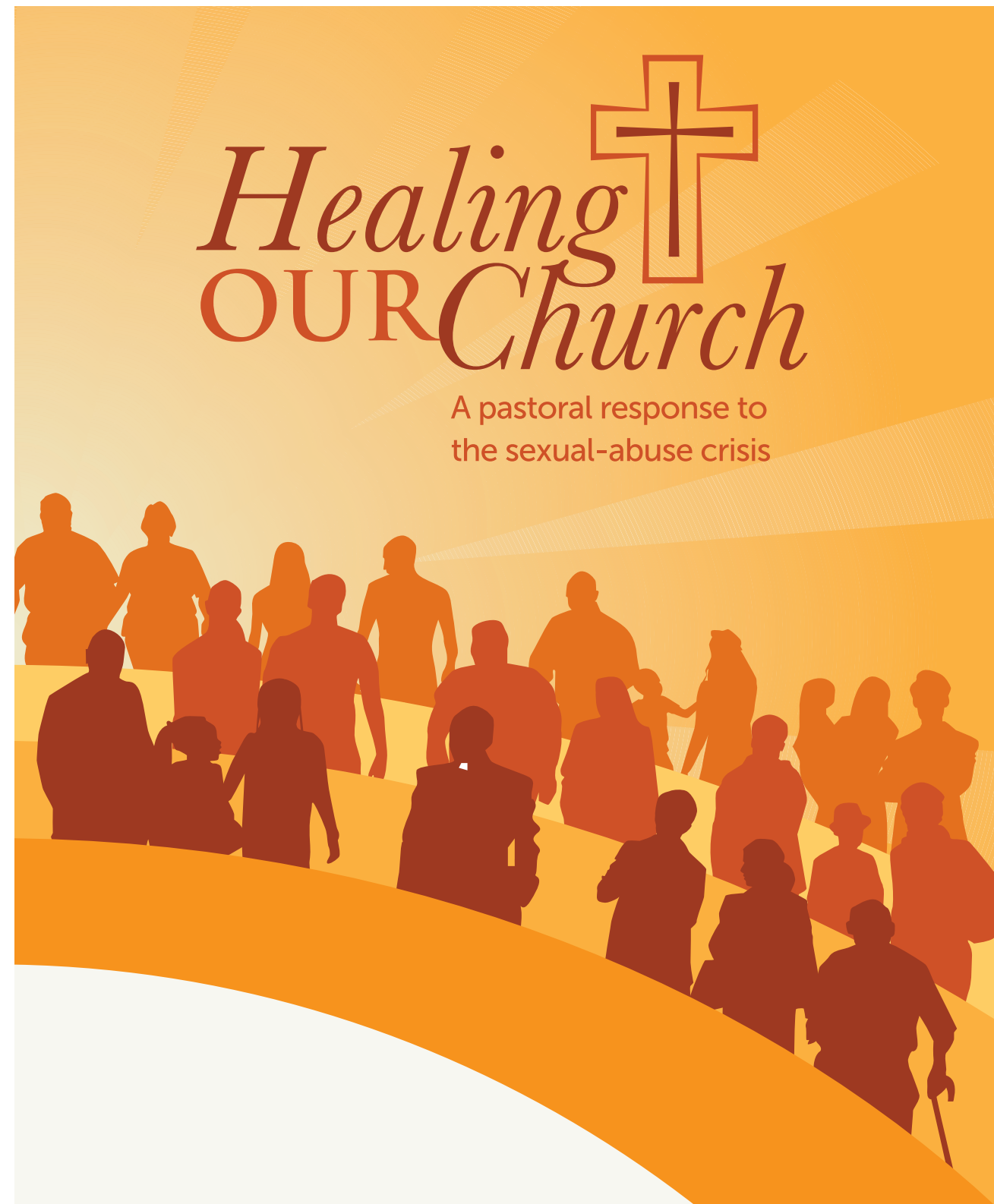


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RENEW International is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

JANUARY 2019



The recent wave of news about clergy sexual abuse and the coverup by some Church leaders has left many of the faithful angry and shaken in their relationship with the Church. Amidst the other difficulties the situation presents, how do dioceses and parishes find a way to minister to these hurting parishioners?

RENEW International has created *Healing Our Church*, a small-group resource which faces the issue head-on and helps the lay faithful begin the healing process and move forward, with the clergy, as a family of faith.

PARISH COORDINATING TEAM TRAINING

Provides interactive training to successfully launch *Healing Our Church* small groups in parishes.

SMALL-GROUP FACILITATOR TRAINING

Offers review and practice of skills needed to facilitate small groups in prayer and faith sharing, and move them toward healing. Provides specialized tools for dealing with this sensitive subject matter.

HEALING OUR CHURCH LARGE GROUP GATHERING

RENEW International will provide the framework for a parish gathering of all small-group participants involved in *Healing Our Church*. This is an opportunity for those involved to pray together, provide feedback, share the graces they received, and discuss the next steps they wish to take to find a way forward.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Ongoing pastoral consultation
- Bulletin content
- Sign-up posters
- Sign-up cards
- Custom communication pieces on request

OPTIONAL SERVICES

- A day of prayer and healing for priests
- Facilitated parish conversations



FAITH SHARING SESSIONS

Facing the Truth

We express our feelings about the sexual-abuse scandal and its impact—first and foremost on the victim-survivors, but also on us and on all the faithful. We listen to the experiences of others, respecting their feelings and emotions. We face the truth so we can begin to move forward.

Healing Our Wounds

Acts of sexual abuse and the coverups have deeply wounded the whole people of God. Healing is an ongoing process that takes place over time and in several stages. The treatment is truth, compassion, transparency, and prayer. Each of us must play a part in the process of healing and transformation of the Church.

Rebuilding Our Church

We identify and explore the complex, multiple factors that have contributed to the sexual abuse and coverups. We claim our role in rebuilding the Church. We recall that in the history of the Church, whenever human sin and weakness have caused scandal, the Holy Spirit has inspired great women and men to respond and challenge the Church to personal and systemic changes.

Why do I Remain Catholic?

We read stories from people sharing why they remain Catholic, and what they treasure about the Church. We express our own reasons for remaining Catholic. We stand with Peter, saying, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

We Believe

We refocus on our connection to Christ, whom we meet in the sacraments and the Scriptures in the community of the faithful. We explore together what we believe and why.

A Way Forward

The Church is the people of God, called, and sent to be wounded healers. We explore the call to become missionary disciples and identify some necessary elements for transformation. The crisis is not an end but a turning point from which we together rebuild our Church.