

Australian Reforming Catholics

Notes from the AGM of the 6th of October 2022

Activities undertaken with others:

- Submission to the Synod on Synodality – A lengthy submission was prepared by Catholics for an Emerging Church South Australia and we contributed several times to the draft before it was finalised.
- We sought to influence the manner in which ACCCR organisations presented their submissions to the Synod on Synodality through direct contact with Sister Nathalie Becquart at the Vatican Synod Office. We had some success with this. We also assisted one Church Reform Group in the presentation of their submission.
- Procedures for ACCCR – we consulted all the representatives of the ACCCR organisations and prepared comprehensive documents and a proposal to address the need for agreed procedures to govern the activities of ACCCR.

Activities undertaken on our own:

- Format for undertaking a session to prepare a submission for the Synod on Synodality– we set out a way to run a video meeting with a group in order to gain their discernment for preparing a submission. John used this in his parish and the members wrote an outstanding submission.
- One ARC group submission – a group of six ARC women members drew on the above format and wrote another outstanding submission (*published in Arcvoice No. 86*).
- More Member Content in Arcvoice – you may have noticed that there has been an increasing amount of content in *Arcvoice* that is written by members – we intend to encourage this more.

Some of the issues raised for ARC's consideration through discussion:

- Need to find ways to enable people to talk openly about their ideas and faith, look for opportunities to give talks and homilies
- We need to find ways of speaking to younger people, perhaps through showing our concern for an emphasis on climate change and justice (previously raised)
- Need to help priests to have more engaging interaction with their people, trust lay judgment
- Examine what we might do to influence some of the liturgy where we can, better translations of scripture, more appropriate prayers, etc.
- Concentrate more on dispelling inappropriate myths – creeds are out of date
- Constantly we should be showing up the difference between the approach of Pope Francis through Synodality and the actual practices of our bishops.