

Can the Roman Catholic Institution Be Rejuvenated?

The Kingdom of God is like a tree in which all the birds of the air find a home. The 21st century Roman Catholic institution is one branch on this tree of universal welcome into the life of God.

Many of us in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis are asking ourselves this question: Is our local church a life-supporting part of the tree?

If we say that the institution no longer manifests God's love for humanity, what are we called to do? If we are called to rejuvenate our branch of the tree, how shall we do it?

Shall we reform by beginning new shoots off the same branch? Some people are making alternative communities within the Catholic tradition, but not within Roman jurisdiction.

Shall we reform by pruning and grafting to see the old branch reflower? Some people want to communicate with members of the hierarchy to reform the existing institution.

Shall we reject the dysfunction of the Roman institution by going to a different branch, allowing the institution, as we know it, to die? Some people are joining other denominations and religions to find spiritual support and to live the church's mission in the world.

We want to engage in thoughtful dialogue to help us inform our consciences as we decide what direction we as individuals should take.

We also want to give people an opportunity to connect and plan follow-up strategizing meetings about reform from within the institution or reform from without the institution but within the Catholic tradition.

Robert McClory



The keynote speaker at this year's Prayer Breakfast for Hope and Justice is *National Catholic Reporter* award-winning journalist and author Robert McClory.

McClory's life in the church has equipped him with great knowledge and insight on how it works, while his love of justice leads him to critique many of its inner workings. He is well-known and respected for his writings on church history – especially as it relates to the role of the laity.

Many assume that the Catholic Church has always functioned with a top-down leadership model. Yet, as McClory notes, there have been long periods where lay people were consulted and had strong, leading voices. He also explains why a decentralized and democratized church is just around the corner; is, in fact, inevitable.

On May 3, McClory will join with attendees at the 2nd Annual Prayer Breakfast for Hope and Justice in discussing how we can best embody, individually and communally, this democratization of our church.

Copies of McClory's latest book, *As It Was In the Beginning: The Coming Democratization of the Catholic Church*, will be available for purchase at this event.

Schedule

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Check-In
9:00 – 9:45 a.m.	Welcome and Table Prayer
9:45 a.m.	Serving of Breakfast
10:00 a.m.	Introduction of Robert McClory
10:10 – 11:00 a.m.	Keynote Address: "Democratizing Catholicism in Challenging Times" by Robert McClory
11:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Q & A
11:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Social Time and Networking!

Registration

Important: Registrations are needed by **Friday, April 25, 2008.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail or Phone: _____

Comment (optional): _____

Please send completed registration form with check for \$20 to:

CPCSM
c/o The House of the Beloved Disciple
2930 13th Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55407

FFI: (612) 201-4534

Directions to
The Metropolitan Ballroom
(612) 238-4444

From the West Metro

1. Proceed east on I-394;
2. Take exit 5 for MN-100 toward Xenia-Park Pl.;
3. Keep right at the fork, follow signs for Xenia-Park Pl.;
4. Turn **left** at Park Pl. Blvd.;
5. Continue on Xenia Ave S.;
6. Turn right at Golden Hills Dr.;
7. Golden Hills Dr turns right and becomes Turners Crossroad;
8. Turn left at Wayzata Blvd.

From the East Metro

1. Proceed west on I-94;
2. Take exit 231A to merge onto I-394 W/US-12 W;
3. Take exit 5 for MN-100 S toward Park Pl.-Xenia;
4. Follow signs for Xenia/Park Pl.;
5. Turn **right** at Park Pl. Blvd.;
6. Continue on Xenia Ave. S.;
7. Turn right at Golden Hills Dr.;
8. Golden Hills Dr turns right and becomes Turners Crossroad;
9. Turn left at Wayzata Blvd.

A map of this area can be downloaded from:
www.progressivecatholicvoice.org/Maps.pdf.

Sponsoring Organizations

The Catholic Pastoral Committee
on Sexual Minorities (CPCSM)

Catholic Rainbow Parents

Dignity Twin Cities

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The Progressive Catholic Voice

About the Artwork

The organizers of this event gratefully acknowledge Ansgar Holmberg, CSJ, for the beautiful piece of original art, which she has created especially for this event.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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*The 2nd Annual Prayer Breakfast
for Hope and Justice*



*Democratizing Catholicism
In Challenging Times*

with
Robert McClory

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Saturday, May 3, 2008

The Metropolitan Ballroom
5418 Wayzata Blvd.
Golden Valley, MN

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