

What is ARC?

- ◆ ARC is a group of Catholics committed to achieving change within our Church.
- ◆ We wish to see and experience church structures, practices and teachings which more closely reflect the love of Jesus Christ, our friend, as revealed in the Gospels (John 15:14-17).
- ◆ We act to highlight issues such as patriarchy and hierarchy. We try to understand and experience the simplicity of Jesus' message: love, justice and peace.

How was ARC established?

- ◆ The 1997 *Mt Eliza Charter* expressed passionate resolve for reform in the Church. It was followed by *Australian Catholics For Reform*.
- ◆ These experiences inspired a meeting in Canberra in 2000 which launched *Australian Reforming Catholics*.
- ◆ Its *Declaration* called on interested Catholics to come together to pray and discuss, draw deeply on the Gospel and contemporary knowledge, and apply steady pressure for reform.
- ◆ ARC continues to gather people to work for this.

What does ARC do?

- ◆ **Converse:** we share ideas with each other about the richness of our faith and what we need to practise it.
- ◆ **Inform:** we provide a forum where theological, social and moral issues can be examined. We can then take responsibility for growth and reform.
- ◆ **Challenge:** we speak out on matters that, as church, we must be responsible for changing. Structures, practices and teachings need to reflect what Jesus taught.

How is ARC organised?

- ◆ Secretariat members liaise and collaborate with members via email and meetings to analyse and evaluate relevant religious issues affecting the church.
- ◆ The group plans and manages projects, conferences, public relations, membership, the ARC website, the email discussion group and the quarterly journal, *arcvoice*.



Questioning the Church?

Since the Second Vatican Council, enormous energy has been expended by Catholic people in renewing the church – initially by priests and bishops and increasingly by the ordinary people of God. Much was achieved, but in recent decades reactionary forces within the traditional male structures of the church have inhibited true reform.

Now more than ever leaders within the church need to be questioned with respect and steady pressure, insisting through dialogue and collaboration that changes are needed. However, challenging priests and bishops is a daunting task and this is where ARC can help in offering options and strategies.

People do not question because they reject the church. They question the church because they love it.

Joan Chittister, in *NCR* 24.8.2001

I would like to see a massive request from the Catholic people [for] a serious study of ... all the ways in which power is understood and exercised within the Church at every level.

Bishop G. Robinson, in: C. McGillion (ed.)

A Long Way from Rome, 2003, p195

These two quotations can be a source of inspiration and encouragement in 2007. Maybe they can open the conversation with your priest or bishop.

Membership Application / Renewal

Payment can be made by cheque, money order, cash or by direct deposit to ARC's Westpac Account BSB 032-089 Account No. 14-7944 (Record your name at the bank and let us know) Annual subscription (from 1 July to 30 June): \$30; Concession: \$20 for Religious & Pensioners (NOT Seniors) **Renewal** [] **New Member** []

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone (....)

Mobile

Fax (....)

Email

Subscription \$

Donation (always welcome) \$

TOTAL \$

Would you like to be part of ARC's on-line Yahoo Discussion Group? YES / NO
Would you like to share in the work for ARC in any way?

YES / NO If yes, please let us know what you would want to do.

Send to ARC c/- Jim Taverne

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Australian Reforming Catholics

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Joan Chittister OSB
 in: NCR 24 Aug. 2001

Are you concerned about the direction of our church? ARC will keep you informed and provide a forum for your views to be heard.

Join *now!*