

*Movimiento internacional*  
**Somos-Iglesia**

*Movimento Internacional*  
**Nós somos Igreja**

*Movimento Internazionale*  
**Noi siamo Chiesa**

*Mouvement international*  
**Nous sommes Eglise**

*Internationale Bewegung*  
**Wir sind Kirche**

# ***International Movement*** **We are Church**

*Chair at present:*  
**Raquel Mallavibarrena**  
Penuelas 17  
28005 Madrid  
SPAIN

Tel.: +34-649332654  
eMail: [rmallavi@mat.ucm.es](mailto:rmallavi@mat.ucm.es)

Internet: [www.we-are-church.org](http://www.we-are-church.org)

**Media Contacts in member countries:**

[www.imwac.net/413/index.php/contact/contacts](http://www.imwac.net/413/index.php/contact/contacts)

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## ***We are Church* supports Pope Francis' course for substantial reforms in the RC Church**

***International Movement We are Church* agree in Dublin on a clear agenda for the next years**

The *International Movement We are Church* (IMWAC) supports Pope Francis' course for substantial reforms in the RC Church and asks the Bishops to clearly support this new course for more transparency, decentralisation, and dialogue with the faithful. Representatives from 11 European Countries (Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom) and the United States gathered in All Hallows College in Dublin, Ireland 1 - 3 November 2013 to discuss their contribution to the present reform process of the RC Church.

Almost eight months after the election of Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio from Argentina as Bishop of Rome he is marking out a new course in Rome like the questionnaire for the Family Synod in Rome in 2014 that was published last week.

IMWAC appreciates this new approach of consultation and it is asking the Bishops to let this questionnaire be answered by the faithful and local parishes directly. The Bishops' Conferences all over the world should follow the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales who already put the questionnaire on the internet and invited the faithful to send in the answers (<http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk/Home/Featured/Synod-of-Bishops-on-the-Family-2014>).

Some of the questions and the wording might be open to criticism. Therefore IMWAC will carefully read the questionnaire and will prepare a Shadow Synod during the Extraordinary Family Synod in Rome in October 2014. "This can't be a Synod where only male bishops living in celibacy discuss the present situation of family life", says Martha Heizer from *We are Church* Austria, Chair of IMWAC. "We ask to include experts und faithful from the very beginning in the Synod who can bring in their experiences of different forms of Christian life in present times." IMWAC supports the idea of women cardinals as a first step in the opening of all ministries to women

IMWAC is aware of strong resistance especially in the Vatican against implementation of substantial reforms. Many bishops are still reluctant to follow the new course. The deep crisis of leadership in the Church is not overcome yet. Therefore IMWAC decided on a clear agenda for the next few years. Besides the Shadow Synod IMWAC is preparing a strategy to mark the ending of Vatican 2 in 2015.

Didier Vanhoutte from France gave an impressive report about his visit to Asia where he contacted many groups who have a similar urge for reform of the teachings and pastoral approach of the RC Church as IMWAC has. The IMWAC movements in Latin America, while not present at this meeting, are an integral part of this reform movement especially with their emphasis on social justice.

Further Information : Brendan Butler , 086 4054984

#### **Background Information:**

The *International Movement We Are Church*, founded in Rome in 1996, is represented in more than twenty countries on all continents and is networking world-wide with similar-minded reform groups. *We Are Church* is an international movement within the Roman Catholic Church and aims at renewal on the basis of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965). *We Are Church* was started in Austria in 1995 with a church referendum, answering the paedophile scandal of the former Cardinal of Vienna/Austria, Hans-Hermann Groer.

*The **International Movement We are Church (IMWAC)**, founded in Rome in 1996, is committed to the renewal of the Roman Catholic Church on the basis of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) and the theological spirit developed from it. We are Church evolved from the Church Referendum in Austria in 1995. We are Church is represented in more than twenty countries and is networking world-wide with similar-minded reform groups on all continents.*