

MEDIA RELEASE

TJHC CEO visits Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Brisbane



4 November 2014

Francis Sullivan, CEO Catholic Church's Truth Justice and Healing Council, was in Brisbane's Our Lady of the Rosary Parish on Monday (November 3, 2014) night to meet with some 30 members of the parish.

At the invitation of Parish Priest Francis Onwunali and Deacon Russ Nolan the meeting was part of the parish's monthly Ongoing Learning and Renewal Program.

"The enthusiastic audience was keen to know what they could do and how they could help promote justice and compassion for victims of child sexual abuse," Mr Sullivan said.

"They also wanted to understand what the Church leadership was doing to reform the policies and structures of the Church to make sure the abuses we've seen in the past never happen again.

"Ordinary Catholics, who are interested in the way our Church is responding to the child sexual abuse crisis need to be in contact with their parish priest, write to their bishops and archbishops and seek out answers.

"The Church leaders need to know they have the support of the people in the pews as they work towards the important changes and reforms that need to take place.

"The more often they hear from ordinary Catholics about how the people on the ground feel about the way the Church responds to survivors of sexual abuse, then the more strongly they will feel the impetus for change."

Mr Sullivan said there are a number of things Catholics can do to promote reform including:

- Talk to the parish priest and organise support and discussion group;
- Write to the bishop and let him know your concerns and hopes for the Church;
- Ensure there is regular information in parish bulletins
- Establish a contact person in the parish to watch TJHC website and forward on material to other members of the parish
- Have contact with diocesan media outlets to ensure the issues are regularly covered
- When an issue arises write to your local Catholic paper
- Reach out to survivors in your own parish and reach out to survivor support groups
- Subscribe to the TJHC website to receive weekly newsletter and other material

Media contact: Michael Salmon 0417 495 018

The Truth Justice and Healing Council is coordinating the Catholic Church's engagement with the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. For more information on the TJHC go to: www.tjhcouncil.org.au

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