

# Healing OUR Church



The recent wave of news about the clergy sex abuse crisis and the cover up by some church leaders has left many of the faithful angry and shaken in their relationship with the Church. Amidst other difficulties the situation presents, how do we find a way to minister to our hurting parishioners?

RENEW international has created **HEALING OUR CHURCH**, a small group resource which faces the issues head-on and helps the faithful begin the healing process and move forward, with the clergy, as a family of faith.

Franz Kuo and Theresa Prymuszewski will co-facilitate 6 sessions on Sundays from 3:00pm-4:30pm in the East Conference Room. Each participant purchases their own copy of the book: **HEALING OUR CHURCH** \$15.00 by calling RENEW at 908-769-5400

Contact Theresa Prymuszewski to pre-register by email [tprymuszewski@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:tprymuszewski@stmatthewscathedral.org)



## Faith Sharing Sessions

**Facing the Truth**  
September 29, 2019

We express our feelings about the sexual-abuse scandal and its impact—first and foremost on the victim-survivors, but also on us and on all the faithful. We listen to the experiences of others, respecting their feelings and emotions. We face the truth so we can begin to move forward.

**Healing Our Wounds**  
October 06, 2019

Acts of sexual abuse and the coverups have deeply wounded the whole people of God. Healing is an ongoing process that takes place over time and in several stages. The treatment is truth, compassion, transparency, and prayer. Each of us must play a part in the process of healing and transformation of the Church.

**Rebuilding Our Church**  
October 20, 2019

We identify and explore the complex, multiple factors that have contributed to the sexual abuse and coverups. We claim our role in rebuilding the Church. We recall that in the history of the Church, whenever human sin and weakness have caused scandal, the Holy Spirit has inspired great women and men to respond and challenge the Church to personal and systemic changes.

**Why do I Remain Catholic?**  
November 03, 2019

We read stories from people sharing why they remain Catholic, and what they treasure about the Church. We express our own reasons for remaining Catholic. We stand with Peter, saying, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

**We Believe**  
November 17, 2019

We refocus on our connection to Christ, whom we meet in the sacraments and the Scriptures in the community of the faithful. We explore together what we believe and why.

**A Way Forward**  
November 24, 2019

The Church is the people of God, called, and sent to be wounded healers. We explore the call to become missionary disciples and identify some necessary elements for transformation. The crisis is not an end but a turning point from which we together rebuild our Church.