

Annotated Agenda for Parish Meeting dealing with Clergy Sexual Abuse

(To be provided to and reviewed with those playing a leadership role in the session)

Note: Allow 2.5 hours for the session. Adjust start and finish time according to your needs. Try to follow the timing for each phase, always giving enough time for people to speak and be heard, while recognizing that this conversation will not be exhausted in one session.

6 p.m. on Set up (see Task List)

- Set up refreshments and resource table. [who]
- Tables set for max 8 people including facilitator.
- Kleenex and water on each table.
- Arrange projection and sound equipment [who]
- Identify washrooms and quiet space [specify location]

7 p.m. Opening Prayer and Land Acknowledgment [who]

Welcome and Introduction – [who]

Brief overview of who we are/history of the group, why we are here, the purpose of the evening; introduce guests; explain this is an initial attempt at a longer conversation- won't be able to cover everything tonight; may be enough for some people; others may want/need more; we are holding similar meetings in two other parishes in Hamilton then providing feedback to Bishop Crosby.

Explain how the evening will go (“Rules of Engagement”) [who]

The evening will consist of roundtable discussions in response to 2 -3 questions. The purpose is not to achieve consensus or change minds but to hold a respectful dialogue, allowing everyone to speak and be heard; to listen to each other; at the end of the roundtable discussions which will last a total of about 45 minutes, the groups will share their perspectives with the large group. We will identify key themes and Father Charlie and Rocco will answer as many questions as possible. We will then talk about what more, if anything, is needed, and have closing prayer. A brief questionnaire will also be distributed. You are invited to fill it out before you leave if you wish. Light refreshments are available- but we will not have a formal break. Please feel free to take a washroom break or get a refreshment as you need. An agenda outlining tonight's process is available for your reference. At the end of the evening, before you leave, we will ask you to complete a brief optional questionnaire so we can evaluate the process and identify other topics of concern to you.

Role of Facilitators/Notetakers – [who]

There is a person at each table who will take notes and help to keep the conversation on track and ensure every has a chance to speak. The facilitators are not there to provide answers but to help the groups have an open, respectful conversation. The time is short to cover such a big topic. If further meetings are needed, we can discuss this at the end of tonight's session. Please be mindful of time and allow everyone a chance to speak. There will be a notetaker at your table too. They will record as accurately as possible the points that people make and the questions they raise. These notes will be transcribed after the meeting to inform any follow up actions and to provide input to the Bishop.

Safety Considerations – [who]

Even though we will be capturing people's thoughts and questions to plan future activities and to provide Bishop Crosby with a sense of how people are feeling, please be assured there will be anonymity in any reports. No comments will be attributed and there will be no personally identifying information in any written report unless authorized by the individual in advance.

We ask everyone to take an attitude of respectful listening. Use "I" statements wherever possible and avoid judgement of others' views. There is no right or wrong in feelings. Given the statistics on sexual abuse, please be aware that it is quite likely that some people in this room will have experienced or know someone who has experienced sexual abuse at some point in their lives. If, at any point, the content of the conversation makes anyone feel uncomfortable or distressed (triggers), feel free to leave or take a time out -no explanations are needed. Someone may check in with you to make sure you are OK if you indicate you need to leave. Rocco has graciously made a counsellor available here tonight in Father Charlie's office upstairs, in the event that anyone feels a need to talk, or have some quiet time. We have also made information available about local agencies in Hamilton that support victims of sexual abuse -please pick that up if you or someone you know might need it. We now hand over the discussion to the table facilitators who will take it from here.

7:15 Roundtable discussions begin- 45 minutes (15 minutes per question)

- a) What are your feelings/reactions re the revelations of clergy sexual abuse and the subsequent cover-ups?
- b) What do you think the church leadership is / should be doing?
- c) What would be appropriate roles for lay people to play as part of the church's response?

*Facilitator's guidelines are provided separately.

8:00 Quick Feedback from each table – [who]

8:10 Responses/Exchange – [expert guest presenters]

- Brief slide presentation providing key salient information followed by open dialogue / Q&A
- You may prepare your own slide presentation or use the one we created and available here [link]. Note: you may dispense with the slides if time runs over or if the energy in the room suggests that people wish to go straight to Q&A.

9:00 Where do we go from here? [who]

- Unanswered questions; unaddressed concerns?
- Go around – share one word that describes how you feel at this point?
- There are resources on the table at the back if you want to take anything away for further study
- Also contact information for Concerned Lay Catholics

9:25 Fill out evaluation questionnaire [who]

9:30 Closing prayer [who]

Thank you for coming. Good night/ God bless