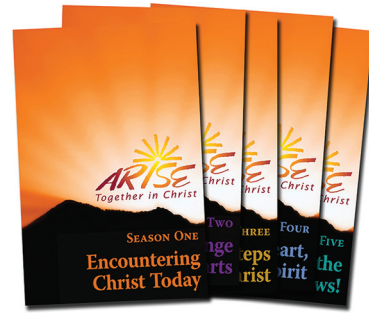


## WHAT'S NEXT?

*Healing our Church* is a beginning, not an end. While it will provide a path for working through the immediate issues, we need to look beyond to what is possible for our church. *ARISE Together In Christ* is a parish-centered process for spiritual renewal that will encourage participants to encounter Christ and grow as missionary disciples. We encourage you to explore *ARISE* as a follow-up to *Healing our Church* to continue the momentum.



**Please contact us today for more information**

Peter Fiore  
Director, Sales and Marketing  
PeterF@renewintl.org  
908-769-5400 X110

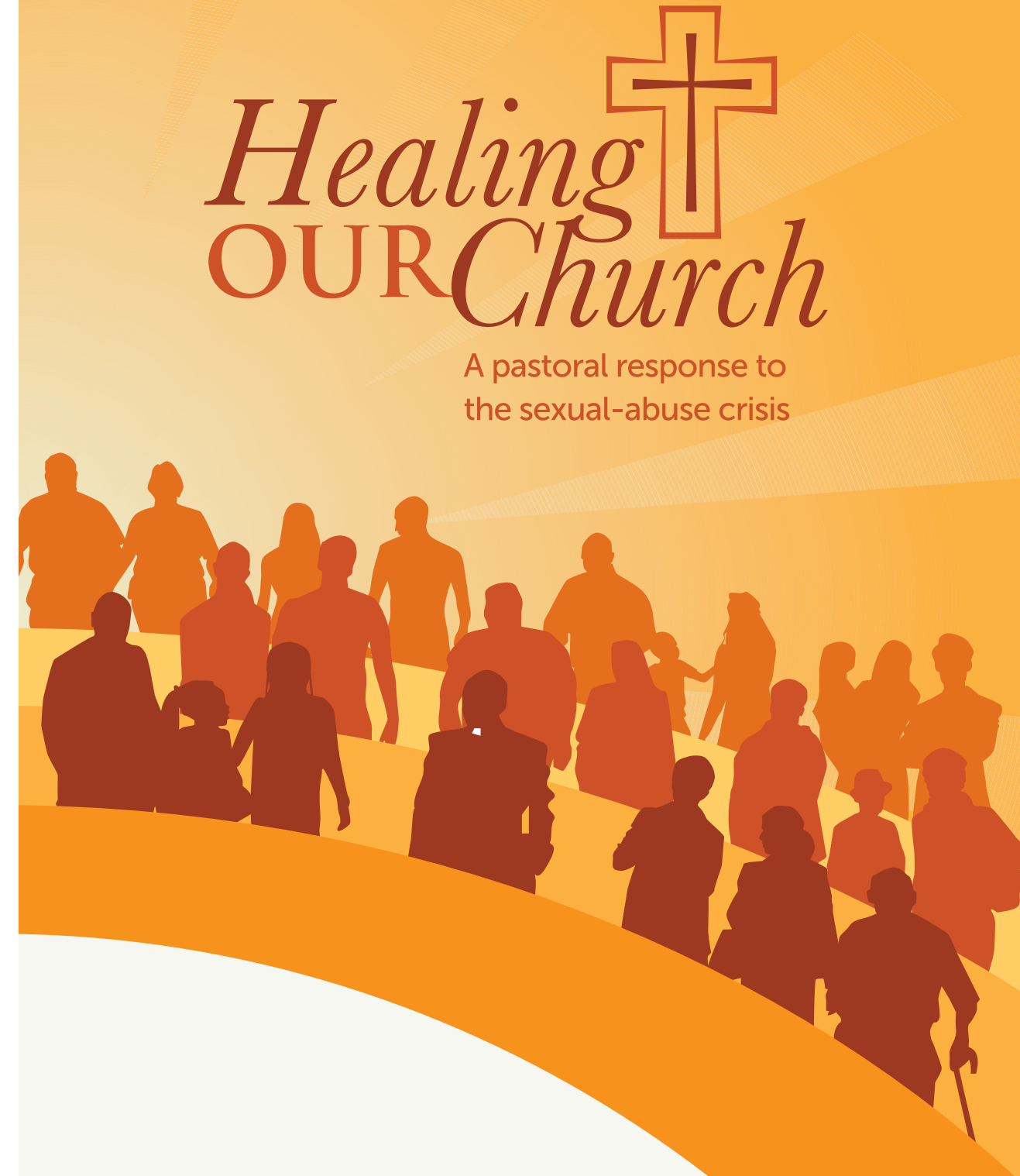


1232 George Street  
Plainfield, NJ 07062-1717  
Phone: 908-769-5400  
Fax: 908-769-5660  
www.renewintl.org

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# Healing OUR Church

A pastoral response to  
the sexual-abuse crisis

**T**he recent wave of news about sexual abuses committed by Catholic clergy have left many of the faithful in emotional turmoil regarding their faith. Amidst the other difficulties the situation presents, how do dioceses and parishes find a way to minister to these hurting parishioners?

RENEW International has created *Healing Our Church*, a small-group resource which faces the issue head-on and helps the faithful begin the healing process. Whether you choose to engage in the optional preparation period and RENEW services, or to simply purchase the books, *Healing Our Church* will help the faithful deal with the complex emotions this scandal has caused and start on the path to healing and renewed discipleship.

## FACILITATED CONVERSATIONS

RENEW Pastoral consultants will guide a conversation about the current sexual abuse crisis in the church. The gatherings will begin with prayer for victims and the reform of our church. Parishioners will be encouraged to attend to express their thoughts, feelings, and concerns regarding the situation facing the church today. The discussion will conclude by examining possible action steps and will close with a final prayer. Afterwards, the information generated through the conversations will be collated and a report submitted to the diocese.

## PARISH SMALL-GROUP CORE TEAM TRAINING

Provides interactive training to successfully launch *Healing Our Church* small groups in parishes. Reviews the faith-sharing experience and resources, recruiting small-group leaders, and inviting parishioners.

**Audience:** parish small-groups team and other parish leaders

## SMALL-GROUP LEADER TRAINING

Provides an overview of themes of the faith-sharing sessions. Offers review and practice of skills needed to facilitate small groups in prayer and faith sharing, and move them toward evangelizing action.

**Audience:** small-group leaders and the parish small-groups team



## FAITH SHARING SESSIONS

<b>Facing the Truth</b>	We express our feelings about the sexual-abuse scandal and its impact—first and foremost on the victims, but also on our lives and on the lives of all the faithful. We listen to the experiences of others, respecting their feelings and emotions. Before we can move forward, we name the abuse and the attempts to conceal it and shield the perpetrators.
<b>Healing Our Wounds</b>	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.
<b>Rebuilding Our Church</b>	We identify and explore the complex factors that have caused 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.
<b>Why do I Remain Catholic?</b>	We listen to people explain why they remain in the Church, and we share our own faith stories. By the end of the session participants will be able to articulate why they remain Catholic.
<b>We Believe</b>	We refocus on our connection to Christ, whom we meet in the sacraments and the Scriptures in the community of the faithful. We explore ways of articulating to others why we stay.
<b>We Are the Church</b>	The Church is the people of God, called, and sent to be wounded healers. We explore the call to become missionary disciples in a wounded church.

After the completion of the faith-sharing sessions, RENEW will aid in planning a day of reconciliation and healing for the priests of your diocese.

Support materials such as bulletin announcements, sign up posters, and sign-up cards will also be available to help individual parishes implement the program effectively. We will also work with your diocesan communications personnel on any custom communications pieces you may need.