



**LEADERSHIP
ROUNDTABLE**
Service. Excellence. Church Management.

For Immediate Release
June 5, 2020

Contact: 908.400.3435
michael@leadershiproundtable.org

Leadership Roundtable sees hope for global Catholicism in report commissioned by Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference commissioned a report in 2018 to look at governance reforms in light of the country's abuse crisis and a scathing report from the Royal Commission. This ground-breaking report, [leaked to the media this week](#), contains 86 recommendations for governance reforms, ranging from the selection of bishops to the role of women in decision-making.

"Like the Catholic Church in Australia, the Church in the United States is facing multiple crises that could be solved through improved governance structures that embrace the co-responsibility of lay and ordained leaders," remarked Kim Smolik, Leadership Roundtable's CEO.

"No crises can be solved by a single leader or even single body of leaders. It is going to take all of us, lay and ordained, working together to address the current crises and to build a healthy Church for the future," said Smolik.

"The reforms called for in the report, if implemented by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, would offer new directions for Church governance with positive implications for the global Church," noted Michael Brough, Leadership Roundtable's Deputy Director.

Both Smolik and Brough traveled to Australia and served as advisors to the *Governance Review Project Team* that wrote the 200-page report that is currently under consideration by the bishops' conference of Australia. "We were honored to draw upon Leadership Roundtable's 15-year experience of working with Catholic leaders in the United States in order to share best practices," said Brough. Leadership Roundtable's recent Catholic Partnership Summits in 2019 and 2020 were held up in the report as a synodal model for convening lay and ordained leaders to address challenges facing the Church today.

"At a time when our Church and world cry out for good leadership," said Smolik, "I hope that this report will not only benefit the Church in Australia, but will serve as a model for other Catholic leaders around the globe to commit to co-responsible governance and ultimately better serve the people of God."

###

Leadership Roundtable promotes best practices and accountability in the management, finances, communications, and human resources development of the Catholic Church in the U.S., including greater incorporation of the expertise of the laity.

For more information about Leadership Roundtable, visit www.leadershiproundtable.org