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ROUNDTABLE  
*Service. Excellence. Church Management.*

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## Catholics Must Create a New Culture of Leadership to Address the Abuse of Power in the Church

Like many Catholics, Leadership Roundtable is deeply troubled by the report detailing widespread financial malfeasance and abuse in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

“Catholics are once again shocked and angered at the lack of accountability, transparency, and co-responsibility of leadership as witnessed in this report,” says Kim Smolik, CEO of Leadership Roundtable. “The report is further evidence that the current leadership culture in the Church lacks checks and balances and allows for an abuse of power. This lack of accountability extends to areas of management, finances, communications, and human resources. To address the root causes of the crises, Catholics must work together to transform the culture of leadership toward one in which laity and clergy are co-responsible, utilizing new governance structures based on best practices.”

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is meeting next week, June 11-14 in Baltimore. They have the opportunity to publicly acknowledge the culture that has led to significant leadership failures, fully enact Pope Francis’ *motu proprio*, and pass the proposals that Cardinal DiNardo, President of the USCCB, said that would be addressed, including: a standard of accountability for bishops, a process for investigating complaints against bishops, a national third-party compliance hotline, a protocol for removed bishops, national guidelines for the publication of lists of credibly accused, and the timely completion of investigations into the situation surrounding Archbishop McCarrick and publication of their results.

Leadership Roundtable looks forward to working with Church leaders to create a new culture of servant leadership in dioceses and parishes. We sent detailed recommendations for next week’s USCCB Assembly to bishops to advance the Church’s necessary recovery and reform. A copy of these recommendations may be found on our [website here](#).

“The bishops have the opportunity to set a new course at the USCCB Assembly next week,” notes Smolik. “For the sake of the Church in the United States and its future, I hope that the bishops will have the courage to address the root causes of these crises and commit to a new culture of leadership. It is the only way forward.”

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*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 [leadershiproundtable.org](http://leadershiproundtable.org)