

CITY BY CITY REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANIZERS OF THE *CATHOLIC TIPPING POINT* TOUR

NEW YORK CITY, TUESDAY JULY 16, organizers were delighted by **over 230 Catholics** who came to the tour's national kick-off event that included many perceptive exchanges between Fr. Schüller and enthusiastic attendees. Organizers had expected 90-100 people on a hot weeknight in the city. **Several priests met privately with Fr. Schuller during his visit.**

Contacts: Francis X. Piderit francis@piderit.com C: 917-916-7575 T: 212-826-3118
New York, Voice of the Faithful
With Rita Houlihan, FutureChurch, Lewis Spokes-Tanner, DignityUSA, Art McGrath, Call To Action

BOSTON, WEDNESDAY JULY 17, from 600 to 660 Catholics heard Schüller speak despite the stifling heat and Cardinal Sean O'Malley's statement forbidding organizers to have the presentation on Catholic property. The crowd began lining up three hours early and quickly overflowed the non-air conditioned back-up venue, a hospitable Unitarian church with a capacity of 450. Over 200 sat outside on the lawn, listening attentively as, among other things, Schüller called for opening ordination rather than closing parishes to accommodate the priest shortage. **Not much time for priest networking because overwhelming local media demand and the short visit. But Schuller did meet some priests informally.**

Contact: Ron DuBois debber@beld.net 781-843-1676
Voice of the Faithful...National offices

PHILADELPHIA, FRIDAY JULY 19, local organizers were stunned by **an overflow of 320 Catholics** who came to hear Schüller at Catholic Chestnut Hill College in a room that normally holds 250. Though Archbishop Chaput had banned Schüller's appearance in Catholic parishes, the Catholic College did not cancel the event citing its mission: "to encourage dialogue on issues of importance to society." **Twenty priests met privately for two hours with Fr. Schuller in the afternoon and many returned for his talk that night, including some of the younger men.**

Contact: Regina Bannen, reginab317@gmail.com 215-545-9649
Philadelphia, Women's Ordination Conference,
with VOTF Philadelphia and National Coalition of American Nuns

BALTIMORE, SATURDAY, JULY 20, also saw a standing room only **crowd of over 250** with Catholics sitting on the floor and standing in the aisles at the Presbyterian church hosting Schüller's presentation. **Five priests met privately with Fr. Schuller in the afternoon**

Contact: Sr. Jeannine Gramick SL, National Coalition of American Nuns 301-864-3604 gramick@verizon.net
With New Ways Ministry, Quixote Center, FutureChurch, and Call To Action Maryland

WASHINGTON DC , MONDAY, JULY 22 began with a interview with Bill Press, host of a Current TV interview show followed by a press conference at the National Press Club that attracted nearly all the religious media including National Catholic Reporter, Religion News Service, Catholic News Service and many others. In the afternoon, Fr. Schuller was interviewed by EJ Dionne, the well known Washington Post columnist. The evening event was held at the Augustana Lutheran Church. The Church was **filled to its capacity of 250**. French television was there for the entire event which lasted for about one and three quarter's hours. The audience was very welcoming and Helmut was interrupted numerous times with applause. On the morning of the 23rd, the French crew came to our home and taped an interview with Helmut which lasted about 45 minutes. He was off to Chicago at 2pm. **Seven priests had a private meeting with Fr. Schuller on Sunday July 21**

Contacts Ben Palumbo - 202-957-2416 - bpalumbo@covad.net
Erin Hanna - 401-588-0457 - ehanna@womensordination.org
Sr. Jeannine Gramick - 301-277-5674 - gramick@verizon.net
Dolly Pomerleau - dollywood20722@hotmail.com

CHICAGO, WEDNESDAY JULY 24, Over **500 people** came to hear Fr. Schuller's evening presentation, with many travelling a distance, from cities such as Milwaukee, Iowa City, Michigan City, Muskegon Mi, Austin Tx. Reuters reporter, Mary Wisniewski did an indepth interview and her story was translated into Portuguese, Spanish and Indonesian. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/31/us-usa-religion-catholics-reformer-idUSBRE96U1ED20130731>

The event garnered two media stories in the *National Catholic Reporter* and several reflective blogs.

A prearranged private meeting with diocesan priests at a local parish was strongly opposed at the last minute by the Archdiocese. The priests had to move out of their own home to a nearby Presbyterian Church. 7-8 attended. Organizers said there would have been more except for the last minute intimidation. Helping to lead the discussion was Fr Dave Cooper, chair of the growing Association of United States Catholic Priests (AUSCP).

CTA & its local coalition partners filled the stage for a tribute to longtime Chicago Catholic activists, Pat & Patty Crowley. Leaders of the Christian Family Movement (with 200,000 couples participating worldwide), they paved the way for church renewal and justice. March 24, 2013 would have been Patty's 100th Birthday. Sr Patricia Crowley, OSB, spoke of their lives and legacy (of which she is such a major part).

Contact: Bob Heineman HeinemanCTA@cta-usa.org 847-682-1056

The Chicago program was also live streamed to the following eighteen cities

Austin, TX <tel:512-906-1268>
Buffalo, NY <tel:716-837-8685>
Central Lake, MI <tel:231-633-3464>
Chadron, NE <tel:308-432-2006>
Dallas, TX <tel:214-357-2173>
Germantown, WI <tel:262-251-7328>
Iowa City, IA <tel:319-339-1306>
Jackson, NJ <tel:732-833-4166>
Lafayette, CA <tel:925-930-9965>

Lincoln, NE <tel:402-730-7070>
Memphis, TN <tel:901-327-8068>
Middleton, WI <tel:608-669-2886>
Minneapolis/St Paul <tel:651-636-7356>
Muncie, IN <tel:765-729-1170>
Omaha, NE <tel:402-556-5142>
Platteville, WI <tel:608-348-8435>
Sacramento, CA <tel:916-486-1525>
South Bend, IN <tel:219-272-2320>

CLEVELAND, THURSDAY JULY 25 Cleveland **had a full house with 450-500 folks** at the Independence Middle School auditorium. Some came from as far away as Rochester NY, Erie Pa, Pittsburgh PA, Columbus, and Cincinnati attending (as well as Cleveland and Akron) to hear Fr. Schuller's presentation. Standing ovation... A fine celebration of St. Mary of Magdala accompanied.. **Fr. Schuller met with 12 priests for two hours Thursday afternoon...and three others in between times.**

Media NCR covered the story as well as the local Independence news.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer did an advance story http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2013/07/post_160.html

As did the Akron Beacon Journal

<http://www.ohio.com/news/local/the-rev-helmut-schuller-austrian-priest-banned-in-boston-to-speak-in-independence-and-cleveland-1.414671>

The Cleveland Plain Dealer also covered the City Club presentation (see below)

http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2013/07/outspoken_catholic_priest_helm.html

Contact: Liz England liz@futurechurch.org
Sr. Christine Schenk chris@futurechurch.org 216-228-0869 x4 / 215 513-3647

CLEVELAND, FRIDAY JULY 26th About 150 came to the Cleveland City Club to hear Fr. Schuller. Here is a link to the YouTube Video of that excellent presentation: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ShS3F_vvPxI

Contact: Sr. Christine Schenk chris@futurechurch.org 216-228-0869 x4

DETROIT, FRIDAY JULY 26 Over 800 folks heard Helmut in Detroit after an archdiocesan ban of the program at SS Simon and Jude Parish appeared on front page of Detroit Free Press Friday AM. Instead, Fr. Schuller gave an EXCELLENT presentation at a local high school and received a standing ovation. Sr. Chris Schenk welcomed folks in the name of all sponsoring groups, thanked the Elephants in the Living Room and local Association of US Catholic Priests for their sponsorship. She also thanked the hierarchy in Boston, Philadelphia and Detroit for all the great pr (the crowd loved that). Afterwards, Fr. Gerry Bechard, the Pastor of Ss Simon and Jude hosted a reception for everyone at the parish hall

An estimated 40-50 priests attended the presentation

Here is Detroit Free Press Article that got picked up by USA Today
<http://www.freep.com/article/20130726/NEWS05/307260011/Controversial-priest-to-speak-Detroit>

It was also covered by two TV stations...but I could only find the link to one...
<http://www.wxyz.com/dpp/news/priest-banned-by-archdiocese-of-detroit-from-speaking-at-local-church>

Contact: Fr. Gerry Bechard pastor@stssimonandjude.com 734-722-1343
Sr. Christine Schenk chris@futurechurch.org 216-228-0869 x4

CINCINNATI SATURDAY JULY 26 AND SUNDAY JULY 27

Main Event We were worried about the heavy rain and the thunderstorms really reducing our crowd. But we filled the auditorium with nearly 400 people! We know a few priests were in the crowd too. Helmut was outstanding and very well received. The crowd hung on his every word and he got a standing ovation at the end. Afterwards, we heard from lots of people who were affirmed, renewed, re-invigorated to take their own reform work further - to be less afraid to speak out! Some of them are so weighed down trying to bring reform in a very hostile environment. What Helmut is doing is truly ministry too!

Informal meeting with priests In the evening Helmut met with 14 priests, most of them from the AUSCP from 7:45 to 10:30pm. It was a good conversation. We (the core organizing group) were invited as well and sat in on the conversation.

Sunday Morning Con-Celebration On Sunday morning, much to our delight, Fr. Dan Hartnett, the pastor of Bellarmine Chapel invited Helmut con-celebrate mass! Fr. Dan and the associate pastor had gone to hear him at our main event on Saturday and really appreciated what he had to say. There were another 250 at this mass. Many of the core organizing group, **Voices Speaking** were there and we wept with joy as Helmut processed in (after having been so excluded in so many places), helped with a baptism and spoke the words of consecration. At communion, we lined up to receive the cup from Helmut. When he said, "the blood of Christ" we said a heartfelt "AMEN" - a step toward a Church inclusive all of the voices of its faithful!

During the entire mass, we sang our hearts out! The final song, "Sing a New Church" had us singing with tears running down our cheeks, "Let us bring the gifts that differ, and in splendid varied ways, sing a new church into

being, one in faith and love and praise." After mass, the parishioners served refreshments and many people lined up to talk with Helmut. We spoke with Fr. Dan and thanked him for his gracious hospitality. He lauded Fr. Schuller for his work in the U.S. and around the world speaking of Helmut's intellect, humility, and strategic mind for bringing reform. With fervor he said, "Instead of excluding him, we should be grateful for what he is trying to achieve!"

Press coverage included:

Cheri Lawson's (WNKU) interview with Fr. Helmut and other attendees at the Cincinnati event
<http://www.wnku.org/post/austrian-priest-brings-message-church-reform-cincinnati-0>

Laurie Petrie wrote an article for the National Catholic Reporter
<http://ncronline.org/news/theology/sisters-woman-priest-church-reformers-among-schullers-cincinnati-crowd>

Contact: Deborah Rose Milavec rosemilavec@fuse.net

DENVER, MONDAY JULY 29 To all: Fr. Schuller's event in Denver on Monday evening was fantastic! The church where it was held was filled to capacity, which we estimate was about **250+ people**. The reception afterwards was very well attended, also, with most people staying around to visit for a long time. The next day the **Denver Post newspaper** gave him great coverage, which included a colorful picture of Fr. Schuller standing in front of our rainbow flag in front of the church.

During the day **on Monday Fr. Schuller met with 2 priests individually** (in addition to his interview with the Denver Post), and then **on Tuesday morning he "informally" visited with about 30 nuns out at the Lorretto Center** (which included a couple of other orders of nuns who just happened to be holding retreats at the Center). The sisters then invited him to stay for lunch, after **which he squeezed in one more meeting with a priest before heading to the airport**. We were exhausted from the whirlwind of activity, but Fr. Schuller seemed to thrive on it! All agreed that it was an incredibly energizing event!

Denver Post did an interview http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_23755805/dissident-priest-says-reformers-hopeful-but-unsure-pope

Contact: Brad Cameron bwillcameron@comcast.net 303-832-4282

SAN DIEGO, WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, attendance at our event in San Diego was 160 -- not as big as crowds at previous stops, but **more than we have ever had at a CTA event in San Diego**. People came from Orange County, Phoenix and El Paso.

Media KPBS gave Fr. Schuller good radio and TV coverage, but there wasn't a single word in the U-T and the other Manchester-owned print media

Contact: Michael Crowley cta_sandiego@yahoo.com
David Glassner dglass123@hotmail.com 858-864-2708

LOS ANGELES (PASADENA) FRIDAY AUGUST 2

187 people arrived for a vibrant meeting. Hosted by Dignity Los Angeles

Pasadena weekly did advance story
http://www.pasadenaweekly.com/cms/story/detail/appeal_to_disobedience/12323/

More info soon to be published on English translation of Fr. Schuller's blog
<http://www.catholictippingpoint.org/HelmutBlog>

Contact: Fr. Kevin Steen 323-258-2916 steenball39@sbcglobal.net

PORTLAND, SUNDAY AUGUST 4 Hi All, Just home from the Portland event with Helmut. He drew a full house in the Lutheran Church where the event was held. **We estimate the crowd was 300 strong.** He spoke for over an hour then took questions for the remainder of the second hour. He covered many topics trying to excite Church progressives into action. **A few priests from the archdiocese as well as from other diocese were present**
but apparently there was no formal meeting with priests. Bill

Portland Oregonian did advance story

http://www.oregonlive.com/living/index.ssf/2013/07/catholic_priest-reformer_helmu.html

Contact: Nancy Dennehy ndbdpdx@comcast.net 503-238-1942

SEATTLE, MONDAY, AUGUST 5, (Advance report): Tony.....here's the cool flyer Julie designed for the event that will take place Monday. Quick lunch here at our home, **then a 2:30pm meeting with local priests** at a high rise across from the Cathedral. They have an elegant Sky Club Lounge on the top floor. Then dinner and the program which will be in the main sanctuary at a beautiful new First Methodist Church by the Seattle Center.....**we moved it from their Fellowship Hall because of the 150 plus who have already RSVP's interest.** I then put him on a 9am flight to NYC, he has one event there and home to Austria.

Seattle Times did advance story http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2021534054_activistpriestxml.html

Contact: Patrick Callahan revcall@aol.com 206-329-1234

MANHASSET, LONG ISLAND WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7 (No report yet but local weekly carried advance notice)

Contact: Phil Megna pmegna@mattonegroup.com

Pat Paone paongael@optonline.net 516-627-2438