

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

Statement

Diocese of Toowoomba

At the meeting of the Permanent Committee of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference on 2nd August a petition was presented from members of the faithful of the Diocese of Toowoomba. Many people have written or sent emails to the Holy Father, the Bishops Conference, the Apostolic Nuncio, and individual Bishops in support of Bishop Morris. The members of the Permanent Committee are aware that there are some who take a different view and they are aware of publications that are openly hostile to Bishop Morris.

The Bishops Conference does not have any jurisdiction with respect to an individual Bishop or his leadership of the Diocese. The reality of our ecclesial structure is that the Conference is not able to resolve the issues that have arisen. Not only do the local Bishops not have access to all the information on which Pope Benedict came to his decision, but what has happened in Toowoomba is a matter between the Holy Father and Bishop Morris.

To assist in dealing with the questions that correspondents have raised, the Permanent Committee has resolved to refer the issue of process and the doctrinal matter of the infallibility of the teaching on women's ordination, respectively, to the Congregation for Bishops and the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Archbishop Philip Wilson
President

Fr Brian Lucas
General Secretary

11 August 2011