Bishops' Conference Plenary Meeting: Update No. 2

Working Party on the Permanent Diaconate

A Working Party to draw up guidelines for Australia regarding the discernment of Vocations to and the formation of the Permanent Diaconate has been established. The members of this Working Party are:

Deacon Roger O'Donnell and his wife CoraDiocese of Canberra/Goulburn

Father Peter O'KeefeMilitary Ordinariate

Father Chris de SouzaDiocese of Parramatta

The task of the Working Party will be coordinated by the Bishops' Committee for Clergy and Religious.

Establishment of Ecumenical and Interfaith Commission

The Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations has received the approval of Conference for the establishment of a National Ecumenical and Interfaith Commission.

The Commission will consist of six members in addition to the Bishops' Committee and will meet once a year in conjunction with a meeting of ACBC.

Young People and the Future

The Bishops' Committee for the Laity will now be responsible for the implementation of "Young People and the Future" at the National level.

The "Young People and the Future" project was previously overseen by the Bishops' Committee for Justice, Development and Peace.

Statement on the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees

A Pastoral Statement on Migrants and Refugees is now available from the Bishops' Committee for Migrants and Refugees through its Secretariat office, the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office on 02) 6201 9848 or email: projectofficer@acmro.catholic.org.au.

The Statement is also available on the ACBC web-site.

The Statement will be made available in the form of a brochure in the next couple of weeks.

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Formal Dinner of the Plenary Meeting

A number of guests attended the formal dinner of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference Plenary Meeting held on Wendesday, 17 May 2000.

They included: Archbishop Frank Little, Emeritus Archbishop of Melbourne, Bishop William Murray, Emeritus Bishop of Broken Bay, and Bishop Patrick Murphy, Emeritus Bishop of Wollongong.

Also, attending the function as guests were a number of General Secretaries from other Bishops' Conferences. They were: Monsignor Bernard Lagoutte of France, Monsignor Peter Schoenbach from Canada and Rev Dr. Roland Trauffer, OP, from Switzerland.

Election results - A few corrections

Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Inter-faith Relations Bishop John Gerry is not a member of this Committee. Bishops' Committee for Employment Relations: Bishop John Satterthwaite is the Chairman of this Committee, with Bishop William Brennan holding the office of Secretary not Bishop Brennan as Chairman and Bishop Satterthwaite as Secretary as previously advised. Bishops' Committee for Justice, Development and Peace: Archbishop Adrian Doyle is the Deputy Chairman of BCJDP. Bishop William Morris is also a Vice President of ACSJC as well as his office of Secretary of BCJDP.

Bishop Christopher Saunders is a Vice-President of ACSJC.

Appointments

Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations Ms Sandie Cornish has been appointed as the Catholic member on the Social Justice Network of the National Council of Churches of Australia (NCCA) Bishops' Committee for Justice, Development & Peace Mr Jack de Groot has been appointed as Director of Caritas Australia Bishops' Committee for the Laity Miss Alice Priest, from the Diocese of Alice Springs and Mr Mark O'Neil, from the Diocese of Broken Bay will be the delegates of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference at the World Youth Day celebrations in Rome in August, 2000 Bishops' Committee for the Liturgy Australian Consultation on Liturgy (ACOL)Bishop Peter Ingham has been elected as the ACBC representative on the ecumenical ACOL for a further period of three years (2000-2003)International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL)Bishop James Foley has been appointed as Australia's member on ICEL's Episcopal Board for a further period of three years (2000-2003). Bishops' Committee for the Media Advisory Committee to the Bishops' Committee for the MediaMs Eileen Prehn (Sydney)Mr Geoff Orchison (Canberra)Father Kevin Dillon (Melbourne)Ms Penny Edman (Hobart)Dr Mark Balnaves (Perth)Mrs Christine Lohman (Brisbane)Mr Peter Thomas (BCM nominee)Father Richard Leonard (Director of the Catholic Film Office)Mrs Jackie Brady (National Catholic Media Office) Australian Catholic Commission for Employment Relations Brother Quentin Halloran has been appointed as the representative of the Australian Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes (ACLRI) and will also represent the ACLRI on the Bishops' Committee for **Employment Relations**

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Dates to remember

World Communications Day 28 May 2000 Pilgrimage to the Heart 4-11 June 2000 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 4-11 June 2000 Eucharistic Congress (Official ACBC Jubilee Event) 11-25 June 2000 Catholic Health Australia's National Conference "Healing the Community" 26-28 June 2000 Orientale-Lumen Conference 9-12 July 2000 National Multiculturalism Conference – "Building Bridges" 7-9 July 2000 Catholic Higher Education in Australia: Satellite Meeting, ACU 6-7 August 2000 National Refugee Week 7-15 August 2000 Refugee and Migrant Sunday 27 August 2000 National Conference of Catholic Diocesan Ecumenical Commissions 5-7 October 2001 Plenary Meeting Dates 4-8 December 20001-10 May 200126-30 November 2001