

National Liturgical Architecture and Art Board

STATUTES

Mandate

The Board shall advise the Bishops Commission for Liturgy on liturgical architecture, the liturgical arts, and liturgical cultural patrimony.

The Board's vision springs from the teaching of the Second Vatican Council:

Architecture

... When churches are to be built, let great care be taken that they be suitable for the celebration of liturgical services and for the active participation of the faithful. (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy 124.)

Art

Holy Mother Church has ... always been the friend of the fine arts and has ever sought their noble help, with the special aim that all things set apart for use in divine worship should be truly worthy, becoming, and beautiful, signs and symbols of the supernatural world ... (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy 122.)

Cultural Patrimony

The Church has not adopted any particular style of art as her very own; she has admitted styles from every period according to the natural talents and circumstances of peoples, and the needs of the various rites. Thus, in the course of the centuries, she has brought into being a treasury of art which must be very carefully preserved. The art of our own days, coming from every race and region, shall also be given free scope in the Church, provided that it adorns the sacred buildings and holy rites with due reverence and honour; thereby it is enabled to contribute its own voice to that wonderful chorus of praise in honour of the Catholic faith sung by great artists in times gone by. (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy 123.)

1. Membership and Meetings

1.1 The Board shall comprise eight members who shall be appointed by the Bishops Commission for Liturgy with due regard for the responsibilities of the Board.

1.2 The Chairman and Secretary of the Board shall be appointed by the Bishops Commission for Liturgy.

1.3 The term of appointment shall normally be 3 years which is renewable to a maximum of 9 years.

1.4 The Board shall meet twice a year, at a location determined by the Chairman. Use will be made of video or teleconference facilities when the agenda or circumstances warrants.

1.5 The Board may nominate to the Bishops Commission for Liturgy for appointment as Consultants to the Board persons with relevant specialization or expertise who will assist the Board to more effectively fulfill its responsibilities.

2. Areas of Responsibility

The Board serves the liturgical life the Catholic Church in Australia and its mission by providing advice about:

2.1 The architectural design of new and reordered churches.

- 2.2 The contribution of the sacred and liturgical arts to churches and the sacred liturgy.
- 2.3 The preservation of the cultural heritage of the Church as pertains to churches and the sacred and liturgical arts.

3. Particular Functions

In particular, the Board performs the following functions:

- 3.1 It assists the Bishops Commission for Liturgy to fulfil its function regarding the implementation in Australia of the liturgical directives of the Holy See pertaining to church architecture, the sacred and liturgical arts, and the preservation of cultural heritage.
- 3.2 It provides guidelines for liturgical architecture, art, and cultural heritage as may be determined by the Bishops Commission for Liturgy.
- 3.3 It develops educational programmes which foster a better understanding of the liturgical directives of the Holy See and such national guidelines as may be authorised by the Bishops Commission for Liturgy or the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference regarding liturgical architecture, art, and the preservation of cultural heritage.
- 3.4 It reports to the Bishops Commission for Liturgy on developments and trends in the architectural design of churches, sacred and liturgical arts, and liturgical aspects of cultural heritage.
- 3.5 It shall report to the Secretariat of the Bishops Commission for Liturgy following each meeting.

4. Advisory Role

The Board provides support to the Bishops Commission for Liturgy and the National Liturgical Council, mindful of the right of the local Ordinary to determine matters pertaining to the construction and reordering of churches, sacred art, and cultural heritage:

- 4.1 By fostering awareness and appreciation of the primacy of the sacred liturgy in determining the design and arrangement of churches.
- 4.2 By promoting architectural and artistic design that serves the sacred liturgy and communicates the Catholic tradition.
- 4.3 By encouraging academic study and research in church architecture, the sacred and liturgical arts, and the cultural heritage of the Church.

5. Relations

- 5.1 The Board maintains formal contact with:
 - 5.1.1 The Bishops Commission for Liturgy.
 - 5.1.2 The National Liturgical Council.
- 5.2 The Board may from time to time have informal contact with:
 - 5.2.1 Diocesan Liturgical Commissions or Offices for Worship.
 - 5.2.2 Liturgical consultants and liturgical design consultants.
 - 5.2.3 Architects and artists involved in Church commissions.

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