

Session Three – Moving Forward Together
REGIONAL MEETINGS
Diocesan Gathering 2010

What is our Vision for the Region?

Region:	CHISHOLM		
Facilitator & Participants	Elizabeth Cornwell		
PAST		PRESENT	
Where have we Been?		Where are we Now?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In separate parishes; ▪ Comfortable! Ok in our own parishes; ▪ Haven't questioned (some have); ▪ Haven't been challenged; ▪ Disjointed; ▪ Boundary changes (e.g. Lochinvar); ▪ Very dedicated people but many in pews; ▪ Bishop's House move to Newcastle; ▪ Stability of priests in past. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some in limbo; state of transition, change we have no control over, frustrated; ▪ Excitement and anticipation; ▪ Have been invited to contribute; ▪ Resistance to change; ▪ Not sure now how to talk to (when priests not available as before); ▪ 'Leaderless' - priests too busy; ▪ Lot of anxiety; ▪ WYD done very well in region – brought us together/unifying (school and Church); ▪ Change of Mass times – negative response. Community has been lost, some parishes have picked up; ▪ Reliant on overseas priests; ▪ Credibility of lay leaders questioned; ▪ Some too old, too busy, too lacking in confidence; ▪ Increase in leadership training days; ▪ Large number of young parents in Sacramental Programs – challenge of losing contact with them; ▪ Social engagements in WYD – no longer available to young; ▪ Lay leaders commissioned for lay led liturgy no longer used. Why not? ▪ Uncertainty; ▪ Regular regional meetings missed: no voice from parishes, regular liturgy team meetings only couple of times; ▪ Dungog: feel isolated, poor road; ▪ Matthew's letters inform us. 	
FUTURE			

<p align="center">What Are Our Hopes for the Future? Where Would we Like to Be?</p>	<p align="center">How Are We Going to Get There?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stability: feel we're back on track again (need a leader); ▪ Starting over again and again – need for stability in pastoral leadership; ▪ School – parish: contacts with young families, support new approach, include young parents (we don't have all answers, parish involvement besides Mass); ▪ Unity: removal of politics; ▪ Communication/Visitation/Invitation – be more inviting/accepting of all; ▪ Offer to school a parish welcome/meet the parents – no cooperation from school, knock harder; ▪ School Masses, beautiful atmosphere, weddings, baptisms and funerals – best time for evangelising; ▪ 'Care for my child' in schools, Christian values; ▪ Don't lose communities: Churches not to be closed. Find ways of keeping open; ▪ RCIA: Hope every parish active in RCIA; ▪ Having a very vibrant bereavement team across the region. (Say, in Five Years); ▪ Talking positive about our priests; ▪ Actively supported lay leaders; ▪ More formation in spirituality; ▪ Groups of people coming together to pray (not neglecting Eucharistic); ▪ More young people involved; ▪ More older people listening to young; ▪ Stewardship; ▪ Addressing maintenance of churches; ▪ More outward-looking communities of social justice, asylum seekers, awareness of refugees in our communities; ▪ More emphasis on community – encourage all the reach out; ▪ Greater population: No new churches; ▪ Better understanding of our vocation as baptised Christians; ▪ Social activities e.g. common celebration; ▪ More vocations: schools/parishes melding and supporting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be more positive; ▪ Welcome new life; ▪ Be open to change – embrace it; ▪ Our responsibility to maintain our Churches (not the priests); ▪ Instil confidence in people and empower them.