



DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL BRIEF REPORT ON THE 108TH MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2011

Present: Bishop Bill Wright, Mrs Teresa Brierley, Mr Bal Gato, Mr Paul Gleeson, Fr Tony Brady, Mr Lawrie Hallinan, Mrs Ruth Trappel, Mrs Louise Russell, Mrs Joan Wilson, Mrs Roxley Ryan, Mr Stephen Ryan, Mr John Presland, Sr Patricia Healion, Mrs Bev Hincks, Mr Ian Ross-Gowan, Mrs Alyson Segrott, Sister Louise Gannon.

Year of Grace

Louise Gannon led the reading of the opening prayer by introducing the Year of Grace Pray – Starting Afresh From Christ, a copy of the prayer was tabled at the meeting for the Council members to share with their community. Louise will be talking to the Parishes about the Year of Grace

Deanery Gathering Outcomes 2011

At the previous Council meeting it was agreed that recommendations would be circulated for review and to seek approval from the Council members. A summary report of these recommendations was presented at the meeting.

It was proposed to take the summary report and develop it into a working plan, which clearly states the Goals, Actions, Timelines and Responsibilities. It was felt by the Council that this would be best done by a small group. Lawrie Hallinan, Ian Ross-Gowan and Teresa Brierley volunteered to be part of the small sub-committee. The final Deanery Gatherings Recommendations Report will be presented at the next DPC meeting.

Stewardship Report 2011

The Stewardship Report was well received. It was agreed the report should be circulated to the Parishes via E-news.

Diocesan Pastoral Review

It was proposed to develop an Annual Review.

The Annual Review would consist of a report from the Bishop, two Vice Chancellors, Director of Catholic Schools, and Director of CatholicCare Social Services. The Annual Review would also include reports from each of the regional representatives and councils. It was accepted by the Council to go ahead and produce the Annual Review.

DPC Statues, Norms and Term of Reference

There are a number of discrepancies between the three documents; a summary of these discrepancies' will be presented to the Council at the next meeting for discussion.

Matters Arising from Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2011 required some amendments,

Item 1.4 last line of paragraph 3 on page 3. The word Deanerie was missing the s.

Item 3.4 Fr Nicholas King – Scripture first line. The information was included in the bulletin notices but not all parishes were informed of these details from the diocese.

The amendments were accepted by all council members present.

Reports to the DPC

Regional Reports were received from Blackbutt, Chisholm, City, Eastlakes, Macquarie, Northern, Port Stephens, and Upper Hunter Regions. Council Report was received from the Ecumenical & Interfaith Council.

DPC Membership

Catholic Schools Council (CSC) was approached to provide a representative to the DPC. The CSC proposed that the Director of Catholic School Office be the representative, as an Ex-Officio member. Bishop Bill will consider inviting the Director of Catholic Schools Office to join the DPC as an ex-officio member as well as the Director of CCSS.

Information

NCLS

There have been six parishes who have participated in the November National Church Life Survey. Chisholm region participated with all their parishes.

NET Ministries

NET Ministries Information Pack 2012 booklet was tabled at the meeting. The booklet addresses ways to engage youth into the local parish. The DPC members will pass on the information.

To Love...To The End

A flyer and prayer card was tabled at the meeting. The flyer provided information about planning for a good death. The DPC members will pass on the information.

One Body in Christ

One Body in Christ kits have been sent to the all the parish priests. The kit provides information to welcome those with disabilities so they are able to participate in church. The kit also provides information preparation for the Sacraments of initiation.

Chaplaincy Flyer

A School Chaplaincy flyer has been provided to parish priests, the government is seeking expressions of interest for Chaplaincy in State Schools.

GenR8 Ministries is a group who are actively seeking to introduce Chaplaincy into State Schools. GenR8 Ministries represent a broad spectrum of Christianity, therefore not able to represent the Catholic theology. It is essential that Catholic Chaplains are involved in State Schools so the Catholic way can be presented.

Integrity in the Service of the Church

The National Committee for Professional Standards has produced "Integrity in the Service of the Church" a resource document of Principles and Standards for Lay Workers in the Catholic Church in Australia. The document compiles the principles and behavior standards which will serve as a resource for Lay Church Workers, both employees and volunteers.

The Diocese is currently working on policies and procedures that will comply with the professional standards in the document. Training will be provided to all people working for the Diocese or in a regular volunteer capacity so people are aware of the policy standards and are able to follow the procedures.

DPC representative will pass on the latest information to the parishes and councils.

AFF Proposal

It is proposed that a Diocese Adult Faith Formation Council be established and to dissolve the Diocesan Faith Development Council.

The DPC were satisfied with the proposal and asked Bishop Bill to look at the proposal and commission if appropriate.

Communication

Aurora

Aurora will increase from 10 to 11 editions next year.

E-News

Jo Isaac is currently on maternity leave and Alyson Segrott is covering this position until Jo returns in July.

Website

Liam Beckett the new website developer has now commenced, and will develop a new Catholic Schools Office website and update the CatholicCare Social Services website, followed by the Diocesan website.

Quinquennial Report/Ad Limina Visit

The report was well received in Rome.

Other Business

Refugees

Lawrie Hallinan mentioned the Marist Youth Care are supporting 18 unaccompanied humanitarian minors in the

Maitland area and have spoken to Teresa about areas where local schools/parishes could help.

Changes in Government policy mean that there will be a greater need for community detention options including for asylum seekers and that as a church we should look for ways to assist this more humane approach by asylum seekers.

Bishop Bill reminded us that any Parish or church agency can currently sponsor refugees.

Date of Next DPC Meeting 2012

The next meeting of the DPC is Saturday 18th February 2012, in the Toohey Room, Bishop House, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle, commencing at 9.00am.

To contact the DPC phone 4979 1117 or e-mail Alyson.Segrott@mn.catholic.org.au