

REFLECTING, LISTENING AND CONVERSING PROCESS Priest's Gathering, 12th December 2011: Evaluation

1. WHAT DID YOU FIND MOST HELPFUL ABOUT TODAY'S GATHERING?

- **INPUT FROM LAY PEOPLE** positive ✓✓✓/variety of input/ Emer Dolphin gave me hope / honesty/ Emer's input was excellent✓✓/ honesty of speakers/hearing from laity/ openness and honesty of each person/ the personal input from the people was excellent/ great variety of sharing/ good inputs/Michael Harding, Emer Dolphin and Vincent Prunty's inputs were excellent, very real/seeing that lay people's difficulties are ours as well and that we are willing to move forward together; realisation/ a sense of direction accompanied by goodwill; the fact that we as priests are more open to bringing lay voices into our gatherings but also that the lay people will hear our voices also;
- **BP. KIERAN'S OUTLINE** and ownership of the process;/ Kieran's input very good – seems to have a vision/The Bishop's introduction set the tone and explained the purpose of our gathering;/ Bishop Kieran's input;
- **GROUP-WORK:** Grouping leading on to Cluster Groupings;/ group-work was helpful in terms of listening to experience and naming what we are about/group was respectful and listened to every member/honest listening in groups and Cluster/meeting colleagues;/ Ten minutes with the Clusters was very helpful; /feedback was good; / table gathering – easy and relaxed/ flexibility of approach – good idea to have Cluster meetings at end.
- **FACILITATION** – very good✓✓/ Ann kept sensibly tight reins/ liked structure of day✓ / Good day, well organised;/ good balance between talk and listening;
- **THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION** – Fr Gerry kept us within theological parameters/ Gerry's input was good✓/Gerry's theological reflection/
- **LEONARD'S PRESENTATION:** excellent, reflected care he took to give an accurate summary of the Bunratty/ Leonard's input good/ Experience/big challenges placed gently/ feedback from the lay day/link with the lay day and their feedback vital/lovely linkup with laity gathering;
- **PRAYER** at beginning/comment on scripture meaning helpful before the actual reading.
- **ON PROCESS IN GENERAL:** Recognition of the frustration in moving forward;/ sense of urgency and involvement of all;

2. IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY?

- **DAY/ TIME/ VENUE OF GATHERING/** I wouldn't have the meeting two weeks before Christmas Day; timing of meeting before Christmas was inconvenient; /Monday not a good day for meeting; 4 p.m. finish would be better;/ Could we meet in a different hotel?/

- **ON PROCESS:** Less time given to inputs- more time for real reflecting, listening and sharing; / Come together with lay people/ Let the agenda be less controlled to enable a listening process to be effective; / Reporting back from groups could be streamlined a bit i.e. main ideas not everything said/I always have problems with reporting, takes too much time, too repetitive;/ Small groups should summarise report – not what everybody said but a summary for action;/ Cluster Grouping for afternoon session✓// For a listening process, there was very little listening time given to priests;/ Meeting was not as energising as meeting of lay people was reported to be;
- **WANT TO SEE ACTION:** We should be tracking trends that may lead to action; /We hide action steps when these are what the Spirit needs to hear us articulate; / Urging patience and seeing no progress with process will backfire; / More emphasis on mission and partnership;
- **TIMEFRAME:** Set a time limit and move forward; important that we keep the process within a timeline if at all possible/ More of an effort to satisfy people that all of this is going somewhere definite;/ Need to feed in to the feedback from last meeting [of priests]; it needs to be filtered down to a few points and linked;/
- **ON CONTENT OF INPUTS/FEEDBACK:** I would have avoided all the talk about Rome, Yes, it is a problem but what can I as a curate do about it?/ It should have been acknowledged that we are not starting from a blank sheet. In forming a vision we have to operate within a predetermined set of beliefs and structure. Some of the things mentioned during the day are beyond the competence of laity, clergy and even of bishops. That should be made clear, otherwise the listening process will lead to frustration;

3. ANY OTHER COMMENTS YOU WISH TO MAKE?

- **ONGOING COMMUNICATION:** It would be good to set up some channel to that any person who wishes to make a comment on the process in progress could do so to the Process Committee; / Maybe it would be helpful to select a number of people (similar to speakers today but different individuals) who are engaged in the process to keep a journal of the developments which they would be willing to share with the wider community/diocese.
- **LEADERSHIP OF PROCESS:** I see the Core Group as a valuable resource as we embrace the challenges and invitations of the future; / Please, as Leadership Group, keep your ear to the ground (i.e. the progress in Clusters). This can be the making of the Clusters and vice versa/ Steering Group's influence evident in day/ good leadership group/
- **THANKS :** A word of thanks and appreciation to all who organised the day for your time and energy/ well done/continue good work/ meeting was well prepared/ well done and I look forward to moving it forward in the New Year;