



IRISH CATHOLIC  
BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

100, Wellington Quay, Dublin 8, Ireland. Tel: 01 454 7000. Fax: 01 454 7001. Email: [secretary@icbc.ie](mailto:secretary@icbc.ie)

**COUNCIL FOR PASTORAL RENEWAL  
AND ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT**

Annual Report

May 2011

## Contents

	Introduction	2
	Summary	3
Section 1	Follow up to the Pastoral Letter of Pope Benedict XVI to the Catholics of Ireland	7
Section 2	Task Group on Evangelisation	8
Section 3	Adult Faith Development in context of <i>Share the Good News</i>	9
Section 4	Supporting Parish Development: PPCs and Pastoral Areas	10
Section 5	Ecclesial Movements and Associations of Lay Faithful	11
Section 6	Youth Ministry: Framework Document and Emerging Structures	12
Section 7	Implementation Committee for <i>Share the Good News</i>	13
Appendix 1	Terms of Reference of the Council for Pastoral Renewal and Adult Faith Development and members of the Council 2010-2013	14
Appendix 2	'Rite and Reason', <i>Irish Times</i> , 28 December 2010	17
Appendix 3	Review of the Pastoral Conference September 2010	18

## Introduction

This Annual Report is presented to the Episcopal Conference (IEC) on behalf of the Council for Pastoral Renewal and Adult Faith Development in accordance with the terms of reference (7.5) of the Council.

The purpose of the Annual Report is to offer to IEC, for critical comment and direction, an account of work done and work in progress under the auspices of the Council.

In March 2010 the IEC requested that terms of reference be drawn up for the Council to reflect its revised structure and function within IEC. This work was guided by the Organisational Scheme Handbook produced by IEC, and was pursued in light of a comprehensive evaluation of existing structures and processes for pastoral renewal and adult faith development already completed in December 2009. The final document, which was approved by IEC in March 2011, is the fruit of discerning dialogues throughout the sector. The terms of reference are included as Appendix 1.

The new Council brings together the designated bishops, the executive secretary of the Council for Catechetics, and representatives of diocesan personnel, lay people in mandated ministerial roles, youth ministry, CORI and IMU, ecclesial movements and associations of the lay faithful, and centres of theological and pastoral education and training. In this way, the Council potentially mirrors the emerging Church.

Executive staff attend the meetings and advance the tasks of the Council.

The Annual Report highlights the close relation between pastoral renewal and adult faith development and the recently-launched *Share the Good News: National Directory for Catechesis in Ireland* (SGN). This landmark document provides both a context and a charter for the Council, and its publication has been consistently welcomed. The contours of the Council's commitment to the promulgation and implementation of *Share the Good News* will be indicated in section 7 of the report.

## SUMMARY

### ***Follow-up to the Pastoral Letter of Pope Benedict XVI to the Catholics of Ireland***

At the beginning of the year under review, Pope Benedict XVI had only recently (March 2010) send his Pastoral Letter to the Catholics of Ireland. Cardinal Brady, as President of the Episcopal Conference, had designated the office of the Council for Pastoral Renewal and Adult Faith Development (PRAFD) as the channel through which to issue his invitation to the faithful to reflect on the Letter and to offer their reflective responses. The fruit of this process was presented to IEC on 14 December, and made public through a variety of channels immediately afterwards. The response of the Bishops, Conference, as a continuation of 'structured dialogue'<sup>1</sup>, is a work in progress. Section 1 of the report contains up-to-date information on this process.

### ***Task Group on Evangelisation***

The first task group to be convened under the auspices of the new Council is that on Evangelisation, which had its introductory meeting in April. Clarification of what the group is able and willing to undertake, in keeping with its brief, in context of *Share the Good News* and in light of *Verbum domini*, is still a work in progress. The brief of the group and an introduction to its members are given in section 2.

### ***Adult Faith Development in context of Share the Good News***

The critical need for Adult Faith Development (AFD) is widely acknowledged. However, even though AFD has been bravely espoused, in places, for many years, it is not yet possible to identify a national sector. This situation contrasts significantly with investment in and supportive structures for school-based Catechetics. Now, *Share the Good News* has radically reconfigured, in principle, the respective responsibilities of dioceses/parishes and those of the schools in relation to formation in faith and formation of faith communities.

To mark the launch of the Directory, a project initiated for the then Commission for PRAFD in 2007-2008 [www.adultfaith.ie](http://www.adultfaith.ie) has been retrieved and developed as a locus of information, reflection and resources. This will now become a publicly accessible and widely-linked website which will include a members' area - the original 'intranet'. Section 3 of the report provides more information on this development.

---

<sup>1</sup> Bishop Séamus Freeman, 'Rite and Reason', *Irish Times* 28 December 2010. See Appendix 2

### ***Supporting Parish Development: PPCs and Pastoral Areas***

During the year May 2010 – May 2011, projects relating to parish pastoral councils and the development of Pastoral Areas through the grouping ('clustering') of parishes were pursued by task groups working in cooperation with the Council and its staff. Both projects are reaching their respective points of arrival, which of course will also be points of departure.

At the June meeting of IEC, it is hoped that the following draft documents will be presented: (1) *The Parish Pastoral Council: Guidelines for Parish Pastoral Councils in Ireland Today* and (2) *Grouping Parishes: an Exploration of Key Issues*. An account of the personnel and processes involved in both projects, together with an indication of key contents of the draft documents is given in section 4.

### ***Ecclesial Movements and Associations of Lay Faithful***

The commitment of the Council to ongoing dialogue with organisations comprising predominantly lay membership was sustained this year through (1) an open invitation to a day of reflection and conversation in May 2010, and (2) a systematic approach to ongoing dialogue through a communication network, from which representation to the Council may be drawn. An up-to-date account of progress is given in section 5.

### ***Youth Ministry: Framework Document and Emerging Structures***

The implementation group established to promote *Called Together. Making the Difference* has pursued its task diligently throughout the year. Members have consistently sought out and responded to opportunities to present the document. This framework document continues to be highly rated by those who become familiar with its content and thrust.

The primary channel for information and resources is the website, [www.youthministryireland.ie](http://www.youthministryireland.ie), which has been developed as part of the work of the implementation group.

Work on hand, in particular the challenge of designing structures for ongoing support and direction for youth ministry, is outlined in section 6 of the report.

### ***Events and meetings***

The biannual pastoral conference, as well as a one-day workshop, were organised in September. These events were well documented. A review of the conference for the January edition of *Intercom* is included as Appendix 3. This review cross-refers to corresponding articles on the web-site. Here, the

outstanding contribution of Prof. Robert Schreiter, CTU Chicago, must, once again, be recorded.

Regional meetings of diocesan contact persons for pastoral renewal and adult faith development were held in January/February 2011, with the usual high attendance (from 23 dioceses). It was here that nominations of regional representatives for appointment to the Council were agreed.

In accordance with item 7.3 of the terms of reference of the Council, it was also agreed that regional meetings of diocesan contact persons would be convened each Spring (as has been customary) and Autumn, and that the tradition of holding the national 'convention' in May would be kept up.

### **Staff**

Sr. Anne Codd pbvm continued in her full-time post as resource person for the Council. Anne is a member of the Council for Catechetics and the Council for Marriage and the Family. In addition, Anne serves as executive secretary to the Bishops' Commission for Worship, Pastoral Renewal and Faith Development.

In June 2010 Ms. Julieann Moran took up a half-time post as research assistant for the Council. Julieann also assumed the duties of office management for the office of the Council.

Together, Anne and Julieann provide administrative back-up to the Council, its sub-groups and task groups. With Brendan O'Reilly (National Director for Catechetics) they form the executive secretariat of the Implementation Committee for *Share the Good News*.

On behalf of the Council, Julieann and Anne sustain ongoing connection with a wide constituency of individuals and groups. These range from responding to people with concerns in pastoral development in parishes and dioceses, including bishops, to liaising with groups and organisations such as Alpha, Dialogue Ireland and committees/staff working towards the International Eucharistic Congress 2012.

## 1. Follow-up to the Pastoral Letter of Pope Benedict XVI to the Catholics of Ireland








In response to the invitation from Cardinal Brady, between May 2010 and October 2010 the reflections of upwards on 3,000 people were received by the Office of the Council for Pastoral Renewal and Adult Faith Development. This material was collated and presented to the members of IEC at their meeting in December 2010. It was then summarised and published in Intercom (February 2011). These documents are still current on the Council's section of the IEC website.

The bishops have listened to their many respondents, both in their own dioceses and through the channel provided by the Council, and note the themes, issues and proposals which are emerging.

The bishops decided at their meeting in March 2011 to publish for all the faithful, in dioceses and parishes, in their organisations and associations, a series of pamphlets on the spiritual renewal and practical development which are needed in our Church for our mission.

The preparation of these pamphlets is an ongoing, collaborative effort, involving individuals and groups with expertise and experience.

Areas that will be covered include:

-  outline of the process so far, with details of the extent of the listening conversations which have taken place and are continuing;
-  attention to the core message (the *kerygma*), drawing in particular on the dynamic of *Share the Good News: National Directory for Catechesis in Ireland*;
-  engaging with Scripture as the foundation of life and mission in the Church (guided especially by *Verbum domini*);
-  evangelisation;
-  Church as the community of all the faithful and Christian mission as a responsibility of all the baptised;
-  recognition in practice of diverse gifts and vocations in the Church; specifically the inclusion of lay people, inclusion of women, and inclusion of young people in planning and implementing renewal and development; and
-  outreach to those for whom Church no longer represents a community which lives by the Gospel.

## 2. Task Group on Evangelisation

The brief of the task group, approved by the Episcopal Conference in March 2010, is as follows:

- To survey the views of a wide cross-section of people on what the Church's mission to evangelise is calling the Irish Church to do at the present time.
- To profile present efforts at evangelisation on the part of parishes and dioceses, as well as associations of the lay faithful and ecclesial movements.
- To study and reflect on initiatives in wider church contexts and to identify models which may be relevant to the Irish context.
- To draft a document based on their research and reflection, providing a guide to interpretation and action for evangelisation in Ireland at the present time and to offer this draft document for discussion to the Council for Pastoral Renewal and Adult Faith Development and in all other available *fora*.
- To continue with this work towards the ultimate aim of presenting a framework document for approval by IEC.

Sr. Anne Codd is the responsible convener of the group, on behalf of Bishop Freeman as chair of the Council. Julieann Moran provides administrative and secretarial support.

### **Members**

Carole Brown currently works with Spirit Radio. Carole is experienced in youth and campus ministry, including evangelistic outreach.

Fr. Niall Coll is Senior Lecturer in Religious Studies at St Mary's University College, Belfast, and teaches courses in Christology, Sacraments and Religious Education. Niall has particular interest in faith and culture.

Fr. Pat Collins CM has devoted most of his life to evangelisation, and is a well-known author on the subject.

Michael Fairley has run Alpha courses for youth in schools and for adults, and recognises that programmes like Alpha need follow-up.

Fr. Michael Hurley is Parish Priest at Our Lady's Nativity, Leixlip. Michael has helped pioneer the parish cell system of evangelization in Ireland, featured in the Veritas Video, 'A New Vision of Parish'.

Paul Keogh is currently involved in providing a chaplaincy service on behalf of the Diocese of Elphin in the College of the Immaculate Conception, Summerhill College, Sligo. Paul is experienced in youth and music ministry.



Mgr. Pat Lynch is founder of Céilí community which reflects both the call of Vatican II for priests, religious and lay people to minister together and the charism of evangelisation.

Tim Nichols is a founding member and a director of the Tine Catholic Leaders network, which promotes the New Evangelisation and runs training programmes and conferences for Leaders.

Fr. Ciarán O'Carroll, Episcopal Vicar for Evangelisation in the Archdiocese of Dublin, is Administrator of University Church Parish, St. Stephen's Green. Ciarán managed a Year of Evangelisation in Dublin archdiocese in 2010.

Fr. Kieran O'Mahony OSA, Academic Coordinator for Biblical Studies for the Archdiocese of Dublin, and Associate Professor at the Milltown Institute of Theology and Philosophy. Kieran offers biblical courses and retreats using *lectio divina* in Orlagh Retreat Centre, Dublin.

Maureen Treanor currently works as a Psychotherapist and Supervisor. She is experienced in parish mission and retreat work.

### 3. Adult Faith Development in context of *Share the Good News*

The publication of *Share the Good News* is of inestimable importance to all reflection and planning for Adult Faith Development. It is already clear from multiple conversations as well as formal meetings in parishes and dioceses and in diverse organisations, since January 2011, that the Directory is speaking for Church at its best. It confirms faith formation as pivotal to the growth, not only of individual adult members but also of their faith communities. At the same time it takes an integrated approach to faith development in all its dimensions, settings and stages in life. *Share the Good News* offers direction and momentum to adult faith development at all levels from the most localised to the national, and in all aspects including content and method, resources and structures.

The terms of reference of the Council reflect the pressing need that people experience for ongoing communication between everyone who is called to faith, to nourishing, forming and informing faith, and to fostering the growth of faith communities.

To mark the publication of *Share the Good News* [www.adultfaith.ie](http://www.adultfaith.ie), originally developed as an intranet system for director/coordinators of adult faith development at diocesan level, has been revamped as a full-blown site incorporating a members section. Domhnall O'Neill and Julieann will develop and maintain the site, hopefully with the co-operation of practitioners everywhere.



## 4. Supporting Parish Development: PPCs and Pastoral Areas

### ***Revision of the framework document for Parish Pastoral Councils***

*Parish Pastoral Councils: a framework for developing diocesan norms and parish guidelines* was published by the (then) Commission for Pastoral Renewal and Adult Faith Development in October 2007. The document has been quite widely welcomed and utilised. Moreover, given our rapidly changing context and that practice is continually generating further learning, there has been growing interest in a revised (updated) version. In June 2010, Mr. John Colgan, a member of the task group which produced the original document, undertook this work in collaboration with Julieann.

Following consultation with all diocesan personnel, and direct conversation with members of a number of PPCs in dioceses north and south of the border, it is anticipated that a draft revised document will be presented to IEC in June.

Participants from six parishes in Limerick were convened by Noirin Lynch for a focus group facilitated by John and Julieann. This produced a vibrant exchange of views and reflections on the contribution of the framework document to their development, as well as feedback on how it might be developed. PPCs/Parish Core groups in Dungannon, Newry and Banbridge likewise shared with John their reflections on the present document and offered very valuable suggestions for the revision.

### ***Principal elements of the revision***

- The account of theological foundations for PPCs, in particular communion ecclesiology and the PPC as living communion, have been expanded.
- *Share the Good News* has been adopted not only as providing a new context and charter, but also as a model of presentation – including the use of reflections and prayerful spaces in document.
- The section on ongoing training and formation has been developed.
- The relation between PPC and other parish groups, including finance, has been discussed. In addition, consideration has been given to the pivotal role of PPCs in context of the grouping of parishes into Pastoral Areas.
- A section on continuity and sustainability has been added, in response to heightened awareness of these issues in established PPCs.
- The appointment of a designated communications person, and use of emerging technological means of communication have been flagged.
- The sample constitution has been revisited.

## ***The Development of Pastoral Areas through the Grouping of Parishes***

Over the last two years, the task group of Frs. Eugene Duffy, Pat Farragher, Ger Godley, Andrew McNally, Srs. Elizabeth Cotter and Anne Codd have facilitated wide consultation on the following important aspects of the process of grouping parishes into larger Pastoral Areas:

- ✚ Overview of context and current practice in Ireland
- ✚ The Pastoral Area: pointers towards a theological rationale
- ✚ Models of parish in canonical context
- ✚ Facilitating the development of Pastoral Areas
- ✚ Training and formation in context of developing Pastoral Areas
- ✚ The material resourcing of Pastoral Areas.

The resulting papers will be presented to the bishops at their June meeting. The group has remembered Fr. Andy in their prayers and wish him the very best at this time of illness.

### **5. Ecclesial Movements and Associations of Lay Faithful**

Further to the Pastoral Conference in 2008, the (then) Commission for Pastoral Renewal and Adult Faith Development maintained its commitment to ongoing dialogue with leaders and members of ecclesial movements and associations of lay faithful. This commitment was expressed primarily in an annual themed gathering, and through informal connections between some of the groups and staff of the then Commission, now Council.

The terms of reference of the new Council (March 2011) name the movements and associations as a constituency which may be represented on the Council. In the first instance groups recognised by the Pontifical Council for the Laity (PCL)<sup>2</sup>, groups whose statutes have been approved by PCL, and groups recognised in their diocese have been invited to nominate a member to be considered for appointment. These are:

Apostolate of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration	Legion of Mary
Cell Movement	Neocatechumenate
Charismatic Renewal	Pax Christi Ireland
Columba Community	Radharc Trust
Communion and Liberation	Regnum Christi
Emmanuel community	Sant'Egidio Community
Family of God	St Joseph's Young Priests
Focolare	St Vincent de Paul Society
Knights of St. Columbanus	Teresian Society
L'Arche	Worldwide Marriage Encounter

<sup>2</sup> [www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/pontifical\\_councils/laity/documents/rc\\_pc\\_laity\\_doc\\_20051114\\_associazioni\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/laity/documents/rc_pc_laity_doc_20051114_associazioni_en.html)

## 6. Youth Ministry: Framework Document and Emerging Structures.

The implementation group for *Called Together. Making the Difference* has worked consistently in line with its brief:

- to promote awareness of youth ministry and the framework document;
- to promote an extensive conversation around the developing needs of youth ministry;
- to promote the creation of a database of resources and good practice in youth ministry;
- to review the effectiveness of the current national bodies which support youth ministry;
- to review (in 2011) the effectiveness of the framework document.

Anyone who still needs to become familiar with the thrust and content of the present framework document will find in the website [www.youthministryireland.com](http://www.youthministryireland.com) a helpful and user-friendly introduction. This website has been developed on behalf of the implementation group. It aims to be a 'drop-in centre' for all involved in youth ministry, as they seek information and/or resources. Touchstones of how youth ministry is developing in Ireland can be explored via the links section. These include programmes relating to World Youth Day and the John Paul II Awards, as well as diocesan-led projects, pilgrimages etc.

### ***Self-evaluation by NCDYD and Emerging Structures***

The National Committee of Diocesan Youth Directors has carried out an evaluation at the request of the Implementation Group. This useful exercise highlighted the benefits that have accrued to NCDYD members and their ministry since its foundation in 1979. It also identified the consequences of scarce resources and limitations in structure. In view of the pivotal importance of youth ministry, the implementation group is now developing a proposal for the new national structures. These are necessary in order to nourish the young Church, in keeping with the vision of partnership and inclusion that characterises *Called Together. Making the Difference*.

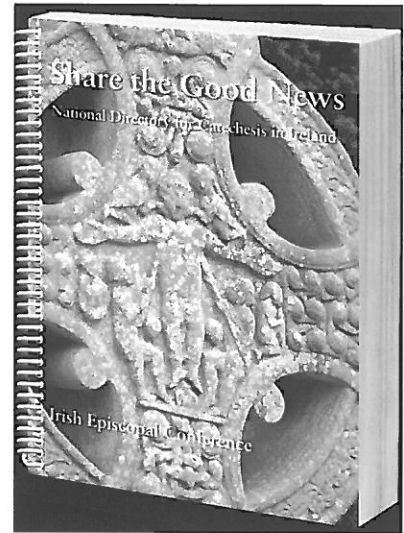
### ***Developing needs: ongoing support from Youth Ministry Studies Programme (YMSP)***

The board of YMSP has continued to support and resource the implementation of the framework document. In 2010 YMSP again hosted a successful national gathering with something for everyone in the field. In addition, it is mainly through this channel that conversations with youth ministry leaders in US, UK and elsewhere have been sustained. The evolution here of new national structures for youth ministry, to carry forward work initiated by the implementation group, will benefit from such sharing of wisdom and experience.

## 7. Implementation Committee for *Share the Good News*

'This National Directory for Catechesis in Ireland ... is particularly timely in seeking to address the specific catechetical issues that arise in the Irish context now, at the beginning of the twenty-first century. ... We hope that it will encourage all who are searching for the deepest meaning of life and love to turn toward Christ who educates us to live truly, compassionately and with integrity in the presence of our ever-loving Father.'

*Share the Good News, Preface*



The Implementation Committee for *Share the Good News* is in place, and is 'jointly entrusted with ensuring that the Directory is introduced, promulgated, disseminated and made operational.'<sup>3</sup> The committee has already clarified that its operational plan will build on and support work already in progress throughout our communities. In this sense the committee will honour *Share the Good News*, which emerged from a 6-year process, as an organically devised document.

At the same time, the programme set out in Chapter 7, 'Implementation and Resources', is one of the many features which makes this document unique. The recognition of Chapter 7 as a statement of intent will point our way forward in practice.

### *Membership of the Implementation Committee*

Bishop Kieran O'Reilly (Chair)  
Bernadette Sweetman, Writer  
Eoin O'Mahony, R and D  
Brendan O'Reilly, Catechetics  
Julieann Moran, PRAFD  
Maura Hyland, Veritas  
Rev. Michael Drumm, CSP  
Brenda Drumm, Communications  
Siobhán Dowling, Volunteer  
Stephen Cummins, ACCORD  
Sr. Anne Codd, PRAFD  
Mgr Jim Cassin, Education  
Rev. Gareth Byrne, Mater Dei

Brendan O'Reilly, Julieann Moran and Anne Codd are the executive secretaries of this committee. Bernadette Sweetman is recording secretary. Eoin O'Mahony is project manager and Brenda Drumm is communications officer. At the first meeting of the committee, the executive secretaries agreed to compile a data-base of all the known networks through which the widest possible communications links can be established. Effective means of ongoing two-way communication between the implementation committee and all sectors represented by these networks, and others to be generated, will be vitally important. This work is in progress at time of writing.

<sup>3</sup> Task description of the Implementation Committee

## Appendix 1: Terms of Reference and members of the Council



BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

### COUNCIL FOR PASTORAL RENEWAL AND ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT

#### Terms of Reference 2010 - 2013

#### 1. Purpose

- 1.1. To assist the Bishops in their mission specifically in relation to the work of Pastoral Renewal and Adult Faith Development.
- 1.2. To offer relevant advice, proposals and recommendations to the Episcopal Commission for Worship, Pastoral Renewal and Faith Development.

#### 2. Functions

- 2.1. To facilitate ongoing communication and consultation between all groups and agencies who are involved in pastoral renewal and adult faith development.
- 2.2. To promote processes which are aimed at developing shared vision, pastoral priorities and strategies at national level.
- 2.3. To be informed by current research into changing patterns of faith, values and belief in national and international contexts.<sup>1</sup>
- 2.4. To assist in the formulation of principles and guidelines for best practice in pastoral ministry.<sup>2</sup>
- 2.5. To support task groups in the areas of evangelisation, adult faith development,<sup>3</sup> parish development, lay discipleship and ministry,<sup>4</sup> and the young Church, as well as on current pastoral issues.
- 2.6. To offer reflective responses to work in progress in dioceses, while highlighting examples of sustainable development in national and international settings.
- 2.7. To collaborate with other Councils and Agencies of the IEC on areas of common concern.<sup>5</sup>

#### 3. Membership

- 3.1. The Council (2010-2013) shall comprise Bishops as agreed by IEC (*ex officio*), together with the following members:
  - A representative of the designated diocesan contact persons for pastoral renewal and adult faith development in each of the four regions in the country;
  - The National Director for Catechetics (*ex-officio*);<sup>6</sup>
  - Representative(s) of CORI and IMU;
  - Representative(s) from each of the following existing or emerging national networks:
    - New ecclesial movements and associations of the lay faithful;
    - Lay people in mandated ministerial roles;
    - Association(s) for youth and young adult ministry;
    - Institutes of pastoral formation.

#### 4. Term of Office

- 4.1. The members of the Council will be appointed by IEC for a term three years, coterminous with the term of office of the Bishops of the Council.
- 4.2. Members, other than *ex officio* members, may be re-appointed for one consecutive term only.

## 5. *Resources*

- 5.1. The Council will be supported by designated staff at Columba Centre.
- 5.2. A budget will be allocated annually within the overall budget of IEC.

## 6. *Meetings*

- 6.1. The Council will meet three times each year, between meetings (in Department mode) of the Commission for Worship, Pastoral Renewal and Faith Development.<sup>7</sup>
- 6.2. In order to ensure ongoing two-way communication (cf. 2.1 above) the designated diocesan contact persons will be convened on behalf of the Council three times each year ahead of meetings of the Council. Normally, two meetings will be held at regional and one at national level within each yearly cycle.

## 7. *Communication*

- 7.1. Focused reports from each representative will be circulated to all members at least one week before meetings of the Council.
- 7.2. Representatives will report to their constituencies after each meeting of the Council.
- 7.3. A report from Council will be circulated to members of the Department following each meeting of the Council.
- 7.4. A report from the Department, with updates from IEC, will be circulated to Council members following each meeting of the Department and Conference
- 7.5. The Council will present an Annual Report to IEC.
- 7.6. The Council will continually seek to make public, as appropriate, what good pastoral developments are taking place, together with their purpose and rationale.

## 8. *Contribution of members*

- 8.1. In addition to participating in plenary meetings, members may also take special interest, through membership of subgroups, in a particular aspect of the work of the Council.
- 8.2. Councils of IEC have the responsibility of maintaining special knowledge of their field of work, consulting experts where necessary and appropriate.

## 9. *Evaluation*

- 9.1. A comprehensive evaluation of structures, procedures and outcomes will be carried out under professional direction, on behalf of IEC, towards the end of each 3-year term of the Council.

## 10. *Approval*

- 10.1. These terms of reference were approved by the Episcopal Conference on 2 March 2011

---

<sup>1</sup> In relation to accessing, interpreting or designing research, the Council will seek the cooperation with the Council for Research and Development.

<sup>2</sup> Relevant areas include establishing and developing parish pastoral councils, development of ministries and the grouping of parishes into larger pastoral areas/units.

<sup>3</sup> Adult faith development in this context includes both adult catechesis and training for pastoral ministry. In relation to supporting parents in passing on faith to their children, the Council will work in cooperation with the Council for Catechetics and the Council for the Family.

<sup>4</sup> Promoting lay discipleship and ministry includes dialogue with new ecclesial movements and associations of the lay faithful.

<sup>5</sup> The Council will work collaboratively, especially with the other four Councils which are included in the Department of Worship, Pastoral Renewal and Faith Development, namely Clergy, Liturgy, Religious and Vocations.

<sup>6</sup> During the period of implementation of the National Directory for Catechetics, it is important that the National Director for Catechetics is a member of this Council. (In longer term, the Council may be represented by a nominee who has particular association with adult faith development.)

<sup>7</sup> Commission meetings in Department mode include the Bishops of the Commission, as chairs of the Councils which comprise the Department, together with executive secretaries/staff of those Councils.

## ***Members of the Council (2010 – 2013)***

### Episcopal Conference

Bishop Séamus Freeman (Chair)

Bishop Bill Murphy

Bishop Donal McKeown

### Catechetics (*ex officio*)

Mr. Brendan O'Reilly

### *Appointed (March 2011)*

#### Representatives of regional networks of diocesan personnel:

Armagh, Clogher, Derry, Down and Connor, Dromore, Kilmore, Raphoe,

Dr. Tony Hanna (Armagh)

Cashel, Cloyne, Cork and Ross, Kerry, Killaloe, Limerick, Waterford and Lismore

Ms. Frances Rowland (Kerry)

Dublin, Ferns, Kildare and Leighlin, Meath, Ossory,

Fr. Lar O'Connor (Ferns)

Achonry, Ardagh and Clonmacnoise, Clonfert, Elphin, Kilalla, Galway, Tuam,

Fr. Tod Nolan (Tuam)

### *Nominations will presented to the Episcopal Conference in June from:*

CORI and IMU

Ecclesial movements and associations of lay faithful

Network of lay people in mandated ministerial roles

Youth ministry

Centres of theological and pastoral education and training



## Appendix 2: 'Rite and Reason', *Irish Times* 28 December 2010

### Bishops hear concerns about past failings amid search for church renewal

BISHOP SÉAMUS FREEMAN

WHEN POPE Benedict XVI wrote his *Pastoral Letter to the Catholics of Ireland* in March 2010, Catholic primate Cardinal Seán Brady issued a wide invitation, asking people to respond to this groundbreaking initiative.

Since then, a huge amount of work has been undertaken within the church to pave the way to a hopeful future. But this is a period which, with Dickens, we might call "the worst of times".

For the church in Ireland, what could be more devastating than the trail of destruction brought about by child sex abuse and related failures in accountability?

It is a stark truth that will forever hold the church up to accusation. In 2010, in parishes and dioceses throughout the country, people who love the church have been talking. They know the past failings of the church were at wide variance with its mission. This truth is painful for all of us, and it begs the question: "Why?"

For believers, Jesus Christ is the lord whose spirit fired up the first disciples to believe and to give witness, and to form into the communities which became the church. This is the vision many people have for the church.

This year, bishops invited people of their dioceses to come to listening sessions where painful and fruitful concerns were expressed. People were asked to speak from their hearts and to speak the truth. Bishops listened.

In the nine months from April to December, over 3,000 people have contributed written responses to the Pope's letter.

Just over a quarter of these came through diocesan channels, a fifth from lay associations and almost half from religious communities. The rest came from informed groups and individuals. A summary was presented to the bishops' conference at their December meeting and is available at [www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie), under the pastoral renewal and adult faith development section.

Key findings indicate everyone heard the Pope's call to renewal, and some interpreted this as a call to become "a mature church". The clarity of language and the simplicity of the letter's structure were appreciated.

The pope's reference to the history of the church in Ireland was also appreciated. Moreover, respondents welcomed the Pope's plea that "the whole truth" of the past be brought into the open. Pope Benedict's recognition that it is a time to ask forgiveness and to turn to victims as well as to the lord with open hearts was positively acknowledged by many.

There was disappointment that child sex abuse was not seen as a symptom of shortcomings in church structure and function in the Pope's letter. Respondents observed there was no critique of the role of the Vatican, and little or no acknowledgment of the exclusion of lay people from roles in which they can contribute.

Practically all respondents found it encouraging that the Pope's letter recognised the church as the community of all the baptised. But many did not concur with the view they should repent for the sins of others.

There was universal support for continuing implementation of guidelines for the safeguarding of children throughout the church in Ireland.

There were requests that the use of titles, insignia and exclusive language be examined.

Many placed a strong emphasis on education and formation as a foundation for renewal: "We need to relight the vision of Vatican II." Theologians and returned missionaries, Catholic media and ongoing research were all mentioned as vital to the task of fostering an adult understanding of faith.

There were multiple calls for renewal of liturgical celebrations, and for fidelity to the teaching of the church. Many respondents called for dialogue relating to sexuality, clerical celibacy, and the exclusion of women (not just from ordination).

Some called for greater transparency on church law and how the church functions.

It is hoped the celebration of the International Eucharistic Congress in Ireland in 2012 will reflect the whole church, including its sinfulness, and commit all of us to service and charity as well as to renewal.

It is clear that, this year, the church in Ireland has experienced the beginnings of structured dialogue at many levels. If this process of renewal interests you, I invite you to look at the summary report on the website (as above). Please e-mail your comments to [pastoralrenewal@iecon.ie](mailto:pastoralrenewal@iecon.ie)

## Appendix 3: Review of Pastoral Conference September 2010<sup>4</sup>

**R**egular readers will know that significant time and energy was invested in designing the pastoral conference which took place at Marino Conference Centre in September under the auspices of the Council for Pastoral Renewal and Adult Faith Development [PRAFD].

### The voice of experience

In regional meetings of diocesan personnel in early Spring, recurring themes were: there is no point in heaping content on our already fractured context; there is need for space in which we can talk together as Church here and now; the conference should equip participants for honest conversations about faith, Church and culture in their own local communities.

### An idea is born

At the Advisory Group meeting in February it became clear that the kind of conversation-space being envisaged would need strong and sensitive framing in a vision of Church for today, soundly based on contemporary theology. There the decision to invite Robert Schreiter (Catholic Theological Union, Chicago) was generated. It was providential that Robert was free to come and willing to collaborate with this venture. During the conference (and since) there was wide consensus that we were indeed blessed with the responsiveness and freshness of Schreiter's contribution to the process. Summaries of his reflective presentations are available on [www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie) (go to PRAFD).

### A plan begins to emerge

The conference planning team – Mary Connell, Tuam; Fr La Flynn, Clogher; Noreen Lynch, Limerick and Joe Tynan, Meath – brought to the table an invaluable mix of connection with the regions and enormous personal creativity. This group identified the kind of facilitation which the conference needed, and were unanimous in selecting Sr Colette Stevenson, well



us wonderfully to sing praise during the liturgical celebration.

The final afternoon provided opportunity for considering the implications of our time together in terms of ongoing work in our various pastoral settings, including the emerging Council for PRAFD.

### Feedback, reflections

The tone of the feedback from the conference was very hopeful - good work had been done which would continue. Many were encouraged by the voices from the context. Their honesty allowed participants to feel that they were in a 'safe space' where people were free to speak truthfully and were given the time to really listen to the Spirit speaking within them and in others around them. Naturally, this was credited in feedback to the ability and skill of Colette Stevenson, as facilitator, in persuading the participants to allow the process to be their guide.

Participants were unanimous in their affirmation that Robert Schreiter was enlightening and inspiring, and that his theology was very accessible. Bob's way of presenting a theological framework of the baptised, incorporated into Christ, constituted as a holy priesthood and called to be priest, prophet, and king was greatly appreciated by everyone.

One participant commented that the whole conference could be seen as sacramental while another suggested that the tone of the conference was truly invitational - all were welcome to contribute in an active way. Overall, participants felt that the event was very experiential. It had a clearly structured process that appropriately blended this experience, the theological framework, and the time for reflection and sharing.

The conference was an inclusive and inspirational capacity-building experience, which we hope will both encourage and enable those who came to create similar safe spaces, plan listening meetings, and invite others into honest conversation in their own dioceses and parishes.

*Anne Codd and Julieann Moran*

known for her work in relation to safeguarding children, and also a very skilled process facilitator.

The team, including Colette and ourselves, were gifted (we believe) in our early conversations with the central motif of 'tent of meeting', and our colleague Bernie Martin located the image, which resonated wonderfully with our hopes for the conference and was reflected in the décor and ambience of the event itself. (See [www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie)).

### What happened?

The 2-day event, involving 72 participants from 20 dioceses (many in diocesan-sponsored teams), fell into three parts. It was opened by Council chair, Bishop Seamus Freeman. The first morning was dedicated to clarifying the process and exploring the context. Bairbre Cahill, Raphoe; Bishop John McAreevey, Dromore; Joe Tynan, Meath and Sr Clare Slattery, Nenagh Parish spoke of the impact of our present situation on them as believers, as members of the Church and as persons in active ministry. Each one was admirably personal and honest, and helped establish a tone for the whole two days.

For the next 24 hours the conference was well and truly 'in process'. In plenaries and small groups, in prayer and liturgy, at table and even in sleep, as well as in the in-between times, the recurring questions were: In response to what you are hearing what do you think and how do you feel? Small group time was carefully structured in listening mode and ably facilitated by 'volunteers' from the conference. Musicians Fr Liam Lawton and Ms Julieanne Woods helped

<sup>4</sup> *Intercom*, January 2011