

MINUTES of the Meeting of Consultors and Personnel Board held at the Diocesan Offices, Ballarat on Tuesday 8th June 1993, at 2-20 PM. 333

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PRESENT Most Rev. R.A. Mulhearns, Fr. B. Finnigan V.E., Fr. P. Colley, P. Bohan, K. Arundell, J. McKinnon, A. McInerney and P. Sherman.

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ABSENT Fr. B. Ryan.

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MINUTES The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 6th May 1993 were read and accepted.

Moved: Fr. B. Finnigan

Seconded: Fr. J. McKinnon

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MATTERS ARISING The Bishop has received a letter from Fr. J. Reilly SJ, thanking the Bishop for allowing Fr. J. McKinnon release time to work for the Continuing Education of Priests in Australia.

Fr. Michael Mason OSB, wrote to Bishop Mulhearns, stating that Fr. Mason would initially be able to be involved with the Diocese in pastoral planning. It is hoped that he may also be able to be involved in the project in 1994 or be able to suggest another suitable consultant. Fr. Mason will join the meeting at 3 PM.

STAFFING

Harrow: Fr. Mulhearns tabled a letter from the Parish Pastoral Council indicating their preference to have a priest in 1994 after Sr. Moran leaves, or at least to maintain their Parish identity and not be dissolved into the surrounding parishes. (Thus having another religious administrator).

Discussion followed as to the future pastoral care of Harrow in connection with overall Diocesan planning. The Consultors proposed to the Bishop that a Religious administrator be maintained during 1994, similar to present practice. This will allow a more thorough approach to overall Diocesan planning. The Bishop accepted this advice.

Fr. Majkut: Bp. Mulhearn received correspondence from Fr. Majkut's bishop indicating that he would be willing to allow Fr. Majkut to operate in this Diocese. The Consultors discussed this with Bp. Mulhearn. It was decided not to take up Fr. Majkut's offer.

Fr. P.O. Ryan: has had all his faculties revoked, with the exception of being able to celebrate Mass privately without giving any appearance of having an ecclesiastical appointment or office. The Bishop explained to the Consultors the reasons for this course of action.

STUDY  
LEAVE

Fr. J. McKinnon presented a Draft Policy for initial discussion. Following that the matter was adjourned on the arrival of Fr. M. Mason. The Draft Policy will be circulated among the clergy for comment.

FUTURE  
DIOCESAN  
-PLANNING

Bp. Mulhearn welcomed Fr. M. Mason C.S.R., to the Diocesan Meeting. Fr. Mason spoke to the general issue of Diocesan pastoral planning and highlighted several important issues. These included clergy staffing, projections to 2010 AD, methods of and reasons for adjusting figures and various other matters to be considered.

There is also the possibility of looking at and borrowing from other areas of the Church around the world.

The process of diocesan-wide consultation was discussed. Information-gathering strategies including secular sources were also discussed. Financial information and figures projections were mentioned. Most importantly, the whole underlying question of theological models and images of Church has to be clarified. (i.e.: The apostolic, ordained-ministry, Catholic based direction or the more Protestant "Word" based direction of "priestless

perishes". Fr. Mason is of the strong view that both models cannot be accommodated in the long-term and important decisions on this direction question have to be made very early in (planning).

It was decided that a short-list of suitable consultants in relevant specialized fields needs to be compiled. Fr. Mason and the Consultants will give consideration to names.

The formation and size of the proposed Task Force was discussed. It has been decided to include a total membership of 5 or 6 people to keep it workable. The membership will include representation from the I.D.P.C., diocesan clergy, Consultants, Heads of Departments and an appropriately skilled person such as Dr. Deidre Duncan of Aquinas campus. Each person needs to be capable of and free to meet regularly, read and digest a large amount of material and to be able to contribute to the preparation of documentation.

Fr. M. Mason is happy to oversee the overall structure of the Process and to specifically be involved in the social analysis segment. He will also consider names for a suitable Process consultant and will report to Fr. C. Finnigan.

No further business.

The Meeting concluded at 5:45 PM.

+ *Robert Cunningham*  
*Brady Ballant*  
 24/8/1993.