

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

D.62/88

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1988

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT ST PAUL'S NATIONAL SEMINARY,
KENSINGTON, N.S.W. FROM MONDAY 28 NOVEMBER TO FRIDAY 2 DECEMBER
1988.

1 ATTENDANCE: The following were present:

His Eminence	Cardinal E. Clancy, Archbishop of Sydney, President
Most Rev. F.	Rush, Archbishop of Brisbane
Most Rev. F.	Carroll, Archbishop of Canberra - Goulburn
Most Rev. L.	Faulkner, Archbishop of Adelaide
Most Rev. T.	Little, Archbishop of Melbourne
Most Rev. E.	D'Arcy, Archbishop of Hobart
Most Rev. I.	Khalife, Archbishop-Bishop of St Maroun of Sydney.
Most Rev. I.	Prasko, Eparch of St Peter and Paul
Most Rev. J.	Jobst, Bishop of Broome
Most Rev. D.	Warren, Bishop of Wilcannia-Forbes
Most Rev. H.	Kennedy, Bishop of Armidale
Most Rev. R.	Mulkearns, Bishop of Ballarat
Most Rev. E.	Kelly, Bishop of Toowoomba
Most Rev. J.	Satterthwaite, Bishop of Lismore
Most Rev. P.	Quinn, Bishop of Bunbury
Most Rev. E.	Perkins, Auxiliary, Melbourne
Most Rev. D.	Cremin, Auxiliary, Sydney
Most Rev. B.	Wallace, Bishop of Rockhampton
Most Rev. W.	Murray, Bishop of Wollongong
Most Rev. J.	Gerry, Auxiliary, Brisbane
Most Rev. R.	Healy, Auxiliary, Perth
Most Rev. L.	Clarke, Bishop of Maitland
Most Rev. P.	Dougherty, Bishop of Bathurst
Most Rev. P.	Murphy, Bishop of Broken Bay
Most Rev. N.	Daly, Bishop of Sandhurst
Most Rev. B.	Heather, Bishop of Parramatta
Most Rev. F.	De Campo, Bishop of Port Pirie
Most Rev. J.	Heaps, Auxiliary, Sydney
Most Rev. E.	Cuskelly, Auxiliary, Brisbane
Most Rev. W.	Brennan, Bishop of Wagga Wagga
Most Rev. G.	Robinson, Auxiliary, Sydney
Most Rev. R.	Benjamin, Bishop of Townsville
Most Rev. B.	Hickey, Bishop of Geraldton
Most Rev. G.	Mayne, Military Ordinary, Australia
Most Rev. J.	Bathersby, Bishop of Cairns
Most Rev. P.	Power, Auxiliary, Canberra-Goulburn
Most Rev. E.	Collins, Bishop of Darwin
Most Rev. P.	Connors, Auxiliary, Melbourne
Most Rev. G.	Pell, Auxiliary, Melbourne
Rev. Mons.J.	Allman, Diocesan Administrator, Sale

OBSERVER

Very Rev. G. Reynolds, S.M. and
Very Rev. M. West, OFM - on behalf of Major Clerical Religious
Superiors

APOLOGIES: An apology was received from:

Archbishop Foley
Bishop O'Connell (his proxy was Archbishop Little)
Archbishop Khalife, for part of the meeting
(his proxy was Archbishop Rush)
Bishop Kennedy, for part of the meeting
Bishop Satterthwaite, for part of the meeting
Bishop Dougherty, for part of the meeting
Bishop De Campo, for part of the meeting

This Mass was concelebrated in the Chapel of the Sacred Heart Monastery, Kensington, at 7 a.m. on Tuesday 29 November 1988. His Eminence Cardinal E. Clancy, President of Conference, was the principal celebrant.

OPENING OF THE MEETING The meeting began after recitation of "Prayer During the Day" at 9.15 am on Tuesday 29 November 1988.

The President, Cardinal Clancy, welcomed:

the Apostolic Pro-Nuncio, Archbishop F. Brambilla; Rev. Monsignor J.P. Allman, Diocesan Administrator, Diocese of Sale; the Observers.

MESSAGE TO THE HOLY FATHER The bishops sent the following cable to Cardinal Casaroli, Secretary of State:

"HOLY FATHER, THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS, MEETING IN CONFERENCE, PLEDGE YOU OUR LOYALTY AND LOVE.

OUR RECENT VISITS AD LIMINA WERE MADE MEMORABLE BY YOUR GENEROUS HOSPITALITY AND THE PERSONAL INTEREST YOU SHOWED IN EACH OF US.

WE WERE GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY YOUR OBVIOUS UNDERSTANDING OF CONDITIONS IN OUR COUNTRY, THE CHARACTER OF ITS PEOPLE, AND THE AUSTRALIAN CHURCH."

The Secretary of State replied to Cardinal Clancy:

"THE HOLY FATHER OFFER (sic) HIS DEEP GRATITUDE TO THE AUSTRALIAN HIERARCHY FOR THE MESSAGE OF LOYALTY AND LOVE SENT ON THE OCCASION OF ASSEMBLY OF THE BISHOPS' CONFERENCE. HE WISHES TO ASSURE YOU AND YOUR BROTHER BISHOPS OF HIS PRAYERFUL SOLIDARITY AS YOU STRIVE TO RESPOND EVER MORE EFFECTIVELY TO THE PASTORAL NEEDS OF YOUR PEOPLE. AS A SIGN OF HIS FRATERNAL AFFECTION HE GLADLY IMPARTS THE APOSTOLIC BLESSING".

The Vice-President, Archbishop Carroll, on behalf of the Conference, extended congratulations to Cardinal Clancy on his elevation to the College of Cardinals, and to Archbishop D'Arcy on his appointment to the Archdiocese of Hobart.

ANNIVERSARY

The bishops extended their felicitations to Bishop Kennedy of the Diocese of Armidale on his 50th anniversary of priesthood.

8 DECEASED BISHOP

The Bishops recorded with sorrow the death of Bishop Stewart, former Bishop of Sandhurst.

MESSAGE TO RETIRED BISHOPS

Greetings were sent to these bishops.

10 APPOINTMENTS:

His Eminence Cardinal E Clancy:

Member of the Congregation of Bishops, of the Pontifical Commission for Social Communications, and of the Council of Cardinals for the study of the organizational and economic problems of the Holy See.

Bishop De Campo: Consultor, Pontifical Commission for Migration and Tourism.

Bishop Bathersby: Participant in the Holy See's Roman Catholic/Methodist dialogue.

11 VISIT OF APOSTOLIC PRO-NUNCIO

His Excellency, the Most Rev. Franco Brambilla was present for the Opening of the Meeting, and addressed the bishops in a closed session.

- 12 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES The Minutes of the April 1988 Meeting had been distributed to all members of the Conference. At the inaugural session the following motion was submitted:

MOTION: That the Minutes of the April 1988 Australian Catholic Bishops Conference be taken as read and be confirmed.

CARRIED

REDACTED
Relevance

- 16 PROPOSAL TO FORM ON BEHALF OF THE BISHOPS A COMMITTEE TO MONITOR CASES OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE (Cf Minutes Central Commission August 1988 n.17, and Minutes Central Commission 28 November 1988 n.7)

MOTION: That Conference establish a Special Issues Committee on an interim basis for two years to advise on matters relating to child sexual abuse with the following Terms of Reference:

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Special Issues Committee
Relating to Priests and Religious.

Function:

To act as a resource for bishops and major \ superiors in connection with legal proceedings brought against a priest or religious, or in which a priest or religious is otherwise involved.

To collate research locally and overseas.

To advise bishops and major superiors in relation to any aspect of legal proceedings involving a priest or religious.

To monitor all legal proceedings involving a priest or religious.

To identify issues of concern to bishops and major superiors connected with legal proceedings involving a priest or religious, either in particular cases or generally.

To ascertain available treatment options for priests or religious alleged to be involved in criminal behaviour.

To establish a protocol to be observed by bishops and major superiors if an accusation is made against a priest or religious alleging criminal behaviour, and to advise on the implementation thereof.

To identify needs with respect to the on-going education and formation of clergy and religious to the extent that this is relevant to issues connected with legal proceedings.

Generally to be of such assistance to bishops and major superiors as they might request from time to time.

To advise the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and the Conference of Major Superiors with respect to representations which may need to be made from time to time to governments concerning legislation and public policy that may be relevant to legal proceedings involving priests or religious.

- To report at least annually to the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

3 Membership:

- Not more than five members, at least one of whom shall be a bishop.

Members shall be appointed by and answerable to the Bishops Committee for Clergy and Religious.

- 4 The Bishops Committee for Clergy and Religious shall submit a budget for the Special Issues Committee to the Conference.

CARRIED

REDACTED
Relevance

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The following pages have been
intentionally excluded:

1435-1436, 1439-1481