

Circular C7/92-  
D17/92 May 1992

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

APRIL 1992

## AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT ST PAUL'S NATIONAL SEMINARY,  
KENSINGTON, N.S.W. FROM TUESDAY 21 APRIL TO WEDNESDAY 29  
APRIL 1992

### 1 ATTENDANCE: The following were present:

- + Edward Cardinal Clancy, Archbishop of Sydney, *President*
- + Francis Carroll, Archbishop of Canberra & Goulburn, *Vice-President*
- + Leonard Faulkner, Archbishop of Adelaide
- + Thomas Francis Little, Archbishop of Melbourne
- + Joseph Eric D'Arcy, Archbishop of Hobart
- + Barry Hickey, Archbishop of Perth
- + John Bathersby, Archbishop of Brisbane
- + John Jobst, Bishop of Broome
- + Douglas Warren, Bishop of Wilcannia-Forbes
- + Ronald Mulkearns, Bishop of Ballarat
- + Edward Kelly, Bishop of Toowoomba
- + John Satterthwaite, Bishop of Lismore
- + Peter Quinn, Bishop of Bunbury
- + David Cremin, Auxiliary, Sydney
- + William Murray, Bishop of Wollongong
- + John Gerry, Auxiliary, Brisbane
- + Robert Healy, Auxiliary, Perth
- + Joseph O'Connell, Auxiliary, Melbourne
- + Leo Clarke, Bishop of Maitland
- + Patrick Dougherty, Bishop of Bathurst
- + Patrick Murphy, Bishop of Broken Bay
- + Noel Daly, Bishop of Sandhurst
- + Bede Heather, Bishop of Parramatta
- + Francis Peter De Campo, Bishop of Port Pine
- + Eugene James Cuskelly, Auxiliary, Brisbane
- + William Brennan, Bishop of Wagga Wagga
- + Geoffrey Robinson, Auxiliary, Sydney
- + Raymond Benjamin, Bishop of Townsville
- + Geoffrey Mayne, Military Ordinary, Australia
- + Patrick Power, Auxiliary, Canberra and Goulburn
- + Edmund Collins, Bishop of Darwin
- + Peter Connors, Auxiliary, Melbourne
- + George Pell, Auxiliary, Melbourne
- + Jeremiah Coffey, Bishop of Sale
- + Kevin Manning, Bishop of Armidale
- + Brian Heenan, Bishop of Rockhampton
- Mons. Maurice Walsh, Diocesan Administrator of Cairns

## 2 NEW MEMBER OF CONFERENCE

Bishop-elect Justin Bianchini, of Geraldton, attended the plenary sessions Sunday to Wednesday and was warmly welcomed.

## 3 OBSERVERS:

Delegates from the Australian Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes:

Brother Julian McDonald, CFC  
Sister Angela Ryan CSB.

## 4 APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from:

Bishop Prasko and, for part of the meeting, Archbishops D'Arcy and Faulkner;  
Bishops Benjamin, Clarke, Healy and Mayne.

## 5 OPENING MASS

The Mass was concelebrated in the Chapel of the Sacred Heart Monastery, Kensington, at 7 am on Friday, 24 April 1992. His Eminence, Cardinal Clancy, President of Conference, was the principal celebrant.

## 6 OPENING OF THE MEETING

The meeting began after recitation of Prayer During The Day at 9.15 am on Tuesday 21 April 1992.

The President, Cardinal Clancy, welcomed in this session the Apostolic Pro-Nuncio, Archbishop Brambilla, the Observers, and the Media Officer, Miss M. Newport.

## 7 MESSAGE TO THE HOLY FATHER

The Conference sent this message to His Holiness, John Paul II:

THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS, MEETING IN CONFERENCE IN SYDNEY DURING THE OCTAVE OF EASTER, GREET THE HOLY FATHER IN THE JOY OF THE RISEN LORD. WE PRAY THAT, IN THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION, OUR BONDS OF COMMUNION MAY BE RENEWED AND STRENGTHENED.

OUR PASTORAL DISCUSSION AT THIS MEETING WILL BE DEVOTED TO THE CHURCH AND THE MASS MEDIA. THE RECENT PUBLICATION OF THE PASTORAL INSTRUCTION *AETATIS NOVAE* IS THEREFORE ESPECIALLY WELCOME.

IN OUR CONCERN FOR THE FAMILY AND THE PROMOTION OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN LIFE, WE UNITE OURSELVES WITH THE INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER AND ASK THE FAVOUR OF HIS APOSTOLIC BLESSING.

His Eminence, Cardinal Sodano, the Secretary of State, replied to Cardinal Clancy, Archbishop of Sydney, President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference:

THE HOLY FATHER WAS PLEASED TO RECEIVE THE DEVOTED MESSAGE OF ECCLESIAL COMMUNION SENT TO HIM ON BEHALF OF THE AUSTRALIAN BISHOPS ASSEMBLED FOR YOUR CONFERENCE MEETING IN SYDNEY.

HIS HOLINESS IS ONE WITH ALL OF YOU IN PRAYING THAT THE MEANS OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS WILL BECOME EVER MORE EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENTS FOR REAFFIRMING HUMAN DIGNITY AND FOR DISSEMINATING THE TRUTH. HE ESPECIALLY ASKS GOD THAT THROUGH YOUR CONCERTED ACTION THE CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA WILL BE CONFIRMED IN MAKING WISE USE OF THE MEDIA TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS THAT IN THE LORD'S RESURRECTION THE WAY TO ETERNAL LIFE HAS BEEN OPENED FOR ALL PEOPLE.

COMMENDING YOU AND YOUR BROTHER BISHOPS AND ALL ENTRUSTED TO YOUR PASTORAL CARE TO THE INTERCESSION OF MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH, THE HOLY FATHER IMPARTS THE REQUESTED APOSTOLIC BLESSING.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Letters from the Most Rev L Goody, former Archbishop of Perth, and the Most Rev J Gleeson, former Archbishop of Adelaide, were gratefully received.

#### BISHOP JOHN HEAPS

Conference noted with regret the resignation, for reasons of health, of the Most Reverend John Heaps, titular bishop of Inis Cathaig and Auxiliary of Sydney.

The bishops expressed gratitude for Bishop Heaps' contribution to Conference over a period of eleven years. They voted to send fraternal greetings and good wishes for his retirement.

#### 10 MESSAGE TO RETIRED BISHOPS

Conference agreed to send greetings to:

- + L Goody, Former Archbishop of Perth
- + J P Carrol, Former Auxiliary Archbishop, ,
- + J W Gleeson, Former Archbishop of Adelaide
- + A Fox, Former Bishop of Sale
- + J Cullinane, Former Auxiliary Bishop, Melbourne
- + M McKeon, Former Bishop of Bunbury
- + H Kennealy, Former Bishop of Armidale
- + J Torpie, Former Bishop of Cairns
- + J Morgan, Former Military Vicar
- + A Khajife, Former Bishop of St Maroun, Sydney
- + E Perkins, Former Auxiliary, Melbourne
- + F Rush, Former Archbishop of Brisbane

**11 VISIT OF THE APOSTOLIC PRO-NUNCIO**

His Excellency, the Most Rev Franco Brambilla addressed the bishops during the Opening Session of the Meeting.

**12 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the December 1991 Meeting had been distributed to all members of the Conference. Two corrections were noted:

n. 56: *2990-91 academic year* should read *1991-2 academic year*

n. 67: *ICEL SURVEY ON CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTION OF CHILDREN* should read *ICEL SURVEY ON CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF CHILDREN*.

MOTION: \_\_\_\_\_ That the Minutes of the December 1991 Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Meeting be taken as read and be confirmed.

CARRIED

13 REDACTED  
Relevance

14

15

REDACTED  
Relevance



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#### 114 SPECIAL ISSUES POOL

MOTION: After having regard to the report of the Special Issues Committee and the draft Charter of a Special Issues Pool tabled by it, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference desires to establish a Pool to provide, on the mutual principle, a defence and indemnity against certain risks and therefore authorises the Committee to, in consultation with the Australian Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes, prepare a Charter in suitable form for consideration and if thought fit, adoption by the Conference at its meeting in December 1991.

CARRIED

REDACTED  
Relevance



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The following pages have been  
intentionally excluded:

**1754-1781, 1783-1807 inclusive**