

National Conference of Priests 2006

Motions securing two-thirds majority

1. The falling number of priests means that our Church is undergoing a period of great change and uncertainty. We invite our Bishops to encourage and reinvigorate the priests and people of our land, as they share with us their vision for the future of pastoral and sacramental ministry

Proposer: Fr. Michael Downey C4
Seconder: Fr. John Humpreys C8

Passed with 77% in favour

2. The NCP calls on the Bishops' Conference, in light of current available resources, to consider once again implementing the recommendations of the committee investigating Seminary provision in England and Wales and assure the Bishops of our support in the difficult choices and changes that might result.

Proposer: Fr. David Cain B7
Seconder: Fr. Michael Crilly F1

Passed with 86% in favour

3. This conference recommends each diocesan presbyteral council to urge the respective Bishop to furnish its clergy with simplified guidance as to the procedures to be followed in relation to the reception of information relating to child protection and involving a member of the clergy

Proposer: Fr. Christopher Benyon C1
Seconder: Fr. Kevin Pelham A2

Passed with 100% in favour

4. This conference recognises that in many dioceses of England & Wales there is a lack of understanding of the ministry of the Permanent Diaconate.

We urge that this situation be remedied by:-

- Better in-service training among bishops and priests
- Better formation in the deaneries, pastoral areas and parishes where deacons are appointed.

This would hopefully result in a fruitful and enriching experience of all parish ministries.

Proposer: Fr. David Coxon D2
Seconder: Fr. Tim Buckley C5

Passed with 100% in favour

5. This conference strongly recommends that every diocesan priest approaching retirement should expect to have a detailed personal discussion with his Bishop, or delegated representative, so that he may be assured of the adequacy of his future accommodation and income

Proposer: Fr. Owen Hardwicke E3
Mgr. Peter Wilson B6

Passed with 100% in favour