

National Conference of Priests of England and Wales *Cynhadledd Genedlaethol Offeiriad Lloergr a Cymru*

Deanery Discussion Paper

The National Conference of Priests of England and Wales: Constitution (points 1 & 2)

'The National Conference of Priests is a representative body elected by and from priests engaged in pastoral ministry in the dioceses of England and Wales.'

The object of the National Conference of Priests is primarily to provide an opportunity for the representatives elected by their brethren to discuss the ministry and life of the priests in England and Wales, and to examine the needs of the Church at national and local level, and to make recommendations to the Bishops' Conference and the diocesan Councils or Senates of Priests. Representatives should bring items of importance and concern to Conference from the deaneries and diocesan meetings for a wider discussion and debate as possible resolutions or areas of exploration, so as to share and disseminate good practice.'

It was decided by the new Committee of the NCPEW that we have another three year themed topic for Conference relating to three areas of concern for priests today:

"Earthen Vessels Summoned to Holiness at Home" - September 2007
"Earthen Vessels Summoned to Holiness in Community" - 2008
"Earthen Vessels Summoned to Holiness in Ministry/Priesthood" - 2009

This year's speakers will be;

- Fr Donal O'Leary (Leeds Diocese), Educationalist and author of "Home is a holy place"
- Mr David Wells (Plymouth Diocese), Co-ordinator of Parish Services
- Mrs Elizabeth Davies (Bishops' Conference), Project Worker for the Department of Marriage and Family Life
- Bishop John Hine, Chairman of the Department of Marriage and Family Life

With the above in mind, could I ask our brothers to discuss the following:

1. Listening to our families at parish level creates new challenges for the Church today.
What does the Church need to do to assist in fostering holiness at home, and how can this be translated into action?
2. As priests called to holiness, what conversion do we need to undergo to help foster holiness at home?
3. What areas of exploration are needed in the Church to foster the 'vocation of the baptised' with special emphasis on family life?

Please return your answers to taj.jordan@ntlworld.com as soon as possible.