

SPIRITUALITY COMMITTEE

Annual Report 2005

Membership

Bishop Brian Noble (Chair), Jenny Bond, Susy Brouard, Mark Davis, Mgr Kevin McGinnell (Secretary), Fr Allen Morris, Fr David O Malley sdb, Sr Diane Reynolds ssa

Meetings

The Committee has met three times in the last year. An overnight stay at Wantage Convent (CofE) had to be postponed because of illness.

The Committee has engaged in the following areas of concern and projects :

1. Spirituality: what is it? -

a paper for the bishops for information and clarification as to what we mean by the term spirituality in the Christian context and the specific understanding of this in the Catholic community. This will then develop into practical application of discernment and promotion of spirituality.

2. Directory on Popular Piety -

We are preparing a series of leaflets (Introductory material and then material based on the seasons) to introduce the Directory and its aims to parishes. These will also develop and apply the work of the Directory to the actual situation of England and Wales.

3. Spiritual Communion -

A leaflet is in preparation to explore what Spiritual Communion means in our tradition, how it is relevant in the content of today's celebration of the eucharist, and to relate this clearly to the presence of Christ in the eucharistic celebration.

4. Blessings at Communion -

The Committee's paper in its latest draft has been sent to the 3 committees (Liturgy/Theology/Unity) for a more detailed and practical response. We await responses.

5. Meeting of those working with spirituality in dioceses and other organisations -

We have called a meeting (16 February 2006) to provide an opportunity for people working in the field to meet and explore how we can develop links and work together. The picture is very varied with some dioceses having designated promoters of spirituality, others relying on religious or pastoral centres etc.

6. The Committee exchanges minutes and information with CASE and Churches Together in England Spirituality Co-ordinating Group.

*Kevin McGinnell
November 2005*