

FAITH IN THE FUTURE

2006-2008

THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND & WALES

39 ECCLESTON SQUARE, LONDON SW1V 1BX

THE CATHOLIC TRUST FOR ENGLAND & WALES

COMPANY NO. 4734592 REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1097482



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Dear Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to present this update to you on the work of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales that has been supported through *Faith in the Future*, our fundraising initiative. To date, we have received over £2 million in gifts towards this work, and a further £1.3 million has been pledged up to 2011. This is a tremendous achievement and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our donors for their support in the past years, and for their continued support in the future.

For those of you familiar with our work I do hope that this document will be a cause for joy in demonstrating the good work that has been undertaken through your generosity. For those of you reading about *Faith in the Future* for the first time, I trust you will be impressed with the breadth of the work that has been carried out thus far, and perhaps be moved to find out more about becoming a supporter of the Bishops' Conference.

The work supported through *Faith in the Future* is national in its scope, but local in its delivery. Each of the 14 projects that make up *Faith in the Future* aims to touch the lives of individuals; men, women and children, both here in England and Wales, and in some cases beyond. While we are able to raise additional money for this work, at the same time the Bishops are able to lighten the burden of funding these much needed projects from the dioceses. This year, due to fundraising we have been able to maintain the 2008 diocesan levy (which provides the core funding for the Bishops' Conference) into 2009, representing a saving for the dioceses of 10% in real terms. This saving, passed on to the parishes and local work of the dioceses, is an added bonus from the money that we have raised here centrally.

Celebrating Family in the Future is the largest project contained within *Faith in the Future* and sits at the heart of the national work of the Church in England and Wales. This initiative, which seeks to unite our spiritual life in the parish with our everyday life at home, emerged as a response to Listening 2004, a year long nationwide consultation which sought to articulate the reality and demands of family life today, and how the Church can more effectively support families in the context of their faith community. That consultation pointed to three specific areas of need:

- *Encouraging welcoming, family-sensitive, friendly parishes*
- *Celebrating the home as a holy place*
- *Exploring methods of passing on faith in God*

As a response to this, in 2008 the Celebrating Family Fund was launched to implement the findings of *Listening 2004* and also a major diocesan consultation in 2007. As a result of these, and the generosity of donors, 13 diocesan projects across England and Wales were approved for funding, to be supported for a period of three years, commencing in March 2008. These projects, which are tailored to the needs of the particular places, include:

- *Developing support for parents and grandparents praying with their children*
- *Supporting family prayer lives and building a network of informal parents groups*
- *Encouraging family sensitive parishes*
- *Comprehensive marriage preparation and parenting courses exploring both the spiritual and practical realities of marriage and family life.*
- *Developing support for parents and families with disabled children.*
- *Exploring the reality of what it means to be a parent, and parenthood, among secondary school groups.*

Prior to the establishment of the Celebrating Family Fund, throughout 2007 Supporting Family Life addressed issues around celebrating home as a holy place. Funding received since 2006 went towards supporting this work:

- *The production of a 20-minute DVD supported by a booklet describing the vision and goals of Home is a Holy Place, a series of discussion outlines for leaders and groups, prayer cards and posters. Families from a variety of backgrounds have been interviewed and filmed for the DVD; sufficient copies were produced to enable each parish to receive one pack free of charge.*
- *Hosting an international symposium aimed at greater understanding of home-centred spirituality.*
- *Three mini conferences to further develop the theological foundations for the home as a holy place.*

- *Supporting a national training day to raise awareness of the needs of families experiencing mental ill-health and ways in which local parish communities and pastors can support their spiritual and pastoral care. This national event has inspired a number of similar events around the country and encouraged greater awareness of this sensitive and increasingly common pastoral need.*

- *The creation of an ‘off the shelf’ workshop to develop welcoming, family-sensitive and friendly parishes, consolidating existing resources.*

- *Consultation visits by project office staff to nearly every diocesan bishop to learn more about local needs and hopes for effective support of marriage and family life, so that a more cost-effective and responsive national strategy can be developed.*

The work of the Church supporting and promoting pro-life issues has been given a real boost through *Faith in the Future*. The *Care Not Killing Alliance* was established in 2005 to work with other faith groups, palliative care organisations and disability rights groups, forming a broad coalition of parties concerned with the legalisation of euthanasia. The group was established with two aims:

- *The oppose the legalisation of euthanasia and assisted suicide.*
- *To promote more and better palliative care in the UK.*

The group, thanks to the generosity of donors to *Faith in the Future*, has subsequently been set up as a limited company, including one of its major donors as a board member and continues to be very active among legislators on the side of those who oppose euthanasia.

The close collaboration between the Bishops’ Conference and the Holy See has been further enhanced through the *Faith in the Future* project *Working for Hope in the Middle East*. This work, undertaken at the request of Rome, seeks to help vulnerable local Christian communities thought this part of the world. This is very sensitive work, but money so far raised through *Faith in the Future* towards this project has been of great benefit to communities often marginalised and forgotten in situations of great difficulty and conflict.

The St Luke’s Wellness Centre continues to be supported through *Faith in the Future*, a vital resource in assisting the growth and renewal of priests, religious and, by definition, the wider Church community. The work continues at this much needed centre, offering a wide range of programmes and services to meet the needs of men and women in ministry today.

FAITH IN THE FUTURE DONATIONS SPENT UP TO 30/06/2008

INCOME	2005	2006	2007	2008 to 30.06	Total
Donations received	15,000	149,645	627,905	231,185	1,023,735
Deferred income over three year period received			1,000,000		1,000,000
Donations remitted direct to St Luke's Wellness Centre		36,000	36,000	36,000	108,000
Total	15,000	185,645	1,663,905	267,185	2,131,735
PROJECTED INCOME BASED					
ON PLEDGES MADE, UP TO 2012	<i>2008 from 1.07</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>
Total	166,000	335,000	310,000	148,000	132,000
	1,091,000				

TOTAL INCOME RECEIVED AND PLEDGED, 2005 - 2012 **3,222,735**

EXPENDITURE	2005	2006	2007	2008 to 30.06	Total
<i>Fundraising Function</i>					
Staff Costs		45,585	98,537	56,957	201,079
Operating Costs	22,862	9,117	12,411	14,458	58,848
Office costs		2,220	11,623	6,594	20,437
Total	22,862	56,922	122,571	78,009	280,364

MONIES ALLOCATED TO PROJECTS, AS AT 30/06/08

	<i>Restricted income</i>	<i>Unrestricted Income</i>	Total
Anti Euthanasia Campaign	127,500		127,500
Evangelisation		9,000	9,000
Culture of Dialogue	4,167		4,167
Catholic Youth Service	1,667		1,667
Environmental Justice	5,000		5,000
Catholics in Healthcare	2,000	8,000	10,000
Working for Hope in the Middle East	122,311		122,311
Young Catholics in Public Life	27,580	48,000	75,580
Celebrating Family	396,000	35,000	431,000
Caritas - Social Action Network		9,000	9,000
National Office for Vocation	8,000	60,000	68,000
St Luke's Wellness Centre	113,500		113,500
Catholic Communications Network	50,000	25,000	75,000
Public Policy Unit	27,500		27,500
Total	885,225	194,000	1,079,225

DEFERRED INCOME FOR CELEBRATING FAMILY

	2009	2010	Total
Total	333,333	333,333	666,666

TOTAL MONEY ALLOCATED AT 30/06/08

2,026,255

- *Between its opening in December 2005 and December 2007 the Centre has worked with over 200 clients.*
- *Work with candidates for the permanent diaconate and outpatient therapy services has grown significantly in the past year. The Centre continues to be there for bishops and superiors dealing with difficult situations and the clinical assessments are growing in number.*
- *The Centre continues to provide for the spiritual, psychological and physical needs of candidates, priests and men and women religious serving the Church throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland.*
- *It exists as a resource to individuals, diocesan officials, bishops, vocation directors, seminary staff, religious congregations and leadership teams. In collaboration, the Centre addresses the realistic challenges of ministry and personal development in a supportive, professional manner.*

The number of dioceses and religious communities using the services continues to grow. The Centre is committed to offering the highest standards of professional services wherever needed even when the client has limited funds; no one is turned away from St. Luke's Centre because of finance.

For a number of years the *Parliamentary Internship scheme* has allowed young Catholic graduates with a sense of vocation towards service in public life to test that in a way which benefits them and the wider Church community. Since 2006 this work has been funded through the generosity of donors to *Faith in the Future*.

In addition to working full time with their Member of Parliament or MEP, the interns are part of a program of activities, including:

- *A series of meetings and presentations with organisations such as CAFOD and Goldman Sachs.*
- *A Christian ethics course at Heythrop College, which runs through the whole year, helping to inform and compliment their work in parliament.*
- *Regular meetings with their nominated spiritual director.*
- *Being part of the life and community at the University of London Catholic Chaplaincy in Gower Street, where they live for the year.*

The year begins and ends with a retreat for the whole year group in north Wales.

Without donations we would not have been able to continue to grow this valuable work over recent years:

- *In the academic year 2006/07 the scheme was able to expand its numbers and in 2007 six places were made available for the academic year 07/08: four in Westminster (three MPs and a working Peer) and two in Brussels (with MEPs).*
- *In November 2007 the Internship Scheme hosted a one-day conference in central London, aimed at young Catholics interested in public life. This was attended by over 70 young people.*
- *A major donor to the scheme has become a member of the panel for applications and recruitment of interns.*

Faith in the Future has made a major contribution to the core work of the *National Office for Vocation (NOV)*. NOV plays a vital role in assisting the dioceses in promoting vocations to the priesthood and religious, encouraging best practice regarding the application and recruitment of aspiring priests and religious, and forming a network of vocations directors and promoters to offer mutual guidance and support. NOV also works closely with the Catholic Communications Network in being a point of contact between the Church and the wider community. NOV also aims to foster a culture of vocation throughout the Church in England and Wales - in our schools, parishes, universities and all areas of Catholic life.

With the help of funding raised since 2006, NOV has been able to fulfill these objectives through:

- *The promotion of priesthood and vocations in press and online, particularly Vocations Sunday 2008 which was featured on BBC Online:*
- *Organising an annual conference of vocations Directors, in November each year, supporting the network and best practice.*
- *The support of two websites currently maintained by NOV: www.ukpriest.org (approx 15,000 unique visitors in 2007) and www.ukvocation.org; NOV also set up a microsite www.calledtoday.com, launched to support Vocations Sunday on the Fourth Sunday after Easter.*
- *Offering media support, in tandem with the Catholic Communications Network (CCN) regarding priesthood and vocations, collating and presenting annual statistics on vocations to the Bishops' Conference and, in all this, working in close collaboration with the Conference for Religious.*

- *Issuing, in 2007, a unified set of resources promoting priesthood, religious life and the common baptismal vocation: exhibition-style banner stands, information leaflets and prayer cards were made available to vocations teams in England and Wales for use in parishes, schools, universities and chaplaincies.*

The Catholic Communications Network continues to provide invaluable work both in promoting the work of the Church to the wider community in England and Wales, and responding to media enquiries. Funding through *Faith in the Future* has allowed the creation of a new website for the Bishops' Conference: www.catholic-ew.org.uk. It has also allowed the appointment of a full-time webmaster, ensuring that the Bishops' public face on the internet is kept relevant and regularly updated.

Much has been achieved, but there remains much more to be done. If you would like to find out more about the ongoing work of *Faith in the Future* please do contact one of those working with the Bishops, whose contact details can be found overleaf.

Once again, on behalf of all the Bishops I would like to sincerely thank all of our supporters without whom none of this work would have been possible.

With every blessing,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter", with a small cross-like symbol to the left of the first letter.

Most Rev'd Peter Smith,
Archbishop of Cardiff
Chairman of the Fundraising Committee