

SYNOD UPDATE

(from Archdiocesan News 1 of 2007)

Throughout the course of 2006 the Diocesan Preparatory Commission has dialogued with the eight deaneries, worked on questionnaires and the formation of an 'Emerging Themes' booklet, as well as the practical task of establishing dates, venue and possible procedure-

Having set the date (23-26 September 2007) and securing the venue (Springfield Convent, Wynberg) the next step for the commission is to measure and analyse responses submitted by Parish Councils, parish groups and individuals – alongside finalising the programme, attendance and finer details which are necessary in the organisation of such an event.

Following the formulation of the 'Emerging Themes' document, which was delivered to each parish – requiring a response by December 8th 2006, we received approximately 300 responses by the end of December 2006. We sincerely thank the forty parishes for their very thorough and well presented Parish Council response. Thank you too, to the parish group members (from the above parishes) whose communal reflection, time and energy has produced interesting and meaningful contributions. To the 112 individuals whose realistic, honest and challenging input has proven to be a valuable and added leaven to the formation of a working document for the Synod – thank you.

While extensions have been granted to some individuals and parishes until January 31st for the completion of the 'Emerging Themes' document, it is now the responsibility of the Preparatory Commission to move on with the following process.

A quantitative analysis has given us an indication of the number of responses. This will be constantly monitored until all parishes have submitted their suggestions and recommendations – hopefully by January 31st.

A team of seven Religious Sisters and Brothers along with an equal number of lay people will form an analysis team to conduct a qualitative analysis of all material submitted. This group will meet with the Preparatory Commission in order to agree on a consistent and structured approach, which will be followed by them all. Each team member will study the documentation, have it checked by a partner, and have a discussion with the team before handing the findings over to the Preparatory Commission for compilation into a working document for the Synod-

The working document will then be presented to the archbishop and to the deaneries in preparation for the Synod.

Sr Margaret McGovern