

**Commissioning of Plenary Council Delegates**

**by Zoom**

**‘Listen to what the Spirit is Saying’**

**27th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**4 October 2020**

**Notes**

* **This Commissioning Ritual is designed with COVID-19 in mind and when it is not possible to gather in person.**
* **The Commissioning ritual could be broadcast to the wider worshipping community to take part remotely.**
* **Reflective music could be playing as people enter the Zoom experience.**
* **It would be important to rehearse with the delegates prior to the event so that they are familiar with their responses.**
* **A red candle would need to be mailed to each delegate prior to the ritual. You may wish to put the name of the delegate on their candle.**

**Order of Service**

**Commentator:** Good morning/evening and welcome. Due to COVID-19, the Plenary Council assembly dates for delegates have been moved to October 2021 in Adelaide and July 2022 in Sydney. ‘Listen to What the Spirit is Saying’ is the theme of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia and, with this invitation in our hearts, we will bless the delegates from our Diocese who will represent us at the Plenary Council assemblies.

Before the commissioning let us listen to a quote from the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World from the Second Vatican Council. (Articles 1 & 2)

**Reader:** We are united in Christ and we are bound together with each other carrying an essential word to all of humankind for its salvation. We in the church are about the human situation for we are not without bodies and our bodies are created by God. Human history unfolds before us complete with triumph and tragedy. Only with God can it come to its intended goal: unity and love in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**[Pause for a short time of silence]**

**Leader:** There may be some thoughts or reflections around the Plenary Council 2020 journey that you would like to share with the group.

[This may not be possible with a Zoom group.]

**Commentator:**  Let us now begin the Blessing and Commissioning prayer.

**Leader:** [Names of delegates to be inserted] youhave been called to represent the faithful of the Diocese of [Diocesan name inserted] at the Plenary Council. May God grant you the grace to be open to the Spirit leading you through the days of prayer, listening and discernment during the process and gatherings of the Council.

**Delegates:**  May the Holy Spirit guide our hearts and minds.

**Leader:** Holy Spirit, empower these delegates with the grace to recognise the Word of God at work in the Church.

**Delegates:**  May the Holy Spirit come alive in our hearts and minds.

**Leader:** Holy Spirit, fill these delegates with the courage to be open to the future while respecting the tradition of the Church.

**Delegates:** May the Holy Spirit live in us as we travel this journey of faith with the Church of Australia.

**Blessing of Candles**

**Leader:** I would like you to hold your candle as I prayer the following prayer.

Let us pray.

May the light of Christ be your guide.

We bless these candles which serve as a sign of the Spirit at the centre of our journey, forever burning brightly, inviting us to look beyond the shadow of the now to a brighter future.

May the Holy Spirit guide us.

**All:**  **Amen.**

**Leader:** Take this candle, light it when you pray and sit in the loving presence of God during your times of discernment, giving thanks for the gift of diversity and respect within our Catholic community.

Let us pray for all delegates of the Plenary Council and the Church of Australia.

**Commentator:**

1. For the delegates of the Plenary Council in 2021 and into 2022,

that they will have the courage to listen with their hearts to the voice of the Spirit speaking through the people of Australia and the conviction to speak with love.

Lord we pray. [Pause for silence]

**Response:** Holy Spirit, guide us.

1. For the Church in Australia:

As we continue to prepare for the Plenary Council in 2021 and into 2022 that we all continue to listen to the Spirit speaking through each other as we pray for the Word of God to shine in our world.

Lord we pray. [Pause for silence]

**Response:** Holy Spirit, guide us.

**Leader:** Let us Pray.

**This prayer could be put on the screen for all those who have zoomed into the Commissioning Ritual who are not delegates.**

Through the power of the Holy Spirit we send you forth on behalf of the Diocese of [Diocesan name inserted]. Know that we are praying with you and for you. Know that what we are asking of you is part of everyone’s journey of discernment for a more hope-filled Church. Be confident that we are grateful for your willingness to represent our community at the Plenary Council.

## Leader: May God be present to you as the spirit of courage and right judgment, a spirit of knowledge and love as we support each other on our journey of faith.

**All:** May the Holy Spirit guide us all.

**Conclusion: Gentle reflective music played in the background as the Bishop or Commissioning Leader congratulates the Delegates.**