

VARIOUS CONSULTATIVE BODIES

IX-B: THE DIOCESAN JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION

A. Introduction

1. Social Justice and Peace-making are an integral part of the mission of the Church. The roots of this ministry are found in Sacred Scripture and in the official documents of the Church. The goal of the Social Justice and Peace Commission of the Diocese of Crookston is to bring awareness of this "constitutive dimension" of the Gospel to our people and to aid the Church of Crookston to carry out this essential part of its mission.
2. This Commission should be limited to Social Justice and Peace issues.

B. Purposes of Commission

1. The Commission is advisory to the Bishop.
2. It carries out assignments of the Bishop in the matters of Justice and Peace.
3. It serves as liaison with Minnesota Catholic Conference Social Action Department, the USCC Department of Social Development and World Peace and other groups such as Pax Christi.
4. It serves as a resource for official statements of the Bishop/Diocese.
5. It serves as an instrument of education a) for diocese as a whole, and b) for parishes, especially for parish councils, justice committees, adult education, Catholic schools, CCD programs, acting as a resource in developing curriculum and a library of materials on justice and peace.
6. It serves as an instrument of spiritual renewal through a) liturgical celebrations, b) retreats, and c) simple life-style groups.
7. It serves as an instrument of advocacy and political action, e.g., disarmament and El Salvador.

C. Structure

1. Commission is accountable to the Bishop through the Office of Christian Service.
2. It will have no more than nine members.

VARIOUS CONSULTATIVE BODIES

3. All Commission members are working members.
4. The Commission will establish a grass roots justice committee to help it with its work, e.g., to give greater input, to help with task forces, etc.; any members of the diocese who are interested in justice and want to be involved on the diocesan level may volunteer for this committee.
5. The Commission will work at times through the deaneries; ideally, there should be at least one person at each deanery on the Commission who will be responsible for communication to, and organization within each deanery.
6. The Commission commits itself to the ongoing education of its members.
7. Prayer and study will be a part of each Commission meeting.
8. Members of Commission are to be chosen by invitation of the Bishop.
9. Meetings will be held as needed.
10. The Commission will maintain direct communication and cooperation with those groups in the diocese that have overlapping concerns: Office of Christian Service, Liturgy Commission, Diocesan Pastoral Council, Priests' Council, Rural Life Commission, and OND.

D. Process

1. Ideas and programs will be regularly communicated through OND.
2. One member of Commission is to be assigned to ongoing communication with each diocesan group listed above.
3. Some programs and projects are to be organized at deanery level.
4. The Commission is to help surface specific needs and justice priorities at parish and deanery level.
5. The Commission will help local justice committees to get organized and identify own needs and goals.
6. The Commission will compile what resources the diocese already has and what materials we would yet need.
7. First meeting each year to be a two-day retreat with Commission and committee members.

VARIOUS CONSULTATIVE BODIES

E. Cost

1. There will be no salaries for Commission or committee members.
2. The Diocese will pay travel expenses for members.
3. The Commission will submit its annual budget for approval by the Diocesan Finance Council.