Have you been a part of the Plenary Council process of listening, prayer, dialogue and discernment? Do you feel called to express your interest in being a delegate from our diocese?

Two (2) delegates will be called from our diocese from the ‘presbyters and others of Christ’s faithful’ of our diocesan Church, that is: from among the clergy and the laity.

Some characteristics of the delegates to be called to consider are:

- The person’s demonstrated commitment to leadership in the Church and/or her ministries (e.g. An active parish ministries leader, Catholic Education staff member, Catholic Social Services worker or ecclesial movement leader, etc.)
- The person’s living of the gospel in their life through both prayer and deeds
- Their awareness of ‘the bigger picture’ of Catholic faith, community and works in context of contemporary Australian society
- Previous participation in / leadership of listening and dialogue, or listening and discernment encounters with people in the person’s community, workplace or family;

Ultimately, the foundational characteristic to be considered is the person’s ability and capacity to discern with an open heart, listening to what the Spirit is saying to the Church in Australia.

Any person who expresses their interest in being called by our diocese to be a delegate to the Plenary Council must be available for the following dates:

1. Preparation and formation days for Delegates: Choose ONE of the following four dates:
   a. Melbourne: Thursday 5.00pm June 18th 2020 – Saturday 12.00pm June 20th 2020
   b. Brisbane: Thursday 5.00pm June 25th 2020 – Saturday 12.00pm June 27th 2020
   c. Sydney: Thursday 5.00pm July 16th 2020 – Saturday 12.00pm July 18th 2020
   d. Perth: Thursday 5.00pm July 23rd 2020 – Saturday 12.00pm July 25th 2020

2. Plenary Council General Assembly 1: Sunday 2.00pm October 4th 2020 – Sunday 12.00pm October 11th 2020

3. Plenary Council General Assembly 2: Monday 12.00pm June 28th 2021 – Saturday 12.00pm July 3rd 2020

Anyone who cannot be available for all of these dates, unfortunately is ineligible to be called.

Also, please note that the minimum required age for delegates is 16 years of age.

Expressions of Interest form can be downloaded from the Diocesan website at www.parracatholic.org
Please send any expressions of interest by email to pastoralplanning@parracatholic.org by 12.00pm January 25th 2020 for discernment and decision.

If you have questions, or if you require further information, please contact or contact Richard McMahon or Tanya Quinn on 8838 3441 or pastoralplanning@parracatholic.org.

Finally, although the total number of delegates is quite small, this group of people will represent our local diocesan Church, and help to guide all of the Church in Australia towards the future. It is a great act of faith and we are led by the Spirit every step of the way. Please join me in praying for all of the Church in Australia, and in particular for our diocesan delegation as we continue to journey toward the Plenary Council.

Yours in Christ,

__________________________________________________________________
Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv
Bishop of Parramatta