

## **Report of the Diocesan Council of Laity Meeting**

**Held in the Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation, Poringland**

**On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

**Apologies:** Nine apologies had been received from those unable to attend the meeting

Tony Lawlor chaired the meeting

**Report of the November 2010 Meeting.** Copies of the meeting, additional to those which had been sent were distributed

Bishop Michael opened the May meeting on the subject of **Evangelisation** and welcomed all representatives to the meeting.

By way of introduction, he commented on the relatively small turnout of just 33 representatives in relation to the importance of the subject. He drew the analogy, from an icon of the disciples being visited by the Holy Spirit displayed on the flip chart, that the meeting was reminiscent of that event, except that if you were caught in those days being involved in the faith it could mean crucifixion, whereas, the worst that could happen these days is discrimination in one form or another.

To encourage the faithful, 10,000 posters of the icon were being printed for distribution at Pentecost, one of the big three feasts in the church's year. Pentecost is about 'mission'. In the latin text at the end of the mass, the priest says the words, 'Ite missa est', 'go, you are sent'. Evangelisation is about 'goodnewsing', and Bishop Michael referred to quotations from the papers sent for the meeting on the subject and said how great it would be if each parish in the diocese had a group of twelve people formed into an Evangelisation Team projecting the radiance of 'inner joy' to the outside world and spreading the Good News of Salvation through Jesus Christ.

At this point Bishop Michael invited the representatives to form Deanery groups to discuss the implications of evangelisation within the Diocese for about forty minutes and report back.

The report back and subsequent discussion formed the basis for Bishop Michaels' notes of the meeting which accompanies this report.

The meeting broke for lunch at 12.45pm and resumed again at 2.00pm

The principle business of the afternoon session was for the meeting to agree a topic for the November meeting which again was achieved by group discussion such that 'Trust and Transparency' was chosen as a title encapsulating several of the individual suggestions put forward by the different groups.

**Topic for 5<sup>th</sup> November 2011: Trust and Transparency.**

There being no further business, the Meeting closed with a prayer at approximately 2.30pm, several representatives paying warm tribute to Bishop Michael, endorsed by the whole group, for his leadership of the Diocese and promotion of the Council of Laity over the years and for his great determination to continue in spite of his current state of health.