



PAT FOX rsm
*The Adelaide experience
of an Inclusive
Governance Model*

*An Exercise of Power and Leadership
of Women
within the Australian Church.*

Vatican Council 1962-1965

- *Matthew Beovich* Archbishop 1939 – 1971
- *James Gleeson* Bishop 1957 - 1971
Archbishop 1971 – 1985
- *Leonard Faulkner* Bishop of Townsville 1967-1983
Archbishop of Adelaide 1985 - 2001
- *Philip Wilson* Archbishop of Adelaide 2001 - 2018

Organs of Governance established in
Adelaide post Vatican II by
Archbishop Matthew Beovich
and Bishop James Gleeson

- *Diocesan Pastoral Council*
- *Council of Priests*
- *College of Consultors.*
- *Parish Pastoral Councils*

Post Vatican II Archbishops

- *James Gleeson* Bishop 1957 - 1971
Archbishop 1971 - 1985
- *Leonard Faulkner*
Coadjutor Archbishop 1983 - 1985
Archbishop of Adelaide 1985 - 2001

Lumen Gentium 32

- By divine institution, the holy church is directed and governed with a wonderful diversity. "For just as in one body we have many members, yet all the members have not the same function, so we, the many, are one body in Christ, but individually members one of another"(Rom 12:4-5).
- The chosen People of God is, therefore one: "one Lord, one faith, one baptism"(Eph 4:5); there is a common dignity as members deriving from their rebirth in Christ, a common grace as sons and daughters, a common vocation to perfection, one salvation, one hope and one undivided charity.

Austin Flannery, O.P. Editor Vatican Council II Documents, Revised Translation 1996

Lumen Gentium 32

- There is, therefore, in Christ and in the Church no inequality on the basis of race or nationality, social condition or sex,
- for "there is neither Jew nor Greek: there is neither slave nor free; there is neither male nor female. For you are all 'one' in Christ Jesus"(Gal 3:28).

Austin Flannery, O.P. Editor Vatican Council II Documents, Revised Translation 1996

Diocesan Pastoral Renewal

- A substantive, people centred diocesan renewal program established by Archbishop Gleeson to implement Vatican II recommended that a leadership team be appointed to assist the archbishop in the work of governance and that this be inclusive of women and non-ordained.
- Incoming Archbishop Faulkner embraced this call as intrinsic way to ensure his episcopal leadership would be faithful to an unfolding vision of the council.
- He warmly welcomed the challenge and the rigor of working in a collaborative way with his team.

*1985: A Brief for a Consultation Concerning
Appropriate Ways in which Archbishop
Faulkner may Govern the Diocese*

- A primary presenting issue included in this consultation was whether to ask for an auxiliary bishop to be appointed for the archdiocese.

The Brief for a Consultation

- Announced in the diocesan newspaper, *The Southern Cross*, to inform all of the people of God
- A two day consultation process under the guidance of Fr Brian Bainbridge from Melbourne. There were to be with forty-four participants who included heads of diocesan offices and a number of leaders from parishes and different cultural communities

Recommendation re leadership of the Archdiocese

- “That the Archbishop appoint a small group or team of people including a Vicar General to work with him in the “governance” aspect of his office as Archbishop.
- That membership of this group be open to lay men and lay women and religious.”

Diocesan Pastoral Team

- “A small full-time executive group which assists the Archbishop in his work, and helps to get things done,”
- Its task was described as “liaising with the many archdiocesan consultative groups in order to coordinate and implement new policies and directions within the remit of the archdiocesan vision.”

Diocesan Pastoral Team

- The function of the team was clarified as being an executive body which leaves policy making to the consultative groups whilst still retaining the prerogative of deciding the manner of policy implementation.
- With the support of much professional advice and assistance the first team pioneered a new system of leadership and administration and created a structure which successive teams modified, developed, and consolidated.

Diocesan Pastoral Team 1986

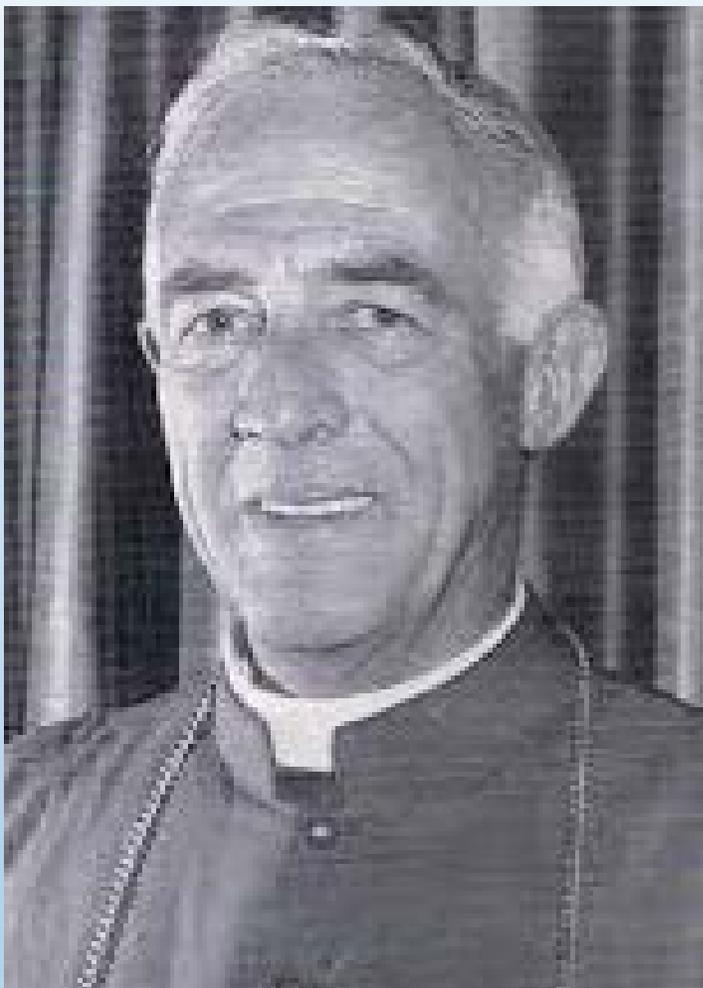


Sister Patricia Fox RSM,
Mrs Madge McGuire,

Archbishop Leonard Faulkner,
Fr. James O'Loughlin

Theological Reflection & Review

- Archbishop Faulkner appointed Father Denis Edwards as his consultant theologian for the archdiocese.
- Both he and Mr David Shinnick, director of the *Diocesan Pastoral Renewal Process* became key collaborators in the work of the Archbishop and Pastoral Team.
- Theological reflection and review was adopted as a key element of the team's work and leadership.



Archbishop Leonard Faulkner

National Council of Priests Conference
Adelaide December 1992

The Diocesan Pastoral Team

- “Our primary method of work together -- see, judge, act and further review - was explicitly based on the belief that the Holy Spirit was already providing the charisms for life-giving leadership. This enabled different gifts not only to be received but to flourish.
- Theological input, reading and reflection continually nourished our work together.”

National Council of Priests Conference

Adelaide December 1992

“In more recent years, after workshops with a number of experts on leadership, we have come to claim more fully a visionary leadership role for the DPT. It has been pointed out to us that the key role of leaders is to carry out the vision and to witness to it in every way possible.

We need to be a leadership team in the sense that both as individual team members, and above all in our common witness we are called to express an model a vision of church.

We have come to see that our task as a team is to keep the vision of Vatican II and our own vision statement, ***Community for the World*** constantly before our local church.”

National Council of Priests Conference
Adelaide, December 1992

“When I visit parishes now I find it easier, because of my own experience of the DPT, to talk with priests about their collaboration with pastoral associates, school principals and parish councils. ...

I think that it is true to say that the DPT provides something of a model and an invitation for further pastoral collaboration at the parish level.”

National Council of Priests Newsletter, December 1992.

Key factors that enabled a shared exercise of power & leadership

- The call for a leadership team to assist the archbishop in governance of the diocese that could be inclusive of women and non-ordained had emerged from a substantive, people centred diocesan renewal program that was seeking to implement Vatican II.
- The incumbent archbishop embraced this call as a way to ensure his episcopal leadership would be faithful to an unfolding vision of Vatican II.
- He welcomed the challenge and the rigor of working in a collaborative way with his team.

Key factors enabling the shared exercise of power & leadership

- Our primary method of work together -- see, judge, act and further review - was explicitly based on the belief that the Holy Spirit was already providing the charisms for life-giving leadership. This enabled different gifts not only to be received but to flourish.
- Theological input, reading and reflection continually nourished our work together.

Women members Diocesan Pastoral Team Adelaide 1985-2001



Michelle McCarty, Kathy Murray, Catherine Hawkes,
Meredith Evans, Patricia Fox

A Challenge of Pope Francis



“Demands that the legitimate rights of women be respected, based on the firm conviction that men and women are equal in dignity, present the Church with profound and challenging questions that cannot be evaded.”

Evangelii Gaudium 104



- “Open the future, raise possibilities, generate alternatives, help think and act differently.”
- Walk singing, so that life’s struggles and worries...don’t take away the joy that hope brings” 07.11.19