

## Bowen Hills Parish

### *Bowen Hills Parish*

*Particular Issue No 1 -Creative and effective ways of assisting the local Church to understand and value the spiritual treasure that the Church has to offer in today's world (ranked in order of importance)*

#### *1. Radically improve education*

- .Undertake a concerted program within all parishes to systematically present the content of the Catechism of the Catholic Church over a 3 year period in Sunday Mass sermons, and simultaneously at discussion groups, schools and universities;
- .the Local (sic) Church in the Archdiocese of Brisbane has to start believing in the Catholic Faith again. In the last 30 years the Church has been weakened by dissent, disloyalty to the Holy Father, desertion of the clergy, engagement with ecumenism at seemingly any cost and by a general "holiday" from Catholic Truth. We are now suffering from this disaster;
- .begin a programme of extensive education about the Catholic Faith, explaining all aspects of the Catechism, delivered in Sunday sermons, in schools, public study groups (similar to Armidale 3 year programme);
- .educate about indulgences and prayers for souls in Purgatory and encourage their proper and frequent use;
- .prepare information from Church teaching on Our Lady and the Blessed Sacrament and distribute to priests to be used in sermons for a few months. Have extra devotional practices such as rosary, novenas during this time;
- .provide Scripture classes;
- .issue repeated written and verbal messages (from the Archbishop) to all Catholics in the Archdiocese, explaining why Catholics need to obey the Magisterium, the authority behind it and the beauty of this treasure in ensuring spiritual welfare in today's world;
- .teach that the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church is the only Church that possesses the fullness of the Truth, by disseminating this reality more openly in sermons, school religious education, parish groups and in dialogue with peoples of other faiths or no faith, (to ensure ecumenical activities are effective and authentic );
- .defend (in sermons and in the media) the Authority of the Church to command people how to live their lives in order to achieve authentic personal fulfillment in the contemporary world

#### *2. Encourage understanding, appreciation and availability of Sacraments*

- .undertake a concerted program (homilies, missions, discussion groups) within all parishes to teach the importance, beauty, theology "and spirituality of the Mass and devotion to the Blessed Sacrament;
- .emphasise importance of daily Mass and communion -increase availability of early morning Mass throughout archdiocese for workers who cannot otherwise participate. Recognise the value of beginning the day with Mass wherever possible;
- .emphasise prayer life and stress the "supernatural" power of the Mass and the supernatural power of the sacraments; encourage Mass attendance;
- .increase appreciation and availability of personal confession (eg one & a half hours before Mass, priest is available in confessional)as being essential; and
- .increase appreciation of correct preparation for Mass and Holy Communion

#### *3. Encourage understanding and use of devotions*

- .encourage regular Rosary and Marian devotions, especially during May and October in all parishes and schools;
- .Archbishop should spend 3 years devoted towards preaching, teaching and promoting the *supernatural* element within every facet of the Catholic Faith. He must make this a personal priority and exhort priests and laity to do likewise; encourage daily family prayer and rosaries;
- .invite an order of priests to hold Marian Eucharistic Missions throughout the Archdiocese;
- .Benediction to be revived in our parishes;
- .Holy Hours to be introduced where possible;
- .encourage Mass attendance, Church visits and daily rosary;
- .encourage use of Holy water and its power;
- .replace the influence of Buddhist, Hindu or New Age spirituality with real spiritual treasures of the Church -by beginning Blessed Sacrament Adoration in as many parishes as possible and by promoting and making available more Holy Hours, Benediction, Stations of the Cross, the

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Rosary, Liturgy of the Hours, May/October devotions to Our Lady and other Catholic Devotions

### 4. *Encourage greater reverence*

- .emphasise reverence in our Churches (especially discouraging unnecessary talking). Older people to set a much better example in this area;
- .stop people talking in Churches -increase reverence for the Blessed Sacrament; uphold the dignity of our holy religion and increase the reverence for the treasures of our faith and personal holiness;
- .don't hold concerts in the Cathedral;
- .encourage personal holiness;
- .emphasise personal holiness as the primary vocation and duty of every person, in every level of Archdiocesan activity (using written and spoken word and by example)

### 5. *Rectify Abuses*

- .demonstrate our total commitment to Magisterium and Holy Father;
- .be seen to follow his guidance in recent directives to Australian Bishops;
- .correct lovingly but firmly and clearly widespread liturgical abuses (eg: recent Courier Mail report had no public response or apparent change to clear abuses. Hopefully this has been done?);
- .ensure dissent from, or disobedience to, the Magisterium of the Church is openly discouraged and charitably addressed in a quick and forceful manner by the Archbishop;
- .celebrate the Mass in conformity with the liturgical directives, removing illicit "feminisations" or other illicit changes in the liturgical prayers, readings, and homilies;
- .reform *The Catholic Leader* to ensure it aligns with the Church Magisterium and to provide greater witness to the beauty of the Catholic Church's teaching; use it as a vehicle to teach

### Others

Our Lord established only One Church but most Catholics have embraced wholeheartedly the heresy that one religion is as good as another -we need to believe and teach the Catholic Faith is the only Truth, in season and out of season and at whatever cost;

Conduct scientific surveys among the target population to determine how the church's "spiritual treasure" is in fact "understood and valued" out there, honestly assess the results and adopt strategies to deal properly with both misconceptions and the faults actually revealed;

Don't let the truth be watered down by any "majority rule" mentality. Don't go by majority rule at this Synod -Archbishop is bound to lead by truth and example and everyone will follow truth;

Be more public with our Catholic witness;

Jesus said: !! Seek ye first the kingdom of god and everything will be added unto you!

(Matthew 6:33) so call people to Jesus and let the Holy Spirit teach and lead them;

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*Particular Issue No 2 -Creative and effective ways of assisting the local Church to respond to the spiritual hunger of people today, including emerging believers, Catholics unconnected to a church community, and those who have no religious faith (ranked in order of importance)*

### *1. Promote authentic ecumenism*

.promote sincere and positive ecumenism- dialogue that aims to lead others back or into the Catholic Faith. Do not encourage any interfaith activities/liturgies where any aspects of Catholic doctrine are put at risk of being undermined or abused; ecumenism must be taught correctly in line with Vatican Council Decree on Ecumenism (chapters 1-3). For it is through the Catholic Church alone, which is the universal help towards salvation, that the fullness of the means of salvation can be obtained. All churches are NOT EQUAL;  
.need to start acting that we believe that the Catholic Church is the only one true Church -no one wants to follow anything that is neither hot or cold or wishy- washy;  
.where there are ecumenical practices in parishes, the Catholic Church to consider celebrating a Mass when it is Catholic time for communal prayer;  
.join or form specialised groups (cooperating with other Christians and non- Christians): for life (against abortion, euthanasia); against contraception; for Catholic family values; against homosexual activism; for God-given human rights; and for the needy (poor, handicapped, suffering, sick)

### *2. Encourage visitations and sacraments*

.clergy to spend more time door-knocking and visitations;  
.initiate parish visitations by priests to seek the lost;  
.hospital chaplaincy to be revised so patients see a priest for confession and communion more frequently;  
.priests have to be firm in confessional and also in their own actions;  
.encourage visitation at parish level, by priests and other well-formed and educated Catholics, to non-practising Catholics in order to encourage dialogue and facilitate reconciliation with the Church;  
.encourage Requiem Masses at a family level (especially where Catholic practice may have lapsed) and prayers for the dead. Show our faith and hope in Resurrection rather than focusing too much on grieving sorrow during public liturgy;  
.plan doorknock crusades by well-formed and prepared laity using brief, well- written pamphlets with an invitation to inquire further

### *3. Encourage leadership in media and offer a more rigorous public and political presence*

.Archbishop to write a column monthly or more often if needed to comment on day-to-day topics with Catholic teaching on such;  
.encourage the Archbishop to make more frequent and more forceful statements both within the Church and in the secular media explaining and defending the Catholic Church teaching on moral issues (including abortion, homosexuality, contraception, extramarital sexual activity, IVF and bioethics issues etc);  
.teach that the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church is the only Church that possesses the fullness of the Truth, by disseminating this reality more openly in sermons, school religious education, parish groups and in dialogue with peoples of other faiths or no faith, (to ensure ecumenical activities are effective and authentic );  
invite recognised experts, who obey the Magisterium of the Church, to present lectures and lead discussion groups on Church Encyclicals;  
be seen to challenge and support all levels of government where necessary;  
educate politicians so as to provide the Church's clear teachings on issues being decided at a political level (eg abortion, euthanasia, IVF etc);  
initiate an authentic Catholic education programme for anybody to work through the Catechism and be exposed to Catholic teaching;  
cultivate a positive and more active relationship with local media and use as a platform for encouragement, direction and critical comment. Archbishop and Bishops to be seen and heard more frequently and forcefully in the media - assume the role of pastor of Brisbane no matter what faith  
initiate an authentic Catholic education programme within public and private sector corporations and workplaces to provide the Church's clear teaching on contemporary issues

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such as biotechnology, work and economic ethics, morality etc

### 4. *Establish Catholic media presence*

- .establish Catholic media presence with television, newspapers, magazines, web that are authentically Catholic with a mission to teach, nurture and promote the truth and show its application to lives of our Archdiocese;
- .establish authentic Catholic radio and television programmes;
- .promote EWTN dishes on all Catholic institutions in Brisbane (eg Nursing homes, Hospitals, Schools etc) as this will reach out to non-Catholics as well as non-practising Catholics;
- .fund a primetime television hour on a weekly basis (early night or midday timeslots) to reach as many people as possible and select content to focus on current Australian issues (eg providing clear doctrine on moral issues such as euthanasia, contraception, abortion). It would also be good to add apologetic hours as well, to defend the faith and respond to lack of understanding of the faith on the part of others;
- .establish a Catholic hour on TV to explain Church doctrine and topical issues, as well as explaining the liturgy and the Sacraments (and all aspects of the Church) with relevant questions posed and answered clearly, without theological speculation

### 5. *Reform and correct abuses*

- .liturgical abuses and scandals need to be corrected;
- .reform Catholic Leader to give Catholic teaching;
- . stop non-Catholics receiving Holy Communion in Catholic Churches and vice versa;
- .conduct scientific surveys among the target population ( or at random in the community) to determine what the image of the Church is for those targeted. If the results, especially the negatives, are addressed courageously by those in charge, further strategy should then be obvious

### Others

develop an Archdiocesan and not just parish-based focus for devotions (ie Corpus Christi procession and devotions, May 24th Our Lady Help of Christians etc). Large- scale gatherings are a public witness to the rest of the community;  
we don't have to reinvent the wheel to change the present mess, and it's not rocket science - just teach and believe the Catholic Faith always! ;  
Undertake a concerted program within all parishes to systematically present the content of the Catechism of the Catholic Church over a 3 year period in Sunday Mass sermons, and simultaneously at discussion groups, schools and universities;  
Ensure that Archdiocesan-wide priestly gatherings for conferences and other Church processes do not result in widespread unavailability of Mass

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Particular Issue No 3 -Creative and effective ways of assisting the local Church to respond to, engage with, and animate the spiritual life of young people  
(ranked in order of importance)

### 1. Reform Catholic Education

- .ensure teachers in Catholic School are themselves knowledgeable and practising their Catholic Faith rather than hostile in their actions to Catholic religion (eg teachers who never assist at Mass on Sundays, living together in sin etc);
- .urgently and wholeheartedly correct the current abuses and mediocrity in the Catholic School system given that Catholic Schools no longer justify their existence or the money we are expected to spend on them -most of the good young catholic people I know have been taught the Faith at home by their parents. Most young Catholics attending Catholic schools are neither taught our greatest Treasure, our Faith, nor how to be reverent and holy (that would also go for most older Catholics), and they lapse even before they finish school these days;
- .totally reorder the whole Catechetical Teaching system to conform to The Catechism of the Catholic Church;
- .deliver an immediate school education programme which addresses all aspects of the Catholic faith authentically and completely;
- .rewrite school religion curriculum and employ teachers who are committed to teaching authentic Catholic doctrine and practices;
- .Catholic Education Office to revise curriculum as there is a need to teach: doctrine; apologetics; Church history; philosophy; and theology given that authentic content in these areas has not been taught in the last 20-30 years;
- .restructure Catholic Education to teach Catholicity;
- use youth forum of this Synod as an opportunity to teach Catholic doctrines/perspectives
- .prepare and teach a concise Children's version of the Catechism with yes/no and explanation;
- .initiate Catholic teacher training, evaluation and certification to ensure that those assenting to all Catholic doctrine and living in conformity with it, teach the Catholic faith;
- .undertake a concerted program within all parishes to systematically present the content of the Catechism of the Catholic Church over a 3 year period in Sunday Mass sermons, and simultaneously at discussion groups, schools and universities;
- .reform the Brisbane Archdiocesan Catholic Education system to ensure young people are taught the teachings of the Catholic Church in their fullness and with detail in their school education, since the current situation is that the majority of young people graduating from Catholic schools in the Brisbane Archdiocese have little or incorrect knowledge of their faith;
- .shift the emphasis from ignorance and/or misunderstanding of Church teaching towards informed and mature understanding of the Church's position (ie apologetics) so that young people can make their own life decisions based on adequate information

### *Others*

#### *Promote Sacramental and Devotional Life*

- .encourage children and youth of all ages to make frequent visits to Blessed Sacrament and attend Mass as required;
- .encourage young people to visit the Church before and after school ("Suffer little children to come unto Me");
- teach young people reverence for the Blessed Sacrament and no talking in Churches;
- .eliminate or discourage practice of removing children of any age from Mass at any time to attend Children's Church activity. Children's Church can be used as a secondary teaching facility *additional* to Mass attendance. The Mass more than adequately caters for everyone and any supplementary teaching programs should be conducted at times outside of Mass;
- .set up Children of Mary Sodality for girls to adhere to Mary's example and set up a St Joseph Sodality for boys to do likewise -morals must be addressed;
- .encourage Parish Priests to regularly visit and talk to/be with primary school and high school students;
- .develop a Catholic presence at colleges and universities through Masses, chapels, literature and priestly presence;
- .ensure Sacrament of Confession is received *before* First Communion (7/8 yrs old for children); reserve Sacrament of Confirmation until children are older (12/13 yrs -pre High

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School);

.read lives of the saints;

.teach beauty and need of personal confession. Have confession before First Communion and Confirmation going into high school;

.encourage more daily Mass attendance;

.replace the influence of Buddhist, Hindu or New Age spirituality with real spiritual treasures of the Church -by beginning Blessed Sacrament Adoration in as many parishes as possible and by promoting and making available more Holy Hours, Benediction, Stations of the Cross, the Rosary, Liturgy of the Hours, May/October devotions to Our Lady and other Catholic Devotions

*Abortion*

.make concerted attack on abortion clinics via Parish prayer rotation, Masses, rosaries and personal and community discussion;

.mobilise all supernatural resources to fight against the atrocities being committed against unborn youth -this is one of the Church's biggest missions in history

conduct scientific surveys among the youth target population to determine what the image of the church is. If the results, especially the negatives are addressed courageously by those in charge, further strategy should then be obvious;

ensure all are made aware of Catholic understanding towards marriage, divorce, and abortion;

establish Catholic camps with Mass at start of day's activities;

Invite recognised experts who obey the Magisterium of the Church to present lectures and lead discussion groups on Church Encyclicals;

Encourage increased youth awareness of Papal activities and teachings, including his works on Theology and the Body, World Youth Day and the day-to-day activities undertaken by the Pope as reported by journalism organisations such as <http://zenit.org/>

Emphasise personal holiness as the primary vocation and duty of every young person, in any written or spoken word or example placed before young people of the Archdiocese

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Particular Issue No 4- Creative and effective ways of assisting the local Church to nurture the mission, ministry and vocation of the priests and people of the Archdiocese (ranked in order of importance)

### 1. Turn to God in prayer, faith and devotion

.introduce perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in all parishes to obtain vocations to the Priesthood and the Religious Life;

.conduct prayer campaigns among the faithful for the clergy on a regular basis; .encourage perpetual adoration and frequent Holy Hours and visits before Blessed Sacrament in all parishes;

Archdiocese to pray for strong vocations and assist all young men who feel a call to priesthood;

.adopt measures which have proved successful for increasing vocations *in* Australia and elsewhere, notably exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with prayer for vocations and renewal of seminary formation in conformance with the Pope John Paul's 1992 document *Pastores dabo bo vis* (I Will Give You Shepherds)

### 2. Eliminate notion of "priestless parishes"

.debunk this latest notion that we have to prepare for "priest-less" parishes -it is not an option and is entirely un-Catholic and unnecessary. This is something we can never accept because: No Priest = No Mass = No Church;

.invite overseas or interstate priests faithful to the Magisterium to help address the current shortage of priests in the Brisbane Archdiocese. Cultural differences (which aren't necessarily significant if priests are carefully chosen) are less of a problem than having no priests at all; eliminate all talk of women priests and provide no support to groups who pursue this topic;

.stop planning for models of "priestless parishes" -they cannot exist. ...as the Cure of Ars (Patron of Parish Priests) said, "When men want to destroy religion they begin by attacking the priest, because where the priest is no more, there is no more sacrifice, and where there is no more sacrifice, there is no more religion. .. Leave a parish for twenty years without a priest, and beasts will be worshipped there."

### 3. Reform Archdiocesan Seminary

.ensure Banyo Seminary and all parishes to adhere to Papal authority and the Magisterium and be brought into line where necessary;

.Seminary has to be turned around and used for what it was intended -the practice of the last thirty years of selecting candidates for the Priesthood who have been the most radical in their ideas, or choosing those who had the notion that a Priest is some sort of glorified social worker and not one who offers the Sacrifice of the Mass will have to be stopped -Look at the damage this practice has caused and to top it all off these men just up and leave the Priesthood "Scot free" leaving the Faithful with the mess and the sorrow they have caused. The approach in selection of candidates has been a total failure. How about trying some of those many good men who have been turned away and whose only crime was that they were "too orthodox". I have known many such cases over the years. This is really the most telling of the situation that exists here in Brisbane;

change seminary programme and practices to be more in line with directives of the Magisterium;

rigorous selection of new candidates for priesthood (especially) -for example, minimum age (maybe 25?) before allowing entry to seminary, some evidence of unimpeachable reputation prior to admission to seminary for at least the previous two years, compulsory work experience;

reform the Brisbane Archdiocesan Seminary to ensure young men are taught the teachings of the Catholic Church in their fullness and with detail in their seminary education, since the current situation is that many priests graduating from the Brisbane Seminary appear to have inadequate knowledge of the teachings of the Church, the reasons for those teachings, and limited allegiance to the Magisterium

### 4. Increase personal sanctity, use of Sacraments and devotion

.facilitate the sanctity of the clergy (eg Divine Office daily to be compulsory in appropriate cases, realisation of the need for penance to a possibly greater degree);

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.priests to begin their day with Mass where possible, to develop their personal holiness and to fulfil their commitment. Parishes in turn will reap from this as we seek to live out this same call;

.recommend daily holy hour for priests before beginning pastoral work; .re-establish the direction that all priests must say daily Mass in the Archdiocese, preferably in the early morning as it is the best way to begin the day; .emphasise personal holiness as the primary vocation and duty of every person, in every level of Archdiocesan activity (using written and spoken word and by example); .parish visitation; benediction; rosary; prayer to St Michael; .promote the proud wearing of collar and habits/clerical dress as standard practice and for priests to be called " Father";

### 5. *Rectify abuses*

severely deal with priests/others who give scandal and try hard to heal the effects thereof; .correct firmly, clearly and in a spirit of paternal love and direction liturgical abuses - individually and at deanery meetings; .remedy liturgical abuses in the Brisbane Archdiocese; .remedy Sacramental abuses (such as inappropriate use of the Third Rite of Reconciliation, and the laity believing they are able to perform Anointing of the Sick)

### 6. *Ensure Priests are given proper respect, Sacramental role and opportunity for spiritual focus*

.parishioners to assist priests in administration and general pastoral work so priests can focus on spiritual role primarily and do sacramental duties first which laity *can not* do; .reduce scope of Parish councils and return Parish Priest to rightful place of spiritual leader of the local community. Parish councils etc to be his support not replacement; Priests to control sacramental side of Parish -lay people to help with other Parish needs; uphold the dignity of the Priesthood by preventing lay people from taking over priests' roles (eg abuse of the use of Extraordinary Ministers, prevention of priests from involvement with religious education in parish schools, inordinate involvement of nuns and lay people in liturgy); stop relegating priests to the function of "administrators" and start reinstating them as Parish Priests with all associate duties and authority (even if this involves an amalgamated parish) and do not force older priests to retire if they wish to continue; and rekindle the priesthood as a vocation rather than treating priesthood on the same level as a job

### *Others*

#### *Reverence*

.Promote reverence in God's House by discouraging and reprimanding needless chatter and talk within Churches; priests to teach reverence for the Blessed Sacrament and stop the talking in Churches Priests to attend sick calls for confessional opportunities; remind priests and people of importance of regular and frequent personal confession; Invite recognised experts who obey the Magisterium of the Church to present lectures and lead discussion groups on Church Encyclicals especially John Paul II's 1988 document *Christifideles Laici* (On the Vocation and Mission of the Lay Faithful in the Church and in the World); invite best speakers from Rome (preferably a close representative of the Holy Father) to give a topical update on the state of the Church. This should occur twice a year with one event being a retreat similar to what the Pope does for Easter (it could be a half-a-day event spread over three days); Gospel message to be correctly given -not just a caring church but salvation of souls is hall-mark; St Paul reminds us to go back to what was first taught -what we learnt from basic gospel message; Undertake a concerted program within all parishes to systematically present the content of the Catechism of the Catholic Church over a 3 year period in Sunday Mass sermons, and simultaneously at discussion groups, schools and universities; Encourage Catholics to vote (and be politically active) according to the Church's teachings on moral issues;

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Stop wasting money on changing Churches to remove traditional sacred objects and architecture;  
welcome Archbishop and Bishops to talk directly at individual level

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### *Statement from Facilitator:*

This document represents a comprehensive assessment of the following material gathered from the English-speaking community of the Bowen Hills parish of Our Lady of Victories:

- a compilation of views expressed by individuals;
- a compilation of views expressed at two "Gathering Sessions" held at the Parish in July 2001 and February 2002; and
- a compilation of views expressed at several small group sessions.

Many views have been expressed in emotive language and as part of larger discussions such that they should be read in context. The objective thrust of these views is that:

1. people are concerned at the present state of the Catholic Church in the Brisbane Archdiocese;
2. they want authentic Catholic doctrine and the truths and authentic devotional practices of the Catholic faith to be taught and practised more rigorously; and
3. they see hope for the Church in the Brisbane Archdiocese if effective action such as that proposed is taken.

It is acknowledged that many contemporary issues such as women priests, contraception, liturgical abuse, matters concerning sexual and child abuse in the Church etc are being raised and discussed within the Church and in society and that these issues cannot be "swept away", On the contrary, these issues must be openly addressed by having Catholic truth and the position of the teaching Magisterium outlined, explained, defended and put into action with greater urgency and clarity,

### The three most important strategies overall for the life of

#### *Radically improve education for all peoples, and especially Catholics, in the fullness of Truth contained in the Catholic Faith*

The Archdiocese of Brisbane is suffering from a severe and extremely damaging shortage/abuse of education at every age level as to the fullness of teaching of the Catholic Faith. This shortage/abuse is especially evident in the Catholic Education system and the Archdiocesan Seminary and is damaging to practising Catholics, those not practising the Catholic faith, and those who have no knowledge of the Catholic religion. Further, it is preventing this Archdiocese from addressing the urgent needs of the times in which we live.

Knowledge of the fullness of the Catholic Faith, including adherence to the Magisterium and comprehensive understanding of *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, is fundamental to responding to the challenge of following Jesus and transforming the world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

#### *Re-establish reverence, devotional practices and other Treasures of the Church notably the Mass, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and appreciation of the Sacraments*

The Catholic Church is the body of Jesus and has been charged by God to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, distribute God's grace through the Sacraments and lead all people to holiness. The Church in her wisdom and with the urging of the Holy Spirit has a rich source of authentically Catholic traditions and devotional practices to encourage appreciation and reverence for God and His love for us. The Archdiocese of Brisbane needs to be reinvigorated by radically recommitting itself to the call of Jesus to practice and reverence the fundamental truths of our faith -especially the truths regarding His Most Holy Body and Blood and His Blessed Mother.

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### *Improve leadership and correct abuses*

The Brisbane Archdiocese is in desperate need of firm, clear and pastoral leadership on the part of all its clergy including at the highest level. Scandal, liturgical abuses, doctrinal mediocrity and dissent need to be corrected Archdiocese-wide and on an urgent basis. Notions of "priest-less" parishes are nonsensical and not an option. There is also a need for the Archbishop and Bishops to achieve a stronger and more challenging presence in the media and public life.

The Church is not a political institution, it is not a democracy, and it is not a social organisation. It is God's Body. We need to refocus ourselves on worshipping God, obeying His Truths and responding to His Love rather than undertaking managerial-style corporate planning exercises that have the capacity to impede the authentic workings of the Holy Spirit.

### *Radically dedicate the Brisbane Archdiocese as an Archdiocese devoted to the Mass and the Blessed Sacrament*

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the source and summit of the Catholic faith. When committed understanding and devotion to the Mass and Blessed Sacrament is present, the remaining truths of the Catholic Faith flow naturally and authentic Catholicism thus becomes the most powerful witness to the world. This is an especially urgent need in contemporary times. The Archdiocese should dedicate itself as an Archdiocese where the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is given first priority and devotion to the Blessed Sacrament becomes the Brisbane "trademark".

### *Promote Gospel of Life*

Today's world is characterised by extreme denigration of life and the human person. The Brisbane Archdiocese should become a powerhouse of prayer and action in favour of The Gospel of Life. Whilst it is acknowledged much is already being done, we need to become more active at all levels of society in this most fundamental need of our contemporary times.

Overall, the report highlights some fundamental deficiencies in the current state of the Brisbane Archdiocese that need to be rectified quickly and thoroughly. This is highlighted in the first 3 strategies identified by Parish participants. **In** this way we will be positioned to meet our responsibilities to engage with the world in an open, active and authentically Catholic manner. The remaining 2 strategies suggest proactive means for transfiguring the Brisbane Archdiocese into an Archdiocese "trademarked" by radical devotion to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and fidelity to the truth that we are a people committed to the Gospel of Life. In this way we will play an active role in addressing the urgent needs of today's world.