



# International Federation for a Renewed Catholic Ministry

*Second Triennial General Assembly  
Detroit, Friday 10 June 2011, 09.00-10.30*

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

My first duty is to welcome you all here, and I do that with great pleasure. There is much to be depressed about in the Catholic Church and it is gatherings of this type that offer us *realistic hope* that the Spirit is indeed leading us – as long as we listen to her.

My second is to express my sadness at the loss of Jack Shea, who died only a few months after his beloved wife Jean in the course of the last year. He was a great friend and a distinguished priest and I recommend to you Anthony Padovano's moving oration at his funeral which will be found in the News section of the Corpus-NCR Canada website [at [http://www.ca.renewedpriesthood.org/page.cfm?Web\\_ID=1540](http://www.ca.renewedpriesthood.org/page.cfm?Web_ID=1540)]. We all miss them both.

### **Executive Meetings:**

1. Our last General Assembly was held in Vienna 6-9 November 2008. An Appeal from Vienna was published subsequently and is available on our website (see 'About the Federation' *The 2008 Conference*, URL below.) Anthony Padovano also subsequently prepared a document entitled 'The Formation of IFRCM' which described the historical origins of the IFRCM.
2. The executive committee (US: board) next met on 16 October 2009. The Irish group LEAVEN, an IFRCM member, booked us into All Hallows Dublin (an echoing empty seminary with many photos of forbidding clerical groups lining the walls) and arranged a study day on the Saturday which was most successful. Papers had been prepared in advance of the meeting by Hein de Jong, Wim van der Velden of our Dutch member GOP [both texts available on the IFRCM website] and myself. Angela Hanley of Irish member LEAVEN made an excellent presentation entitled 'Renewed Ministry in the Church – David meets Goliath' [text available on the IFRCM website]. At that meeting the executive prepared a 'Draft Declaration on Renewing Catholic Ministry' which is available today and will be considered later in our meeting [yellow sheet].
3. The executive committee met the following year in Utrecht on 15 October 2010 when IFRCM members GOP and Marienburg organised a study day addressed by Professors Hermann Häring of Pforzheim ('The Torch of

Renewal') and Angela Berlis of Bern ('Catholic of Course'). My own opening remarks to that executive meeting outlined my own vision for IFRCM and is also available on the IFRCM website.

**Website:**

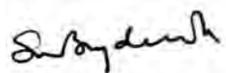
Through the good offices of Bill Manseau Joe Cece has been persuaded to redo the old NAF website completely, and this is now up and running. We are *extremely* grateful to him for his *excellent* work.  
([www.renewedcatholicministry.org](http://www.renewedcatholicministry.org))

**Membership:**

The IFRCM now has 10 member groups or associations in seven countries: Australia, Austria, Canada, Ireland, Holland, the UK and the USA. The Dutch organisation of married Catholic priests GOP has recently decided to withdraw from membership of IFRCM, although the Netherlands remains represented by Marienburg, (not present here today). We hope that FutureChurch, present as an observer here today, will also consider joining us. We need to consider how the IFRCM can expand and shall be discussing the criteria of membership which we feel should apply to those organisations seeking to join us. In particular we have an application from Bishop Bernard Kinisu and Bill Manseau will be enlightening us about his organisation. IFRCM wishes to be able to call itself a Roman Catholic organisation, in the face of some ecclesiastical disapproval if not worse, and this raises questions of definition and exclusivity. I look forward to our debate shortly.

**Constitutional Change:**

It has become evident that an international organisation has problems when it comes to arranging meetings of its executive committee or of its members. There is the difficulty of agreeing locations suitable for all and the question of cost. I am particularly sorry that we have no representative of our Dutch member nor of our Australian member. I am only here as I can kill two birds with one stone by also attending the American Catholic Council, but it has left me personally severely out of pocket. To confine elections therefore to only those candidates who attend a General Assembly is unfair and it for this reason that we are proposing a change to allow postal (i.e. e-mail) voting in future. We have tried it out this year and although it is this assembly that will be asked to ratify the decisions, we have been able to include more people in the process than we would have been able if we had just left proposals and voting to today.



Simon Bryden-Brook  
President  
International Federation for Renewed Catholic Ministry  
Monday 23 May 2011