



ZOOM MEETING HELD ON 10th FEBRUARY 2021 AT 7:30PM

CHAPTER 19 - "Strategy- Living as a Missionary Diocese"—Nuala Bambury

CONCLUSION – "Conclusion: Joining the Dance" – Alice De Lima

Contributions

Group 1

- The last chapter of the book was a good conclusion to the second book: Beyond the Parish.
- We observed and agreed that financial policies should not interfere with the running of the parish.
- The Bishop needs to support the priests in their leadership. Some priests live in total isolation, sadly also Bishops are sometimes isolated too! — They should all work as a team.
- The challenge is getting the right priest for the right parish - with all the skills they have, they must not be overloaded with different policies and work. The best priest needs help —Bishop and priests need coaching.
- The Holy Spirit comes and takes over in prayer, giving grace and alters our opinion of people. This is where transformation takes place—it TRANSFORMS one!! The transformed person finds freedom in the service of life and love.
- Your life is not about you — you are about life. It is about committing one's entire life to bringing about the Kingdom of God!
- The last chapter really resonated with its heading Joining the Dance!!
- A happy ending. The whole group has benefitted from ploughing through the two books and have been richly rewarded by what we have learnt from these evenings. We have made good friends, ready for our Mission ahead to bring the Good News, that we own, to others, showing them how much they are loved by our dear Lord! Also how special they are in joining the Dance with us!.



Group 2

- The Church has got to change to find ways to do things in a different way. The centre will be the Eucharist and the change must be guided by the experience of the Holy Spirit.
- Coaching Pastors. No one can pretend to have solutions to new situations and know exactly what to do on his own.
- The end result of Christian living is evangelization and mission. Sharing of financial resources becomes essential to support the mission.
- The holy dance we are invited to join is two-fold: the surrender to the experience of the Holy Spirit and the decision to evangelize.
- Fr James has succeeded to put things together in the last three chapters of the book. Dioceses need to support parishes.
- Formation in seminaries rarely contains training in leadership, essential for the priestly ministry.
- A priest newly appointed to a parish should be ready to be inserted into a formed team. It is the team that will be able to introduce the new priest into his ministry.
- The reading of the two books on Divine Revelation has made a big difference in our Church. We wished many others might have joined, however we are determined to share our insights with those who did not participate in the Study Group.

Group 3

- We recognised the need for the Diocese to work together with the parish, or to find a way to work together.
- It was remarkable, that with his full time appointment to the Divine Renovation Ministry, Fr Mallon now sees that he is being perceived as on the “other side”: but what a wonderful opportunity for parishes working with him, knowing that he understands where the challenges lie.



- Speaking of Bishops led us to wonder if it might be possible to see more of our Bishop, although we freely conceded that we had no idea about the wider responsibilities of his role and how time challenged he might be.
- We discussed the role of Bishops as individuals and whether the Church hierarchy was an obstacle to them in living their faith at its simplest. We referenced the Acts of the Apostles which discussed a group of disciples (led by St Stephan) who considered their role to be menial in looking after the others and did not consider that they should be individuals devoted to prayer and evangelisation. But they too proclaimed the word of God, not strictly adhering to their allotted tasks, so that no one should feel constrained in proclaiming Christ.
- In situations like some of the challenges arising from the work of the Divine Renovation Ministry, we asked what would St Peter do, what would St Paul do? although recognising that they lived in the earliest days of the Church where very little hierarchy existed.
- The need for the help of the Holy Spirit was discussed and all that He could to support us in this work, bringing as he does (among others) the gifts of wisdom, understanding and knowledge, which we all need to evangelise and proclaim the word of God.
- Where some expect that the Holy Spirit is all that is required to lead the way and frown on man-made structures such as strategic plans and tactics, we considered that it had to be a joint effort with the Holy Spirit working through us to meet the challenges of the Church on earth.
- The power of the Holy Spirit was again recognised in the transformation of St Peter who had feared for his life to the extent of denying Jesus, but who when filled with the Holy Spirit was fearless in his proclamation of Jesus, Son of God.
- The guidance of the Holy Spirit was key to our accepting our mission, in whatever was asked of us and we paused the discussion to pray for a member of the community who was very ill and was being supported from within the community.



- Returning to the role of Bishops in the Church and their actions as individuals, the heroic acts of Bishop Oscar Romero in El Salvador were discussed and how he had led an agenda of social justice and care for the poor, in the face of the then government; actions which had cost him his life.
- We enjoyed the analogy of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, constantly interacting with each other, akin to a dance, to which we are privileged to be invited to join in.

NEXT MEETING

24th February

7:30 p.m.

Laudato Si

Leaders:

Sr Mary Patricia Mulhall

Sarah Gardner Lobo