

Saint Michael the Archangel

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November 7, 2005

Rev. Tom Lumpkin
2640 Trumbull
Detroit, MI 48216

Dear Tom,

I write to you, on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Presbyteral Council, to respond to the letter you sent on behalf of a number of priests of the Archdiocese dated October 20, 2005. It is important for you and the priest signer's to know that we respond priest to priest with no intent to respond to any particular interest group.

The Executive committee appreciates the concerns enumerated in the document entitled "A Call Toward a More Healthy, Scripturally Based and Open Church", identified as "the Call" in your October 20th letter. We believe, however, that the Presbyteral Council is not the place for such a discussion. Certain issues are beyond the responsibility of a presbyteral council. Others, such as the underutilization of "ministerial gifts" of the baptized, belong more appropriately to the Vicars of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council. With regards to finances, please know that the Cardinal has been most open with the council when it comes to this subject.

We do, however, want to assure you and the priest signer's that the Presbyteral Council shares in the concern for our local Church. The concern has resulted in the development of the Total Pastoral Plan for Priests, which as you know came forth from the concerns, ideas and suggestion of the Detroit presbyterate during the 2003 Convocation. It is important for the presbyterate and our local Church that issues pertaining to priests raised in "the Call" be addressed from the context of the Total Pastoral Plan for Priests. The importance of this approach is that the plan needs to work in concert with the Vicar's and their task in the Together in Faith process.

Therefore, we propose the following. The Presbyteral Council, in its October meeting, created an ad hoc study committee that would review priest concerns identified in the Total Pastoral Plan, as well as, to listen to the concerns raised by members of the presbyterate. We offer that the concerns that have been listed by "the Call" be turned over to this ad hoc committee for study and review of its concerns in relationship to the Total Pastoral Plan for Priests. Those concerns that properly belong to the work of the council would then be assigned to one of the standing committees for review and possible development as a future addenda item.

Issues presented to the Council do not necessarily become agenda items. It is our hope, however, that this course of action provides a means by which some of the concerns of the priests' signer's can be addressed. Again, we encourage the priest signer's to familiarize themselves with the Total Pastoral Plan for Priests so that our discussions can be positive and unifying.

Finally, I thank you for your letter and it is my hope that lines of Communication will remain open.

Respectfully yours,

Bill

Rev. William H. Tindall

cc: Monsignor John Zenz, Moderator of the Curia
Monsignor Robert McClory, Chancellor
Monsignor Michael LeFevre, Office of Clergy Life
Rev. J.J. Mech
Rev. Sean Sylvester