

# **COUNCIL OF THE BAPTIZED ENDORSEMENT OF A PROGRAM FOR PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN SELECTION OF BISHOPS**

Proposal name: People's Participation in Selection of Bishops

Date Submitted: 3/22/12

Proposal Proponents: CCCR Leadership Selection Resource Team (LSRT). Members: are Rose Marie Assad, Ellen Boroughf, Patricia Klucas, Linda Napier, Judith Pryor, Paula Ruddy, Carol Tauer, Kathryn Warneke, and Jo Youngren.

Proposal Type: Program to be implemented by proponents

## **Summary of the proposal elements:**

Description: Program developing 1) educational events to raise consciousness on the value of having a voice in the selection of leadership and 2) a Task Force to gather the input of a broad spectrum of Archdiocesan Catholics on the qualities of leadership we need and some possible candidates for archbishop and bishops in the future to communicate to the papal nuncio.

Program purposes: to empower Catholics to participate in our local Church by making our spiritual needs known; to attempt to have a voice in the selection of our spiritual leadership

This program is to be implemented by the Leadership Selection Resource Team (LSRT) during the years 2012-2014.

LSRT shall conduct educational programming to raise awareness among the Catholics of the Archdiocese of the desirability of having a voice in the selection of leadership. The Council's endorsement and publication of a position paper will be the chief tools used in this educational phase of the program. LSRT shall publish profiles, interviews, and articles featuring possible candidates for bishop and archbishop by email and/or on a blog.

LSRT shall invite a Task Force to initiate the process of collecting data from people on their specific expectations of the person in the role of bishop/archbishop in this Archdiocese and their suggestions for candidates.

The Task Force shall consist of representatives of parishes, the ordained priesthood, the diaconate, men and women's religious orders, and organizations of Catholics at the diocesan level.

The Task Force shall determine the details of the process.

- to survey the Catholics of the Archdiocese on the most important needs and opportunities facing the Archdiocese, the desirable qualifications of the next bishop/archbishop, and the names of priests who, in their prayerful and considered judgment, would make excellent candidates for bishop; the survey can be conducted electronically at any time and in writing at deanery meetings
- to make known the bishops who are possible candidates for the position of archbishop
- to contact the leaders of Parish Councils or other parish organizations, priests, deacons, men and women religious, and lay associations
- to hold meetings in the 15 deaneries of the Archdiocese
- to collect data elicited and prepare reports
- to send the reports to the Papal Nuncio at his address in Washington D.C. and to interested persons in the Archdiocese
- to organize communication with the Papal Nuncio as appropriate

## **Timeline:**

**January to December, 2012:** LSRT shall conduct forums in each of the quadrants of the Archdiocese to familiarize the people with the history of bishop selection, the basis of authority in Vatican II and good management practices for people's participation in the selection of their leadership.

**June, 2012:** Publication of the Council of the Baptized position paper on Selection of Bishops and endorsement of the LSRT program for implementation.

The Council and LSRT shall send the published endorsement of this proposal to all priests, deacons, men and women religious, and lay organizations in the Archdiocese as well as to the Archbishop.

**January to December, 2013:** LSRT will form a Task Force of lay people, priests, deacons and men and women religious to design the process for consulting the people of the Archdiocese and formulating the questions they will be asked.

**January to December, 2014:** The Committee shall compile the data received and communicate with the Papal Nuncio

This process is adapted from "Consulting the Laity on Candidates for the Episcopacy," prepared for Voice of the Faithful by The Voices in Action Universal Church Reform Team, March 2010.