



Beacon of Hope . . . Light of Christ

Volume 2, Issue 2 For Catholics in the Fox Valley

April 2005

VISION: *Beacon of Hope - Light of Christ* is an intentional community of Catholics who are committed to living the commission and commandment of Jesus Christ through the progressive ideals of Vatican II.

**NOTHING is
Impossible with
GOD**

A Focus On..

- **BOH Needs YOU**
- **Organizational Survey**
- **The Church in our day**



1. Serving Those Who Are Injured - Provide Support for innocent Clergy and other Victims
2. Seeking Social Justice - Engage in efforts for Restorative Justice
3. Ongoing Spiritual Renewal - To Commit to the Spiritual Growth of our Members
4. Vatican II: Priesthood of the Baptized - To Effect Positive Change in the Catholic Church

BEACON OF HOPE NEEDS YOU!!

This is your chance to be heard. There will be a Voice of the Faithful (VOTF) Leadership meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana July 9-10th, 2005. Beacon of Hope-Light of Christ is asking you to be a representative at this meeting.

Are you concerned about the future of the Catholic Church and/or your future role as a member of the Catholic Church? Here is your opportunity to be a part of future change.

In existence about three years, VOTF's leadership gatherings overall focus includes: accountability for bishops, church finances, and the role of the laity. You will be requested to make decisions and speak on behalf of the Beacon of Hope. This gathering is for members and supporters to review past changes, brainstorm new and old ideas to put into action, and to discuss tools to put ideas into action when you come home.

Pray for the Lord's guidance. We would like to hear from anyone interested in attending this leadership meeting.

Please call Victoria Stock at 920-993-0855 or e-mail at vls2educ8u@msn.com.

ORGANIZATIONAL EVOLUTION

"The development of the organization occurs only to serve the expressed need for spiritual enrichment in the manner envisioned by the Vatican Council II reforms ..."

The community of believers referred to as Beacon of Hope – Light of Christ, guided by the Spirit of God, has moved from a cluster of concerned Catholics to a more focused group. Organized as a corporation in the State of Wisconsin, its stated purpose is to provide opportunities for spiritual enrichment for its members and the broader community, to preserve and promote the ideals, vision and direction of Vatican Council II and to support priests and other Catholic Church personnel.

Bylaws developed over the course of the last several months are awaiting final approval by those listed as directors [Mike Miller, Tom Wiltzius, Joe Uchtyl] on the original application for incorporation.

Once the bylaws have been accepted, a Board of Directors is formed and Officers chosen. The determination to seek tax exempt status as a non-profit organization will proceed guided by the results of the enclosed survey. Interest in the stated goals and purpose for Beacon of Hope – Light of Christ continues to touch the hearts and minds of people throughout the Fox Valley area, the state of Wisconsin and beyond. The development of the organization occurs only to serve the expressed need for spiritual enrichment in the manner envisioned by the Vatican Council II reforms which most people had come to accept as the pattern for their personal and communal living

Organizational Survey - March 2005

On February 13th, over 40 adults met to discuss recommendations for the establishment of an organization based on the input of Catholics who have been expressing concern with recent decisions and actions taken by officials of the Green Bay Catholic Diocese and the Catholics Church in the United States.

Based on their recommendations, the following survey is offered for the purposes of determining organizational viability, direction and scope. *Please respond by circling the number that most closely represents your opinion. Return completed survey to: Beacon of Hope, PO Box 2524, Appleton, WI 54912*

Organization – Vision and Mission Statements

1. VISION STATEMENT - *Beacon of Hope - Light of Christ* serves as an intentional community of Catholics who are committed to living the commission and commandment of Jesus Christ through the progressive ideals of Vatican II.

Disagree 1.....2.....3.....4.....5 Agree

MISSION STATEMENTS

1. Serving Those Who Are Injured – To provide support for innocent clergy and other victims.

Disagree 1.....2.....3.....4.....5 Agree

2. Seeking Social Justice – To engage in efforts of restorative justice.

Disagree 1.....2.....3.....4.....5 Agree

3. Ongoing Spiritual Renewal – To commit to the spiritual growth of our members.

Disagree 1.....2.....3.....4.....5 Agree

4. Vatican II: Priesthood of the Baptized – To effect positive change in the Catholic Church.

Disagree 1.....2.....3.....4.....5 Agree

Mission Statements and Activities

Serving Those Who Are Injured – To provide support for innocent clergy and other victims.

1. **Provide social support to Father John Zickert.**

Disagree 1.....2.....3.....4.....5 Agree

2. Provide financial support to Father John Zickert.

Disagree 1.....2.....3.....4.....5 Agree

3. Provide social and/or financial support to other innocents harmed by the church.

Disagree 1.....2.....3.....4.....5 Agree

(continued on reverse)

Seeking Social Justice – To engage in efforts of restorative justice.

1. **Establish *Beacon of Hope-Light of Christ* as a formal non-profit organization (501 c3).**

Disagree 1.....2.....3.....4.....5 Agree

2. Create segregated funds for designated purposes (support, administration, litigation).

Disagree 1.....2.....3.....4.....5 Agree

3. Hire an Executive Director of *Beacon of Hope-Light of Christ*.

Disagree 1.....2.....3.....4.....5 Agree

4. Acquire meeting place with office and phone.

Disagree 1.....2.....3.....4.....5 Agree

Ongoing Spiritual Renewal – To commit to the spiritual growth of our members.

1. Establish *Youth Activities Program* such as religious formation, bible studies, camping and fishing outings, mission trips, vacation bible school, music events, volunteer activities, and leadership opportunities.

Disagree 1.....2.....3.....4.....5 Agree

2. Establish adults programs and activities such as bible studies, book reviews, renew groups, mission trips, topic presentations, and family events.

Disagree 1.....2.....3.....4.....5 Agree

3. Create a special Christian on-line website community for kids.

Disagree 1.....2.....3.....4.....5 Agree

Vatican II: Priesthood of the Baptized – To effect positive change in the Catholic Church.

1. Conduct studies and presentations on Vatican II.

Disagree 1.....2.....3.....4.....5 Agree

2. Review differences between Canon Law and Civil Law and present information.

Disagree 1.....2.....3.....4.....5 Agree

3. Provide resources on other groups or organizations reviewing similar church issues.

Disagree 1.....2.....3.....4.....5 Agree

4. Provide reviews on books and publications of interest.

Disagree 1.....2.....3.....4.....5 Agree

THE CHURCH IN OUR DAY

A letter to the American Catholic community, under this title, was written by the American Bishops and dated January 21, 1968. It was an effort prepared in the light of the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church to help understand and accept the mystery of the Church, her nature and function. In this and subsequent articles, excerpts will be published to help today's Catholic perceive how the American bishops in 1968 reflected upon their experience at Vatican II.

“The Church of Christ is living today a privileged hour. ... We see not only the glory but also the burden of this privileged hour. We share the concern of all those who experience the promise and the concomitant uncertainties of this moment. Our deep love for the Church and her people makes us long to do more, yearn to serve better, wish that we had fewer limitations and were more like Jesus of Nazareth. ... We, your elder brothers in the Church ... are eager to share with you our thoughts on the Second Vatican Council and on this post-conciliar period. For you are with us ‘a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation’ ...”

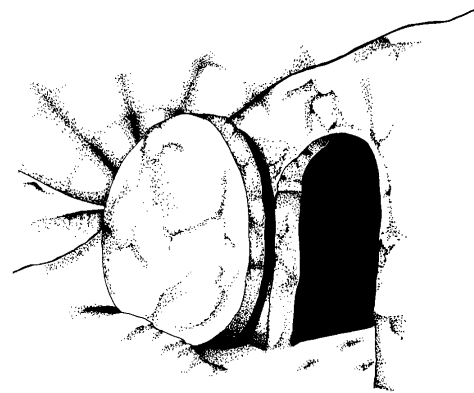
“The experience of the Second

Vatican Council has given us Catholics in the United States, as it has given the whole Church of God, a fresh outlook and new horizons. *The Council may prove to have been the most productive and far-reaching of all the Church's Ecumenical Councils.* The openness of our deliberations helped us to see with new clarity all the freedoms in which God has created us and by which Jesus Christ has set us free. We saw in the pursuit of our common hopes how the Church learns as she teaches, rules as she serves, receives as she gives. *We heard in the Council the call of the future, a future which shall be no less responsive to God's redeeming power and truth than were the best and holiest moments of the Church's past.* We sensed in the Council not only the great deeds the Church has done ... but also the many things yet to be endured, undertaken and accomplished.”

“The Council gave us increased consciousness of our responsibilities as custodians of a Tradition whose sacred richness demands that we be vigilant; *it made us no less conscious of our duties as heralds of a future wherein that Tradition will reveal its capacity for new glory.* As the years of the Council progressed, we became more aware of the

magnitude of the agony and the loftiness of the aspirations which identify this mighty century. We experienced anew our need to carry the cross of the human condition, to trust more deeply in the never failing presence of the Spirit, to affirm hope even when many would counsel despair, and to await, in all our distress, the fulfillment of Christ's Easter promise.”

[The Church in our Day, Approved by the Catholic Bishops of the United States at their meeting in Washington, DC, November, 1967 for publication January 21, 1968, *Introductory Statement*, pp 7,8,9, emphasis added]





Pope John Paul II A Light for the World

by John Thavis, Rome Bureau Chief, Catholic News Service

1920-2005

***To Catholics, he is universal shepherd.
To world leaders, he can bring moral support or stinging criticism.
Non-Christians around the globe have welcomed him as a holy guest.
Poor nations consider him their advocate in the halls of power.
And for nearly everyone, he's been a voice of conscience on issues
like war, abortion and the death penalty.***

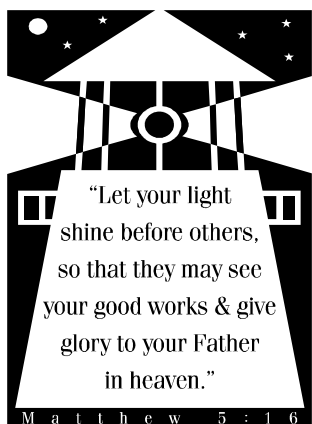
Disclaimer: The *Beacon of Hope...Light of Christ* is the official newsletter of the Steering Committee for Social Justice and Reform in the Catholic Church as part of the Beacon of Hope.. Light of Christ. Any opinions expressed in the newsletter are those of the authors. *Beacon of Hope... Light of Christ* operates independently and is not approved by the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay or its parishes.

Beacon of Hope... Light of Christ Staff: Tom Wiltzius, Joe Uchtyl

Beacon of Hope . . . Light of Christ
P.O. Box 2524
Appleton, WI 54912

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

APRIL



Matthew 5:16