



2019 Union of Scranton Convocation For Restoration and Renewal of the Undivided Church Through a renewed Catholicity

What brings us together?

Following our initial Convocation in Dublin, Ireland in March of 2018, leaders from the Polish National Catholic Church, the Nordic Catholic Church, Federation of Anglican Churches in America, Anglican Province of America, Missionary Diocese of All Saints, Anglican Church in America, Traditional Anglican Church, Anglican Catholic Church of Canada, Anglican Union along with observers from ecclesial bodies in Sweden and Canada met again in Scranton Pennsylvania at Saint Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Cathedral from 24th to 26th April, drawn by a common urgency to present the message of God's liberating grace and hope for this world as expressed through the historic catholic faith.

The leaders present declared in their time of prayer, study and dialogue that they share the conviction that the Holy Spirit has brought these leaders together following as agreed in the statement of the **2018 Dublin Convocation Statement on Missional and Ecclesial Fellowship** which states that: *we are called "to seek ecumenical catholicity, the fellowship in Christ we share and the Standards of Faith that we each cherish and safeguard among us, we pledge....*

- 1) Mutual Participation in Synods and Conferences where possible*
- 2) Mutual dialogue, study and implementation of common missional objectives*
- 3) Exploring possibilities of ministry partnerships where possible.*
- 4) To foster growing fellowship and commitment to find a path for a renewed ecclesial community based in principles of ecumenical catholicity*

In these pledges, we jointly established working groups on catholic identity and sacramental expression of that identity. We rejoice in receiving recommendations from those two working groups which have challenged us to consider fresh and new ways in which our fellowship can with trust and confidence work together in realizing a closer fellowship leading to the full visible unity of the Church and to make manifest the growth in communion which we are committed to.

What took place?

Experiencing a deep sense of our commonality in the time we have spent together we received testimony from Rev. Geoffrey Neal, Vicar General on the ecclesiastical experience of the oratories in England becoming part of the Union of Scranton through the ministry and oversight of Bishop Roald Flemestad of the Nordic Catholic Church.

Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky further affirmed the praxis of this experience in his discourse on the practical ecclesiological principles for application in the forming of the Union of Scranton.

Both of these presentations were followed up by three response groups who agreed in principle that the review of how the Union of Scranton has been lived into in practice offered some fresh

perspectives of seeing one another and offers the potential for a new dynamic in our inter-relationships, helping us to find undiscovered fruit in what has already been done before. This will enable us to address fully the various questions among us requiring additional clarification on matters such as Holy Orders, Jurisdictional transfers and polity.

We have found that the method of discussion focused on seeking a consensus proves to be a fruitful means of overcoming misunderstandings both in Dublin and again in our gathering in Scranton.

It is a conciliar model that we seek to embrace to deal with past, present and future complexities. Respecting differing perspectives, we hope to arrive at models for a new expression of catholic communion.

What we seek together

Our churches face similar challenges in communicating the Gospel in an increasingly hostile secular world where the catholic faith is increasingly marginalized. There is a challenge for us who have received the faith once delivered to the saints to witness to God's profound grace in a pattern of unity that is rarely seen in church traditions.

Our proclamation of the faith, our traditions and teachings need to be communicated in a way which better reaches people today while safeguarding the eternal truths without compromise. Such an effort requires careful cooperation, study, dialogue and application, which we are committed to in this coming year to lay the foundation for an emerging conciliar catholicity for the 21st Century.

As we prayed together during these days, it became clear for the need to go forward affirming our common biblical, sacramental, creedal and ecclesial heritage, seeking pathways for a more visible common witness in worship and service in our journeying together.

Next Steps

We will continue to collaborate with the working groups to continue the momentum generated by our gatherings to move toward a common life and a common catholic witness. We shall gather again in Convocation to consider the reports of the working groups and how to best implement the recommendations.

Conclusion

We thank God for the opportunity to experience this holy fellowship. We are grateful for the generous hospitality offered to us by the PNCC during our time in Scranton which has enabled us to move forward together on our journey, inspired and energized to bring renewed ecumenical catholic witness to the world. May the Holy Spirit bring to completion the work God has begun.

Convocation Prayer

Gracious Father, we humbly beseech Thee for Thy Holy Catholic Church;
fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace.

Where it is corrupt, purge it; where it is in error, direct it,
where it is superstitious, rectify it; where anything is amiss, reform it;
where it is right, strengthen and confirm it; where it is in want, furnish it;
where it is divided and rent asunder, make up the breaches of it,
O thou Holy One of Israel, for the sake of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.