



March 24, 2010

His Eminence
Tarcisio Cardinal Bertone
Secretary of State
Vatican City

Dear Cardinal Bertone:

On behalf of Voice of the Faithful, I have written to the Holy Father requesting him to require the formal participation of lay men and women in the Episcopal recommendation processes held at archdiocesan and diocesan levels, preliminary to the Pope's appointment of new bishops. In support of this request, I enclosed a document entitled "Consulting the Laity on Candidates for the Episcopacy."

For your information, I am enclosing a copy of my letter to Pope Benedict and the accompanying document. Upon reviewing them, I hope you will find that our request is indeed constructive and merits serious consideration by the Holy See, particularly in this hour of crisis in the Church. The restoration of a substantive role for lay men and women in recommending candidates for the Episcopacy at this moment would be hailed by many Catholics and others as a step that may effectively counter the current crisis over time.

Cardinal Bertone, may I ask you to support and foster this important request with the Holy Father and other officials of the Holy See? Be assured that Voice of the Faithful presents this request to the Pope prayerfully, asking the Holy Spirit to guide him and his associates in the Holy See in their careful consideration of this noble cause.

Sincerely in Christ,

Daniel Bartley
President