



March 24, 2010

His Eminence
Francis Cardinal George
The Pastoral Center
Box 1979
Chicago, IL 60690

Dear Cardinal George:

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 constructive and merits every 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 crucial step that may effectively counter the crisis over time.

Cardinal George, may I ask you to support and foster this important request with the Holy Father, officials of the Holy See, and with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), of which you serve as President? The favorable recommendation of the USCCB would surely carry much weight with the Holy See and be a service to the Holy Father. 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