

WEDNESDAY 12 MAY 2004 AT 2.00pm

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY PRESENTATION

Closing statement by

**The Rt Rev Ken Good
Bishop of Derry and Raphoe**

who takes up the Chairmanship of the
Commission on Ministry following the General Synod 2004

The Commission on Ministry is involving us all in a process rather than an event. It's about a journey more than a destination.

Our dioceses are different. They are all at different stages and are all moving at different paces, so the Commission has been a means of getting us all to grapple with the issues together, to come to a fresh understanding together and to move forward together. For some the pace has been too fast, for others it has been too slow.

I have detected a significant culture change in the general understanding of ministry since the Commission on Ministry began its work eight years ago.

In every diocese, ordained ministry is now seen much more in the context of the ministry of the whole church. A collaborative approach to ministry is now increasingly taken for granted as the way things must be done. There is an appetite for fresh approaches, an awareness of the need for sensible experimentation in ministry projects. I regard all of these as important advances.

There has been a gradual but significant change of mindset, in the development of which the Commission on Ministry has played a valuable role.

However, Michel Quoist once warned that, 'Tomorrow God isn't going to ask what did you dream, what did you think, what did you plan, what did you preach? He's going to ask, "What did you do?"'

It is my sense that the Commission in its next phase of work must use all of the reflection that has taken place and all of the useful information that has been gained to formulate some strategic prioritizing and focussed planning that will result in further changes 'on the ground'.

I remind the Synod, as I remind myself often, that, 'People will not remember how long it took you to do something. But they will remember how well you have done it.'