



**November 26, 2002 - Statement of Donna M. Morrissey, Spokeswoman, Archdiocese of Boston**

Cardinal Law met this morning with four persons in leadership roles in Voice of the Faithful. This meeting was preceded by several sessions involving leadership of the Voice of the Faithful and representatives of the Archdiocese of Boston led by Bishop Walter Edyvean, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia. That dialogue will continue.

The purpose of the meeting this morning, from the perspective of Cardinal Law, was to obtain greater clarity on how Voice of the Faithful, as an organization, sees itself in relationship to the Church and how it would hope to be seen and recognized by the Church.

Within this Archdiocese, the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, and within parishes, the parish pastoral councils, are the normal channels for ongoing pastoral planning involving the lay faithful. The Archdiocesan Finance Council and parish finance councils have specific responsibilities delineated in canon law. Thousands of laypersons are effectively involved in many different ways in the life of the Church in this Archdiocese.

While the emergence of new groups is a constant in the history of the Church, a proper discernment must always take place to ensure their compatibility with the faith, discipline and mission of the Church. Today's meeting was a step in that discernment concerning the Voice of the Faithful on the part of the Archbishop.

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