

# Lessons for a Bishop

Murphy admits mistakes, promises reform

(Newsday, June 3, 2007, page 20)

***"I wish that I had spent more time listening to some of the people, including some of the Voice of the Faithful, back in 2003".***

(Bishop William Murphy)

---

(June 22, 2007)

***Long Island Voice of the Faithful Co-Chairs  
write to Bishop Murphy, hoping for face-to-face dialogue***

Bishop William Murphy  
Diocese of Rockville Centre  
50 North Park Avenue  
Rockville Centre, NY 11570

June 22, 2007

The Most Reverend William Murphy:

We are encouraged by your recent remarks regarding your second thoughts about your failure to listen to "some of the people, including some of the Voice of the Faithful, back in 2003." We also wish we had had the opportunity to speak to you. We believe we could have helped then and are convinced that the case for cooperation between us is stronger now than ever.

In the past, attempts to open dialogue between LI VOTF and you, Bishop Murphy, have been thwarted by pre-conditions and by requiring pre-meetings between your representatives and LI VOTF's representatives prior to a face-to-face dialogue with you, our Bishop. The net result has been to prolong the unnecessary impasse.

We know that you, Bishop Murphy and the membership of LI VOTF share an abiding love for our one, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church and believe we can and must build on that "common ground". We will make ourselves available for such a meeting with you at your convenience with no pre-conditions except mutual respect. We prayerfully await your reply.

Sincerely yours,

Peggy O'Neill and Philip Megna  
Co-Chairs - LIVOTF

cc: Most Reverend Pietro Sambo, Papal Nuncio

(August 7, 2007)

***...Forty seven days later, Co-chairs write again...***

Bishop William Murphy  
Diocese of Rockville Centre  
50 North Park Avenue  
Rockville Centre, NY 11570

August 7, 2007

The Most Reverend William Murphy:

On June 22, 2007, we wrote you in response to your remarks in Newsday regarding your failure to listen to “some of the Voice of the Faithful back in 2003.” You attributed your failure to your “trying to build up something that was just so vast and was coming at me from every single angle. I was doing the best I could, but I’m a limited person.” Bishop, your words in Newsday encouraged us to believe that we could work together constructively for the good of God’s people in our diocese and in the church as a whole. Consequently, we wrote the above-referenced letter, a copy of which is attached hereto.

To date, forty-seven (47) days have passed and we have yet to receive any response. Bishop, as noted in our first letter, we remain eager to meet with you at your convenience with no pre-conditions, except mutual respect. Unfortunately, the long wait for a response is forcing us to consider the possibility that your words in Newsday were empty posturing designed to improve your public image. We hope you prove us wrong in this judgment and request that your reply to this letter within ten days of receipt, thereby enabling us to solidify our schedules.

We continue to pray for your positive response.

Sincerely yours,

Peggy O’Neill and Philip Megna  
Co-Chairs - LIVOTF

cc: Most Reverend Pietro Sambì, Papal Nuncio

---

(August 31, 2007)

***...Twenty four days later...***