TRIBUTE TO TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Twenty-five years can be considered a long time, as it generally constitutes three quarters of one’s live or as someone said recently, twenty-five years is gone in a blink of an eye! I wonder what Mark Bromley would say. Mark has been with the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat for twenty five years today, November 7th.

Mark has had a number of roles within that time starting as Diocesan Accountant, with Jim Ryan as Diocesan Business Manager. In the mid 1990’s Mark kept the role of Diocesan Accountant as well as taking up the role of Manager for the Catholic Development Fund. Since August 2006, Mark has been Diocesan Business Manager as well as Manager for the CDF.

Mark has been a long-time advocate for the clergy, assisting with the instigation of many benefits and schemes for the clergy. The clergy car scheme has been particularly successful. Mark is also very passionate to ensure that sick and retired clergy are well catered for. He has been a forerunner with options for priests in regards to parish and diocesan business.

In his role as Diocesan Business Manager Mark sits on a number of boards/commissions which includes Bishop’s Advisory Council, Diocesan Finance Committee, Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Foundation, Diocesan Building Commission and Diocesan Risk Management. Mark brings many skills and sound advice to these important functions of the Diocese. Mark’s efficient leadership and management in all areas of the Diocese is to be commended.

All of us in the Diocese extend our thanks to Mark for his service and tireless work and we wish him every blessing in his continued ministry. A small morning tea was held this morning in honour of Mark. Fr Justin Driscoll spoke a few words for this occasion:

Mark, we all want to say thanks –and there are so few of you who have been here for such length of service, that you have become one of those who carry the story and are the keepers of the memory.

In 1988 Mark came to work for Jim Ryan who was the first finance manager for the Diocese, Catholic Education and Aquinas. Jim smoked continuously but I don’t think that’s why Mark got the job working with him, although the workplace health and safety issues wouldn’t have worried him. In fact I thought about the three finance administrators Mark has worked with, Jim, Tony Godfrey and Paul Jans and then it occurred to me that there have been three bishops he’s worked for as well—Bishop Mulkearns, Bishop Peter and now Bishop Paul as well as with three Directors of Catholic Education, Therese Power RSM, Larry Burn and now Audrey, to say nothing of three Pope’s, John Paul II, Benedict and now Francis!

I know that those in parishes who work in administration and finance really appreciate the support that Mark provides them. The CDF is really one of the great success stories of the Diocese and Mark’s management of the fund has contributed enormously to that. His care of staff here in the finance office and knowledge of people and places throughout the Diocese is phenomenal. I’d also like to acknowledge his care for and support for our priests, particularly the senior priests and those in retirement. Mark goes way beyond the call of duty to ensure that they have what they need to live comfortably and well.

This past year as I’ve worked with Mark much more I’ve seen much greater depth, compassion, worry, concern, foresight and faith than I’d noticed before and I know that being the financial administrator in the Diocese of Ballarat is not an easy one and that his job description seems to have become more focused on ‘other duties as required.’

Because it’s the spring carnival and blokes day today I mused as to what Mark’s form would be and I thought it could say:

A talented stayer suited to distance events who has been in the same stable for many years. Relishes the tough going, and is suited to heavy conditions, though known to cause an upset from time to time and needs pacifiers. Handles himself well on big occasions and never turns in a bad race. Thanks Mark.