

The Second Synod of Bridgeport held in 1971 under the auspices of Bishop Walter W. Curtis enacted the following under the heading Choosing Bishops and Pastors (page 13):

26. The bishops of the Church, in a very special way, carry the hopes and expectations of the Catholic people. They bear a unique responsibility for leading the faithful in the Lord's saving mission among men. Understandably, therefore, history reveals a constant solicitude among Christians with respect to the process of selecting bishops. It is clear that the authority of the bishop derives directly from Christ. Nevertheless, the basic Christian principles of co-responsibility, the dignity and freedom of persons, and the rights of Christians have traditionally dictated broad participation in the process of selecting bishops.

1) With this in mind, the Diocese of Bridgeport will work to develop means whereby priests and laity may have a voice in nominations for the Episcopal Office.

Canon Law (Canon 377.1-5) stipulates that the papal nuncio in Washington may seek suggestions for possible candidates for the episcopacy from the diocesan clergy and from lay persons "of outstanding wisdom." Therefore, please think about priests whom you believe would be worthy of this great office. If you wish to nominate one or more please do so and explain your reasons.