

**Clarification from Diocese of Limerick on matters raised on RTE Radio One's
Drivetime, 17th December 2009**

Further to matters raised on Drivetime, a Limerick Diocese spokesperson has today, 17th December 2009 said: "Issue has been taken with the fact that Bishop Murray did not announce his intention to resign when interviewed by the Limerick Leader on Tuesday, December 1st, despite having, in the previous hour, discussed at a meeting with the Vicars General of the Diocese his intention to offer his resignation. This meeting with the Vicars General was adjourned to enable the interview with the Limerick Leader to be conducted and resumed immediately afterwards.

"Bishop Murray was not in a position to confirm anything in that interview of his intention to resign, nor was it within his gift to do so as it would be in breach of the process involved in submitting ones resignation as a Bishop.

"In his meeting with the Vicars General it was agreed that because the process of listening was underway that the Vicars General would gather the Leaders of the Pastoral Areas to ascertain what progress had been made. It was also agreed that the Bishop would considered the matter overnight, before discussing his intention with the Apostolic Nuncio the following day.

"The process of offering a Bishop's resignation to the Pope begins with the bishop notifying the Apostolic Nuncio of this intention. The Apostolic Nuncio then informs the Congregation for Bishops which in turn brings the matter to the Pope. The resignation of a Bishop does not take effect until it is;

- Accepted by the Pope
- Announced by the Holy See in Rome"