



Archdiocesan Pastoral Council Meeting Summary 9 November 2019

➤ **Registration**

A record attendance by representatives from most parishes around the archdiocese and many priests, religious and deacons made an effort to attend which was very encouraging

➤ **Opening Prayer, Introduction (Archbishop), Welcome (Luzuko)**

Archbishop Brislin opened the meeting with Morning Prayer

The Archbishop then proceeded to introduce the lay members of the APC executive: Luzuko Tseku – Chairperson; Bernadette Ross - Vice chairperson and Brandon Paulse - Secretary. The Archbishop explained that a 4th member was elected, but because he was not the chairperson of his parish council at the time, he was not eligible to serve on the APC executive.

The two priest members of the APC executive are Fr Siyabonga Dube OMI and Fr Wim Lindeque.

The archbishop reminded all present that all PPCs must adopt the Archdiocese Child Safeguarding Policy and that someone must be the Child Safeguarding Officer on the PPC

Luzuko also said a few words of welcome

➤ **Workshop on Ministry of Parish Pastoral Councils (Bp Sylvester)**

This is just a summary of Bishop Sylvester presentation. The actual presentation will be shared with PPCs, and can be used but the source, i.e., Bp Sylvester must be acknowledged.

Bishop Sylvester started by saying - If Christ is the head, we are the Body
What joins the head and body? The neck, usually synonymous with life
Neck in universal church is Pope Francis
in church the neck is the parish priest
In the Archdiocese, it is the Archbishop

The PPC must assist the parish priest

Entertainment not the point of being on PPC

Bp Sylvester explained this point by example of using the Liturgy. Priest must be trusted around Liturgy as he is the expert.

Collaborative ministry - To work with (Latin root)

Formation for APC - Move to something greater than what I am

- Jesus called for servant leadership
- **PRAYER IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF PPC MEETINGS**
- **SOME REFLECTIONS POINTS FOR PPCS:**
- Why do we gather as a PPC??
- Learn to ask the right questions – (is it right or wrong)
- Not what's in it for me ...
- One body One vision ... cannot have own agendas
- Gospel must purify us and lead our motives
- Move from superficial to discover the truth that God intended
- I need to be okay with myself to be okay with others (gossip as an example) – why are you telling me this... build them up don't break down – Matthew chapter 18
- Serving on PPC starts with me ...
- Drop the trivial and become serious
- Primary symbol of our faith – YOU and I
- Re-read the meaning of our lives in the light of the Christ event
- Important to do reflective exercises
- Story of good Samaritan - good example of how to be a good neighbour
- **THE KEY QUESTION: AND THE RIGHT QUESTION**
- Adapted from the Kennedy quote: – ask not what the community can do for you but why I can do for the community
- Our model is Jesus with the apostles
- **SOME OBSERVATIONS**
- Service is non-negotiable
- It is not optional
- Cannot be a Christian without being open to the reality of serving others
- Being on PPC is therefore an opportunity to deepen Christian life
- APC elected at the direction of the Archbishop of Cape Town
- Process must be done in collaboration with Parish Priest and the laity
- **SERVICE**
- 1980's church a community serving humanity
- Collaborative ministry
- 2 types of ministries in the Church
 - Ordained
 - Non-ordained or lay ministry
- Various types of ministries in Church
- Altar servers
- PPC
- Extra-Ordinary Ministers of the Holy Communion
- Ushers
- Ministers of the Word
- **THE PPC MUST -**

- Engage in mission of the church
- Lay ministry under leadership of Parish Priest
- PPC comprises – priest, clergy, elected ministers
must elect chairperson – the qualities of chairperson must include being humble; willing to serve and lead by example; not overwhelming or overbearing
- The Chairperson not the chairperson of the whole parish
- He/she is Chair of small Christian parish community
- can't have legitimate meeting of PPC without the Priest /Parish Priest
- Chair sets up agenda in conjunction with Parish priest
- Vice chair – step in when chair indisposed
- Secretary – circulates agenda; keeps record of events; keeps parish calendar; contact person for PPC
- PPC is a consultative body
Canon Law 127 – parish priest must abide with decisions and accept at PPC if unanimous unless destructive to the greater pastoral community
- Discussions at PPC strictly confidential
- Only parish priests with his representative can send out information
- Parish Priest is the specialist on church matters; i.e. Liturgy – trust him
- No such thing as perfect husband, wife, child, etc so no such thing as the perfect priest ...

- **WHAT IS MINISTRY?**

- A privileged means of encounter with Christ
- When we deal with the mission of Christ we have the possibility of deeper relationship with Christ

- **WHAT BLOCKS AUTHENTIC MINISTRY?**
- My own agenda
- Pleasing some groups but not others
- Being unnecessarily and overtly sensitive
- Wanting my own way and not working for the good and benefit of the whole group/church
- Power broking

Luzuko warmly thanked Bp Sylvester for the very insightful and meaningful presentation

Luzuko, reiterated – one body one vision – we are called to serve and not to be served

- The Bishop Sylvester's presentation will also be made available via mp4 video. Parishes can send a memory stick to and request to receive it from Joan Armstrong at the Centre for Pastoral Development at the Chancery in Cape Town

➤ **CPD/Liturgy Commission on plans for 2020, esp. Year of the Bible, Eucharistic Congress**

- Joan Armstrong the head of the Centre for Pastoral Development (CPD) at the chancery mentioned the following:
- Bible Society 200 years – Will celebrate the Year of the Word of God
- The International Eucharistic Congress will take place in Budapest, Hungary in August 2020
- The Archdiocese will have a Eucharistic Procession on the 3rd Sunday of Easter - 26 April 2020
- Should you require more info please contact Joan Armstrong

Some points and issues, response to questions (Archbishop)

- The Archbishop told plenary that Joan is a co-opted member of the APC executive:
- There was only one written question for the Archbishop to respond to
Question – does the archdiocese conduct deaconate training? – Mgr. Borello was presented and responded to the question - Theology course – runs for everyone male and female –
Mgr. explained the process for deaconate - who is suitable candidate – who is not – meeting with family members, wife of candidate – a Panel involved – then Bishop Sylvester and Archbishop Brislin – unfortunately no guarantee of ordination
- The Archbishop proceeded to thank Bishop Sylvester for his presentation and highlighted the following:
 - The PPC needs to be a place of prayer
 - Use scripture not just the Our Father or quick prayer – reflect on scripture as a starting point when opening the meeting
 - PPC is a Small Christian community
 - **The CSP** - The Parish Council Representative never gets involved in a case or investigates cases... he/she only does the administrative tasks associated with the role
 - Pastoral care of migrants and refugees very important
 - It was agreed that the Office for Refugees and Migrants should be at the Chancery - (new migrants and refugee desk)
 - Someone on PPC takes responsibility for refugees and migrants – welcomes and integrates them into parish community – liaise with desk at chancery
 - CWD plight – new social outreach arm needed in diocese
 - Caritas Cape Town – establish constitution in accordance with international statutes
 - Parishes asked to take on role of social outreach
 - Caritas will coordinate at diocese and bring people together
 - The Archbishop pleaded with PPC chairs to help him with getting this going
 - CWD worked at the time – but we can't follow existing model again

