

ARCHDIOCESE OF CAPE TOWN

Input for new APC
... collaborative ministry

Formation for APC



- ▣ Jn 15:16-18. You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; so that the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. My command to you is to love one another. If the world hates you, you must realise that it hated me before it hated you.

Let us pray

God our Father,
you send the power of the Gospel into the world
as a life-giving leaven.
Fill with the Spirit of Christ
your sons and daughters
whom you call to minister
to the world with all its concerns;
help them by their work on earth
to build up your eternal kingdom.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.
Amen.

(adapted from The Roman Missal)

Okay now for some reflection

- ▣ Why do you think we gather like this? During our very busy lives we take some time for reflection. Why do we do this?
- ▣ I think it is good to periodically remind ourselves of the reasons we have for doing the things we do.
- ▣ Introduction & ample introduction.

Reasons for doing reflective exercises:

- ▣ We do this kind of exercise firstly **to gain possession of ourselves**. The opposite of this is to be dispersed, to be scattered, and to be without cohesion. To see things together as a group.
- ▣ To **learn to ask the right questions**:
 - ▣ Not so much whether it is safe or unsafe, but whether it is right or wrong?
 - ▣ Not so much what's in it for me but how can I contribute in making my community a Christ-centred community?
- ▣ To recollect means **to gather in, to draw in and to understand the deeper significance of our being here**. It is a time to **allow the Gospel to interrogate us and purify our motives**. We must remember that the call to serve comes from the Gospel.

- ▣ It is a time to **move from the superficial to the Truth**. It is a time to **discover the truth**. He said **I am the Truth**. We have to discover the truth the way God intended it and not the way clever people invented it. I have to **discover the truth about myself**.
- ▣ It is only when I am okay with myself that I can be okay with others. **Serving as a PPC member starts with me**. [story of the neighbour's washing]

- ▣ It is a time to **drop the trivial and become serious.** That is why we gather in a faith context, around the cross and other symbols of our faith. These central symbols invite us into the mystery of who we are and whose we are.
- ▣ Our reflection **is not an escape from the outside world.** It exists in dialogue with the world. It is not an escape from life. It is, in fact, an **intensification of life.**
- ▣ We do our reflection exercises to **rescue ourselves from the influences of the endless liturgy of TV commercials and soap operas.** That means that we have to resist the temptation to become TV commercials ourselves.

- ▣ In the final analysis we gather here **to re-read the meaning of our lives in the light of the Christ event.** In fact we have to re-read all our concepts in the light of the Christ event because if our lives do not become “CHRIST-ED” then we sound like empty gongs.
- ▣ Very often we do things routinely and then their real significance gets lost in a maze of facts and issues.

Input on Context:

- ▣ Rev 7:9-10 “After that I saw that there was a huge number, impossible for anyone to count, of **people from every nation, race, tribe and language**; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted in a loud voice, 'Salvation to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'”

Remember the “right question”?

- The Key question: (*Example of Kennedy*) – Not what community can do for me but what I can do for the community? This means that I have to resist the temptation to seek my own glory.
- I have to help my brothers and sisters to become more fully the persons they have been called to be – otherwise it is the Cain and Able story all over again.
- **Our model is Jesus with the apostles.**

Some observations

- ▣ Service is non-negotiable.
- ▣ It is not optional.
- ▣ I cannot be a Christian without being open to the reality of serving others.
- ▣ Being on the PPC is therefore a wonderful opportunity for me to deepen my Christian life.

Some important observations

- ▣ It must be noted that this new APC has been elected at the direction of the Archbishop of Cape Town.
- ▣ The process of election has been done in collaboration with Parish Priests and the Laity
- ▣ This process also allows for widespread collaboration and as such is truly the Church at work.

SERVICE

- ▣ In the Archdiocese we have long adopted the model of collaborative ministry.
 - What is collaborative ministry?
- ▣ There are two types of service/ministry in the Church:
 - Ordained ministry
 - Lay nor non-ordained ministry
- ▣ There are various types of lay ministry:
 - Assistant ministers of the Eucharist
 - Visitors of the sick
 - Altar servers
 - Ushers
 - Several others, ... and
 - Parish Pastoral Counsellors

PPC

- ▣ To be on the PPC is to engage in the mission of the Church
- ▣ It is a lay ministry under the leadership of the Parish Priest
- ▣ The PPC comprises:
 - The Parish Priest
 - The Parish Clergy
 - Lay Collaborators

Office bearers of the PPC

- ▣ The lay collaborators elect a chairperson with suitable qualities. What are these qualities:
 - Humility
 - Not overwhelming nor overbearing
 - Willing to serve and to lead by example.
- ▣ The Chairperson:
 - Is the Chairperson of a small Christian community called the PPC
 - S/He is NOT the chairperson of the entire parish
 - Is a facilitator and an enabler
 - While the chairperson facilitates the meetings, the Parish Priest presides. In fact there can be not a legitimate meeting of the PPC without the Parish Priest's presence

Office bearers of the PPC

- ▣ The chairperson compiles the agenda in discussion with the Parish Priest.
- ▣ Another office bearer is a vice Chairperson who acts on behalf of the Chairperson when the latter is indisposed.
- ▣ Yet another office bearer is the secretary who will:
 - Type out the minutes and circulate these once the Chairperson and/or the Parish Priest approves of these.
 - Keep a record of all correspondence
 - Keep a calendar of all Parish events
 - Type and send out the agenda for meetings after the Chairperson has got the clearance of the Parish Priest.
 - Be the contact person for the group

The PPC

- ▣ It must be borne in mind that the PPC is a consultative body
- ▣ In the normal course of events, decisions taken at PPC level are adhered to, but there are times when for pastoral reasons, the discretion of the Parish Priest has to prevail. These are by far the exception rather than the rule. Often in such cases because of priestly confidentiality, the Parish Priest cannot disclose the reasons. In such cases the PPC will have to accept the situation in trust.
- ▣ It must be borne in mind that all discussions at PPC meetings are strictly CONFIDENTIAL. It is the sole responsibility of the Parish Priest and/or his delegate to release information.
- ▣ “... let your words be for the improvement of others, as occasion offers, and do good to your listeners; do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God who has marked you with his seal (Eph. 4:29-30)

The PPC

- ▣ It must be borne in mind that the Parish Priest is a specialist. He has been formed and trained and knows how the Church operates.
- ▣ He will know what is liturgical and what is not. Sometimes people get offended because the liturgy is not entertaining enough. Liturgy is not for entertainment – it is for worship and demands full participation. In Liturgy there are only participants, not spectators.
- ▣ Often it is possible to have lively hymns, etc., but there are also cases when a more sombre attitude is called for. The Parish Priest will offer guidance in these matters.

Okay let's take a small break !!



Any questions ??

Okay we need to move on to the final aspect of our programme

Ministry

- ▣ What is ministry?
 - A privileged means of encounter with Christ.
- ▣ What blocks authentic ministry?
 - There are many reasons. Here are a few:
 - ▣ Wanting my own agenda and not God's will
 - ▣ Wanting to please people and select groups
 - ▣ Being unnecessarily and overly sensitive
 - ▣ Always wanting my own way i.e. not working for the good and the benefit of the whole group
 - ▣ Power broking

That's all folks. Smile

**Thank you
for having attended
and for your
participation.
We hope you found
it meaningful. Safe
trip home.**



Drive safely

