

On 5 November the newly elected PPC Chairs of our Archdiocese gathered at St Anthony's Parish in Langa. The meeting started with a beautiful reflection on servant leadership and our mission as leaders in the church. Archbishop Stephen Brislin gave an address on the responses from the first phase of the Synod on Synodality which was then also released on our website. This set the tone for a morning of renewal and inspiration as key focus areas were discussed including the new PPC structure, the upcoming Parish Alive Training, Caritas initiatives, the importance of empowering Youth as well as child safe guarding within our parishes. A significant measuring tool was also presented by Brandon Abrahams through the use of parish surveys.

## **Parish Culture Survey 2022**

With the launch of Parish Alive on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2022, the Archdiocese CPD Team has developed two surveys to help parish leaders create their plans to accomplish the missionary mandate. These surveys, provided by the CPD, are conducted at the local level by individual parish communities.

The **PPC SURVEY** is a self assessment tool that is conducted by PPC's to measure and give insights on how well they are doing in terms of the five organisational aspects of a parish: its vision, structure, strategy, culture, and leadership.

The **PARISH CULTURE SURVEY** provides valuable information about the actual Parish Culture experience, a true reflection of the parish, in each of the seven main parish activities (portfolios). It invites all parishioners within a parish to voice their concerns and hopes; and to offer their ideas about how the parish can move more toward being the missionary church that Jesus asked us to be.

Both surveys build on the recent work of the Synod where all of God's people were listened to: What excites you about our Catholic faith, what disappoints or saddens you; and where is the Holy Spirit guiding us as a Church.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **1. What is the Parish Culture Survey?**

- An Archdiocese wide survey that links our parish culture to our Evangelisation Missionary Journey,
- Measures our progress in culture by measuring the key levers of an Evangelised Parish,
- Provides a general health check to gauge what matters to parishioners,
- Benchmarks your Parish Evangelisation culture against an Archdiocese database of Parish Communities,

#### **2. What is the Parish Culture Survey designed to measure?**

Parish Culture Survey is designed to measure the underlying beliefs, values, and assumptions held by members of your church community, as well as the practices and behaviors that exemplify and reinforce them. The survey focuses on the aspects of our culture that have a direct link to our Evangelisation Missionary Mandate.

Parish Culture Survey will answer four key questions about your Parish,

**Mission:** Do we know where we are going?

**Adaptability:** Are we listening to our parishioners?

**Involvement:** Are our people aligned, engaged, and actively participating in the Mission of the Church?

**Consistency:** Do we have the values, vision and strategy in place to execute our Missionary Mandate?

#### **3. What is Culture?**

A church communities culture is the beliefs, values, and behaviors that a group has adopted over time as a way to get things done and succeed. Simply put, "culture is the way things are done around here."

#### **4. Why does Culture matter?**

Culture matters to us because we experience its effects on achieving our desired results every day. We understand the need to manage culture with the same skill and attention we give to our vision, mission, strategy, and other key areas.

## **5. Why do we do a Parish Culture Survey?**

As a continuous feedback loop to validate our progression in our Parish Evangelisation Journey in response to our Missionary Mandate. The groupwide participation of this Parish Culture Survey provides a total view of the Archdiocese culture progress supported by many Parish Communities.

## **6. When is the next Parish Culture Survey?**

The Parish Survey will be issued in December 2022 and will run for 30 days from issuing it. e.g. 05 December 2022 to 05 January 2023,

## **7. How do I participate in the Parish Culture Survey 2022?**

- You will receive an email inviting you to participate in the survey via Google Forms,
- Do note that this will be a unique link for each parish community, so please do not share it with others.
- The survey is also mobile-friendly using Google, as long as you are connected to the internet.

## **8. What types of questions can I expect in the Parish Culture Survey?**

- Standard questions on culture trends i.e. your parish culture traits.
- Specific areas as reference points for our Portfolio initiatives.
- Open-ended questions that tell us where the parish is doing well and what the parish needs to do more of.

## **9. How long will it take to complete the survey?**

The survey will take roughly between 10-15 minutes to complete.

## **11. Who will be reading my responses?**

Your responses will be read by a professional team within the Centre for Pastoral Development and treated with the highest confidentiality. The running of the survey and gathering of the results is confidential and complies with the Protection of Personal Information Act. The Parish Culture Survey results will be released per Parish from mid-January 2023 to Parish Priests and their PPC Chairpersons.

## **12. What should I do if I have problems participating in the survey?**

Please contact the Centre for Pastoral Development team at [cpdcapetown@gmail.com](mailto:cpdcapetown@gmail.com) for non-technical issues e.g. did not receive email on Parish Culture Survey.

## **13. Why is my feedback important?**

Your feedback helps the church to track changes/progress in improvement focus areas and drives our action plan for attaining a high-performance culture of Evangelisation. It is important to be honest and to give your true assessment of your parish.

The Parish Culture Survey ultimately presents us with an opportunity in our Synodal journey to self-diagnose, to reveal what's working and what's not, so that we can get a realistic picture of where we are in terms of our Missionary Mandate. And with this information we can objectively discover the areas that still need more attention, and what more needs to be done for us to continue to progress in our Parish Culture Journey. We already have the building blocks we need to succeed. We strongly believe that by shifting the culture, we will be able to unleash incredible talent, passion across our Archdiocese and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us.