



ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF PRETORIA

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Pretoria 0001
South Africa

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Registration No. : 191-349 NPO

DITABA 28 – 01 JULY 2017

1. CATHCA

We have had two visits from Yvonne Morgan, the Chairperson of CATHCA, who came with our own Mrs. Kekana to see **what we can do better for the health of our people in this Archdiocese.**

In South Africa there are 7 million people who are HIV positive. 19% of all young people between the ages of 15 and 49 in South Africa are HIV positive. Tuberculosis, which is a curable disease, is in a rapid increase in South Africa. There are 290,000 orphans in our province of Gauteng. 30% of pregnant women attending anti-natal clinics are HIV positive. A lot of this infection in women is coming from men between the ages of 30 to 40, commonly known as sugar daddies.

The cause of death within the Pretoria area is due to non-communicable diseases 47% (high blood, diabetes, cholesterol).

Mrs. Kekana who was in charge of medical facilities in the province of Limpopo and who is now resigned has offered her assistance to screen our people for free.. It is obvious that many people sitting in our churches on Sundays are suffering from deadly diseases of which they are not aware. People, especially parents, are dying who need not die.

I earnestly appeal to our priests to **invite Mrs. Kekana** to come on Sundays to the Parishes and offer her screening service which will undoubtedly save and prolong lives. All we ask of the Priests is to invite Mrs. Kekana, introduce her favorably to the people and leave the rest to her and her team. She will liaise with retired medical personnel and set-up tests to alert our people to the real situation and to recommend the steps that they must take. She will channel our local resources to address the variety of health challenges our Parish communities are experiencing.

This is totally in agreement with what the Catholic Church has done heroically and often alone for poor and unwell people.

2. The Archbishop with Sr. Marian meet on an ongoing basis with the leaders of other churches. In these ecumenical meetings, we have first discussed homelessness and the need in the City. We also discussed theological interests. This led to an exchange of pulpits this year during the week **of prayer for Christian unity**. The Lutheran Pastor preached at our Cathedral after masses on Sunday, the 28th of May. I thank Fr Amos and Fr John Paul for arranging the services. On 4th June, the Archbishop preached at the Service in the Lutheran Church. A number of Catholics attended.
3. Many Priests and Deacons attended **the AGM** on 14th June at the Bertoni Center. After the Bishop's address, reports were tabled or presented from the Deaneries, Finance Committee, Vocations, Youth, and Catechetics.



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Fr. Thebiso Ledwaba was elected Chairperson of the Priest Council of the Archdiocese.

It was decided to invite all the Dioceses to make the Pilgrimage to Jonathan in honor of the Centenary of our Lady of Fatima on 20th August, Sunday. There is a felt need for an annual Archdiocesan Pilgrimage. It was decided that this Pilgrimage will take place in June next year in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Patron Feast of the Archdiocese.

The Bishop invited the priests to work hard to foster diocesan vocation. All Priests must invite youth to consider the diocesan priesthood. However, we must respect the desire of young people who want to be religious and encourage them.

Since the traditional **graveyards for Priests of the Archdiocese** are now full, we will use the new graveyard at Mmakau. We are very grateful to the Stigmatine Provincial for this possibility.

4. At the Consultors' Meeting on 20th June, **certain appointments were made**. Fr. Samuel Setshedi was appointed Parish Priest of St Charles Lwanga; Fr Elias Senona will take over at Kwaggafontein; and Fr. Herman Mole will go to Ekangala. The Archdiocese expresses appreciation and gratitude for the work they have done in their former Parishes.

Fr. Karabo Baloyi was appointment Spiritual Director of Kemollo. Fr. Harry Kalonga will be the Spiritual Director of the Daughters of St Anne. Fr Sefiri will direct Chiro. Fr Amos Masemola will represent the Archdiocese on the Board of Lady Selbourne.

For the establishment of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, the Deans are requested to submit names to Sr Laura at the Chancery.

5. Congratulations to those Parishes who made a very special effort to celebrate the great feast of **Corpus Christi**. At the Cathedral, the congregation went in procession around the City where Fr John Paul had established four stations for prayer and reflection on the streets. The Parish of Maria Regina also had extensive public celebrations.

The afternoon of the Feast of Corpus Christi, the Archbishop registered the mandated the **Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministries**.

6. It was very heartening to see the excellent attendance at the **Youth Mass** and celebrations at Bertoni Center on 16th June. Fr Benedict Makhata and the Executive are to be applauded. The day begun with the extended Way of the Cross on the streets of Pretoria North. They were perhaps 500 people in attendance. Mass was celebrated with great dignity and in the afternoon preparations were made for the Mini-World Youth occasion in Durban in December. The Youth excelled themselves in the concert entitled "Pretoria Got Talent".
7. On 23rd June the **Feast of the Most Sacred Heart**, there was a solemn celebration at the Cathedral. After Holy Hour and evening prayer, mass was celebrated and the Archdiocese was re-consecrated to the Sacred Heart.



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8. The Neocatechumenate groups from many parishes gathered each Saturday in May in a public area beside Capital Park church to evangelise and to proclaim conversion and new life in the spirit of Christ. Marco and Martha with Fr Boulos and Fr Finbarr proclaimed God's Word to the public in the open area.
9. The Archdiocese has been very blessed with the ordination of **three young Deacons** who have completed their seminary studies and now proceeding to the priesthood. **Fr Davie Thawapo CSS** was ordained Deacon on 24th June at St Mark in Mabopane. On the 1st of July **Fani Msiza and Phetho Matlala** were ordained Deacons at the Cathedral. It was wonderful to see the joy of the congregation attending the ceremonies. The presence of so many of our local Priests and Deacons at the Ordination at the Cathedral is inspiring as it expressed a true fraternity into which the new Deacons now enter.

The courage and composure of Deacon Fani Msiza was acknowledged by all. Fani's mother passed away just a few days before the ordination. We offer our sincere sympathies to him and the family and we assured him of our prayers. May she rest in peace.

10. Loreto School

In June 1878, three young Loreto Sisters stepped off a wagon after a four week journey from Durban in the Little Village of Pretoria. They had travelled from Ireland and France to set-up a school here. Their hearts sunk as they saw a tiny church and a dusty village. Within a week, they have started the school which became famous throughout the then Transvaal. On 9th June we celebrated the 139th years of their presence in Pretoria at Skinner Streets and Queenswood.

The Loreto Religious Family, known as the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary are a worldwide family of Catholic schools. Their inspiration came from Mary Ward, an English Woman of early 17th century. Mary was inspired by the work of the Jesuits and what they were doing for men's education. She wanted to do the same for girls. She had great difficulty and failed in her own lifetime to get permission from the Holy See to found a congregation. With great humility, perseverance, and commitment, she did establish a number of schools. The difficulty raised by the Holy See was due to the fact that at that time all nuns had to live in cloister (enclosed).

On the 25th June, **representatives of Loreto Schools** around the world gathered in Pretoria to celebrate Mary Ward worldwide schools. Present were Sisters and Principals from 38 countries. This meeting takes place every four years and met here in Pretoria for the first time in South Africa. Mass was celebrated at Loreto Chapel for all the delegates who presented the flags of their home countries. The theme of their meeting was "Loreto Schools Rooted, Responsive Relevant".

The Loreto Sisters have made a huge contribution to the building of the church in South Africa.

11. Prisons

On 31st May/01 June, the Archbishop attended in Lisbon a meeting of Specialized Ministries from around the world. In attendance were the President of Portugal, Ministries of State, and all branches of the Security Services of Portugal..



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This was followed by a short pilgrimage to Fatima for the centenary of the apparition of Mary.

On 30th June with Fr. Silas Rwangga, the Security Services in South Africa met at Modderbee Prison in Springs. This involves meeting the National Chaplains of the Army, Police, and Correctional services. On average, there are at least 200,000 people in each of these services. While we have a small number of full-time military chaplains led by Fr Silas, we depend upon each diocese minister those institutions in their own areas. We are about to sign an agreement with the **Correctional Service** allowing us access to more prisons. Sr Rita Carey does an enormous work in this area and trains a number of volunteers and spiritual workers. Fr Bongsi Sithole is the Chairperson overseeing Catholic care in prisons across the Country. Long term service has also been offered by Deacon Molebale.

We are inviting the Supervisors of Prison Ministry from all dioceses to a workshop at the Comboni Center in Lynnwood on the 22nd and 23rd of August. This will be addressed by Rev Makathini, National Chaplain, and Fr Babychan, the Prison Chaplain in Cape Town, who has the most developed service in the country with over 400 volunteers.

Fr Obed Ramoipone, our own Priest, has now been appointed as full-time Chaplain in the Army after extensive training.

The particular branch of the security services which is under most pressure at the moment is the **Police**. On average, 100 die in the line of duty each year. The police continually face protests and violence, the most unpleasant aspects of our life. They need attention, appreciation, and spiritual assistance. **Parish Priests are advised to make contact with the local police stations** and on occasions to offer them prayers and a visit. This is particularly necessary where there has been a death or serious accidents linked to the police in the area.

12. Catechetics

We are in the process of finalizing a new statement of **Diocesan policy for Catechetics**. Fr Geoffrey and his team continue to meet with the coordinators of the Parishes and Deaneries. On 29th July, we hope to finalize the policy document with the amendments which groups are sending in.

Now half way through the year, it will be extremely important that Priests review with their coordinators and teachers what is being achieved. While it is gratifying to mandate 900 voluntary catechists each January, one has to ask “are these volunteers actually in operations?” Are they receiving support, attending meetings? Do they have their times, places, and registers and books necessary for their tasks? What is being achieved? Of particular concern, are the children in that period which we can call **inter-sacramental**—between the times of first communion at ten years of age and confirmation at sixteen.

13. His Excellency, the Nuncio **Archbishop Peter Wells led the celebration in honor of Sts Peter and Paul at the Cathedral**. In addition of celebrating the Priests of the Great Apostles, the



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Nuncio and the congregations gave thanks for the papal ministry of now over four years of the Holy Father, Pope Francis. Church and Diplomatic personnel were present.

Later in the day, the Apostolic Nunciature, held a reception for an enormous crowd of Friends and well-wishers. His Excellency underlined the contributions of Catholics to South Africa over the Century. He pointed out that in the very fact of being South African Catholics we are even more committed to the service of our Country. The Diplomat representing our South African government gave a very fervent appreciation of our Catholic church in the growth, struggles, and present development of the country.

14. We **congratulate Fr Amos Mabuti Masemola** who celebrated ten years of priestly dedication in the Archdiocese. It was a beautiful mass in the Cathedral on the 30th of June. Present for the occasion was **Archbishop George Daniel**, who only not ordained Fr Amos but most of the Diocesan Priests of the Archdiocese as well.
15. Congratulations to those recently confirmed at Naledi Ya Meso, Mabopane (Christ the King), Refilwe, Pretoria North, Winterveldt, Mabopane (St Marks), Tembisa, Soshanguve (St Clare), Soshanguve (St Anthony of Padua), Ten Morgen, and Leratong.
16. Congratulations to the Chaplains who assist Violet Ramathunya and Peter Ross who endeavor to keep the Catholic Ethos present in our **Catholic Schools**. Much effort by the religious of the Church in the establishment of these schools in the past. We want the Spirit and Ethos of the Founders to continue. These schools were founded because of our faith and because of God's care for His people and our desire to help them in whatever way we can.
17. Congratulate Puleng from the Jesuit Institute and Fr Ledwaba at St Raphael for the provision of spiritual direction for so many people.
18. **The new Pretoria Archdiocese Catholic Directory for 2017-2018 is now available at the Chancery for R20. It is also available on our Website "ArchdioceseofPretoria.org.za".**
19. **Next Evangelization Meeting, Jolivet House, 21 July at 9.30.**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

8 th July	Funeral of Mrs. Msiza, Mother of Deacon Fani Msiza, Ekangala
8 th and 9 th July	Sacred Heart Diocesan Retreat
9 th July	Confirmation at St George, Saulsville
10 th – 13 th	Altar Servers' Retreat
12 July – 13 th July	Joint Witness St John Vianney Seminary
15 th July	Day for Religious
	Parish Day at Laudium
16 th July	Confirmation at Makapanstad
18 th July	Consultor's Meeting



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20 th July	Ecumenical Meeting at Bishop's House
22 nd July	Retreat at Odi Prison
23 rd July	Confirmation at St Mary's Mamelodi West
25 th July	Meeting with Correctional Service Directors
29 th July	Catechetical Meeting to Finalize Policy
30 th July	Confirmation Emmanuel
1 st – 8 th August	SACBC at Mariannhill
9 th August	Mass for National CWL Annual at St George's Hotel
13 th August	Confirmation at St Anne's
15 th August	Mass at the Assumption Convent. 65 th Anniversary
20 th August	Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Jonathan for Our Lady of Fatima
22 nd – 24 th August	Workshop for National Supervisors of Prison Ministry
26 th August	Diocesan Marriage Enrichment Program/Couples Retreat - CBC
27 th August	Confirmation at Maria Regina
	Confirmation at St Augustine Silverton
29 th August	Meeting of Missionary Group Fr Gordon Rees
8 th September	Christopher West Theology of the Body St John Vianney Seminary
10 th September	Confirmation at Ivory Park
16 th September	Confirmation at St Pius X, Waterkloof
17 th September	Confirmation at St Peter Claver
22 nd September	Confirmation at CBC
24 th September	Confirmation at St Vincent, Tembisa

+**William Slattery OFM**
Archbishop of Pretoria
01 July 2017