



ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF PRETORIA

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Pretoria 0001
South Africa

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Registration No. : 191-349 NPO

DITABA 30 – 08 DECEMBER 2017

1. **Mini World Youth Day.** About 300 young people from Pretoria attended the Mini World Youth Day in Durban. The 6 days were wonderful experience for the 4,000 from all over the country who attended. Our young people were very impressed in the first three days by the hospitality in which they were welcomed in homes and villages around Natal. There they experienced the depth and breadth of their Catholic faith. The final three days were spent in Durban and were days of jubilation, instructions, prayers, and community. We were very proud that our young people from Pretoria showed great maturity and responsibility. Highlights were the Masses each day, the Catechetical Instructions, the Liturgical Ceremonies such as the Way of the Cross, Adoration, and meeting with the Bishops of South Africa.
2. **Deacon Fanie Msiza** will be ordained Deacon at Ekangala on 20th January. While **Deacon Petho Madlala** will be ordained Deacon on 10th February. Continuity to keep them in your prayers. We congratulate all our seminarians on their fine results on the exams this year. Please pray for more vocations from the Archdiocese and contact Fr Isaac Ramokgolo and Fr Thabiso Ledwaba.
3. On 14th December the Diocese remembered at mass **Fr Charles**, one of the first Stigmatines to come to South Africa and who was the founding father of parishes and outstations. Charles also worked in formation programs and he is fondly remembered by many Christians who owed their faith to him.

Another great friend of our Archdiocese **Fr Pius SMA** passed away and was laid to rest on 4th November. Pius was the Regional Superior of his congregation and was the Chairperson of the Religious Superiors of South Africa. Coming from Nigeria Pius put his heart and soul into building up the church in South Africa. We extend our sincere sympathies to Fr Gerald and the SMA Fathers.

During this time **Sr Mary** of the Little Company of Mary passed away. The Diocese and the church owe a great debt of gratitude to the Little Company of Mary for the exemplary way they cared for the health of our people.

4. Many of our Parishes have been the subject of attack and break-ins over the last few months. The most shocking was that which took place at St Daniel Comboni Parish in Mahube Valley. There one of the Parish leaders, **Mr. Lucas Kwakeli Mokwelo was severely beaten and has passed away after a month-long coma.** The Parish was having an evening celebration at the Priest House when attackers arrived. Fr Katoku has suffered severe shock. We pray for them all. It underlines the crucial importance of making Parishes and houses secure. In a particular way we must insure that the Tabernacle with the Holy Eucharist are firmly secured. We offer sincere sympathies to the Mokwelo family, funeral arrangements have not yet been decided.



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5. We say goodbye to two priests who have rendered extended service for many years **Fr Tony Ngwenya** and **Fr Boitumelo Simon Molefe**. Between them they have served our people for over sixty years. We sincerely wish them good health and peace in **retirement**.
6. We welcome the **Missionaries of St Francis de Sales to Holy Trinity Parish, Midrand and Olifantsfontein**. Both Fr Thomas and Fr Joseph have many years of pastoral experience in other Parishes and other Dioceses. We welcome them.
7. The community of **Koinonia St John the Baptist** has come to witness and minister here. They have acquired a property through the kindness of Mr. Tony Munro at the Sanctuary. Their ministry will involve formation of prayer groups, catechesis, and prayer houses. I invite our people to visit and to get to know them. In a beautiful service on 11th November their new home at the Sanctuary was blessed. This is a source of spiritual joy for the Archdiocese.
8. This year the **Sending Ceremony** for the newly confirmed of 2017 was a blessed occasion. Some 800-young people came to the Church of Beatitudes to share what the Holy Spirit has done for them. The Archbishop commissioned them and sent them out to live the gift of the Holy Spirit as witnesses of the Gospel. It was excellent to see young people from all race groups present.
9. The program **Echoing the Word** came to a glorious conclusion on 25th November at St Pius in Waterkloof. After a very enriching program, 47 religion teachers graduated. This wonderful course is piloted and taught by Mrs. Renee d'Oliviera. By this time over a hundred have graduated. All insist that this course has deepened their faith and their love for the church.

Please, Parishes and Priests, know that the course will continue next year and you need to register during January 2018. The course takes place at St Pius and at the Chancery.
10. St Peter Claver Parish hosted the **Deacon Ordination** of the Consolata Deacons John Kyara Sebastiani, James Irungu Wahome, and Godfrey Barasa Abwala on 9th December. The magnificent choir of St Peter Claver made the ceremony very beautiful.
11. **Once more, congratulations to the Church Choirs of Pretoria in coming 1st in the National Choir competition this year again.**
12. The Archbishop had the joy of attending the **Clergy Med** dinner at St Peter in Garsfontein organized by the Knights. The Diocese is deeply appreciative of this initiative of our Catholic men. During the year they have raised funds, which take care of many of the medical needs of the priests. We thank the Knights for their faith, for their love for the church which drives this beautiful work
13. This year at **St John Vianney seminary from December 11th to 15th the Priests** of the Archdiocese gathered for a seminar to reflect on their priesthood and their ministry This was



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an occasion of fraternity, participation, and real sharing. Priests reflected on their joys and challenges in Ministry.

Of particular value was the input of excellent lay Catholics. They pointed out their appreciation of the priesthood and told the priests to take care of themselves and their vocation. They indicated that our Catholics expect well prepared homilies and much more instructions regarding the life, history, and activities of the Catholic Church. They know that excellent letters and addresses come from the Holy Father and they would like to be introduced in this sort of guidance. Of particular importance for the Priest is that he should be much closer to the people. The priest must know his people and experience the reality of their lives. If a priest is close to the people he is much better prepared to accompany them. Priests must be available and accessible. They must not choose especial friends but must seek to reach out to all.

The youth made a heartfelt plea that they may be recognized in the church and given a place and participation. They would like priests to come and sit with them and discuss topical issues. Many youths have pressing questions often arising from attacks on our church from their peers in Pentecostal situations. The Youth wants to express their opinion and feel that they want to live their faith in a way in tune with modern youth.

Reflecting on their lives the Priests expressed a desire for more meetings like this one. We also saw the need that priests have for reflection, spiritual direction, and the opportunity to oversee their own ministry in an objective way. While loneliness and isolation may be a temptation for some, Priests resolved that they should live in a more fraternal way and support each other more consistently. Priests felt that they would be enriched if Parish Council meetings discuss issues of experiencing and living the faith.

14. On 7th November a commemorative **mass for the deceased** was celebrated at Santa Sophia. There was an excellent attendance of religious and clergy. This was organized by the Council for the Religious.
15. Congratulations to the Parish of **Sunnyside** which made October the month of the Holy Rosary a special month. Each day a large crowd gathered in the evening for the Rosary and adoration. They closed the month with the Archbishop and with a procession to the Grotto. The Archdiocese also congratulates the Parish in the production of a fine magazine.
16. For the Catholic Schools, Violet Ramathunya and Peter Ross have established excellent contacts and motivation. New principals have been appointed in 4 schools. At the end of the year, the Archbishop was able to celebrate closing masses for many of the schools.

On 5th November Fr Karabo invited the Old Boys of St Paul Seminary to come for mass at St Camillus. It was a great delight to see so many of these men together and recognize that they are involved in the life of the church in many parishes.



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17. The Apostolic Nuncio and the Archbishop went to Francistown in Botswana to install Bishop Frank Nubuasah as Bishop of the new Diocese of Francistown
18. The **Council of Priests** met on 21st November and elected Fr Thabiso Ledwaba as the Chairperson. The Council of Priests from now on will organize the 1st Tuesday of the month as special get together for the Priests Fraternal which will involve sharing and end with lunch.
19. The Archdiocese has just acquired a site for a **new Parish Church at Olievenhoutbos**. Until now the many Catholics in this fast-growing area met in a shade on a dump. They are served from Diepsloot Parish.
20. The Archdiocese and Pastoral Council set 11th November as the **Men's Day of Prayer**. The theme was "The Man's Role in a Catholic Family". There was a very good attendance though it was less than that of last year.
21. Many Parishes showed appreciation for their priests by contributing towards a day of relaxation for Priests called "Shepherds on the Green". It is organized through Radio Veritas and took place this year on Monday, 27th November, at Benoni Country Club.
22. The Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters held a Christmas Party at the **Phumela Old Age Home** on 30th November. It was a great success. This is place near Bronkhorspruit and Sizanani. It would be a worthwhile place to visit for families and sodalities.

Another such place is Bapsfontein where the wonderful work for caring of disabled people takes place at Little Eden. There too are the graves of **Danny and Domitilla Hyam**, the Founders of Little Eden and whose Cause is now being introduced in Rome. Inspired by their faith and by the encouragement of the Blessed Virgin they have here provided a place of happiness for people for whom society has nothing to offer.
23. A feature of life at the Cathedral is the holding of Vigils before great church feasts. The most recent was 25th November the evening before the Feast of Christ the King.
24. It is spectacular to see the growth in the Sodality of **Kemollo**. This year they filled the Church of St John Vianney for their annual retreat conducted by Fr Michael Motlhamme.
25. **Please do note. It is time to book a Sunday Confirmation Date for 2018. Many bookings are already established. Do book early to be guaranteed a Sunday celebration. Confirmation however is also celebrated on Saturdays.**
26. Sr Marian and Marie McCrea are making the Archdiocese of Pretoria part of the Pontifical Office of **Caritas**. This is an umbrella body guided by the Vatican which sets down standards for welfare and development projects. It embraces the whole world. While all the excellent projects of the Archdiocese continue independently, we would hope to link them with Caritas which will be an enrichment in motivation and standards.



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On 11th November this year the **Healthcare Association** met in Bertoni Centre. This is for Health Care Professionals to come together as Catholics and Christians to respond to the huge health challenges in our area. They would endeavor to bring health care assistance closer to poor people. Simple tests for blood pressure, diabetes, cancer, and cataracts can save or extend the lives of needy people by many years.

Working with Cathca Mrs Kekana has initiated pilot programs to bring health care close to the poor and needy and infirm in our Parishes. You will see much more of these in 2018.

27. Fr Hugh Lagan has made available to Priests and Deacons **excellent programs** in the form of lectures by experts through the internet. To avail of this, please do contact Fr Sefiri.
28. The St Anne rally took place at Winterveldt. The Centre created by the Sodality there is now almost ready for occupation.
29. **YACO** is an organization of young adults which brings them together to strengthen their faith and guide them in the work of the church. They had their annual diocesan mass at St George in Saulsville.
30. Tshwane Ecumenical Forum meets at the Archbishop's house during the year. It is held together by Sr Marian and has special interest in the homelessness we find in the streets of Pretoria. On the forum are different church representatives and university people.
31. The **Evangelization Council of the Archdiocese** is chaired by Deacon Tshepiso Matle, his secretary is Sr Laura. The Council meets every two months and oversees many of the principal offices of the Archdiocese. Among these are the Catholic Schools, Justice and Peace, Family Life Desk, Caritas, Xaveri, Hospitals, Prisons, Youth, and Renew Africa.

The **Catholic Schools** visited all Catholic schools in the Archdiocese and provided workshops on Catholic Ethos. They also presented the Child Safeguarding Policy of the Church. Retreats and Workshops were offered to Principals and also to Teachers. They help teachers of Religion by preparing files and lessons in the presentation of the faith.

The **Justice and Peace Committee** is active in many Parishes. Started by Fr Moatshe it is now involved in many areas of social life. They led marches to consciencitize the public on the abuse of women and children in many places. It has trained men to speak to men about care of women and children. In addition, people are trained to protect all people who benefit from social grants. They were very involved in the 16 days of activism.

The **Family Life Desk** have founded branches in the Deaneries with the aim of not only preparing people for marriage but also accompanying young married couples and deepening the spirituality of family life. They would like to present workshops on the experience of marriage and the need of parenting skills. Mr and Mrs Sam Mathe chaired the desk and assisted by Couples for Christ. They are preparing to participate next August in Ireland in the World Congress for Families at which Pope Francis will be present.



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Caritas and Xaveri had given particular attention to refugees and economic migrants to help them acquire necessary documents.

Sr Rita of the Mercy Sisters heads the **Prison Desk** to which she has dedicated her life. Day after day she brings some consolation and lights to the poorest of the poor, those in prison, many of whom never had a chance in life. Fr Bongsi Sithole and Deacon Molebale work in different prisons. Sr Rita has trained and she is willing to train volunteers to enter this work.

Fr Lawrence Ramaema and Sr Angelina Mlilwana are continually at the bedside of the sick in the **hospitals**. Angelina is always willing to visit Parishes and to train people in hospital visitation. It is a training that could benefit volunteers and greatly assist the house bound and the ill.

32. **Congratulations to St Ambrose Parish** which just completed the building of a lovely new church. This is due to their perseverance and love for the church. We also acknowledge St Zeno and Fr David Maria for the ceiling they have put in that remarkable building.
33. As you know the Church in South Africa is celebrating the **Bi-Centenary (200 Years) of the Church in South Africa**. Each Parish in the country will celebrate this event on 4th February 2018. We should try to make it a special occasion giving thanks to God for the blessing He has given us and beseeching Him to continue to accompany us.

The Plenary session of the SACBC takes place at St John Vianney Seminary from 23rd January to 30th January 2018. On a Sunday within that period, 28th January, the Bishops will celebrate a mass in gratitude for the Bi-Centenary at the Church of the Beatitudes at 11:00 AM. I would like to invite Parish Councils, Finance Councils, and the Executive of all the Sodalities both Diocesan and Parish. Others may attend but we have to be aware that though the church is big, it is also limited in capacity. There will be no catering.

34. Welcome back to Fr Barney McAleer following his medical treatment in Ireland. At 80 years of age Barney comes bouncing back drawn by his commitment to service and his love for the South African peoples.
35. The Catholic Women's Association (CWA), which originated in Pretoria Archdiocese, has now reached out to many dioceses of South Africa and to the countries beyond. What a witness of faith our Catholic Women had given in the country!

The Diocese wishes to express its deepest gratitude to Archbishop Emeritus George Daniel and to His Excellency Peter Wells, the Apostolic Nuncio, for their great pastoral contribution to the people of the Archdiocese through their visits, attendance at functions and above all, celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.



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FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

09 th December	Ordination of 3 Consolata Deacons at St Peter Claver
10 th December	Confirmation at Pretoria West, St Joseph Archbishop Daniel
	Confirmation at Lethlabile
11 th – 15 th December	Seminar for all Priests at St John Vianney Seminary
15 th December	Christmas Party at Chancery
17 th December	Mass at Motla
19 th December	Finance Meetings
20 th December	Christmas Party at Sta Maria Portuguese Church Pretoria West at 11:00 AM (All Priests, Deacons, Religious Brothers and Sisters)
24 th December	Christmas Eve Mass at 8:00 PM in the Cathedral
25 th December	Christmas Mass at 8:30 AM in the Cathedral
01 st January 2018	Mass at the Cathedral
13 th January	Catholic Women's Association Meeting
14 th January	Installation of Archdiocesan Pastoral Council at Cathedral
15 th January	Chancery Office Re-Opens
16 th January	Ecumenical Meeting at Bishops House
	Consultor's Meeting
20 th January	Ordination to the Priesthood of Deacon Msiza
21 st January	Mandate of Catechism Teachers. Sts Joachim and Anne
23 rd – 30 th January	SACBC Plenary Session at St John Vianney
27 th January	National Police Day
28 th January	Bi-Centenary Mass at Church of Beatitudes at 11:00 AM
03 rd February	First Holy Communion at Laudium
	Mandate of the South, West, and East Deanery for Catechetics
04 th February	Each Parish celebrates Bi-Centenary in the Parish
	Opening of the Year of Catechetics
10 th February	Priestly ordination of Pheto Madlala
	Deacons Meeting at Jolivet House
11 th of February	Confirmation at Jericho – 9:00 AM
	University Academic Mass (Pretoria University)
14 th February	Ash Wednesday
16 th February	Evangelization Meeting – Jolivet House
17 th February	Mandate at St Dominic Stinkwater, 2:00 PM
18 th February	Right of Election, Catechumens, Cathedral
23 rd February	School Teacher's Day of Prayer, Mmkau
24 th February	Mass for ACTS in Johannesburg
25 th February	Bronkhorstpruit
27 th February	Council of Priests of Archdiocese at Sta Sophia
03 rd March	Confirmation Teachers Meeting
09 th March	Schools Chaplains Meet at Nazareth House
10 th March	Workshop for All Catechism Coordinators
13 th March	Meetings of Security Services Chaplains



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14 th – 17 th March	Meeting of Catholic Armies Chaplains in Pretoria
15 th March	Department of Formation SACBC
25 th March	Palm Sunday
28 th March	Chrism Mass Cathedral
29 th March	Holy Thursday
30 th March	Good Friday
31 st March	Easter Vigil
01 st April	Easter Sunday

+William Slattery OFM

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Archbishop of Pretoria
08 December 2017