



**CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF  
TIKOLOHO E KATHOLIKE EA  
ISIFUNDABHISHOBHI SASE**

**JOHANNESBURG**

**LOOKING FORWARD TO A DIOCESAN SYNOD**

**CONVOKED BY ARCHBISHOP BUTI TLHAGALE**

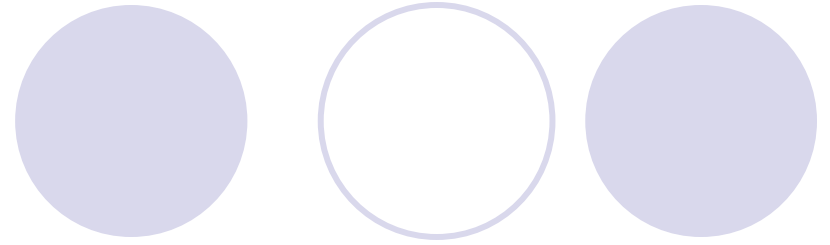


# What is a Diocesan Synod?

- A process of.....
  - Stock taking / self assessment
  - Identifying
  - Evaluating
  - Prioritising
  - Practical implementation

.....of relevant issues and concerns as discerned with the help of the Holy Spirit, which seeks NEW HORIZONS for our local Church

# Who will attend ?



- The Bishop
- Bishop's nominees
- Delegated Priests
- Consecrated/Religious Persons
- Delegated Laity
- Invited observers

# When will the Synod take place?

- The process to prepare for the Synod has started
- It is proposed that the actual Synod will take place in September 2008



# Vision of the Church as Communion

# NEW VISION OF VATICAN II

- The church understands itself as a 'Communion of the People of God, thereby reflecting a true and genuine image of the Body of Christ'
- Paul VI insisted on 'a new way of thinking in answer to the demands of the times'
- John Paul II encouraged the fundamental basis of 'newness' without straying from the Church's legislative tradition
- A Synod looks for new horizons through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit

# How does this affect you?



- In order for the Bishop to finalise the Topics to be deliberated it is his wish that the widest consultation of all stakeholders takes place so that everyone's needs, desires and opinions are fully and adequately presented to him
- A Steering Committee has been appointed to co-ordinate this consultation process

# The process of preparation and consultation .....

- Every voice should be heard
- Laity afforded opportunity to express needs, desires and opinions – re-Topics
  - **“Where does the Church find itself today?”**
- Clergy are asked separately – re-pastoral challenges they face
- To reach all the vital forces of the diocese
- Culminating in a diocesan vision and its implementation by the people of God in Johannesburg

# The proposed plan and timelines

- Plan consultation process
  - Consultation with the whole Diocese - Priests, Religious, Laity and Youth (through the Deaneries) and all Departments
  - Summarise and produce document of all input
  - Present to the Bishop
  - Topics finalised
  - Research Topics
  - Distribute researched Topics document
- 30<sup>th</sup> April '07
  - 30<sup>th</sup> June '07
  - 31<sup>st</sup> Aug '07
  - 27<sup>th</sup> Sept '07
  - 31<sup>st</sup> Oct '07
  - 28<sup>th</sup> April '08
  - 1<sup>st</sup> June '08

# Synod planning logistics

- Finalise attendees
- Book venue and accommodation where necessary
- Arrange catering
- Confirm attendance
- Diocesan Paraliturgiy
- Diocesan Synod
- Diocesan Mass
- 27<sup>th</sup> Aug '07
- 17<sup>th</sup> September '07
- 8<sup>th</sup> July '08
- 1<sup>st</sup> September '08
- 24<sup>th</sup> Sept '08
- 24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> Sept '08
- 28<sup>th</sup> September '08

# Steering Committee Appointed to Coordinate the consultation process

- Fr Duncan Tsoke – Director
- Fr Keith Gordon-Davis
- Gerald Rodrigues – Chairman
- Tish Holding, Inka Wassmann, Gordon Jackson, Zack Machobane, Sr Joanne, Sr Rachel Nukeri, Sr Marie André Mitchell, Steve Jackson, Tony Biaocchi, Sello Tsiane, Neil Philipson, Harold Price, Jim Edwards and Lenny Anthoo



# Theory to action – Clergy

- Relax, trust the Holy Spirit - Pray
- Be positive and encourage participation
- Promote from the altar
- Ensure dates are set for Parish presentations
  - Recommended method: at Mass / Communion Service for maximum participation
- Ensure that all feedback is forwarded by PPC Chairperson to the Dean
- Participate fully in Deanery Priests meeting

# Theory to action – PPC's - Laity

- Pray
- Set dates and conduct presentations to Parish community
- Recommended method: at Mass / Communion Service for maximum participation
- Forward all documented issues and concerns raised to Deanery Pastoral Council (see questionnaire guide)
- Include Youth leadership and set up separate Youth meeting

# Theory to action – Youth



- SMS prayer chains – Mxit up guys!
- Set convenient dates to conduct presentation to the Youth
- Recommended method: at Youth Mass/Communion Service, Catechism Classes and Youth Groups for maximum participation
- What are the Youth's issues?
- How can the Church attract and retain more Youth?
- Forward all documented issues and concerns raised to PPC (see questionnaire guide)
- Create a contact list of Youth leadership and forward to PPC Chairperson

# Suggested questions for Personal Reflection

1. Where does the Church find itself today?
2. What are the current concerns in our parish?
3. In your opinion what should the Church be focusing on?
4. What strengths should we in our parish be building on?
5. What message would you like to give the Bishop?
6. .... what is your vision?

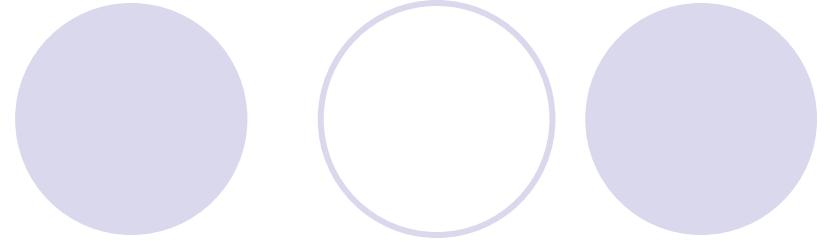
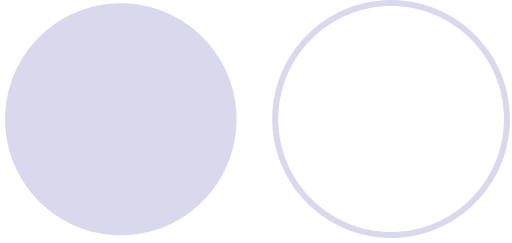
# Personal Silent Prayer –

to be included as a Petition in the Mass  
(June – September 2007)

- Heavenly Father, I thank you for making me a part of your body through this local church community. I pray that I may be open to the power of the Holy Spirit and filled with the desire to be a full participant in the local church's Synod preparation. I pray that my thoughts and actions will be guided by You to give my input which will assist our Bishop and us, as the people of God in Johannesburg, to formulate together a diocesan vision. This I pray in Jesus Christ's name, Amen.

# Intercessory Prayer

- Create a short prayer that can be included in the Mass/Communion Service every week



- Questions.....

- Thank you!