

ARCHDIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG SYNOD 2008

PURPOSE OF THIS SYNOD

The faithful should be afforded the opportunity of expressing their needs, their desires and their opinions with regard to the topics being dealt with in Synod

Our Internal Strengths

- The presence & activity of the Holy Spirit
- The faith, hope & love of the people of God, expressed in Eucharistic worship, personal prayer & responsible action in pursuit of the common good of society
- Apostolic authenticity of Catholicism
- Anti-apartheid record
- Number of Catholics (many committed & active clergy, religious & laity) in the Archdiocese
- Established infrastructure
- Financial strength

Our Internal Weaknesses

- Number of priests insufficient (ageing & too few vocations)
- Many “modern” Catholics do not agree with or understand the Church’s position on some issues (i.e. contraception, divorce/remarriage, male priesthood, response to sex scandals)
- Inability to retain attention & participation of youth & young adults (alienating)
- Inadequate communication/teaching/homilies from the pulpit
- Insufficient communication between priests/deacons & laity
- Many lay Catholics are denied participation in the life of the Church by entrenched parish structures
- Challenges relating to the size of the archdiocese
- Lack of direction & priorities in response to RSA society
- Out of touch with the issues of the laity in their daily lives
- Too complacent & slow to respond to issues within & beyond the Church
- Too much on formal religion & not enough on spirituality
- Challenged to respond to technological, social & economic changes
- Caught between principles & history, while needing to adapt to the future.
- Gap between Church’s teachings & modern world
- Sexist
- Priest issues
 - Priests not taking their commitment seriously
 - Racial division
 - Sex scandals

External Opportunities

- Satisfy the human quest for meaning in the face of moral degeneration and a secular society Address the many un-served communities (poverty, demographic change, new higher socio-economic residential nodes)
- Respond appropriately to changing societal norms within the teachings of the faith
- Better utilise technology to foster community, inform & teach
- Utilise lay talent
- Explore more mature vocations
- Catholics spearheading South Africa’s societal change
- Increasing cultural diversity
- Ecumenical outreach

External Threats

- Secular, materialistic society
- Dramatic change in family life
- Competition for peoples attention
- Alternative, more entertaining “religions”
- Shifting residential nodes

KEY TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

- Spirituality
- Ongoing Christian Formation
- Youth
- Committed Personnel
- Communication/Profile
- Physical Development of the Church

WHAT IS A VISION?

A definition of VICTORY

or

How we will know we have achieved our objectives

PROPOSED VISION

A Eucharistic community comprised of the children of God, incorporated into the Body of Christ through Baptism, who worship the Father in Spirit and truth and who are actively serving humanity in view of fostering the Reign of God

A thriving diocese; comprising a sufficient number of accessible, self-reliant, interacting, interdependent, growing parishes; where priests, deacons, religious & an increasing cadre of lay leaders collaborate; to evangelize, deepen the faith, enhance the communion, & satisfy the spiritual needs, of multi-ethnic, multi cultural, multi-lingual Catholic congregations; who reach out as individuals & a Church to make a societal impact, & to provide moral leadership, consistent with the teachings of Christ & the Church; with particular emphasis on youth & the family, & the poor & the marginalised.

WHAT IS A MISSION?

A definition of PURPOSE

or

What are the assets, competencies & capabilities we will use to achieve our Vision?

PROPOSED MISSION

The Catholic Archdiocese of Johannesburg comprises 160 priests, 40 deacons and 38 religious orders, who provide pastoral ministry & leadership to a very diverse congregation of at least 1m lay Catholics, who adhere to the tenets of their faith to various degrees in 125 very differently resourced parishes & 50 schools predominantly in the Gauteng province.

In accordance with the Magisterium, we the Church seek to evangelize ourselves and respond to spiritual & human needs (through catechetics, contextual mission, education, pastoral work, the sacraments, lay movements & the nurturing of Parish communities) while providing moral guidance in a predominantly secular, increasingly youthful society, experiencing the challenges of dramatic societal change.

SPIRITUALITY

A priority of the Pastoral Plan of the Archdiocese of Johannesburg

GO BACK TO BASICS

- Small Christian Communities
- The Family as the Domestic Church
- The Parishes cooperating within the deanery
- Renewal and revitalisation of reception of the sacrament of Reconciliation [Confession]
- Give Youth their own space in the Church

Responsibility & Commitment

Each Parish Priest & the P.P.C.

The Archbishop & the Archdiocese

The Parish Pastoral Council

- Mobilise and promote the responsibility of the laity making them partners in the leadership and animation of the parish in all sectors
- Hold a 'Parish Synod' - set up a steering committee and do a SWOT analysis
- Visit lapsed Catholics, bring their children to Mass and have an outreach to poor areas
- Let the youth run with their initiatives

Archbishop & the Archdiocese

- Training for laity & P.P.C.
- Animation of priests to have the 'fire' of love in their homilies - at times provide homilies
- Strengthen deanery structures to care for priests and make them available for their principal task of ministry to people
- Promote partnership between parishes
- Coordination of sodalities into parish life

THE ACTION

A Basket of Activities

*EDUCATION: See * Judge * Act*

- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults [RCIA]
- Parent/Child, Family supported catechesis
- Promote the Alpha programme
- Encourage use of EWTN
- Archdiocesan desk of spirituality

BIBLE SHARING / Lectio Divina

- To be practiced in local Small Christian Communities / 'blocks' / zones / neighbourhoods
- Youth to have their own Bible sharing
- Bible sharing to be done also in the family
- Part of preparation for Mass by the Parish Liturgical Committee

YOUTH

- Sunday Youth Mass once a month
- Personal testimony to be encouraged
- Youth involvement to be organised well before confirmation classes
- Age for confirmation to be re-assessed as teenagers are often confused spirituality
- Catholic Schools to be linked with parishes
- Bursaries to be offered to catholic communities

FAITH VISIBILITY / Signs in the home

- Enthroned Bible
- Crucifix prominent seen on the wall
- Holy Water available in bedrooms
- Strong home involvement in a family focused spirituality
- Angelus & Grace at meals

LITURGY

- Sunday Eucharist which reflects on, supports, and celebrates the renewal initiatives of the archdiocesan Synod
- Serious renewal, availability and commitment to the sacrament of Reconciliation [Confession]
- Preparation before & reflection after Mass

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER

- Life in the Spirit
- Healing Services
- Benediction, Holy Hours & even perpetual adoration
- Marian spirituality promoted
- Centering prayer

TRAINING & SUPPORT

- Promote Engaged Encounter & serious preparation for marriage
- Provide counselling at parish level
- Provide workshops on parenting skills
- Deal with cultural problems of spirituality

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Celebrate Jubilees as occasions of renewal:
 - Of the archdiocese and the parish
 - Keep this 'Year of Paul' seriously
- Have pilgrimage Churches / shrines

ONGOING FORMATION

Section 2 of the Pastoral Plan of the Archdiocese of Johannesburg

FAITH FORMATION

- Aimed at nourishing in spirituality
- Return to simple evangelical message in the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles
- Bringing about intimacy with Jesus and knowledge of the Father
- Relevant to daily life of Christian Living

LITURGICAL FORMATION

- Faithful in parishes to be instructed in the renewal contained in G.I.R.M. & P.I.O.M.:
 - The General Instruction on the Roman Missal
 - Pastoral Instruction on the Order of the Mass
- Education on the RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
 - Importance of all Catholics becoming involved in this programme
 - Role of sponsor as one who accompanies and follows up after initiation
- Children's liturgy to be encouraged
- RCIA to continue after sacramental initiation to produce Catholics with conviction and not of convenience
- Confirmation to be treated as part of RCIA
- Homilies on today's topical issues
- Bishop to encourage Catholics to take note of Holydays of Obligation and take a day's leave

CATECHESIS

- Priests/parishes to promote family catechesis
- Adult catechesis - shared faith study
- Linked to RCIA stages of formation
- Catering for those in inter-faith marriages, single parents and for those who will only gain a limited understanding [SPRED]
- More active and effective use of LUMKO

BIBLE SHARING / *Lectio Divina*

- To be practiced in local Small Christian Communities / 'blocks' / zones / neighbourhoods
- Each home to have a Bible
- Youth to have their own Bible sharing
- Bible sharing to be done also in the family

AREAS OF SPECIAL CONCERN

- Formation of Small Christian Communities
- Catholic Schools to emphasise faith (audit)
- Vocations promotion, explanation and examples of vocations
- Support of marriages [MARFAM]
- Awareness of Catholic Social Teaching
- Traditional African Practices and relationship to Catholic teaching

Pro-Life & SEXUALITY

- Promotion of Pro-Life Movement
 - More vocal in the sphere of civil society
- Theology of the Body to be made available in all parishes

- Education on Sexuality

EVALUATION RECOMMENDED

- Effectiveness of resource centres/ departments
- Audit of Catholic Schools as tools of evangelisation & catechesis
- Utilisation of catholic media by parishes
- Present policy of marriage preparation

TRAINING

- Identify training needed for Sodalities
- Make effective use of existing programmes
- BOSCO / Good Shepherd etc

COMMITTED PERSONNEL

Section 3 of the Pastoral Plan of the Archdiocese of Johannesburg

QUALITIES REQUIRED FOR LAY INVOLVEMENT

- Open to spiritual development
- Willing, reliable and trustworthy
- Easily approachable, inspiring and interested
- Recognise that their service as a calling
- Open to on-going formation and education for the task

STRUCTURES & POLICIES

- Redefine current needs / existing structures within the parish before recruitment of specialised personnel who 'fit the job'
- Clear diocesan policies of terms of office for lay ministers
 - readiness to step down and let go
- Recognition of the role of women

ATTITUDES & RELATIONSHIPS

- Address the correct attitude / relationship that should exist between Priest and People & between People and Priest
- Define mentorship role
- Clear roles of clergy and laity in parishes
- Dissemination of Vatican II teaching on the role of the laity
- Training in professional development in parish management

TALENTS FOR SERVICE

- Formation of youth to focus on service
- Priests to find out what talent can be harnessed
- Small groups to be encouraged to discern their gifts and share their resources
- Challenge 'spectator' Catholics:
 - What does it mean to belong to Church?
 - What does it mean to serve in a ministry?

ACTING WITH SENSITIVITY

- Be aware of local cultures
- Pay a just wage / salary for work rendered
- Create space for Sodalities to air their concerns
- Have parish exhibitions to display ministries and sodalities

VOCATIONS

- Encourage vocations through testimonies
- Fostering vocations with speakers
- Take teams to visit religious orders
- Open house days
- Provide Accompaniment / Mentorship to encourage vocations

EXPLORE OTHER RESOURCES

- Archdiocese to deliberate on and debate Rosebank document and report back in 12 months
- Priests and religious to be visible role models
- Create environment of training to enable priests and religious to assist youth

- Look at alternative models in the Eastern Church
- Educate laity about pre-novitiate so that candidates can leave without shame
- Parishes to establish vocations teams

COMMUNICATION

What can we do?

We need to have a sense of where we are going. A media desk could help us to be relevant to our sharing with the public our beliefs and standpoints on certain issues and so shape the public feeling

What are we to do?

1. How do we align communication activities between all the stakeholders?
2. Can we develop specific communication networks and channels to support and improve communication?
 - a) Network between parishes and the archdiocese
 - b) Cost effective infrastructure of communication
 - c) Appoint parish media liaison officers
 - d) Archdiocesan media - website and news
 - a) Improve use of email

Some suggestions

- Generate case studies of successful communication by parishes - Competition!
- Establish a system of credible spokespersons
- Follow through on action steps taken to implement the Synod - SMS and???

The cycle

Information and Issues

- Issues: MEDIA & The Catholic Community
 - Politics/ Society
 - Abortion
 - Poverty
 - Sharing
- Information: Enquirers / Community
 - Teaching/ Homilies
 - Documents
 - Functional Communication

Internal and External

- Media Liaison: EXTERNAL
 - SACBC Office for Social Communication
 - Catholic Media - What of our support? SC/ RV/ EWTN
 - External Media - VERY DIFFICULT in SA
- Community Liaison: INTERNAL
 - Website & Archdiocesan News - Cycle
 - Email/ SMS/ letters
 - Parish Communication Person - push the cycle

Catholic Media

- Radio Veritas

- Southern Cross
- Websites
- Trefoil and Journals
- Archdiocesan News
- Parish Newsletters
- EWTN/ Catholic Studio

WHAT ARE YOU SUPPORTING?

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHURCH

Building needs of our archdiocese

Buildings required

- New churches in 19 areas
 - Bephelong, Chartwell, Crystal park, Dawn park, Doornkop,, Emdeni, Etwatwa, Freedom park, Greenstone, Kagiso II, Katlehong, Ruimmmsig, Simunye, Sunninghill, Tsakane, Vlakfontein, Voslorus, Walkerville, Zuurbekom
- Priests' Houses / presbyteries
 - Diepkloof, Donsonville, Dube, Duduza, Katlehong, Lenasia Extn 10, Phiri, Pimville, Spruitville, Thokoza, Tsakane, Vosloorus, plus for the new churches above

FINANCE AND FUNDING

- The money must be raised with the Johannesburg archdiocese and the building spread over a period
- Local sources of funding to be identified. More establish parishes could be approached for assistance. The generosity of parishes with surplus funds could be called upon
- The parish where works are done need to fundraise
- The archdiocese will be able to assist with loans for some parishes

Youth SYNOD 2008

I HAVE COME THAT YOU MAY HAVE LIFE, IN ABUNDANCE **John 10:10**)

Who are the youth?

- 14 - 18: TEENS
- 19 - 30: Young adults

- Young
- Optimistic
- Unashamed
- Teachable
- High on life!

- THE YOUTH ARE THE CHURCH!

KEY POINTS RAISED

- Active participation of youth in parish
 - Youth coordinators (Diocese-deanery-parish)
 - Support from parish - especially priests and PPC
 - Youth PPC in every parish
- Personal relationship/encounter with Christ
- Evangelization - through outreach programs
- Training of youth leaders
- Education through
 - Faith formation - how to be 100% Catholic
 - Understanding of Church teaching on moral and sexual issues
- Networking with other youth groups
- PRO-TEN

Youth Structure

Diocesan level - Youth Office

- Youth Vicar:
Full time and fully dedicated to serve the youth ALONE.
- Youth Coordinator:
Full time job, promotes and lives the vision and spirituality of the youth throughout the diocese, organize diocesan youth events and leadership training, update and manage database, liaise with deanery coordinators, run youth website and newsletter, distribution of resources and information, advise parishes on establishing and maintaining youth groups.

Deanery Level - Active Youth Leader

Link between parishes in deanery and youth office, coordinating deanery youth events, represents deanery at diocesan youth meetings, pastoral visits to youth groups in deanery.

Parish level:

- Youth leader/s
 - Lead the youth group
 - Heads-up youth pastoral counsel

- Represent youth on PPC and at deanery meetings,
- Coordinate youth events at parish such as Youth Mass.
- Organize annual Youth camps, holiday programs, retreats and youth leadership training
- Supported by parish priest (spiritual director) and adult mentors
- Youth group
 - Small group leaders
 - Small group members
 - praise and worship team or choir

Youth Group Development

---> Follow up retreat / TOB ---> Youth Camp MNE, YFC, SFC, YES (Confirmation candidates / parents) ---> Youth leader training ---> Youth Group / 12 week program (PRO-TEN) ---> Follow up retreat / TOB --->

Youth Group Format

4 week program

- Teaching - talks and discussion based on RCIA program
- Outreach - project run by parish
- Bible sharing in small groups
- General assembly - testimonies, adoration, youth Mass, social interaction

Other youth activities

- Regular confession
- Youth music group
- Praise and worship
- Youth coffee shop
- Counseling program at parish
- Social events

Confirmation

- Review the presentation and the content so that it is more relevant and meaningful for youth.(Life-teen, RCIA)
- Training of catechists in teaching sexuality and morality (Theology of the Body)
- Compulsory confirmation retreat (Fully Alive seminar, Life in the Spirit Seminar)

The way forward

- Hiring of full-time employed Diocesan Youth Coordinator/s
- Development of youth group manual and teachings
- Appointment of Youth Leader and YPPC at parish
- Youth camps run at parishes
- Parish youth leadership training
- Youth group program begins...

Listen to us!

Believe in us!

Empower us!

Trust us!

Support us!

We are the church

FULLY ALIVE!

Resources for parishes

- **Training for youth leaders** - *Missionaries of the New Evangelization and Youth for Christ*
 - (No other known program available)
- **Participation in Liturgy**
 - *Praise and worship singing*
 - *Liturgical Department of Diocese, parish priest*
- **Relationship with God**
 - *Life in the Spirit seminars - Youth for Christ, MNE, Charismatic Renewal*
 - *Alpha courses - Mandy*
 - *Retreats/pilgrimages - MNE, Bosco centre*
 - *Eucharistic Adoration and confessions - parish priest*

Formation

- *Seminars on sexuality and morality - Theology of the Body (MNE, Dr Heinz, Culture of life Campaign)*
- *Bible study and sharing - Catholic Bible Institute, various internet resources, Pauline Sisters*
- *Guest speakers (priests and laity)*
- *Nurturing of Religious Vocations*
- *Catechesis - Alpha ,TOB, Educational DVD's, Ewtn (Dr Scott Hahn, Fr John Corapi)*

Outreach

- *St. Vincent De Paul*
- *Culture of Life Campaign*
- *Parish solidarities*