



# THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MZUZU

Jobidon House  
P.O. Box 2  
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## CIRCULAR LETTER -----December 2016

**FROM:** RIGHT REV. JOHN A. RYAN, BISHOP OF MZUZU DIOCESE

**TO:** ALL COMMUNITIES AND INSTITUTIONS IN MZUZU DIOCESE

Dear, Fathers, Brothers and Sisters

We send you greetings from the Bishop's residence in Katoto, Mzuzu. Grace and Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be upon you all.

There are a few matters we wish to communicate to you:

### 1. SURVEY FOR OPENING NEW PARISHES

The following program has already begun. The Vicar General, the Director of Finance Investments and Administration, and the Pastoral Secretary are visiting places designated to be possible parishes according to the following program:

- 1). 29-11-16=Visit to Kabulufu @ 08:00am
- 2). 29-11-16=Visit to Mpherembe @ 2pm
- 3). 30-11-16=Visit to Jenda 2:00pm and Embangweni @t 08:00am  
(@ Jenda issue is to secure land).
- 4). 02-12-16= Visit to Kasito @08:00 am and Chintheche @ 2:00pm
- 5) week beginning 4th Dec = St. Albert- Katoto, St. Bernadette- Chibavi and St. Andrews- Masasa

### 2. APPOINTMENTS

We have the following appointments:

- a. Fr. Robert Mkandawire-Curate at St. Peters Cathedral and Chaplain for hospitals in Mzuzu.
- b. Fr. Angels Nkhata-Curate at St. Joseph Parish and Diocesan Youth Chaplain
- c. Fr. Raymond Kondowe-curate-Holy Cross Parish
- d. Fr. Phillip Nkunica-Parish Priest, St John's Parish
- e. Fr. Bernard Mzembe-Parish Priest, Holy Family Parish
- f. Fr. Felix Phiri-Canon, St. Peters Cathedral Parish
- g. Fr Mark Mkhandawire, Acting Parish Priest, St Joseph's Parish

We are pleased to inform you that we have received the following new priests:

- I. Fr. Charles Egbon-Curate (Missionaries of St Paul), who has started a language and cultural orientation at St Teresa's Parish in Katete.
- II. Fr. Thomas Delwende Pouya (Missionaries of Africa), -Curate, who has started a language and cultural orientation at St Thomas The Apostle Parish in Mzuzu.



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We extend a very warm welcome to both Fr Charles and Fr Thomas and pray that they will have long and happy ministry in Mzuzu Diocese.

Furthermore:

- Fr. Charles Ndhlovu is back from studies and he will help in the archives at the Bishop's residence and other secretarial work mainly on project proposals while at the same time he is finishing his PhD research thesis.
- Fr. Martin Kumwenda is also assigned to work in the archives at the Bishop's house and other secretarial work as well as advising the Bishop on issues in Canon Law.

Welcome back to both Fr Charles and Fr Martin

### 3. AN ORGANISATIONAL EVALUATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGIC PLAN

This exercise which is funded by CRS is key to the future development of our diocese. It will be a major activity for the next two months. You will be receiving further information from the Pastoral Secretary. Let us all join hands and hearts to make this a success.

### 4. PROJECT PROPOSAL WRITING

In order to have resources to carry out the various ministries in the diocese:

- a. In a recent meeting with the Projects Committee, it was resolved that the holders of different diocesan offices be involved in the formulation of project proposals for the funding of their activities. Therefore, all those who head offices for the Vocations, Tribunal, Youth, Pastoral Centre, Catechetical Commission, Communications, Lay Apostolate, Katoto Printing Press and Radio Tigabane etc are requested to write project proposals for the funding of their activities and offices.
- b. With regard to the new parishes, the concerned pastoral teams (as soon as it is decided which parishes are to be opened) are requested to formulate project proposals for the construction of the new parishes. These proposals should begin with the Fathers' House, with a small Chapel incorporated. The upgrading or construction of other buildings can follow later. Those parishes who requested upgrading of the Fathers' House should equally write project proposals.
- c. In the same vein, the pastoral team of Nkhata-Bay Parish is requested to submit a project proposal on the conversion of the Bishop's Cottage in Nkhatabay into a Retreat Centre. The pastoral team of Mzambazi is asked to work on the project proposal for the Girls Secondary School. Where appropriate, involve the Commissions and Radio Tigawane in the exercise of coming up with project proposals.
- d. For more information and assistance on the formulation of these proposals, you may consult the Pastoral Secretary Fr Edmond Nyoka. Where possible, all project proposals should be submitted to the Pastoral Secretary by 21<sup>st</sup> December 2016 so that the



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Central Team can work on them over the Christmas period.

## 5. WORKSHOP ON PROJECT PROPOSAL WRITING AND MANAGEMENT

Even though it will be after the first efforts at proposal writing, there will be a workshop on this very topic of Project Proposal Writing and and Project Management sometime around mid 2017. This workshop will be for all priests and representatives of sisters and brothers. The workshop has been organized in collaboration with the Diocese of Stockholm in Sweden who are kindly funding it. A description of the workshop content together with a questionnaire (to determine exact numbers who are interested in the workshop) will be circulated by the Pastoral Secretary to all.

## 6. THE TRIBUNAL

The present Tribunal Team consisting of Fr Philip Nkunika as Interim Chair, Fr Andrew Chunda VG, Fr Martin Kumwenda, Fr Charles Ndhlovu, Catechist Timothy Nyirenda, Catechist Nicholas Longwe and Catechist Bernard Lungu are tasked to take tribunal issues forward. There are some cases which have already been decided upon when there was a Judicial Vicar in place and what remains is only for letters to be written. This present Tribunal Committee is asked to finalise these letters.

Furthermore, this present Tribunal is to prepare the ground for the time when we have a full Judicial Vicar in place. In particular, they will organise a one day workshop for all priests and interested sisters in order that everyone will be familiar with the necessary processes on the ground in the initial preparation of cases for the Tribunal. Pope Francis has recently given more authority to the Local Ordinary to judge some cases (administrative process) and we are in the process of determining which cases the present Tribunal (without a qualified Judicial Vicar) is allowed to judge and give a full determination.

It is also noted that there is need for female membership and maybe some younger members on the Tribunal. Possible names can be forwarded through the DCOP representatives for consideration at the next DCOP meeting.

## 7. CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

We are all saddened with the continued destruction of the forests. Pope Francis reminds us that we are called to take care of the environment and planet earth, our common home. We urge all parishes and all Christians to plant trees around churches and around their homes and in their fields. The Diocese will give K50,000.00 to every parish to promote tree planting. This is only a starter pack, parishes are asked to encourage outstsations and parishioners to do the same.

## 8. VOCATIONS

The Lord said that the harvest is rich but laborers are few. The small number of students for priesthood in the system for Mzuzu Diocese is a big concern. The task to promote vocations lies in the hands of every Catholic. We urge all Catholics to help in promoting vocations to priesthood, sisterhood, brotherhood and marriage. A vocation team will be formed and will go around the diocese



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and all are asked to work with this team. It would be good if each parish also had a vocation team to promote vocations.

## 9. THE BISHOP'S PROGRAM IN DECEMBER 2016

DATE		PLACE
5 <sup>th</sup> December		Climate Change Symposium for Religious Leaders in Malawi-Lilongwe. Arrival on the 4 <sup>th</sup> December.
9 <sup>th</sup> December		Visit to St. John Of God.
11 <sup>th</sup> December		Padro Pio Parish
17 <sup>th</sup> December		Mpherembe
18 <sup>th</sup> December		St John's Parish, Mzambazi
24 <sup>th</sup> December		Visiting Mzuzu Prison
25 December		St. Peters Cathedral

## 10. DCOP

There will be DCOP meeting in January. For the Central Deanery the representatives are Fr. Michel Cote and Fr. Isaiah Nyirenda. For the Southern Deanery representatives are Fr. Isaac Katumbi and Fr. Yotam Msumba. The Bishop, the Vicar General, the Director of Finance, Investments and Administration and the Pastoral Secretary are ex-officio members.

## 11. SUNDAY MINISTRY

The team at Katoto, bishop's residence will assist on Sundays in parishes around Mzuzu. Sunday ministry is paramount in a priest's ministry and work. There is good will among all to fulfill this ministry. We ask the parish priests around Mzuzu to plan and include the Katoto team in their programmes.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a Prayful and Peaceful Christmas and Best Wishes to all for the New 2017 Year. Yewo Chomene.

John A Ryan

**SERVANT and BISHOP OF MZUZU DIOCESE.**