

## OURS IS TO COME IN AND SUPPORT THE VISION OF THE BISHOP, PRAY FOR THE BISHOP AND PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

Bishop Peter Holiday addressed a congregation of the Parishes representatives gathered at St Peter Claver Maokeng, Kroonstad on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2021.

In his address, Bishop Holiday mentioned important matters pertaining to the role of the Bishop, the Priests, the Deacons, and the laity in the Church. “I, as the Bishop, don’t have a job without you”, the bishop highlighted. By a job he was not referring to a colloquial use of the word, rather, Bishop Holiday meant that the church exists for the people of God and for the salvation of souls.

He further explained that it is the reason the laity partakes in the mission of the Church, which is to assist the Bishop and his co-workers in the mission of the Church. This is the task of the Diocesan Pastoral Council.

Mr Banyane, outgoing Chairman, also addressed the gathered representatives of the Parish Pastoral Councils. He spoke of their achievements in their task of supporting the Bishop in his vision of implementing and turning into a lived reality the Pastoral Plan of the Diocese.

“You don’t come in and do as you please. Ours is to come in and support the vision of the Bishop. Our task was to implement the Pastoral Plan of the Diocese, *Celebrating Marriage and Family Life.*” He also mentioned how the Diocesan Pastoral Plan incorporates the SACBC Pastoral Plan. Encouraging parishes and sodalities to make it a habit talking about the Diocesan Pastoral Plan so that it may be known and better lived in families of the Diocese.

“To the incoming DPC, please support the Bishop. There is a Pastoral Plan, let’s all run behind the Pastoral Plan. Pray for the Bishop and pray for our priests. We don’t judge! As Catholics, we all know from growing up in the church we were taught that you don’t judge the priest but you pray for him. So don’t come in with an agenda to fight. There should be one agenda, to support and run behind the Diocesan Pastoral Plan.” Mr Banyane also wished the incoming DPC a good luck and success in their endeavours to implement Diocesan Pastoral Plan.

The newly elected Diocesan Pastoral Council are: Chairperson, Francis Radebe; Vice Chairperson, Anthony Bouwer; Secretary, Felleng Kobue; Vice Secretary, Modiehi Rantsaila; Representatives of the Regions: North, Eliama Nthoroane; Central, Malefu Mokapela; South, Mathapelo Mpotseng; Goldfields, Lebohang Monare.

At the closing of the gathering, the Bishop thanked the outgoing chairman of the DPC, welcomed the newly elected members and wished them well in their new task.

By Fr Thabo David Chomane

