



## **Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference**

The Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference (SACBC)

### Geographical Background

The Church in Southern Africa under the Nunciature consists of 29 ecclesiastical territories. The conference covers three countries, South Africa, Botswana and Swaziland, of the 29 Diocese, 26 in South Africa, 2 in Botswana and 1 in Eswatiti (Swaziland), other neighboring conference are Lesotho, Zimbabwe and Namibia. Most of the dioceses are in rural areas and 5 in urban cities. The SACBC region consists of 5 Metropolitan provinces.

#### PROVINCE OF BLOEMFONTEIN

Bloemfontein, Bethlehem, Keimoes-Upington, Kimberley and Kroonstad

#### PROVINCE OF CAPE TOWN

Cape Town, Aliwal North, De Aar, Oudtshoorn, Port Elizabeth and Queenstown.

#### PROVINCE OF DURBAN

Durban, Dundee, Eshowe, Vicariate of Ingwavuma, Kokstad, Mariannhill, Mthatha, and Umzimkulu

#### PROVINCE OF JOHANNESBURG

Johannesburg, Klerksdorp. Manzini and Witbank.

#### PROVINCE OF PRETORIA

Pretoria, Francistown, Gaborone, Polokwane, Rustenburg and Tzaneen.

#### REGIONAL PASTORAL CONFERENCES

The Constitution of the SACBC also says that “it shall be in order for pastoral regional groups of Ordinaries, recognized by the Conference, to come together for consultation and action, within the general context of Conference policy and concern, on matters of particular interest to the Region”.



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This aspect of Church life has developed further in that at present various bodies have been set up to cope with specific pastoral needs especially where it concerns the needs of language groups.

1. Pastoral Conference of the Afrikaans Language Region
2. Pastoral Conference of the English Language Region:
3. Pastoral Conference of the Northern Sotho Region.
4. Pastoral Conference of the Southern-Sotho Region.
5. Pastoral Conference of the Tswana Region.
6. Pastoral Conference of the Xhosa Region.
7. Pastoral Conference of the Zulu Region.

Secretary General: Sr Hermenegild Makoro CPS

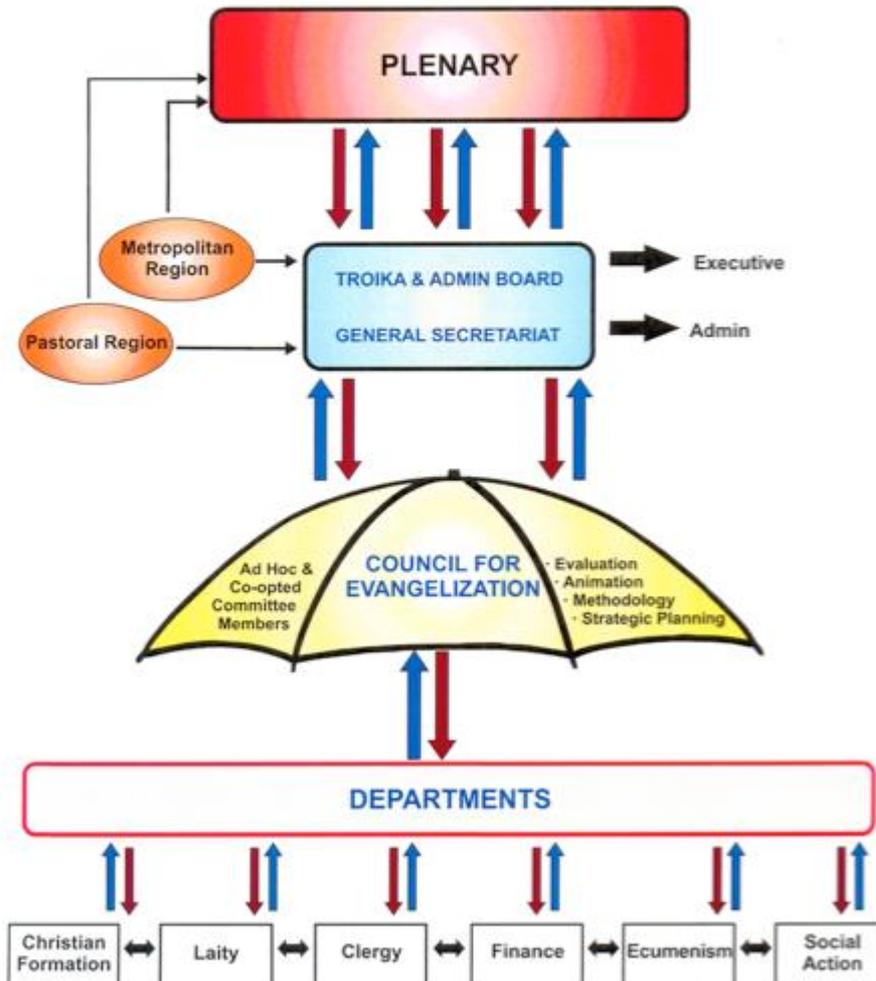
Associate General Secretary: Fr. Patrick Rakeketsi CSS



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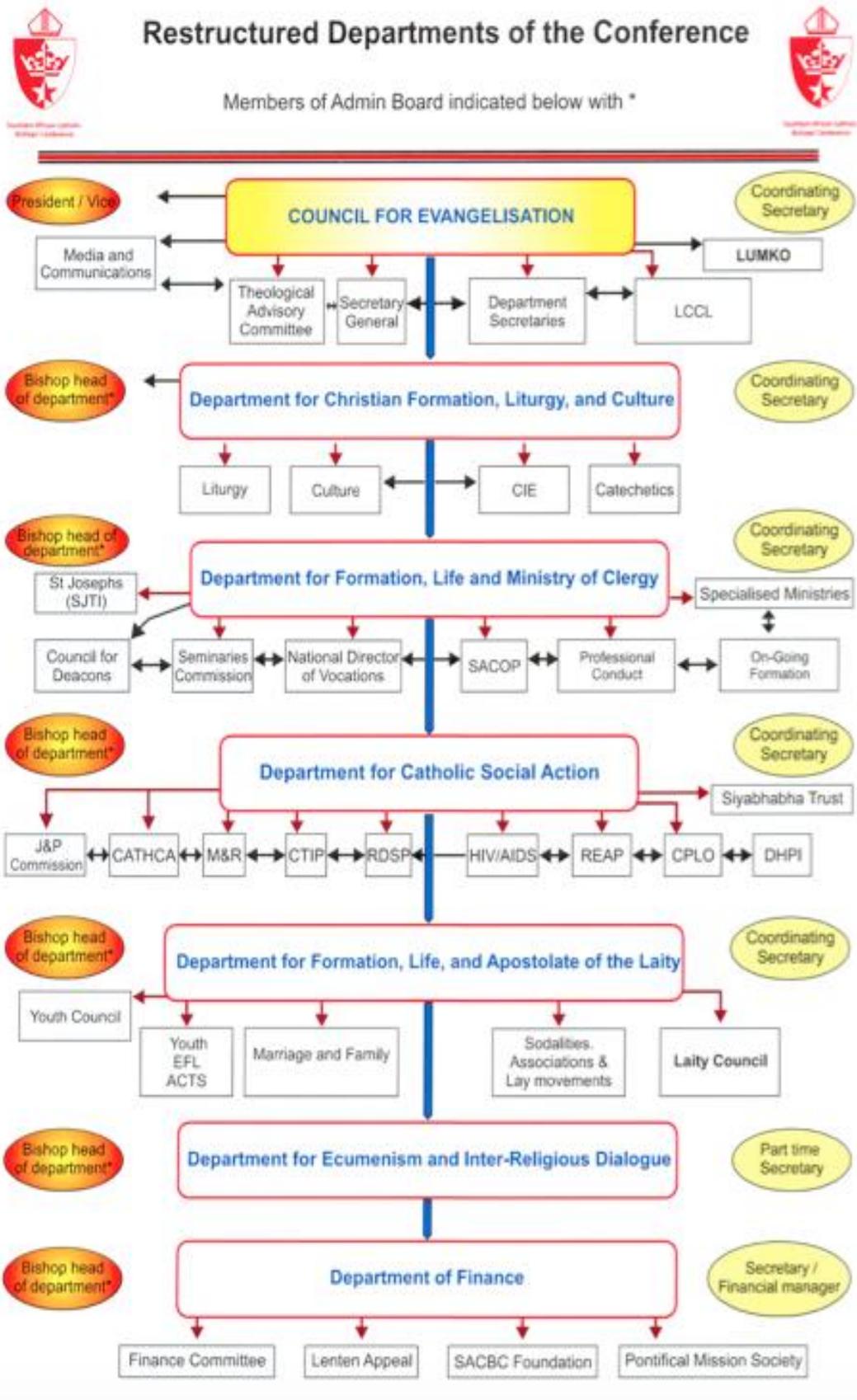


### SOUTHERN AFRICAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AUGUST 2014





## Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference





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NAME: DEPARTMENT FOR FORMATION, LIFE AND APOSTOLATE OF THE LAITY.

### **Bishop Head of Department**

Right Reverend Bishop Jan De Groef, M.Afr.

### **Coordinating Secretary:**

Reverend Fr. Sakhi Mofokeng

### **Chairperson of the Laity Council**

Mrs. Ursula Collings

### **Mandate:**

The department for Formation, Life and Apostolate of the Laity is at the service of the local diocese, strengthening communion between the laity and the hierarchy, committed to the implementation of the vision of the Conference as promoted by the Council for Evangelisation and other Magisterial documents.

### **Functions**

1. Initiates and implements programs for the ongoing formation of the laity, as envisaged by the teachings of the Vatican Council II and other subsequent Church documents.
2. Promotes the participation of the laity in the life of the Church, giving attention to all, professional and lay.
3. Coordinates Sodalities, associations and Movements of the Laity
4. The official liaison with the Pontifical Council for Laity and its constituent bodies, viz. women, family, youth, sport.
5. Liaises with other Departments of the Conference and other relevant bodies.
6. Coordinates youth Ministry through the Youth Office.
7. Coordinates the Ministry to Families through the Marriage and Family Life Office
8. Organizes Pastoral Forums every three years as well as pastoral consultation through the Laity Council, monitoring and encouraging the implementation of the decisions of the Forums.



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9. Examines, analyses and interprets issues facing the Laity regarding Evangelisation proposing goals and priorities to the Conference through the Council for Evangelisation

### **Best practices, initiatives and projects (academic, liturgical, pastoral, etc.) promoting ongoing promotion and formation of the lay faithful.**

#### Laity in General

##### 1. Inter-diocesan consultation

- The purpose of the Consultation will be to promote the unity of mind and heart and a renewed missionary Church.
  - The challenge is to find ways to allow and encourage diversity in the Church to continue. People need to be formed in order to make their rightful contribution
  - People are seeking to be taught and guided.
  - We thus need to go to people with some kind of shape of what it means to be a catholic.
  - The Consultation should be creating awareness of, informing about and deepening of the faith.
  - Many of our forums seem to be attended primarily rural people. We need to find ways of involving people from all levels, including politicians.
  - The Consultation is not just a matter of asking questions and getting answers. It is a looking at what faith means to me, the Gospel, who we are as church, why the Church is succeeding or failing in particular areas. In this way the Consultation is formative.
  - Commitment to the process of consultation is needed.
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- Phase I examined the present status of the previous Pastoral Plan of 1989. This took place in 2010. The results were published and submitted to the Bishops in January 2011.
  - Phase II was a theological reflection on the nature of the church. This was carried out in 2011-2012. The booklet for the reflection was distributed for people to reflect individually, family, groups in parishes.

#### Recommendation from Phase II

1. There needs to be a greater emphasis placed on the evangelization and formation of the youth as a long term strategy.



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2. There has to be greater attention given to the formation of SCCs, PPCs and Sodalities and leaders at all levels.
  3. A positive approach to the spiritual welfare of the family and support for married life needs to be developed to help priests and those involved in this ministry.
  4. The preaching skills of priests and deacons needs to be upgraded.
  5. Parishes need to be helped to create an atmosphere whereby people can experience the presence of Christ.
  6. There has to be a concerted effort to develop a missionary spirituality (John Paul), an outward looking spirituality (Bishops' vision).
- Phase III is a questionnaire for all to respond based on the recommendations of Phase II and the pastoral priorities contained in the Bishops' document "Ad Intra, Ad Extra" and the recent documents of the Church. The replies will provide some information for a new Pastoral Plan.

- Question 1 Youth and their place in the church.
- Question 2 The new Evangelisation calls for a renewed effort to awaken faith in others.
- Question 3 On-going Adult Faith Formation is necessary in all parishes.
- Question 4 The Social teaching of the Church is central to evangelisation.
- Question 5 Church renewal implies the discovery of the spirit of Pentecost.
- Question 6 Support for marriage and family life is growing in importance in parish life.
- Question 7 Passing on the faith, catechesis is an essential element of evangelisation.
- Question 8 The laity are called to transform society, to build the Kingdom in the world.
- Question 9 Sodalities, movements and organisations are part of the missionary activity of the Church.
- Question 10 It is important that Small Christian Communities be supported.
- Question 11 Vocations to the priesthood and Religious life are a challenge to the youth of today.
- Question 12 Devotional practices have always been part of the Catholic spirituality and identity.
- Question 13 What else is a pastoral priority in your opinion?



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### 2. Laity Council Annual Meetings

- 2015 -The role of the Laity in the Church and Society
  - Family Ministry
  - Youth Ministry
- 2016 -Rights, Obligations and Duties of the Lay Faithful
- 2017 -Address by Bishop
  - Laudato Si
  - Spirituality of Giving
- 2018 -Relationship between the Priest and the Laity

### Sodalities/Association/Movements

The SACBC has many groups of lay people who meet according to their charism and spirituality. These groups serve a variety of the needs in the Church where they exist, doing apostolic, evangelical and charitable works. The Diocese appoints chaplains to help them with their ongoing formation.

The ongoing formation for these groups takes place in the form of annual retreats and Annual General Meetings. It is during these gatherings that people of certain expertise in the Church are invited to give input on different topics. On the SACBC level, Conference Chaplains make sure that they follow the Spiritual Years announced by the Holy Father, documents will be summarized or simplified to be discussed in groups.

### Marriage and Family Life Office

The Office helps the dioceses to establish and support Marriage and Family Ministry. The teams and the Lay family movements work together with the Working Group of the SACBC in trying to help more on Marriage Preparation at an early stage, in youth and young adults gatherings.

During Sundays of the Ordinary Time, 21st to 27<sup>th</sup> Year B which were adopted as Marriage and Family Weeks, the office prepares the materials for reflection in the whole of the Conference in line with the theme of the year. During the IMBISA in 2016, the bishops made



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a resolution to focus on Laudato Si, so the office has the theme as Laudato Si in Family Environment.

### Youth and Young Adults

#### Mini World Youth Day:

Is a localised experience of the World Youth Day. The SACBC (Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference) intends to bring the experience of World Youth Day and its format to the local level in order to accommodate the youth who are unable to attend the World Youth Day and give an opportunity for those who attended the World Youth day to share their experience. The youth and young adults are invited to participate in the planning and to actively participate in this activity.

The Mini World Youth Day is a major activity organised by the SACBC Youth Office. Main Characters are the Bishops (whose main representative is the Liaison Bishop for the Youth); Youth Chaplains (who are led by the SACBC Youth Chaplain); the parents (represented by the Adult Supportive Bodies); the youth and young adult (represented by youth and young adult executives) actively participate in the planning of this event and in promoting it. The Mini World Youth Day is held every two years / in between the World Youth Days.

#### Revivals:

Are aimed at the spiritual renewal of the youth, focussing on the encounter with God, pleading for God's mercy. It is an activity of the weekend, commencing with some spiritual reflections during the day, and concluding with a night vigil. Revivals are organised in parishes, deaneries, diocese, clusters and at the conference level by the youth and young adults; clergy, religious and lay people. Youth and young adults are offered a moment of repentance and reconciliation; forgiveness and healing. They are also being spiritually accompanied by the adults (clergy, religious, lay people). Revivals help youth and young adults to have an encounter with Jesus and led to experience the mercy and love of God.

Some of the activities are talks, Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Confessions, Bible Sharing, Counselling, Holy Hour, Holy Mass and other activities. The leaders are youth committee members together with the chaplains, clergy, religious and adult supporters. Generally young



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people take the lead throughout as it has been planned before, an opportunity is given to them to suggest topics or activities they would like to have in the program. The experience of the revival is to deepen their catholic belief. The attendance of young people at the revivals is overwhelmingly huge and they always look forward to such.

### Education for Life:

Education for life is a behaviour change programme which uses See, Judge and Act Methodology. It was developed at the time when HIV/ AIDS was at its hype, and a lot of young people were dying. It intends to help young people to identify to look at their behaviours, analyse them and make choices for the future. The facilitators help young people to look critical at their lives and to see where their heading to. Young people are the drivers of this programme assisted by Coordinators and Chaplains of the Diocese. The programme runs for the entire week, with a lot of icebreakers, spiritual and input from presenters.

### St. Augustine Catholic University

#### St Joseph's Theological Institute Report

##### Bursaries

The institute currently offer six tuition bursaries to lay people, especially from the local community, who wish to study Philosophy, Theology or Development Studies.

##### Short Courses

SJTI offers several short courses over the academic year for which participants receive a certificate of attendance.

##### Talks

Talks are given on certain areas of interest for the laity in the Pietermaritzburg area where the institute is.

#### 1. Educational Training Programs

##### ▪ **Educational training programs:**

- ✓ Formation programs for catechists both on local and diocesan level
- ✓ Formation programs for various lay ministries in the Church (liturgy committees, Funeral Leaders, Proclaimers, Choirs, Altar Servers, Extra-Ordinary Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers)



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- ✓ Social Awareness programs and Justice and Peace interventions in a number of parishes
  - ✓ Social out-reach programmes through various diocesan projects as Bethlehem Basic Training Program, Catholic Community Service, Centre for Social Reflection and Farm of Hope (Rehab centre)
  - ✓ Educare centres and Catholic Schools
  - ✓ Parish Pastoral Councils trainings on Leadership
  - ✓ Parish Finance Committees training on Finances and Building Maintenance
  - ✓ Professional Catholic Lay People to offer their skills and share their knowledge with the communities.
  - ✓ Workshops and training for the Sodalities' Leadership on their role in the Church
  - ✓ Marriage and Family Life Ministry Workshops and Training of Trainers
  - ✓ Three year Course on Bible, Faith/catechism of the Catholic Church and Catholic Social Teaching.
  - ✓ Annual On-going Formations on leadership
  - ✓ Formation on Spirituality of service
  - ✓ Training and formation for youth and young adult ministry
  - ✓ Training and formation for youth and young adult Chaplains
  - ✓ Youth development workshops
  - ✓ Establishment and training of Small Christian Communities
  - ✓ Training people to link Faith with Social issues and development.
  - ✓ Project Training for human development (gardening, piggery, poultry, etc.)
- **Relevant topics and themes**
- ✓ Marriage and Family Life
  - ✓ Care for Creation
  - ✓ Combatting racism and xenophobia
  - ✓ Building of a self-ministering, self-providing and self-evangelizing Church
  - ✓ Prayer
  - ✓ Evangelisation and New Evangelisation
  - ✓ More emphasis on the role of Parish Councils
  - ✓ Laity Councils
  - ✓ Vocations to Married Life, Priesthood and Religious Life
  - ✓ Spirituality of Christian Leadership.



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- ✓ More emphasis on the role of Sodalities, Movements and Associations
- ✓ Role of Women in the Church leadership