



THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LUSAKA

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ADL News Bulletin



16TH OF OUR EPISCOPACY

In the world of faith and spirituality, leadership is not merely a title; it's a profound commitment to serve a community's spiritual and moral needs. It requires unwavering dedication, compassion, and a deep understanding of one's faith. In this article, we celebrate the remarkable journey of Archbishop Dr. Alick Banda, who on July 29, 2023 commemorated his 16th year as Bishop.

Throughout his 16-year tenure, Archbishop Banda has shown exceptional dedication to his congregation and the broader community. He has navigated the challenges of our rapidly changing world with grace and wisdom. Under his leadership, the Archdiocese has flourished, expanding its outreach programs, strengthening the bonds of faith, and embracing diversity.

One of the key achievements of Archbishop Banda's episcopate has been his commitment to social justice. He has tirelessly worked to address issues such as poverty, inequality, and discrimination. His leadership in humanitarian efforts, interfaith dialogues, and outreach to marginalized communities has been an inspiration to many.

Archbishop Alick Banda's ability to build a sense of community is one of his most remarkable attributes. He has fostered unity among the clergy, encouraged collaboration among congregations, and inspired a strong sense of belonging among his parishioners. His pastoral care and personal involvement in the lives of his flock have created a close-knit and supportive community that extends far beyond the walls of the Church.

VISIT TO THE POOR CLARES

In commemoration of the feast of St. Clare which falls on August 11, His Grace Dr. Alick Banda joined the Nuns in the Monastery for Mass on Sunday August 13, 2023. The Poor Clares, officially known as the Order of Saint Clare (O.S.C.), is a Catholic religious order of women who follow the ideals and spirituality of Saint Clare of Assisi. The order is named after Saint Clare, who was a close companion of Saint Francis of Assisi and the founder of the Order of Poor Ladies, which later became known as the Poor Clares. The Poor Clares are a contemplative religious order, meaning that their primary focus is on a life of prayer, simplicity, and withdrawal from the world.



ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO THE MARIAN SHRINE (OUR LADY OF LUSAKA)

15th August is the solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, for the Archdiocese of Lusaka the solemnity is celebrated in a special way with a pilgrimage to the Marian Shrine. Archdiocesan annual pilgrimages to the Marian shrine are more than just physical journeys – they are profound spiritual experiences that touch the hearts of believers. These journeys provide an opportunity for renewal, reflection, and connection with the divine. As pilgrims gather from across parishes to share in the traditions and rituals of their faith, they create a sense of unity and community that transcends the bounds of their local congregations. In this sacred pilgrimage, faith is deepened, intentions are offered, and the spiritual tapestry of the archdiocese is woven with threads of devotion and love. This year's pilgrimage was dedicated to our lady of Lusaka.



COMMEMORATION OF THE WORLD YOUTH DAY (A GLOBAL CELEBRATION ON LOCAL SOIL)

Young Catholics from around the world gather to celebrate World Youth Day (WYD), an event that unites them in faith, community, and a shared commitment to the teachings of Christ. In 2023, the spirit of World Youth Day has reached local dioceses, allowing young people to come together, celebrate their faith, and reflect on its significance within their own communities. World Youth Day, initiated by Pope John Paul II in 1985, is an international event that brings together young Catholics for a unique spiritual experience. While the main gatherings usually involve a global meeting hosted by the Holy Father in different cities, the year 2023 marks a special occasion as the World Youth Day celebrations have been extended to local dioceses, allowing young people to connect with their faith on a more personal and accessible level. For the Archdiocese the celebrations were held at Chesire Homes in Chawama compound where youths from various parishes gathered.



50 YEARS OF THE ST PATRICK'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY IN ZAMBIA

The St. Patrick's Missionary Society, also known as the Kiltegan Fathers, was founded in Ireland with the purpose of spreading the Christian Gospel and providing humanitarian aid across the world. Inspired by the life and teachings of St. Patrick, the society embarked on a mission to bring hope, education, and support to regions in need. In Zambia, the Kiltegan Fathers have woven themselves into the fabric of the nation's history. Their mission revolves around nurturing spirituality, establishing educational institutions, delivering healthcare services, and collaborating with local communities to address social challenges. To this end the Kiltegan Fathers arrived in the Archdiocese of Lusaka in 1973 and began mission, with their first assignment being to the then Roma Cathedral Parish. 2023 marks 50years (golden jubilee) for the St. Patrick's Missionary Society in Zambia and in particular in the Archdiocese of Lusaka. Today the society boasts of six (60) indigenous Zambian priests working in various parts of Africa. The Kiltegan Fathers are currently looking after four parishes in the Archdiocese of Lusaka, namely St. Faustian, St. Peter's Ten Miles, Good Shepard Moomba and St. Patrick's Muchenje.



GOLDEN JUBILEE- HOLY SAVIOUR PARISH, KAFUE

Celebrating a golden jubilee is a significant milestone, marking a period of 50 years. It's an occasion for reflection, gratitude, and festivities. July 23, 2023 His Grace Archbishop Dr. Alick Banda joined the congregation at Holy Saviour Parish, Kafue to celebrate with them this milestone. In his homily the Archbishop thanked the Ambrosian Father for their tireless work in establishing the Church in Kafue Estates. He also appreciated the Bambino Sisters for accompanying the Clergy in this noble cause. His Grace further encouraged the faithful in taking up the mantle of ensuring that Church continues its mission in this circumscription.

ST ANNA LAY GROUP

Lay groups in the Catholic Church refer to organizations or associations composed of lay (non-clerical) members who come together to share their faith, engage in various forms of religious activities, and contribute to the life of the Church. The St. Anna Lay Group is an organization of Catholic Women whose spirituality is focused on Christian family life. Theirs is promote families that uphold Christian values and norms. They derive their spirituality from St Annie, the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The male version of this lay group are the St. Joachim, who derive their spirituality from St. Joachim the Father of the Blessed Virgin Mary. His Grace, Archbishop Dr. Alick Banda had a thanksgiving mass with the St. Anna Lay Group on August 12, 2023.



CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL- GOLDEN JUBILEE

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) is a spiritual movement within the Catholic Church that emphasizes the personal experience of the Holy Spirit's presence and gifts. It emerged in the late 1960s and gained significant momentum in the following decades. The Renewal began in Zambia in 1973. This year the Charismatic Renewal clocks 50 years on the Zambian soil and this event was marked with a rally held at the grounds of the Kamwala Secondary School in Lusaka. Archbishop Dr. Alick Banda celebrated Mass on August 26, 2023, in his homily the Archbishop congratulated the CCR for their continued presence in Zambia. He further indicated the Churches appreciation for the renewal's audacity against the tide, resilience in witnessing to the Spirit of God, availability to the Church and its service to the poor, the sick and those afflicted by a multiple of evil forces.



THE ARCHBISHOP WITH HIS SEMINARIANS

Seminarians in a diocese represent the future leadership of the local Church. The diocese invests significant resources into their formation, recognizing the importance of preparing well-equipped and spiritually grounded priests who can serve the people of God with compassion, integrity, and devotion. From August 9 to 10, 2023 His Grace Dr. Alick Banda in the company of the ADL Senior Management, spent time and interacted with the Seminarians of the Archdiocese of Lusaka at the Marian Shrine. During this encounter His Grace encouraged the Seminarians to take their formation seriously. He also encouraged them to graft their lives to Jesus Christ after whose image they seek to be formed. Further, they were encouraged to consider themselves a part of the Archdiocese and thus they have a responsibility to contribute to the well-being of the Archdiocese.



PRIESTLY ORDINATION

Priestly ordination in the Catholic Church is a sacramental rite through which a man is consecrated and empowered to serve as a priest in the Church. This ordination imparts a sacred character that enables the priest to act in the Person of Christ and carry out the ministerial functions associated with the priesthood. August 6, 2023 feast of the transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ was the day set for the priestly ordination in Archdiocese. His Grace Dr. Alick Banda elevated Deacon Daniel to the priesthood.

In his homily the archbishop exhorted the newly ordained to listen attentively to Christ who calls him. He further urged him seek consolation in Christ through prayer and not in the bottle.



DEDICATION AND CONSECRATION OF A CHURCH

The consecration of a church is a sacred and elaborate liturgical ceremony that sets apart a church building for divine worship. Consecration is a symbolic act through which the building becomes a dedicated place for the worship of God, and it signifies the presence of Christ in the midst of the community. The consecration usually takes place during a special liturgy known as the "Liturgy of Dedication." On July 2, 2023 the Archbishop dedicated and consecrated the newly constructed Church at St. Peter's Chanzanga Parish. During this joyous celebration His Grace congratulated the Parish Priest Fr. Melvin Zingani and the Christians of Chazanga for the job well done.



PASTORAL VISITATIONS

The Archbishop's pastoral visitation of parishes and institutions is a significant aspect of his role as a spiritual shepherd and leader within the Catholic Church. These visitations are a way for the bishop to connect with the local communities, assess the spiritual and pastoral needs of the faithful, and offer guidance and support. The primary purpose of a pastoral visitation is pastoral care. The bishop seeks to foster a deeper connection with the people under his care, understand their needs, encourage their faith, and offer guidance in matters of doctrine and faith. During these visits the Archbishop and the Senior Management Team seize the opportunity to offer pastoral formation to the leaders in the Parishes and he also celebrates the sacrament of confirmation for the candidates that have been prepared and are ready.



KANAKANTAPA

Sacred Heart Parish- kanakantapa is located off Great East Road about 40km from Lusaka. It is situated in a farming area. The Parish has 7 outstations. It is currently under the care of the Jesuits. The Archbishop and the Senior Management Team visited the Parish from June 12 to 15, 2023. His Grace administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 127 candidates.



MPANSHYA

St. Joseph's Mpanshya Parish is located within Rufunsa District about 190km from Lusaka on the Great East Road. The parish has 12 outstations dotted around the district. The Parish is currently run by Diocesan Priests, the Parish Priest being Fr. Dominic Ndagijimana assisted by Fr. Moses Mpampa. Within the catchment of the Parish we find St Luke's Mission Hospital and St. Luke's Nursing School both being run by Sisters of Mercy of St Charles Borromeo. The Parish offers chaplaincy to both the hospital and the school. During his pastoral visit His Grace Dr. Alick Banda bestowed the Sacrament of Confirmation on nine candidates.



CHINYUNYU

Chinyuyu Parish is on the located within Rufunsa District about 140km from Lusaka on the Great East Road. The Parish has 42 outstations in its catchment. The Parish is under the care of Fransican Cappuchin Frairs. During this year's pastoral visit the Vicar General Very Rev. Fr. Solomon Tembo administered the Sacrament of confirmation to more than 300 candidates.



NAMPUNDWE

Good Shepard Parish- Nampundwe is located off Mumbwa Road 100km from Lusaka. The Parish has 7 outstations the farthest being beyond the flood plains on the banks of the Kafue River. The Parish is under the care of Diocesan Priests. 55 candidates received the Sacrament of Confirmation during the Pastoral visit of the Archbishop and his Team



MUMBWA

Christ the King Parish- Mumbwa is 150 km away from Lusaka and is one of the biggest parishes in Lusaka Archdiocese in terms of its catchment area. The Parish shares boundaries with Luanshya, Kasempa, Mongu, Monze, Itezi tezi, Namwala, Kabwe, Kafue and Lusaka. The Archbishop and His Team visited the Parish from July 17 to 20, 2023. The Archbishop conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on 50 candidates.



MUNGU

St. Mary Mother of the Saviour Parish- was built in 1975 and begun has an outstation of Holy Saviour Parish- Kafue Estates. It was declared a Parish in November 2016 and put under the stewardship of the Salvatorian Fathers. The Parish is located within Kafue District. It has seven (7) outstations two of which are on the islands of Chanse and Deep. Archbishop Dr. Alick Banda and the Senior Management Visited St. Mary's from August 22 to 25, 2023.



BAULENI

St. Mathias Mulumba Parish- Bauleni is located within Lusaka on the Leopards Hill Road. The Parish is under the care of the Salesian Fathers. The Archbishop and the Pastoral Team visited the Parish from June 24 to 25, 2023. His Grace administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 50 candidates.



CHUNGA

St. Stephen the Martyr Parish- is situated within Chunga township in the Central Business District. The Parish has twelve (12) Small Christian Communities. The Archbishop and the Senior Management Team visited the Parish from July 8 to 9, 2023. A total of 64 Candidates received the sacrament of Confirmation.



HOLY SPIRIT- LIBALA SOUTH

Holy Spirit Parish- Libala is located in Libala South Area within Lusaka. It has a total of 12 Small Christian Communities. The Parish is under the care of the Spiritan Fathers. Archbishop Dr. Alick Banda and the Senior Management Team visited the Parish on July 15 to 16, 2023. A total of 26 Candidates received the Sacrament of Confirmation from the Archbishop Dr. Alick Banda.





Regina Pacis Parish- Chawama is located within Chawama township which is off Kafue Road. The Parish has a total of twenty-seven (27) Small Christian Communities. The Archbishop and the Senior Management Team Visited the Parish from July 29 to 30, 2023. Fifteen (15) Candidates received the Sacrament from the Archbishop.

THE CHURCH TEACHING ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

By Clement Chisanga

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) is a body of moral and ethical principles that guides the social and economic aspects of Catholicism. These teachings are rooted in the Catholic Church's understanding of human dignity, social justice, and the common good. Social justice, as taught by Catholic Social Teaching, is a fundamental aspect of this framework and is often expressed through a set of key principles.

HUMAN DIGNITY: At the core of Catholic Social Teaching is the belief in the inherent dignity of every human person. This dignity is rooted in the understanding that all human beings are created in the image and likeness of God, regardless of their social, economic, or cultural backgrounds. As a result, all individuals possess equal worth and should be treated with respect and compassion.

COMMON GOOD: The Catholic Church emphasizes the importance of promoting the common good – the well-being and flourishing of all members of society. This principle calls for policies and actions that prioritize the interests of the whole community over narrow individual or group interests. It underscores the responsibility to create a just and equitable society where all individuals can thrive.

SOLIDARITY: Solidarity is the notion of recognizing our interconnectedness as members of the human family. According to Catholic Social Teaching, individuals are called to stand in solidarity with one another, especially with those who are marginalized, oppressed, or suffering. This principle emphasizes the importance of empathy, compassion, and active support for those in need.

SUBSIDIARITY: Subsidiarity is the idea that social issues should be addressed at the most local and immediate level possible. This principle supports the empowerment of individuals and communities to make decisions that affect their lives while recognizing the role of larger institutions in providing support and resources when necessary. It encourages a balance between individual autonomy and collective responsibility.

PREFERENTIAL OPTION FOR THE POOR: This principle directs special attention to the needs and rights of the most vulnerable and marginalized members of society. The Catholic Church teaches that societies should prioritize the well-being of the poor and work to alleviate poverty, injustice, and inequality.

In summary, Catholic Social Teaching teaches that social justice is an integral part of living out the Gospel message. It calls on individuals and society to work towards a more just and equitable world, where the dignity of every person is respected, and the common good is promoted. While these principles are rooted in Catholic theology, they have also been influential in shaping broader discussions on social justice and human rights in contemporary society.



CATECHESIS AND ITS IMPORTANCE IN THE CHURCH

By Webby Mwamba Puulu Theo Iv

Origin of Catechesis

The word catechesis from the Greek word *Katecheo* which means to teach or to instruct. Catechesis can be traced back to the New Testament times, firstly Jesus Christ himself is the Catechist par excellence. We see that before he began his public ministry he chose the twelve disciple whom he taught by giving them instructions on the kingdom of God (LK 5:1-11). Having taught them, he sent them to go and proclaim, to catechize what he has taught them (Matthew, 28:18-20; 28: Luke 10:1-24). It is this very mandate transmitted to the Bishops who are the successors of the Apostles. They teach in the name of Jesus Christ who is the principle catechist. The gospels have thus been written as tools for Catechesis for instance the gospel of Luke is written to Theophilus "so that you may know that truth concerning the things about which you have been catechized". The story of the two disciples on their way to Emmaus can be read as a paradigm for catechesis. Our Lord Jesus Christ walks with those going away in the wrong direction from Jerusalem. He provides catechetical instructions to them and eventually their eyes were opened to in the scriptures.

The Early Church

During the early Church, catechesis took a long period of time. Those to be received into the Church were to be adequately formed. Therefore, to be baptized into the Christian denomination was a serious decision a person was to make. Catechesis was a very serious exercise it shaped the life of the Church. Those who enrolled received instructions for forty days of Lenten Season. It was a period of prayer, listening to the scriptures, meditation and fasting. Central to their formation was learning and reciting the creed and the Lord's prayer. However, more instructions were given from the scriptures and various traditions of the Church. The Catechumens were excluded from communion, until the reception of the sacrament of baptism they could be called to participate in communion.

Catechesis Today

The chief Catechist of today is the Bishop of a particular dioceses. He instructs the faithful in matter of faith and morals. However, he does this in collaboration with the Priests in charge of various parishes. The priest also shares this responsibility with the lay catechizers teachers who are trained to give instructions to those on the journey of Christian initiation. The instructions are given for a period of three years. However, the instructions are not deeply given especially in instances where the work is left only to the lay catechizers who do not have sufficient information to give to the catechumens. This has negatively impacted the Church in that a high number of young people are leaving the Church due to a deep lack of understanding of faith. It is therefore, important that the priests in parishes take the front charge in this exercise. Let them give proper catechetical instructions to the neophytes so that faith can be deeply rooted in them. Furthermore, ongoing formation should be given to lay catechizers so that they can be equipped with adequate arsenals for catechesis.

The Importance of Catechesis

Helps the faithful to understand their faith deeply: knowledge of our faith includes scripture and tradition. People have to understand the teaching of the Church in tradition, doctrines and dogmas. People leave the Church because they do not understand properly the teachings of the Church especially on dogmas. We have to form them in such a way that they are able to respond to the modern challenges of Pentecostalism and many other faiths. Catechesis promotes the knowledge of understanding of liturgy and sacraments: people have to understand what is done in liturgy so that effective participation is enhanced. They also ought to understand that all sacraments and ministerial life in Church is oriented towards the Eucharist. As such without proper catechesis they will not understand the Importance of the Eucharist in our lives.

Catechesis Forms the people morally after the example of Jesus Christ: catechesis helps to strive to practice the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ in our lives. This entails bringing God's love in this world both in personal and public life. Catechesis prepares a person to live in a community and to participate in the mission of the Church. It is only after being catechized that someone is sent to go and proclaim to others the truth of the gospel.

