

AD CLERUM - SEPTEMBER 2011

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It was a chance remark that got me thinking. I was with two other bishops and we were discussing the fact that an increasing number of clergy are lodging appeals with the CCMA even though clergy are not employees in the eyes of the law and therefore outside the jurisdiction of the CCMA. One of the bishops then commented that one of his clergy who had lodged an appeal with the CCMA had told him that he was a member of a trade union and that the bishop had no right to take action against him as he had done. To which the bishop replied that, had he known that the priest was a member of a trade union, he would have withdrawn his licence as soon as he had heard of it.

A great deal of discussion followed that statement, but what stuck with me was what the bishop said when I asked him why he had been so vehement in his statement. His response was simple. He said, "Priesthood is a calling from God. The language of trade unions has no place in such a call."

That comment got me thinking. We talk so easily and freely about the priestly ministry being a vocation, but what does it really mean? What is the nature of that "call"? How is it heard? How does it shape our thinking; or the way we live? And, given the fact that since the 16th century the word "vocation" has been used in a generalised way to refer to all professions and jobs, does our sense of "vocation" differ in any way from the calling to any other profession or work?

The word "vocation" derives from the Latin word "to call" and in its earliest usage referred quite specifically to a call from God. So it is not surprising then that in the first instance it came to be seen as synonymous with a call to the religious life: whether as bishop, priest or deacon, or as a member of a religious order. The first word belongs to God: "Who will go for me? Whom shall I send?" Our word is always in response to the grace of God: "Who am I that you should choose and call me ... but Here I am, Lord, send me."

Like the call to the first disciples, "Follow me," God's word is both gracious call and command. "If you obey my voice and keep covenant with me, then you will be my treasured possession." Like the pearl of great price it is a call to let go of all things so that, in Him, we might receive everything. When God calls, our answer is unconditional: "Here I am, Lord, send me." We can never say, "Yes, Lord, but" To set conditions is a denial of God's Lordship over our lives.

I think that it is this sense of vocation that lay behind the bishop's comments. Trade unions are about protecting the interests of the worker, of ensuring reasonable working conditions and maximum reward for their members – a formulation of terms and conditions at variance with the call to unconditional obedience. In saying this, I am not in any way justifying poor labour practice or the abuse of episcopal power. What I am trying to do is to challenge us to reflect on our vocation and to ask whether the practice of our ministry is indeed an

unconditional giving of ourselves to God, or whether our ministry has been so compromised by limits, expectations and even demands that it has ceased to be a vocation at all and has become simply the plying of a trade.

The call of every Christian is to follow Christ unconditionally, but our calling as priests is a calling to share in a special way in the ministry (*diaconia*) of Christ. “You yourselves know how I lived among you ... serving the Lord in all humility” (Acts 20:19). Paul’s ministry was incarnational – a continuation of the incarnational ministry of Christ. And so strong is Paul’s sense of this calling that the word he uses to express his service for the Lord is rooted in the language of slavery. And the particular quality in that sense of call has a priestly dimension in that it not only makes visible God’s ongoing incarnate ministry, but also animates and activates God’s transforming power in the lives of those whom he serves. Paul is “called” as every baptised Christian is “called”, but his “vocation” is to live and work among them so that they all are reminded of what it means to be a Christian and are drawn into the renewing power of the Holy Spirit so that they, in their lives, might be all that they are called to be.

In our modern world, as I have said, the use of the word “vocation” has lost its meaning and it is important that we recover our sense of “vocation” as a call by God to a radical obedience that is world transforming. As we live among our people ...”serving the Lord in all humility” so our people will be able to look at us and see what they themselves have been called to be. We will not only be indicators of God’s incarnate grace, but also animators of that grace.

When that happens our people will find themselves being called, with us, to live a counter-cultural life. All life then becomes vocational. Each role we play in life – whether as father, mother, child, scholar, teacher, accountant, housekeeper - all take on new meaning. Each becomes God’s particular call on our lives and each role must be fulfilled in radical obedience to God so that what we do in that role and context becomes a part of God’s transforming, incarnational ministry.

Only to the extent that we recover our sense of vocation and make it visible at the very heart of all we do, will our people discover that their own lives are vocation. May we create a culture of vocations within our parishes and society and recover for ourselves and all people that sense that all life is vocation – life lived in response to the radical, counter-cultural call of God.

For self reflection:

- 1. A)** God has called me to the office of deacon / priest / bishop. How did that call come to me? How has it unfolded and grown into maturity? What does the word “vocation” mean for me in terms of my ministry? How does that sense of vocation animate and activate God’s call in others? Spend time with God as you ponder these questions.
- 1. B)** My baptism is my “yes” to God’s gracious call. Explore the pilgrimage of growth through the course of your life? Where have you especially seen the grace of God at work in your life? What have been the significant moments of spiritual growth / spiritual disobedience in your life? How is God’s call being expressed in your life now? Spend time with God as you ponder these questions.
- 2.** How does the way you live out the different roles in your life reflect faithfully your Christian vocation in each of those roles?

For group discussion:

1. How do we as a parish nurture the sense of vocation in all our people?
2. How do we as a parish equip our people to more faithfully fulfil the different roles in their lives?

May the call of God be visible in the actions God's kingdom come, here on earth as it is in heaven



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Spiritual Formation

Clergy Day: The next Clergy Day will take place on Tuesday the 6th September at the Parish of St Mary, Bekkersdal. The topic of the day will be Lent '12. Lunch will be served after the clergy day and I would encourage you to stay and enjoy their hospitality.

The October Clergy Day will take place at the Parish of Christ the King, Coronationville on Tuesday the 6th of October.

Youth Pilgrimage to the Holy Cross Monastery, Grahamstown: The following youth will leave next week Tuesday to attend this pilgrimage arranged by Chris Uitzinger: Sifiso Mashele (Sunninghill), Kabelo Motlhakane (Bedfordview), Kevin Kok (Newclare), Bonolo Ntshanana (Dobsonville), Lemo Tsholetsane (Dobsonville), Nombulelo Mguli (Pimville), Mpumi Nomlomo (Pimville), Belina Yende (Meadowlands), Kholo Sithole (Protea Glen). Please pray for them, for a safe journey and for a transformative, enriching time with the brothers.

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Reading Recommendations

Bishop Martin Breytenbach wrote to us recently recommending Eric Pike's book "**Who do you say I am? A personal response to Jesus' question**". He says: 'It is one of the most moving, challenging and encouraging books I have read in a long time. In the book Eric reflects on his responses to God, and to Jesus' question "Who do you say I am?", at various key moments in his life and ministry. One of the reasons I found it so good is that I am able to identify with many of the challenges he faced in ministry. As a result I found myself drawn closer to God in prayer and reflection on the ministry to which he has called me.'

The book is available for R120.00 including postage and packaging from www.pretext.co.za/shop or email info@pretext.co.za or telephone 021-788-3610. ISBN 978-0-9814224-9-7.

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Independent Verifiers

As you know the Diocesan office has been advertising and running training workshops for Independent Verifiers. Please be advised that in future no Diocesan office staff will be allowed to act as independent verifiers. This decision has been taken in the interests of good governance. Each parish who has historically used the Diocesan Office to verify their accounts must appoint a new verifier as soon as possible. If you do not have a suitable candidate in your parish please contact the Rodney Taylor at the Diocesan Office who will give you the name of one of the Diocesan Verifiers.

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St Joseph's Update: A Report from Rodney Taylor

Work at St Joseph's is continuing at a cracking pace with builders, carpenters, plumbers and electricians on site. This does mean that **the centre is effectively out of use** in the short term. Attendees of meetings that usually take place at St Joseph's will be advised of new venues so please ensure that your group has up-to-date contact details for you. Alternatively please check the Weekly Newsletters.

Rodney Taylor has provided the following update: 'The hall floor has been repaired. Windows and doors have been stripped of paint and are being prepared for oiling so that they retain their natural look of Oregon pine. The upstairs balustrade had been stripped and previous repairs with meranti have been removed to be replaced with Oregon to match the original.'



Electrical contractors have also been busy and there is now electrical trunking throughout most of the building with new wiring and fittings.

Plumbers have been appointed as have painters. Those of you who can picture the upstairs pink and blue room will be pleased to know that the first coat of normal colour paint has been

applied and the partitioning in the middle has been removed creating a big spacious room ideal for training sessions.



The chapel has also had its first coat of paint and looks much brighter than a few weeks ago, assisted by the removal of the old dark colouring from the ceiling so that the natural wood is once again visible. The carpenter who is repairing the windows and doors will also be renovating the existing pews, the few there are, and will make additional pews that will as far as possible match the existing original pews.



A construction / demolition firm has been appointed to remove the northern part of the building that is not part of the original plans.'

Once again we challenge each parish to think and pray about the contribution you can make to the costs of refurbishment. St Joseph's is a Diocesan Centre for the use of all members of the Diocese and with the main purpose of building God's kingdom in this area. We would like each of you to feel a sense of ownership of it and to be a real part of building it. We have approximately 30,000 worshipping Anglican's in our Diocese. If each Anglican pledged R100 we would cover the costs. I have included below a list of the costs incurred to date – as you can see, they are considerable!

Description	Roof	Woodwork	Plumbing	Painting	Electrical	Civils	Architect	Other	Total
Initial Drawings (Prior to 2010)							147,698.10		147,698.10
Costs in 2010	231,385.80		750.00		769.50			3,420.00	236,325.30
Flooring / Windows / Doors		68,951.06							68,951.06
Initial					141,804.00				141,804.00
Upstairs					181,998.00				181,998.00
Hall					52,420.00				52,420.00
Quarter Round in Main hall and south wing		8,111.10							8,111.10
Cover Plates		5,751.93							5,751.93
Skirting Ground floor and south wing		22,469.19							22,469.19
Balustrade repair		28,881.50							28,881.50
Interior				244,414.00					244,414.00
Replace plumbing			191,781.00						191,781.00
Floor Tiling			328,883.00						328,883.00
Cable to prefabs					15,450.00				15,450.00
Roofing	53,921.00								53,921.00
Repair mock beams		23,837.31							23,837.31
Fireplace Mantels		7,544.31							7,544.31
Picture rails		6,860.75							6,860.75
Demolition and Construction						154,215.00			154,215.00
Ceilings		91,902.25							91,902.25
Revised Drawings							9,406.37		9,406.37
Total Committed to / Paid	285,306.80	264,309.40	521,414.00	244,414.00	392,441.50	154,215.00	157,104.47	3,420.00	2,022,625.17

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2012 Year Planner

2012 will be an especially full year as we will be celebrating our 90th Anniversary as a diocese. It will also be our Bishop's last year in office. As we are already planning the 2012 Diary, I would urge you submit any special requests or plans you have for 2012 so that they can be considered and where possible accommodated in the Year Planner.

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Byzantine Catholic Patriarchate

Some of you will have recently received a letter pronouncing an anathema on the Anglican Church of Southern Africa by the Byzantine Catholic Patriarchate, a grand-sounding title that

relates to a very minor fundamentalist sect established in 2008. Their statement arose out of a misreading of a motion brought to the Cape Town Synod and I will not dignify the scurrilous and thoroughly unchristian statement which is both factually inaccurate and filled with false assumptions. We are in good company in that a month ago they declared a similar anathema on the Roman Catholic Church and excommunicated both Pope John Paul II and Benedict XVI. I would urge you simply to delete the message as being the junk mail it is.

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Provincial News

- The **Ven Tsietse Seleokane**, Rector of Holy Trinity, Newcastle was elected as Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Natal (North West Episcopal Area) at the Elective Assembly held yesterday. Please pray for him and his wife Ruth as he prepares for his consecration on the 12 November 2011.
- Please find a copy of the Archbishop's August/September **Laos** attached.

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Diocesan Family News

- On Tuesday the 13th of September the a Diocesan team will be holding a **Prayer Vigil** with the topics of the Diocese, the Bishop, St Joseph's Diocesan Centre, 2012 Diocesan Lent Program and the Diocesan 90th anniversary celebrations in 2012. We encourage the whole Diocese to join in this vigil by spending time in prayer around these topics on this day.
- The **Lent '12** project is an opportunity for us to get to know each other and build our sense of being part of our Diocesan family. As part of this the project team has trained some interviewers to visit parishes and schools to conduct interviews. Please welcome them if they come to your parish or school. We will discuss this in more detail at the clergy day.

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Moves and Placements

- **Simon Kortjass** will be instituted as Rector of the Parish of St Mary, Orlando at 15h00 on Sunday the 18th of September. All members of the Diocese are invited to attend and all clergy attending are invited to robe.

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Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries

We would like to wish the following people a very happy birthday and wedding anniversary:-

Date	September	October
01		Alice Mugglestone

02		Tšepo & Nosipho Matubatuba(28) Gail Prince Jonathan Holden
03	Lynda Shimmin	
04	John & Irma Warren(46) Winnie Dixie Irma Warren	Vincentia Kgabe
06		
08		Trevor & Gail Prince(23)
09	Lankiri Thaba	Sharmain James Peter & Gayle Wilson(45) Pilane Moroa
10		
11	Olga Raphoto Chris Viljoen Susan Germond Monica Xinwa	
12		
13		Ian & Bernice Stevens(21)
14	Ian Thorburn Buyile Montjane	
15		Manelisi Zeka
16	Priscilla Everson Michael Arnold	
17		Daniel Molwantwa Alan Keartland
18	Patricia Lane	
19		Bev O'Shaughnessy
20		Kenny Xinwa
21	Phyllis Mgguba	Makananelo Thaba
22	Barbara Collins	Omar Abrahams Joyce Ntsoelengoe Mlungisi Ntsele Kenneth Owen
23	Ray Bewsher Christian Uitzinger Mothusimang & Boitumelo Makata(5)	
24	Ian & Diana Thorburn(28)	Lankiri & Makananelo Thaba(13)
25	Thokozile Motaung	
26	Monica Ngombane Amy Herbert	
27	Greg & Bev Longbottom(36)	Tim Mncube
28	Eno Mhlongo Wendy Macintosh	
30		John Warren

We appreciate feedback – especially when we've forgotten someone's special day so please do contact Noxolo at the Diocesan office with any updates or amendments.

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Dates for Diary

Please note that FOX 1 will be held at St George's, Parktown.

SEPTEMBER		Parish	Diocesan	Bishop
Saturday	3		FOX I	FOX 1: 11:30 - 13h00
Sunday	4			Pastoral visit: Bekkersdal
Tuesday	6	Independent Schools Open	Clergy Day	Clergy Day
Saturday	10		FOX II / Parish Minister Training	LEAVE
Sunday	11			LEAVE

Saturday	17	Budget Presentation	Ordinands / Transformers	Bishop meets with Churchwardens, Bryanston 08h30 - 12h00
Sunday	18		Choir Fellowship, Fochville	Pastoral Visit: Rangeview / Institution St Mary Orlando
Monday	19			Leave
Tuesday	20			Leave
Wednesday	21			Leave
Thursday	22			Leave
Saturday	24	HERITAGE DAY	POST / SAINTS	
Sunday	25			Synod of Bishop's
Monday	26			Synod of Bishop's
Tuesday	27			Synod of Bishop's
Wednesday	28		Trustees	Synod of Bishop's / PSC
Thursday	29			Provincial Synod
Friday	30	Government Schools Close		Provincial Synod

OCTOBER		Parish	Diocesan	Bishop
Saturday	1		FOX I / Anglicare	
Tuesday	4	Clergy Day	Clergy Day	Clergy Day
Wednesday	5		St Mary School Confirmation / St Bernard Mizeki Guild Provincial Conference	St Mary School Confirmation 18h00
Thursday	6		St Bernard Mizeki Guild conference	St Bernard Mizeki Guild conference
Friday	7		St Bernard Mizeki Guild conference	
Saturday	8		FOX II / St Bernard Mizeki Guild conference / Confirmation Region 1 / Parish Minister Training	Confirmation Region 1
Sunday	9		St Bernard Mizeki Guild Conference ends	Pastoral Visit: Carletonville
Monday	10	Government Schools Open		
Tuesday	11			Retired Clergy Tea
Saturday	15	Diocesan Conference	Diocesan Conference / Ordinands / Transformers	Diocesan Conference
Sunday	16	Healthcare Sunday	Choir Fellowship, Bekkersdal / Mothers Union Clergy Prayer Day	Pastoral Visit: Fourway Gardens
Wednesday	19		Archdeacons Meeting	Archdeacons Meeting
Thursday	20	Independent Schools Half Term		
Friday	21		AWF Annual Conference	Retreat
Saturday	22		AWF Annual Conference / POST	Retreat
Sunday	23		AWF Annual Conference	Retreat
Monday	24			Retreat
Tuesday	25	Independent Schools Open		Retreat
Wednesday	26		DFB	

Saturday	29		Confirmation Region 3 / SAINTS	Confirmation Region 3
Sunday	30			Pastoral Visit: Hillbrow

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General Notices

- The Parish of St Michael and All Angels, Weltevreden Park has an opening for a **Youth Pastor**. If you are interested in finding out more or applying for the position please see the attached advertisement.

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