

MENTIONING THE NAME OF THE APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR IN THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYERS

1. INTRODUCTION

The Apostolic Administrator who is a bishop and is fully exercising his office is supposed to be mentioned by name in the Eucharistic Prayer. For us to appreciate the rationale behind this fact we have to refer ourselves to the Code of Canon Law (CIC 1983) and to the General Instructions to the Roman Missal (GIRM).

Here is the short explanation.

2. THE APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATION

Canon 368 of the Code of Canon Law describes what a **Particular Church** is and states that its typical example is the **Diocese**. The same canon enumerates structures that are **equivalent to the Diocese**; that is: territorial prelature, a territorial abbacy, a vicariate apostolic, a prefecture apostolic and a permanently established apostolic administration.

Canon 371 §2 defines further what an apostolic administration is by saying:

"An apostolic administration is a certain portion of the people of God which, for special and particularly serious reasons, is not yet established by the Supreme Pontiff as a diocese, and whose pastoral care is entrusted to an apostolic Administrator, who governs it in the name of the Supreme Pontiff."

Today, the apostolic administration can be understood from two perspectives;

- a) Firstly, we have the traditional apostolic administrations as described in Canon 371 §2, a practice that has been observed especially in "mission lands" like Africa. And the person who has been entrusted with the ordinary pastoral care of the people of God in the apostolic administration is called the **Apostolic Administrator**.
- b) Secondly, we have seen in recent years the Holy Father appointing apostolic administrators for Dioceses, either vacant or not, to govern the diocese in his name. This usually happens when the Holy See feels that it would take a bit of time before a Diocesan Bishop of a particular diocese is nominated.

3. THE DIOCESAN BISHOP AND THE EQUIVALENT

A Diocesan Bishop is a bishop to whom the care of a given diocese is entrusted (cf. **canon 376**). It is important to note at this juncture the prescription of **canon 381 §2**, which says:

"Those who are at the head of the other communities of the faithful mentioned in can. 368, are equivalent in law to the diocesan Bishop unless the contrary is clear from the nature of things or from a provision of the law."

This means, therefore, that the apostolic administrator is equivalent to the diocesan bishop, except that his powers are Ordinary (attached to the office) but Vicarious (since he acts in the name of the Holy Father).

4. MENTIONING THE NAME OF THE APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR IN THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The **General Instructions to the Roman Missal** states clearly in the second paragraph of **number 149** that:

"The Diocesan Bishop, or one who is equivalent to the Diocesan Bishop in law, must be mentioned by means of this formula: together with your servant N., our Pope, and N., our Bishop (or Vicar, Prelate, Prefect, Abbot)".

5. CONCLUSION

Following the nomination of His Grace, Most Rev. Alick Banda as the Apostolic Administrator of Ndola Diocese, we will continue mentioning his name in the Eucharistic Prayers in accordance with the instruction provided by the Roman Missal.



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