



Catholic Diocese of Ndola

MEMO

To: Vicars Forane, All Priests, Religious Men & Women, Diocesan Institutions, Members of Staff (Pastoral Offices) and All the Lay Faithful of Catholic Diocese of Ndola

From: Director – Pastoral Programmes

Cc: Bishop's Office
Diocesan Senior Management
CEO – Radio Icengelo

Date: Wednesday, 22nd September 2021

Subject: Diocesan Launch for the Celebration of the Assembly of Bishops in Synod to be celebrated in October 2023 and Celebration of the Diocesan Phase of the Synod

This serves to inform and invite you to a very important activity of the Church in which we have all been called to participate in the preparations of the **16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops** to take place in **October 2023**. The preparations of this Synod, which is aimed at promoting a new style of living out the **Communion, Participation, and Mission** of the Church, has been divided into different Phases:

The **First Phase, the Diocesan Phase (October 2021 – April 2022)**, is our concern and focal point. The Diocesan phase of the said Bishops' Synod will involve all the faithful in the discussions on given topics among parishes, lay movements, schools and universities, religious congregations and other groups among many. The aim of these discussions at Diocesan level of the Synod is to integrate the Synodal Process into the life of the local Church in creative ways that promote deepened communion, fuller participation, and a more fruitful mission of the Church.

Furthermore, the Diocesan Phase of the said Bishops' Synod will provide an opportunity for the faithful of our Diocese to encounter, experience and live out the Synodal journey together with the Bishops, and thus discover or develop Synodal tools and pathways that are best suited for our local context in Ndola Diocese, which will ultimately become the new style of our local Church on the path of synodality.

The Diocesan Phase Launch will take place with the celebration of the Mass as follows:

Date: Sunday, 10th October 2021
Time: 09:00hrs
Venue: Cathedral of Christ the King, Ndola
Celebrant: Rt. Rev. Dr. Benjamin Phiri, JCD (Bishop of Ndola)



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After the official launch of the Diocesan Phase, the Pastoral Office of our Diocese will then roll down the discussion materials on the Synod of Bishops to Deaneries and Parishes and other Institutions throughout the Diocese. Thus, each Deanery must form a Deanery Co-ordinating Team whose responsibility will be to compile the outcome of the various discussions and submit them to the Diocesan Co-ordinating Team whose sole duty will be to gather into a synthesis of our Diocesan outcome to be submitted to the National Office of our Episcopal Conference (ZCCB).

Thus, the following is the timeline for the Phase 1 (The Diocesan Phase):

- Sunday, 10th October 2021 Official Launch in the Diocese by the Bishop
- Saturday, 16th October 2021 Distribution of Discussion Material by the Pastoral Office to Deaneries;
- Week 17th – 24th October 2021 Deans distribute Discussion Materials in their respective Deaneries and formation of Deanery Co-ordinating Teams;
- Sunday, 30th October 2021 General (Common Cite) in all Parishes and other institutions in the Diocese to launch and share the discussion materials;
- November – December 2021 Discussions and sharing in various groupings;
- January 2022 Collection & Compilation of discussed materials by Deanery Co-ordinating Teams;
- February 2022 Deans and Deanery Co-ordinating Teams summarises and fine-tune the discussions outcome;
- March 2022 Submission of Deanery discussions to the Diocesan Co-ordinating Team
- Early April 2022 Compilation of the Diocesan Synthesis of the Discussions
- Tuesday, 12th April 2022 **Holy Tuesday (Chrism Mass):** Bishop celebrates Mass to close the celebration of the Diocesan Phase
- End of April 2022 Submission of the Diocesan Synthesis of the Discussions to the National Office (ZCCB)

All Deans are reminded to take a leading role especially in the formation of the Deanery Co-ordinating Teams. Kindly take note of this important notification.

Wishing you God's blessings in your ministry!

Fraternally Yours in Christ,

Fr. Matthew Mumba, ofm conv.