



Catholic Diocese of Ndola

Bishop's Office

MEMO

To: Vicars Forane
All Priests
Religious Men and Women and
All the Lay Faithful of the Catholic Diocese of Ndola

From: Bishop

Cc: Diocesan Senior Management
CEO – Radio Icengelo

Date: Monday, 8th August 2022 (Memorial of St. Dominic, priest)

Subject: Admonition to All Parish Priests and Parish Executives on using Churches as Political Platforms during the celebration of the Mass



Following the earlier directive I gave last year slightly before the General Elections in Zambia (**issued on Thursday, 3rd June, 2021** to be precise) on how to conduct ourselves during the visits of politicians, I wish to reaffirm what I earlier stated in the said communique.

It has come to my attention of late that some of our Churches with the consent of some parish priests and their parish leaderships in the Diocese seem to have forgotten what guidance was given when receiving politicians in our Churches and have gone ahead to overlook completely what was given as guidance.

I once again reaffirm what I said earlier on last year, that whenever the politicians visit our Churches they should be treated like any other ordinary Christian coming to worship. **At no time should they be accorded a chance to speak to the gathered faithful during Mass at the pulpit nor should they be given an audience outside Mass to speak to the parishioners within the parish premises.**

I further admonish all the priests (especially parish priests and their respective parish leaders) to strictly adhere to my directive without fail. I am aware that some priests out of courtesy have in the past accorded an opportunity to politicians to speak the gathered faithful in the name of greeting them during Mass. This is **not permitted** at all.

Our Churches are not political platforms of whatever political pronouncements our brothers and sisters from the political sphere wish to make known to the public. They are instead places of worship and reverence of our Creator. All the people must be free to come and worship without the worry of the environment nor atmosphere whatsoever!



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Furthermore, I wish to admonish all the faithful to work for unity in the one Church of Christ as we all belong to the one family of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Our Churches must stand as a sign of unity. Let us also not forget to pray for our political leaders that they too, may work for unity and the betterment of human lives.

Entrusting you all to the maternal intercession of our Lady and Mother, Mary, the Immaculately Conceived!

Rt. Rev. Dr. Benjamin Phiri, JCD
Bishop of Ndola

