

ST MARY'S PARISH CATHEDRAL PASTORAL COUNCIL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 2018-2020

Introduction

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) of St. Mary's Cathedral was elected for a three- year period in 2018. The main functions of the Parish Council are to facilitate proper consultation and common action in matters concerning religious formation and pastoral action in the parish and to promote and make proposals to the parish priest regarding the implementation of diocesan pastoral policy. The purpose of this report is to inform the parishioners about the activities of the PPC and its committees during the reporting period. The term of the current PPC has come to an end, and elections for a new Council were held in November 2020.

PPC Membership over the three-year period was as follows:

| 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|--|---|
| Father Joseph Hatutale (Parish Priest) | Father Joseph Hatutale (Parish Priest until Jun 2019) | Father Mathias Tshithigona (Parish Priest from Jun 2019) |
| Mr Marius Kudumo (Chairperson) | Father Mathias Tshithigona (Parish Priest from June 2019) | Father Johannes Shalongo (Parish Priest from Oct 2020) |
| Ms Barbara vd Westhuizen (Council Secretary) | Mr Marius Kudumo (Chairperson) | Mr Marius Kudumo (Chairperson) |
| Mr John Adams | Ms Barbara vd Westhuizen (Council Secretary) | Ms Barbara vd Westhuizen (Council Secretary) |
| Ms Angelina Akawa | Mr John Adams | Mr John Adams |
| Sister Anastasia Alweendo | Ms Angelina Akawa | Ms Angelina Akawa |
| Ms Liina Angula | Sister Anastasia Alweendo | Ms Liina Angula |
| Ms Pascale Dahlmeier | Ms Liina Angula | Ms Pascale Dahlmeier |
| Sister Ottilie Endjala | Ms Pascale Dahlmeier | Sister Ottilie Endjala |
| Mr Rudolph Himarua (Deputy Chairperson) | Sister Ottilie Endjala | Mr Ben Haingura |
| Ms Florence Kamona | Mr Ben Haingura | Mr Rudolph Himarua (Deputy Chairperson) |
| Ms Magdalena Karamata | Mr Rudolph Himarua (Deputy Chairperson) | Sister Marie Andree Koonee |
| Sister Marie Andree Koonee | Sister Marie Andree Koonee | Mr Calistus Mahindi |
| Mr Leroy Kopera | Mr Leroy Kopera | Mr Shadu Mbala |
| Mr Calistus Mahindi | Mr Calistus Mahindi | Ms Mara Modisa |
| Mr Shadu Mbala | Mr Shadu Mbala | Ms Emma Mulwa (Deputy Council Secretary) |
| Ms Mara Modisa | Ms Mara Modisa | Mr Zacarias Nangocovie |
| Ms Emma Mulwa (Deputy Council Secretary) | Ms Emma Mulwa (Deputy Council Secretary) | Mr Henry M Ndengejeho |
| Mr Zacarias Nangocovie | Mr Zacarias Nangocovie | Ms Hayley Olivier |

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mr Henry M Ndengejeho | Mr Henry M Ndengejeho | Mr Emmanuel Olu-King |
| Ms Hayley Olivier | Ms Hayley Olivier | Brother Athanasius Onyoni |
| Mr Emmanuel Olu-King | Mr Emmanuel Olu-King | Sister Dagmar Romanov |
| Brother Athanasius Onyoni | Brother Athanasius Onyoni | Mr Laurentius Shilongo |
| Sister Dagmar Romanov | Sister Dagmar Romanov | Mr Emmanuel Shimwetheleni |
| Mr Laurentius Shilongo | Mr Laurentius Shilongo | Ms Michaela Udigeng |
| Mr Emmanuel Shimwetheleni | Mr Emmanuel Shimwetheleni | Deacon Emmanuel Usiku |
| Mr Anthony Swartz | Ms Michaela Udigeng | Dr Gert van Rooy |
| Ms Michaela Udigeng | Deacon Emmanuel Usiku | |
| Deacon Emmanuel Usiku | Dr Gert van Rooy | |
| Dr Gert van Rooy | | |



The newly installed PPC

Parish Finance Council (PFC)

Since the PPC is responsible for carrying out the Parish mission and establishing the overall goals and priorities of the parish, it is essential that there be a close liaison between the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) and the Parish Finance Council (PFC). With the pastor, the PFC is responsible for the temporal administration of the parish finances, supplies, maintenance of properties, bookkeeping, budgeting and inventory. The PFC does not report directly to the PPC. After setting the parish goals and priorities for the coming year, the PPC will dialogue with the PFC to ensure that financial resources will be available. The PFC will advise the PPC when there are any major concerns regarding parish finances or parish facilities which might hinder the parish from carrying out its planned activities.

| Year | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Income | 3,753,500 | 4,397,946 | 1,761,269 |
| Expenses | 2,480,522 | 3,221,413 | 1,570,522 |
| Savings | 1,272,978 | 1,176,533 | 190,747 |

A detailed financial report for 2020 will be provided after the financial year has ended and will be made available for viewing at the Parish Office.

PFC Members are: Ms Liina Angula (Chairperson); Mr John Adams; Mr Calistus Mahindi; Ms Cynthia Hays; Ms Hayley Olivier; Ms Victoria Lilemba; Dr Anibal do Rego; Mr Emmanuel Shimwetheleni, Father Mathias Tshithigona; and Ms Richardine Coetzee.



Buildings and Maintenance Committee (BMC)

The Buildings and Maintenance Committee serves to ensure that all buildings that fall under the jurisdiction of the St. Mary's Cathedral are maintained and are in accordance to the building regulations. The BMC also offers technical advice to the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) on matters relating to buildings and building standards, mechanical and electrical services, civil and structural services while also offering advice on future building works to be undertaken by the Council.

The Committee members are: Mr Rudolph Himarua (Chairperson); Mr J J Amwaandangi, Mr Jason Uushona, Mr Herbert Molebugi, Mr Frank Nyaungura, Mr Rivman Kopera, Mr Faustino Matengo, Mr Shadu Mbala and Mr Titus lipinge.

The period under review was challenging with certain projects successfully completed and others still pending due to circumstances beyond the committee's jurisdiction.

Four new water coolers were installed at the Parish Hall to replace the old ones, which experienced mechanical problems. There is still insufficient power output to the Hall and Church area and continued power outages are being encountered. A solution will be attended to in due course.



New coolers on Parish Hall

Nightshelter

With regard to the Nightshelter, there is an ongoing process to acquire the adjacent piece of land, which will enable the church to expand it in order to refurbish the whole Nightshelter into a suitable temporary accommodation facility.

Many complaints have been received about the lack of sufficient ablution facilities at the Parish Church. An analysis was done and a solution tabled at the PPC meeting and forwarded to the Office of the Bishop through the Parish Priest. The Office of the Bishop is currently considering the proposal and will advise the Committee in due course of his decision on the matter.

The lightbulbs in the parish hall were all replaced with LED lightbulbs in order to save more power. In total, 78 bulbs were replaced.

During the challenging time of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee was compelled to take precautionary measures to protect the parishioners. The whole Church was disinfected, social distancing protocols were implemented and sanitizers were placed at all entries to the Church, Parish office, Kindergarten, toilets and the Parish Hall.

Power was constantly tripping at the Office of the Bishop, the Parish Office, the Kindergarten, Dr Tom's consulting room and the Parish Hall. This was causing frustrations and interruptions of business. The PPC proposed the upgrading of the power outflow to this area, and the work was successfully done.

Future possible projects to be considered include pavers around the church, refurbishing of the pews and kneeling areas, and new office furniture for the Parish Office.



The Liturgy Committee plans and provides for the spiritual development of each member of the parish community through liturgical celebrations, days of prayer and spiritual renewal, and any other special devotions.

Its functions are:

- To recruit and train members of the parish community to serve in the various ministries such as musicians, readers, Eucharistic ministers, hospitality ministers, altar servers, and sacristans.
- To co-ordinate these ministries by appointing co-ordinators and developing guidelines for each of the various ministries.
- To educate itself through study, prayer, and participation in workshops and seminars, and to encourage other parishioners to participate in these programmes and those sponsored by the diocese.
- To review the community worship celebrations to ensure that they serve the liturgical needs of the parish and to identify areas in need of development.
- To ensure that advanced planning and preparation is carried out for each of the major liturgical seasons; namely Lent/Easter/Pentecost and Advent/Christmas.
- To work with other parish committees to co-ordinate parish celebrations of Baptism, First Communion, First Reconciliation, Confirmation, RCIA, Marriage, the Sacrament of the Sick, and funerals.
- To prepare an annual budget of expenses anticipated by the Committee for submission to the PFC.

The committee members are: Mr John Adams (Chairperson), Ms Irmi Nolting, Mr Calistus Mahindi (Secretary); Ms Charlotte Sitler, Ms Monica Bille, Mr Henry Olu-King, Ms Pascale Dahlmeier and Prof Gert van Rooy.



Corpus Christi Mass and Procession

For the service and repair of the pipe organ, a deposit of N\$31 185-00 was paid. With the COVID-19 restrictions, the whole process of coming to repair the organ by the newly established Pipe Organ Specialists was postponed. Frequent communications between the office administrator in Pretoria and the St Mary's parish office took place.

Projects in collaboration with the Catholic Women's League (CWL) and Events Committee:

The "Christmas Tree" and Back-to-School projects will have to be monitored closely in future. The handover of items shall be done publicly by appointed, approved and known individuals. At least three members of the CWL and Liturgical Committee, and Social Action Committee should be involved. This needs to be done to ensure that no items disappear along the way and to ensure that the donated items reach the needy and rightful beneficiaries.

Novena to the Holy Spirit:

A nine days Novena to the Holy Spirit was proposed by the members of the Liturgical Committee for the period leading up to the Feast of Pentecost. Father Joseph, in his capacity as Parish Priest at the time, was requested to invite priests for the various topics during the Masses every afternoon being the Gifts of the Holy Spirit (Priest from the Seminary were prepared to take this responsibility and they only awaited the communiqué or call from Father Joseph. Unfortunately, this endeavour/initiative did not materialise. There was an urgent request, emphasising a range of Masses aimed at overall spiritual renewal at our parish. This effort will be repeated next year since there is an urgent need for spiritual growth in our parish. Going for confession is equally important, but that takes place regularly and does not need any thorough planning in advance.

Eucharistic Adoration took place every last Friday of the month at the 18h00 Holy Mass, Eucharistic Exposition, Adoration and Benediction.

Ministers of the Eucharist and Readers were trained. Training of Funeral Ministers was not attended to and only one was occasionally invited to assist at funerals. This exercise will be repeated with the election of new Ministers of the Eucharist and Readers (Lectors) in 2021.

It is suggested that:

1. For the preparation of new Eucharistic Ministers, the whole Christian community must be involved.
2. New members will be nominated – registered with the Cathedral Parish for a period of at least three years
3. Proper discernment must be done through thorough training by a competent layperson, familiar with Catholic doctrine, or a religious Nun/Brother/Priest or Seminarian with good skills in presentation and a skilful communicator/teacher.
4. People whose work requires regular travelling, who are working awkward shifts/hours over weekends should be advised not to avail themselves in order to prevent the habit of getting somebody “to stand in for me”.
5. People who accept this office must be prepared **to serve at all Masses**, and should preferably have reliable transport.
6. A roster has to be set up at a meeting attended by all Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for a period of six months. A programme containing all Sundays, Feast and Solemnities will be presented at the meeting. Spaces will be provided to enter the names of Readers and Eucharistic Ministers, which will then constitute the roster after completion.
7. The names of the newly elected Eucharistic ministers and those who recommit themselves will be presented to the Bishop.
8. Attire of Eucharistic Ministers is to be kept in the Sacristy.
9. Two members of the faithful are to be trained as sacristans to assist the sister in charge of preparing the altar for Mass. They must also be trained to operate the sound system in the Cathedral.
10. Eucharistic Ministers must be ready in the Sacristy at least 15 minutes prior to Holy Mass commencing.

The proper, intensive training of Assistant Ministers and Readers is of utmost importance. Trainers/Facilitators will be approached by the Liturgical Committee executive members. Eucharistic Ministers must be invited by the Priest to visit Catholics in hospitals, prison and at the houses of bedridden parishioners.

Days of recollection will be determined and attended by all Eucharistic Ministers and Readers, guided by a Priest on the last Saturday of March, June, September, and a Thanksgiving Mass during the third week in November 2021, God willing.

Parish Community Life Committee (PCL)

The PCL is responsible primarily for building the parish into a faith community by identifying and providing for the social and communal needs of the parishioners, including children, youth, adults and senior citizens.

Membership is comprised of the Parish Priest, the Chairperson and at least one member representing each of the following segments of the parish community. People with special needs, Pastoral Care Team, Youth, married couples, senior citizens, single adults and representatives from any men's or women's organizations active in the Parish.

Its functions are to:

- Identify communal, social and recreational needs for all parishioners such as children, youth, newcomers, families, single adults and senior citizens.
- Determine goals and priorities that will build the parish into a true faith community.
- Co-ordinate social and recreational activities of existing organizations and to support and help promote those activities and those sponsored by the Diocese.
- Develop activities where needed through the recruiting of volunteers and establishment of sub-committees.
- Welcome new parishioners and help them participate in parish life.
- Work with other churches and civic groups in the community to provide for the social needs of our own parishioners as well as the larger community.
- Explore ways and means of involving more members of the parish in the activities of the parish and to ensure that all activities are well publicised.
- Prepare an annual budget of expenses anticipated by the Committee for submission to the PFC.

The committee members are: Mr Laurentius Shilongo (Chairperson), Ms Mara Modisa, Mr Henry Michael Ndengejeho, Mr John Adams, Ms Shirley Tibinyane, the late Mr Wendelinus Tibinyane and Sister Celestine Shakungu OSB.



Participants at the Elders meeting, September 2019

Parish Community Life Committee, in line with its mandate to build the Parish into a faith community, responds to the needs of the diverse groups of the parishioners, namely children, the youth, adults and senior citizens. It identifies and carries out activities aimed at

strengthening community life within the parish. These activities are held so that we all may take pleasure in, and benefit from, the fellowship of our parishes.

| Key Activities | Main Activities Undertaken | Achievements/ Outcomes | Challenges/Remarks |
|--|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Support parenting with Catholic values | Parenting Workshop ¹ | Hosted a parenting workshop to discuss raising children in the Catholic faith and many challenges of parenting as well as to create a platform for experience and information sharing. | <p>Parenting is key in building up Christian and good Catholics. The Committee was challenged to put in place faith and civic education programmes aimed at creating awareness and deepening Christian understanding of their role in church and society.</p> <p>COVID 19 pandemic hindered the planned follow-up workshop in 2020.</p> <p>It was noted that the majority of parishioners did not respond to the call to participate in a similar event in 2018. It was decided to work with those available and focus on the quality of discussion, presentation and engagements rather than the number of participants.</p> <p>Similarly, a database of skills and expertise within the Parish was deemed important, as it would help identify facilitators, counsellors, presenters and other support persons at events like this or while engaging families experiencing challenges and needing support.</p> |

¹ Full report available

| Key Activities | Main Activities Undertaken | Achievements/ Outcomes | Challenges/Remarks |
|---|---|--|--|
| | | | |
| Seeking Elders' advice in the Parish | Engaging Elders on Church matters (2018) Elders' Workshop (2019) | Provided a platform to discuss the role of elders in the church and constitution of a committee. | The 2018 engagement started a discussion of formulating an Elders' Committee which was given more impetus during 2019. |
| Coordination of pilgrimage to Otjiwarongo | Supported the awareness of the 2018 and 2019 pilgrimage. | The yearly Pilgrimages were successful. | |



Participants at the Parenting Workshop (September 2019)

Social Action Committee (SAC)

The SAC represents the parish community in expressing its concern about poverty and injustice in both the local and broader community, and in transforming that concern into commitment and action. Solutions to human suffering should always be faithful to the mission of Christ and His Church.

Membership includes the Parish Priest, the Chairperson and the co-ordinators or chairpersons of St. Vincent de Paul or Caritas, Council of Churches, Immigration and Refugee Affairs, Development and Peace and any other programmes concerned with the social needs of the community.

Its functions are to:

- Identify the social issues and human needs in the parish and in the community.
- Develop an action plan and assign programmes to specific communities.
- Develop an education programme in co-ordination with the Education Committee to inform the community about human needs and social issues.
- Act as liaison between the parish and the Diocesan Centre on social development and other Diocesan programmes.
- Promote the overall social well-being of the community in cooperation with other denominational or non-denominational organisations.
- Represent the parish, with PPC approval, in voicing concerns of the church about social issues to all levels of government.
- Set up sub-committees and recruit committee members to carry out functions of the Committee.
- Prepare an annual budget of expenses anticipated by the Committee for submission to the PFC.

The committee members are: Prof Gert van Rooy (Chairperson), Mr Henry Michael Ndengejeho, Ms Fulgentia Mayira, Ms Boraunyane Madi and Mr Mapuku Thikusho.

SAC found it very difficult to work with the various committees in terms of outreach. Even though there are approved guidelines of operations, there is no adherence to them. There is also limited to no reporting of outreach activities of various groups to the Committee, including reporting on items received from the storeroom. Proper store room management should be re-examined. For the past years there were volunteers who were in charge of the storeroom. However, too many people had access to the storeroom and forgot to record items that have been removed. As a result, often the stock recorded and the stock at hand did not tally.



Outreach to Havana Informal Settlement

| Key Activities | Main Activities Undertaken | Achievements/ Outcomes | Challenges/Remarks |
|---|--|--|--|
| Supporting the poor, vulnerable and excluded groups | Distribution of food parcels. | Food parcels donated to the Retired Priests Old Age Home (2019). Food parcels distributed to community in Dordabis in June 2020 | The Dordabis community requested to receive services from the Parish. The Liturgy committee is looking into this. This is an underreporting of the social action of the Parish. Groups within the parish involved in social action do not report activities to the Committee. It is recommended that the Social Action Committee comprises of representatives from all groups that are involved in social action (to make this mandatory) in addition to members of the parish interested in giving a helping hand. This will ensure proper coordination of social activities of the Parish and proper reporting to the |
| Keep me warm initiative | 100 blankets purchased for the poor (June 2020). 40 blankets donated to the Parish (June 2020). | 130 Blankets donated to the community in Dordabis and vulnerable and needy people within the Parish in June 2020. | |

| Key Activities | Main Activities Undertaken | Achievements/ Outcomes | Challenges/Remarks |
|------------------------------|--|--|---|
| | | | PPC and the parishioners. |
| Justice and Peace | Provide assistance to the poor, vulnerable and excluded group. | <p>A refugee couple is housed at the Shelter in Katutura for the past two months (July and August 2020) and assisted with food parcels.</p> <p>Three Ghanaians, including a couple that was stranded in Namibia due to the COVID-19 lockdown, were assisted with food parcels.</p> | <p>No clear measures exist to assist people under this category. Assistance rendered was sourced from outside the normal Parish channels.</p> <p>Very little work was done on justice and peace. This is mainly due to the fact that there were no clear cases presented to the Committee in this line. However, during the Parenting meeting organised by the Parish Community Life Committee, it was realised that work on justice and peace is very important. Greater collaboration with the justice and peace desk of the NCBC is proposed to frame the committee work in this regard.</p> |
| Management of the store room | Management of the store room. | A computer was donated to the Parish for capturing, distributing and monitoring donations. | <p>The computer is yet to be installed following the relocation of the store room.</p> <p>A portion of donations is to be made available directly to the Parish Office to assist those that request assistance from the Parish Office daily.</p> |



Food parcels and blankets donated to the residents of Dordabis

Education Committee (EC)

The EC is responsible for discerning needs, developing, promoting and evaluating all parish education programmes. It is particularly concerned with religious education for all members of the parish and will therefore strive to provide all its members with religious learning opportunities, which are aimed at fostering a personal faith and expressing that faith through service. As the Parish Priest is the spiritual leader and teacher in the parish, it is expected that he will play a very active role in this Committee and will be called upon to give direction in all areas of religious education.

Its membership consists of the Parish Priest, the Chairperson and the co-ordinators or Chairpersons of RCIA Process, Baptismal Preparation Team, Marriage Preparation Team, Adult Religious Education Program, Family Religion Program, Sacramental Preparation Team and any other parish education programme.

Its functions are to:

- Identify the educational needs of the parish.
- Recommend to the PPC short and long-term educational goals and priorities.
- Determine the various educational programmes to be carried out in the parish and to schedule, promote and support these programmes.
- Recruit co-ordinators and volunteers to carry out these programmes and ensure good communications are maintained between coordinators.

- Ensure co-ordinators and volunteers are made aware of educational seminars and programmes offered by the Diocese and other organisations and to encourage training of volunteers where required.
- Encourage co-operation and dialogue for the unified and harmonious integration of families, schools and parish in the religious education of children.
- Evaluate all parish educational policies and programmes.
- Establish an annual budget of expenses anticipated by the Committee for submission to the PFC.

The committee members are: Mr Ben Haingura (Chairperson), Ms Julia Amadhila, Ms Michaela Udigeng, Mr Paulinus Shalumbu, Ms Lucy De Castro, Ms Celine Mukakalisa, Ms Melvina Nicol-Wilson, Ms Rose Madi, Mr Jacob Motalingoane, Ms Paula De Oliveira, Ms Elaine Frege, Ms Callista Madi, Ms Tshabi Dihore, Ms Mara January, Mr Anthony Swartz, Ms Maria Moses, Ms Ingracia Mambo, Mr Benedikt Hummel, Mr Carlos Figueiredo, Mr Zacarias Nangacovie, Dr Emmanuel Tom, Brother Paul Onyisi, Father Joseph Hatutale, Father Mathias Tsithigona, Mr August Hangara, Ms Kathrina Hangara, Mr Shadu Mbala, Mr Laurentius Shikongo, Ms Jacky Ferreira, Sister Teresia, Sister Giseline Shivolo and Mr Christopher Links.



Blessing of Catechists

The annual activities for the committee commenced with retreats at Dobra (02–04 February 2018, 10-20 January 2019 & 31 January– 02 February 2020). The aim was to prepare all Catechists spiritually, review activities of the previous year and plan for the upcoming year. The gatherings were also tasked to develop an annual Catechists Calendar (2018, 2019 & 2020).

The annual Catechists blessing and introduction to the parishioners is done on the first Sunday (07h30 Mass) before commencement of annual activities. At the same time, candidates for both 1st and 2nd Year First Holy Communion and Confirmation are also presented to the parishioners and receive their blessings before commencing with classes.

The following parents meeting were conducted during the period under review:

| | | | |
|------|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 2018 | 17 th February | 27 th May | 09 th September |
| 2019 | 09 th February | 26 th May | 8 th September |
| 2020 | 09 th February | | |

The parents' meetings were conducted on Saturdays or Sundays. During these meetings, the Catechists Annual Calendar was presented and expectations for the year discussed before the endorsement of the plan. During the meeting parents as well as the outreach committee members are elected. It should be noted that the practice of electing these committee members only commenced in 2019 and the same was done in 2020. The members consist of one parent each representing the first and second years First Holy Communion candidates as well as first and second year Confirmation candidates. These committee members serve as a focal point between candidates, teachers and parents.

During the annual second and third parents' meetings, the focus is related to quarterly educational progress as well as commitments from parents, teachers and candidates.

Some of the issues that stood out were the cleaning of the church, Outreach, Mass and class attendance as laid out below:

- **Cleaning of the Church**

All candidates for First Holy Communion and Confirmation as well as parents are annually involved in the cleaning of the church according to the calendar of the Education Committee. In respect of the candidates, this duty forms part of their annual calendar activities and is duly recorded as such.

There has been some concern that the majority of parents did not turn up on Saturdays to clean as expected. However, it is important to mention that the general commitment was overwhelming.

- **Outreach (Community Service)**

The Committee managed to execute three community outreach activities in 2018 and three in 2019. The following places were visited during outreach: SOS Childrens Village, Moreson School of Visual, Hearing & Mentally Impaired, and Dagbreek Primary School. These activities were organised by the teachers and parents' committee. The group also donated food items, clothes, etc.

The annual end of semester is preceded by Youth Masses and in 2019, the candidates collected different items of dry food, which went to the Okongo San Community in the North. This was one of the successful initiatives taken by the candidates.



During the last annual parents' meetings, both the teachers and parents committee were required to provide feedback on all outreach activities conducted during the year and make suggestions on the way forward. One of the most important recommendations from the committee members is that outreach activities should be linked to a long term engagement to make a big impact. They are of the opinion that activities such as gardening (self-sustainability) need to be investigated and children can get involved to form part of their outreach activities. Other areas can also be included as long as the impact thereafter is evident. The main aim of this is to assess the impact of activities that have been conducted/performed.

Mass attendance by candidates was a concern, as some parents were dropping off their children for class, but not attending Masses. The involvement of the parents' committee helped and brought some improvements. The committee insisted on maintaining the policy of ***"no Mass no Class"***.

In addition, all class attendance registers are reviewed on a quarterly basis and parents whose children missed class more than 3 times without out written explanation(s) were contacted to provide clarity/explanation. Parents were also reminded of the fact that they signed an oath to uphold this policy.

The Catechists introduced a process to assess First Holy Communion - this is aimed at establishing areas that might require additional or special attention during catechisms. All parents are encouraged throughout the year to build contact relationships with their respective class teachers and follow up on the general progress of their children, especially those with learning difficulties/challenges.

The committee has also put measures in place to ensure that all candidates from private schools are accommodated since their school calendar (school holidays) differs from the annual national school calendar. The parents have taken the responsibility to contact the teachers (during their children's school holidays) and enquire about the material/syllabus that will be covered during the holidays and to do it with the children.

The Catechists had a briefing session with the new parish priest Father Mathias on August 29, 2019 with representatives from Baptism, First Holy Communion & Confirmation and RCIA.

- **Baptism**

The following activities regarding baptism were planned and executed as follows:

| Baptism classes | Baptism date |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 08 – 19 April 2018 | 21 April 2018 |
| 13 – 24 May 2018 | 26 May 2018 |
| 24 June – 12 July 2018 | 14 July 2018 |
| 12 – 20 September 2018 | 22 September 2018 |
| 07 – 18 October 2018 | 20 October 2018 |
| 18 – 28 November 2018 | 29 November 2018 |
| 13 – 24 January 2019 | 26 January 2019 |

| Baptism classes | Baptism date |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 22 – 25 April 2019 | 27 April 2019 |
| 27 – 30 June 2019 | 01 June 2019 |
| 22 – 25 July 2019 | 27 July 2019 |
| 23 – 26 September 2019 | 28 September 2019 |
| 21 – 24 October 2019 | 27 October 2019 |
| 18 – 21 November 2019 | 24 November 2019 |
| 03 – 06 February 2020 | 09 February 2020 |

- **First Holy Communion candidates**

Below is the total number of candidates registered per corresponding year:

| YEAR | NUMBER OF CANDIDATES – Y1 | NUMBER OF CANDIDATES – Y2 |
|-------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2018 | 70 | 35 |
| 2019 | 68 | 62 |
| 2020 | 40 | 64 |

- **Confirmation candidates**

Below is total number of candidates registered per corresponding year:

| YEAR | NUMBER OF CANDIDATES – Y1 | NUMBER OF CANDIDATES – Y2 |
|-------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2018 | 74 | 73 |
| 2019 | 67 | 71 |
| 2020 | 69 | 57 |

Kindly take note that PPC has resolved that going forward, baptism will be conducted on Sundays instead of Saturdays. This directive has already been implemented with baptism held on 27 October 2019.

The “Bring-a-Parent Breakfast” took place on June 24, 2018 and October 5, 2019 at 09h00 respectively. This was based on responses from parents who bought tickets. The selling of tickets was done with assistance of the teachers. The tickets were distributed to the children at the end of the second term, giving everyone plenty of time to pay on time.

We received positive feedback from some parents and guardians who were very pleased with the event and encouraged the committee to continue and make it an annual event and get everyone involved as this is the only platform where both parents, children and teachers get to know each other and interact casually.

The Committee has an annual program for First Holy Communion candidates to have confession sessions and rehearsals as part of preparation before they receive this sacrament. This is held on Fridays.

The First Holy Communion took place on the following days,

- **Saturday, October 26, 2018 at 09h00, rehearsal**
- **Saturday, October 27, 2018 at 09h00;** total of 35 candidates received their First Holy Communion.
- **Saturday, October 12, 2019 at 09h00**
- **Saturday, October 12, 2019 at 09h00;** total of 62 candidates received their First Holy Communion.



First Holy Communion candidates

The Confirmation annual retreat (only second year candidates) is conducted annually and the dates for the period under review were as follows:

- **October 19 to 21, 2018 at Dobra**
- **October 18 to 20, 2019 at Dobra**

All parents are required to sign consent forms for the retreat to ensure that they are aware in advance of what the expectations are and to report any medical or special needs in advance, for logistical arrangements.



Retreat for Confirmation candidates

The confession and rehearsal as part of preparation is held Fridays from 14h30, before the Confirmation day.

The Confirmation for the period under review was conducted as follows:

- Saturday, November **03, 2019 at 09h00** and a total of 73 candidates were confirmed
- Saturday, October **26, 2019 at 09h00** and a total of 79 candidates were confirmed

The Thanksgiving and Certificate Ceremony Mass is conducted annually on the next Sundays after the Confirmation day, it is preceded by rehearsals on Saturdays at part of the preparation.

These activities were conducted as follows:

- Sunday, 10 November 2018 with rehearsals on Saturday, 9 November 2018
- Sunday, 3 November 2019 with rehearsals on Saturday, 2 November 2019

These events are compulsory for all children from both 1st and 2nd Year First Holy Communion and Confirmation. This is followed by cake sales after Mass. The organizing committee appreciates all the support they received from parishioners.



The year-end retreat for catechists is scheduled annually in November. However, this is dependent on the availability of majority committee members as well as suitable venues to conduct this event.

The offerings for this year donated by the children at all Youth Masses, including First Holy Communion Mass, were donated to the Okongo Mission for the San Community in the North.

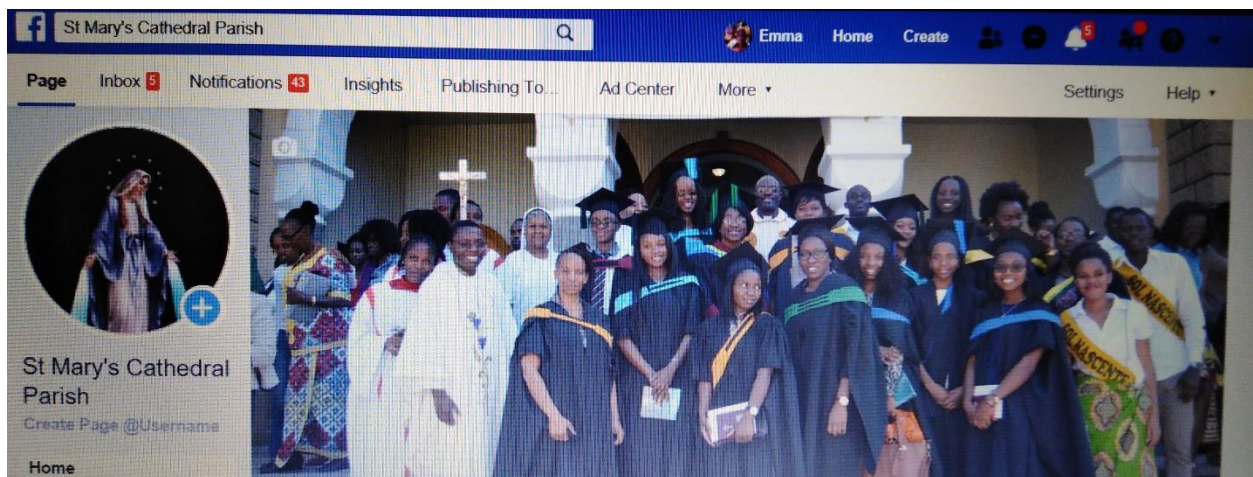
The offerings given at the Thanksgiving Mass were donated to House Molelekwa, including the proceeds of the cake sale – an amount of N\$1,200.

In summary, the catechists group had an exciting three years and the majority of activities were completed as planned. There were incidents of lack of support and cooperation from some parents/guardians. They were engaged continuously with the aim to understand their concerns/challenges. The majority of these were resolved with the assistance of the parents' committee. This includes concerns by parents regarding the conduct and teaching methodology of some teachers.

Our word of appreciation goes to all parishioners, parents and guardians who sponsored the programmes, certificates, flowers and décor for both First Holy Communion and Confirmation. We also do not forget all the catechists who have worked tirelessly and sometimes gone that extra mile to make these years a success.

Public Relations and Events Committee (PREC)

This committee works together with the other committees in organising events and functions of the parish as well as make budgetary requests to the PFC.



The committee members are: Prof Gert van Rooy and Ms Emma Mulwa.

During 2018, the PREC initiated two crucial projects, namely the revision and updating of the St Mary's Cathedral Parish database and website. It also provided assistance to other committees with parish events.

During 2019, the PREC discussed and finalised the programme and logistics for the Pontifical Mission Society event on 20 October. The programme included the youth and only one Mass was celebrated on that day. The committee continued to provide logistical support for events hosted by other PPC committees and church groups.

In 2020, a website and database designer was appointed to develop a website for the St Mary's Cathedral Parish as well as develop an electronic database to actively manage the more than 1,500 registered parishioners.

A farewell function was arranged for Sister Anastacia and a gift of N\$1,400 was given to her, thanks to the generous contributions of well-wishers.

The PREC assisted other committees in establishing the necessary protocols to ensure a maximum of 250 people at Masses and proper social distancing.

Youth Committee (YC)



Senior Youth Choir

The aims and objectives of the Youth Committee are to:

- Provide a focus for the young membership of the St Mary's Cathedral;
- Represent the views of young members to the PPC;

- Organise/arrange activities of interest to the Youth;
- Promote and arrange participation of the youth in Parish activities and programmes; and
- Unite the various youth groups.

The committee members are: Mr Leroy Kopera, Ms Angelina Akawa and Mr Emmanuel Shimwetheleni.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- The St Mary's Youth Committee hosted a breakfast fundraiser on Sunday 19 May 2019 at the Coffee bar next to the RC Bookshop from 08h30 to 13h00. The event was a success, raising an amount of N\$3,511.50, with cooperation from all the youth groups.
- Unity amongst the youth by having combined Youth Masses that included all the registered youth groups. This resulted in collaborations between all the youth groups which yielded some positive results.
- A new group called CYNESA was formed in 2019.

CHALLENGES

- Youth participation has drastically decreased due to many different reasons.
- Youth groups do not have sufficient finances to either have their own activities or conduct fundraising events.
- Communication and trust between the Church and the Youth needs attention and improvement in many aspects. There were challenges when it came to the use of the classrooms for weekly meetings as well as the youth not being allowed to use the hall for choir practice despite numerous requests to use the facilities.
- There were no events that occurred or were undertaken in 2020 due to the COVID-19 global pandemic.
- Overall, the Youth participated in major church events, but communication and trust between the Church and the Youth needs improvement with both sides willing to meet each other halfway. Hopefully in the future positive changes will be seen.



Kindergarten graduation ceremony

Sister Dagmar Romanov is responsible for this committee in her capacity as the Principal of the Kindergarten.

Kindergarten Statistics:

| 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|---------------------------------|------|------|
| Enrolments | | |
| 135 | 167 | 170 |
| Graduations (to Grade 1) | | |
| 44 | 56 | |

The annual bazaar, a perennial favourite amongst learners and parents alike, provides an opportunity for socialising as well as raising much-needed funds for the school. The 2018 event raised a profit of N\$14,977 and the 2019 event raised a profit of N\$28,000. Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic regulations, no event was held in 2020. It is hoped that the Kindergarten will be able to resume hosting the annual bazaar in 2021.

Conclusion

We would like to thank all the members of the parish for their active participation in the activities of both the Council and its Committees during our tenure. It has been our pleasure to serve the parish, and we thank you for placing your trust in us. We invite the parish to become actively involved in the Council, either through nomination to the Pastoral Parish Council or becoming involved in committee work.

It is our sincere hope that this report provides information to the parishioners about the activities of the PPC and the parish during the reporting period.

May God bless you.