

November 2023

### 47<sup>th</sup> AGM for the Priests (Archdiocese of Bulawayo)

CYAA Donates Blankets to the Youth and Pastoral Center.

The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting for the priests in the Archdiocese of

Bulawayo was held at Emthonjeni Pastoral Center on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2023. After welcoming remarks and

for the Catholic faith, following correct Catholic traditions, ongoing catechesis, bible studies and dealing with mental health issues, were the major aspects that surfaced during the discussions.



#### REPORTS

#### DEANS

All the Deans articulated in their

acknowledging apologies, His Grace Archbishop Alex Thomas was delighted by the representation of priests from around the Archdiocese of Bulawayo. Fr E. Musona presented the theme of the year: Synodality and Co-Responsibility. In his presentation he insisted that all priests should strive to work cordially with their congregates, taking into consideration that everyone in the Church has a role to play irrespective of their age, colour, tribe, position, gender and social status.

Plenary discussions tailored towards finding means of fostering the theme of the year followed, and the contributions presented profoundly influenced the outcome of the



resolutions for the year that is, on personal, family, parish, mission and association level. These will be more detailed in our next newsletter. Nonetheless, witnessing



reports a sense of improvement or growth in faith among the faithful post covid-19 and this was evidenced by their overwhelming presence during the pilgrimage to Empandeni, revealing the important role **Mother Mary** plays in the Faith of the People of God.





## FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR

Due to the economic challenges the financial administrator's report was mainly fixated towards fostering a self-reliant Church.

all associations and peoples in the Archdiocese of Bulawayo. Future developments of the center according to the pastoral director include upgrading its academic status.

## SAFEGUARDING OFFICIAL

The safeguarding officer of the Archdiocese of Bulawayo urged priests in their respective parishes and missions to establish competent contact persons to aid the work of safeguarding the vulnerable in the Church.

## PASTORAL DIRECTOR

The pastoral director Fr. L. Ndlovu acknowledged the involvement of the Youth in Catechetical training programs. However, he stressed on the need of continued evangelization and revamping teams of evangelizers among



## EDUCATION



Catholic schools in the Archdiocese according to statistics provided by the Education office are steadily making good progress. While some of our schools still remain a beacon of educational achievement in the nation especially, St Thomas

Aquinas in the eastern suburbs and St Patrick's in the western suburbs, others are still yet to catch up. Possibilities of handing over the administration of Ekusileni schools to AMR sisters, completion of an 'A' Level block and a biogas plant at Regina Mundi Secondary School, construction of a dining hall and enrollment of boarding students at Regina Mundi primary school are apparent.



## PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES.



Addressing the house Fr. James standing on behalf of the Pontifical Mission Societies hammered the fact that, all collections directed to the Pontifical Mission Societies (**PMS**) belong not to the parish but solely to the Universal Church. Basically it is the amount of effort of our contributions as the Archdiocese of Bulawayo to **PMS** that determines the amount of assistance we get subsequently from **PMS**.



# DESIDERIO DESIDERAVI

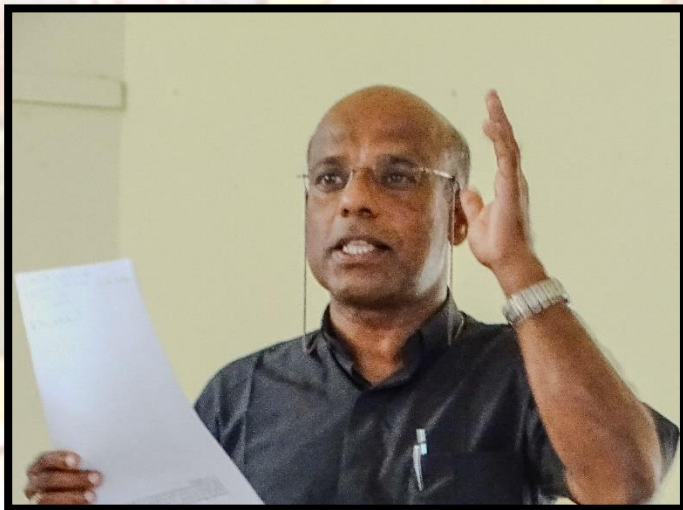
## ST FRANCIS SPIRITUAL CENTER.

Sr. Concillia Chenhere of the Franciscan Missionaries of Divine Motherhood took the opportunity during the meeting to inform the house of the establishment of a new Spiritual Center in the Archdiocese of Bulawayo at Mater Dei called St. Francis Center, which will be offering a variety of programs, courses, social services; such as psychological counseling, workshops and retreats.



## ARCHBISHOP'S ADDRESS

Being the highlight of the Day the Archbishop's address was branded by his



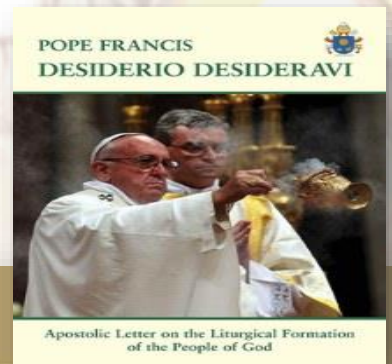
appreciation of the work being done by the youth, who constantly need our direction at all times for their growth, and that of the Church. In His words he asserted that, "adults should strive always to be exemplary leaders to the youth. At all

times they should desist from misleading, corrupting, and making the youth dependent addicts of all terrible acts." Particular commendation by His Grace Archbishop Alex Thomas was directed towards the Junior Pastoral Council (JPC) who are doing so well. However, the clash of roles between them and adults should be amicably resolved especially during this year of fostering Co-responsibility in the Church.

Directly addressing the life and work of the priests his Grace emphasized the fact that, aversion, bad will and demise should be a thing of the past

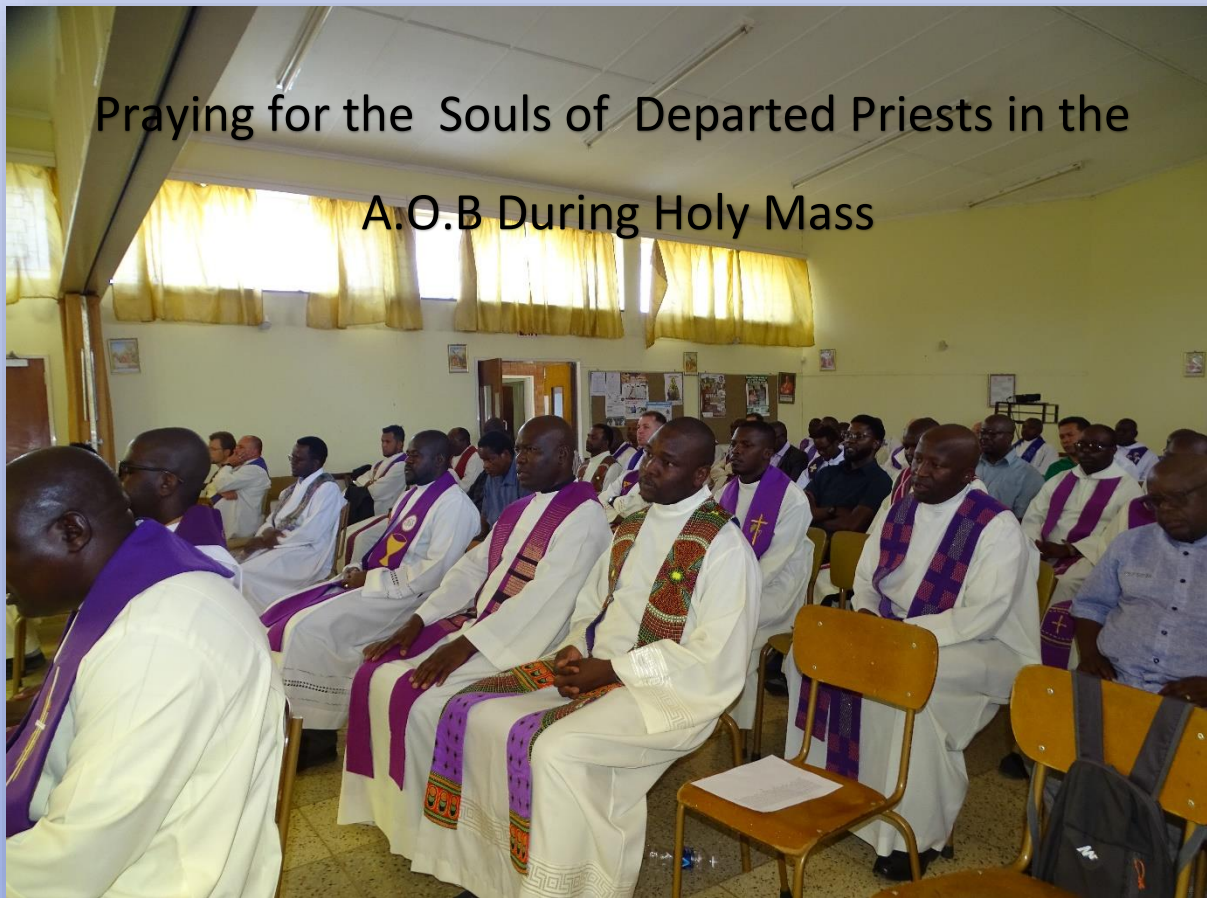
among priests working together to further the work of our Lord Jesus Christ. Failure to do so will result in chaos.

Standing out in his address, was the instruction he gave to the priests present on being liturgically cultured at all times. Extracting from the Apostolic Letter of Pope Francis, *Desidero desideravi* : **On the Liturgical formation of the People of God**, his Grace said that, "as people prepare themselves for wedding ceremonies, all Catholics lay and religious should prepare themselves with desire to go for Holy Mass. Every feature of the celebration of Holy Mass should be carefully prepared for, since liturgy is the picture of Christ and guarantees the encounter with Christ. Catholics therefore should live in the truth of this powerful encounter." After accentuating on this key factor the Archbishop expressed his gratitude to all the priests who attended the meeting and with a blessing marked the end of the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting for the Priests.



# DESIDERIO DESIDERAVI





**My Church, My Responsibility**  
**Ibandla lami, Umlandu Wami**



# CO-RESPONSIBILITY THE PRESENT NORM.

## Catholic Young Adults Demonstrate Love and Ownership of the Church.



The Catholic young adults of the Archdiocese of Bulawayo displayed a strong sense of responsibility as they donated blankets to Emthonjeni pastoral center and Insinga youth center during their AGM. This gesture articulated a deep love and support of the Church. Led by their spiritual director Fr James, the future leaders demonstrated a strong sense of maturity, concern and love for the Church, throughout their three day AGM (10-12 November 2023), which culminated with a jubilant and Holy thanksgiving Mass.

Upon interaction with the CYAA executive members, the Archbishop advised them to be passionately inclined and mindful of the important roles they play in the Church regardless of the many challenges they encounter. In line with the readings of the day, His Grace Archbishop Alex Thomas encouraged the young adults as future leaders, to practice the virtue of faithfulness, in the family, workplace and in the Church.

The Spiritual Director for the young people Fr. James admonished the Young Adults against drug and alcohol abuse and getting tangled in all sorts of evils of this contemporary world both local and global. Appreciating their creativity, great sense of responsibility in caring for each other, supporting the Church and being involved in various Church activities, Fr. James encouraged the young people to be the **light of the world** by striving at all costs to lead their colleagues out of darkness and into the Light of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Avoiding being foolish like the five foolish virgins in Matthew chapter 25 was the director's major theme during his instructive sermon. Fr James enlightened the young adults in his sermon by telling them that, "Life in Faith is



when one takes active responsibility in all church activities." Responding instantly to their spiritual father's call, the young adults donated blankets both to Insinga youth center and Emthonjeni pastoral center after Holy Mass. This gesture





pleased all the adults present who felt the future of the Church bright and in the safe hands of these young people.

The AGM for CYAA was concluded with an Award ceremony for the most outstanding achievements of its members in terms of academics, liturgical involvement, progression in faith and sacramental matters.

Well done to our Future Leaders and special thanks goes to His Grace Archbishop Alex Thomas, their Spiritual Director Fr James , their Co-ordinator Ms. Debra Gova, the Chairperson Mr. Romeo Siziba, his astute committee and all who made the AGM for the Young Adults a success.

