

# **STATUTES FOR THE JUNIOR PASTORAL COUNCILS OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BULAWAYO**

---

## **1. PREAMBLE**

The **JUNIOR PASTORAL COUNCILS OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BULAWAYO** is hereby established to empower the young Catholics to exercise their baptismal responsibility in the Church in their respective parishes and in the whole Archdiocese of Bulawayo. The Junior Pastoral Council shall reflect all that is good in youth, so as to be an example for others, thus becoming a ministry involving openness to the will of God and willingness to grow in faith.

Accordingly each Parish/Mission will have a Junior Pastoral Council which represents all various youth groups. Similarly at the Archdiocese there will be a Junior Pastoral Council. At Parish/Mission level they will be accountable to the The Parish Clergy and Pastoral Parish Councils. At the Archdiocesan level they will be accountable to the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council and the Archbishop.

## **2. NAME AND AFFILIATION**

**2.1** The name of the body shall be **Junior Pastoral Council**.

**2.2** The Junior Pastoral Council is an entity composed of young people that serve as an advisory and advocacy body to the Parish and the Archdiocesan Pastoral Councils.

**2.2.1** In an advisory role, **Junior Pastoral Council** shares their ideas and opinions, though they do not necessarily have decision making power.

**2.2.2** In an advocacy role, **Junior Pastoral Council** promote Catholic youth interests, from lobbying for specific, desired outcomes on issues that affect youth in the Archdiocese of Bulawayo; to, encouraging general youth participation in the Church's Mission of Evangelisation.

## **3. PURPOSE:**

**3.1** "ALL CHRIST'S FAITHFUL HAVE THE OBLIGATION AND THE RIGHT TO STRIVE SO THAT THE DIVINE MESSAGE OF SALVATION MAY MORE AND MORE REACH ALL PEOPLE OF ALL TIMES AND ALL PLACES" (C. 211)

**3.2** "SINCE LAY PEOPLE, LIKE ALL CHRIST'S FAITHFUL, ARE DEPUTED TO THE APOSTOLATE BY BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION, THEY ARE BOUND BY THE GENERAL OBLIGATION AND THEY HAVE THE RIGHT WHETHER AS INDIVIDUALS OR IN ASSOCIATIONS, TO STRIVE SO THAT THE DIVINE MESSAGE OF SALVATION MAY BE KNOWN AND ACCEPTED BY ALL PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD" (C.22).

- 3.3 The Junior Pastoral Council is a unique opportunity for the youth to exercise their rights and obligations in the church. It is important for young people to see themselves as a valuable part of both the local and larger Church ministry.
- 3.4 The Junior Pastoral Council will be an avenue for young people to have a voice within Parishes and the Archdiocese; a means of communication between the Parishes, various Youth Associations, and the Archdiocese as a whole.
- 3.5 The Junior Pastoral Council has furthermore the duty to evaluate how much existing programmes, policies and activities of the parish address the real needs of young people and how faithfully they express Gospel values.
- 3.6 The Junior Parish Pastoral Council fosters pastoral action (c. 536, §1), based on the needs particular situation of the youth. The Junior Pastoral Councils are therefore structured as means for dialogue to investigate Pastoral needs and to discern options to address those needs.
- 3.7 The Junior Pastoral Councils are encouraged to follow the method of SEE, JUDGE and ACT.
  - (a) SEE: To study the life, needs, hopes and activities of the young People of God and the wider community.
  - (b) JUDGE: To evaluate the results of the research under the light of the Gospel.
  - (c) ACT: As a result of confronting the reality with the Gospel values to suggest policies and programmes.

#### **4. ACTIVITIES**

The following matters shall be considered as falling within the scope of the Junior Pastoral Council:

- 4.1 **Fostering an identity** with the local Church in collaboration with the parish clergy and the Parish Pastoral Councils, to foster within the parish community a genuine and lively sense of being a part of the local Church of Archdiocese of Bulawayo, through which the parish is inserted into the life of the universal Church;
- 4.2 **Liturgy:** Planning and preparation of parish liturgical celebrations and devotions.
- 4.3 **Education:** religious instructions in the homes, in the Small Christian Communities and on parish level; on-going formation for youth and adults; leadership and ministry training.
- 4.4 **Apostolic Outreach (evangelization):** Spreading the faith by word and example; seek effective ways of making contact with lapsed Catholics and the Non-believers living within the parish community;
- 4.5 **Social Apostolate:** Care for the poor, sick and old; cooperation in community and social projects; working for unity among different tribes and races.
- 4.6 **Vocations Promotion:** Fostering vocations to the priestly, religious life and the dedicated lay apostolate;
- 4.7 **Family Life Apostolate** to collaborate generally with the parish Family Life Apostolate in encouraging Catholic family life in the parish, in planning parish-based programmes for youth preparing to marry in Church.
- 4.8 **Justice and Peace** in collaboration with the diocesan justice and peace commission, to conscientise other youth as to the need to learn and practise the Social teaching of the Catholic Church

- 4.9 Youth Ministry:** together with and under the direction of the Diocesan and deanery Spiritual Directors plan programmes and activities specifically for fostering the spiritual and social welfare of the youth in the parish;
- 4.10 Associations:** To encourage and coordinate their activities without interfering in their lawful autonomy and the specific nature of their spirituality and apostolate. (cf. AA 26 and c. 215)
- 4.11 Catholic Media:** To provide Catholic newspapers and literature to the faithful which might include a parish newsletter, Facebook, Instagram and/or Twitter Pages.
- 4.12 Recreation:** To organize and supervise parish social functions.
- 4.13 Stewardship:** To encourage the faithful to give generously of their time, talents and treasure (money); to assist the financial council in its efforts to raise funds.

## **5. MEMBERSHIP OF THE JUNIOR PASTORAL COUNCIL:**

- 5.1** “Only those faithful who possess the qualities prescribed by the canonical norms may be elected to such responsibilities” (Instruction, Article 5 , § 2).
- 5.2** “Only those members of Christ’s faithful who are outstanding in firm faith, high moral standards and prudence are to be assigned to the Junior pastoral council” (c 512, § 3)
- 5.3 Membership consists of** all youth associations in the Archdiocese such as CYA, Altar Servers, Legion of Mary, JUFRA and the Sacred-Heart Association Youth. The maximum age bracket for this group will be up to 25 years. The Chairperson and Secretary of each association will qualify to represent the Junior Pastoral Council.
- 5.4** Care should be made to include representation of the marginalised in our Parishes, those living with disabilities and minority languages, races or cultures
- 5.5 Altogether the Junior Pastoral Council** should have not less than 10 and not more than 15 members. Exceptions are possible for grave reasons, but always bearing in mind the effectiveness of a group that is too small or too large.

## **6. TERM OF OFFICE**

- 6.1 The term of office** of the **Junior Pastoral Council members** is for two years and are eligible for re-election for another term only.
- 6.2 Any member** failing to attend three meetings in a row without acceptable apology is deemed to have resigned from office.
- 6.3 All vacancies** can be filled in with co-opting other members, as regulated in the local statutes.

## **7. OFFICE BEARERS**

- 7.1 President:** “It is for the Parish Priest/Assistant Priest to preside at **Junior Pastoral Councils**.
- 7.2 Each Parish pastoral Council** shall choose a **Parish Youth Coordinator who will** act as ex officio members of the Council.

- 7.3 Chairperson and Vice chairperson:** They chair all meetings in the name of the President. They are elected in a way determined by the local statutes.
- 7.4 Secretary and Vice secretary:** They take minutes of the meetings and fulfil other duties assigned to them in the local statutes. They are elected in a way determined by the local statutes.
- 7.5 Treasurer:** Is responsible for all the funds received and submits proper accounts when required on a regular basis.
- 7.6 Committee Members** shall be from chairpersons of associations whose members are not yet in the Executive.

## **8. MEETINGS**

- 8.1 ORDINARY MEETINGS TAKE PLACE AT LEAST EVERY TWO MONTHS.**
- 8.2 Extraordinary meetings** are called when the need arises.
- 8.3 The Executive Committee** meets every month.

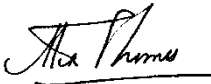
## **9. PROCEDURES**

- 9.1 A QUORUM SHALL CONSIST OF HALF THE MEMEBERS OF THE COUNCIL.**
- 9.2** “Any deliberations entered into, (or decisions taken), by the **Junior Pastoral Council** which has not been presided over by the Parish Priest/Assistant Priest or which has been assembled contrary to his wishes, are to be considered invalid, and hence null and void” (Instruction, Art. 5, §3)
- 9.3** The Parish Priest/Assistant Priest determines the agenda in collaboration with the Executive Committee.
- 9.4** Each meeting should include a time for prayer and reflection on the Word of God which the council seeks to put into practice through the pastoral activities of the parish. Topics of moral, spiritual, social nature should be part of the agenda.
- 9.5 The Parish Priest** (or whoever lawfully takes his place) has the right to veto decisions taken by the **Junior Pastoral Council**. The council has the right to appeal to the Archbishop, however, with due regard to the fact that it exercises a consultative, not a deliberative role.
- 9.6 The consultation process** seeks the common discernment of the movements of the Holy Spirit. It is much more than a matter of voting. It aims at consensus. The good of the parish/Archdiocese should be the ultimate aim.

## **10. AMENDMENTS**

- 10.1** Amendments shall be made when necessary by the Priests’ Council of the Archdiocese of Bulawayo.
- 10.2** These Statutes are ad experimentum for 2 years after which an evaluation of the effectiveness of the council will be done.

SIGNED:

+ 

✠ Alex Thomas  
Archbishop of Bulawayo



Date: 10. 02. 2022