

## **Parish Assembly**

*A proposal, presented to the parish for careful thought,  
reflection and discussion*

**When we are together in Christ,  
God does Wonders amongst us!**

Welcome to the Parish Pastoral Assembly. As I keep saying the purpose of it is to take stock of our past year and so see how better we could be as 'a parish' in the year ahead. I suggest we all try to see what we could do; initiate, help, support, lead to better things in the parish, rather than telling what needs doing, or expect it to happen, just like that!

We cannot start off without a big thank you to all who do so much to the parish in many many ways, noticeably and many behind the scenes, unnoticeably. It would be great if we could thank the whole parish, in the same way.

I would welcome anyone of you to chair the meeting. If not, I shall be just a facilitator. I have spoken enough as you see in this proposal, it is now your turn to speak and for me to listen. So I would like to do the listening.

The meeting is planned to last only an hour and half at most.

The Agenda for the day will have 4 parts:

- 1) **Evaluating our successes and those of not such grandeur, during the year.** The floor is open to you. It could be positive or negative, but I am sure it will be constructive. Please be brief.
- 2) **Presenting the Finances of the parish.** I would ask one of the members of the Finance committee to present it.
  - a. Would we feel and be convinced that the finances of the parish are fully accounted. If there are any questions or concerns this will be the place to raise it.
  - b. Do you also feel the finances of the parish is put to best use, to the best the resources we have.
  - c. Do you feel the priest has taken more than what is due to him and he deserves. Is he extravagant!
  - d. What ways would you suggest that savings must be made and expenses cut.
  - e. Do we have enough to meet the demands and the needs. Do we have the means to hire new employment for the betterment of the parish.
- 3) **How can we be a welcoming parish to the visitors, new comes and those who come to live here from other parts of the world.**

- a. We as a parish, have we welcomed the parishioners from different nationalities. Have we laid the table for them!! Or invited them out to a treat!
  - b. Similarly, I would invite all those from various nationalities to take a positive effort to integrate with the parish and with others. Would we make the effort, despite feeling unwelcomed, unaccepted, difficulty in communicating, understanding and be understood, and in the worst case discriminated too. Yet could we make the extra effort to integrate with others and not simply be comfortable with your own ethnic/ nationality groups and so shut ourselves from been open to others.
  - c. Would we not think that it is wrong, and bad for the parish and our community to create ways and means to define ourselves separately to others; gathering only with our own, limiting only to our own socials, even our own church services, rather than integrating and making the best effort to do so. Just imagine if every nationality thinks so, what it would then mean to the community and the parish.
- 4) **Lay leadership & participation in the Church.** The church is having high in its agenda, rightly so, the lay participation, leadership and involvement in the church.

We all agree that there is very little theology, ecclesiology and canon law that is been developed in the church to follow a particular model. So there is quite a bit of a helter-skelter, whims and fancying. But it's still worth it! I would invite us to think how we could achieve it to the best interest and wellbeing of our parish.

In my opinion it is worth giving it a thought to;

- a. Church being turned into a business institution, simply a place of creating jobs and running like it.
- b. Parish is no longer a family, priest is no longer the father - expected and demanded of him to be so.
- c. What does it mean by 'ordain ministry' does it have a place, what would it be.
- d. What does it mean lay participation and leadership in the church. How could we take a lead, and in what way, here in our parish. Are we as a parish; Priest & People, ready and be bold enough to make the changes we think, best fits us.

### ***End Note***

The Parish always needs your help, and will not run out of it! So please help in whatever way you can. Please do keep the parish and the people in your prayers, as it does, each & every time, mass is celebrated at this altar. ~ Fr Prem