



Catholic Diocese of Umzimkulu

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In Service to the People of God
Ukusebenzela Abantu bakaNkulunkulu
W służbie Ludu Bożego

To All:

Clergy, Religious and Lay Faithful of Catholic Diocese of Umzimkulu

Concerning: the Call to Normal Church Practice in the present situation.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As the Bishop of the Church of Umzimkulu, I rejoice to hear that most of our Parishes have seen an enthusiastic return to Church by many of the faithful in the last months.

As we, as the society and the Church, enter a new phase on the Covid-19 pandemic in which we observe a significant reduction in the prevalence of the virus in our communities and the latest outcome of the government's regulations, **I believe that this is the right time to call all CATHOLICS back to CHURCH-IN-PERSON.**

Accordingly, hereby I instruct that all our parishes resume their normal Church practices and activities following the governmental regulations concerning the adherence to all health protocols and social distancing measures.

Sodalities and Associations should also be able to go ahead with their normal activities including carrying out their elections. Catechesis classes can now go back to their normal schedules.

As well the Parish Pastoral Councils and the Parish Financial Committees may conduct the elections of new members if their term of office expired to renew the leadership of our parishes to prepare for the re-launching of the Diocesan Synod and the consultation of the Synod on Synodality, that Pope Francis launched in October last year.

I encourage the Clergy and Parish Pastoral Councils to make every effort to reach out to those who are hesitant and those who have drifted away to encourage them to come back to Church and participate actively again in the life of their parish communities.

Every parish has the registration lists with the parishioners' contact details (*even from the Covid-19 registration forms*), which can be successfully used to search and call back those who are absent now, as well to show the Church's interest and care, by calling them to ask how are they coping in the present situation of their life.

I ask that during the Holy Mass and other celebrations to be encouraged singing, playing instruments, to make our worship of God more engaging and fruitful spiritually.

Please note that the following restrictions remain:

1. Holy Water fonts remain dry.
2. There is no physical Sign of Peace (shaking of hands), but other ways of showing of appreciation and love of your neighbours next you.
3. Communion is not under both kinds – The People receive only the Body of Christ and on the hand.

In our activities, let's continue to faithfully observe all the precautionary measures laid out in Government regulations, that is, social distancing, wearing of masks and sanitisation protocols.

Yours in Christ,

+ Stanisław Dziuba, OSPPE

+ Stanisław Jan Dziuba, OSPPE
Bishop of Catholic Diocese of Umzimkulu

*Harding, on 11th of February 2022,
On the Feast of our Lady of Lourdes, the Patroness of our Umzimkulu Diocese*