

DIOCESE OF POLOKWANE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



REPORT BACK ON THE SA CATHOLIC COUNCIL FOR THE LAITY HELD FROM 14 – 16 FEBRUARY 2025 AT LUMKO.

1. REGISTRATION AND OPENING

The meeting was led by the new head of Department for Formation, Life and Apostolate of the Laity, His Excellency Bishop Vincent Zungu, as well as his vice-chair, His Excellency Bishop Zondi. Bishop Vanqa, Father Mchunu and Father Mahlako. In attendance were DPC representatives from twenty-three dioceses of the SACBC Conference area.

The session started with the Mass by Bishop Vincent Zungu

The other focal area of the AGM was attaining the objectives of **SACCL Vision 2026 advocating for a self-supporting church** pillared on the lay faithful, which was the main focus area of the 2025 AGM as well as advancing the **SACBC 2019 Pastoral Plan** and all the focal areas.

2. Key Points Emanating from the 2025 SACCL AGM

- There is a need for **Ongoing Formation** and **Evangelisation** as individuals and communities. As such we must acquaint ourselves with the **Vatican II Documents, Encyclicals, Exhortations and the Catechism.**
- The year 2025 is the Jubilee year of Hope, Renewal, Reconstruction and reconciliation.
- As SACCL we need to attain the objectives of **Vision 2026 for a self-supporting church**, active and co-responsible laity in the affairs of the church. Make maximum use of the church property, i.e., Land, Property and Buildings
- Since the **SACCL Training Manual** is approved, it must be shared to all the lay faithful in the Diocese across all the parishes as well as the **SACCL Constitution.**
- Call to holiness is essential for every Christian and not only the Clergy (LG35, Can. 210).

3. SMC (SACBC Mission Council)

- As Missionary Disciples, we are all urged to go out and preach the Gospel as the lay faithful.
- Avoid Competition and repetition

4. Jubilee Year 2025 Pilgrims of Hope

- Celebrate to renew the church and our lives
- Lead a life of Prayer
- Pursue the virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity
- Read Vatican II Documents
- Encourage Corporal and Spiritual works of mercy

5. Support the call for beatification of **Blessed Benedict Daswa**

6. Self- Supporting Church

- Support the church relying on own resources both spiritually and materially
- The church in Africa must rely on own resources for self-sustenance (Africae Munus)
- Maximise the use of church infrastructure (Land, buildings and property for Agriculture, Tourism, Education, Skills Development, Housing, Property development and investment) in collaboration with experts.
- Establish mutually beneficial relationship with stakeholders, but conduct due diligence before committing the church.
- Lease property instead of selling.
- Create a database for skills in the congregation.
- Have a proper inventory for assets (land, buildings and all property) including title deeds.
- Strive for sustainable job creation, especially for the youth.
- Create the spirit of ownership by congregants.
- Use the property (schools, classes, halls, etc.,) to generate income, while complying with the laws of the country, like Tax, disclosure, reporting.
- Maintenance of the existing infrastructure is quite critical.

7. Synod on Synodality

- We need to carry on with the Synodal church listening to one another as we journey together in faith.
- Communion, Participation and Mission
- Pray together, Analyse, Discern, Evaluate and be accountable.

8. Marriage & Family

- All Christ faithful must continue supporting the institution of marriage as sacred union and lifetime commitment.
- Make our homes domestic churches
- A healthy society and church need the support for love and marriage

9. Laity Day Celebration

- The SACBC has approved the celebration of the **Laity Day** is scheduled for the 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time; being the **3rd of August 2025**
- Each Diocese or Archdiocese to set aside a day to celebrate reminding the Lay people of their special call as members of the royal priesthood.
- It will be a day to remind the lay faithful about their baptism obligations and assure them that as they are baptized, they are also sent.
- A day to have one shepherd as the Bishop leading the mass; proclaim the unity of Laity and clergy
- The day should be a reminder to the lay faithful about responsibilities and co-responsibilities in the work and Mission of God of spreading the word of God
- It is a day of joy, praise and worship
- Besides Mass there could be Guest speakers to deliberate on various topics affecting the lay faithful

10. Closing remarks by HOD, Bishop Zungu

- All Christ faithful must embark on the process of ongoing formation as well as self-formation.
- The lay faithful must assist the church and the clergy for mission and Evangelisation
- All are urged to implement the SACBC 2019 Pastoral Plan.
- Deepen the spirituality of Care of the Environment, particularly ensuring that the water is preserved and not polluted.
- Involve the youth in the affairs and activities of the church, as they are not only the future, but the current church.
- Encourage call for vocation in families and among the youth
- Inculcate the spirit of complementarity instead of competition among members of Christ faithful.

11. PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SACCL

- The lay faithful to participate in challenges affecting the society (socio-economic activities of the community/country).
- Participate in church activities and the life of the church
- Strengthen synergy between the SACCL, Arch Diocese Pastoral Councils, DPC, PPCs, LPCs and Parish Priests.
- Dioceses and Parishes must fully implement the new SACB Pastoral Plan.
- Each Diocese to organise a Laity Day to remind the Lay people of their special call as members of the royal priesthood.
- Dioceses must continue with the recommendations of Synod on Synodality

To God be Glory and Honour

Compiled by

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DOCESE OF PLOKWANE

ANNEXURE "A"

Reasons For a Laity Day Approval:

- To publicize the work of the Laity council throughout the SACBC Dioceses.
- To add labourers in the vineyard and assist with evangelisation.
- It will help to sensitize the lay people about what is happening around them.
- It will support the campaign against GBV; rape; drug abuse and human trafficking.
- It will help to strengthen relationship between the clergy and the laity faithful.
- It will help to increase the laity participation in the church.

Activities for Laity Day:

- Mass dedicated to laity.
- Mass intentions for issues surround us; such what is mentioned on reasons.
- Guest speakers on various topics
- Q and A Sessions –knowing your Diocese and Catholic teachings.
- Second collection to support the Laity council.
- Hard talks that are mostly avoided.