



From A Bishop's Journal (639)

Recommendations Adopted at the Pastoral Orientation Congress (2)

I respectfully and trustingly give you more of the recommendations adopted at the Pastoral Orientation Congress for a New Evangelisation.

Baptism Ministry

21. "That each parish or pastoral unit have a baptismal preparation team composed of several well-prepared persons, to respond to the parents' Christian formation needs."
22. "That with support from the diocesan pastoral services, adequate continuing education be offered to baptismal preparation teams, to help them carry out their ministry adequately."

Pastoral Formation

23. "Given the urgency of continuing to give our diocese competent Gospel labourers, every pastoral team is urged to recruit at least one person per year from their parish, to attend the École de formation pastorale [School of Pastoral Formation]."
24. "That the diocese study the possibility of establishing a general coordination for all the aspects of faith education.

B) PRIESTLY FUNCTION – PRAYER AND CELEBRATION

25. "That the role and tasks of the Diocesan Commission on Liturgy and Culture be evaluated so that its work be more closely connected to the diocesan pastoral priorities and the needs of the Christian communities."
26. "That the parishes or parish units organise a liturgy committee whose task will be to see that liturgical celebrations are participative, warm, and vibrant. Care shall be taken to integrate to the fullest the concrete lived reality of the local, national, and international societies. Special care must be given to welcoming the people, singing, and a more dynamic animation."
27. "That at the parish or parish unit levels more family Eucharistic liturgies be organised, where participation of parents and children is a priority (for example, at Confirmation, profession of faith, graduation, etc.), and with the use of the catechetical resources."

28. "That at certain Sunday celebrations, a liturgy distinct and adapted to children take place, during the liturgy of the Word."
29. "That in every Christian community of the diocese there always be a Sunday gathering with Eucharistic celebration (with a priest) or a Liturgy of the Word Service in the Absence of a Priest."
30. "That due to the scarcity of ordained ministers we hasten to gradually prepare our communities to the fact that several celebrations of the Word will be animated by duly prepared lay people. That to this end, each pastoral team recruit and train people who are disposed to preside weekly and Sunday Word liturgies."
31. That in the eventuality of the absence of a priest, properly trained lay people be mandated by the Bishop to preside certain celebrations. That for the time being lay persons be mandated solely for celebrations of the Word, Liturgy of the Word Services in the Absence of a Priest, and at baptisms. That weddings and funerals continue to be presided by priests.
32. "That at the parish and parish unit level prayer groups and Bible sharing groups be organised, and that these be animated by duly formed persons."
33. "That Pastors use a more simple language to make the Word of God more accessible to ordinary people."

C) ROYAL FUNCTION – TEACHING AND FELLOWSHIP

34. "That the parishes or pastoral units display creativeness in exploring new approaches to pastoral ministry, which would better reach everyone in the local Christian community: children and youth, families, the elderly, those living alone, the sick, the needy, etc."
35. "That the diocesan pastoral ministry annually direct its pastoral action on an annual pastoral priority published throughout the diocese by every means possible, in order to promote its implementation."
36. "That communications between diocesan and parish services or parish units be improved, through the use of informatics and/or teleconferencing."
37. "That consideration be given to creating new ministries where individuals would be mandated by the Bishop to offer specific services according to the four facets of the Christian life."
38. "That we develop in our parishes or pastoral units a 'culture of the call,' by challenging others to greater commitment in their local Christian community, in the name of their responsibilities as baptised, and of their own vocation."
39. "That the parishes and pastoral units find effective ways of challenging members of their Christian community to contemplate the priesthood or the religious life."

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04-05-06