

THE BISHOPS FOUNDATION

Newsletter



January 2020, Newsletter

Lord, may your Church be a light to the nations, a sign and source of your power to unite all peoples; may she lead everyone to the mystery of your love.

Happy new year everyone. Christmas and New Year have come and gone and here we are already well into the month of January. As I write this, many are heading back to work and children to school. After the holidays we are all fired up for a new beginning, ready to face whatever 2020 has in store for us.

This month is the month for the AGM and Board meetings of the Foundation. They take place later in the month when the five Archbishops are present at the plenary meeting of the Bishops' Conference. The Archbishops are the Bishops Brislin (Cape Town), Mpako (Pretoria), Nxumalo (Bloemfontein), Tlhagale (Johannesburg), Gabuza (Durban) and Cardinal Napier (Durban). The five Archbishops form the Board of Management and Trustees of the Foundation.

This year, 2020, marks the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Foundation. It is no harm to recall the early beginnings.

The Foundation of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference (SACBC) came into existence with the signing of the Constitution on 22 August 2010.

For many years the Church in Southern Africa has been dependent on overseas donors and with the coming of democracy, foreign donors now see this as an opportune time for the local church to become self-sustaining. An added important factor is the negative effect of the recession overseas on the availability of funds which could be directed to the church here.

The SACBC decided in 2009 to establish a fundraising committee to raise and administer funds for a capital account for the running of the Secretariat of the SACBC and for specific welfare and humanitarian, education, development and health care projects of the SACBC. In June 2009 An application was made to SARS for registration of the Foundation as Public Benefit Organization on the 15 December 2010. SARS replied on the 2 March 2011 confirming that the application had been approved for purposes of section 18A(1)(b) of the Act and donations to the organization will be tax deductible in the hands of the donors in terms of and subject to the limitations prescribed in section 18A of the Act. The Public Benefit Organization (PBO) number given by SARS is 930033792.

At an Annual General Meeting of the trustees of the Foundation in January 2015 it was agreed that Fr. Barney McAleer would take responsibility for the Foundation and its promotion. It was also agreed that grants be made regularly to worthy causes indicative of Catholic Social Action and falling within the parameters laid down by SARS. These grants are published every year in the form of a little booklet.

So that is where we are today. As we grow the Foundation, building up the capital, we continue to reach out every year to support different charitable projects round the country. The reason we can do this is because every one of you is helping.

I have said it often, without your support so much good work especially in the less resourced sectors of the Church will be hampered.

It is important to remember we are planning for the future, for a self-sustaining Church in days to come, learning to drink from our own wells in the words of Archbishop Tlhagale. God bless you all.

