

AD ECCLESIAM

May 6th, 2008 - No 2

"Built together in one body"

*TO BE READ WHEREVER POSSIBLE DURING DIVINE WORSHIP ON
SUNDAY 1st JUNE 2008*

PENTECOST 2008

THE BISHOP'S APPEAL FOR THE MOTHERS UNION HALL AND SKILLS CENTRE

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,

May Jesus, our ascended Lord, continue to send us his Holy Spirit to be the bond of fellowship in the church. Amen.

As I look back at our last Family Day, held at KwaNzimela on Sunday 4th May, I find no better way to express my deep feelings than to use the words of Psalm 133: **"Behold how good and how lovely it is when brothers and sisters live together in unity...It is fragrant as oil...It is like a dew of Hermon upon the hill of Zion. For there the Lord has commanded his blessing: which is life for evermore."**

Your joyful presence in such great numbers, your determination just to be there as the family of the Diocese of Zululand, the weather conditions favourable to an outdoor event, the singing, the praising, the marimbas, the fellowship after the Eucharist, all contributed to make the day such an outstanding success.

To our great God be glory and honour now and always.

Those who attended the Diocesan Family Day on Sunday 4th May have heard me introducing or launching an appeal towards the building of the Mothers Union Hall at KwaNzimela. This project was conceived by the members of the Mothers Union many years ago. But only now have the leadership and the membership of that organisation really taken the decision to move forward in faith towards the realisation of this great project.

It is beyond any doubt that the Diocese is growing in numbers and the various organisations like the Mothers Union, the Donsumndeni Men's Society, the iViyo lofakazi bakaKristu, the Diocesan Youth Organisation, the Siyakhula kuKristu (Sunday School) and the Anglican Women's Fellowship have come to the realisation that there is a dire need within the Diocese to have a building of our own in which to meet. Every year we spend huge sums of money to hire public places - hardly suitable for our needs - in which to hold functions of all sorts.

With this in mind, the Diocesan Council has unanimously approved the project submitted by the Mothers Union for the building of a hall and skill centre at KwaNzimela. The Diocesan Board of Trustees has also endorsed this vision, approved the preliminary sketch of the future building and granted an adequate piece of land at KwaNzimela for this purpose. Later this month, a detailed and final building plan will be presented to the Buildings and Plan sub-committee of Diocesan Council and finally to the Diocesan Board of Trustees for the official approval of the project.

I am writing to you today to launch officially this appeal and direct it to each and every pastoral charge, organisation and institution in the Diocese. The minimum target has been set at R 10,000-00. I know that with God's help and with a concerted and sustained effort from each one of us we can make it. We need to take this matter very seriously, present it to our Lord in prayer, and begin immediately by making creative plans to achieve our aim. We have until our Diocesan Conference on Saturday 29th, November to work intentionally to do this.

This is only the first step. In the near future we will have to explore other strategies and engage with other partners to achieve the completion of this project.

May the Lord bless our Diocese and assist us as together we move forward in faith in the pursuit of this worthy project.

Yours in the Love of the Lord Jesus,

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Dino Gabriel (The Rt Revd)
Bishop of Zululand