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Provincial Newsletter of the Anglican Women's Fellowship

"United in Prayer, Service & Love"

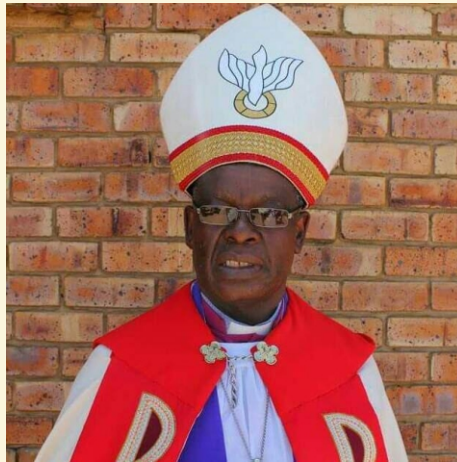
2019 Easter message from the Liaison Bishop of the AWF, The Right Reverend Daniel Kgomosotho

Dearly beloved sisters in the Lord

I send you warm greetings in the name of the risen Lord Jesus. He is the one who in the midst of our doubts, fear, and affliction, brings us the message of reassurance, hope and peace. Jesus blesses the faithful and sends them forth on their journey as they strive to bear witness to the lord of the church: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades (Revelations 1:17-18).

Jesus' resurrection reminds God's children of the glorious future which awaits them. He rose from the dead! Death is not the end. It is just the enemy who will be defeated in the end. The Apostle Paul bears witness to this reality when he writes: "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:55-57).

Death is only the door to the life beyond the grave. We should therefore not allow the resurrection of Jesus to have to take second place in our lives. Rather; let Jesus' death and resurrection be the focus of our lives. We have the assurance that just as Jesus died and rose from the dead, he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. Jesus reigns, he is the lord of the church and rules on earth just as he rules in heaven.



We have the assurance that just as Jesus died and rose from the dead, he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. Jesus reigns, he is the Lord of the church and rules on the earth just as he rules in heaven. Dear friends, I have often bemoaned the fact that nowadays it would seem like increasingly the interests of the poor and marginalised in our society are either ignored or not taken seriously at all. Corruption and greed have dehumanised those who are supposed to champion the cause of the underprivileged in our communities. The wanton accumulation of wealth as well as the looting of public resources by some public servants has resulted in the undermining of most of our state-owned entities. One has just to listen to the evidence presented to the Zondo Commission of inquiry in order to appreciate the extent of damage the country has been subjected to economically. I would suggest that ethical leadership is what the country deserves at the moment. This is the important principle voters should consider when they cast their ballots on 8 May 2019

the political domain is the violence meted against women as well as the girl child in communities. It points to an ever-increasing culture of unacceptable conduct taking root in the country. The emergent trend begs the question as to whether South Africa can ever be brought back to life as regards her moral and social values. The church is called to demonstrate the type of alternative society this country is destined to become. We are the resurrection people and should point to the new life the country should lead. Christians must shine the light of Christ where darkness and evil abound. They should pursue matters of justice and peace in a world where injustice, violence and oppression reign supreme.

Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus. Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

+ Dan Mpeumalanga



"Step up Women of God and be Counted"



Lucille Henniker

My dear sisters

I greet you in the wonderful name of our risen Lord. Christ has risen indeed Alleluia!

Here we are preparing ourselves for our General elections once again and we are being promised a bright and better future for all. Our country is slipping into a state of moral degeneration, but all is not lost. Our God is still in control and He will provide us with a leader who will take us from darkness to light. So let us hold onto Hope, a Hope focused on God and Him alone.

The past four years our theme reminded us that we are "women destined for God's purpose". We have now reached the stage where we need to "step up and be counted". May you be blessed abundantly as you do your part in your respective dioceses. Our communities need us now more than ever. I know you can only do so much, but know that whatever you are doing is pleased with God.

We had a very successful Provincial Executive meeting in the Diocese of Matlosane. Our thanks and appreciation goes to Johanna Mekgwe, newly elected Diocesan President and the whole team of Matlosane for their hospitality. Thank you for the wonderful way you portray the Aims of the AWF in your Diocese.

The Provincial Vice President, Monica Thaele and I have been invited to the Australia Anglican Women State Conference in Griffith from 16 - 20 May 2019. We have given it much prayerful consideration, especially in this economic situation that we find ourselves in. However, we serve a miracle working God who has made it possible for us, through you, of course. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to this beautiful organisation. Alternate Vice President, Pamela Mntonintshi will accompany us.

She will be covering her own costs. Please pray for us as the Australians are looking forward to hear what the AWF is doing in South Africa and neighboring countries. We will be sharing with them the wonderful work you are doing with your Diocesan sustainable projects as well as giving them insight to the Doris Gregorowski Bursary Fund.

This is a project being kept alive by the generous giving of our dedicated members.

The Provincial Executive and Diocesan Presidents' Meeting will be held in the Diocese of Swaziland from 16 - 20 October 2019. Please be reminded that your passport should be valid for at least six months after returning to South Africa.

We have a new Contact Editor. Please assist her in performing her duties successfully by submitting your articles on time. We would like to hear of the wonderful work you are doing in your diocese.

Yours in service
Lucille Henniker



AWF Presidents with one of the AWF stalwart



"STEP UP WOMEN OF GOD
AND BE COUNTED"

Kay Barron Speech by Archbishop Thabo Makgoba



*President of the AWF, Mrs Lucille Henniker,
Members of your Provincial Executive Committee,
Bishop Dan, your Liaison Bishop, Your host bishop,
Bishop Ebenezer, and
Delegates to this Provincial Conference,*

Thank you so much for inviting me to this conference today.

Let me acknowledge the past Presidents, Overmeyer and Titus as well as clergy who are here as chaplains.

It is an honour and privilege to stand here today as the Patron of the Fellowship. The last time I addressed you was in 2010 in Lesotho as Bishop Nopece was retiring as Liaison Bishop and Ms Overmeyer was handing over to Pumla. Thank you to all Diocesan Presidents and for your most informative reports. Your statistical form in your agenda book is a good tool that the Province can adopt to ensure proper records of our parishioners.

I am delighted by a wide representation of delegates and guests from the dioceses of our Province here. This is indeed a sign that you, the AWF, are able as one of our Province's leading organisations to live out faithfully ACSA's Vision statement, and are moving forward in your ministry and mission. You may be aware that at the last meeting of the Provincial Standing Committee, we revised ACSA's missional priorities, and that we now group them into three priorities, in line with the Province's Vision statement.

You will recall that in our Vision statement, we say that Anglicans ACT, meaning that we are firstly:
Anchored in the love of Christ.
Secondly we are:
Committed to God's mission.
Thirdly, we are:
Transformed by the Holy Spirit.

We now express being anchored by saying that we will demonstrate our rootedness in the love of Christ through liturgy, which we are renewing, and worship, which we are transforming.

Secondly we will express our commitment to God's mission by equipping disciples for leadership and ministry through theological education, formation and leadership development.

And thirdly we will demonstrate that we are transformed by the Spirit by exercising a prophetic ministry in the world, which will include advocacy in education, the nurture of the young, a focus on women and gender, and on the environment and health.

Let me start my talk by reflecting on one of the lections for the Eucharist this morning: Ephesians 4:1-6. In this passage, Paul encourages Christians to lead a life worthy of the vocation to which they have been called. This does not mean that our aim should be to win a place that is deserving of God's favour, but rather that the place we occupy is already a favour from God, and that we should, in thanksgiving to God, recognise that this requires a great deal from us. So the focus is not on our own worth but on the worth of our calling.

This, I believe, is what 'women destined for God's purpose' should be striving for. So if we are destined to fulfil God's purpose, then what does it mean to live a life worthy of that calling from God?

Paul emphasises that the way to lead a life worthy of our calling is to 'maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace'. Maintaining spiritual unity involves a soul-searching in pursuit of humility, meekness, patience and forbearing in love.

.Paul's letter to the Ephesians in essence addresses unity. He lays down a micro-platform that concerns two main sources of discord amongst those who profess to follow Christ. The first one has to do with temperament and the other with teaching. Recognising these sources of division and acting upon that recognition could go a long way towards healing divisions.

Friends, it is therefore crucial, in pursuit of Christian unity, that we appreciate the importance of the belief system that we have embraced. For us, it is not just 'a' religion – it is 'the' religion of divine sanction. In view of this foundational truth, we as Christians must walk worthily of the vocation to which we are called and pursue unity and peace.

As members of AWF, our call to unity is our calling to ministry and Christ has given us gifts of grace for ministry which come together in one common goal of maturity in Christ.

What does it mean to be the body of Christ in such times as these? To what discipleship are we called? And what does the cost of our discipleship entail? These are some of the questions we need to ask ourselves if we are to be women destined for God. Put differently, Jesus says to the young rich lawyer, the one thing that you lack is to be His disciple.

Over the 10 years I have served as your Archbishop, I have come increasingly to realise the centrality of the doctrine of the Incarnation for us as Anglicans. As a former Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey, once said, "Modern Anglican theology owes many of its characteristics to the central place held within it by the Incarnation." Speaking for myself, I have returned to it again and again as a lens through which to explore both theology and its implications for our place in the world.



For me, Incarnation, as I have said elsewhere, "communicates to us that God is on our side. In Christ Jesus, God demonstrates solidarity with the human condition. He is with us, alongside us, and, more than that, one of us - to a degree we probably will never adequately understand this side of heaven."

Also during my time as Archbishop, I have devoted attention to the need for us as Christians and Anglicans to seek the common good. What is the common good? Simply put, it is based on the recognition that what is good and beneficial for the other who is my neighbour is what is good and beneficial for me. Too often, many of our us and our leaders seem to have forgotten what is it to seek the common good.

As women destined for God, how do we become part of the contemporary world, seeking the common good for our neighbour? In the latest World Economic Forum rankings, South Africa is ranked 17 out of 136 countries in gender equality. We may be doing better than some other countries, but in a report that was released by the Commission for Gender Equality, it was revealed that women still bear the brunt of gender-based violence and other related atrocities.

Statistics from the SAPS reflect that violence against women is still alarmingly high.

AWF have a role to play, in both our church and in society. We cannot deny that those born to educated, privileged families have better chances in life than those born to poor families. Inequality of opportunity undermines people's capacity to use their God-given gifts to improve their lives, and our passion should be to work for better opportunities and to create an environment which benefits all, and to work against the continued exclusion of the marginalised in our society.

In South Africa, at an ecumenical level, a meeting of the National Church Leaders' Consultation concluded that people of faith need to bring a message of hope at this time. I quote from our statement:

Mindful of our own failures, disunity, struggles and brokenness we are yet awakened to the fact that we are called to be agents of hope, healing, peace, unity and reconciliation.

Refusing to be captured by State propositions, ideologies and party-political interests, we seek to reclaim the message and role of the Church as we exemplify the life and teachings of our Lord, Jesus Christ, live the Gospel imperatives, proclaim good news to all and advance the ideals of the Kingdom of God.

In the church, as we prepare for our Provincial Synod next year, I also invite you to play your full role in addressing the important decisions our Church faces on how we order our collective life: on how we transform our liturgies so that we worship God in ways best suited to the times in which we live; on how we respond to the need for sensitive and effective ministry to those in same-sex unions; and on how we ensure that our congregations are safe spaces for all our people, especially vulnerable children.

Last month's meetings of PSC and the Synod of Bishops have already taken action on making the church a safe space, without waiting for Provincial Synod. In future anyone wanting to be ordained to serve as a clergyperson will have to provide a police clearance certificate. From next year, this will apply to lay ministers too, especially those involved in youth ministry and Sunday School teaching.

In other steps:

We have set up an email address to make it easier to report allegations of abuse; We will set up a central register of complaints, including details of what action has been taken.

The Bishops have emphasised that it is urgent and important for every Diocese to set up a team to deal effectively with allegations of abuse in the church. These teams will receive training, and the bishops will receive training at the next meeting of their Synod in February.

In South Africa, both church and society are being challenged to work out how best we can manage and develop our land - both urban and rural land - to ensure that all our people flourish in an economy that provides work and dignity for all. In the Church, the Provincial Standing Committee resolved last month that we should carry out an audit of church land and make recommendations for the use of vacant land. We have also commissioned theological reflection on the issue of land expropriation without compensation.

In society as a whole of course, the question of land is the burning issue of the day, one which will require enormous dedication and patience, but also a willingness to take quick and decisive action to bring about sensible reforms which both fulfil the demands of justice and the practical need for economic growth and jobs.

So I encourage all of you as members of this organization to continue striving for what is ethically good in our communities. Let us discern and fulfill our vocations to the best of our ability - by so doing we shall have responded positively to Paul's exhortation to the Ephesians.

And before I end, one more thank you, and a final appeal: thank you for the role that you play in encouraging women to come forward in your dioceses to be considered for ordination. Please continue to nurture and promote young women of potential in your dioceses and parishes. Thank you especially for supporting women in full-time training for ministry at the College of the Transfiguration, I challenge you: please ensure in your diocese that you are always supporting at least two women training at Cott. In that way you will secure the future of our church and ordained ministry within it.

Finally, let me thank the President together with her executive for the sterling work they have done during their term of office, and in the same breath congratulate the incoming President and wish her and her executive all the best as you reach out and live lives worthy of your calling.

May God bless you all.



Diocese of The Highveld Annual Fellowship Activity Hosted By Each Parish.

Annually, the Diocese of the Highveld has the legacy project called FELLOWSHIP with 15 parishes participating. Each parish has an allocated date-which should fall on a Sunday to host a FELLOWSHIP event.

The aim of the FELLOWSHIP event:

- Sharing – provides an opportunity to share each other's challenges and problems-guided by the scriptures in the book of Gal 6:2 in applying the laws of Christ/Christianity.
- Serving – Mercy projects
- Empathic-in times of suffering – We empathise with those in pain.
- Assisting – We contribute money towards the identified project of each parish.
- Reporting-insisting that the donation should be used within 6 months and a report with photos and references to be forwarded to the Diocesan Outreach unit.

THE FORMAT AND PROGRAMME OF THE FELLOWSHIP EVENT:

- The AWF members from each parish join the service and worship together with the hosting parish
- We contribute our Sunday plate collection to the hosting parish.
- The list consisting of all the sick members of the AWF in the diocese of Highveld is forwarded to priest/lay minister of the hosting parish for healing prayers.

- We have lunch together after the service and the hosting parish will have their own Programme Director and their treasurer will be responsible for receiving and recording the donations.
- At the end of the program the hosting parish announces the total
- amount contributed, bless it and we share the Grace then depart .

Parishes that have benefitted from the FELLOWSHIP events and projects achieved

- St. Andrews Parish –Have purchased a gas stove, paved some portion of the Parish yard and are in process of renovating toilets
- St. Peters chain –Katlehong have completed Paving of the church premises, tiled the whole yard, renovated the mission house and purchased the Alter Linen.
- Holy Name Tembisa- Have installed the Alter Rail, Purchased Pews, installed a Vestry Sink for Lay Ministers, a fence, purchased the Sunday school furniture, Lap top, data projector and are in a process of renovating toilets.
- St. Phillips- Thokoza – Purchased the Parish Bell and extended the Tower.
- Manche- Masemola, erected the palisade fence for the whole Yard.
- Christ the Redeemer –Daveyton assisted with the building of the Parish hall and bought the steel tables.
- St. Luke- Duduza- In the process of renovating the the roof and a stone alter table.
- Christ The King – Renovated the server's guild's change room, purchased new furniture for the Rectors office and the kitchen cupboards.

- All Souls- Purchased Air Conditioners, P.A System, Paved the whole Yard twice, Parish Chairs and are in a process of purchasing a new bell



Orphans & Vulnerable Children(OVC) Exchange Programme – Lesotho And Free State

The Diocese of Lesotho closed 2018 on a high note. They celebrated with Orphans and Vulnerable children (OVCs), that are selected and sponsored by each Parish to take part in the Orphans and Vulnerable Children Exchange Programme.

This year, 10 children were taken on a weekend getaway to Ficksburg in the Diocese of Free State from the 07th to 09th December 2018.

This getaway marked a very remarkable and memorable time in the lives of the OVCs from the Diocese of Lesotho and those of the Diocese of Free State.

Happy children in white T.shirts from Lesotho, for the first time in their lives, crossed the border, stamped their newly acquired passports to South Africa on that Friday.

They started their journey from the Cathedral where the Dean celebrated Mass with them, then they had lunch prepared by AWF members before they left Lesotho.

Free State gave us a warm welcome, hosting the kids in their homes, making them feel “at home”.

On Saturday a joyous time was spent at the park, both children from the two Dioceses interacted where they enjoyed themselves while dancing to the hit song " kea idibala!!!!"

Then on Sunday, Mass was celebrated at St Paul, Meqheleng, where many AWF members from Lesotho joined them and a huge celebration was had!!!

Thank you Free State, we look forward to hosting you when you are ready to visit us!!!

Umjikelo winners: Diocese of Grahamstown at the 2018 Provincial Council in the Diocese of Grahamstown.



Hands of Grace

Presidents at the 2018 Provincial Council



Diocese of Grahamstown Choir



**“STEP UP WOMEN OF GOD TO BE COUNTED”
Diocese of Pretoria celebrated
Quiet Day on March 9, 2019.**



Fr Moalosi Mothobi, Chaplain of the AWF Diocese of Pretoria Delivered a Sermon



The event was celebrated at Rustenburg Cultural Centre in Modikwe area. The occasion was graced by the presence of the Diocesan Chaplain, Fr. Moalosi Mothobi. accompanied by other four priests: Fr. Sphiwe Lucky Njuza the AWF Chaplain from Madibeng Archdeaconry and his wife; Rev. Segametsi Masilela, the Chaplain of the hosting Archdeaconry as well as the newly ordained Rev. Sandra Cindi also from Rustenburg. Also present were four lay ministers from Madibeng Archdeaconry.

Red was chosen as the colour of the day in commemoration of Maqhamusela Khanyile of Zululand, Martyr who was killed on 9 March 1877 because he took a conscious decision to be Christianised through baptismal.

The readings were in line with the Provincial theme *“Step up women of God to be counted”*. Chaplain Mothobi delivered a powerful sermon which was very inspirational. He reminded us of women like Deborah and started to unpack the meaning of her name- which means a bee. Deborah despite being oppressed from the Jewish culture, she became the only woman judge amongst twelve male judges. Therefore, as women we need to support one another and also be aware that we can be as effective as any man leader. We just need the divine intervention combined with the following attributes referred as 6Cs: Charisma, Character, Courage, Competence, Conviction and Commitment. Amen.

He also warn us to stop entertaining negative things, and start focusing on positive things. Our country is in crisis, it needs women like the Deborahs, Abigail, Esthers, Ruths etc., to pray and without, we will cease to bring changes in our communities, parishes, and homes.

“Let us not sit there and do nothing. It's high time that we step up as women of God to be counted”. All 7 Archdeaconries were represented on the day.



**AWF
Provincial Theme
2018 -2020**



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Provincial Executive Committee

Back row from left: Marianne Lawrence (Exec Member); Lungsi Ntlokwana (Editor), Peggs Kambule (Exec. Member); Pam Mdaka (Exec Member); Nerina Gouw (Exec Member); Desree Legwale (Exec. Member); Letebele Ntsatsi (Exec. Member); Frances Dickson (Treasurer); Jacoba Kleinsmith (Secretary);
Front row from left: Monica Thaele (Vice President); Lucille Henniker (President); Bishop Dan Kgomo (Liason Bishop); Pamela Mntonitshi (Alternate President)

Notices

1. PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE and PRESIDENTS' MEETING:

- The meeting will be held from 15 - 20 October 2019 in the Diocese of Swaziland. The venue is the Anglican Thokoza Church Center Mbabane.
- Provincial Executive will start on the 15th October and Diocesan Presidents will start on the 16 - 20 October 2019.
- Please ensure that you arrive at OR International no later than 12 noon on 16 October 2019. It is more or less a three hour drive to your destination. Please confirm your flight arrival and departure times with the Provincial Secretary by 31 August 2019.
- Once the Agenda has been finalized, it will be sent to you.

2. AWF MATERIAL:

- AWF Material will shortly be available.
- I do apologize for the long wait, but the manufacturer had a shortage of base cloth which took him quite a while to acquire.
- Could you please ensure that you have paid your money into the Provincial account and have notified the Provincial Secretary and Provincial Treasurer of your order?
- Please ensure that the Provincial Treasurer is in possession of a Postnet address and the details of the contact person who will collect your parcel.

Website:

www.anglicanwomensfellowship.org.za