



Ad Clerum

August 2019

Number 5/19

THE TAC COLLEGE OF BISHOPS 2019 – CALGARY CANADA IMPLICATIONS FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THE REST OF AFRICA

I undertook to let you know in some detail about the College of Bishops meeting.

The College of Bishops of the Traditional Anglican Communion met in Calgary, Canada in June 2019. This was an extraordinary meeting, called by our Primate to take decisions that will shape our Communion/Church for many Decades, even Centuries to come.

I must, at the outset, tell you of the sense of godly unity that prevailed. Decisions were taken decisively and in a prayerful manner that was unlike anything I have experienced before in church meetings. Usually, decisions in the church take forever, with numerous committees being formed, but in this instance, under the mature and spiritual leadership of our Primate, Archbishop Shane Janzen, we felt the hand of the Holy Spirit guide our debates and subsequent decisions. Every decision taken was unanimously agreed upon.

The main item for discussion was a fundamental change to our **Traditional Anglican Communion**, a federation of national churches, to become **The Traditional Anglican Church**, a unified, large, dynamic global body of believers under one name and under the authority of the College of Bishops, led by an elected Primate. The Traditional Anglican Church will function in Provinces throughout the world; a TACLAP Province for Latin America, a TAC Province of India, a TAC Province of Australasia, a Province of Canada, a Province of North America, and a Province of Europe and the United Kingdom *and* a TAC Province for Africa. This development changes us from a federation of churches into one significant body of Traditional Anglican believers throughout the world, holding the same Faith and Order, and with the same sense of purpose and mission. It is a logical development and will clear the way for future growth throughout the world.

As an African contingent, we were very much in favour of this move, and together with the CACZ (our brothers and sisters in Zambia) and with their full agreement, Bishop Wellington Murinda, Bishop Andrew Mukuyamba and myself, our Chancellor and Regional Deans, we petitioned the TAC College of Bishops assembled in Calgary to include a Province of Africa. This would enable us to manage our growth carefully and accommodate the many African churches interested in joining the TAC.

I am delighted to inform you that our Petition was unanimously accepted after it had been passionately proposed by our own Bishop Wellington Murinda. There was complete agreement that this would be in the best interests of the faithful in Africa, and our brother Bishops were most excited by the potential for growth in the church in our new Province.

The movement from a *Communion* to a *Church* was the main item for discussion by the College of Bishops. There were other matters, but this fundamental change to our TAC Concordat was the prime reason for our meeting in Calgary. It was a blessed moment when this proposal from the Primate was unanimously accepted by the assembled Bishops from every area of the world. It was a bold and historical decision by the College of Bishops, and a moment that will be part of the significant advancement of Orthodox Anglicanism worldwide.

I believe that this is the change that will enable us to halt the march of the liberals in Anglicanism, and I have the strong feeling that we are blessed to be living in an age of real church growth, mission and evangelism as we spread the Good News of Jesus Christ our Lord. The implications for our lives of a Traditional Anglican Church are enormous. Below, I attach the Proclamation issued by the Primate, Archbishop Shane Janzen, and endorsed by the full College of Bishops of the Traditional Anglican Communion for a Province of Africa of the Traditional Anglican Communion. I received it last week. It is a truly historical document.



Traditional Anglican Communion

Proclamation

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.
Amen.

To the Faithful in Jesus Christ throughout the whole world,
Greetings:

We it know to all to Whom these Presents shall come that We,
The Most Reverend Shane B. Janzen
by Divine Permission

Primate of the Traditional Anglican Communion

Acting by and with the Advice and Consent of the
College of Bishops in accordance with the
Concordat of the Traditional Anglican Communion and
The Petition of the Bishops, Clergy and Faithful of the
The Anglican Church of Southern Africa (Traditional Rite)
and The Continuing Anglican Church in Zambia

Do Hereby Proclaim and Give Effect to the Establishment of the
Province of Africa of the Traditional Anglican Communion

Comprising the Bishops, Clergy and Faithful of
The Anglican Church of Southern Africa (Traditional Rite)
The Continuing Anglican Church in Zambia,
Together with such other Churches, Dioceses, and Parishes
from the Continent of Africa as shall from time to time be
admitted into the Traditional Anglican Communion.

This Proclamation is issued under the authority of the
College of Bishops of the Traditional Anglican Communion.
In Witness Whereof We have affixed Our Hand and Seal.

Given this Eleventh Day of June in the Year of Our Lord
Two Thousand Nineteen and of Our Primacy the Fourth.



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TSOLO – AN EXPERIENCE OF GROWTH IN THE EASTERN CAPE

In the first week of July 2019, we were privileged to welcome into the TAC a group of 5 new parishes, with their clergy and people, from a region called Tsolo, a rural area near to Mthatha.

This has been a patient work by our Vicar General, Fr Augustine Koliti, and his clergy, as we have made it quite difficult for clergy to join the TAC, especially if any kind of ‘church hopping’ history was detected. After more than a year of talks with Fr Koliti and interaction with their people in Tsolo, the clergy of Tsolo took a decision that the TAC would become their lifelong home and their church.



Fr Koliti meeting with Fr Feleza and Fr Gubu

Fr Koliti then invited me to Tsolo for visitations and celebrations, culminating with a joint service of all the parishes and Confirmation on Sunday, with the ‘new’ clergy being Licensed into a fresh ministry in the TAC in front to their families and their people.



The Parish Church of St Monica, Butterworth

As we travelled to Tsolo, we stopped at Butterworth to appreciate the repairs done to St Monica’s church. If you remember, they lost much of their roof during a severe storm in January 2019. The repairs are very good, and an impressive new ceiling has been put into the Sanctuary. We were able to meet with Mrs Jonas and thank her for all her efforts on behalf of the parish.

Once we came to Tsolo, we were met by three of the clergy, Fr Feleza, Fr Gubu and Fr Nyakisa. We then travelled further to see the Parish of St Bernard, Fr Gubu’s parish church, high in the mountains.



Looking down at Tsolo

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On our way, we were met by a welcoming committee of riders, who escorted us all the way to the church. **St Bernard's** is currently a temporary structure, made of corrugated iron, but with a real atmosphere of holiness, and alongside that, a partly completed new structure, built entirely by the women of the parish. These energetic ladies met us with much ululating, dressed in their wonderful traditional Xhosa clothing and makeup.

Our mounted welcoming party!



We meet the happy people of St Bernard's parish



The new parish church, roof still to come....and congratulating the hard-working ladies

The region of Tsolo is economically challenged, with most able-bodied people having to find work far from home. This creates real family problems, and the pressures on the women and old people left behind are intense. We ask that you support these people in prayer, especially their clergy, as they struggle to survive. If anyone should have any horse tack or brushes etc, for the horses, we would be glad to send it on to these young men; theirs looked pretty worn out.

Our Creator provided the most amazing sky for the visit to St Bernard's parish



Emmanuel Parish – Tsolo:

From St Bernard's we descended the mountain into Tsolo town and to the Parish of Emmanuel, the parish church of Fr Malangeni.

Once again, we had a welcoming party, this time of school children who marched beside our cars. At the church itself, the ladies of the parish came singing around the corner of the building...a beautiful experience of joy and friendship! By this time, all the clergy were assembled and many people, and we went into the church to introduce ourselves and meet the clergy and people.



We are met by the welcoming committee



The very neat and tidy Emmanuel Parish church

The meeting was to introduce the Traditional Anglican Communion to the people of Tsolo. So many splinter Anglican groups exist in the area, and Fr Koliti and his clergy have worked tirelessly to show an alternative to the schismatic practices of the Eastern Cape, and to also introduce the clergy and people to the Orthodox Anglican alternative – the TAC. It was my duty to enforce the fact that enough changing between churches had taken place, and it was time to settle down and become stable. This point was forcibly made to the clergy and was emphasised to all the people assembled at our Sunday service.

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It was also my turn to introduce myself and begin a relationship with the clergy and people. This is vital if our growth is to be sustainable – people must be able to meet and get to know their leadership as committed Christians and dedicated men of God, prepared to serve the people who make up the church.

I was able to bring greetings from our other Regions and the College of Bishops and explain to the people that they were now part of something very big, even global, a concept that takes some getting used to in such a quiet place! Following a lovely service together, a hearty meal was enjoyed by all.



A rousing welcome from Emmanuel Parish!



Streaming into the church



We introduce ourselves to the people of Emmanuel Parish



Confirmation at Tsolo:

51 Candidates were presented for Confirmation on Sunday morning.....we were going to be in for a marathon! We were also going to License all the incoming clergy and welcome their members...historical and energising!



The service was a noisy affair. Much clanging of gongs and beating of drums – but high praise to God and a strong sense of achievement by all concerned. It was fulfilling to see people truly happy with their decision, feeling fulfilled and appreciated as fellow Christians – it was a day to remember!

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Here are some images from Tsolo's wonderful Sunday service



Bishop Michael stops to greet the cooks



Our Thurifer



Deacon Biyongi sings the Holy Gospel



Time for Confirmation



The Offertory Hymn had to be heard....it was exuberant!





Blessed moments for the us all at the Altar of the Lord – unity, holiness and the Peace of God



Our brothers with their Licenses. From left to right: Fr Luthando Feleza, Fr Sonwabo Sandi, Fr Mandlosindiso Nyakisa, Fr Zukile Makaba, Fr Malusi Gubu and Fr Thembinkosi Mqamelo.

We welcome you in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ and pray blessings upon your ministries!

Last, but certainly not least, a picture of those Confirmed with their clergy



I would like to say a special word of thanks to the generous hearts of the people of Tsolo. We were so well received and fed...you have done your community proud!

I would also like to thank those parishioners and clergy of our TAC Eastern Cape Region who travelled so far to support this wonderful day – your efforts are highly appreciated.

Lastly, a special word of thanks to our Vicar General, Fr Augustine Koliti. He has brought this union to pass and has been disciplined and tireless in his efforts to bring lost sheep into the Flock of God. Well done Fr Koliti you have achieved a great thing in Tsolo, by God's grace. I think he can have Monday off?



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BUILDING A BRAND-NEW PARISH OF ST CYPRIAN, THE MARTYR, ATTERIDGEVILLE - AN ACT OF FAITH AND DEVOTION

There are times in life when there has to be a 'leap of faith', and that is exactly what we have been privileged to experience in the work of building a new church structure for St Cyprian's, in Atteridgeville, just outside of Pretoria. The building replaces the old Moravian church structure – a rickety and aged building.

The people of St Cyprian are building a future that is going to be dignified and beautiful in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Please pray that they can continue to be successful in raising enough funds to complete their act of faith.



The old structure is completely gone!!



A brand new structure is emerging



Members of the Parish Executive inspect the progress – we are looking forward to a very Grand Opening!!!

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ST MARY THE VIRGIN, PORT ELIZABETH

It is a wonderful thing when people are committed to their church. On the last Sunday in June, the family of the Late Canon WM Nkopo, founder of St Mary the Virgin Parish in Port Elizabeth, held a function to celebrate their parents' lives. They provided a jumping castle for the children (which many of the neighbouring children also enjoyed) and a lunch for the whole church community. In addition to this, they made a very substantial donation of pews for the church. These are shown in the picture below and will make an enormous difference to the worship experience of the faithful of St Mary's.

I thank the family for their generosity and we, as a church, honour the memory of those who have given of themselves that the church may thrive into the future.

The beautiful pews donated by the Nkopo family – what a difference it makes to the parish church.



A lovely cake enjoyed by all



Once again, we have been privileged to share a message of tremendous growth and development in our beloved TAC in Africa. We are experiencing the outpouring of the Holy Ghost upon our church, and our response must be one of the deepest gratitude to God, and a determination to put even more effort into becoming a holy and godly community, caring of our people and humble in our dealing with others.....

Every blessing to you

In Christ

Bishop Michael