

TO THE PRESBYTERATE, THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES AND
TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE DIOCESE OF HWANGE

Dear brothers and sisters,

The year 2013 will mark the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Diocese of Hwange. This will be a unique opportunity for us to thank and to celebrate. We will thank God for the growth and the strength achieved through the selfless efforts of so many people –men and women, catechists, priests and religious- who have co-operated with God’s grace and accepted his call and inspirations. We will celebrate the presence of the Lord among us and the many gifts, natural and supernatural, he has poured upon each one of us, our communities and our Diocese. We will celebrate his friendship, his care and his love.

It seems to me that there is no better way to express our gratitude to God and to celebrate his kindness to us than to ask ourselves in all honesty, “What does the Lord expect from us, his Church, today and in the near future, in this part of the world? How can we make his Gospel relevant to the men and women of our times? What should we do to bring forth his Kingdom? How to be an evangelizing Church that is herself evangelized, ever attentive to her Lord and docile to the motions of the Spirit?”

The question is vital. The answer, if we want it to be correct, will need serious reflexion and constant prayer from the heart. It cannot be rushed, it needs time. It cannot be the opinion of one or of a few, it has to be the answer of all of us inspired and guided by the Lord and his Spirit.

As a means to achieve this, after consultation and approval of the Presbyterate, I convoke a Diocesan Synod to be celebrated during the second half of the year 2013.

I also appoint as members of the Steering Committee that will lead us along the preparatory stages, Reverend Fathers Marko Rumuma, John R. Mudereri, Joshua del Barrio, Luis Carlos Rilova and Sister Michael Majahana, CMFC. You will be informed in due time about the details and the “road map” of the spiritual pilgrimage we now start.

I invite all of you to enter into this synodal spirit. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, let us walk together in the light of the Risen Lord, our minds open to understand the Scriptures and our hearts ready to burn within us as we discover his will and draw plans to execute it. (See Lk 24:13-32).

I place the works of this first Diocesan Synod under the patronage of Blessed Pope John Paul II on the day of his beatification. And ask for the motherly protection of Mary Immaculate, Patroness of our Diocese. May she help us to be docile and do whatever her Son will tell us. (See Jn 2:5).

Given at Hwange, this 1st day of May of the year 2011, festivity of the Divine Mercy.

+ Albert Serrano

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Bishop of Hwange



Fr. Mudereri

John R. Mudereri
Chancellor