



Announcement – Diocese Clergy Council Meeting

Thursday, 11 November 2021 – 2 Hatour 1738

“I have put My words in your mouth; I have covered you with the shadow of My hand...” (Isaiah 51:16)

Dear beloved congregation,

By the grace of God, tonight His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos met with His Grace Bishop Daniel and the Diocese Clergy Council for their weekly meeting, to discuss His Eminence’s visit to our Diocese, and the Spiritual Vision of our Diocese for 2022.

In today’s meeting:

1. A Spiritual Reflection was shared on the importance of retreats and prayer, and its benefit during a life of priesthood. His Eminence also gave a reflection on the topic.
2. The 2022 Spiritual Vision for the Diocese in 2022 was also discussed, with the theme: “...**that they all may be one**” (**John 17:21**). The Vision can be read in further detail in the subsequent pages.
3. It was announced that His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos’ pastoral visit to Australia will take place from Friday, 10 December to Thursday, 23 December, with the schedule to be released shortly.

[Please see the **2022 Spiritual Vision** for the Diocese of Sydney & Affiliated Regions, as outlined by the fathers during the Diocese Clergy Council meeting, on the following pages.]

Communications Committee
Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Sydney



Spiritual Vision for the Diocese – 2022

Theme: “...that they all may be one” (John 17:21)

Please find below the Spiritual Vision for the Diocese of Sydney & Affiliated Regions for 2022, as outlined by the fathers during the Diocese Clergy Council meeting on Thursday, 11 November 2021. It is based on the following areas:

- A.** Proposed focus groups (groups identified from across the Diocese)
- B.** Proposed general structure of each group
- C.** Proposed Theme/s

The appointed Fathers who will be responsible for the structure of the Spiritual Vision Committee are:

Fr. Athanasious Ibrahim – The Holy Apostles & St Abanoub Church, Blacktown

Fr. David Mahrous – Virgin Mary Church, Calamvale

Fr. Anthony Morgan – St George & Prince Theodore Church, Liverpool

Fr. Morris Morris – St Mary & St Merkorious Church, Rhodes

Fr. David Elmasri – The Holy Apostles & St Abanoub Church, Blacktown

A. Proposed focus groups (groups identified from across the Diocese)

1. Sunday School Ministry
(Primary / High School)
2. Youth Ministry
3. Working Youth Ministry
4. Young Families (English Speaking)
5. Young Families
(Arabic Speaking)
6. Elderly
7. General Congregation
8. Deacons
9. Clergy



Some of these Groups contain Sub-Groups, such as the Sector Groups (Sunday School), or Unique events such as St Marks Festival (Sunday School); or are under the Youth Ministry “F.O.C.U.S” which serves the university students. These would all still fall under one of the Main Groups noted above.

A Queensland (QLD) representative will also be introduced on all the groups noted above (whether Clergy or Layman), to help identify what is feasible, or to propose other options such as virtual platforms. This would be a starting point to help integrate both states. Identifying NSW/QLD on posters etc to help create a sense of unity with both states, would also help better integrate both states.

B. General structure of each group

With regards to the general structure of each group, we believe that one **(1)** main event should occur annually, with the addition of **(2)** other minor events to help maintain momentum and existence of these groups throughout the year. Furthermore, the above is only a guide, and may not suit specific groups, and should be altered accordingly to best achieve desired outcomes.

C. Proposed Theme/s

In addition to the Theme for 2022 (“...that they all may be one” – **John 17:21**) we are also proposing Sub-Themes to ensure a holistic approach to the main theme in line with the various groups noted above.

Sub-Themes:

The Meaning of Unity

1. Unity in Christ
2. Unity in the Holy Trinity
3. Unity in Doctrine: Unity in our theology/doctrine and the use of apologetics.
4. Unity in Diversity
5. Unity in Spirituality: Features of the Orthodox Spirituality

Ways/Means to Unity

6. Unity through the Eucharist and the Liturgy
7. Unity through Love and Forgiveness (1 Corinthians 13)



8. Unity through Repentance

9. Unity through Humility

10. Unity through Discipleship

11. Unity through the Life of Prayer and the Sacramental Life: Personal and Communal

The Effect of Unity

12. Peace, Joy and Power of Unity

“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.” (Ephesians 4:1-6)

Clergy Council

Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Sydney