



St. Thomas Lenasia

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time A 12th October 2008

The opening of the first ever Synod in our Archdiocese at Birchwood Conference Centre - JHB on Thursday 25th Sept 2008 bristled with excitement. Early morning mass at 07H00 set a tone for the day ahead. So many familiar faces gave one a sense of belonging to a large family which we are indeed.

For the first time in the church's history, we hear the People of God, under one roof speak their mind on the state of the Catholic Church in SA; we are undoubtedly facing challenging but exciting times.

The church is recording growth, evidenced by the need to build 19 new structures and 12 priests' homes in the JHB Archdiocese alone. The need to develop and form mature community members also demands a focus and singleness of mind to build the Kingdom of God, to further his plan of Love for all through Christ his son. Catholic Spirituality topped the agenda under discussion which delegates battled to define but were acutely aware that it is missing in their lives. On going Christian formation screaming loudly from the mouths of delegates, some of the understandings of the deposit of the Catholic faith was so archaic and out of touch that I found it difficult to believe that some delegates still remain Catholic at all.

The youth shocked me the most by requesting that the Sacrament of Reconciliation should be made readily available to them sensing a wilderness experience in their lives. They want parents to be more involved in their experience of life and also needed good role models. Secularism overtakes them rapidly. How do we as church address and direct these fears.

Transformation, under these conditions, is going to be a tough challenge but not insurmountable ... for with God everything is possible if we have faith sufficient. To be IN this world but not OF this world. The challenges are the same that St Paul undertook despite the huge obstacles he faced but he overcame them and handed over to us a wonderful deposit of faith. Together we can, through Christ, who is the ultimate example!

A wonderful and enriching experience - the journey has just begun!

Gordon E Jackson

Weekend masses: **SATURDAY 5 pm and SUNDAY 10.30 am**
Confessions: **SATURDAY 4.30 pm** or by appointment
Weekday masses: **TUESDAY 9 am and WEDNESDAY 7.30 pm**
First Friday of the month: **ADORATION 6.15 pm and MASS 7.30 pm**

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Website: <http://www.stthomaslenz.org>

For **Mass intentions** and **appointment** with Father, please contact Shantha by phone at the office on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9.30 to 12.30
OR leave a message on the mailbox OR send an email.
For **Sick calls**, please contact
Clive Padayachee on 011.854.5060 or 072.493.4773
For **Funerals**, please contact **Vivian Patel** on 011.854.8523 or **Cynthia Thomas** on 011.854.5490
In case of emergency only, **Fr. Philippe's** cell is 082.729.3758

Join in the following activities...

MEN's FELLOWSHIP : every Monday 7.30 pm in the Hall.
Contact Edgar 011 852 4960
INTERCESSION PRAYER GROUP: every Friday 10 am - 24 Opaal Street - Extension 5. Contact Vivian 011 854 8523
PRAYER GROUP: every Saturday 3.30 pm in the Hall.
YOUTH CIA GROUP: every Friday 7.30 pm in the Hall - contact Lerece 083 411 5650

To be apart of the Synod, inspired me as a Catholic. It was a great experience where I had the opportunity to express my views in growing the Church. It was wonderful interacting with fellow Catholics and sharing our success stories and also realised that we all have similar weaknesses in our parishes. The message from the bishop was clear "WE" are the Church and are responsible for the growth of the Church. This motivated my commitment to continuing serving God through the ministries in the parish.

The only disappointment was the lack of interest from St Thomas parish - very few attended the opening of the Synod and the closing Mass. This was a milestone in the Catholic Church which everyone should have been involved in.

Lerece Moses

Youth through out the JHB Dioceses were invited to represent their churches at the SYNOD. I become very excited! It was a opportunity for young people to voice their opinion and interact and focus on what is happening around them and within the churches.

At the SYNOD topics that were discussed: Participation - Relationship - Outreach - Training - Education - Networking

To find out answers through exploring the Catholic faith, that I share in common with so many youth from different parts of Johannesburg. The SYNOD inspired us to be better people , better Christians and to discover anew, what it means to be Holy Children of GOD.

WOW...It was wonderful to see young people, spending time with the Blessed Sacrament adoration and acknowledging our sins. Being able to praise and worship God as one.

What really touched me !!! When we all prayed in our groups for one another to Receive the gift of the Holy Spirits.

I discovered the importants of my Spiritual Values.... Sharing Faith with others. I'm Proud to be Catholic.

AWESOME... Light His Light of truth in every persons life, so that God can continue loving the world through YOU and ME!

Caren Pillay

An Opportunity not to be missed

Raymond de Sousa will be speaking on "Culture of Life - Around the World" for two days in a row:

Sat 18th 6.30pm Our Lady of Cedars (Woodmead)

Sun 19th 6.30pm Holy angels (Bezvalley)

Altar Servers Roster

Wed 15th: Bradley, Justin, Shade', Kylin, Janine J.
Sat 18th: Tiffany, Steven, Shadé, Kewan, Jason
Sun 19th: Justin, Jacklyn, Janine P., Kylin, Bradley, Janine J., Bongani

Flower List

Harry Marrian, Peter & Yvonne Moodley, Priscilla Moonsamy, Irvin & Vanessa Mariemuthoo

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 11th: Donovan Naikeer RIP

Sun 12th: Thanksgiving Mass

Tue 14th: Special Intention

Wed 15th: Thomas Plathottam & Varghese Thomas RIP

FULL PPC MEETING

This Sunday after mass.

YPC MEETING

This Sunday after mass.

YOUTH & ARCHBISHOP

The encounter of the Archbishop with the Youth has been re-scheduled for next Friday. All **JCJ & YPC** members are expected to be there from 5.30pm to 9pm. Supper will be served.

CANDIDATES RCIA

People interested in preparing themselves for Christian Initiation are invited to make themselves know. Forms are available on the website or from the altar.

ZULU COURSE

At last... ready ! Well almost... We are still lacking payment for some of you. Registered: 2xBrian Jackson (P), 2x Collopen, 1xV Jackson, 1xj Singh, 4xJames (P), 1x C Khan, 1x Harrey, 1xKyle, 1xRoxane Narasoo, 1xLorna, 1xThega, 1xEdel, 1xColin, 1xLerece, 1x Fr Phil, 1xFr Mat, 1xDale Abrahams. 1st less: 21st October.