



Pastoral Program for Missio Sui Iuris of Funafuti Based on Synodality

Theme: "***Journeying Together in Faith, Communion, and Mission***"

I. RATIONALE:

The principle of Synodality, as emphasized by Pope Francis, highlights the Church's mission to walk together, listening to the Spirit and discerning the will of God through dialogue and participation of all its members. Synodality is particularly important for the *Missio Sui Iuris of Funafuti*, a small Catholic community in Tuvalu, where the laity, together with the Ecclesiastical Superior can work together in addressing local challenges, such as limited resources, climate change, and the need for effective evangelization with great respect to cultural traditions and practices of other religious denominations and faith orientations.

The Synodal approach will enable the mission to strengthen its sense of communion, deepen the faith life of the community, and equip it to actively engage in the mission of the Church in Tuvalu. This pastoral program will guide the mission toward greater participation, inclusion, and shared responsibility - *A Missio inter Gentes*.

II. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

- To promote the spirit of Synodality by fostering deeper communion among the laity of the mission.
- To encourage active participation in decision-making processes at all levels, empowering the laity to take on leadership roles.
- To deepen the faith of the community through ongoing formation, prayer, and discernment of God's will.

- To engage in mission by responding to local needs, particularly through outreach, environmental care, and social justice initiatives with great respect to cultural traditions and religious practices of other faiths.

III. PROGRAM STRUCTURE:

1. Formation on Synodality: "Listening and Walking Together"

Objective: To educate the local community about the concept of Synodality and how it applies to the life of the Catholic Church in Funafuti.

1.a.) Activities:

1.a.1.) *Workshops for the Laity:* Conduct formation sessions for the lay leaders on the principles of Synodality, with a focus on how the Church in Tuvalu can live this mission.

1.a.2.) *Community Reflection Circles:* Organize small-group discussions where parishioners can share their experiences of the Church and express their needs, challenges, and hopes.

1.a.3.) *Listening Sessions:* Host regular listening sessions with the Catholic community to foster open dialogue and discern the direction of the mission together.

2. Strengthening Communion and Participation

Objective: To foster a deeper sense of communion within the community by encouraging participation in all aspects of church life.

2.a.) Activities:

2.a.1.) *Establishment of Parish Councils:* Create a parish council composed of lay representatives. This council will be responsible for advising the ecclesiastical superior and collaborating on decision-making.

2.a.2.) *Inclusive Liturgical Celebrations:* Ensure that the liturgy reflects the diversity of the community, with active participation from all members, including women, youth, and elders.

2.a.3.) *Formation for Lay Leadership:* Offer formation programs to train lay people for leadership roles in the mission, such as catechists, youth ministers, and leaders of community-based faith groups.

3. Faith Formation and Spiritual Renewal

Objective: To deepen the spiritual life of the faithful through ongoing catechesis, prayer, and liturgical celebrations that reflect the communal nature of the Church.

3.a.) Activities:

3.a.1.) *Catechetical Programs:* Develop ongoing catechesis for adults, youth, and children, focusing on the teachings of the Church, the sacraments, and the call to mission.

3.a.2.) *Retreats and Spiritual Formation:* Organize regular retreats for different groups (families, youth, leaders) to foster personal conversion and spiritual renewal.

3.a.3.) *Liturgical Renewal:* Promote active participation in the Eucharist and other sacraments by encouraging communal involvement in liturgical ministries such as choir, lectors, and altar servers.

4. Missionary Outreach: "Bringing the Gospel to the Margins"

Objective: To strengthen the missionary dimension of the Church by responding to the social and environmental needs of the community deeply mindful of cultural sensitivities.

4.a.) Activities:

4.a.1.) *Environmental Care Ministry:* In light of Tuvalu's vulnerability to climate change, the mission will develop programs to promote environmental stewardship. This can include beach clean-ups, tree planting, raising awareness about climate change, and Catholic social teaching on care for creation.

4.a.2.) *Social Justice Initiatives:* Partner with local organizations to address issues such as poverty, health, and education. The mission can serve as a hub for distributing resources and offering educational programs on social justice.

4.a.3.) *Outreach to the Marginalized:* Develop outreach programs to engage those who may feel alienated or disconnected from the Church, including lapsed Catholics, the elderly, and those facing hardships.

5. Synodal Discipleship: Ongoing Evaluation and Discernment

Objective: To ensure that the mission continues to grow in Synodality through ongoing evaluation, reflection, and discernment.

5.a.1.) Activities:

5.a.1.) *Annual Synodal Assembly:* Hold an annual assembly where the community comes together to evaluate the pastoral work of the mission, share experiences, and discern future directions based on the needs of the people and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

5.a.2.) *Regular Reporting and Feedback Mechanisms:* Encourage parishioners to provide regular feedback through surveys, suggestion boxes, and town hall meetings. This will help identify emerging needs and adjust the pastoral program accordingly.

5.a.3.) *Formation of a Synodality Committee:* Establish a Synodality Committee responsible for overseeing the implementation of the program and ensuring that the spirit of Synodality is continually nurtured within the mission.

IV. Implementation Timeline

Phase 1: Initial Formation and Introduction (3-6 months)

- Conduct workshops on Synodality and establish listening sessions.
- Form the Parish Council and other leadership structures.

Phase 2: Building Communion and Participation (6-12 months)

- Begin implementing catechesis and leadership formation programs.
- Organize inclusive liturgies and communal activities.

Phase 3: Missionary Outreach and Social Initiatives (12-18 months)

- Launch environmental and social justice ministries.
- Develop outreach programs for the marginalized.

Phase 4: Ongoing Evaluation and Synodal Discernment (18 months onward)

- Hold the first Synodal Assembly and implement ongoing feedback mechanisms.

V. Resource Needs

a.) Personnel:

- Lay leaders will need training on Synodality and ongoing formation in spiritual and pastoral leadership.
- Volunteers will be required to support the various programs, especially in outreach and environmental initiatives.

b.) Financial Resources:

Funding will be needed for the training of Catechists and materials for catechesis, liturgical supplies, retreats, and outreach initiatives.

b.1.) Support from international Catholic organizations and diocesan partnerships will be sought to ensure long-term sustainability.

c.) Facilities:

The church, and rectory, will serve as hubs for these activities. Necessary renovations will be undertaken to create adequate spaces for meetings, prayer, and training.

VI. Conclusion

This pastoral program for the *Missio Sui Iuris of Funafuti*, rooted in Synodality, aims to foster a Church that walks together in communion, participation, and mission. In *Missio Inter Gentes* promoting a spirit of inclusiveness, dialogue, and shared responsibility, the mission will grow stronger in faith and service. With God's guidance, the Church in Tuvalu will become a vibrant community that listens to the Spirit, cares for creation, and witnesses to the Gospel in both word and action.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. D. ...', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

September 25, 2024