

Formation Meeting for the Province of Capricorn Africa in Zimbabwe

Theme: United in Jesus-Strengthening our journey in Faith and Light

Date: 26-28th July 2024

Venue: Gweru Catholic Church centre

Delegates: All Community Co-ordinators, Core-group delegates and their accompanying chaplains in Zimbabwe

For Capricorn Africa Province, since we cannot all come together in one meeting place this year. We are having individual Formation sessions in each country to bring together the communities within each country, and walk alongside each other, to listen, support and strengthen the communities who have faced many challenges in re-starting again after Covid-19 and Lock down.

The desire and need to be together again in person is priority, to meet in person as a country withing the province, after years of not being able to do this all. To bring together all the existing and active communities from Bulawayo, Gweru, Kwekwe in Zimbabwe.

We have had many challenges since covid and lock down, gatherings had to be paused and no meetings were permitted, no in person formation sessions or visits to each other. We found the challenges were huge, reasons such as transport, political instability, poverty and unemployment, wide travel distance between areas, lack of finances, having lost leaders and members through covid, it left a huge void of a need to feel one again. The need to see each other face to face, and to remind each other that as communities in our province and the world we are united in Jesus. To strengthen the bonds to find hope and support each other during difficult time. During the last few years we lost many communities and we are all aligned to try and grow our existing our communities and reach out to places to start new communities in areas where there are a need.

During these two days of Formation, there will be periods of sharing, reflection workshops, practical activities and reaching out into our existing communities-putting into practice what we will learn from the Formation session.

There will be a time of sharing and reflection on the theme, followed by practical workshops and a deep sharing on each of our community living experiences or lack thereof and how we can learn from each other and encourage each other, and it gives us a sense of the greatest challenges faced and how to start again and exist in a changing economy and environment.

- **On 26th -27th July 2024**, 5 communities, will be represented, coming from the three regions, will gather in the Gweru region, for a full program of reflection, sharing, praying together, music activity workshop, sharing their challenges and we will build timelines to see how to strengthen and accompany the communities as they strive to start again. We are having many interactive sharing workshops, how to adapt from the old to the new ways of meeting, to promote Faith and Light and adhere to the rules and regulations. Safeguarding the rights of each person. The participants will meet in small groups for a time of discussion. The conference will focus on the theme **“Facing challenges and overcoming difficulties while remaining United in Jesus”** followed by a time for reflection. There will be a time of washing each other’s feet, listening to each other speak about the biggest challenge and to see how we can remain Faith and Light aligned to the structures in a country that has changing needs daily.
- **On 28th July 2024**, the day will begin with each community coming together at their own local churches, for a Faith and Light thanksgiving mass/service aligned to the churches or congregation where the Faith and Light communities meet and they will be active in the mass/service, singing or taking up the offertory or welcoming members at the entrance with the aim to announce and share with the congregation in prayers of thanksgiving, inviting others to visit our Faith and Light meetings and hand out information packs and share tea/coffee with the congregation. Letting them know that Faith and Light is very present and alive in our church and areas of meeting.