UFFIĊĊJU KOMUNIKAZZJONI KURJA VESKOVILI TA' GĦAWDEX
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IL-VIŻTA PASTORALI TAL-ISQOF ANTON TEUMA FID-DJOĊESI TA' GĦAWDEX (OTTUBRU 2024 – MEJJU 2025)

Il-Viżta Pastorali li se jagħmel l-Isqof Anton Teuma bejn Ottubru 2024 u Mejju 2025 hija l-ewwel waħda minn kemm ilu Isqof ta' Għawdex, u t-32 waħda minn kemm ilha mwaqqfa d-Djoċesi (1864).

It-tema magħżula għall-Viżta hi *"U daħal joqgħod magħhom" (Lq 24:29)*, silta oħra mill-ġrajja tal-laqgħa ta' Ġesù mad-dixxipli ta' Għemmaws wara l-Qawmien mill-imwiet, li minnha hu meħud il-motto tal-Isqof u fuqha nbnew ukoll it-temi tal-Pjanijiet Pastorali Djoċesani fl-aħħar snin. Billi l-Viżta se tikkonċidi wkoll mal-Ġublew Ordinarju ċċeleberat universalment fl-2025, bit-tema *Pellegrini tat-tama*, hija wkoll okkażjoni biex titwassal din l-aħbar ta' tama lill-familji Nsara Għawdxin.

Il-Viżta hija żjara li l-Isqof Djoċesan jagħmel lill-parroċċi u l-komunitajiet Kattoliċi fit-territorju djoċesan, bl-għan li jistħarreġ il-qagħda tagħhom u jwettaqhom fil-ħajja tal-fidi u l-ħidma tagħhom ta' evanġelizzazzjoni.

Għal dan il-għan ukoll, fix-xhur tas-sajf intbagħat kwestjonarju lill-kappillani, sabiex it-tagħrif miġbur ikun ta' għajnuna għall-Isqof u l-Kummissjoni li se takkumpanjah fiż-żjajjar fil-parroċċi.

Wara li l-Ħadd 22 ta' Settembru l-Viżta tiġi mħabbra uffiċjalment b'Ittra Pastorali tal-Isqof, il-Ħadd ta' wara, 29, fis-6.00pm, fil-Katidral tal-Assunta, tiġi miftuħa uffiċjalment waqt Quddiesa Solenni mmexxija mill-Isqof.

Iż-żjajjar fil-15-il parroċċa tad-Djoċesi ta' Għawdex u f'xi rettorji se jsiru, waħda kull ġimgħa, bejn is-6 ta' Ottubru u l-24 ta' Mejju, b'waqfiet għaż-żminijiet liturġiċi qawwija tal-Avvent, il-Milied, ir-Randan u l-Għid.

Qabel kull żjara f'parroċċa, bħala stedina se titqassam bieb bieb kopja tal-Vanġelu ta' San Luqa (Bibbja Saydon), kif ukoll isir talb fil-komunitajiet għall-frott spiritwali tagħha. Bi tħejjija iktar prossima, fil-jiem immedjati ta' qabel tiġi ċċelebrata Velja u lejl ta' adorazzjoni Ewkaristika fil-Knisja parrokkjali.

F'kull parroċċa, il-Viżta tiftaħ b'Quddiesa l-Ħadd filgħodu u tagħlaq b'oħra s-Sibt ta' wara filgħaxija. Matul dik il-ġimgħa, barra ċelebrazzjonijiet oħra ta' quddies, ikun hemm laqgħat tal-Isqof u d-delegati tiegħu mal-Presbiterju Parrokkjali, l-Istituti Reliġjużi preżenti f'dik il-komunità, kif ukoll mal-organi prinċipali bħalma huma l-Kunsill Pastorali Parrokkjali, il-Kunsill Ekonomiku, il-Grupp Liturġiku, il-Grupp tad-Djakonija, u l-Kumitati l-oħra rispettivi, kif ukoll ma' realtajiet pastorali involuti fil-missjoni tal-Knisja u fl-appostolat,

fosthom l-animaturi liturġiċi u dawk tal-gruppi, il-katekisti, kif ukoll voluntiera oħra fi ħdan il-parroċċi.

L-Isqof isib il-ħin ukoll jiltaqa' mad-diversi membri tal-parroċċa waqt il-laqgħat tagħhom, kif ukoll jagħmel żjajjar lill-morda u l-anzjani, waqt li jkun hemm ħin disponibbli għal kollokji personali.

Il-Viżta, kif hu mitlub mil-Liġi tal-Knisja, tinvolvi wkoll l-eżaminazzjoni tal-Arkivju Parrokkjali, il-proprjetajiet, l-opri tal-arti, l-oġġetti sagri u oħrajn li jappartienu lill-Parroċċa, kif ukoll is-superviżjoni tar-reġistri, il-kotba liturġiċi u l-kontijiet finanzjarji.

Wara l-Viżta, li tiġi ddokumentata b'Rapport dettaljat, issir evalwazzjoni kemm mal-Kappillan, il-Presbiterju u l-Kunsill Parrokkjali, imma wkoll mill-kummissjoni li tkun wettqitha, li l-frott tagħha jiġi kkomunikat lil kull parroċċa f'ittra mibgħuta mill-Isqof.

B'dan kollu, "il-Viżta Pastorali tidher bħala dak li tabilħaqq hi: sinjal tal-preżenza tal-Mulej li jżur fis-sliem lill-poplu tiegħu" (Ġwanni Pawlu II, *Pastores gregis*, 46).

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PASTORAL VISIT OF BISHOP ANTON TEUMA IN THE DIOCESE OF GOZO (OCTOBER 2024 – MAY 2025)

The Pastoral Visit which Bishop Anton Teuma will be conducting between October 2024 and May 2025 will be his first one since he was consecrated Bishop of Gozo, and the 32nd since the Diocese of Gozo was established in 1864, 160 years ago.

The chosen theme for the Visit is: *"So he went in to stay with them" (Lk 24:29)*, a citation from the event of the meeting of Risen Lord Jesus with the disciples of Emmaus. It is from this event that Bishop Teuma drew inspiration for his episcopal motto and for the Pastoral Plans of the recent years for the Diocese of Gozo. Since the Visit will be coinciding with the Ordinary Jubilee celebrated universally in 2025, carrying the theme *Pilgrims of Hope*, this will be an occasion for the proclamation of Christian Hope for all Catholic families in Gozo.

The Visit will be presided by the Bishop who will visit parishes and Catholic communities in the diocesan territory, with the aim of studying their condition and to strengthen their life of faith and their work of evangelisation.

For this purpose, during the summer months a questionnaire was handed out to parish priests, so that any gathered material is passed on to the Bishop and the Commission accompanying him during his visits to the parishes.

The Visit will be formally announced on Sunday 22 September through the Bishop's Pastoral Letter. The next Sunday, 29 September, at 6.00pm, at the Cathedral Church in Victoria, the Pastoral Visit will be officially inaugurated during a Solemn Mass presided by the Bishop.

The visits in the 15 parishes of the Diocese of Gozo and the rectories will take place, one every week, between 6 October and 24 May, excluding the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmastide, Lent and Eastertide.

Prior to every visit in a parish, a copy of the Gospel according to Luke (Bibbja Saydon) will be handed out door to door as an invitation. The faithful will also be encouraged to offer prayers for the spiritual advancement of the Pastoral Visit. Then, the immediate days preceding the Visit will be characterised by a vigil and night of Eucharistic Adoration in the respective parish churches.

In every parish, the Visit will be inaugurated by a Mass on Sunday morning and will conclude with another Mass on the successive Saturday evening. During the week, besides the celebration of masses, there will be meetings by the Bishop and his Delegates with the Parish Clergy, the Religious Institutes in the community, and the main entities such as the Parish Pastoral Council, the Economic Council, the Liturgical Group, the Diaconia Group, and the other respective committees, together with other pastoral realities involved in the mission of the Church and Catholic apostolate. Among these there are the liturgical animators and those of the groups, the catechists and other volunteers in the parish.

The Bishop will also find time to meet various members of the parish and conduct visits to the sick and the elderly. There will also be time for personal talks and meetings.

The Visit, as procured by Canon Law, involves also an examination of the Parish Archives, the properties, the sacred objects and other works of art pertaining to the parish, together with the supervision of registers, liturgical books and financial accounts.

After the Visit, which will be documented in a detailed Report, an evaluation with the Parish Priest, Parish Clergy and Parish Council will take place. The Commission overseeing it will also participate and feedback will be communicated to each parish in a letter by the Bishop.

“When it is carried out in this way, the Pastoral Visit appears for what is truly is: a sign of the presence of the Lord who visits his people in peace” (John Paul II, *Pastores gregis*, 46).