



BAA 2013 FINAL REPORT

Adult Formation Evangelization Catechesis

*"Knowing, growing and
sharing our faith"*

JULY 2014

The Inaugural Bishop's Annual Appeal 2013 under the theme "Knowing, Growing, and Sharing our Faith" has come to an end. It is pertinent at this time to review how the monies received for that Appeal have been allocated and spent. This article will explain:

- What we have actually achieved so far,
- How this relates to a long term development plan, and
- How the monies received from the Bishop's Annual Appeal are allocated and accounted for.

People have rightly said that the important thing is not the money but the work so the focus will be on what has been done, but it is fair that everyone should know that the monies received from the Bishop's

Annual Appeal are being carefully stewarded. Consequently, a table outlining the associated levels of expenditure will also be presented as a part of this article.

What has been achieved so far?

Before a Delegate for Evangelisation, Catechesis and Adult Formation was appointed, the Bishop was presented with a 15 year development plan that the Delegate has been charged with enacting. The first stage of that development plan is to enhance the **confidence and competence** of those in the diocese who work in the fields of Evangelisation, Catechesis and Adult Formation.

The BAA Half Way report indicated that to support the process of confidence and competence building the Diocese of Georgetown had entered into two partnerships, one with the Catholic University of

Dayton, Ohio, the other with UK Youth Awards. The attached table indicates how many courses in the Certificate in Catechesis Level One and the Certificate in Youth Ministry had been completed by June 2014.

Two further partnerships have been embarked upon. The Diocese has now registered "Seraphim: the Association of Young Choristers in the Diocese of Georgetown in Guyana" with the International Royal Society of Church Music (RSCM). This partnership provides a structured process to aid and support adults in the diocese who are working with various youth choirs and music groups. "Seraphim" was launched in the Cathedral with a Sung Evensong service on the 29th June. This service represented the product of the first attempt of choirs and music groups to work with RSCM material.

The second partnership arises because the Diocese has accepted the invitation by the AEC to introduce the ABP process (Biblical Animation of All Pastoral Action). The Department of Evangelisation has taken responsibility for this and a small ABP coordinating team has been formed. This has begun the slow work of reaching out to parishes and developing a broader ABP base.

The Department of Adult Formation is providing administrative and coordinating support to the recently initiated "visioning exercise" for the pastoral area. The entire visioning exercise will be formative and hopefully transformative but at different stages the Department will coordinate both informative and formative processes. The recent cluster of eleven meetings (in three days) of various stakeholders in the pastoral area is a good example of the coordination of an informative process.

The work with the UK Youth Awards continues. The Adult Formation Department is already forming twenty four young adults who are in the system working towards their Bronze Awards. This has been delayed due to coordination difficulties. A further 18 young adults began to work on their Bronze Award through their participation in the Voice Message Young Adult Leadership Programme which began on 17th June 2014. In collaboration with the Youth Office, the

Department of Adult Formation is supporting the introduction of the Bronze Award into the Summer Camp at Kayuka August 2014.



Jeanna Parks (top right) UK Youth Award Coordinator and Fr Eddy Bermingham SJ with the recently certified Award Workers

East Coast and Linden Initiatives

Following on from the inaugural seven sessions, there was a Basic Level Catechetical Course for East Coast catechists. A follow-up course has been undertaken and this now means that a total of fifteen different catechists on the East Coast have participated in training within the last year.

The Department of Catechesis has begun a consultation process in 2013 entitled "Towards Certification" to explore the possibility of introducing minimum levels of training for catechists who are involved in the RCIA process, in the parish Sunday Schools and in the preparation of parents who present their babies and

children under the age of five for baptism.

The DVD lecture programme.

The Bible Time Line will be completed in Linden at the end of July 2014. This lengthy bible study and reflection programme has been well received and this suggests that it should be repeated in different parts of the Diocese. Originally it had been intended to run the programme over eight monthly sessions. In fact, due to more interruptions than planned it took twelve months to complete the eight month package.

Catechetical Developments

The Survey of Catechists that was underway at the time of the last report has now been completed. A significant majority of catechists have indicated that:

- a) They believe there should be both Initial and Ongoing formation
- b) Catechists should be willing to commit to a minimum period of formation each year of between eight to twelve hours
- c) There should be standardised formation packages
- d) There should be a registered certification process

The Department of Catechetics will be rolling out the first modules of both the Initial and Ongoing

formation packages in the twelve months starting September 2014.



Participants at VLCCFF presentation applaud Sr Angela Zukowski

Baptism Preparation

The ministers of baptism preparation (for infants and children under five) in the Pastoral Area have undertaken a review of the baptism preparation materials currently being used. The intention is to produce a formation pack that will include materials to support the ministers, material to be used in the preparation sessions and finally material that will be given to parents and god-parents to take home and reflect further upon. Once this pack has been finalised the Department of Catechetics will provide formation for those presently involved in this ministry as well as exploring what 'initial formation' should be offered. The Department of Evangelisation has also begun to reflect with this group as to how their parishes can develop an outreach ministry to those who present their infants and young children for baptism.

Purchase of New Photocopier and Riso Printer

The last report made it clear that the work of capacity building needs some administrative support. It also reported that without increasing staffing levels there has been an increase in office space to allow for the organic expansion of the

work of the three Departments. In addition, to maintain capacity to publish catechetical and pastoral aids the Office has purchased a New Photocopier and Riso Printer. It has managed to do this within the projected ten per cent of the projected income from the Bishop's Annual Appeal, thus ensuring that the largest portion of expenditure of the Bishop's Annual Appeal funds is directed towards the development of people in the Diocese.

Allocation and Accounting for Resources

In line with the recommendations of the General Directory for Catechesis, the Religious Education Department (RED) has been re-structured as the Office of Evangelisation, Catechesis and Adult Formation. Whereas, the old R.E.D. had responsibility both for developing catechesis in the diocese and for delivering some adult formation the new Catechesis Department has responsibility for the development of catechists and the catechetical service in the diocese.

The new Adult Formation department has responsibility for Adult Formation in general. The new Evangelisation Department has the daunting task of promoting the work of Evangelisation in the diocese.

In order to allow for a clear auditing process there are separate cheque accounts for each of the Departments. In November 2012 proposed budgets for the three Departments were submitted to the Diocesan Finance Council. This budget was prepared before it was known that the Bishop would choose the areas of Evangelisation, Catechesis and Adult Formation to benefit from his first Annual Appeal. However, for the sake of transparency it was agreed to allot the monies coming in from the Bishop's Annual Appeal in the same proportions that had been presented in the original budget.

- Department of Evangelisation 3.8%
- Department of Catechesis 49.3%
- Department of Adult Formation 46.9%

The smaller percentage allotted to Evangelisation is not a reflection of how important it is but rather a recognition that in the early stages of formation of a Department the infrastructure does not exist to cope with significant expenditure. It has been decided to maintain this division of funds for the present financial year 2014. It is envisaged that as the work for Evangelisation begins to develop a re-allocation of monies will be reflected in the 2015 budget proposed in November 2014.

Pictures From The Departments Of Evangelization, Catechesis & Adult Formation



Pastoral Area Catechist Retreat and Seminar



Seraphim Ad Hoc Formation Committee Examining RSCM Materials



Hope Town— participants in the Basic Formation



Young Adults working towards the Bronze Award by participating in a Media School



Young Adults participating in Theatre Arts workshop Facilitated by Tivia Collins (Theatre Guild) as part of their Bronze Award





Fruits of a catechist workshop – they produced an Easter Garden at St. Teresa's, Campbellville



Some of the participants of the Charity, Essequibo Catechists Forum



Some of the Young Adults on the first Thursday of this year's Voice Message youth leadership training



Participants – ABP Workshop – Stewardship Conference



Role Playing at the Marriage Seminar Aishalton



“The response to the Bishop’s Appeal for 2013 was very encouraging. Parishioners from all of the communities in the Diocese stretched a hand and became part of a shared dream for faith formation. Your contribution will make it possible for a number of initiatives to be put on stream to facilitate growth and fuller celebration of faith in the Diocese. I am most grateful to everyone for your participation”. - Bishop Francis