



Media Release

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To:	All Media	Attn:	The Editor
From:	KDZ Marketing Team	Date:	29/01/09
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The Editor,

I am sending the below information for your perusal and publication. I would like to thank you in advance for your service and for any exposure that you may give us to help us continue our work with Maltese Young People.

Evangelization with young people aged 16+ *General Assembly Follow-Up*

On Saturday 24th January 2009, the Diocesan Youth Commission (KDZ) held the Third General Assembly with a focus on adolescents and young people and the theme discussed was: Evangelization with young people aged 16+: Challenge, opportunity, proposal. The aim of this assembly was to bring together pastoral workers who work with young people to discuss how we can have more effective evangelization with young people aged 16+.

Fr. Savio Vella, the Archbishop's delegate for adolescents and young people, spoke about the preliminary work done by the Diocesan Youth Commission of Malta, the Diocesan Youth Commission of Gozo and the Catechetical Commission in formulating a working document that was presented during the assembly. He said how the aim of this assembly was to present this document and encourage all those interested to give their opinion on how it can be developed.

The first keynote speaker, Fr. Rene' Camilleri, presented a critical evaluation on the situation of evangelization in the Church in Malta today. He spoke on the need of having pastoral work which is adapted to today's culture so as not to risk putting new wine into old wineskins. He spoke about the reality of young people as being one which includes several categories and which cannot hold a one-size-fits-all evangelization strategy. Fr. Rene' also showed how the document has to pay attention to the complex reality of today's society in order to be relevant and satisfy young people's needs.

The second keynote speaker, Fr. Emanuel Magro, spoke about different models which one can use to provide young people with Christian formation. He focused on the RCIA model which is the Rite of Christian initiation of adults. From this model, Fr. Magro pointed out several general principles which can be of help for young people's

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Christian formation. He said that this does not mean that there is a rigid structure which one would have to abide by but instead the principles he mentioned can be adapted for the needs of several categories of young people.

The last keynote speaker, Fr. Carl-Mario Sultana looked at the document's practical element. He spoke about the approach which it takes – which is mainly that of encouraging *peer evangelization*, which is that of evangelizing young people who in turn can evangelize their peers. He showed how this evangelization can take place on the Diocesan level, on the parish/unity level and on the level of groups, movements, post-secondary schools etc. He also mentioned the theme chosen by Archbishop Paul Cremona for the next 3 years and also the themes chosen by Pope Benedict for the next three years – themes which lead to the celebration of World Youth Day 2011 that is going to be held in Madrid, Spain. These themes provide a skeleton for pastoral work which should not be seen as a rigid one but as one which leaves a lot of space for flexibility and adaptation.

This document can be accessed from the following website: www.kdz.org.mt.

As a follow-up to the assembly KDZ shall hold four focus groups to which it invites all those interested to participate. Details are as follows:

For those who do pastoral work in groups/movements: 28th February 09

For those who do pastoral work in post-secondary schools: 14th March 09

For those who do pastoral work in parishes: 21st March 09

For those who do pastoral work in religious orders: 28th March 09

Registration for these focus groups can be done by sending an email on info@kdz.org.mt or by phoning 21484509. All four focus groups are going to be held at KDZ offices between 09.00 and 12.00. More information can be obtained from www.kdz.org.mt.

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