

Congratulations to the community of St Martin de Porres Orlando West on attaining the Diamond Jubilee of our existence. 75th anniversary is a benchmark on the road, a place to pause and to reflect, but not to stop.

It is significant that our theme starts with a description of the past that also points to the way forwards. We have been journeying together, and we are ready to move forward together.

In the spirit of our patron saint Martín de Porres Velázquez OP who was a Peruvian lay brother of the Dominican Order, beautified in 1837 by Pope Gregory XVI and canonized in 1962 by Pope John XXIII. Our mission as the Parish Finance committee is to assist the Parish Priest in the administration of parish temporal matters. We are the key element for promoting the financial health of the parish, assuring accountability as we assist the Parish Priest with these temporal responsibilities.

In the administration of temporal goods of the parish, Canon 532 defines the role of the Parish Priest as the authoritative representative of the parish. ***"The pastor represents the parish in all juridic affairs in accord with the norm of law; he is to see to it that the goods of the parish are administered in accord with the norms of canons 1281-1288."***

We are therefore required to have a Parish Finance Committee, both by adherence to the Code of Canon Law and by local norms issued by the diocesan bishop. To be effective the Parish Finance Committee meets regularly with specific agendas and we have access to all the relevant financial information and policies of the parish.

Our primary duty is as follows:

Set goals for the year.

Stabilize our expenses

Build sufficient financial reserves and

Consider drastic options (if necessary)

For the past ten years the St Martin de Porras's PFC has been involved in various fund raising initiatives in order to sustain the existence of our Parish. These include:

- ✓ **The annual Golf Day**
- ✓ **Everybody's birthday**
- ✓ **Stewardship**
- ✓ **Mokolokotwane**
- ✓ **Picnics, to mention a few.**

Sadly, due to the Covid-19 pandemic our Parish is operating on a shoestring budget for the past year and a half.

We rely on our community's offerings and pledges, as we are unable to raise funds due the lockdown and in observance of the covid-19 regulations.

We therefore urge business people around Soweto and all civil society for their support.

Once more congratulations to the community of St Martin de Porres for attaining this milestone.

Musa Shangase
PFC Chairman