

Profile

of

The Very Revd. Xolani Dlwathi

Personal Background

Father Xolani Dlwathi was born and raised in Phiri, Soweto. He is the youngest of four siblings. He has been married to Mathabo for twenty years and they are blessed with two children, Vuyolwethu Mahlubi and Lubabalo Bhungane.

Educational Background

Father Xolani completed his matric at St. Enda's Community College in Jourbert Park. In the year 2000, he then joined the College of Transfiguration in Grahamstown where he completed a Diploma in Theology in 2002.

He also has completed a Bachelor of Theology Honours and Masters in Theology both from the University of South Africa in Pretoria. His Master's thesis is entitled "The Church as the Social Conscience in its Quest for Human Dignity" and focuses on the role played by the Anglican Church in Southern Africa to address social ills and restore human dignity.

Employment History

As a student, Xolani worked as the administrative clerk on a part time basis for the South African Institute of Management, a company that in return sponsored his high school fees and provided a small stipend.

After completing matric, he was then appointed as the imports department consultant and later as the department supervisor by First National Bank from 1992 to 1997.

From 1997 to 1999 he served as the Managing Director of the Soweto Cheshire Home for People Living with Disabilities.

Ministerial Journey

Xolani's ministerial journey began at the Parish of St. Stephens Diepkloof, Soweto, as a Sunday School Learner under the guidance of Mrs Mathaga Botha and the late Mrs Margaret Montjane. At the age of 12yrs he became the youngest member of the St Bernard Mizeki Men's Guild within the parish and later joined the Anglican Men's Fellowship

At St. Stephens, he became actively involved in the formation and development of the Parish Youth Group which he served as the chairperson for many years. After his tenure of office within the parish youth formation he then served as the parish youth mentor and advisor. This led him to be actively involved in the diocesan youth

structures as the member of the Diocesan Youth Council and then later formed the Anglican Youth Fellowship within the Diocese of Johannesburg. His passion for youth ministry and his abled leadership ability saw him being appointed to take up the leadership of the Diocesan Youth Council as its chairperson from 1994 to 1997, and also as the Secretary General and later as the Acting President of the Anglican Youth Fellowship. (*The AYF no longer exists within the diocese of Johannesburg due to changes in diocesan youth Ministry over the years*).

During his tenure of office as the diocesan youth leader Xolani also served in various diocesan formations and structures. He served as the member of Diocesan Council from 1993 to 1996, Diocesan Growth Commission in 1997, and also represented the youth in various diocesan synods and conferences.

Xolani responded to his call and joined full time ministry as an Ordinand. After completing his Diploma at the College of Transfiguration he served at the Parish of St. Bartholomew and the then Chapel of St Thomas as the curate under the able leadership of The Revd. Canon Joe Maboe. He was ordained to the diaconate in December 2002 and later ordained to the priesthood in June 2003 while servicing the chapel of St. Thomas and St. Bartholomew Parish.

In 2005, Xolani was appointed the first Priest in Charge of St. Thomas, Kagiso following its promulgation as a parish. Bishop Brian appointed Xolani as the Archdeacon of Randfontein in 2006. It was in 2007 that Bishop Brian appointed Father Xolani as the Rector of St. Monnica's Church in Midrand. He then also served as the Archdeacon of Region 5 until Jan 2014.

Xolani currently serves as the board member and bishop's representative at the Bishop Bavin School Board. He played a meaningful role as one of the Directors of the St. Thomas Institute of Leadership in Ministry, an office he holds to date.

Xolani does not only serve the Diocese, he also contributed his skills and passion to the Province as the member of the Provincial Vision Implementation Team and the coordinator of the Children and Youth component of the vision. In July 2014, he was also appointed to be the Head and Chairperson of the Provincial Protocol and Organising Team for the Archbishop of Canterbury – The Most Honourable Justin Welby's Visit to the Southern African Province.

Father Xolani currently serves as the Dean of Johannesburg and Rector of the Cathedral of St. Mary the Virgin. As Dean he serves as the Chairperson of the Diocesan Trustees, member of the Diocesan Finance Board, Diocesan Executive Committee, Diocesan Chapter and also as the Vicar General in the absence of the Diocesan Bishop.

Ministerial Strengths & Passion

Father Xolani Dlwathi's ministerial strengths lie in:

- Organisational Strategic Vision Development & Implementation
- Spiritual Formation
- Interaction with people – Cross Cultural
- Pastoral Care
- Organisational Leadership and Management
- Teaching and Preaching
- Coaching and Mentoring
- Organisational Administration and Development
- Discernment and Enabling of gifts and talents
- Motivational and Spiritual Article Writing
- Youth Formation
- Community Building

Father Xolani Dlwathi's ministerial passion encompasses the following areas which he drives with extreme dedication:

- Holistic Formation, Empowerment and Enrichment
- Spiritual and Character Formation
- Children and Youth Formation
- Leadership Formation and Development

Community Involvement & Participation

Xolani's life has always been intertwined with that of societies around him. He has been actively involved in various community development initiatives and structures. He has served as the member of the Mzwakhe's Youth Club, Thembekani Youth Club, Senoane Swimming Club and also the Shooting Stars Male Choir.

He also served as the Board member of the Lungelo Women's Organisation from 1994 to 1999. Furthermore, he served as the board member of the Soweto Cheshire Home from 1993 to 1995, after which he served as the Board Chairperson from 1995 to 1997.

As a result of his active community development participation he was in 1992 awarded with the Sowetan & Willards Young Achiever Award for the Gauteng Province and became the national finals runner up.

In 2003, in response to the socio-economic, health and political challenges facing the community of Kagiso and putting the parish vision into practise, he with the blessing of the parish leadership initiated the founding of the St. Thomas Outreach Ministry and became its first Director. He was very instrumental in the establishment of a partnership between the St Thomas Church, Kagiso with the St. Georges Episcopal Church, Nashville Tennessee.

Xolani through the leadership development initiatives while service as rector in Midrand has also been involved with the Initiatives of Change International and the Citizens in Partnership with Government.

The Initiatives of Change International is an organisation aimed at the creation of Human Security in various countries worldwide through strategic leadership development initiatives.

The Citizens in Partnership with Government is an organisation aimed at encouraging the South African Citizens to play a meaningful and constructive role within their communities in building a better country in recognition that government cannot do it alone. Xolani served as the Chairperson of the Gauteng Region in 2012 and also as the Board Member of its National Structure from 2012 until 2015.

Currently Fr Xolani also serves as the Spiritual Leader for the Imilonji Ka Ntu Choral Society.