

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Diocesan Clergy of the Province of Castries Gather for 42nd Annual Conference  
Diocese of Kingstown (St. Vincent and the Grenadines) January 16, 2026 -

The 42nd Annual Conference of the Diocesan Clergy of the Province of Castries was held from January 12th to 16th, 2026, bringing together Roman Catholic Priests and deacons from all five dioceses of the province for prayer, reflection, dialogue, and collaboration on issues central to priestly life and ministry in the contemporary Caribbean. Also in attendance, as an observer, was a member of the Redemptorist Community, whose presence further enriched the fraternal and ecclesial character of the meeting.

Over the course of three working days, participants engaged in in-depth deliberations on the call to the priesthood and the diaconate, with a strong emphasis on personal and communal introspection and conversion. These discussions were framed by the urgent pastoral reality of the decline in vocations within the Caribbean region, and sought to identify renewed and creative responses within a synodal Church context. The meeting was held under the theme: "Cultivating Priestly Life and Vocations in a Synodal Church in a Contemporary Caribbean." Facilitation for the sessions was provided by Msgr. William John-Lewis of the Diocese of Roseau, Dominica, whose presentations guided participants in theological reflection, pastoral discernment, and synodal engagement.

Time was also dedicated to reviewing and reflecting on the Constitution of the Association of Diocesan Clergy, ensuring that its guiding principles remain responsive to current pastoral and ecclesial needs.

All five dioceses of the Province of Castries were represented, including St. John's-Basseterre, Roseau, Castries, St. George's-in-Grenada and the host diocese of Kingstown.

The meeting officially commenced with the Celebration of the Eucharist at the Cathedral of the Assumption, presided over by Bishop County. Additional Eucharistic celebrations were held in two parish communities (Corpus Christi and St. John the Evangelist), fostering communion between the visiting clergy and the local faithful of the Diocese of Kingstown.

In keeping with the strong focus on vocations, a Youth Forum was organized, providing an opportunity for meaningful interaction between the clergy and students from various secondary schools within the Diocese. The forum allowed young people and clergy to engage directly with each other, ask questions, and reflect on vocation, faith, and service within the Church. A fundraising concert featuring many members of the clergy closed the formal activities of the conference.

The 42nd Annual Meeting concluded with a renewed sense of fraternity, mission, and commitment among the clergy of the Province of Castries, as they continue to serve God's people and foster a culture of vocations within the Caribbean Church.

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