



OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF ROMAN CATHOLIC CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION



Saturday 21 October 2023, Belize City. A special Mass was held at Holy Redeemer Cathedral on Saturday, October 21 to officially launch the Roman Catholic Constitution Commission. The Roman Catholic Constitution Commission (RCCC) is an authorized body within the Roman Catholic Diocese of Belize City and Belmopan.

In November 2022, the Government of Belize launched the People's Constitution Commission. Its purpose is to review the Belize Constitution, which is the supreme law of the land, with the intention of amending or rewriting it.

Through the Roman Catholic Constitution Commission, the Catholic Church draws on her rich tradition of social teachings to assist the faithful of all ages and cultures in contributing to this historic constitutional review process. The objectives of the commission are:

- a. To create a greater understanding and awareness of the foundational principles and values that the Belizean Constitution was founded upon.
- b. To articulate the characteristics of a just society whose foundation is the dignity of the human person and a communal commitment to work for the common good.
- c. To create awareness on the potential changes of the Constitution of Belize and its impact on Roman Catholic families.

The main goal of the commission is to make Catholics aware of the Fundamental Principles of which the Belizean Constitution was founded on, and to uphold them.

Fr. Jordan Gongora, Vicar General, was the main celebrant of the Mass and was joined by several concelebrants.

In his homily Fr. Jordan said, "We have been invited by our civil authorities to walk with them in the constitution process and to dialogue, but we must remember to do so by trusting and being faithful to God." He encouraged all the members of the commission, and all those serving and involved in the process to "witness your love of God and his commandments as you lead all people of goodwill in the constitution process."

He continued, "We ought to desire a better country, a country that is not ashamed of God but a country that keeps the supremacy of God above all. As a church, as people of faith, we ought to be a beacon of light and hope for others who will participate in the constitution process, but remember that we must do so by being faithful and obedient to almighty God."

After Mass, Fr. Jordon invited the members of the constitution to the altar where he gave them his blessings.

Several animators and advisors of the RCCC from around the country of Belize took part in the Mass which was streamed live on the Catholic Diocese of Belize Facebook page and Guadalupe Media Facebook page and TV channel.

Immediately after Mass, the group met for Lectio Divina and a short reflection by Fr. David Kiblinger, S.J., on Leading Conversation in the Spirit. Members later shared a meal together before departing for their respective homes.