

Bishop's Office

Pusat Keuskupan Katolik
290 Jalan Macalister,
10450 Pulau Pinang, Malaysia.
Tel : +604-2292742
Fax : +604-2285671
E-mail : penangdiocese@gmail.com



Diocese of Penang

14th February, 2013

To all Parish Priests,

Re: Basic Ecclesial Communities (BEC)

Greetings of Love and Peace!

Please take note that following the principle of BEC as understood by the Church in Peninsular Malaysia, BECs are home based, understood as area based small communities made up of 10-15 families to provide time for prayer and it is primarily centered on the Word of God.

On the other hand, whenever the small communities gather for big functions such as Christmas, Cultural festivities or yearly BEC Eucharistic celebrations, it is only appropriate that the BECs gather in a hall/dewan when the number of people is large.

Therefore, I have decided that I will not approve of any purchase of any building or home in the name of the Parish or Diocese for the purpose and needs of BEC.

I hope and pray that we will keep to the spirit of building small communities and to form communion of communities towards the civilization of love and mission.

Thank you for your support and collaboration. May Our Lord grant us all the graces we need and desire this Lent!

United in Christ,

† Sebastian Francis

Rt. Rev. Sebastian Francis
Bishop of Penang

**THE TEN DIRECTIVES CONCERNING THE PASTORAL CARE OF BEC'S
IN THE DIOCESE OF PENANG**
(Adapted From The PMPA III BEC DIRECTIVES)

1. COMMUNITARIAN PASTORAL CARE OF BEC'S IS CENTRAL AND VITAL.

The Parish is a communion of BECs – 10 to 15 families divided geographically. They have monthly gatherings.

2. BEC's ARE RELATIONAL COMMUNITIES.

Small numbers enhance interpersonal relationship and sharing of faith.

3. ALL ARE INCLUDED.

The BEC Core Team regularly visits all families, especially those who need more attention. Everyone is given importance.

4. ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF YOUTH.

All Youth, especially the Working Youth must take an active part at the BECs. The leaders of BECs will make plans to welcome all Youths for their gatherings.

5. A COMMON DESIGNATED WEEK (REGULARLY).

All BECs in the Diocese will have the second week of the month (Sunday – Saturday) for their monthly gathering. Priority will be given to BEC gatherings.

6. FORMATION OF THE ZONE COORDINATING TEAM (ZCT).

The PPC in collaboration with the relevant parish bodies (PAT/ZCT) will meet, animate, facilitate and give formation regularly for all BEC Core Teams. Prayer and the Word of God are important.

7. A BEC CORE TEAM IS IMPORTANT.

A BEC Core Team is made up of Leader, Assistant Leader, Messengers and Youth Representative.. They meet monthly.

8. COMMITMENT OF PARISH PRIESTS TOWARDS COMMUNITY BUILDING

A greater commitment is envisioned from Parish Priests whose important task is as community builders.

9. THE EUCHARIST AT BEC LEVEL.

The Eucharist will be celebrated only once a year at BEC level.

10. THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL TEAM ANIMATES AND COORDINATES BECs

The Diocesan Pastoral Team (DPT) with the help of the Asian Integral Pastoral Approach Team (AsIPA) helps in the animation, progress and formation of BECs.