



18th October 2014

117/2014

## **ARCHBISHOP'S CURIA CIRCULAR**

The Holy Father Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of His Grace Mgr Paul Cremona O.P. from the office of Archbishop of Malta. Archbishop Cremona resigned for health reasons. The resignation is effective as of the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at noon. Mgr Cremona acquires the title of Emeritus Archbishop of Malta. In a letter addressed to Mons. Cremona, the Holy Father thanked Archbishop Emeritus Cremona for his episcopal ministry, well known and appreciated for its human warmth and spiritual proximity to the people of God.

The Holy Father, Pope Francis has nominated His Lordship Mgr Charles J. Scicluna, Titular Bishop of San Leone, as Apostolic Administrator *sede vacante* with the authority to govern the Archdiocese of Malta until the new Archbishop of Malta takes canonical possession of the Archdiocese. During the period in which the Archiepiscopal See of Malta is vacant, ordinary pastoral ministry is guaranteed under the leadership of the Apostolic Administrator, but all innovative initiatives are to be put on hold for the new Archbishop to decide about them.

The Holy See has given instructions to the Apostolic Nuncio, His Excellency Mgr Aldo Cavalli, to start the canonical process of consultation and discernment which assists the Holy Father in choosing a successor for Archbishop Cremona.

During the period in which the Episcopal See will be vacant, in all parishes and churches in the Diocese, the following is to be observed:

On a convenient day, once a week (preferably on a Thursday), the Votive Mass for the Election of a Bishop is to be celebrated with the Readings of the day.

At every Mass, during the Bidding Prayers, following the prayer for the Pope, this prayer is to be added:

“Grant us, O Lord, a Shepherd according to your heart, who incessantly works for your glory and the good of the Church in a spirit of wisdom and knowledge, in a spirit of strength and gentleness, in a spirit of humility and patience. Lord hear us.”

It would be highly appropriate that Diocesan Clergy, Male and Female Members of the Religious Orders and lay people who pray the Liturgy of the Hours, include this prayer daily during Lauds and Vespers.



**THE CHURCH IN MALTA**

At the Eucharistic Prayer, the Apostolic Administrator is to be commended in this way:  
“Pope Francis, Bishop Charles, the Order of Bishops and all the Clergy”.

All members of the Clergy, Religious and the Faithful are encouraged to pray for Archbishop Emeritus Paul Cremona, for Bishop Charles Scicluna, the Apostolic Administrator, and for the canonical process which will lead to the choice of the new Archbishop of Malta.

Given at the Archbishop’s Curia, Floriana

Today, 18th October 2014, Feast of St Luke the Evangelist

✠ Charles J. Scicluna

Titular Bishop of San Leone

Apostolic Administrator *sede vacante*

Rev. Charles Bugeja

Acting Chancellor