

## CHAPTER 7

### FINDINGS

#### 7.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter is based on the interviews conducted by the researcher; the following interest groups were interviewed. Ten clergy, ten laity and 8 members of the leadership team in the Anglican Church. Race, gender and location were carefully considered.

The researcher after consideration with co-researchers, decided to insert the last question found in the questionnaires. Through this question the researcher is trying to ascertain whether the wine that is used for Eucharist purpose, does contribute to alcoholism. For many clergy who are recovering alcoholics, find themselves having to use wine for consecration and they easily relapse from their recovery, as a sip can lead to one needing more.

The Medical Encyclopaedia points out that total abstinence and avoiding high risk situation where alcohol is present are the ideal goals for people with alcoholism. It has been established that drinking again after rehabilitation treatment is common. Some of the case studies presented in this research do bear testimony to this. Part of alcohol prevention is for an alcoholic not to be around alcohol. If it happens that they find themselves in that situation, it is

expected that they exercise self-control and say no. The question is how does a priest when celebrating Eucharist, using wine to represent the blood of Jesus, and required to be the first to receive communion, can he exercise self-control and only receive one of the elements (which is the bread)? The answers given by those interviewed will shed light to this challenging question is contained in the results of the interviews.

Below are the results of the interview. The questions can be viewed at appendix A, B and C.

## 7.2 RESULTS OF THE CLERGY INTERVIEWS

### APPENDIX A (1) - Questionnaire for Clergy

*(This questionnaire will only be used for the purpose of this research only; confidentiality will be maintained by using pseudo names and change of location)*

1. **Indicate your age group**
2. **Gender**
3. **Race**
4. **For how long have you been Ordained?** 23 years
5. **Where do you minister?**
6. **How often do you drink alcohol?** *When I feel like it*

**Remark: If you do consume alcohol, can you please give a reason or two:**

*I enjoy drinking wine and other alcohol beverages.*

**7. How often do you have an alcoholic drink with your parishioners?**

*Sometimes*

**8. How do you rate the leadership of the Diocese involvement in helping**

**alcoholic priests? *Fair***

**Remarks:** *The diocese (as in the top leadership) has sometimes bent backwards*

*to help alcoholic clergy and others have done nothing. Fellow clergy have*

*certainly not assisted in any way.*

**9. How do you feel about Grape Juice replacing Wine for Eucharist?**

*Totally Disagree*

## APPENDIX A (2) - Questionnaire for Clergy

*(This questionnaire will only be used for the purpose of this research only; confidentiality will be maintained by using pseudo names and change of location)*

1. Indicate your age group
2. Gender
3. Race
4. For how long have you been Ordained? 6 years
5. Where do you minister?
6. How often do you drink alcohol? *About Once a Month*

**Remark:** If you do consume alcohol, can you please give a reason or two:

*When at dinner with friends.*

7. How often do you have an alcoholic drink with your parishioners?  
*Rarely*

**Remarks:** *I will only drink in a social setting if I'm not driving home afterwards.*

8. How do you rate the leadership of the Diocese involvement in helping alcoholic priests? *Not so Great*

**Remarks:** *Not aware of any help at all.*

9. How do you feel about Grape Juice replacing Wine for Eucharist?  
*Partially Agree*

**Remark:** *It should be available along with wine.*

## APPENDIX A (3) - Questionnaire for Clergy

*(This questionnaire will only be used for the purpose of this research only; confidentiality will be maintained by using pseudo names and change of location)*

1. Indicate your age group
2. Gender
3. Race
4. For how long have you been Ordained? 23 years
5. Where do you minister?
6. How often do you drink alcohol? *Never*

**Remark: If you do consume alcohol, can you please give a reason or two:**

*Only communion wine.*

7. How often do you have an alcoholic drink with your parishioners?  
*Never*
8. How do you rate the leadership of the Diocese involvement in helping alcoholic priests? Not so Great

**Remarks: Don't know. I'm aware of the problem, but don't know how the diocesan leadership handles this.**

9. How do you feel about Grape Juice replacing Wine for Eucharist?  
Totally Disagree

**Remarks: Let people rather choose to drink wine or not. For me, wine is theologically correct and is important and practically wine kills germs.**

## APPENDIX A (4) - Questionnaire for Clergy

*(This questionnaire will only be used for the purpose of this research only; confidentiality will be maintained by using pseudo names and change of location)*

1. Indicate your age group
2. Gender
3. Race
4. For how long have you been Ordained? *15 years*
5. Where do you minister?
6. How often do you drink alcohol? *2-6 Times a Week*

**Remark: If you do consume alcohol, can you please give a reason or two:**

*I drink a beer with my supper and it helps me to relax. I live with my son who is a beer drinker and provides the beer.*

7. How often do you have an alcoholic drink with your parishioners?

*Rarely*

**Remarks: Some of the parishioners know that I drink beer and give me a pack to take home. I don't drink with my people.**

8. How do you rate the leadership of the Diocese involvement in helping alcoholic priests? *Not so Great*

**Remarks:** *I have little experience of this and very much regret that I did nothing to address the problems with both of my alcoholic colleagues that I know of.*

**9. How do you feel about Grape Juice replacing Wine for Eucharist?**

*Neither Agree nor Disagree.*

**Remarks:** *Have never thought about it, would have to spend time forming an opinion.*

## APPENDIX A (5) - Questionnaire for Clergy

*(This questionnaire will only be used for the purpose of this research only; confidentiality will be maintained by using pseudo names and change of location)*

1. Indicate your age group
2. Gender
3. Race
4. For how long have you been Ordained? *6 years*
5. Where do you minister?
6. How often do you drink alcohol? *Never*
7. How often do you have an alcoholic drink with your parishioners?  
*Rarely*

**Remarks:** *When there is celebration events and if a toast is done at weddings ect.*

8. How do you rate the leadership of the Diocese involvement in helping alcoholic priests? *Not so Great*

**Remarks:** *There is a lot that can be done because some people drink for pleasure. Some have a problem that is why they drink.*

9. How do you feel about Grape Juice replacing Wine for Eucharist?  
*Partially Agree*



## APPENDIX A (6) - Questionnaire for Clergy

*(This questionnaire will only be used for the purpose of this research only; confidentiality will be maintained by using pseudo names and change of location)*

1. Indicate your age group
2. Gender
3. Race
4. For how long have you been Ordained? *12 years*
5. Where do you minister?
6. How often do you drink alcohol? *About Once a Week*

**Remark:** If you do consume alcohol, can you please give a reason or two:

*I consume wine for fun.*

7. How often do you have an alcoholic drink with your parishioners?  
*Never*

**Remarks:** *I respect them.*

8. How do you rate the leadership of the Diocese involvement in helping alcoholic priests? *Fair*

**Remarks:** *I think that many clergy are drinking excessively because of family matters, wife, children and maybe money problems and paying house bond and children school fees.*

9. How do you feel about Grape Juice replacing Wine for Eucharist?

*Partially Agree*

## APPENDIX A (7) - Questionnaire for Clergy

*(This questionnaire will only be used for the purpose of this research only; confidentiality will be maintained by using pseudo names and change of location)*

1. Indicate your age group
2. Gender
3. Race
4. For how long have you been Ordained? *14 years*
5. Where do you minister?
6. How often do you drink alcohol? *About Once a Month*

**Remark: If you do consume alcohol, can you please give a reason or two:**

*When invited for dinner only. Otherwise I don't take it at all.*

7. How often do you have an alcoholic drink with your parishioners?  
*Never*
8. How do you rate the leadership of the Diocese involvement in helping alcoholic priests?

**Remarks: *I do not know***

9. How do you feel about Grape Juice replacing Wine for Eucharist?  
*Totally Disagree*

## APPENDIX A (8) - Questionnaire for Clergy

*(This questionnaire will only be used for the purpose of this research only; confidentiality will be maintained by using pseudo names and change of location)*

1. Indicate your age group
2. Gender
3. Race
4. For how long have you been Ordained? *10 years*
5. Where do you minister?
6. How often do you drink alcohol? *About Once a Month*

**Remark:** If you do consume alcohol, can you please give a reason or two:

*I do drink because at that time I feel like drinking not because of the availability of alcohol.*

7. How often do you have an alcoholic drink with your parishioners?  
*Never*

**Remarks:** *I need to respect them so as for them to respect me.*

8. How do you rate the leadership of the Diocese involvement in helping alcoholic priests? *Fair*

**Remarks:** *There is fear of being seen as involving yourself in other peoples' issues.*

9. How do you feel about Grape Juice replacing Wine for Eucharist?

*Totally Disagree*

## APPENDIX A (9) - Questionnaire for Clergy

*(This questionnaire will only be used for the purpose of this research only; confidentiality will be maintained by using pseudo names and change of location)*

**1. Indicate your age group** *The co-researcher opted not to indicate his age.*

**2. Gender**

**3. Race**

**4. For how long have you been Ordained?** *11 years*

**5. Where do you minister?**

**6. How often do you drink alcohol?** *About Once a Week*

**Remark: If you do consume alcohol, can you please give a reason or two:**

*For fellowship and pleasure.*

**7. How often do you have an alcoholic drink with your parishioners?**  
*Rarely*

**8. How do you rate the leadership of the Diocese involvement in helping alcoholic priests?** *Fair*

**Remarks: When they deal with this problem, I feel they forget the immediate family members.**

**9. How do you feel about Grape Juice replacing Wine for Eucharist?**

*Totally Disagree*

## APPENDIX A (10) - Questionnaire for Clergy

*(This questionnaire will only be used for the purpose of this research only; confidentiality will be maintained by using pseudo names and change of location)*

1. Indicate your age group
2. Gender
3. Race
4. For how long have you been Ordained? 4 years
5. Where do you minister?
6. How often do you drink alcohol? *About Once a Month*

**Remark:** If you do consume alcohol, can you please give a reason or two:

*For my digestive system and to relax my mind and body.*

7. How often do you have an alcoholic drink with your parishioners?  
*Never*
8. How do you rate the leadership of the Diocese involvement in helping alcoholic priests? Fair

**Remarks:** *We need to be open to each other with the hope or purpose of encouraging others positively. So to build God's Kingdom, let us not stigmatize each other.*

9. How do you feel about Grape Juice replacing Wine for Eucharist?  
*Partially Agree*

### 7.2.1 RESEARCHER'S OBSERVATIONS

The clergy interviewed were two white female, two white males, one black female and six black males. The reason for dividing the interviews along gender, race and location was to see how acceptable or taboo is the issues of the clergy consuming alcohol, be it in an official capacity or private spaces, and who is more likely to be an alcoholic. In the introduction of this research, the researcher did allude that a number of priest that she has been exposed to, who are alcoholics, are mostly male and black, serving in township parishes.

The interviews show that the female clergy relationship with alcohol is in the context of friends or a celebration (involving parishioners) and never on their own. They all agree that the rate of helping the alcoholic clergy by the diocesan leadership is not so great; this demonstrates that they are aware that some of their colleagues have an alcoholic problem. Their response to question 9 on the use of replacing wine with grape juice for Eucharist their answers differ sharply.

The answers from the male clergy show that seven out of eight clergy drink on their own being it once a month, a week or when they feel like it. And four of them never drink alcohol with their parishioners. They are also aware that some of their colleagues have an alcohol problem and rate the diocesan leadership's involvement and their own intervention as fair to not so great. The same with the female clergy, their response and answer to question 9 differ sharply.

The researcher observed that the issue of age did not make much of a difference to the outcome of the interviews and that the location adds or subtracts anything to the research. The conclusion being drawn is that issues such as family, marital, parish problems and other stresses are the leading causes of alcoholism for the clergy, and these problems travel across gender, race, location or age.

### **7.3 REFLECTION AND RESPONSE TO THE INTERVIEW**

Though the researcher had a limited number of interview sheets to hand out, a number of clergy who did not receive them, were kind enough to share with her their thoughts on this matter. Especially those who felt that talking was easier than writing as they can express themselves better. The observation the researcher made was that, there were more male clergy available to be co-researchers compared to female clergy. This can be interpreted in two ways, firstly that the majority of alcoholic clergy are male compared to female clergy. The second, interpretation will be that male clergy were available to share, their stories and observations.

Even though the researcher applauds the co-researchers for their availability to share their stories, there was a number of clergy who were reluctant to share and participate in this research. They said that they were afraid that what they say

might end up in the hands of the bishop and used against them, or what they say might lead other clergy into trouble.

On the other hand, a number of clergy who participated orally and in a form of a written questionnaire were filled with excitement and hope that at last, something is being done to curb alcoholism in the ministry and also to share stories of how some of them became alcoholics. And for those who are not alcoholic, they shared about how the disease had affected friendships and family lives. The other issue that was raised was the one of the leadership not doing enough to help alcoholic clergy and the perception that the alcoholic clergy are protected as none of them has ever been disciplined for bringing the church into disrepute because of their actions and behaviour.

There was one priest who was agitated with question 7 (how often do you have an alcoholic drink with your parishioners?) He refused to answer it, his reason was why should something he does at his leisure with people who he enjoys their company be turned into sin. He continued to say he does not ask anyone money to buy his drink and doesn't bother anyone when he is intoxicated.

The researcher felt a resistance to question 9 (how do you feel about grape juice replacing wine for Eucharist?) Many clergy are of the opinion that there's nothing wrong with the use of wine at Eucharist, and the use of grape juice will



be theologically wrong. While some reported that in their parishes they do use grape juice.

Suggit says the following about the Eucharist, “the sacrament of the Eucharist, as the special mark of Christian worship, is the assurance of the real presence of Christ with His people, though it is dangerous to try to define too closely the nature of His presence. He is of course present in the reading of scripture, in the person of the president of the Eucharist and in the congregation of God’s people, the church. But it is in the Eucharist action, celebrated by the congregation and cantering on the elements of bread and wine, that His presence is most effectively symbolized. The bread and wine becomes for us His body and blood. In receiving the sacrament, we recognize ourselves not only as those who have been given life through Christ’s death and resurrection, but also that we are His body in the world, his representatives, sent to declare His love through our lives” (1999: 26). This quote made the researcher to realize that the Eucharist cannot be reduced to wine or grape juice, because the Eucharist is bigger than that. And when the elements are consecrated, they take a form of the body and blood of Christ.

## 7.4 RESULTS OF THE LAITY INTERVIEWS

### APPENDIX B (1) - Questionnaire for Laity

*(This questionnaire will only be used for the purpose of this research only, confidentially will be maintained by using pseudo names and change of location)*

1. **Indicate your age group**
2. **Gender**
3. **Race**
4. **Where is your parish located?**
5. **For how long have you been a member of this congregation? ± 10**
6. **How often do you have an alcoholic drink with your priest?**
  - i. Rarely
7. **Do you give your rector alcoholic beverages as a gift?**
  - i. Rarely
8. **Have you encountered an alcoholic priest?**
9. **How do you feel about Grape Juice replacing Wine for Eucharist?**
  - a. Totally Disagree

## APPENDIX B (2) - Questionnaire for Laity

*(This questionnaire will only be used for the purpose of this research only, confidentially will be maintained by using pseudo names and change of location)*

1. Indicate your age group
2. Gender
3. Race
4. Where is your parish located?
5. For how long have you been a member of this congregation? ± 30 years
6. How often do you have an alcoholic drink with your priest?
  - i. Often

**Remarks:** I don't drink alcohol, but my priest does and often in my presence.
7. Do you give your rector alcoholic beverages as a gift?
  - i. Sometimes
8. Have you encountered an alcoholic priest?
9. How do you feel about Grape Juice replacing Wine for Eucharist?
  - a. Neither Agree or Disagree

## APPENDIX B (3) - Questionnaire for Laity

*(This questionnaire will only be used for the purpose of this research only, confidentially will be maintained by using pseudo names and change of location)*

1. Indicate your age group
2. Gender
3. Race
4. Where is your parish located?
5. For how long have you been a member of this congregation? ± 14 years
6. How often do you have an alcoholic drink with your priest?
  - i. Never
7. Do you give your rector alcoholic beverages as a gift?
  - i. Never
8. Have you encountered an alcoholic priest?
9. How do you feel about Grape Juice replacing Wine for Eucharist?
  - a. Totally Agree

## APPENDIX B (4) - Questionnaire for Laity

*(This questionnaire will only be used for the purpose of this research only, confidentially will be maintained by using pseudo names and change of location)*

1. Indicate your age group
2. Gender
3. Race
4. Where is your parish located?
5. For how long have you been a member of this congregation? 2 ½ years
6. How often do you have an alcoholic drink with your priest?
  - i. Never
7. Do you give your rector alcoholic beverages as a gift?
  - i. Never
8. Have you encountered an alcoholic priest?
9. How do you feel about Grape Juice replacing Wine for Eucharist?
  - a. Totally Disagree

## APPENDIX B (5) - Questionnaire for Laity

*(This questionnaire will only be used for the purpose of this research only, confidentially will be maintained by using pseudo names and change of location)*

1. Indicate your age group
2. Gender
3. Race
4. Where is your parish located?
5. For how long have you been a member of this congregation? 50 years
6. How often do you have an alcoholic drink with your priest?
  - i. Never
7. Do you give your rector alcoholic beverages as a gift?
  - i. Never
8. Have you encountered an alcoholic priest?
9. How do you feel about Grape Juice replacing Wine for Eucharist?
  - a. Totally Disagree

## APPENDIX B (6) - Questionnaire for Laity

*(This questionnaire will only be used for the purpose of this research only, confidentially will be maintained by using pseudo names and change of location)*

1. Indicate your age group
2. Gender
3. Race
4. Where is your parish located?
5. For how long have you been a member of this congregation? 25 years
6. How often do you have an alcoholic drink with your priest?
  - i. Never
7. Do you give your rector alcoholic beverages as a gift?
  - i. Never
8. Have you encountered an alcoholic priest?
9. How do you feel about Grape Juice replacing Wine for Eucharist?
  - a. Partially Agree

## APPENDIX B (7) - Questionnaire for Laity

*(This questionnaire will only be used for the purpose of this research only, confidentially will be maintained by using pseudo names and change of location)*

1. Indicate your age group
2. Gender
3. Race
4. Where is your parish located?
5. For how long have you been a member of this congregation? 40 years
6. How often do you have an alcoholic drink with your priest?
  - i. Never

**Remarks:** If only it's sweet wine

7. Do you give your rector alcoholic beverages as a gift?
  - i. Never

8. Have you encountered an alcoholic priest?

**Remarks:** I'm very disappointed to have experienced this.

9. How do you feel about Grape Juice replacing Wine for Eucharist?
  - a. Totally Disagree



## APPENDIX B (8) - Questionnaire for Laity

*(This questionnaire will only be used for the purpose of this research only, confidentially will be maintained by using pseudo names and change of location)*

1. Indicate your age group
2. Gender
3. Race
4. Where is your parish located?
5. For how long have you been a member of this congregation? 35 years
6. How often do you have an alcoholic drink with your priest?
  - i. Never

**Remarks:** Because I do not drink alcohol.

7. Do you give your rector alcoholic beverages as a gift?
  - i. Never

8. Have you encountered an alcoholic priest?

**Remarks:** Unfortunately yes, and I'm coping with that situation and hoping God will one day drive the demon or minimise.

9. How do you feel about Grape Juice replacing Wine for Eucharist?
  - a. Partially Disagree

## APPENDIX B (9) - Questionnaire for Laity

*(This questionnaire will only be used for the purpose of this research only, confidentially will be maintained by using pseudo names and change of location)*

1. Indicate your age group
2. Gender
3. Race
4. Where is your parish located?
5. For how long have you been a member of this congregation? 20 years
6. How often do you have an alcoholic drink with your priest?
  - i. Never
7. Do you give your rector alcoholic beverages as a gift?
  - i. Sometimes
8. Have you encountered an alcoholic priest?
9. How do you feel about Grape Juice replacing Wine for Eucharist?
  - a. Totally Disagree

## APPENDIX B (10) - Questionnaire for Laity

*(This questionnaire will only be used for the purpose of this research only, confidentially will be maintained by using pseudo names and change of location)*

1. Indicate your age group
2. Gender
3. Race
4. Where is your parish located?
5. For how long have you been a member of this congregation? 20 years
6. How often do you have an alcoholic drink with your priest?
  - i. Never

**Remarks:** Only at Holy Communion.

7. Do you give your rector alcoholic beverages as a gift?
  - i. Never

8. Have you encountered an alcoholic priest?

**Remarks:** Have seen them, but not in my parish. It is so embarrassing when you watch them unable to perform their duties or unable to speak well.

9. How do you feel about Grape Juice replacing Wine for Eucharist?
  - a. Totally Agree

#### **7.4.1 REFLECTION AND RESPONSE TO THE INTERVIEW**

The interviewees consisted of six females, two of them are coloured and four are black. Three worship in a township parish and the other three at a suburban parish. And four males, three being black and one white; two worship in a township parish and two in a suburban parish. All of the lay people interviewed are in a leadership position in their parishes and some in the diocese.

The researcher has observed that the lay people, who participated in this interview, have a high regard for the office of a priest. To them priests are valued and need to be cared for, and anything that can defile the priests character need not to be presented or made available to the priest, especially alcohol.

Though many of them would not have a social drink with the priest or present the priest with an alcoholic drink, they have been exposed to alcoholic priests. It was not clear whether these priests were their rectors or not. A number of them indicated that they have been exposed to more than one, and those priests are still in the ministry.

When it comes to question 9 (How do you feel about grape juice replacing wine for Eucharist?), many were not in disagreement. Because they were not sure

what will the difference be, when the elements were consecrated, and they remarked that other denominations do use grape juice and their Eucharist is still meaningful and relevant.

One interviewee, shared that he is worried that younger priests are becoming alcoholics, and wondered where the future leadership of the church will come from, if nothing is done soon.

## **7.5 COMPARING LAY AND CLERGY RESPONSES**

The common theme that came out from both laity and clergy is that, yes there are alcoholic clergy in the church, and the laity declaring those they have been exposed to are still active in the ministry.

It was of interest to the researcher that the laity made mention that they are worried, that the younger priests are becoming alcoholics. And with the clergy responses there was no mention of the age of the alcoholic clergy. And the laity went on to warn that if this trend continues, the church will be faced with a challenge of leadership in the future. Though it was not said in many words, the response given by the clergy on why they drink, they highlighted family, marital, parish problems and stress as factors. The researcher views this as a worry and threat to future the leadership of the church.

The answers given to question 9 by both laity and clergy show much contrast to their views and understanding of Holy Communion. The researcher draws from their answers two things, laity are not consumed so much about what elements are used as long as the tradition continues. They surely have been exposed to other denominations where grape juice is used in place of wine. While on the other hand, the clergy is concerned with the theological significance.

The conclusion drawn by the research on both laity and clergy responses is that, the issues of alcoholic clergy has not been publicly dealt with, it have been an individual parish and clergy secret. And this has resulted in the fact that no one seems to be sure what to do or how to deal with an alcoholic clergy. Both expect that the diocesan leadership be the one to come up with the solution. As the laity has said, this will affect how leadership is chosen and how clergy will be placed and accepted in parishes.

## 7.6 RESULTS OF THE DIOCESAN LEADERSHIP INTERVIEWS

### APPENDIX C (1) - Questionnaire for Diocesan Leadership

*(This questionnaire will only be used for the purpose of this research only; confidentiality will be maintained by using pseudo names and change of location)*

1. **Indicate your age group**
  
2. **Race**
  
3. **How often do you as leadership get involvement in helping alcoholic priests?**
  - a. Sometimes
  
4. **How do you rate the recovery process of alcoholic clergy?**
  - a. Not so great

**Remarks:** Not so great because we take a long time before we can deal with the problem. This is my view that this is a contributing factor to slow and not so great recovery.

5. **How do you feel about Grape Juice replacing Wine for Eucharist?**
  - a. Neither Agree or Disagree

**Remarks:** It is all about our choice, whether it is wine or grape juice is does not matter. You can drink juice in church at communion and will drink wine at home or wherever.

**6. What do believe to be the cause(s) for clergy to be alcoholics?**

- Failure of both the leadership and clergy persons to acknowledge and deal with alcohol and signs of burnout. This leads to assuming that alcohol is as a safe place to escape to.
- The second reason is lack of appreciation from congregation and sometimes the leadership.
- And thirdly, is the dysfunctional family relationship especially between clergy and their spouses.



## APPENDIX C (2) - Questionnaire for Diocesan Leadership

*(This questionnaire will only be used for the purpose of this research only; confidentiality will be maintained by using pseudo names and change of location)*

1. Indicate your age group
2. Race
3. How often do you as leadership get involvement in helping alcoholic priests?
  - a. Rarely
4. How do you rate the recovery process of alcoholic clergy?
  - a. Not so great

**Remarks:** In my experience they do not recover.

5. How do you feel about Grape Juice replacing Wine for Eucharist?
  - a. Totally Disagree

**Remarks:** There is nothing wrong with using wine.

6. What do believe to be the cause(s) for clergy to be alcoholics?
  - a. Family problems especially between clergy and their spouse.
  - b. Wanting to be like others and realizing that they are not going according to their call and what is expected of them.

### APPENDIX C (3) - Questionnaire for Diocesan Leadership

*(This questionnaire will only be used for the purpose of this research only; confidentiality will be maintained by using pseudo names and change of location)*

**1. Indicate your age group**

55 - 59

**2. Race**

White

**3. How often do you as leadership get involvement in helping alcoholic priests?**

a. Sometimes

**4. How do you rate the recovery process of alcoholic clergy?**

a. Fair

**Remarks:** Clergy can't easily be open about their problems.

**5. How do you feel about Grape Juice replacing Wine for Eucharist?**

a. Partially Disagree

**Remarks:** Tradition is very difficult to change.

**6. What do believe to be the cause(s) for clergy to be alcoholics?**

- Unacknowledged stress and problems.

## APPENDIX C (4) - Questionnaire for Diocesan Leadership

*(This questionnaire will only be used for the purpose of this research only; confidentiality will be maintained by using pseudo names and change of location)*

1. Indicate your age group

45-55

2. Race

Coloured

3. How often do you as leadership get involvement in helping alcoholic priests?

a. Rarely

4. How do you rate the recovery process of alcoholic clergy?

a. Not so great

**Remarks:** If there's no support from the immediate family and openness from the clergy, the recovery will be very, very slow. The clergy person should look at his/her fellowship.

5. How do you feel about Grape Juice replacing Wine for Eucharist?

a. Neither Agree or Disagree

**Remarks:** I know of denominations that use both wine and grape juice for Eucharist, it really depends on the discipline and responsibility on an individual.

**6. What do believe to be the cause(s) for clergy to be alcoholics?**

- There are many factors, but I think one of the causes is stress and people who can't cope and resort to alcohol. The other cause I believe is that of clergy lack of understanding what it means to be a professional.

## APPENDIX C (5) - Questionnaire for Diocesan Leadership

*(This questionnaire will only be used for the purpose of this research only; confidentiality will be maintained by using pseudo names and change of location)*

1. Indicate your age group

25-35

2. Race

Black

3. How often do you as leadership get involvement in helping alcoholic priests?

a. Sometimes

4. How do you rate the recovery process of alcoholic clergy?

a. Not so great

**Remarks:** Many clergy relapse as soon as they come back from rehabilitation centre.

5. How do you feel about Grape Juice replacing Wine for Eucharist?

a. Totally Disagree

**Remarks:** We have to deal with the problem of alcoholism; I don't believe the Eucharist wine causes people to be alcoholics. For theological reasons I object to using grape juice.

6. What do believe to be the cause(s) for clergy to be alcoholics?

- Stress, marital problems and parish demands.
- Many clergy persons feel that they are on their own and resort to drinking.

## APPENDIX C (6) - Questionnaire for Diocesan Leadership

*(This questionnaire will only be used for the purpose of this research only; confidentiality will be maintained by using pseudo names and change of location)*

**1. Indicate your age group**

**2. Race**

**3. How often do you as leadership get involvement in helping alcoholic priests?**

a. Never

**4. How do you rate the recovery process of alcoholic clergy?**

a. Not so great

**5. How do you feel about Grape Juice replacing Wine for Eucharist?**

a. Totally Disagree

**Remarks:** I disagree for theological reasons and I don't think it will address the core or the root of the problem.

**6. What do believe to be the cause(s) for clergy to be alcoholics?**

- No intentional pastoral care by the church (Parish, Bishop and Diocesan leadership)

- Parish pressures and demands
- Social pressures and demands
- Family pressures and demands
- No personal care or pastoral care.



## APPENDIX C (7) - Questionnaire for Diocesan Leadership

*(This questionnaire will only be used for the purpose of this research only; confidentiality will be maintained by using pseudo names and change of location)*

**1. Indicate your age group**

35 - 45

**2. Race**

White

**3. How often do you as leadership get involvement in helping alcoholic priests?**

a. Rarely

**4. How do you rate the recovery process of alcoholic clergy?**

a. Not so great

**Remarks:** There are only two cases which I have any direct knowledge of. One left the ministry, the other remains and still abuses alcohol, arrives drunk at functions. Neither case could be called a successful healing. The priest who remains still holds office out of the mercy of the church, as he could probably not find other work, but his life is a source of scandal. Since the priest remains in the stressful environment, I do not expect any real change in his condition.

**5. How do you feel about Grape Juice replacing Wine for Eucharist?**

a. Totally Disagree

**Remarks:** Wine *per se* is not the problem; the problem is the social context in which abuse of alcohol becomes an attractive escape. Individuals with a genuine addictive personality have the option to refuse wine at communion, and the will power to do so is a necessary point of recovery. Those not able to do so, do not have their condition significantly worsened by one sip of communion wine relative to other alcohol they consume.

**6. What do believe to be the cause(s) for clergy to be alcoholics?**

- Some may have genuine addictive, but I suspect that most are victims of stress which they do not know how to handle. Clergy are notoriously lonely and have few people to share with regarding;
  - Stress of overwork: expectations of delivery with not enough time
  - Finance: care of family, need to provide accommodation on a low income
  - Pastoral stress: carry the burdens of many people and don't debrief often
  - Family: balancing needs of family and parish their conflicts and demands.

### 7.6.1 REFLECTION AND RESPONSE TO THE INTERVIEWS

Questionnaires were handed out to ten people who are part of the diocesan leadership and only seven responded. The seven that responded are male and ordained, one white, one coloured and five black.

Looking at the laity and clergy responses, the researcher observed that there are similarities, especially the responses on question six of the leadership's questionnaire and the clergy remarks on question eight (on how they rate the diocesan leadership's involvement in helping alcoholic priest). Both allude that the reasons why clergy are susceptible to being alcoholics are;

- Failure of the leadership and clergy to deal with alcoholism problem adequately.
- Lack of pastoral care.
- Lack of self-care.
- Financial problems.
- Parish problems and stress.
- Poor balancing of family and parish life.
- Peer competition and pressure.
- Marital problems.

Again, what is clear is that from laity, to clergy and diocesan leadership this matter is acknowledged and yet much has not been done to remedy the situation. And where the leadership has intervened the success rate is not visible.

And regarding grape juice being used instead of wine in the Eucharist, the response from the leadership differs with laity and clergy, the leadership is of the opinion that, that replacing wine with grape juice would not reduce clergy alcoholic. The point made was that the issues of alcoholism are not caused by the communion wine, the sip they have during communion would not turn them into alcoholics. The problem is when they are in their offices, homes or other places where alcohol is freely available and they can consume as much as they want.

## **7.7 FINDINGS OF THE RESEARCH**

Reflecting on the interviews and case studies the research concludes that alcoholism is a major problem in the Anglican Church and that more and more clergy find themselves caught up in this situation. The article written by a layperson Seabo Gaeganelwe in the denominational magazine (see Appendix D) titled “Men (sic) of the cloth indulge too”;

He writes, “it never occurred to me that society was concealing the worst drunkards of our age – holy men (sic) of God, entrusted with our spiritual well-being. Yes, it may come as a shock to some, but priests over-indulge too. These men of the cloth abuse alcohol more than journalist and artists combined. They do it in style, in secluded places way from the preying eyes of society, while only a few do it openly.

Congregations at times provide drinking wells and protection to ensure that members of other denominations don’t get to see their priests in compromising positions. I still have fond memories of accidentally finding my rector having a beer alone at night on the eve of his day off. Not only did I have the best beer in the world that day, I was given a lecture about brewing after a tour of the mini brewery in the rectory!

The year he transferred to another parish, I shed a tear for the departure of the finest home-brewed beer I ever tasted. Apart from my friend “Windhoek Light” I’m yet to find a beer as good as the one made by a priest inside a rectory.

Priests who drink are very good at denying it. At a funeral years back, I witnessed a not-so-sober man of the cloth being saved from falling into a grave while trying hard to perform burial rites. Last year, there was one

with very expensive taste who had Chivas Regal whiskey smelling like perfume all over him on a Sunday morning. In a township early this year, there was a senior priest with “fumes of beer” coming from him. Receiving communion from him was like being inside the South African Breweries itself.

A friend tells me they used to have a priest who went to the extent of stealing Mass wine when desperate for a drink. Priests drink a lot and like all of us, they need help too”.

Gaeganelwe surely speaks for many lay people who have experienced some of the incidents he mentions or worse, and the researcher is of the mind that the church needs to step up and offer help. Though the causes are not yet scientifically tested, factors like work load or lack of it, family demands, lack of recreation or stimulating activities outside of a parish can cause clergy to abuse alcohol.

As much as the church leadership wants to intervene and provide help for the priest (and their families) who have an alcoholic problem, the challenge is that many are not equipped to deal with this situation. As the researcher was conducting interviews, one parishioner asked whether it is wise to send back the priest to the same parish after a stint at a rehabilitation facility, the parishioner’s

motivation was that the parish has lost confidence in the leadership of this priest and on whether he can still be their spiritual leader.

Posing this question to the leadership, the researcher was given this answer, “it is not possible to move a priest from one parish, because the diocese does not have enough priests to go around, and that other parishes would not like to have such a priest as their rector.”

Few months after the above article was written the Department of Social Development has proposed a legislation of upping the legal age of drinking from eighteen years to twenty one years (see appendix E).

While on the church site, the Provincial Synod of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa held October 2010, proposed (and not yet adopted, until the next sitting of Synod in 2013) amendments to Canon 37 to include this section “performing church related functions while under the influence of alcohol or any drug other than a prescribed drug” as charges or accusations on which any bishop, priest, or deacon of this Province (ACSA) may be presented for trial.

The other thing that the researcher has found was that family members of an alcoholic priest are almost forgotten. This was evident on the interviews conducted, that help is sought out for the priest and nothing was said about the

family. The researcher is of the belief that, this research will highlight the fact that the family needs all the help and care they need, as they too are affected by the drinking of their father and husband.

The overall discovery was that despite clergy abusing alcohol they do not lose the image of God, as the image of God in us it is not depended on our good standing or our fall from grace. It is graciously given to all by God, and does not retract God's image on us when we find ourselves in trouble, through life's challenges we still belong to God and are never deserted by our Creator.

## **7.8 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The aim of this research was to deal with the issues of clergy abusing alcohol and the fact that although this matter is real no one dared to address it openly until recently. Bearing in mind that allowing it to continue, it does not only destroy the priest and his ministry, it destroys also individual family members and congregations. The researcher has achieved this objective, and is willing to partner with the church leadership to set up a support system for clergy and their families who are affected and infected by the disease of alcohol. Another aim that has been achieved is that clergy, laity and the leadership have begun to talk about the issue of alcoholism amongst clergy, and have identified some of the factors that lead one to be an alcoholic. And this was done through the interviews and administering of questionnaires.



As the researcher was working on this research, time and again she heard from people in her denomination and other denominations, saying that we as Anglicans are famous for loving our alcohol. She used to laugh-off these comments, until she was invited to an inter-denominational event and after the presentation, the host told those gathered that food will be served and that there's plenty of wine especially for Anglicans. The researcher stood up and asked him to retract that statement as it does nothing good for the Anglican Church, and even though Anglicans do drink, does not mean that we need to be embarrassed like that. I feel that there's more sober and hardworking clergy in the Anglican Church who contribute meaningfully to ministry. We can't paint them all with the same brush and pigeonhole them as alcoholics.

## **7.9 RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The researcher recommends that as part of the discernment process, a psychologist be involved to help to ascertain whether a candidate to ministry does / have exposed to alcohol and to what extent that can be a hindrance to performing his/her priestly calling. Because with many clergy the signs were there when they went to discernment conference and no one picked them up.
2. And as part of clergy training and formation, the abuse of alcohol and its consequences be discussed and on-going assistance be accessible to both clergy and their families.

3. Though this research was not aimed at stopping priests from being alcoholics, the researcher hopes that it helps the clergy to realize what alcohol do to their ministry, families and themselves and it enable them to make wise choices when it comes to taking alcohol.