



UGANDA EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE

(UGANDA CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT)

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KAMPALA
UGANDA, E.A.

PRESS RELEASE

PRESS STATEMENT OF THE UGANDA EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE ON THE APOSTOLIC VISIT OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS TO UGANDA

We, the Catholic Bishops of Uganda, gathered at St. Augustine Institute, Nsambya, Kampala on Thursday, September 17, 2015 to discuss the Holy Father's Apostolic visit to Uganda, are delighted to share with you some important issues pertaining to this event.

We are grateful that the Holy Father has honoured our invitation to visit Uganda to celebrate with us the Golden Jubilee of the Canonization of the 22 Catholic Ugandan Martyrs. These Martyrs were killed on the orders of Kabaka Mwanga of Buganda in the period 1885-1887 and were canonized on October 18, 1964 by Blessed Pope Paul VI in Rome.

As announced by the Holy See through the Apostolic Nuncio to Uganda on Thursday, September 10, 2015, the Holy Father will be with us from November 27 to 29, 2015. This will be his first trip to Africa as a Pontiff. He will first visit Kenya from November 25 to 27 before he comes to Uganda and then proceed to Central African Republic from November 29 to 30.

The Holy Father is coming to visit us as a Shepherd of God's flock, to strengthen our faith and encourage us as we seek to relive the martyrdom of our ancestors in the faith through self-sacrifice for the good of others. The theme for this Apostolic visit is: "You Will Be My Witnesses," (confer: Acts 1:8).

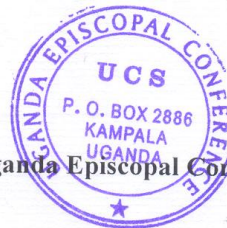
The preparations for this visit are being coordinated by the Uganda Episcopal Conference with the support of the Government of Uganda. The Conference will soon publish a pastoral letter to guide the faithful and all people of good will in their spiritual preparation for this important event.

We request for your prayers and support for the successful visit of the Holy Father to our country.

On behalf of the Catholic Bishops of Uganda,



**Most Rev. John Baptist Odama,
Archbishop of Gulu and Chairman of the Uganda Episcopal Conference
Kampala, Friday, September 18, 2015**



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