



NEW CONTACT

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THOUSANDS MOURN BISHOP FREDERICK DRANDUA

By Fr. Philip Odii, Francis Jjunju and Charles Katabalwa



The Late Bishop Frederick Drandua (1943-2016)

On September 7, 2016, thousands of mourners from all parts of West Nile sub-region and beyond gathered at Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish, Ediofe in Arua Diocese for the Funeral Mass and burial of Bishop Frederick Drandua. Rt. Rev. Drandua, who served as Bishop of Arua Diocese from 1986 to 2009 succumbed to cancer of esophagus at Nsambya Hospital in Kampala on September 1, 2016, at the age of 73.

The Funeral Mass was presided over by The Most Rev. John Baptist Odama, the Archbishop of Gulu and Chairman of Uganda Episcopal Conference. The concelebrating bishops included, Rt. Rev. Joseph Anthony Zziwa of Kiyinda-Mityana Diocese and Vice-Chairman of Uganda Episcopal Conference, Rt. Rev. Sabino Ocan Odoki of Arua Diocese, Rt. Rev. Sanctus Lino Wanok of Nebbi Catholic Diocese, Rt. Rev. Joseph Franzelli of Lira Diocese, Rt. Rev. John Baptist Kaggwa of Masaka Diocese, Rt. Rev. Damiano Giuglio Guzzetti of Moroto Diocese, Rt. Rev. Egidio Nkaijanabwo the Bishop Emeritus of Kasese Diocese, Rt. Rev. Martin Luluga the Bishop Emeritus of Nebbi Catholic Diocese and the Rt. Rev. Erukulano Lado of Yei Diocese in South Sudan. There were also several priests, religious men and women, political, civil and cultural leaders and people of all walks of life.

In his homily, Bishop Sanctus Lino Wanok

of Nebbi Catholic Diocese described Bishop Drandua as a person who truly lived what Jesus preached in Matthew 25: 35-36, which states thus: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me".

"Bishop Frederick fed the hungry in the schools and orphanages that he built, and he is still feeding them", Bishop Wanok observed. "He never turned away anybody who came to him. He attended to everybody regardless of the person's status", he added.

Earlier on, the mammoth crowd listened to speeches from various dignitaries, relatives and friends of the late. The Chairman of Uganda Episcopal Conference, Most Rev. John Baptist Odama, read condolence messages from the Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, His Eminence Fernando Cardinal Filoni, and from the Catholic Bishops of Uganda.

Archbishop Odama noted that Bishop Drandua served as a Vice-Chairman of Uganda Episcopal Conference and head of various commissions of the Conference, such as Caritas and Education among others. He described him as a man of the people who offered himself with humility and simplicity for social, educational, medical

Inside:

UEC NEWS

Thousand mourn Bishop Fredrick Drandua...1-2

Wise Quotes...2

Catholic communicators donate items to babies' home...3

UEC Appointments...4

DIOCESAN NEWS

Newly ordained Priests...5-6

Uganda Cranes qualify for AFCON...6

AMECEA NEWS

AMECEA Secretaries conduct capacity building workshop for Bishops...7

Zambia holds AMECEA Secretaries General's meeting...7

SECAM NEWS

Angolan Vice-President calls for Church-State collaboration...8

Bishops' Conferences in Africa encouraged to develop Family Catechesis...9

Key Liturgical Events in September...9

VATICAN NEWS

Saint Mother Teresa...10

Pope makes surprise visits to Rome Hospital and Hospice...10

Presentation of the pope's first message for the world Day of prayer for the care of Creation...11

FEATURE

Social Communication Media: Church's ideal tool for out reach...12



JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

Luke 6:36



EDITORIAL



The month of September started off on the sad note for the Catholic Church in Uganda and indeed for our country Uganda. We lost a great man and shepherd, Bishop Frederick Drandua, who served the Diocese of Arua for 23 years before his retirement in 2009. He died on September 1, 2016.

During one of the Requiem Masses held at St. James Catholic Church, Bbina in Luzira, a suburb of Kampala, on September 3, 2016, His Eminence Emmanuel Cardinal Wamala, the Emeritus Archbishop of Kampala, rightly stated that we were celebrating the life of a great man and great servant of God. He noted that despite the long distance from Arua to Kampala and the insecurity in West Nile in the past years, Bishop Drandua never missed the meetings of Uganda Episcopal Conference (UEC). He indeed served the Church faithfully.

The Archbishop of Gulu and Chairman of UEC, Most Rev. John Baptist Odama, described the late Bishop as a very humble man with a heart for the poor. He further described him as a man of unity in line with his 'motto, Ut Unum Sint' (May they be One).

We dedicate this issue of New Contact to our late Bishop Frederick Drandua, who once served as the Vice-Chairman of UEC and Chairman of various Commissions of the Conference. As we continue to pray for the repose of his soul, we salute him for the services he rendered to our church and country. May the Lord grant him the reward of eternal life.

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Let us keep in contact through New Contact.

Fr. Philip Odii
Editor/Executive Secretary
of Social Communications
Uganda Episcopal Conference

Thousands mourn Bishop Frederick Drandua



Requiem Mass that was held at Bbina Catholic Church, Luzira in memory of Bishop Fredrick Dradua
 INSET: Archbishop Odama sprinkles Holy Water on the casket of Bishop Drandua at Bbina Catholic Church

and pastoral care for all, and as such he was a special gift to the Conference, the people of Arua Diocese and Uganda at large, as epitomized in his motto, "May they be One" (Ut Unum Sint).

The President of Uganda, His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, was represented by the Prime Minister, Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, who commended the late Bishop for his nationalist spirit. He noted that the late had spearheaded the development of financial, educational, health, and social service centers to help his community and those in need.

The President had earlier donated 10 million Uganda Shillings to assist with the burial expenses and also offered a helicopter to transport the body of the late Bishop from Kampala to West Nile.

In the days preceding the burial, several Requiem Masses and public viewing of the body were organized at Kampala, Adjumani, Moyo, Nebbi, Uleppi and Arua.

Bishop Drandua was born in Uleppi Parish, Nebbi Catholic Diocese on August 12, 1943. He was ordained a priest on August 9, 1970, appointed Bishop of Arua Diocese on May 27, 1986 and consecrated on August 15, 1986. Due to his health condition, Bishop Frederick retired from the Episcopal See of Arua Diocese on August 19, 2009.

"BISHOP FREDERICK FED THE HUNGRY IN THE SCHOOLS AND ORPHANAGES THAT HE BUILT, AND HE IS STILL FEEDING THEM"

WISE QUOTES FOR REFLECTION

'Transformation is a process and as life happens there are tons of ups and downs. It's a journey of discovery there are moments on mountaintops and moments in deep valleys of despair,' – **Rick Warren**

'Remember your dreams and fight for them. You must know what you want for life. There is just one thing that makes your dream become impossible: the fear of failure,' – **Paulo Coelho**

'Communication is a skill that you can learn. It's like riding a bicycle or typing. If you are willing to work at it, you can rapidly improve the quality of every part of your life,' – **Brian Tracy**

'You cannot change what is past, but having the right outlook for the day ahead will give you ability to make a better today,' – **Anonymous**

'Respect yourself enough to say I deserve peace and walk away from people or things that prevent you from attaining it,' – **Jerico Silvers**

'Positive thinkers have a solution for every problem. Negative thinkers have a problem for every solution. Stay positive,' – **Steve Aitchison**

'Life is like a camera. You focus on what's important capture the good times develop from the negative and, if things don't work out take another shot,' – **Anonymous**

'Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory,' – **Dr. Suess**

Catholic communicators donate items to babies' home

By Jacinta W. Odongo

As part of the activities to mark the Corporal Works of Mercy in this Jubilee Year of Mercy as announced by Pope Francis early last year, the Association of Catholic Communicators Practitioners in Uganda (ACCPU) on Monday August 15, 2016, visited and donated food and toiletries items to Nsambya Babies' Home which belongs to Child Welfare and Adoption Society (CWAS).

Nsambya Babies Home is an orphanage that was established in 1958 and is managed by the sisters of Immaculate Heart of Mary Reparatrix - Ggogonya.

During the visit, the ACCPU members donated items like sugar, flour, soap and tissue papers among other toiletries. They were represented by the vice president, Carol Akullo, the Secretary General, Valerian Kkonde and one of the board member, Charles Ndaula.

While presenting the items, Mr. Kkonde said the donation was one of the objectives of the association in providing for the less privileged and needy in the society especially during this Jubilee Year of Mercy where Christians are required to perform Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

"We decided to visit the home so to show love and care to the children as we celebrate this day of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in this Jubilee Year of Mercy," he said adding, "We would like to continue supporting these children in many ways in the coming



Mr Kkonde (left) and the ACCPU chairperson, Simon Peter Byakatonda at a past ACCPU function

future. This donation is one of our core objectives which is to put smiles and love in the faces of the less privileged children in the society."

He urged other Christians to visit the home often and offer any kind of support including offering non-tangible services because the caretakers are sometimes overwhelmed. He, however, expressed hope that God will bless the hands of the caretakers of the needy children, while urging other charitable organizations to follow their example.

"We are now aware of the needs of these children and we are looking forward to for another visit to donate more items that they need," he added.

Meanwhile, most of the children at the Home are abandoned children who

were dumped in the hospitals, streets and even church premises. They are usually picked up and brought to the home by good Samaritans. The Babies' home cares for abandoned children between 0-5 years old. Currently it has a total of 33 children aged from a month old to six years.

CWAS is a Christian non-government organization that advocates for children and promotes the care of vulnerable ones to grow into responsible adults. CWAS has three children homes and a vocational training centre. ■

Association of
Catholic Communication
Practitioners in Uganda

It does not matter what your vocation is or what your role is in Media and Communication; we are all called to live, pray, and spread the Gospel! Come and be part of ACCPU.

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ACCPU

Vision

"A united fraternity of Catholic communicators living and promoting Catholic values".

Mission

To unite Catholic communication practitioners in Uganda for the promotion of evangelisation and integral human development.

Aims of the Association

1. To promote unity and cooperation among Catholic communication practitioners, driven by the desire to further the values of the Catholic Church.
2. To provide members the opportunity to deepen their knowledge on Church teaching and values.
3. To inform with regard to building and sustaining communities in the economic, political, cultural, educational and religious spheres.
4. To herald the truth and its fulfillment in equality and justice.
5. To advance the professionalism, expertise and talents of its members.
6. To defend and protect members from forms of hardships met in the diligent course of their due practice.

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UEC appoints new Executive Secretary of the Lay Apostolate Department and National Youth Chaplain

By Jacinta W. Odongo, Media Officer, Uganda Episcopal Conference



Fr. Frederick in his office at the Uganda Catholic Secretariat



Fr. Benedict in his office at the Uganda Catholic Secretariat

The Uganda Episcopal Conference (UEC) has appointed Fr. Frederick Tusingire as the new Executive Secretary of the Lay Apostolate Department and Fr. Benedict Mugerwa as the new National Youth Chaplain.

The two new appointments were announced on Monday August 22, 2016 during the weekly staff Mass at the Uganda Catholic Secretariat by the UEC Financial Administrator, Fr. Eustachius Lwemalika on behalf of the UEC Secretary General, Msgr. John Baptist Kauta, who was in Zambia for the regular meeting of the Secretaries General from Association of Member Episcopal Conferences of Eastern Africa (AMECEA) countries.

The UEC Financial Administrator said, "I would like to congratulate Fr. Frederick and Fr. Benedict on their appointments. We welcome them to Uganda Catholic Secretariat and we wish them all the best in their new roles."

He further said the new appointees have several mandates in their offices, among which is to work with the laity and the youth.

Both Fr. Frederick and Fr. Benedict took up their new roles on August 15. Fr. Frederick replaces Fr. Stephen Candia, who is now a full-time lecturer at Ggaba Major Seminary in Kampala while Fr. Benedict takes over from Fr. Jude Kanyike, who is currently in Rome for his further studies since last year.

Fr. Frederick, this month (August 15) coincidentally took over his new role on the same day he celebrated 27 years of priesthood. Before his new appointment as the UEC Executive Secretary of the Lay Apostolate Department, he served as the Parish priest of Virika Cathedral in the Diocese of Fort Portal and worked in various other places in the same diocese. With 11 years as the parish priest of Virika Cathedral parish, he is said to be the African priest who has served longest in that capacity.

He was born on June 24, 1961 which is the feast day of St. John the Baptist. Fr. Fredrick holds diplomas from Katigondo national major seminary, Ggaba national major seminary and Makerere University, as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree in theology, Masters and Phd degrees in Missiology, all from the Pontifical Urban University, Rome.

He said he is excited about his new job and is anxious to see everything that is involved.

"I am happy to be given this opportunity to serve our national Church in this capacity of the Executive Secretary. I have several expectations for myself and this office but one of them is to have a positive contribution to the Secretariat and the Catholic Church in Uganda," he said.

Meanwhile, Fr. Benedict, who hails from the Diocese of Lu-

gazi, was ordained a priest on July 28, 2012. His first appointment was in Kiyindi Parish in Lugazi where he served as a curate in charge of schools and youth from 2012 to 2013. He also taught at St. Joseph Seminary, Nyenga from 2013 to 2016 before his new appointment at the Secretariat.

The 33-year-old priest said he feels privileged to be chosen as the National Youth Chaplain and he will do his best to execute his duties.

"First of all I will put God in everything I do because I know without Him I can't do anything. I only pledge that I do my best to the best of my ability. I know there could be challenges but I believe with prayers nothing is impossible, I should be able to do my best for the youth," he stated.

Topical reflection series...1

Being in control of oneself

By Driciru Mary Lilly MSMMC

Recently I caught up with a young man, who appeared smart and elegant in his outfits. Composed as he may have seemed; he had frequent deep breaths that drew attention of those around him. I gave him a steady intense look and he begged to be excused. "Please feel at ease..." was my response. He went ahead and asked if he could speak to me and I told him I was available.

The guy opened up like bullet letting machine gun. Thank God I was not in hurry to do anything that day. Hence all my attention was at his disposal. Among many things he shared were: Lack of fulfillment in all he does, restless nights, and several questions about God and His existence.

Let us call this young man Dan. Dan had two kids but does not also find fulfillment in his family life. If you cannot find meaning in your core life choice, where else will you find? If you cannot rest at night when can you ever find rest? At such a vibrant age if your mind has not grasped faith in God you become a prey of the many options the world offers.

You and I could be at the crossroads like Dan. Avoid hurried and pressured –life decisions, you can consult but the last venture/decision MUST come from you in order to avoid regrets and blame games later in life. Let us catch up next week for the next episode...*Restless night*

Some of the newly ordained Priests in Uganda

GULU ARCHDIOCESE



Fr. Raymond Atube

FORT PORTAL DIOCESE



Fr. Thomas Kusemererwa



Fr. Tonny Katungi



Fr. Dominic Tumusiime Atwooki



Fr. Frederick Douglas Waako



Fr. Joseph Amanyire Adyeeri



Fr. Peter Bwesige Abooki



Fr. Simon Peter Alituha Amooti



Fr. Paul Mwirumubi Amooti

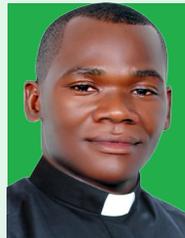
KASESE DIOCESE



Fr. Fedius Bwambale



Fr. Leonary Sumbuko



Fr. Joseph Tumusime



Fr. William Cleto Bwambale



Fr. Jimmy Masereka

LUGAZI DIOCESE



Fr. Ssemwezi Ponsiano



Fr. Balikuddembe Joseph



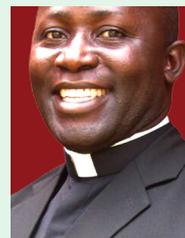
Fr. Ssengonzi Jude



Fr. Ssuuna Charles Lwanga



Fr. Walusimbi Moses



Fr. Tamale Peter Lawrence



Fr. Richard Ssemanda

DIOCESE	NAME	HOME PARISH	PARISH OF APPOINTMENT
FORT PORTAL	Fr. Joseph Amanyire	Bukwali	Curate Hapuuyo
	Fr. Tonny Katungi	Virika Cathedral	Curate Karusozi
	Fr. Paul Mwirumubi	Virika Cathedral	Curate Mabira
	Fr. Dominic Tumusiime	Virika Cathedral	Curate St. Joachim & Ann Kijura-Neema
	Fr. Simon Peter Alituha	Virika Cathedral	Curate Butiiti Parish
	Fr. Simon Peter Alituha	Virika Cathedral	Curate Butiiti Parish
	Fr. Frederick Douglas Waako	Virika Parish	Curate St. Mary's Minor Seminary & Ag. Director Social Communications
	Fr. Peter Bwesige	Wekomiire	Curate Bugombwa
	Fr. Thomas Kusemererwa	Butiiti	Teacher St. Mary's Minor Seminary
GULU	Fr. Raymond Atube	Lacor Parish	Teacher Lacor Seminary
KASESE	Fr. Fedius Bwambale		
	Fr. Jimmy Masereka		
	Fr. Joseph Tumusime		
	Fr. William Cleto Bwambale		
	Fr. Leonary Sumbuko		
LIRA	Fr. Leone Okello		
LUGAZI	Fr. Ssemwezi Ponsiano	Mukono	Kiyindi Parish
	Fr. Balikuddembe Joseph	Mbikko	Nakibano Parish
	Fr. Ssengonzi Jude	Lugazi	Namiryango Parish
	Fr. Ssuuna Charles Lwanga	Naggalama	ulongwe Parish
	Fr. Walusimbi Moses	Kayunga	Bukeerere Parish
	Fr. Tamale Peter Lawrence	Nagalama	Kasawo Parish
	Fr. Richard Ssemanda	Kisoga	Bishop's House Namagunga
TORORO	Fr. Gregory Owor	Achilet	Dabani Parish
	Fr. Zachary Oburu	Achilet	St. Austin Parish, Mbale
	Fr. Richard Wokuti	Bududa	

Uganda Cranes qualify for AFRICAN CUP OF NATIONS after 38 years



Uganda Cranes Team that beat Comoros

On 4th September, the National football team—Uganda Cranes hosted the Comoros for the AFCON 2016 qualifiers play-off match. This was a do-or-die qualification match the Uganda Cranes managed to win. The

winning goal was scored by Farouk Miya who plays for Standard Liege in Belgium.

The 37th minute goal has ended Uganda's drought without Afcon qualification for 38 years since 1978. Uganda qualified for the tournament in the second position of its group D below Burkina Faso which beat the country by goal difference. Uganda is followed by Botswana and Comoros with 6 and 3 points respectively.

Group D				
Team	P	W	Gd	Pts
Burkina Faso	6	4	4	13
Uganda	6	4	4	13
Botswana	6	2	-3	6
Comoros	6	1	-5	3

AMECEA Secretaries conduct capacity building workshop for Bishops

By Pamela Adinda, AMECEA Online News



Participants of AMECEA capacity building workshop pose for a group photo

The AMECEA Secretariat in collaboration with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) conducted another Capacity Building workshop for Bishops in the AMECEA region.

The training, which took place in Nairobi from August 2-5, attracted Bishops from Kenya, Malawi, Sudan, Tanzania, South Sudan and Zambia.

The topics covered during the workshop included Meaning and Importance of Strategic Pastoral Planning in the Church, Investments, Strategic Pastoral Planning Process, Monitoring and Evaluation, Integral Human Development, Leadership in the Church Institutions and Social Pastoral Communications. The workshop was facilitated by the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA).

According to Ms. Christine Mbugi, a coordinator of AMECEA Capacity building, the attendance was quite low compared

to what they had anticipated. She attributed this to the fact that the training was initially scheduled for June but was postponed due to unavoidable circumstance.

“As a result, some of the Bishops who were supposed to attend could not make it for the second schedule due to one reason or the other,” she said

Despite the low attendance, the training was quite a success and resourceful according to the participants who spoke to AMECEA Online News. Rt. Rev. Moses Hamungole Bishop of Monze- Zambia, said that the training was a good opportunity to share, learn and discuss a number of issues pertaining to management of which they as steward of their various dioceses are confronted with.

He emphasized that it came at an opportune time for some of them who are just coming in as Bishops, while a good number of them have had to learn the

hardest way from experience. Nonetheless he said that the inputs were quite resourceful.

Bishop Hamungole’s sentiments were echoed by the new Bishop of Zomba, Malawi Rt. Rev. George Tambala who said that the topics were very rich in terms of resourceful information. He also appreciated the diversity of the topics as well as the facilitators who consisted of the clergy, religious and the lay people.

Bishop Tambala highly recommended the incorporation of the seminarians into the program so that the same knowledge is imparted on them who are prospective priests and stewards of the Church.

“It’s high time we brought in the issue of formation of seminarians. If we could find a way in which this program can embrace our seminarians then it would be very efficient,” he said.

Zambia holds AMECEA Secretaries General’s meeting

By Mwenya Mukuka, ZCCB Communications Officer

Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops (ZCCB) held the regular meeting of Secretaries General from Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa (AMECEA) member countries from the August 22-12, 2016 in Lusaka.

The ZCCB Secretary General Rev. Fr. Cleophas Lungu said the aim of the meeting was to review AMECEA programmes and look at how countries are implementing the recommendations made by the Bishops at the AMECEA plenary that was held in Malawi in 2014.

“This is a regular meeting of Secretaries Generals in the AMECEA Region which

has a membership of eight Conferences. We are hoping to see all of them coming, though it’s difficult for some countries like Eritrea, Sudan and South Sudan,” said Fr. Lungu.

“The AMECEA Bishops in their last plenary meeting in Malawi made resolutions that, as a Region and respective conferences are to implement, so it is one of the matters that we shall be discussing,” he added.

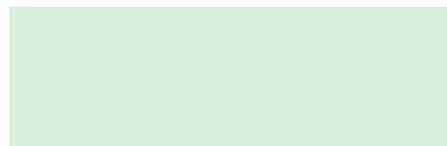
Fr. Lungu has also said that the meeting would review AMECEA Secretariat programmes.

“You might be aware that AMECEA

Secretariat runs a lot of programmes like training of church leaders, so we shall look at that too and see how to improve the topics or the curriculum,” he explained.

The meeting was held at ZCCB Kapingila House in the Zambia Catholic Secretariat premises.

The last AMECEA Secretaries General’s meeting was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



Angolan Vice-President calls for Church-State collaboration during SE-CAM plenary

Benedict B. Assorow, Director of Communications, SECAM

The Vice President of Angola, Manuel Vicente has called for closer collaboration and cooperation between the Church and State for the building of a more just and morally upright society.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the 17th Plenary Assembly of the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM) in Luanda, Angola, the Vice-President stressed the need for the two bodies to condemn violence, the abuse of children, immorality and other vices in society and the family. The Plenary Assembly was held from July 18-25, 2016.

"We live in world of complexities and ideologies so much so that what happens in one part of the world has direct or indirect effect on the family and society in general in other parts of it," he said. He therefore, hoped that the Church in Africa will continue to support the State in promoting moral values, human rights, mutual respect, democracy and good governance.

The Assembly was declared opened by the President of SECAM, Archbishop Gabriel Mbilingi of Lubango, Angola, who also gave a brief history of SECAM.

He recognized Observer Status obtained by SECAM in the African Union (AU) as an opportunity for mutual enrichment of the two bodies. He hoped that with the new move there will be closer relations between SECAM and the various Governments in Africa through the AU.

There were goodwill/solidarity messages from the Apostolic Nunciature in Angola; MISSIO, Germany; MISSIO, Aachen; CAFOD; Catholic Relief Services; Catholic Biblical Federation and Caritas Internationalis. The rest are: The Federation of Asian Bishop Conferences; Council of Episcopal Conferences of Europe; Family Life Federation in Africa; and the Association of Africa Catholic Women Organisations.

The opening ceremony was preceded by the celebration of the Eucharist at the Holy Family Parish in Luanda.

The bishops of Africa through presentations and workshops on various topics on the theme focused on a number of issues pertaining to the African family, with particular reference the two recent Synod's on the Family and the Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation: *Amoris Laetitia*.

Most Rev. Emmanuel Adetoyese Badejo, Bishop of Oyo (Nigeria) and President



Vice- President of Angola, Ing. Vicente, delivering a message to the participants.

of the Episcopal Committee for Social Communications for Africa and Madagascar (CEPACS) in a presentation on *the Influence Of Modern Media And New Ideologies On The Family In Africa Today*, emphasised that the Church must absolutely be more present in the digital media world in a deliberate and informed manner and also endeavour to engage media professionals and practitioners to pay more attention to Family values in their work.

The bishop called on the Church to celebrate and "enrich" existing marriages and families at every opportunity and speak more openly and directly about the benefits of chastity before and within marriage. To this end, he proposed the holding of an Annual Continental Day of the Family by the Church in Africa in collaboration with Pro-Life and Pro-Family organizations and other groups irrespective of religious and denominational differences which favour and nurture the family. 'The Church must eloquently denounce harmful new ideologies as essentially atheistic, seeking to disestablish the concept of God and religion from public discourse and consciousness.' He concluded.

About 150 participants comprising Cardinals; Bishops; Secretaries General of National and Regional Episcopal Conferences in Africa; Resource Persons; representatives of Partner Agencies and other Continental Episcopal Conferences participated in the Assembly. Uganda was represent-

ed by the **Bishop of Fort Portal diocese**, Rt. Rev. Robert Muhirwa Akiiki, **Bishop Emeritus of Lugazi diocese**, Rt. Rev. Matthias Ssekamanya and the Seceratry General of the Uganda Episcopal Conference, Msgr. John Baptist Kauta.

The Assembly concluded with the adoption of resolutions, recommendations, a final message and a communique.

This is the first time for SECAM to hold its Plenary Assembly in Angola since its establishment in Kampala, Uganda in July 1969 when it was officially launched by Pope Paul VI during the first-ever visit as a Pope to Africa.

The last Plenary Assembly was held in July 2013 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo under the theme: ***The Church in Africa at the service of Reconciliation, Justice and Peace.***

UGANDA WAS REPRESENTED BY THE BISHOP OF FORT PORTAL DIOCESE, RT. REV. ROBERT MUHIRWA AKIIKI, BISHOP EMERITUS OF LUGAZI DIOCESE, RT. REV. MATTHIAS SSEKAMANYA AND THE SECERATRY GENERAL OF THE UGANDA EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE, MSGR. JOHN BAPTIST KAUTA.

Bishops' Conferences in Africa Encouraged to develop Family Catechesis

By Father Don Bosco Onyalla, Nairobi, CANAA



Some of the Bishop-delegates of the 17th Plenary Assembly of SECAM

Developing “a directory on catechesis of the family” was among the 20-point recommendations at the concluded Plenary Assembly of Catholic Bishops in Africa that was held in Angola (July 18-25, 2016).

Having met to reflect on the family in Africa, the Church leaders who represented the various national and regional conferences of Bishops in Africa discussed challenges facing the family on the continent and recommended pastoral solutions.

In view of addressing “effectively the major challenges confronting the family,” the bishops stated, “we need to elaborate new pastoral perspectives or approaches; we ask the Episcopal Conferences to develop a directory of family catechesis, essentially biblical catechesis, which will be assessed every three years.”

The challenges the family in Africa faces, which the Bishops highlighted their final message include: the precarious conditions and poverty, social exclusion, impact of the new Information and communication technologies on family life,

gender ideology, monoparental family, divorce-remarried couples, contraception, sterilization, abortion, polygamy, dowry, widowhood rites, migration consequences of war and conflict situations, internal family crises, belief in witchcraft and ab-



Bishop Badejo (with microphone) Addressing the 17th Plenary Assembly of SECAM On his right is Archbishop G. C. Palmer-Buckle of Accra, Ghana.

sence, at times of one of the couples due to studies and work.

The Bishops also encouraged governments in Africa to “invest heavily in the promotion of the family.”

“We appeal to them to implement social policies that respect African Cultural

values, justice, fundamental human rights of persons and families,” the Bishops stated in reference to governments on the continent.

Meanwhile, the Bishops re-elected Archbishop Gabriel Mbilingi of Lubango, Angola, as President of the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM) for a second term and confirmed Archbishop Charles Gabriel Palmer-Buckle of Accra, Ghana, as Treasurer.

Bishop Mathieu Madega Lebouakehan of Mouila, Gabon, replaced Bishop Louis Portella-Mbuyu of Kinkala, Congo Brazzaville, as SECAM first Vice President since the latter declined re-election.

Bishop Anton Sithembele Sipuka of Umtata, South Africa, replaced Archbishop Gabriel J. Anokye of Kumasi, Ghana, who wants to concentrate on his office as President of CARITAS Africa.

The Bishops also encouraged governments in Africa to “invest heavily in the promotion of the family.”

KEY LITURGICAL EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary- September 8, 2016

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or the Birth of the Virgin Mary, refers to a Christian feast day celebrating the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the case of saints, the Church commemorates their date of death, with Saint John the Baptist and the Virgin Mary as the few whose birth dates are commemorated.

The Feast Exaltation of the Cross- September 14, 2016

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, celebrated every year on September 14, recalls three historical events: the finding of the True Cross by Saint Helena, the mother of the emperor Constantine; the dedication of churches built by Constantine on the site of the Holy Sepulchre and Mount Calvary; and the restoration of the True Cross to Jerusalem by the emperor Heraclius II. But in a deeper sense, the feast also celebrates the Holy Cross as the instrument of our salvation.

Feast of St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist – September 21, 2016

At the time that Jesus summoned him to follow Him, Matthew was a publican, that is, a tax-collector for the Romans. St. Matthew is known to us principally as an Evangelist. He was the first to put down in writing our Lord’s teaching and the account of His life.

Feast of Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels - September 29, 2016

The liturgy celebrates the Feast of these three Archangels who are venerated in the tradition of the Church.

Saint Mother Teresa 'A light in the darkness of many'

Vatican Radio



Pope Francis on Sunday, September 4, 2016, declared Mother Teresa of Calcutta a Saint, saying that she shone a light in the darkness of the many who no longer had tears to shed for their poverty and suffering.

In his homily during the canonization Mass in St. Peter's Square, the Pope highlighted how the little nun who died in 1997 had taken in society's most unwanted, and shamed world leaders for the "crimes of poverty they themselves created".

To the some 120,000 pilgrims who filled the Square for the canonization Mass, Pope Francis held up Mother Teresa as the model for a Church that goes to the peripheries to bring comfort and the light of the Gospel to poor and wounded souls.

"Let us carry her smile in our hearts – he said - and give it to those whom we meet along our journey, especially those who suffer", he said.

Applause erupted in the Square even before the Pope finished pronouncing the rite of canonization.

And admitting that even he will find it hard to call her "Saint Teresa" because her holiness is so tender and fruitful that we will continue to spontaneously call her "mother", Francis praised her as the merciful saint who defended the lives of the unborn and those abandoned and discarded.

"She bowed down – he said - before those who were spent, left to die on the side of the road, seeing in them their God-given dignity".

"She made her voice heard before the powers of the world, so that they might recognize their guilt for the crimes of poverty they themselves created" he said.

"For Mother Teresa – he continued – mercy was the light which shone in the darkness of the many who no longer had tears to shed for their poverty and suffering".

St. Mother Tereza of Calcutta

Mother Teresa was the founder of the religious order Missionaries of Charity, which is based in Calcutta, India. She dedicated her life to helping the poorest of the poor. She was beatified by John Paul II in 2003, just six years after her death at the age of 87.



Pope makes surprise visits to Rome Hospital and Hospice

Vatican Radio

September 16, 2016 Pope Francis made two more of his impromptu visits to hospitals and social service centres as part of his regular Friday initiatives during this Year of Mercy.

The Pope began by making a surprise visit to the Accident and Emergency department and to the Neonatal unit of Rome's San Giovanni hospital.

After putting on a mask and completing the other health and safety procedures, the Pope stopped beside the incubators of twelve new born babies, five of whom are suffering from severe complications, including one set of twins. The Holy Father offered words of comfort and support to all of the parents, before going on to meet with staff and families at the nursery on the floor above.

Later in the afternoon, the Pope visited some thirty terminally ill patients at the Villa Speranza Hospice, located in the north of Rome as part of the Gemelli University Hospital Foundation.

A note from the Holy See press office explained that through these two 'Mercy Friday' encounters, Pope Francis wished to "send a strong signal about the importance of life from its first moment until its natural end". Welcoming life and guaranteeing its dignity at all times, the statement said, is a teaching that the Pope regularly reiterates. Through these two visits, it concluded, he has given a concrete and tangible sign of the importance of caring for the weakest and most vulnerable in order to show mercy in our lives.



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PRESENTATION OF THE POPE'S FIRST MESSAGE FOR THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION

VATICAN PRESS OFFICE

On September 1, 2016, in the Holy See Press Office, a press conference was held to present the Holy Father's first message for the **World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation**, following his decision last year that Catholics, like Orthodox Christians, celebrate on 1 September, a day of reflection and prayer for the defence of creation. The message was presented by Cardinal Peter Kodwo Appiah Turkson, former president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Archbishop Brian Farrell, L.C., secretary of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, and Terence Ward, author of the book "The Guardian of Mercy".

The message, as Cardinal Turkson explained, poses three questions: how as human beings we are asked to show mercy to our common home, to acknowledge and repent for our sins against creation, and to amend our ways through the merciful grace of God.

"The first step in this process is to humbly acknowledge the harm we are doing to the earth through pollution, the scandalous destruction of ecosystems and loss of biodiversity, and the spectre of climate change which seems nearer and more dangerous with each passing year. And", the prelate added, "to realise that when we hurt the earth, we also hurt the poor, whom God loves without limit".

Pope Francis is asking us to be honest with ourselves and acknowledge that this is sin—sin against creation, against the poor, against those who have not yet been born. "This means that we must examine our consciences and repent. I realise that this is not the way we traditionally think about sin. These are sins, Pope Francis says, that we have not hitherto acknowledged and confessed. But we are now called upon to do so. This means we need to take a long and hard look at our lifestyles, especially when they reflect a disordered desire to consume more than what is really necessary. ... A genuine examination of conscience would recognise not only our individual failings but also our institutional failings", Cardinal Turkson added.

"If we truly desire to repent, we can confess our sins against the Creator, creation, and our brothers and sisters. And the merciful grace of God received in the sacrament will help us to do so. Once we have done this, Pope Francis says, we are ready to amend our lives and change course. This adjustment also has an individual and institutional dimension. Individually, we are called to "ecological conversion" in our daily lives. We should not think that our efforts – even our small gestures – don't matter. ... Yet individual initiative, important though it is, is not sufficient to

turn the ship around. Ecological conversion entails not only individual conversion, but community conversion too. We need a conversion of economics and politics – away from an obsession with short-term and self-centred financial or electoral gains, and toward a true appreciation of the common good".

"This is brought into stark relief when we consider the sustainable development agenda", he affirmed. "Pope Francis praises the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change last year. But", he warned, "for this agenda to succeed, it will require a heroic amount of political will and a heroic effort by business and economic interests".

The Cardinal noted that, with regard to climate change, the global community has drawn a red line under a rise in global temperatures of 2 degrees Celsius. This will require a complete shift away from fossil fuels toward renewables by about 2070 and constitutes a momentous undertaking. Furthermore, the Paris Agreement puts 2 degrees Celsius as the upper limit, and asks us to try to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius instead.

"This is exponentially more difficult, and it will require an even stronger 'firm purpose of amendment'. ... This is the responsibility of all of us. Pope Francis says it is up to citizens to insist that these commitments are honoured, and to advocate for more ambitious goals. ... He suggests that social pressure – including from boycotting certain products – can force businesses to consider their environmental footprint and patterns of production. Let us also not forget the global solidarity dimension. As part of paying down their 'ecological debt' to their poorer neighbours, richer countries need to provide them with needed financial and technical support. The same logic animates the fossil fuel divestment movement".

"Following this amendment of our lives and institutions, Pope Francis is calling us toward a new work of mercy. ... This is really the final step of ecological conversion, a true internalisation of an ecological sensibility. So we are being asked to complement both the spiritual and corporal works of mercy with care for our common home".

For his part, Archbishop Farrell recalled that "all Christians, East and West, pray that God will continue to sustain and bless the work of His hands 'until all the earth sings the praises of his Name'", and that Christians of all traditions are familiar with prayers for the harvest, for rain, for the end of shortage or for help during natural disasters.

"It is a great sign of ecumenical progress that Christians in all Churches are joining together in prayer at the same time to praise God for His work, to seek His protection of it and to re-commit themselves to safeguarding it", he emphasised.

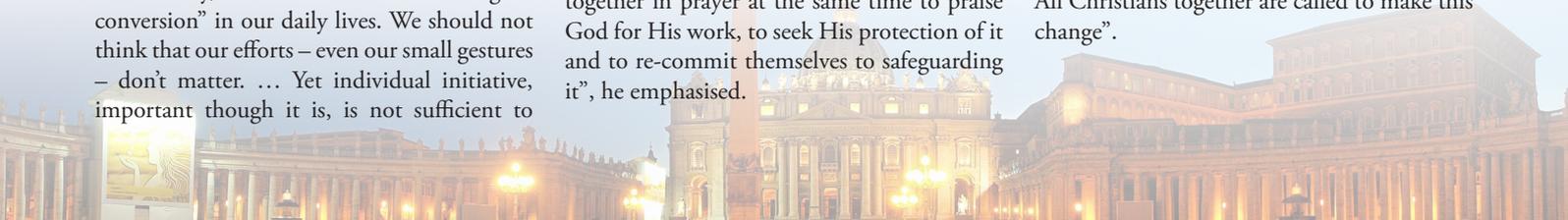
In this regard, he noted that in 1989, during the mandate of the Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios, the Ecumenical Patriarchate decided to dedicate 1 September, the beginning of the liturgical year in the Orthodox calendar, to prayer for the safeguarding of creation. On that day the Orthodox liturgy reads the biblical account of the creation of the world. The Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has paid particular attention to the theme of the care of creation, so much so that he has been called "the green Patriarch". The initiatives he has promoted include the inter-Christian Symposia on the safeguarding of water, with the participation of Catholic representatives, and his dedication to the protection of creation was underlined in Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si'*. For this reason Metropolitan Ioannis Zizioulas was invited to take part in the press conference to present the encyclical in June of last year, during which he, Zizioulas, launched the idea of a joint day of prayer for the care of creation.

The Holy Father gladly took up the idea and last year established the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation in the Catholic Church, to be celebrated each year on 1 September, coinciding with the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Throughout the Christian world, the Holy Father's decision was greatly appreciated.

The World Council of Churches had already dedicated the period between 1 September and 4 October, the feast of Saint Francis, to prayer and reflection on safeguarding creation. The Anglican Communion also celebrates such a day on 1 September. The day dedicated to prayer for the care of creation by the Moscow Patriarchate is the first Sunday of September, as 1 September is already a holiday for the opening of the school year.

"The fact is that there is broad ecumenical agreement on this important issue", affirmed Archbishop Farrell. "Significantly for this year, the Secretary General of the World Council of Churches, Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit, uses a video message to encourage the faithful of the member churches to pray for this intention. Likewise, the Council of European Bishops' Conferences together with the Conference of European Churches and the European Christian Environmental Network have published a common message".

"The hope is that on the occasion of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation members of all confessions will come together for prayer and collaboration in common actions regarding this issue, also at the diocesan and parochial levels. ... As today's Message says, our culture of prosperity is distorted and our desire to consume more than what is really necessary is disordered. We must change our attitudes and our actions. All Christians together are called to make this change".



FEATURE ARTICLE

Social Communication Media: Church's ideal tool for out reach

By Driciru Mary Lilly MSMCC-ACCPU

The media remains inevitable tool for the outreach programmes of the Church. For long the Church holds the media in high esteem for advancing the propagation of faith. From November 25, 1766 an encyclical letter "Christianae Reipublicae" of Pope Clement XIII on the dangers of anti-christian writing was already in circulation. "Vigilanti Cura" becomes the first pontifical encyclical on means of communication in the 20th century and the first one to deal with film as one of the modern electronic media with more positive approach by June 29, 1936. This document expressed the values and challenges of the modern means of communication. It highlights the role of communication in the structural church. The initiative of Church - owned parish cinemas to promote the film values through own movie houses is attributed to this encyclical. Two years before the publication of "Vigilanti Cura", the Vatican secretary of State sent a letter to the president of International Catholic Film Organization (OCIC founded in

1928); the letter was dated April 27, 1934. That time, this was considered a basic Church document on film. With this background, the Church's media houses have been making progressive strides to date.

The trend in Uganda has been rendered sluggish for various reasons: Political threats, intimidation and assassination. Thus, causing mix feelings and fear of venture. Film generally being an expensive venture scares many people from embracing it. It would take back space in the individual scale of preference.

Social Communications Media being what it is has not been on the top ladder. The Church in Uganda has always been confronted by more urgent needs. Thank God Communication sector is gradually taking shape. On considering the need for fore fronting, Catholic Journalists and Communication Practitioners have formed an Association of Catholic Communication Practitioners in Uganda (ACCPU). Having realized that Social Communications Media is an ideal tool for the Church to fos-

ter propagation of faith.

ACCPU which was launched on November 27, 2014 is the first Catholic Media Conglomerate in Uganda. Its country wide registration is still ongoing while it is out to establish partnership with sister organizations and organizing trainings to promote staff development. ACCPU aims at influencing the Church's ability to disseminate information by opening up a dynamic media house. It also looks forward to influence policy makers and address issues of national concern.

Jesus is the model of all Communicators who begun by revealing and communicating the truth about the character and mystery of God. He is the perfect communicator and the world leader whose teaching has remained unchallenged. He mandated His followers to go and make disciples of all the nations...Mt.28:19-20. In the same vein, ACCPU is the Catholic flag bearer taking upon herself this mandatory will of Jesus the leader of us all.

The Church has never been silent on matters of So-

cial Communication; as seen in production of basic documents for Social Communications. These include: Vigilanti Cura-Encyclical Letter of Pope Pius XI, 1936, Miranda Prorsus, Encyclical Letter of Pope Pius XII, 1957, Inter Mirifica, Vatican II Decree, 1963, Communion at Progressio, Pastoral Instruction, 1971, Aetatis Novae, Pastoral Instruction, 1992, Pornography and violence, Pastoral response, 1989, Criteria for ecumenical and interreligious Cooperation in Communications, 1989, Ethics in advertising, 1997, Guide to the training of future priests Concerning the instruments of Social Communication, 1986, Instructions on some aspects of the use of the Instruments of social communications in promoting the Doctrine of faith, 1992...and Pontifical messages on World Communications Day to date are being produced.

Conclusively, all are called to yield synergies to enable our common goal of teaching the nations as Christ the Communicator commands.

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