

KABALE DIOCESE CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH IN KIGEZI



Christians singing during the Mass. (INSET) Bishop Callist Rubaramira (Centre with a crosier), Archbishop Michael Blume (Centre -left) with other bishops and priests posing for a photo after Mass.

THOUSANDS of Christians from Kabale Diocese and beyond flocked to Rushoroza in Kabale district to celebrate 100 years of the Catholic Faith in Kigezi region, the 10th Episcopal Ordination Anniversary of Bishop Callist Rubaramira of Kabale Diocese, and the Year of Faith. The celebration that took place on Sunday, 11th August 2013, started with Mass presided over by His Lordship Callist Rubaramira. Among the concelebrants were, His Excellency Archbishop Michael August Blume, the Apostolic Nuncio to Uganda, His Grace Paul Bakyenga of Mbarara Archdiocese, Rt. Rev. Barnabas R. Halem'Imana, Bishop Emeritus of Kabale, Rt. Rev. John Baptist Kakubi, Bishop Emeritus of Mbarara, Rt. Rev. Egidio Nkaijanabwo of Kasese Diocese, Rt. Rev. Robert Muhirwa of Fort Portal Diocese, Rt. Rev. Henry Ssentongo of Moroto Diocese, Rt. Rev. Lambert Bainomugisha, Auxiliary Bishop of Mbarara Archdiocese/Apostolic Administrator of Hoima Diocese, and several priests.

In his homily, Bishop Callist narrated how the Catholic Faith reached Kigezi region

through the White Fathers and catechists from Buganda. He greatly appreciated their effort to bring the faith to the region amidst hardships such as, language barrier, absence of roads and mountainous terrain. He particularly praised the catechists, Yohana Sebalijja and Yohana Kitagana, who worked tirelessly and courageously in a hostile environment, traveling on foot amidst thorny bushes and some times in darkness. These catechists, who first settled in Nyarushanje in Rukungiri district upon their arrival from Buganda, visited families, taught catechism, reading and writing.

Bishop Rubaramira compared the coming of the missionaries to the region of Kigezi to the sending of Moses to Egypt to liberate the Israelites from slavery. He urged the people to receive, keep and proclaim the Word of God daily as they seek the Kingdom of Heaven. He challenged them to have faith like that of Abraham, who when called by God, did not look back but believed and followed the Lord.

The Prelate commended the White Fathers, the bishops who preceded him, the

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THE EDITORIAL



It is indeed a great joy and honour for me to write this very first editorial message for **New**

Contact, a news publication of Uganda Episcopal Conference (UEC). This publication is basically a revival of the Contact Magazine that UEC used to publish through its department of Social Communications. This explains the choice of the name **New Contact** for the new publication. Contact Magazine folded about ten years ago due to financial constraints.

New Contact has started as a monthly electronic publication, but will eventually be available as hard copy when funds permit. The publication has as its main aim to disseminate Catholic related information and news stories of national interest. In addition, the publication covers articles and commentaries on issues that promote evangelization and integral human development. These include issues of faith, morals, culture, health, education, business, environment, governance, justice and peace, to mention but a few.

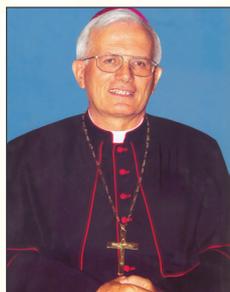
We invite our readers and well-wishers to contribute articles, commentaries, views and feedback geared towards the improvement of New Contact publication.

Enjoy and support New Contact!

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

New Contact is an electronic news bulletin of Uganda Episcopal Conference
Nsambya Hill, 672 Hanlon Road, P.O. Box 2886 Kampala, Uganda
Tel: +256-414-510570/0414-10544/0414-510571/0414-510398
Mobile Tel: +256-782746812
Fax: +256 414 510 545
E-mail: ucsnewcontact@gmail.com
Website: www.uecon.org

New Contact: **Why?**



“Go out to the peripheries of our society and world!”

This is the pressing invitation that Pope Francis keeps addressing

to all the members of the Catholic Church. The Church – he reminds us – is not meant to be a club, centred and closed in itself, mostly concerned with its own internal problems. We are called to reach out to all those who are “out there”, far from us in many different ways and for various reasons: the marginalized, the poor first of all, but also those who have lost interest in the Church, those who did not yet encounter Jesus and his gospel as important and relevant to their own life.

“New Contact”, the electronic news bulletin you are reading, is an attempt to get in touch and link up on the web with some of the people who are far, within and beyond the boundaries of our country:
- the Catholics in Uganda, who often do

not know what is happening in other dioceses of our country, within our common family, the Catholic Church in Uganda;

- other Christians and people of good will who may be interested in knowing better the real identity and activities of the Catholic Church, often distorted in secular media;
- Ugandans abroad, who would like to keep in contact with their home country and Church, as well as foreign friends, Church and civil organizations, NGOs... To all of them we would like to present an up to date image of what the Church is and does in our country, in communion and in touch with all our brothers and friends throughout the world.

As we embark on this venture, we invite you to come aboard. Keep in touch and contact us. We need you. Your contribution in news, reflections and suggestions will make of this bulletin the New Contact we all wish it to be ■

+ Joseph Franzelli
Chairman of Social Communications Commission Uganda Episcopal Conference

KABALE DIOCESE CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH IN KIGEZI

FROM PAGE 1

priests, the laity of Kabale Diocese and from other parts of Uganda and else where for all they have done for the diocese.

The celebrations marked under the theme, “Let us be renewed in Faith”, were graced by the presence of Rt Hon. Henry Muganwa Kajura, the Third Deputy Prime Minister who represented President Yoweri Museveni. Kajura applauded the Church for supplementing the efforts of the government in providing services to the people of Uganda, especially in the areas of education, health and poverty eradication. He called upon the Church to increase its effort in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Several Government Ministers, Members of Parliament and various political dignitaries from the region and beyond attended the celebration.

Kabale Diocese was erected on April 17 1966 being separated from Mbarara

Diocese which up to 1956 formed part of the Apostolic Vicariate of Rwenzori. On its inception as diocese, the Most Rev. Bishop Gervase Nkalanga of Bukoba Diocese, a native of Tanzania was appointed Apostolic Administrator of the newly erected diocese. Three years later, on August 1, 1969, Bishop Emeritus Barnabas R. Halem’Imana was appointed and consecrated as the first native Residential Bishop. He retired on July 15, 1994 and was succeeded by Bishop Emeritus Robert M. Gay, who was first appointed as Apostolic Administrator but was on March 9, 1996 ordained Bishop. He retired in 2003 and was succeeded by the current Bishop, Rt. Rev. Callist Rubaramira. He was ordained Bishop at Rushoroza on June 8, 2003. Kabale is a suffragan Diocese within the Archdiocese of Mbarara since 1999 ■ (Source: *KKRA Newsletter and www.uecon.org*)

ABOKE SEMINARY CELEBRATES **GOLDEN** JUBILEE



His Excellency Archbishop Michael A. Blume (centre), His Grace John B. Odama (centre-left), Rt. Rev. Joseph Franzelli (centre-right) with the seminarians of Aboke Seminary in traditional attire

HUNDREDS of faithful from Lira Diocese and former students of St. Joseph's Minor Seminary from all over the country converged at the Seminary in Aboke to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its existence. The event took place on 3rd August 2013. The occasion was marked by a Solemn Eucharistic celebration, followed by speeches and entertainment.

The Apostolic Nuncio to Uganda, Archbishop Michael August Blume, was the Chief Guest and he also presided

over the Mass. Present at the occasion were the Metropolitan Archbishop of Gulu, John Baptist Odama, the Bishop of Lira Diocese, Joseph Franzelli and Bishop Emeritus of Lira Diocese, Joseph Oyanga. The theme of the celebration was "Growing under Mary's and Joseph's watchful care".

In his homily, His Excellency Archbishop Blume spoke about the virtues of St. Joseph and entrusted the Seminary under his paternal protection. He shared some of his seminary

experiences with the seminarians and the faithful. He stressed that a seminary must be rooted in solid spiritual foundations because it is much more than an educational institution. It is, above all, a source of hope, love and pastoral care for the People of God.

St. Joseph's Seminary, located 35 km west of Lira, was founded by the Comboni Missionaries. Built in 1961 in Aboke, Oyam District, it started operating the following year. From 1963 onwards, the Marian Brothers joined the teaching staff of the seminary. In 1968, with the erection of Lira Diocese, Aboke Seminary became the diocesan minor seminary although it served other dioceses as well. Presently, it is a private O and A level Secondary School, registered with the Ministry of Education and Sports in Uganda.

The Seminary has 250 students, 24 teaching staff and 5 support staff. In its 50 years of existence, more than 1000 students have studied in this institution. A good number of them proceeded to the major seminary and are still serving the people of God in different dioceses of Uganda and South Sudan. Among the diocesan priests of Lira, 90% are graduates of St. Joseph's Seminary. The most prominent among its alumni is Bishop Sabino Ocan Odoki of Arua Diocese ■

(Source: Lira Diocese Communication Office)

VOCATIONS TO PRIESTHOOD ON **THE RISE IN SOROTI CATHOLIC DIOCESE**

By Fr. Robert Ecogu

ON SATURDAY, 17th August 2013, Soroti Catholic Diocese ordained six deacons and three priests, two diocesan and one missionary. This is the highest number of deacons and priests ordained in one single year since the creation of the diocese in 1981. The ordination ceremony, presided over by His Lordship Bishop Emmanuel Obbo, drew throngs of Christians from all directions of the diocese. Rev. Fr. Samuel Okiria from Ngora Parish, Rev. Fr. Samuel Ebietu from Soroti Cathedral Parish and Rev. Fr. Amos Michael Onyait (Clarecian



Candidates for the priesthood and diaconate during the Ordination Mass in Soroti. (INSET) Bishop Emmanuel Obbo of Soroti Catholic Diocese ordaining the candidates to the Priesthood and Diaconate.

VOCATIONS TO PRIESTHOOD ON THE RISE IN SOROTI CATHOLIC DIOCESE

FROM PAGE 3

Missionary) from Achumet Parish are the priestly fruits by the local Church of Soroti this year.

His Grace Archbishop Paul Bakyenga from Mbarara attended the ordination ceremony. He expressed profound joy at the depth and concreteness of faith demonstrated by the congregation during the ceremony. He regretted the sorry state of the Mbale- Soroti road, which he referred to as 'purgatory.' The

90km road has been under construction for over two years now.

The 32-year old Diocese of Soroti now boasts of 63 diocesan priests; 53 of these are working within the diocese and 10 are serving outside the diocese. This is still a very small number for the 20 parishes and chaplaincies, departments and institutions of the diocese. Some parishes still have only one priest. Many parishes are so large

that Christian communities are longing for the creation of new ones.

The Vocations Office has recorded the highest number of candidates in the major seminaries since the inception of the Diocese. The office is now grooming 57 major seminarians, including the six newly ordained deacons. The diocese appreciates this abundant harvest and hopes that the number will double within eight years ■

AMERICAN BISHOP JOSEPH NATHANIEL PERRY 'NSUBUGA' INITIATED INTO MAMBA CLAN

By Juliet Lukwago

AMERICAN Bishop, Joseph Nathaniel Perry Nsubuga (65) now belongs to the Mamba (Lung Fish) clan of the Baganda. He was initiated into Buganda's most populous clan by the clan head Gabunga, Mubiru Zziikwa, on 15th August 2013.

The colorful function was held at the residence of His Grace Dr. Cyprian Kizito Lwanga, the Archbishop of Kampala, who was the host. The function was graced by the Mamba clan Katikkiro, Dr. Adam Nsubuga Kimala, Prince David Wasajja and his wife (Omuzaana) Marion Wasajja and several priests.

The Man of God was taken through the rudiments of Mamba clan by the clan leader, Ggabuga, Mubiru Zzikwa, who also handed him a confirming letter. Bishop Perry will hence forth not eat lungfish. It is an abomination for the Baganda to eat their totem.

At the function, the Mamba Katikkiro Dr. Kimala announced the new member and grandson (Muzzukulu) to Gabunga and welcomed him thus: "I am happy that the Mamba clan has got a new member from the United States of America (USA), and I thank the Archbishop, Dr Lwanga, who chose the name Nsubuga for the new member." Dr. Kimala told him that each clan in Buganda has its cultural norms

I AM VERY HAPPY TO RECEIVE YOU INTO OUR CLAN. I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT FROM TODAY ONWARDS YOU WILL ENJOY BEING WITH US AFTER THIS OFFICIAL INITIATION INTO THE CLAN.

- Gabunga Zziikwa -



Bishop Joseph Nathaniel Perry Nsubuga receiving a gift from His Grace Dr. Cyprian K. Lwanga

"bulombolombo" and leaders like Gabunga who link the clan members to the Kabaka. In the Baganda culture, if the members hear their clan icon "omubala", which is sounded in drums, they immediately have to gather to see what is happening in their clan. The Mamba drum icon was sounded by one of the clan members during the function to demonstrate to the new member, Perry Nsubuga, with the words accompanying it thus: "Sirya Mamba, Amazzi Nnywa..." (I do not eat lung fish, I drink water...) as one of the Buganda cultural rites.

The Gabunga Zziikwa thanked Archbishop Lwanga, who is also a Mamba clan member, for introducing into the clan a new member, who became a Muzzukulu in their clan. "As the head of the Mamba clan (Lungfish) of Buganda, I am very happy

to receive you into our clan. I want to assure you that from today onwards you will enjoy being with us after this official initiation into the clan", the Gabunga said ■

Who is Bishop Joseph Nathaniel Perry

BISHOP Joseph Nathaniel Perry is the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago, Vicar for Vicariate VI. He was born on April 18, 1948 at Chicago, Illinois, to the late Joseph Perry and Mary Young-Perry.

He was ordained a priest on May 24, 1975, for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. He served as a priest in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee from 1975 to 1998. He received Episcopal Ordination on June 29, 1998, at Chicago, Illinois.

MBARARA ARCHDIOCESE ELECTS NEW MEMBERS FOR THE LAY APOSTOLATE COUNCIL

By Sr. Mary Germina Keneema

ON 4th September 2013, the Archdiocese of Mbarara elected new members for its Lay Apostolate Council. The election took place after a three-day workshop and annual general meeting at St. Joseph Vocational School in Mbarara.

Mr. Gervaze Ndyanabo was elected chairman for the Council, replacing Professor Peter Kasenene who has held the position for nine years.

The other persons elected to the Council include: Mr. Bavis Bitarinsha (Vice Chairman), Mr. Dan Tamwesigire (Secretary), Mrs. Angel Keminyeto Byarugaba (Vice Secretary), Mr. Leo Beyagira (Treasurer), Mrs. Lucy Nyehangane (Women Representative), and the members are Mr. Mary Darlson Barugahare for Ntungamo, Mr. Chris Tibanyendera Kafura for Ibanda, Engineer John Twesigye for Bushenyi,



His Grace Paul Bakyenga and the newly elected Lay Apostolate Council members

Mr. Polly Turambure for Mbarara.

The theme of the workshop was, The Mission of Jesus in the Archdiocese of Mbarara. The workshop was opened by Archbishop Paul K Bakyenga on 2nd September 2013 and he closed it on 4th September 2013. It was attended by more than 140 people who included priests, parish chairpersons, women and youth representatives, head catechists,

religious and opinion leaders.

In his closing remarks, the Archbishop commended the work done by the lay people to make the Catholic Church grow in Mbarara Archdiocese. He thanked them for their contribution which made this year's Uganda Martyrs Celebration at Namugongo a success. He also announced that the Archdiocese of Mbarara will have

a Diocesan Synod next year.

The workshop was organized by the Diocesan Office of Lay Apostolate and the facilitators came from Kampala. Some of the topics discussed include: the mission of Jesus Christ, the leadership mindset and the role of the leader, dealing with alcoholism, church structures and economic emancipation ■

Tree Planting Project of Aripea Parish in Arua Diocese

By Asindua Morris

The Christians of St. Peter Claver Parish, Aripea, in Arua Diocese have embarked on a massive tree planting project to address the environmental challenges in their area. The project is a brain child of the parish priest, Fr. Stanley Candia, and is greatly supported by the Finance, Planning and Development committee of the parish.

So far, the Christians have planted trees covering about 3 hectares of the parish land. Some of the trees have been planted along the borders of the parish land to serve as border points. The tree species planted

include mahogany, mvule, rose wood, eucalyptus, spruce, and pine.

Fr Stanley intimated that the tree planting project was of great importance because it will help in controlling soil erosion, improving soil fertility, protecting houses against strong winds, providing wood fuel, generating income for the parish, and modifying the local climate by attracting rain.

The parish Finance, Planning and Development committee chairman, Mr. Ecea Remijo, urged the Christians within and outside the parish to own the project and ensure its success. The tree seedlings were provided by Christians of good will.

The LC3 chairman for Aa-vu sub-county, Mr. Afadiayo James, pledged to support the project of tree planting in the parish. It is expected that the vegetation cover of Aripea Parish will improve in the next four years ■

SO FAR, THE CHRISTIANS HAVE PLANTED TREES COVERING ABOUT 3 HECTARES OF THE PARISH LAND.

THE POPE CONVOKES A DAY OF PRAYER AND PENANCE FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

VATICAN CITY: *On Sunday, 1st September 2013, Pope Francis launched a heartfelt appeal for peace in Syria, expressing his pain and concern regarding the conflict and asking the concerned parties and the international community to embark on the path of negotiation, setting aside partisan interests. His plea was made during the Angelus prayer at St. Peter's Square, in the presence of thousands of faithful. We offer below the full text of the Holy Father's homily:*

Today, dear brothers and sisters, I wish to add my voice to the cry which rises up with increasing anguish from every part of the world, from every people, from the heart of each person, from the one great family which is humanity: it is the cry for peace! It is a cry which declares with force: we want a peaceful world, we want to be men and women of peace, and we want in our society, torn apart by divisions and conflict, that peace break out! War never again! Never again war! Peace is a precious gift, which must be promoted and protected.

There are so many conflicts in this world which cause me great suffering and worry, but in these days my heart is deeply wounded in particular by what is happening in Syria and anguished by the dramatic developments which are looming.

I appeal strongly for peace, an appeal which arises from the deep within me. How much suffering, how much devastation, how much pain has the use of arms carried in its wake in that martyred country, especially among civilians and the unarmed! I think of many children who will not see the light of the future! With utmost firmness I condemn the use of chemical weapons: I tell you that those terrible images from recent days are burned into my mind and heart. There is a judgment of God and of history upon our actions which are inescapable! Never has the use of violence brought peace in its wake. War begets war, violence begets violence.

With all my strength, I ask each party in this conflict to listen to the voice of their own conscience, not to close themselves in solely on their own

interests, but rather to look at each other as brothers and decisively and courageously to follow the path of encounter and negotiation, and so overcome blind conflict.

With similar vigour I exhort the international community to make every effort to promote clear proposals for peace in that country without further delay, a peace based on dialogue and negotiation, for the good of the entire Syrian people.

May no effort be spared in guaranteeing humanitarian assistance to those wounded by this terrible conflict, in particular those forced to flee and the many refugees in nearby countries. May humanitarian workers, charged with the task of alleviating the sufferings of these people, be granted access so as to provide the necessary aid.

What can we do to make peace in the world? As Pope John said, it pertains to each individual to establish new relationships in human society under the mastery and guidance of justice and love (cf. John XXIII, *Pacem in Terris*, [11 April 1963]: AAS 55, [1963], 301-302). All men and women of good will are bound by the task of pursuing peace. I make a forceful and urgent call to the entire Catholic Church, and also to every Christian of other confessions, as well as to followers of every religion and to those brothers and sisters who do not believe: peace is a good which overcomes every barrier, because it belongs all of humanity!

I repeat forcefully: it is neither a culture of confrontation nor a culture of conflict which builds harmony within and between peoples, but rather a culture of encounter and a culture of dialogue; this is the only way to peace. May the plea for peace rise up and



Pope Francis

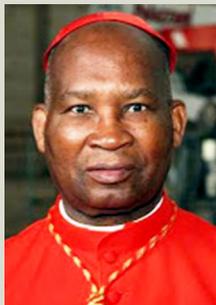
touch the heart of everyone so that they may lay down their weapons and let themselves be led by the desire for peace.

To this end, brothers and sisters, I have decided to proclaim for the whole Church on 7 September next, the vigil of the birth of Mary, Queen of Peace, a day of fasting and prayer for peace in Syria, the Middle East, and throughout the world, and I also invite each person, including our fellow Christians, followers of other religions and all men of good will, to participate, in whatever way they can, in this initiative.

On 7 September, in Saint Peter's Square, here, from 19:00 until 24:00, we will gather in prayer and in a spirit of penance, invoking God's great gift of peace upon the beloved nation of Syria and upon each situation of conflict and violence around the world. Humanity needs to see these gestures of peace and to hear words of hope and peace! I ask all the local churches, in addition to fasting, that they gather to pray for this intention.

Let us ask Mary to help us to respond to violence, to conflict and to war, with the power of dialogue, reconciliation and love. She is our mother: may she help us to find peace; all of us are her children! Help us, Mary, to overcome this most difficult moment and to dedicate ourselves each day to building in every situation an authentic culture of encounter and peace. Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us! ■

THE DEATH OF HIS EMINENCE MEDARDO CARDINAL JOSEPH MAZOMBWE



His Eminence Mazombwe

ON THURSDAY, 29 August 2013, the Catholic Church in Zambia was befallen with the sad news about the death of their senior prelate, His Eminence Medardo Cardinal Joseph Mazombwe. The Cardinal

Archbishop Emeritus of Lusaka passed away in Lusaka's University Teaching Hospital (UTH) and was buried on Tuesday, 3 September 2013 at the Cathedral of the Child Jesus. He died of cancer.

Cardinal Mazombwe was born on 24 September 1931 at Katete in the Eastern Province of Zambia. He was ordained a Catholic priest on 4 September 1960 and became Bishop of Chipata Diocese on 7 February 1971. Between 1996 and 2006, he was the Archbishop of Lusaka until his retirement in 2006.

On 30 November 2010 the then Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI created the Emeritus Archbishop of Lusaka, Medardo Joseph Mazombwe, as Zambia's first indigenous Cardinal, at a public consistory held in St. Peter's Basilica, at the Vatican.

Cardinal Mazombwe has held several senior positions in the local and regional Church, such as Zambia Episcopal President (1972 – 1975; 1988 – 1990 and 1999 – 2002); and as Chairman of the regional conferences of the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa (A.M.E.C.E.A.) (1979 – 1986).

In the months leading to the year 2000, Cardinal Mazombwe, as Archbishop of Lusaka, was an ardent campaigner for the cancellation of Zambia's international debt, in the Jubilee 2000 movement. Most visible among some of his numerous pastoral initiatives, is the sprawling Cathedral of the Child Jesus (Pope Square) in Lusaka.

Cardinal Mazombwe's optimism and courage in the face of Cancer inspired many that visited him in the last twelve months. Even as he grew weak, Cardinal Mazombwe never gave up his passion for the affairs of the Church and the nation ■

(Source: Zambia Episcopal Conference)

Archbishop Parolin Named Secretary of State

(Source: Zenit.org)

VATICAN CITY: On Saturday, 31 August 2013, The Holy Father accepted, in keeping with Canon 354 of the Code of Canon Law, the resignation of Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, his Secretary of State, asking him, however, to remain in office until 15 October, 2013, with all the faculties proper to the office.

At the same time, the Holy Father has named Archbishop Pietro Parolin, Apostolic Nuncio to Venezuela, as the new Secretary of State. He shall take possession of his office on 15 October, 2013.

On that occasion, His Holiness shall receive in audience Superiors and Officials of the Secretariat of State,



Archbishop Parolin (left) being greeted by the Pope

in order publicly to thank Cardinal Bertone for his faithful and generous service to the Holy See, and to introduce them to the new Secretary of State.

Archbishop Parolin, who is now 58 years old, was born in Vicenza, Italy, on 17 June 1955. He has vast experience in the Holy See's diplomatic service, which he began in 1986 as part of the Pontifical representation in Nigeria. In 1989 he was posted to Mexico. From 1992 he worked in the Secretariat of State for 17 years, before being sent to Venezuela in 2009 as Apostolic Nuncio ■

UN Dedicates International Day of Charity to Blessed Mother Teresa

ON 5th September 2013, the United Nations (UN) commemorated the anniversary of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta by declaring September 5th as the International Day of Charity.

According to the UN website, the initiative was proposed by Hungary, "with the goal of creating a universal platform to raise awareness about the importance of benevolent giving." The UN headquarters in New York will commemorate the day with panel discussions that will highlight the role of charity in alleviating poverty and promoting access to clean water and sanitation in the world.

"On this International Day of Charity, the United Nations invites all Member States and all international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-

governmental organizations and individuals, to commemorate the Day in an appropriate manner, by encouraging charity, including through education and public awareness-raising activities," the UN stated in a communiqué.

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who passed away on September 5th, 1997, worked tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of the poor in the streets of Calcutta. The order she founded, the Missionaries of Charity, was established in 1950 and spread all over the world to serve "the poorest of the poor."

Blessed Mother Teresa was beatified on October 19th, 2003 by Blessed Pope John Paul II ■

(Source: Zenit.org)



WORLD YOUTH DAY 2013 NEWS IN BRIEF

UGANDAN YOUTH PARTICIPATE IN THE WORLD YOUTH DAY CELEBRATIONS IN BRAZIL

(Source: Uganda Episcopal Conference)



Ugandan Youth who traveled to Brazil being flagged off by Msgr. John B. Kauta

A GROUP of over 30 Ugandan youth, chaplains and animators participated in the 28th World Youth Day celebration which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 22nd to 29th July 2013.

The delegation that was flagged off on 16th July 2013 by the Secretary General of Uganda Episcopal Conference, Msgr. John Baptist Kauta, comprised of 4 animators from Uganda Catholic Secretariat, chaplains and youth from the dioceses of Arua (4), Kabale (1), Kampala (13), Kotido (1), Lugazi (1), Moroto (1), Nebbi (4), and Soroti (1). Another group of the Neocatechumenal Way from Uganda traveled to Brazil a week later.

The Uganda team animated various Masses and para-liturgical activities during the Mission Week in the diocese of Cachoeiro, sharing faith experiences

and giving talks about the Catholic Church in Uganda. They also participated in the catechises organized for the youth in the different dioceses of Brazil. The catechism topics included, "Thirsting for God", "Being a disciple of Jesus", "Go forth and make disciples".

The team had the opportunity to visit various places of tourist attraction, including the Cathedral of Sao Sebastiao, Mountains of the Birds, and the monument of Christ the Redeemer. This monument is the best known symbol of Rio de Janeiro and it was inaugurated in 1931. It is the image of the faith of the people of Rio and has a sanctuary where missionaries are carrying out evangelization work.

According to Fr. Alfred Kotol, the Youth Chaplain of Moroto Diocese, the people of Brazil are "friendly, simple and hospital right from the laity to the

priests and bishops". He was touched by the commitment of the Catholics in Brazil to their faith.

"My impression of the Catholic faith in Brazil is that the people try to live what they believe in, which is evidenced in places of prayer, in the homes and places of work, participation in the small Christian communities and in the Sunday Masses", Fr Kotol observed.

He describes the final day of the World Youth Day as "ambivalent, full of joys and sadness". Meeting and celebrating mass with Pope Francis and having to leave the beautiful Copacabana beach, the city of Rio, departing from friends, families and all the places in which the youth were hosted, was quite an experience for Fr Kotol ■

ZERO POVERTY CANNOT BE FOUGHT SINGLE HANDEDLY: **CARITAS UGANDA** EXPERIENCE



CARITAS UGANDA is the social pastoral arm of the Catholic Church in Uganda and stakeholder member of Caritas Internationalis confederation and Caritas Africa Region commission. It is the voice of the voiceless and disadvantaged members of society; promoting integrated development, rehabilitation, peace building and reconciliation; all done through advocacy.

With support from different partners, Caritas Uganda has promoted the dignity of the human person through the above programme. One such partners is Caritas Denmark, which has committed itself to fund the Uganda Governance and Poverty Alleviation programme (UGOPAP); which is a three year joint Caritas Denmark/DANIDA supported programme with an aim of improving livelihoods through Civil Society strengthening, good governance, increased food security and incomes through sustainable and market oriented agricultural production and advocacy. Despite the millennium Development Goal number 1 "Eradicate Extreme Poverty and half Hunger by 2015", Caritas' long experience of working with rural people reveals that governance in Africa is inter-twined and is a perpetuator of poverty, which must be fought by putting in place and implementing the principles of good governance.

It is on that background that caritas Uganda saw a need to partner with other civil society organizations through the Uganda Farmers Common voice Platform; with the major aim of amplifying the small holder farmers'



Uganda Governance and Poverty alleviation Programme Management Committee members pose for a photo with Caritas Denmark team after a meeting held in Pope Paul Memorial Hotel-Kampala



Members of the Uganda Farmers Common Voice Platform Participate during the platform Meeting held at Pope Paul Memorial Hotel-Kampala

advocacy issues for redress by the decision makers. The Common Voice Platform that was born in 2012 has agreed on the following as its Vision, Mission and Objectives;

Vision:

A Poverty-free and well governed society where farmers' rights and aspirations are fulfilled.

Mission:

To be a collective voice of farmers and CSOs that influence decision making for pro-small holder farmer policies.

Objectives

- To improve public and private sector finance for agriculture
- To improve agriculture research, documentation and dissemination

- To influence pro small holder farmer policies at local, national and international levels

Values and Principles

- Transparency and Accountability
- Respect for human dignity
- Equity and Equality
- Collective responsibility & solidarity
- Integrity

Thematic areas

- Marketing and Agricultural financing
- Climate Change and Environment
- Research & Innovations
- Information (IEC) & policy Advocacy

Activities

- Discuss strategic policy issues regarding sustainable agriculture in Uganda using different media for wider publicity.
- Document evidence based advocacy issues on agriculture and poverty reduction and disseminate such research findings to the different stakeholders and decision makers.

- Engage in dialogue meetings with relevant authorities on harmonized issues affecting the small holder farmers in Uganda.
- Conduct strategic planning meetings for the platform to review performance and generate advocacy issues unto the agenda for engagement periodically.
- Coordination and information sharing among platform members and with other existing networks.
- Translating relevant publications in local languages to enable the farmers understand better.

*By: Aguti Betty Rose
Policy and Advocacy Specialist
Caritas Uganda
agutib@yahoo.com/baguti@caritasuganda.org.ug*

AIDS Care and Treatment Program (ACT)

By Mr. Ronald Kamara

THE UGANDA EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE (UEC) through its department of Uganda Catholic Medical Bureau is implementing the HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment (ACT) Program. The program, which is supported by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is providing comprehensive and quality services to people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS through the Church's health care network.

The program provides critical and innovative HIV services through the Health facilities by investing in health workforce training and retention, mobilizing community-level actors for peer education, referral to clinical services and PLHIV and orphan and vulnerable children (OVC) support, and improving infrastructure, management and governance in the facilities. Other

services offered by the program include safe medical circumcision (SMC), HIV counseling and testing (HCT), ART, elimination of mother to child transmission (eMTCT) and laboratory services. These facilities are: Nsambya Hospital, Kamwokya Christian Caring community, Nyenga hospital, Nkozi hospital, Villa-Maria hospital, Virika hospital, Kyamuhunga Comboni hospital, Kasanga Primary Health Centre, St Mary Hospital, Lacor, St Joseph's Hospital, Aber hospital, Kalongo hospital, Lubaga Hospital, Angal Hospital, Kisubi Hospital, Bishop Asili Hospital, Kitovu Hospital and Naggalama Hospital. Currently, the program supports close to

THE ACT PROGRAM WAS TRANSITIONED FROM A CONSORTIUM OF U.S. ORGANIZATIONS TO THE UEC IN THE SPIRIT OF PROMOTING LOCAL OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF HIV/AIDS PROGRAMS.

40,000 people, ten percent of whom are children, with ART services.

The ACT Program was transitioned from a consortium of U.S. organizations to the UEC in the spirit of promoting local ownership and management of HIV/AIDS programs. In the same spirit of transitioning, the UEC has now expanded the supported facilities from the initial 12 to 18 with varying levels of support that enables the facilities to provide HIV/AIDS services to people in need irrespective of color, creed and any other considerations.

Moving forward, the UEC anticipates supporting additional facilities to provide quality HIV/AIDS services to God's people through the ACT program. The program remains committed to providing comprehensive prevention, care and treatment services in order to enhance their quality of life ■

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GRAPPLING WITH **THE ENVIRONMENT** IN KARAMOJA

By Fr. Alfred Kotol



Sacks of charcoal for sale at a roadside in Moroto

ON THE SIXTH DAY of creation, when God finished to create man, we are told that He blessed them and said, 'Be fruitful, multiply and subdue the earth' (Gen.1, 28). Many people have given subjective interpretation to these verses as a licence to produce as many children as possible and even to use the resources (natural) the way they want and yet we should be honest and faithful stewards of creation. Such literal interpretations have had and are having adverse effects among the Karamojong community.

Karamoja is blessed with good savannah vegetation and a variety of natural trees which cannot be replicated. These trees are resistant to drought, such as the "ekoreto" which are being depleted because they make very good charcoal.

A case in point is Nakapiripirit district and indeed most of the districts in the Karamoja sub-region, where there is rampant cutting down of trees for fuel

in form of firewood and charcoal. It is very common to see trucks loaded with charcoal, which is transported out of Karamoja to the neighbouring districts and sold even to the Kampala markets where huge profits are realised.

One may wonder why this trade has taken on such a trend to the extent that businessmen from neighbouring districts have pitched camp in the bushes of Karamoja with electric saws. It has become a huge source of income at the expense of the ecosystem which is being destroyed and yet very few trees are being planted. On average, a bag of charcoal in Karamoja is sold at 10,000/=, but it is sold in the neighbouring districts between 60,000/= and 100,000/=.

To make matters worse, it looks like the district authorities are not bothered to put checks on such trade whose impact is both short-term and long-term. This will lead to desertification, drought and

will definitely affect the climate as well.

It is important that the people are taught alternative sources of income and livelihoods. We have many development partners and organizations as well as churches working in the region, that should be tasked to channel their resources on afforestation, income generating activities, saving schemes, and mechanised agriculture. The local government should also come up with by-laws that are environment friendly and make sure that they are implemented ■

KARAMOJA IS BLESSED WITH GOOD SAVANNAH VEGETATION AND A VARIETY OF NATURAL TREES WHICH CANNOT BE REPLICATED. THESE TREES ARE RESISTANT TO DROUGHT, SUCH AS THE "EKORETO" WHICH ARE BEING DEPLETED BECAUSE THEY MAKE VERY GOOD CHARCOAL.

THE CHURCH AND **PREFERENTIAL OPTION FOR THE POOR**

By Sr. Dominic Dipio (MSMMC)



Sr. Angela Limio (MSMMC) in one of her health and hygiene classes among the Toposa of South Sudan.

CHRISTIANS are often described as a "Pilgrim Church" because their life is characterized by "motion". Motion is an essential quality of discipleship as seen in Christ's command to, "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). This is where Christians get their "missionary" mandate. This characteristic journey may be physical, as when a follower travels to declare God's love to those who knowingly or unknowingly thirst for it; or it may be intentional, as when one prays for the success of the Mission that all humankind experience God's love. A Christian is positioned to be "borderless" in sharing God's love.

Indeed, the Good News that we are called to proclaim with our lives is meant to be an integral one, leading to the development of the whole person: mind, soul and body. This is what it means, when Jesus said, "I have come that you may have life unto the fullest" (John 10:10). In the context of our continent, still deeply marked by the margin between the minority rich and majority poor in accessing the basic conveniences of life, the Church's categorical "preferential option for the

poor" could not be more relevant.

The Missionary Sisters of Mary Mother of the Church, a locally founded religious congregation in the 1970s, by Bishop Caesar Asili, respond to this categorical call of sharing God's love through their apostolate that often take them to those on the periphery in the social hierarchy. The ministry of the Sisters among the Toposa of South Sudan – nursing, teaching and sharing lives – is the Good News. Entering into the cultures of the people in order to share God's love creates opportunity for deep communication and enhances the dignity of the people the Sisters relate with. Christ, who embraces us as we are in order to enter into a relationship with us, before he challenges our cultures with the transcendental values of Christianity, is the model for the Sisters in their apostolate.

Cultural diversity and uniqueness need to be experienced as treasures rather than hindrances to communication, for at the level of values human beings have a great deal in common. The principle of solidarity and inter-dependence express our

essential reliance on each other. The analogy of the body is often used to stress our indispensable unity. When one part is lacking, the healthy parts must fight to save the entire body from peril. The Social Teachings of the Church underscores the responsibility of each member to commit to the holistic development and progress of the human person. Therefore, staying aloof and non-committal in safeguarding the rights and uplifting the dignity of the less advantaged in our society is counter to the Kingdom Values.

This is a responsibility on every Christian, for we are each connected with the other's history and well-being although we are not often conscious of this.

A CHRISTIAN IS POSITIONED TO BE "BORDERLESS" IN SHARING GOD'S LOVE.

INDEED, THE GOOD NEWS THAT WE ARE CALLED TO PROCLAIM WITH OUR LIVES IS MEANT TO BE AN INTEGRAL ONE, LEADING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WHOLE PERSON: MIND, SOUL AND BODY.

In this global era of fluid cultural sharing, migrations and immigrations, this need for solidarity is more urgent than ever. We cannot be "alright" in our little comfort zones. We can only do well by doing the kind of good that elevates the overall human dignity of the other. Where the materially poor abound in a potentially rich community it is, perhaps, an indicator that social justice needs to be addressed. The Church's Preferential Option for the Poor is our categorical call as Christians ■

