

Salva Kiir: I trembled when the Pope kissed our feet

» VATICAN Page 16



NEW CONTACT

A publication of the Uganda Episcopal Conference

ISSUE 2 VOL 7

PRICE: USHS 2,000

MAY 2019

CATHOLIC COMMUNICATORS COMMEMORATE 53RD WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY



Sr. Euniah Moraa carrying the "Communication Drum" during the entrance procession of the Mass to commemorate the 53rd WCD at Our Lady of Lourdes Bujumbura Cathedral Parish, Hoima Diocese Story on Page 3

PHOTO BY JACINTA W. ODONGO

Inside

Catholic media decry high broadcasting license fees, call for urgent reform

»Page 5



Archbishop Odama appeals for public support of shs900m towards 2019 Martyrs Day

»Page 10

Christ is Alive: Calling youth to keep faith alive

»Page 11

Catholic Church in Tanzania mourns the death of two Catholic bishops

»Page 14



DIVINE HOLYLAND EXPERIENCE

EGYPT, JORDAN & ISRAEL
1st to 10th August

ONLY 2550\$ Per Tour

DIVINE HOLY LAND SITES

- Mt. of Temptation
- Mt Carmel
- Garden of Gethemene
- Mt Transfiguration
- Church of All Nations
- Mt of Olives
- Pools Of Beatitudes
- Mt of Beatitudes
- Via Dolorosa
- Mt Zion
- Cana
- Mary's Well
- Uper Room
- Nazareth
- Garden Tomb
- Sea Galilee Boat Ride
- Church of Multiplication
- Plam Sunday Road
- Dead sea
- Sycamore tree
- Western wall
- The shepherd's field
- Church Of Holy Sepulchral
- River Jordan Baptism site
- Banias, Caesarea Philipi
- Jericho
- Pyramids and sphinx of Giza
- Red Sea Close Over
- Virgin Mary church
- Mt Sinai
- Burning Bush

10 DAYS ISRAEL- HOLY MISSION

MT.SINAI RED SEA EGYPT TO JORDAN EXPERIENCE

TOURS EVERY MONTHLY

ONLY 2300\$ Per Tour

DIVINE HOLY LAND SITES

- Pyramids and sphinx of Giza - (Egypt)
- River Nile Cruise - (Egypt)
- Red Sea - (Egypt)
- Virgin Mary church - (Egypt)
- Mt Sinai - (Egypt)
- Burning Bush - (Egypt)
- Petra - (Jordan)
- Madaba - (Jordan)
- Mt. Nebo - (Jordan)

10 DAYS ISRAEL- HOLY MISSION

EGYPT - ISRAEL HOLYLAND EXPERIENCE

1st to 10th December

ONLY 2500\$ Per Tour

TOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES

- Visa & Broader taxes
- Return Air ticket
- Accommodation (4/3' Hotels)
- Visiting Agriculture Sites
- Renewal of the wedding vows at the church of Cana
- Celebrating Ministerial Anniversaries
- Luxury air-conditioned Buses with expert driver.
- Services of top - level Israel English Speaking Guide.
- Three Heavy meals daily (Breakfast, Lunch & Supper)
- Entrance fees into all sites and attractions as per Itinerary
- Full backing of Wide travel deals support staff to ensure smooth running of the trip and real time response to any unforeseen disturbances
- A welcome packet for each Guest including (maps, pens, and more)
- Renewal of baptism at river Jordan
- Dedication of children

DISCOUNT ON AIR TICKET

20%

OTHER SERVICES

- AIR TICKETING
- INSURANCE
- VISA ASSISTANCE
- TOUR PACKAGES
- AIRPORT PICK UPS & TRANSFERS
- CAR HIRE
- HONEY MOON
- HOTEL BOOKING
- BRIDAL FLEET /CARS

Wide Travel Deals International Ltd

Mobile: +256757987189, +256772346381, Tel: (+256) 0414660721
Buganda Rd Flats Block 660 Next to Buganda Rd Primary
Email: travel@widetraveldeals.com
Website: www.widetraveldeals.com

Editorial

This year marks the 53rd World Communications Day (WCD) celebrated under the theme, "We are members one of another" (Eph 4:25). From social network communities to the human community". The WCD is always celebrated on the Sunday before Pentecost (Ascension Sunday) and this year it falls on 2nd June. It provides us an opportunity to reflect on our responsibilities in the communication apostolate, to pray for its success, and to make financial contribution to support it. It is also a day to appreciate and honour all the people who are committed to serving our society through the media.

The Holy Father Pope Francis in his message for us this year's WCD highlights the important role of social networks in promoting human interaction and solidarity while also noting the risks entailed. There is no doubt that social networks, if well used bring us together and help us to know each other and share information among other things; yet they can also be instruments of manipulation, division, hatred, isolation and individualism. The Pope calls upon us to use the Social networks for positive encounters and to ensure that they are a true resource for humanity. Our interactions in the social networks should indeed promote our oneness and should be characterized by mutual respect, truthfulness and care for one another.

As Catholic communicators, we are challenged to be at the forefront in promoting the positive aspects of social networks. We should use them to connect people by sharing information and experiences that build the person and the community, and this should be done in a spirit of dialogue and mutual respect.

Fr. Philip Odii
Editor/Executive Secretary of
Social Communications

Catholic communicators commemorate 53rd World Communications Day

By Jacinta W. Odongo Media Officer, Uganda Episcopal Conference

On May 12, 2019, Catholic communicators from across the country converged at Our Lady of Lourdes-Bujumbura Cathedral in the Diocese of Hoima, to commemorate at the national level the 53rd World Communication Day (WCD).

The WCD is annually celebrated worldwide in the Catholic Church on Sunday before Pentecost, which this year falls on June 2. However, the communicators in Uganda held their national celebration in anticipation.

This year's celebration began at 9.30am with a procession of bishops, priests and communicators who included journalists, heads of various social communications departments and commissions from the 19 Dioceses in the country. Neither rain nor the chilly weather dampened the spirit of the faithful who came in large numbers to join in the celebration. The Bishop Chairman of Social Communications Commission of the Uganda Episcopal Conference (UEC), Rt. Rev. Joseph Franzelli also the Bishop Emeritus of Lira and Rt. Rev. Vincent Kirabo, Bishop of Hoima Diocese who was the main celebrant, were in attendance.

The celebration was held under the theme of "We are Members One of Another" (Eph 4:25). From Social Network communities to the Human Community" as guided by the message of Pope Francis for the occasion.

In his homily, Bishop Kirabo said WCD is an annual celebration that encourages believers to reflect on the opportunities and challenges that the modern means of social communication, afford the Church to communicate the gospel of the message.

"This is a day when we pray for the Church in her mission to evangelize," Bishop Kirabo said adding "The church also invites us to generously support Church media projects and more so financially for purposes of evangelization."

Reflecting on the 2019 WCD message of Pope Francis, the Bishop noted that Pope Francis invites us to reflect on the foundation and importance of community, teamwork and unity. "The Holy Father recognizes the desires of each one of us to be in communion with one another and not to be left isolated or alone. Therefore, in order to communicate effectively we need to work together and transform the

society."

Bishop Franzelli in his speech, called for unity and collaboration of different stakeholders for the positive growth of the country.

"Let us pray for one another, listen to each other and strive to be one without forgetting to support our own Catholic media houses. Communication is in the DNA of the Church and the

church is there to communicate so let's pray for our media," Bishop Franzelli added.

Speaking during the celebration, the Executive Secretary of the UEC Social Communications Department, Rev. Fr Philip Odii, appealed to the government through the ministers present at the celebration, to revise the high broadcasting license fees imposed on FM radio stations and televisions by the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC).

"As a representative of the Catholic media institutions in Uganda, I request you to look into the issue of the broadcasting license fees for our radios which have been raised by over 300% in 2017," Fr. Odii stated.

Some of the ministers in attendance were the Finance Minister, Hon. Matia Kasaija and the Minister for Information and Communication Technology, Frank Tumwebaze, who was represented by the Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Vincent Bagjiire, as the Guest of Honour.

As part of the WCD celebration, the day was marked with a range of activities including a fund-raising drive for the communications apostolate and a hand-over ceremony of the communication drum to the communicators of Kotido Diocese, who will host the 2020 WCD celebration. It wrapped up with a tree planting session and an exhibition of local products and services from Hoima Diocese.

The 53rd WCD celebration was one of the activities that were held during the 2019 Annual Communication Week from May 7-13. Others are: the Social Communications Annual General Meeting and workshop held under the theme of 'Networking for Effective Communication and Resource Mobilization'.

The week-long event was organized by the Social Communications Department of the UEC in collaboration with the Diocese of Hoima.

Pictorial: Catholic communicators commemorate 53rd World Communications Day



The communicators (standing left front row) alongside the faithful including choir members during the 2019 WCD celebration



The Finance Minister, Hon. Matia Kasaija (left) and the State Minister for Public Service David Karubanga (right) attending the WCD celebration



Bishop Kirabo presents certificates of participation to the communicators



A participant from Kotido Diocese displays the communications drum after receiving it from the communicators of Hoima Diocese. Kotido Diocese was chosen to lead the 2020 WCD celebration



A child with traditional dancers entertain guests during the exhibition at the WCD celebration



The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry for Information and Communication Technology, Vincent Bagiire, planting a tree to mark the celebration. Bagiire represented the Minister for Information and Communication Technology, Frank Tumwebaze as the Guest of Honour

Catholic media decry high broadcasting license fees, call for urgent reform



Participants of the 2019 Communications Week pose for a group photo at Glory Summit hotel in Hoima Diocese

By Jacinta W. Odongo

The Catholic communicators in Uganda have expressed concern over the high broadcasting license fees imposed on FM radio stations and televisions by the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC).

The communicators appealed to the government and called for urgent reform of the broadcasting license fees during the 2019 World Communications Day celebration on May 12, at Our Lady of Lourdes-Bujumbura Cathedral in the Diocese of Hoima.

The Executive Secretary of the Social Communications Department of Uganda Episcopal Conference, Rev. Fr. Philip Odii said that the license fees is costly, thus Catholic radios across the country are financially constrained among other factors.

"These media institutions promote the pastoral ministry of the Church and strive to contribute towards the socio-economic growth and transformation of the country," Fr. Odii said in his speech.

"As a representative of the Catholic media institutions in Uganda, I request you to look into the issue of the broadcasting license fees for our radios which have been raised by over 300% in 2017," he added

Fr. Odii made the appeal to the gov-



Fr. Philip Odii addresses the communicators during the communications Week

ernment through the ministers present at the celebration that included the Finance Minister, Hon. Matia Kasajja and the Minister for Information and Communication Technology, Frank Tumwebaze, who was represented by the Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Vincent Baguire, as the Guest of Honour.

He also noted that some aspects of the proposed new terms and conditions of radio frequency spectrum authorization in Uganda are very challenging, particularly the issue of pre-payment of license fees as a condition for continued possession and use of the spectrum.

"Our proposal and appeal is that for the first year, the fees can be paid in advance, but for the subsequent years, time should be given to allow the stations pay within some grace period," he added.

The Chairperson of the Social Communications Commission of the UEC, Rt. Rev. Joseph Franzelli, also Bishop Emeritus of Lira Diocese in his closing remarks stated that recently two Catholic radio stations were shut down by UCC after failing to clear their arrears on time. He said that it is unfair for UCC to ask media houses to pay license fees in advance especially the struggling media houses.

While addressing the communicators, the Minister for Information and Communication Technology through his representative, Mr. Baguire stated that the 2017 regulation that increased the license fees by over 300% is yet to be implemented.

He said his ministry had tabled before parliament amendments that will see broadcasters charged more friendly fees adding that the requirement to pay in advance would be addressed in consultation with UCC.

Meanwhile, Hon. Kasajja challenged UCC that Church-owned radio stations should not be charged like commercial radios since they do not operate for profit.

Motivational talk challenges Catholic Media Fraternity



Ethan Musolini, a renowned motivational speaker who was also the main facilitator of the workshop held in Hoima addresses the participants.

By Sr. Mary Lilly Driciru

On May 12, Success Africa drilled positive signals to the Catholic media fraternity in a one day workshop at Glory Summit Hotel in Hoima Diocese, during the annual communication week last week.

With the topic: “Networking for Effective Communication and Resource Mobilization”, Ethan Musolini with his team from Success Africa, a human resource training firm gave a wake-up call to the Catholic Communicators.

“When you open your mouth to tell the world who you are, your network is equal to your net-worth and great communicators are great influencers thus leadership. Effective communication gets people to think, feel and act the same way as you would want them to think and act”, he said.

Musolini who is a renowned motivational speaker, trainer, mentor and a coach also quoted Dr. Albert Maharabian’s rule which holds that vocal communication scores 38%, visual is 55% and verbal communication only scores 7%.



Ethan Musolini

He told the participants that there is need to be congruent in that, words should match the body language as well as the tone of the voice. One should take 100%

“WHEN YOU OPEN YOUR MOUTH TO TELL THE WORLD WHO YOU ARE, YOUR NETWORK IS EQUAL TO YOUR NET-WORTH AND GREAT COMMUNICATORS ARE GREAT INFLUENCERS THUS LEADERSHIP. EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION GETS PEOPLE TO THINK, FEEL AND ACT THE SAME WAY AS YOU WOULD WANT THEM TO THINK AND ACT”,

responsibility for effective communication.

“Make use of all the social media platforms, go live with video if possible and make a presence in, LinkedIn, You tube, face book, Twitter. Develop a personal brand as great communicator”, he urged.

From the Seven Habits he also quoted: Begin with the end in your mind, understand before you are understood. Have a basic formula of what, why and how. You lose nothing in sharing information he added.

Hang out with people above you who can also challenge you and in mobilizing resources look for potential partners and the type of resources you need.

Musolini with lots of humour says he is there to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable with a kick on the back! According to him, the world belongs to the restless.

He accordingly comes from a humble background but remembers some dozes of values of life his dad gave him. He attributes his success to them. Among others he was told to greet, respect and make friends. When he scored 86% in exams his dad congratulated him but asked him for the remaining 16% hence, we should all operate at 100% capacity.

He challenged the members of media fraternity and said, you cannot solve today’s problems with the same mindset. New results need new thinking with high esteem and motivation.

Some of the motivational themes were: Be the change you want in the community, stay humble and hungry. He added that in building your network, let people know what you do and find out how they can be of support to your cause.



Bishop Franzelli during the 2019 communications week held in Hoima Diocese

Bishop Franzelli urges catholic communicators to embrace networking

By Irene Lamunu

The Bishop Chairman of Social Communications Commission, Rt. Rev. Joseph Franzelli, also Bishop Emeritus of Lira Diocese has urged Catholic Communicators in Uganda to embrace networking for effective communication.

Speaking during the opening ceremony of the Annual Communication Week at Glory Summit Hotel in Hoima Diocese bishop Franzelli said he was convinced that the training held under the theme 'Networking for Effective Communication and Resource Mobilization', was vital to

both the communicators and the Church.

"What we do here is not only for business meeting, but also something vital to the church," said Bishop Franzelli adding "The topic for this year's Workshop is something that I have always urged our communicators to embrace. So far very little collaboration has been reached amongst us. We must know that nothing can be achieved without proper networking."

The bishop told them that communicating is not just about speak-

ing and writing but also using words to create a bond with the people you are talking to as networking can yield many benefits.

While opening the workshop, the Bishop of Hoima Diocese, Rt. Rev. Vincent Kirabo said he was pleased to receive the communicators in his diocese for the 2019 World Communications Day (WCD) celebration adding that their coming together for the workshop is a willingness to transform the world.

He also called upon the communicators to educate and inform the public through the media the importance of safeguarding the environment and, how to heal Mother Nature, noting that communicators are the best people to preach to the public about this topic.

The prelate urged them to put into practice the Pope Francis' WCD message which emphasizes unity, collaboration and togetherness in the society.



UGANDA EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE

(UGANDA CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT)

Nsambya Hill, 672 Hanlon Road

Our Ref:.....

Your Ref:.....

P.O. BOX 2886
KAMPALA
UGANDA, E.A.

Press Statement on the "Free Kavera Uganda Martyrs Shrine, Numugongo"

People of Goodwill

Fellow Citizens

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today the Uganda Episcopal Conference launches a joint campaign against "Kaveera" in and around the premises of the Uganda Martyrs Shrine, Namugongo. This initiative has been undertaken by the Uganda Episcopal Conference in conjunction with National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) with its partners; Vivo Energy, Shell Uganda, NBS and Next Media Services.

As citizens and partners in the development of Uganda, we are inspired in this initiative by the current global campaigns against environmental degradation. We are also guided by the several protocols to which the Government of Uganda is signatory and by the Constitution and laws of Uganda that govern our interaction with the environment. We are particularly inspired and encouraged by the deep reflections and appeals made by His Holiness Pope Francis in his Encyclical "Laudato Si" (Praise You Lord) in which he reiterates the duty humanity owes towards the environment. The Pope appeals to our conscience as believers and people of good will to protect mother earth and planet from destruction.

Having noted the threat posed by "Kaveera" to human and animal health, and integrity of creation as a whole, and concerned about the magnitude of "Kaveera" dropped in around Namugongo every year during the Uganda Martyrs Day celebration, we therefore join NEMA in making the Uganda Martyrs Day Celebrations environmentally friendly by making the shrine free of "Kaveera".

"Kaveera", as many of you know, may be cheap, convenient and popular but is non-biodegradable. It takes over 400 years for it to decompose totally. Unfortunately, no one will live long enough to witness natural decomposition of the "Kaveera" they dumped today. "Kaveera" has potential to destroy farm land and undermine agriculture which is the backbone of Uganda's economy and the livelihoods of majority Ugandans.

1

Tel: (041) 510398, 510570, 510571

E-mails: uec@infocom.co.ug, info@uecon.org



Website: www.uecon.org

With regard to human health, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced on 4th – 6th April 2015 in Geneva, their research confirmative findings to the effect that the increase in non-communicable diseases (e.g. cancer, asthma, diabetes, obesity,) can no longer be attributable to genetic disorders, but partly a result of pollution overload in the environment mainly by chemicals from substances such as plastics.

As the Catholic Church, we acknowledge the serious obligation to care for all creation, and acknowledge a link that exists between promotion of human dignity and the right to a clean environment, clean air and clean water free of disease causing pollution.

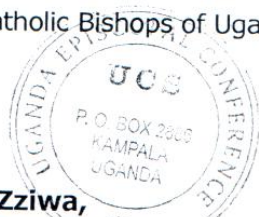
As such, the Uganda Episcopal Conference declares that starting this year, the Uganda Martyrs Day celebrations held annually on June 3 at the Catholic Shrine in Namugongo, will no longer welcome "Kaveera". In subsequent years, this initiative will be extended to other Catholic Shrines. Pilgrims are encouraged to carry items in reusable cloth, papyrus (Kikapu) or paper bags. Green bins will, however, be provided for disposal of "Kaveera" for those who might have forgotten and come with them for any other reason.

On the occasion of celebrating Uganda Martyrs day, the Uganda Episcopal Conference calls upon every person of goodwill to think of the many ways in which they can participate in maintaining serenity and integrity of creation. As for the faithful, we call on you to make this call part of your witnessing to the Gospel as well as the responsibility given to man in Genesis Chapter 1 verse 28. We encourage the clergy to disseminate this information through the various media available to them, including announcements during Holy Mass.

We wish you all fruitful celebrations of the Feast of the Uganda Martyrs.
'For God and my Country'.

Given this day of 10th May, 2019 at the Uganda Catholic Secretariat, Nsambya-Kampala.

On behalf of the Catholic Bishops of Uganda,



**+Joseph Antony Zziwa,
Bishop of Kiyinda-Mityana Diocese, and
Chairman of Uganda Episcopal Conference.**



Archbishop Odama (centre) during the press conference flanked by the secretary general of Uganda Episcopal Conference, Msgr. John Baptist Kauta and the Uganda Tourism Board through their new Deputy Executive Officer, Bradford Ochieng

Archbishop Odama appeals for public support of shs900m towards 2019 Martyrs Day

Media Officer, Uganda Episcopal Conference

With less than a week to the 2019 Uganda Martyrs Day (UMD) celebration, the Archdiocese of Gulu is still constrained in a financial crisis of about US\$133,568 (Uganda Shillings 500 million) required to meet approximately US\$245,000 (US\$900 million) that was initially budgeted for the celebration, the Archbishop of Gulu, Most Rev. John Baptist Odama said.

“As we draw closer to the great day, we are still faced with some challenges. So far we have realized only about 40% of our budget of Ushs900m,” Archbishop Odama told journalists during a press conference Thursday, May 23 at the Uganda Catholic Secretariat in Nsambya, Kampala.

He added, “I would like to make a final appeal to all men and women of good will to support the Archdiocese of Gulu to realize the shortfall in the budget which is very much needed for the

success of the occasion.”

The archbishop also appealed to all those who had pledged to contribute towards the celebration to honor them to enable proper planning.

“There are so many pledges that have not been honored. We need the money to realize the essential items budgeted for the success of this important National event. Our success is your success and the success of the nation,” he noted.

Having been chosen by the Uganda Episcopal Conference in June 2018 to organize and animate this year’s UMD celebrations due June 3rd at Namugongo Catholic Shrine, Gulu Archdiocese aims at raising these funds to cater for all the preparation activities and actual celebration including liturgical preparations, health preparedness, accommodation and transport, communication and publicity among

others.

During the same press conference the Uganda Tourism Board, through their new Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Bradford Ochieng handed over a dummy cheque of US\$25,644 (Ushs96m) to Archbishop Odama towards the celebration.

Meanwhile, foot pilgrims from various dioceses in the country including 680 from Lira Diocese and 300 from Gulu, have embarked on a spiritual journey to Namugongo for the commemoration of the 2019 UMD celebration. Most of the pilgrims are women, making their show of commitment to the faith.

The archdiocese has also organized a special novena to the Martyrs to start on Saturday May 25 until June 2, just a day before the actual celebration slated for June 3. The faithful are encouraged to observe this novena by reciting Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be to the Father prayers and invoke the Uganda Martyrs.

This year’s celebration, which will be celebrated under the theme, “Obey God Always and Everywhere” (Acts 4:19), is expected to attract over four million pilgrims worldwide.

Special contributions toward the celebration can be made through Centenary Bank, Gulu Main Branch, under the following account details: Account name: Archdiocese of Gulu Namugongo Martyrs celebrations: Account Number: 3100059093.

Christ is Alive: Calling youth to keep faith alive



Fr. Lazar Arasu Priest and School Administrator

Pope Francis has given to the youth and the Church an Exhortation, *Christus Vivit*—Christ is Alive! Alive, the word can be easily related to youth. The synonyms say it all: Thriving, Active, Flourishing, Booming, Successful and Buzzing. When we describe youth, these are the words we normally use. Yes, this is what the youth want to be! When we say Jesus is alive, we often refer to his resurrection and his enduring presence, which is a matter of our faith. But it is also right to say that Jesus was youth(ful) throughout his life. When he began his ministry in Galilee he was only 30 and when he laid down his life on the cross he was 33. He brought for us our salvation at the prime of his youth.

The Synod of Youth said, “Youth is an original and stimulating stage of life, which Jesus himself experienced, thereby sanctifying it.” Jesus’ young life was youthfully spent! Now He is inviting the youth, and indeed the whole Church to live life youthfully.

Christus Vivit (CV) is the conclusion of the recently ended Synod of Bishops for youth, which was originally titled: Youth, Vocation and Discernment. CV is addressed “to young people and to the entire people of God,” is broken into nine chapters: young people in Scripture, Jesus as a youth, the experiences of young people, a great message for young people, the paths for youth, the roots of young people, youth ministry, vocation and discernment.

CV is the wisdom of a grandfather affectionately imparted to children. In 299 articles it contains the pasto-

ral experience of a tender pastor who tendered his flock faithfully for all his life. In the last six years of his pontificate, whenever Pope Francis spoke to young people, he asked them to listen to the elderly and draw wisdom from them. He also told the pastors and elders of the Church and family to listen to the youth and their aspirations. It is a call to all of us to listen.

“Dear young people, make the most of these years of your youth. Don’t observe life from a balcony. Don’t confuse happiness with an armchair, or live your life behind a screen. ... Give yourselves over to the best of life!” (CV. 143). He does not forget to be humorous, as typical of him. ‘Balcony’ meaning aloofness or keeping distance, ‘armchair’ meaning easy life or lousy life and ‘screen’ meaning life lost in digital world or escapism.

Models for Youth

Young people look for models and demonstrations rather than lectures. Fortunately numerous models are available for young people to emulate. They are available in the scriptures, lives of the saints and courageous men and women who live their faith within the Church today. “A wise young person is open to the future, yet still capable of learning something from the experience of others,” Pope Francis writes. First and foremost among the examples is the young Jesus himself.

“Jesus does not teach you, young people, from afar or from without, but from within your very youth, a youth he shares with you. It is very important for you to contemplate the young Jesus

as presented in the Gospels, for he was truly one of you, and shares many of the features of your young hearts” (CV. 31). And Jesus’ mother, Mary, “is the supreme model for a youthful Church that seeks to follow Christ with enthusiasm and docility. ... With open heart and soul, she replied, ‘Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord’ (Lk 1:38)” (CV. 43).

Pope Francis also highlights several young saints, including St. Sebastian who was martyred for faith in the early Church, St. Francis of Assisi who gave us comforts of life to live the gospel as authentic as possible, St. Joan of Arc who courageously defended her faith and nation, St. Kateri Tekakwitha who lived her faith within the realms of her traditional culture, St. Dominic Savio who maintained became a teenage saint following the steps of St. John Bosco, St. Thérèse of Lisieux who became a great missionary within the four walls of her monastery, Blessed Laura Vicuna who even challenged her mother who lived a sinful life and others.

Pope Francis reminds the young people that while these are models of holiness, each young person is different and called to his or her own path to holiness. He encourages young people to aspire to great things, to become themselves actors in their own stories, to speak to the Church, even when they have doubts, and be open to answers they may receive from older relatives and trusted authority figures in the Church. And above all to be open to the reality of Jesus Christ.

Today’s Challenges of Youth

Young people are faced with numerous challenges today. Pope Francis summarizes them as “violence in countless different forms.” They are ideological colonization, the disordered desires, hurts and longings of today’s world. In particular, he highlights the dangers of the “digital environment,” migration and abuse, including clergy sexual abuse. He also notes that those who commit crimes are not the majority, but there are numerous others who live of service with fidelity and generosity. The ▶

► Pope continues, "I ask young people to let themselves be inspired by this vast majority." And he added some encouragement: "Ask for the help of the Holy Spirit and confidently aim for the great goal of holiness" (CV. 107), adding: "If you are young in years, but feel weak, weary or disillusioned, ask Jesus to renew you. With him, hope never fails" (CV. 109).

At the same time, Pope Francis highlights "three great truths that all of us need constantly to keep hearing": that God loves you; that Christ sacrificed himself to save mankind; and that, echoing the title of the exhortation, "Christ is alive!" He continues: "Because he lives, there can be no doubt that goodness will have the upper hand in your life and that all our struggles will prove worthwhile. If this is the case, we can stop complaining and look to the future, for with him this is always possible" (CV. 127).

Jesus as Enduring Friend

Friendship with the Lord is the antidote to all our challenges, struggles and temptations, Pope Francis affirms. This friendship should be experienced early in years, "encounter each day your best friend, the friend who is Jesus" (CV. 150).

"With the same love that Christ

pours out on us, we can love him in turn and share his love with others, in the hope that they too will take their place in the community of friendship he established," he writes. "... Friendship with Jesus cannot be broken. He never leaves us, even though at times it appears that he keeps silent" (CV. 153-154).

Friendship with the Lord is maintained and through regular prayer which is both a challenge and adventure; because all friendships are adventurous needing time and patience to sustain. "Gradually Jesus makes us appreciate his grandeur and draw nearer to him," Pope writes. "Prayer enables us to share with him every aspect of our lives and to rest confidently in his embrace. At the same time, it gives us a share in his own life and love" (CV. 155).

This adventure matures in holiness and being a missionary. "Becoming a saint means becoming more fully yourself, becoming what the Lord wished to dream and create, and not a photocopy" (CV. 162). Holiness is a personal affair of an individual with the Lord. In practical terms, "Lord invites us to be fearless missionaries wherever we are and in whatever company we find ourselves: in our neighborhoods, in school or sports or social

life, in volunteer service or in the workplace. Wherever we are, we always have an opportunity to share the joy of the Gospel" (CV. 177).

Being Fruitful in Life

Young people want results; they want meaning in life and what they do. They are eager to find vocation and a path to follow. When discerning a vocation, the pope suggests young people consider the following questions: Do I know myself, quite apart from my illusions and emotions? Do I know what brings joy or sorrow to my heart? What are my strengths and weaknesses? How can I serve people better and prove most helpful to our world and to the Church? What is my real place in this world? What can I offer to society? Do I have the abilities needed to offer this kind of service? Could I develop those abilities?

"In the end," Holy Father writes, "good discernment is a path of freedom that brings to full fruit what is unique in each person, something so personal that only God knows it."

FR. LAZAR ARASU SDB
CHAPLAIN, PALABEK REFUGEE
SETTLEMENT



UGANDA EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE

invites all Catholics and well wishers to support



UGANDA Catholic Television PROJECT

At least UGX. 2,000
Per Person

Payable to Centenary Bank
 Account Name: **UEC Television Project**
 Account Number: **3100058870**
 (Mapeera Branch)

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

More details contact: Fr. Philip Odii
 +256 782746812 | +256 702606851

For AIRTEL Customers, pay to business number **700800** following the steps below:

Dial ***185#**

Select Option **4** (Pay Bill)

Select Option **9** (Others)

Enter Business Number (**700800**)

Enter Amount

Enter Reference number /Reason for paying.

Confirm payment with Pin



KEY LITURGICAL EVENTS FOR JUNE 2019

June 1- Memorial of Saint Justin, Martyr

St. Justin, apologist and martyr, was one of the most important Christian writers of the second century. He himself tells how his study of all the schools of philosophy led him to Christianity, and how he dedicated his life to the defense of the Christian faith as “the one certain and profitable philosophy.”

He was sentenced to death and some of the faithful stole away his body and buried it in a fitting place.

June 3- Uganda Martyrs Day celebration (Memorial of Saint Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs)

Today, together with the whole Church, we honor twenty-two Ugandan martyrs. They are the first martyrs of Sub-Saharan Africa and true witnesses of the Christian faith. Charles Lwanga, a catechist and a young leader, was martyred in 1886 with a group of Catholic and Anglican royal pages, some of whom were not yet baptized. King Mwanga, who despised the Christian religion, gave orders that all the Christian pages in his service be laid upon a mat, bound, placed onto a pyre and burnt. This took place at Namugongo, a place just outside Kampala.

On the third of June each year, pilgrims from across the world throng Namugongo to celebrate the Feast of St. Charles Lwanga and Companions which is also known as Martyrs’ Day.

June 5- Memorial of Saint Boniface, Bishop and Martyr

St. Boniface, a monk of Exeter in England, is one of the great figures of the Benedictine Order and of the monastic apostolate in the Middle Ages. Gregory II sent him to preach the Gospel in Germany. He evangelized Hesse, Saxony and Thuringia and became Archbishop of Mainz. He well earned the title of Apostle of Germany, and Catholic Germany in our own times still venerates him as its father in the faith. He was put to death by the Frisians at Dokkum in 754 during the last of his missionary journeys. The famous abbey of Fulda, where his body lies, has remained the national shrine of Catholic Germany.

June 10- Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

Pope Francis has decreed that the ancient devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, under the title of Mother of the Church, be inserted into the Roman Calendar. The liturgical celebration, *B. Mariæ Virginis, Ecclesiæ Matris*, will be celebrated annually as a Memorial on the day after Pentecost.

By issuing the Decree on the celebration of the feast of Mary, Mother of the Church, Pope Francis wishes to promote this devotion in order to “encourage the growth of the maternal sense of the Church in the pastors, religious and faithful, as well as a growth of genuine Marian piety”.

June 11- Memorial of Saint Barnabas, Apostle

St. Barnabas, designated by the Holy Spirit to share the charge and mission of the twelve Apostles, is venerated by the Church as one of them. He played an important part in the first extension of Christianity outside the Jewish world. It was Barnabas who presented St. Paul to the other Apostles when, after his long retreat in Arabia, he came to Jerusalem for the first time after his conversion to submit for Peter’s approval the mission to the Gentiles entrusted to him by the Master Himself.

June 13- Memorial of Saint Anthony of Padua, Priest and Doctor of the Church

St. Anthony was born at Lisbon, Portugal. He became a canon regular and then a Franciscan preaching the Gospel everywhere in Portugal and Italy. Both as a theologian and as a popular preacher he fought vigorously against heresy. His preaching was inspired by the love of God and of souls and had an extraordinary power of conviction; it was filled with the penetrating power of the Bible. Pope Gregory IX, who heard him preach, called him during his lifetime the *Arca Testamenti*, meaning “the living repository of the Holy Scriptures” and Pope Pius XII, when he proclaimed him a Doctor of the Church, declared that he based all that he said on the texts of the Gospels, and could justly be called the Evangelical Doctor. St. Anthony lived for a time in France, but chiefly in Italy, and died at Padua in 1231 at age 36, with the reputation of great sanctity. From the day of his death innumerable miracles caused the faithful to invoke him as a wonderworker of untiring benevolence.

June 16- The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

The fundamental dogma, on which everything in Christianity is based, is that of the Blessed Trinity in whose name all Christians are baptized. The feast of the Blessed Trinity needs to be understood and celebrated as a prolongation of the mysteries of Christ and as the solemn expression of our faith in this triune life of the Divine Persons, to which we have been given access by Baptism and by the Redemption won for us by Christ. Only in heaven shall we properly understand what it means, in union with Christ, to share as sons in the very life of God.

The feast of the Blessed Trinity was introduced in the ninth century and was only inserted in the general calendar of the Church in the fourteenth century by Pope John XXII.

June 21- Memorial of Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious

St. Aloysius Gonzaga’s outstanding quality was his radiant purity and the Church praises this perfect innocence with the words, “Thou has made him little less than the angels.” He was baptized in the womb, because his life was in danger, and he made a vow of chastity at the age of nine. When he was sixteen he joined the Society of Jesus and died at the age of twenty-three in 1591 as a result of his devoted nursing of the plague-stricken.

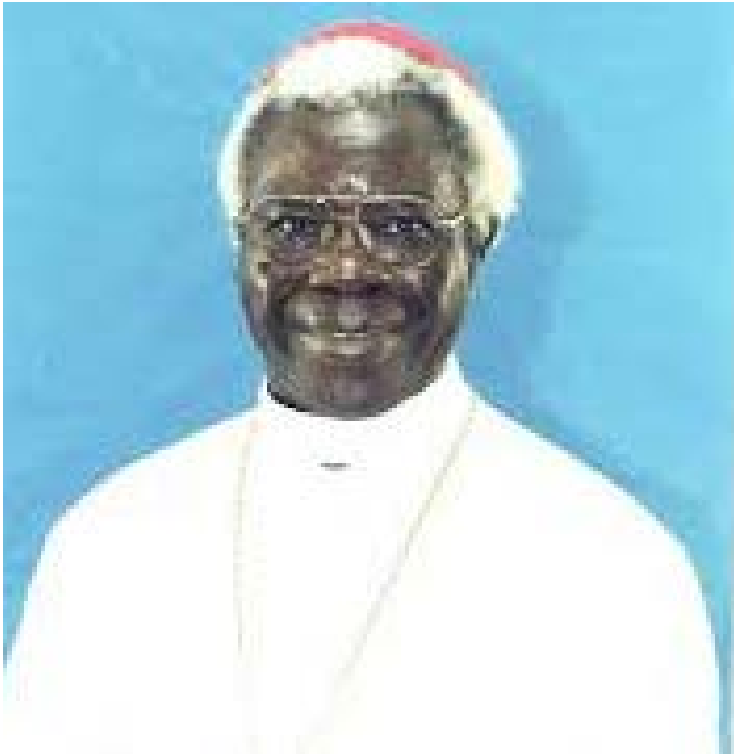
June 23- The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Corpus Christi (Body and Blood of Christ) is a Eucharistic solemnity, or better, the solemn commemoration of the institution of that sacrament. It is, moreover, the Church’s official act of homage and gratitude to Christ, who by instituting the Holy Eucharist gave to the Church her greatest treasure. Holy Thursday, assuredly, marks the anniversary of the institution, but the commemoration of the Lord’s passion that very night suppresses the rejoicing proper to the occasion. Today’s observance, therefore, accents the joyous aspect of Holy Thursday.

June 28- Solemnity of Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

The Church, in this month of June, giving us the solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, wishes us to understand the consequential devotion to Our Lady traditionally lived in the Marian month par excellence: the month of May. The Heart of Jesus is the See and Throne of Divine Mercy, revealed to the world in the passion, death and resurrection of Christ.

Catholic Church in Tanzania mourns the death of two Catholic bishops



Late Bishop Emmanuel Mapunda, Bishop Emeritus of Mbinga Diocese



Late Bishop Gabriel Mmole, Bishop emeritus of Mtwara Diocese

By Sarah Pelaji

The Catholic Church in Tanzania is mourning the death of two Emeritus Bishops, Rt. Rev. Gabriel Mmole of Mtwara Diocese and Rt. Rev. Emmanuel Mapunda of Mbinga Diocese, who all died within this week.

Bishop Mmole died on May 15, 2019, at his house after a long illness while Bishop Mapunda died on May 16, 2019, in the air plane while he was being rushed to Muhimbili National Hospital in Dar es Salaam for treatment.

The two Bishops, Mmole and Mapunda were laid to rest on May 21 at All Saints Cathedral in Mtwara Diocese and on May 24 at St. Killian Cathedral in Mbinga Diocese, respectively.

Announcing the death of Bishop Mmole, the Ordinary Bishop of Mtwara Diocese, Rt. Rev Titus Mdoe said that the Diocese has lost a good shepherd who during his life dedicated himself on education.

“He gave education first priority especially to the community around the coastal area whose interest is largely fishing. He established different Catholic Schools within the Diocese

and was later able to set up the Stella Maris University affiliated from Saint Augustine University of Tanzania,” he said.

The late Bishop Mmole wrote various books that helped to build the foundation of the faith of believers. Among his books include ‘You are the salt of the world’ and ‘Uchumba sio ndoa’ which means ‘Betrothal is not marriage’.

Bishop Mmole served the Church as Bishop of the Catholic Church in Mtwara for more than 28 years. He was born on January 1 in 1939 in the village with Nangoo Parish in Masasi District and did his primary education at Ndanda Primary School; he did the middle School at Lukuledi from 1955 to 1956 and later joined the Peramiho Teachers College in 1959-1960. In 1962-1964 he did his education at Namupa junior Seminar which is located in Lindi. In 1967-1970 he went for theology in Major Peramiho Seminary and he was ordained to priesthood in 1971.

In 1973 he joined the College of Pastors and Religion (GABA) in Uganda. In 1974 he was the Head of Namupa

junior Seminar until March 12 1988 when Pope (Now saint) John Paul II appointed him as bishop of Mtwara Diocese.

While serving as bishop he served Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC), as a Chairman of Seas, Immigrants and Foreign Immigration Commission. Late Bishop Gabriel Mmole retired on October 15, 2016 after reaching 75 years of age according to the Catholic Church system.

Meanwhile, Bishop Mapunda was born on 10th December 1935. He was ordained to a priest of Songea Diocese on 8th August 1965; he was appointed Bishop of Mbinga on 22nd December 1986 and he was consecrated as Bishop on 6th January 1987. He retired from episcopate in March 2011

The official announcement of the appointment of Archbishop Van Megen as Apostolic Nuncio to Kenya was made on February 15, 2019. He takes over from Most Rev. Charles D. Balvo who on September 21 was appointed Apostolic Nuncio to Czech Republic.



Most Rev. Gianfranco Gallone.

Apostolic Nuncio to Zambia appointed to concurrently serve in Malawi

Amecea Online Correspondent

The Apostolic Nuncio to Zambia Most Rev. Gianfranco Gallone, who recently arrived in Zambia to begin his mission, has been appointed to concurrently serve as nuncio to Malawi, a neighbouring country to Zambia.

He was appointed to serve as Nuncio to Malawi by Pope Francis on May 8, 2019.

He is taking over from Most Rev.

Julio Murat who also served as Apostolic Nuncio for Zambia and Malawi until March 2018, and is currently Nuncio to Cameroun and Equatorial Guinea.

On 2nd February, 2019, the Holy Father Pope Francis appointed Monsignor Gianfranco GALLONE as the new Apostolic Nuncio to Zambia.

The nuncio was born on 20th April

1963 in Ceglie Messapica (Brindisi) – Italy and was ordained Priest on 3rd September 1988 for the Diocese of Oria in Italy.

He entered the Diplomatic Service of the Holy See on 19th June 2000. Subsequently he was posted to Mozambique, Israel, Slovakia, India and Sweden.

Until his new appointment to Zambia on February 2, 2019, Monsignor Gallone was serving as an official at the Vatican's Secretariat of State.

He holds a doctoral degree in Canon Law and speaks Spanish, English, Portuguese and Slovak, in addition to his native Italian. With his appointment to Zambia, His Excellency Monsignor Gallone is also now an Archbishop.

WISE QUOTES FOR REFLECTION

“The greatest day in your life and mine is when we take total responsibility for our attitudes. That’s the day we truly grow up.” **John C. Maxwell**

“Pearls don’t lie on the seashore. If you want one, you must dive for it.” – **Chinese proverb**

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.” **Leo Buscaglia**

“The first step toward success is taken when you refuse

to be a captive of the environment in which you first find yourself.” – **Mark Caine**

“Often the difference between a successful person and a failure is not one has better abilities or ideas, but the courage that one has to bet on one’s ideas, to take a calculated risk and to act.” – **Andre Malraux**

“Saying it is impossible to live without failing at something is impossible. Unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all, in which case you have failed by default.” – **J.K. Rowling**



Pope Francis kisses the feet of Salva Kiir (ANSA)

Salva Kiir: I trembled when the Pope kissed our feet

By Paul Samasumo – Vatican City

The President of South Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit, has told his country's parliament, in Juba, that he was shocked and shaken when the Pope kissed his feet during a Vatican special retreat for South Sudanese leaders, in April.

"I was shocked and trembled when His Holiness the Pope kissed our feet. It was a blessing and can be a curse if we play games with the lives of our people," President Kiir told parliament.

Enhancing peace in South Sudan

On Tuesday May 16, President Salva Kiir addressed the 2019 inaugural ceremony of the South Sudan National Legislative Assembly under the theme: "Enhancing peace in the Republic of South Sudan."

Abdur Rahman Alfa Shaban a news reporter for africanews.com quotes President Salva Kiir Mayardit who recounted, to parliament, the unprecedented gesture of Pope Francis kneeling to kiss the feet of South Sudan's leaders.

"I WAS SHOCKED AND TREMBLED WHEN HIS HOLINESS THE POPE KISSED OUR FEET. IT WAS A BLESSING AND CAN BE A CURSE IF WE PLAY GAMES WITH THE LIVES OF OUR PEOPLE,"

Kiir urges Machar to return to Juba

Pope Francis also kissed the feet of four of South Sudan's previously warring political leaders. They are the Vice President-designates who included Riek Machar himself, James Wani Igga, Taban Deng Gai and Rebecca Nyandeng De Mabior -the latter, a widow of the South Sudanese leader, John Garang.

According to africanews.com, South Sudan's President reiterated, in the speech to parliament, his invitation to South Sudan Opposition leader, Riek

Machar, to return to Juba for the transitional unity government to take place.

"I re-extend my invitation to Dr Riek Machar to return home. I have completely forgiven him, and he is no longer my opponent. I call upon all armed opposition to work with our army to continue to open corridors for freedom of movement and open up trade routes," said President Kiir.

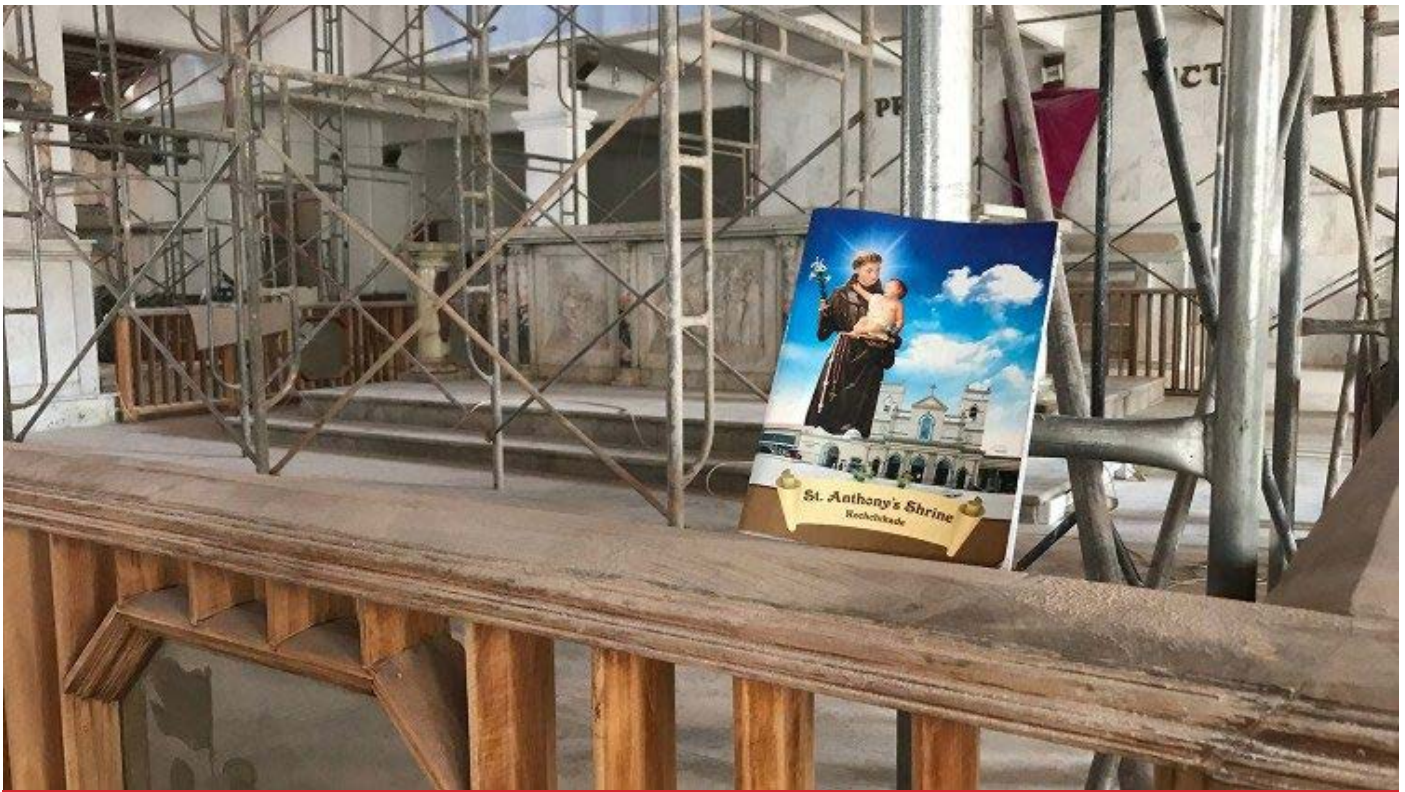
Riek Machar is still in Khartoum and has been reluctant to take up his Vice President position in Juba citing unresolved security concerns. He was to have returned to Juba in May to join a power-sharing government.

President Kiir's spokesperson told media that other opposition figures were already in Juba, and this should be a sign that similarly Machar's "security will be taken care of while the government is formed."

Parliamentary speaker appeals to non-signatories to embrace the peace process

In the meantime, South Sudan's Catholic Radio network reports that the Speaker of the National Transitional

Legislative Assembly, Anthony Lino Makana, has called on other rebel groups who are not signatories to the September peace agreement to respect the ceasefire and embrace the peace process.



St. Anthony's Shrine Kochikade in Colombo, Sri Lanka, undergoing repairs after the April 21, 2020 bombing

Bombed St. Anthony's Shrine of Sri Lanka feels closeness of Universal Church

By Robin Gomes

The world was shocked and outraged to hear about a string of coordinated suicide bomb attacks on three churches and three hotels in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday in April, the holiest day of Christians.

The bombings, claimed by the so-called Islamic State, killed more than 250 people and injured some 500.

One of the targets of the April 21 carnage was the Catholic St. Anthony's Shrine Kochikade, in the capital Colombo.

Amadeo Lomonaco of Vatican News visited the popular shrine ahead of the nation marking a month since the attacks. He spoke to the Rector of St. Anthony's Shrine, Father Jude Raj, who had a narrow escape that fateful day during the 8:45 morning Mass on Easter Sunday.

God of love, not revenge

The priest said they never gave up their faith and continued to pray and celebrate Mass inside the shrine saying, "Our God is not a god of revenge. He is the God of love."

He recalled the words of Jesus as he was dying on the cross – "Father forgive them, they don't know what they are doing." He said Sri Lanka's Catholics have the same sentiments, saying they have to show to the world that they are the followers of Jesus who asked his disciples to love one another as He loved them.

"OUR GOD IS NOT A GOD OF REVENGE. HE IS THE GOD OF LOVE."

Speaking about the message of Christians to those who have committed the crime, Fr. Raj said that they extend their hands out to the terrorists and pray for them and for their repentance so that the Lord may touch their lives and hearts and that they may come back and to the God of love and mercy.

Fr. Raj said that the entire Sri Lankan community has come together, irrespective of religion, caste and language. Catholics are

showing the power of prayer, especially the rosary and the Mass, and they don't need any other weapon.

Solidarity of Pope, Universal Church

The Rector of St. Anthony's Shrine said that in their tragedy, they experience the closeness of Pope Francis and the Universal Church.

St. Anthony's Shrine maintains a soup kitchen that feeds some 200 people daily, and it also has also a museum and relics. The shrine also maintains a close link with Sri Lanka's Catholic community of Italy that is home to the Basilica of St. Anthony in Padua where the 13th-century saint breathed his last.

Fr. Raj pointed out that Cardinal Fernando Filoni, the Prefect of the Vatican Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, is scheduled to visit the shrine on Wednesday. He said, all these show that Catholics in Sri Lanka have not been abandoned by the Universal Church that is praying for them. Many dioceses across the world have also expressed their closeness with Sri Lankans.

The Catholic Church in Eastern Africa to spearhead disarmament

Rose Achiego – Nairobi, Kenya

Bishops and participants attending the 6th Annual Inter-Diocesan Conference on Cross-Border Peace and Evangelization held at St. Teresa Pastoral Centre, Turkana, Kenya have resolved to begin a peaceful disarmament process of small arms and light weapons mostly used by pastoralists around Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and South Sudan borders.

In a press statement issued to the media on May, Kenya's Bishop of Maralal Diocese, Virgilio Pante, who is also the Chairperson for the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB)-Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Seafarers announced that the process of peaceful disarmament would soon begin. The initiative would be an effort to wean-off pastoralist communities of their small arms that have caused so much havoc and suffering in the border areas of Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and South Sudan.

Church committed to disarmament
"We will no longer remain silent. We will no longer remain indecisive, and we will no longer be fearful. We are committed to highlighting the suffering caused by small arms in the daily lives of our people," said Bishop Pante. He was flanked by the Bishop of Lodwar, Dominic Kimeng'ich, who is the Vice Chairperson of the KCCB-Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Seafarers.

According to the Bishops, peaceful disarmament can only be done in an environment of trust, collaboration and commitment for the respect and protection of human life.

Governments need to provide alternative livelihoods

While acknowledging the efforts of the governments of Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan and Ethiopia in their continuous peacebuilding initiatives both at the national level and across the borders, the Bishops of Maralal and Lodwar called on governments in the region to do more in sensitising pastoral communities on the need to embrace peaceful co-existence and



Participants of the Inter-Diocesan Conference on Cross-border Peace and Eevangelisation, Lodwar in Kenya

peaceful disarmament.

"The governments should ultimately provide alternative or complementary livelihoods for the citizens living in the conflict-affected areas," Bishop Pante and Kimengi'ch said

Religious leaders and civil society should address the root causes

The Bishops further other invited religious leaders and members of Civil Society Organisations in the region to identify and address the root causes of what has been ailing communities of the border areas over the years.

They also called upon grassroots communities to collectively reject the attraction of armed violence as a solution to their problems.

"We encourage you to work with all stakeholders to reaffirm the value of human life and work together to counter the pervasive culture of violence. It will be for the benefit of all of us to commit to peaceful disarmament," the prelates said.

Small arms in the hands of communities have caused destruction

As reported by Regional Centre for Small Arms (RECSA) the region hosts 8 million out of an estimated 36 million small arms and light weapons. The weapons are in the hands of civilians.

As a result of the endemic conflicts, the border regions host the highest number of refugees and displaced persons on the African continent.

The proliferation of small arms heighten insecurity

According to the statement, demand for Small Arms and Light Weapons is driven by the ineffective provision of security by governments, commercialisation and politicisation of livestock raiding, marginalisation by governments, a need for the disarmed to rearm; and, cultural practices.

The proliferation of these small arms has caused thousands of deaths and injuries, displacement and forced migration of people, hampered development, loss of hundreds of livestock among pastoralist communities, heightened insecurity, loss of productivity, reduced economic output and insurgencies.

Pope calls for humble and free journalism that serves truth and goodness



Pope Francis addressing members of Italy's Foreign Press Association (Photo by Vatican Media)

By Robin Gomes

Pope Francis is encouraging a humble and free journalism that does not indulge in selling the “rotten food of misinformation” but rather offers the healthy bread of truth and goodness.

“I therefore urge you to work according to truth and justice, so that communication is truly an instrument for building, not for destroying; for meeting, not for clashing; for dialoguing, not for monologizing; for orienting, not for disorienting; for understanding, not for misunderstanding; for walking in peace, not for sowing hatred; for giving a voice to those who have no voice, not for being a megaphone to those who shout louder,” the Pope told some 400 journalists of the Foreign Press Association of Italy on May 18.

Pope Francis expressed his and the Church’s esteem for their precious work, saying it “contributes to the search for the truth, and only the truth makes us free.”

Humility and truth

Underscoring humility as the fundamental element of their profession, the Argentine Pope said that the search for truth entails many difficulties and much humility.

The presumption of already knowing everything, he said, blocks the search for truth. An article, a tweet or a live report, he said, can do good but also evil to others and sometimes to entire communities if one is not careful and scrupulous.

Noting that certain ‘screaming’ headlines can create a false representation of reality, he urged journalists to resist from the temptation of publishing news that has not been sufficiently verified.

Instead, he said, the humble journalist tries to know the facts correctly and completely before telling and commenting on them. Such journalism does not feed “the excess of slogans that, instead of setting the thought in motion, cancel it out”.

Language that hurts

The Pope lamented the use of violent and derogatory language that hurts and sometimes destroys people. In a time of too many hostile words, in which saying bad things about others has become a habit for many, along with that of classifying people, we must always remember that each person has his or her intangible dignity,

which can never be taken away.

At a time when many people are spreading fake news, “humility prevents you from selling the rotten food of misinformation and invites you to offer the good bread of truth.”

On the side of victims

Emphasizing that “freedom of the press and of expression is an important indicator of the state of health of a country,” the Pope shared the pain of journalists killed while carrying out their work with courage and dedication to report on what many people face during wars and the dramatic situations.

He said, “We need journalists who are on the side of the victims..., of those who are persecuted, on the side of those who are excluded, discarded, discriminated against.” Journalists, he said, are needed to recall the many forgotten situations of suffering and wars, such as those of the Rohingya and the Yazidi.

He thanked them for helping the world not forget the lives that are suffocated even before they are born; those that are just born that are extinguished by hunger, hardship, lack of care, wars; the lives of child soldiers and the lives of children violated.

He called on reporters to help the world not to forget those persecuted and discriminated against for their faith or their ethnicity and the victims of violence and trafficking in human beings. He said those forced to leave their homes because of disasters, wars, terrorism, hunger and thirst, are not numbers, but a face, a story and a desire for happiness.

“There is a submerged ocean of goodness that deserves to be known and that gives strength to our hope,” Pope said, noting that women journalists are particularly sensitive to such stories of life.

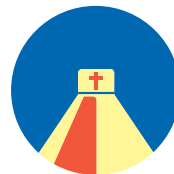
At the end of his talk, Pope Francis gifted the journalists a copy each of a book entitled, “Communicare il Bene” (Communicating the Good), containing his talks to various groups of journalists and his messages for World Communications Days.

**GET
MORE
DONE**
WITH
CenteVisa Card



Swap your CenteCard for a CenteVisa Card for FREE
and get more shopping, more travelling and more business done.

It's Safe, Secure & Convenient.



**Centenary
Bank**



For more information call our toll free line
0800 200555



/centenarybank



centenarybank



/centenarybank

...our bank

Regulated by Bank of Uganda AI.005

