

Pope Francis Approves Updated Translation of Lord's Prayer: 'Do Not Let Us Fall Into Temptation' » **VATICAN** Page 19



# NEW CONTACT

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## OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S COMMANDS IS THE TRUE SIGN OF OUR LOVE FOR GOD, ARCHBISHOP ODAMA TELLS PILGRIMS AT NAMUGONGO



Archbishop Odama, waves to the pilgrims during the procession of the 2019 Uganda Martyrs Day celebration PHOTO BY JACINTA W. ODONGO  
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## Editorial

The year 2019 is exactly half way and I believe that each one of us has witnessed something special in his or her life in the last six months. As a Catholic Church in Uganda, we have no doubt seen great things. We have been blessed with two new Bishops for the Dioceses of Soroti and Masaka. The Rt. Rev. Joseph Oliach Eciru who was appointed as the new Bishop of Soroti Catholic Diocese was consecrated on 25th May 2019, and the Bishop-elect of Masaka Diocese, Rev. Msgr. Serverus Jjumba will be consecrated on 6th July 2019. We congratulate our new Bishops and we wish them God's abundant blessings and protection.

On June 3, the Catholic Church in Uganda also celebrated the Feast of the Uganda Martyrs, animated by the Archdiocese of Gulu under the theme, "OBEY GOD ALWAYS AND EVERYWHERE". We greatly appreciate Gulu Archdiocese, Uganda Episcopal Conference, Kampala Archdiocese, the Government of Uganda, Namugongo Parish and all the institutions and individuals who contributed to the success of the celebration.

As we continue to thank God for the gift our Martyrs, we seek their intercession for the success of the upcoming 18th Plenary Assembly and Golden Jubilee celebration of the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM) to be hosted by Uganda Episcopal Conference from 20th to 29th July. The celebration is being held in Uganda because it is the birthplace of SECAM. The Association was launched on 29th July 1969 by Pope Paul VI, now Saint, at Lubaga Cathedral in Kampala. What a great blessing and honour for Uganda!

**Fr. Philip Odii**  
**Editor/Executive Secretary of**  
**Social Communications**

## Obedience to God's commands is the true sign of our love for God Archbishop Odama tells pilgrims at Namugongo

By Jacinta W. Odongo  
 Media Officer, Uganda Episcopal Conference

"Obedience to God means to hear, trust, submit and surrender to God and His word. In our daily lives, we know that obedience is a very essential habit one should abide by in our homes, workplaces and in the communities in which we live," Most. Rev. John Baptist Odama, the Archbishop of Gulu said in his homily on Monday June 3, during the 2019 Uganda Martyrs Day celebration.

"It is compliance with an order, request, law or submission to another's authority. Obedience is a constant call from God to listen and to discern His will for each one of us and for humanity," Archbishop Odama told pilgrims at Namugongo Catholic Shrine during the Holy Mass.

He noted that prayer is the way to obedience, in humility and simplicity adding that obedience is a call to holiness and "it is living the way God wants us to live, act towards Him and our neighbours."

Reflecting on the three readings of the celebration, the prelate urged the pilgrims to emulate the lives of the Uganda Martyrs who totally gave themselves to God and placed their trust in Him until their last moment on earth.

"When the time came to make a fundamental choice of who to obey, they chose to obey Jesus. They gave their lives to Him. Their death not only manifested their strong obedient faith to Jesus but also the presence of God's grace which gives us the strength we need to respond to God," he stated adding "This leaves us very surprised how even the youngest like Kizito and Jildo couldn't be afraid. The Martyrs therefore gave their lives in total Obedience to God, Jesus Christ out of free will moved by love and trust in the Holy Spirit."

He further cautioned them against disobedience to God as it leads to: wars, violence against others, corruption which is a fruit of Selfishness, greed, human trafficking, armed robberies, child sacrifices, sectarianism/tribalism, racism, and xenophobia.

Over three million pilgrims from across the world attended this year's celebration that was animated by the Archdiocese of Gulu under the theme:



Archbishop Odama gives his Homily during the Uganda Martyrs Day Celebration at Namugongo

Obey God Always and Everywhere (Acts 4:19).

Pilgrims came as far as U.S.A, India, South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Nigeria, Burundi and South Sudan among other countries, with Kenya leading with the highest number of registered international pilgrims (over 3000).

Majority of these pilgrims came to the shrine on foot as a demonstration of their faith while others used various means of transport to reach the Shrine.

The celebration was graced by the Vice President of Uganda, His Excellency Edward Ssekandi, who represented President Yoweri Museveni as the Chief Guest. There were also other dignitaries including Ministers, Members of Parliament and opposition leaders among others.

The annual celebration is usually held in honour of the 22 Catholic Martyrs who were killed on the orders of Mwanga II the Kabaka (King) of Buganda between 1885 and 1887. Twenty-two Catholic Martyrs were beatified on June 6, 1920, by Pope Benedict XV, and canonized as Saints on October 18, 1964, by St. Pope Paul VI. In addition to the 22 Catholic Martyrs, there are two Catechists from Paimol: Blessed Daudi Okello and Jildo Irwa.

# Pictorial: 2019 Uganda Martyrs Day



A multitude of pilgrims at Namungongo



Liturgical dancers during the Martyrs Day celebration



The choir from Gulu Archdiocese animating the celebration



Bishops in the procession for the celebration



Pilgrims present their petitions

# Pictorial: 2019 Uganda Martyrs Day



Archbishop Odama blesses an elderly lady after she presented her offering (a chicken)



Cultural dancers performing a traditional song



Opposition leaders, Dr. Kizza Besigye (left) and Hon. Robert Kyagulanyi (right) share a light moment during the celebration at Namugongo



Bishops pose for a group photo with the Vice President, H.E. Edward Ssekandi



Bishops say farewell to the pilgrims after the celebration



Pilgrims leaving Namugongo

# Three foot pilgrims honoured at Namugongo for trekking 300km



Archbishop Odama introducing the three pilgrims from Mbarara Archdiocese who trekked to Namugongo for more than 300 km  
PHOTO BY JACINTA W. ODONGO

By Jacinta W. Odongo

The Archbishop of Gulu Archdiocese, Most Rev. John Baptist Odama honored three foot pilgrims for trekking a distance of more than 300 kilometers to Namugongo Catholic Shrine to commemorate the 2019 Uganda Martyrs Day (UMD) celebration on June 3.

The three foot pilgrims included two young girls, aged 9 and 10 years and, a 97 year-old man, Bernado Tibyanye, all from the Archdiocese of Mbarara. The two children joined a group of adult pilgrims on Thursday, May 9 in walking to Namugongo Shrine for about 14 days. They arrived at the Shrine on Wednesday, May 22.

Describing the two young girls as the young Kizitos, Daudi Okello and Jildo Irwas of today during his homily, Archbishop Odama called

them to the stage and introduced them to the mammoth crowd. He also introduced the 97-year-old who this year made his eighth pilgrimage to Namugongo Shrine for the UMD celebrations.

“Kizito, the youngest of the Martyrs, said it is better to die than to sin. Here I want to include those who have walked from Mbarara,” adding that those who choose Christ must always obey God no matter the circumstances.

“The youngest of the Martyrs, Kizito, had a choice: To obey God or to sin. He chose to die,” the Archbishop added.

Meanwhile, the 97 year-old pilgrim, who is also a former catechist noted that his main objective of walking to Namugongo this year was to increase his faith and thank God for

the gift of life.

The prayers to the Martyrs are said to be especially powerful and have been attested to by many of the faithful. Their intercession has transformed many lives and has become the source of strength amid the challenges and difficulties many Christians go through in their lives.

In the Catholic Church, the Martyrs are venerated for their heroism in professing and witnessing to their faith. They have an intercessional role for those who are still struggling in life’s journey to join them triumphantly at the end of their earthly lives.

The UMD celebration usually attracts millions of enthusiastic pilgrims from across the world. Millions of these pilgrims usually travel by air, by bus and on foot to commemorate the Uganda Martyrs.



Bishop Eciru after his installation ceremony

PHOTOS BY JULIET LUKWAGO

## Rt. Rev. Joseph Oliach Eciru installed as new Bishop of Soroti Catholic Diocese

Media Officer, UEC

On Saturday May 25, all roads led to the Diocese of Soroti for the installation of the new Bishop, Rt. Rev. Joseph Oliach Eciru. Pope Francis appointed Fr. Eciru as new Bishop of Soroti on March 19, 2019, after the diocese's five years of waiting without a Bishop. The Diocese had no bishop since January 2014 after its former prelate, Most. Rev. Emmanuel Obbo was elevated to Archbishop of Tororo Archdiocese.

Bishop Eciru replaced Archbishop Obbo, who took over from Rt. Rev. Erasmus Desiderius Wandera, the first Bishop of Soroti.

Born in August 11, 1970 in a fam-



The new bishop during his ordination that was led by Archbishop Obbo of Tororo Archdiocese

ily of eight siblings, he was ordained priest on August 9, 2003, at Soroti Catholic Diocese.

He went to St Aloysius Demonstration Primary School before joining St Peters Seminary Madera, Soroti, and later joined St Pius X Seminary Nagongera, Tororo. He did philosophical studies at St Thomas Aquinas National Seminary Katigondo in the Diocese of Masaka and Theology at St Paul National Seminary Kinyamasika in Fortpotal Diocese.

The new bishop Eciru also worked as teacher and lecturer at various seminaries in the country. He is the first Catholic Bishop of Teso origin to work in his native diocese, Soroti.

# Exclusive **interview** with Bishop Joseph Eciru Oliach

On May 25, 2019, Rev. Fr. Eciru Oliach of Soroti Catholic Diocese was consecrated as new Bishop of Soroti Diocese, **Isaac Ojok** conducted an exclusive interview with the new Bishop:

## ***You are called Bishop Joseph Eciru Oliach, in this case who is Oliach?***

Oliach is my Father's name which I took at O' level when I was registering. I loved him so much, he too loved me. So I felt I should be in a close link to him even by name that is why I took that name "Oliach", he said.

## ***When were you born?***

I was born on 11th. August in 1970 in Soroti district in a village called Gweri.

## ***Can you please share with us your academic back ground?***

Well at our time, being born in the village, of course academic background starts from the village where I was. At that time there were pilot schools, schools which were then managed by the parents. So I started in one of those village schools called Abelet. Of course when you are still young and in those schools there was nothing serious and sometimes you study in one class for two years and there is no promotion. Until 1981 that is when I joined P1 in Gweri Primary School which was Government Aided School but Church of Uganda Founded. I studied there from P1, P2, P3 up to P4 so that in 1984, I crossed over to Catholic founded school called Angopet Primary School for P5, P6, and P7. Unfortunately, when I should have sat for my PLE that is the time the insurgency began, the cattle rustlers came and disorganized our region there around the time we were supposed to do the PLE. But a few others who managed to run up to town sat for PLE elsewhere, but those of us who were locked up in the village missed that year. The following year, we resumed the school hoping that I would sit for the PLE, that is now when insurgency intensified between "UPA battling with NRA" and I didn't proceed with my studies because

schools were closed and that year was wasted. Until 1988 that is now when I thought of going back to school, and I went to Ngoga district and I joined St Aloysius Ngoga demonstration School that is where I sat for PLE. It is there now that the desire I had earlier on of joining the Seminary was reawakened because I got the news there through the head master because the Bishop too by then Bishop Wandera lived in Ngoga. He had entrusted the task of recruiting young boys who wanted to join the minor seminary from Ngoga to this head teacher. So he announced one day that those of you who want to join the seminary come and fill the forms.

Of course now it reminded me of what I had thought of. So I was one of those who registered to join the seminary, after that in 1989 I joined St. Peter's minor seminary in Soroti and From 1993-1995 I joined Nagongera minor Seminary Tororo because in our minor seminary Soroti, there was an issue of Latin, I don't know whether God was preparing me in some way. I found myself just falling in love with Latin, the subject which was dreaded by others. Actually I sat for Latin alone in our class, the rest abandoned it, I passed it, and I felt I should pursue it a little further. So with encouragement of the staffs and a few other friends, I decided to continue with Latin at Nagongera seminary in A' level. From 1995-1998 I was in Katigondo Major Seminary for Philosophy, and I went for pastoral spiritual year in our Parish Madera and minor seminary then from 1999 -2003 I was in St Paul's Seminary Kinyamasika for Theology. Yes of course there was an opportunity to pursue further studies after staying for one and half year. Then I was sent to Rome for studies to specialize in Bible, I joined the Biblicum and did a Licentiate and after, I went to Pontifical Urbaniana University for Doctorate in Biblical Theology. Finally I finished the studies in 2012 and came back to Uganda and since then, I have been here at St Mary's National Seminary Ggaba as a lecturer and a formator.

## ***What does it mean for a person like you to become a Bishop to the People of Soroti Catholic Diocese?***

That is very interesting. He responded with a smile and said a person like me to become a Bishop to the people of Soroti Catholic Diocese. Well you as a Catholic and a student of Theology am sure you are well versed with what a Bishop means for the people and what his role is for the church especially in the Diocese. I think that is the meaning that is still there. Perhaps now with the addition that a person like me? Your interest might be there, he said.

It might also have many implications; first of all it might mean that I am a native son from Soroti, I just try to guess but it might mean a lot, it can even be subjected to a sign of faith that has matured that can reach a level of getting one of them being appointed a Bishop and perhaps a recognition of that maturity in faith and certainly brings a lot of joy to the people. Then of course a person like me brings sense of fear and trembling just like St Paul says work for your salvation in fear and trembling. So this news actually brings to me fear and trembling looking at my age. I think it means a lot for the people; pastorally, the diocese having stayed for five years vacant although the Apostolic administrator has been there but operating from Tororo also that means a lot to people that we can now have a Bishop resident here so that pastoral activities can be carried out especially those that pertains to the order of Bishop.

## ***When you take up the episcopal seat after your ordination and installation, what will be your motto that will guide you in your ministry?***

I think in the first place we have to go back to the mission of the Church because I think that mission contains what the motto says for every Christian, every believer and even a bishop to go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News and I think that is the point of departure. Of course this mission is a perennial one in that it is not something that you can finish



in one day and also complex. That is why sometimes we might decide as a diocese may be this year we can have a theme to guide us depending on the needs and responding to the needs of the diocese. Perhaps you are more interested in what is contained in my emblem or logo. I was inspired by Saint Paul, you know in his life he recognizes what God has done to him and that recognition actually inspires me and so what I chose is actually taken from his second letter to the Corinthians that we are earthen vessels and this treasure is entrusted to us. So in summary, I put that in Latin in *vasis vitillibus tesaurum*, we carry this treasure in earthen vessels and that means we are weak instruments and that is something that already I recognize; that am a weak instrument so it requires humility on my part that this mission cannot be accomplished by human strength and so I must depend on him who strengthens me and that is why in the court of arms you will find the dove (the Holy Spirit) because I must depend on him, the symbol of the Eucharist for our nourishment and from where we draw our strength, the Word of God, the Breviary and the Rosary for prayer and support of our Mother Mary and you will also see the joined hands there symbolizing collaboration because being weak instruments we cannot do it alone but need the support of one another.

***Apart from Saint Paul, are there any key figures among the clergy or saints who have made an influence in your spiritual life as a priest and certainly will continue in your episcopate?***

I guess that question is also relevant for you. Certainly and there are so many, innumerable, so many saints, those that are canonized and some not yet canonized, Christian people both living and dead beginning from my own family. One time I explained to you how my mother inspired me, being a woman of prayer, there are priests who nurtured me, supported me as formators, lives of saints like saint John Mary Vianney. Now that am appointed a bishop I have begun to look at the lives of saints who were bishops for example (Saints) Augustine, Ambrose, Charles Borromeo, Peter Chrisolobus whose election was equally miraculous and how he proved a very powerful and eloquent speaker, and also Saint John Chrysostom. They are just so many like I said, they are

just innumerable.

***What is your experience in the priesthood looking at the work of formation in the Church?***

I think in summary I can say it is a sweet burden. Formation has a lot of joy. One time in the minor seminary, our rector used to tell us that the pride of a teacher is in the success of his students and that gives delight and joy to the teacher. It is sweet to see my own students, to hear that they are doing greatly in the ministry. Am glad that one of my own student is now working in a Nunciature, I was even happier to see my students studying with me in Rome. The work of formation is not that easy but it requires a lot of diligence and prayers, it is a burden. Accompanying the students and helping them to discernment of their vocation and also to discern that a student is indeed called and that can be very challenging.

***As a Bishop, what are your wishes for the Church especially the youth who are the majority?***

I think this question has come at the right time especially after the promulgation and publication of the post-synodal exhortation of Pope Francis on the youth. I was just reading it and I urge the youth and indeed the whole Christian community to read. Therein, the Pope beautifully and imaginatively speaks eloquently, heart to heart with the youth. The title itself is wonderful *Christus vivit* (Christ is alive) and is so beautifully put that Christ is alive and is our hope. Christ being alive wants young people to be alive and we too want the youth to be alive. Allow me read this sentence from the exhortation... avoid the 'paralysis' of the living dead who have no life because they are afraid to take risks, make mistakes or persevere in their commitments. Dear young people, make the most of these years of your youth. Don't observe life from the balcony, don't confused happiness with an arm-chair, or live your life behind a screen, whatever you do, do not become the sorry site of an abandoned vehicle, don't be packed curse but dream freely and make good decisions, give yourself over to the best of life, open the door of the cage, go out and fly and don't take early retirement. I don't think I need to add anything.

***As a spiritual leader, looking at the crises and worsening levels of poverty in today's world, do you see any signs of hope that society should focus on?***

I think this is also connected to what we have just said. *Christus vivit*, Christ is alive, he is our hope that is already the basis of our hope. It will be good also for the Christian people to read that document of Benedict XVI *Spe Salvi* (in hope we are saved) about the Christian hope. So for us Christians that should be the basis, the beginning that the person and work of Christ and our faith is rooted in Christ. Coming down to Uganda, I think there are signs of hope. Of course, many may not agree that there are signs of hope but for a Christian there are signs of hope, even politically and economically there are signs of hope. I know that certainly there are difficult times as sometimes we experience famine, drought, few jobs and others but that should not be a reason to despair. There is some prevailing peace, some little economic growth all show us that there are signs of hope. Let us just build on what we have. The church is also there and it is alive, vibrant and is growing, structures are equally there helping people also trying to offer some little rays of hope in our lives.

***Anything that you would love to share apart from what you have so far shared***

I would like to thank God first of all for making me a priest and then giving me the opportunity to be part of the formation team that in these years I have also made my little contribution in the formation of the future clergy. Am so grateful to God and to all who have aided me up to this level starting with everyone back in the diocese, the Ordinaries of Soroti diocese, the Rectors who have been my formators and those with whom I have worked, am also very grateful to the staff both in Kinyamasika and here at Ggaba for they have supported and enriched and also guided me. I thank God for the gift of the Catholic Church, the universal church. It is only for example when you go to Rome you breath that air of universality and experience its beauty so much so that you don't even feel like moving an inch away from the Catholic Church. And that is my message to all Christians especially the Catholics. Be proud of your church and stand for your faith, defend your faith and support your church. Thank you very much for this interview.

# Installation of Bishop Eciru in pictures



Archbishop Emmanuel Obbo of Tororo Archdiocese ordains the new bishop as other bishops look on



A section of the faithful from Soroti diocese jubilate after the installation of their new bishop



The Vice President of Uganda, Edward Ssekandi congratulates Bishop Eciru upon his installation

# Preparations underway for the installation of new Masaka bishop-elect

By Media Officer, UEC

With just a few days left to the consecration and installation of Msgr. Severus Jjumba as the new bishop of the Diocese of Masaka, preparations are already underway.

Msgr Jjumba, who is currently serving as Vicar General of Masaka, is set to be installed as the fifth bishop of Masaka Diocese on Saturday, July 6, Kitovu Sports Arena. He was appointed by Pope Francis on April 16, replacing Rt. Rev. John Baptist Kaggwa, whose resignation was accepted by the Pope upon reaching the age of 75 in March 2018.

Bishop Kaggwa is set to preside over the function, with President Museveni expected to grace the occasion as the chief guest. The prelate is currently serving as the Diocesan Apostolic Administrator until the day of the canonical possession by the bishop-elect.

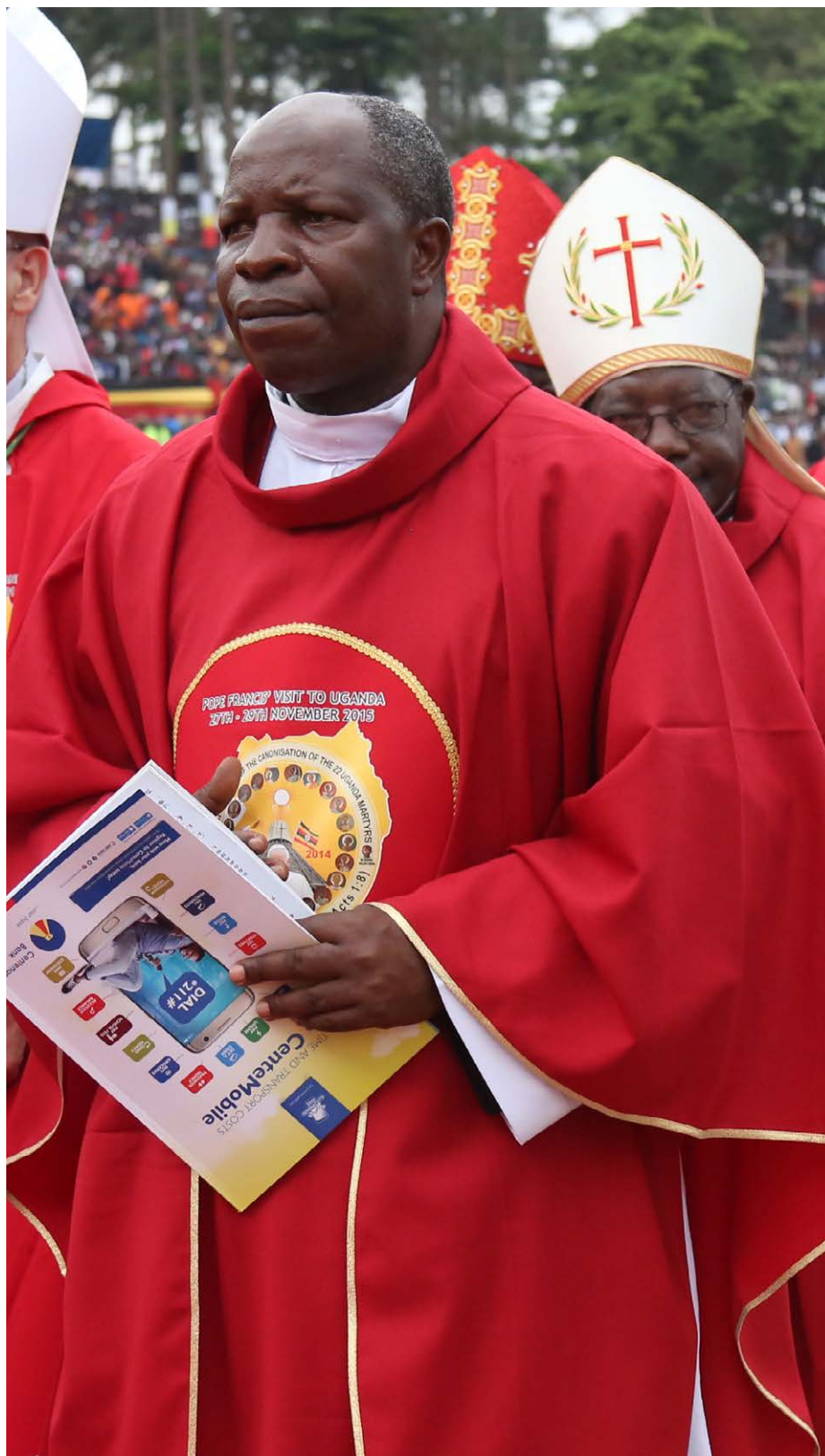
While speaking to guests who converged at Imperial Royal Hotel recently to raise funds for the consecration ceremony of Msgr Jjumba, Bishop Kaggwa said preparations have already begun urging faithful to contribute towards the ceremony, estimated to cost over 700million shillings.

He noted that they expect the ceremony to be attended by thousands of people from Uganda and beyond adding that they need the money to feed the invited guests, hiring of tents, chairs and decoration among other activities.

The bishop-elect was born in Masaka on July 2, 1962; he was ordained to priesthood on June 20, 1992. After completing his primary school at St. Augustine's and St. Paul Primary School in Kitovu, Masaka, he joined Bukalasa Minor Seminary in Kalungu, Masaka, to pursue his secondary school education.

He did his philosophical studies at St. Thomas Aquinas Major Seminary, Katigondo in Masaka and completed his theological studies at St Mary's National Major Seminary-Ggaba in Kampala. He holds a Diploma in Religious Studies and a Master's in Education from Makerere University, Uganda.

As a priest, he has served in a number of roles including Assistant at Bikira Parish (1991-1993); formator and treasurer at Bukalasa Minor Seminary (1993-2000); Masaka Diocesan Treasurer (2000-2014); and Vicar General of Masaka Diocese (2014 to date).



The Bishop-elect of Masaka Diocese, Msgr. Severus Jjumba during the 2019 Uganda Martyrs Day celebration

# We have a Shared Responsibility for Others and for the World:

## *Making sense of the Significance of Kaveera Ban at the 2019 Uganda Martyrs' Celebrations*

Dr. Ronald M. KASYABA Uganda Catholic Medical Bureau, Nsambya

The Uganda Martyrs' Day Celebrations at the Catholic Shrine for this year's 3rd June was unique and different and should mark as a beginning of the Catholic Church's total commitment to highlighting humanity's close relationship with Mother Nature—through the ban on the use of kaveera at the celebrations.

The kaveera ban at the Catholic Shrine and the specific call to save our environment is consistent with Pope Francis' 2015 and 3rd encyclical, *Laudato si* (Praise be to you), the Encyclical on the care of the common home and previous other related Apostolic calls.

The Encyclical takes its name from the invocation of St. Francis, "Praise be to you, my Lord", and reminds everyone that the earth, our common home "is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us". The Holy Father observes that "People have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters—and we therefore have to take care of the earth from which we are made"! And share quite a lot.

Nearly half a century ago, St. Paul VI had referred to the ecological concern as a tragic consequence of unchecked human activity: and further prophetically warned that "Due to an ill-considered exploitation of nature, humanity runs the risk of destroying it and becoming in turn a victim of this degradation".

The effects of climate change observed today—including extreme weather experiences—flooding, drought etc., are some of the effects of the environmental degradation and obviously humanity—especially the poor and vulnerable are the hardest hit victims and St Paul VI had stressed the



urgent need for a radical change in the conduct of humanity.

The conduct must begin with each individual, and for a start the Church appealed to every faithful to desist from kaveera use at the Martyrs' Day Celebration and to appropriately dispose it off.

Pope Francis' encyclical notes that human life is grounded in three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships: 1) with God, 2) with our neighbour and 3) with the earth itself. And the Holy Father further observes, "According to the Bible, these three vital relationships have been broken, both outwardly and within us. This rupture is sin". The outward breakup of the relationship with Mother Nature through pollution—is a rupture in the relationship.

Some forms of pollution are part of people's daily experience—includ-

ing irresponsible use and disposal of kaveera.

As is now known through science and research, exposure to atmospheric pollutants produces a broad spectrum of health hazards, especially for the poor, and causes millions of premature deaths.

The Holy Father's encyclical observes that change is impossible without motivation and a process of education. And change is further complicated if collective partnerships are not fostered.

The education process has been undertaken extensively by various partners—namely NEMA, and Ministry of Education and Sports and others but requires comprehensive motivated stakeholder support—including the Faith Institutions.

Education is able to affect actions and daily habits of individuals—e.g. avoidance of environmentally dangerous kaveera, the sorting of waste and even "turning off unnecessary lights".

The Holy Father encourages that everything will be easier when starting with a contemplative outlook that comes from faith: "as believers, we do not look at the world from without but from within, conscious of the bonds with which [God] the Father has linked us with all beings and the [environment]. By developing our individual, God-given capacities, an ecological conversion can inspire us to greater creativity and enthusiasm".

This enthusiasm includes doing away with the dangerous kaveera at the 3rd June Namugongo Celebrations and at all other events.

The gesture exhibited by the Catholic Church at this year's June 3rd spiritual celebrations should be replicable and emulated by all like-minded institutions to advise against kaveera use and other environmentally-degrading activities in support of international and national environment institutions as well as ensuring peaceful co-existence with Mother Nature.

## KEY LITURGICAL EVENTS FOR JULY 2019

### July 3- Feast of Saint Thomas, Apostle

St. Thomas was born a Jew and was called to be one of the twelve Apostles of Jesus. His birth and death dates are unknown, in fact there is very little about the apostle Thomas in the Gospels; one text calls him the "twin." Rarely during Jesus' lifetime does he stand out among his colleagues. Best-known is his expression of unbelief after the Savior's death. Thomas' unwillingness to believe that the other Apostles had seen their risen Lord on the first Easter Sunday earned him the title of "doubting Thomas."

Concerning later events in the apostle's life very meager information exists. The Martyrology has this: "At Calamina (near Madras in India) the martyrdom of the apostle Thomas - he announced the Gospel to the Parthians, and finally came to India. After he had converted numerous tribes to Christianity, he was pierced with lances at the king's command."

### July 11-Memorial of Saint Benedict, Abbot

Born in Nursia, Italy, Saint Benedict decided to live the life of a hermit and settled at mountainous Subiaco, where he lived in a cave for three years, fed by a monk named Romanus. After living in a cave in the mountains for three years as a hermit, he had acquired such a reputation that disciples came in numbers to join him and important Roman families entrusted him with the education of their children. He organized a form of monastic life in twelve small monasteries. Under his guidance, as abbot, the monks vowed to seek God and devoted themselves to work and prayer. A few years later St. Benedict left the district of Subiaco to found the great abbey of Monte Cassino on the heights of Campania. There he wrote his Rule in which are wonderfully combined the Roman genius and the monastic wisdom of the Christian East. St. Benedict died in 547.

### July 15-Memorial of Saint Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Saint Bonaventure was to the Franciscans what Thomas Aquinas was to the Dominicans. These contemporaries form twin summits of scholastic thought. Aquinas and Bonaventure received their doctorates on the very same day, and are shown as equals in Raphael's Disputation of the Holy Sacrament. Both Thomas and Bonaventure were also pious, poor, humble, and holy, giving their theological work even greater weight. Saint Bonaventure was part of that huge influx of second generation Franciscans who never knew their founder. He joined the order in 1243, received his doctorate in theology from University of Paris, and became master of the Franciscan school at Paris in 1253. In 1257 he was elected minister general of the entire Franciscan order. He was just thirty six years old.

In 1273 Bonaventure was made a Cardinal-Bishop by the Pope. Knowing of the Franciscan's humility, and his refusal to accept a previous Episcopal appointment, the pope inserted into his bull an order that Bonaventure could not decline the honor. Saint Bonaventure died with his boots on, while participating in, and aiding the Pope at, the Council of Lyon in 1274. He was buried in Lyon, canonized in 1482, and declared a doctor of the Church in 1557. Unfortunately, his tomb was desecrated by French Protestants and revolutionaries in later centuries and his body has been permanently lost.

### July 22-Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene

St. Mary Magdalene is one of the greatest saints of the Bible and a legendary example of God's mercy and grace. The precise dates of her birth and death are unknown, but we do know she was present with Christ during his public ministry, death and resurrection. She is mentioned at least a dozen times in the Gospels.

Mary Magdalene has long been regarded as a prostitute or sexually immoral in western Christianity, but this is not supported in the scriptures. It is believed she was a Jewish woman who lived among Gentiles, living as they did. The Gospels agree that Mary was originally a great sinner. Jesus cast seven demons

out of her when he met her. After this, she told several women she associated with and these women also became followers.

There is also debate over if Mary Magdalene is the same unnamed woman, a sinner, who weeps and washes Jesus' feet with her hair in the Gospel of John. Despite the scholarly dispute over her background, what she did in her subsequent life, after meeting Jesus, is much more significant. She was certainly a sinner whom Jesus saved, giving us an example of how no person is beyond the saving grace of God.

### July 25- Feast of Saint James, Apostle

St. James, known as the Greater, in order to distinguish him from the other Apostle St. James, our Lord's cousin, was St. John's brother. With Peter and John he was one of the witnesses of the Transfiguration, as later he was also of the agony in the garden. He was beheaded in Jerusalem in 42 or 43 on the orders of Herod Agrippa. Since the ninth century Spain has claimed the honour of possessing his relics, though it must be said that actual proof is far less in evidence than the devotion of the faithful.

### July 26-Memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

It was in the home of Joachim and Ann where the Virgin Mary received her training to be the Mother of God. Thus, devotion to Ann and Joachim is an extension of the affection Christians have always professed toward our Blessed Mother. We, too, owe a debt of gratitude to our parents for their help in our Christian formation.

The couple early became models of Christian marriage, and their meeting at the Golden Gate in Jerusalem has been a favorite subject of Christian artists. Anne is often shown in paintings with Jesus and Mary and, is considered a subject that attracts attention, since Anne is the grandmother of Jesus. Her two great shrines — that of Ste. Anne d'Auray in Brittany, France, and that of Ste. Anne de Beaupre near Quebec in Canada — are very popular. We know little else about the lives of Mary's parents, but considering the person of Mary, they must have been two very remarkable people to have been given such a daughter and to have played so important a part in the work of the Redemption. There is a church of St. Anne in Jerusalem and it is believed to be built on the site of the home of SS. Joachim and Anne, when they lived in Jerusalem.

### July 29-Memorial of Saint Martha

Martha was born of noble and wealthy parents, but she is still more illustrious for the hospitality she gave to Christ our Lord. Jesus liked to stay at the house of Martha, Mary and Lazarus, his friends at Bethany, when he was in Judea. One of these visits has ever remained dear to Christian memory. On that occasion Martha, busily serving the Master, asked Him to persuade Mary to help her. Without in any way reproaching Martha, Jesus explained to her that certain souls, called by God, should choose a better part still — the primary duty of listening to Him and contemplating Him.

Martha is greatly renowned for her piety and prudence. She foretold her death long before it occurred; and at length, famous for miracles, she passed to our Lord on the fourth of the Kalends of August. Her body which lies at Tarascon is held in great veneration.

### July 31-Memorial of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, Priest

In the year 1521 a cannon ball fractured the left leg of Captain Ignatius Loyola, the future founder of the Jesuits. While he was convalescing, Ignatius read about Christ and His saints and thus turned wholly to God. He then undertook to equip himself for Christ's service by acquiring a good classical and theological education. The members of the Society of Jesus became the shock troops of the Church in the battle against the spread of Protestantism in Europe, as well as one of the greatest foreign mission organizations that the world has known. Ignatius died on July 31, 1556.

# Africa is Raising Up For Safety Of Her Children



A cross section of participants during the seminar

By **Bezawit Assefa**,  
Ethiopia Catholic Secretariat

A special seminar focusing on child safeguarding and launching standards and guidelines for child protection was held in Nairobi, Kenya from May 27th to June 1st 2019.

A booklet of standards and guidelines has also been launched and it to be used in common by all child protection and nurturing departments from each conference in AMECEA region. The tool enables each Conference to develop their own policies as per their contextual considerations. It reviews the basic focal points behind child safety and clearly describes the basic standards of child safeguarding.

The impact of child abuse is increasing over time and time so much that the seminar focused on the timeliness of taking action and listening to the voice of children all over Africa specially in the horn of Africa where each child is exposed to at least one form of abuse or the other, ranging from exploitation, physical abuse, emotional and sexual abuse.

At the recent special meeting of rep-



A cross section of participants during the seminar

representatives from each conferences all over the world, Pope Francis said that abuse of minors is satanic and clearly stated that all everyone must change the mentality regarding the impeccable seriousness of the issue of child safeguarding.

During the seminar in Nairobi, most participant suggested that Africa should implement the guidelines for safeguarding a child so that the entire community may understand the impact of child abuse.

By the end of the conference all representatives committed themselves to addressing the issue and engaging in reporting child abuse.

Like all the Conferences in the region, the Ethiopian Catholic Church is playing her role as it established the National Child Nurturing and Protection Department at the Secretariat as well as 8 diocesan offices. It is working on creating awareness about the seriousness of the issue; it has so far prepared and distributed a policy.

# First Group of Seminarians at St. John Paul Seminary in Tambura-Yambio Diocese Ordained

## The Republic of South Sudan

Administrative and State Capitals



Amecea 3) The-republic-of-south-sudan

By Pamela Adinda, AMECEA Online News

Eight Candidate who began their philosophicum formation at St. John Paul II Seminary in Tambura-Yambio Diocese have been ordained today, June 7, 2019. The eight include one priest and seven deacons.

According to Rt. Rev. Edwardo Hiiiboro Kussala, Bishop of Tambura-

ra-Yambio, the diocese is extremely grateful to God as this is a sign of growth for the Church in the diocese and in South Sudan.

“Grace certainly abounds in the lives and vocations of these eight men from the diocese of Tambura-Yambio who have said yes to Catholic faith, yes

to the call to ordained priesthood or diaconate. Their witness is an invitation to all of us to put our faith into action in service to God and our sisters and brothers everywhere,” Bishop Hiiiboro explained adding that the formation process that leads up to priestly ordination is a long one, lasting 10 to 12 years and including intensive stages of study, ministry, accompaniment and prayer.

He further indicated that the eight candidates pursued their studies in Yambio for three years before proceeding to Consolata Philosophical Seminary in Nairobi. They then joined AMECEA Bakanja College to proceed with theological studies at Catholic University of Eastern Africa which they completed satisfactorily.

“We thank all our benefactors without whom we would not have these young men prepared, may God bless them abundantly,” he said.

Tambura-Yambio Diocese which covers two counties, Yambio and Tambura has 27 parishes. Located in the Western Equatoria State near the border of South Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo, the diocese has had its fair share of the effects of the war currently going in South Sudan. According to the April 2019 USAID report on South Sudan Displacement Crisis, Yambio county experienced significant armed clashes and widespread displacement of people in 2016.

The diocese currently hosts a large population of internally displaced persons who need pastoral care. The ordination of the priest and seven deacons is therefore seen as a great blessing to the people of God in the Diocese.

## WISE QUOTES FOR REFLECTION

“Risk something or forever sit with your dreams.” — Herb Brooks

“Nothing is impossible; the word itself says ‘I’m possible!’” — Audrey Hepburn

“When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it.” — Henry Ford

“Everything you’ve ever wanted is on the other side of fear.” — George Addair

“Everyone has talent. What’s rare is the courage to follow it to the dark places where it leads.” — Erica Jong, Author

“Remember to celebrate milestones as you prepare for the road ahead.” — Nelson Mandela.

“Stop being afraid of what could go wrong and start getting excited about what could go right.” — Tony Robbins

“Surround yourself with the dreamers and the doers, the believers and thinkers, but most of all, surround yourself with those who see greatness within you, even when you don’t see it yourself.” — Anonymous

“The most wasted of all days is one without laughter.” — E.E. Cummings

“If you don’t go after what you want, you will never have it. If you don’t ask, the answer is always no. If you don’t step forward, you are always in the same place.” — Nora Roberts

# Moving Towards Solidarity, Collegiality and Synodality, AMECEA Secretariat Implements 19th Plenary Assembly Resolutions



Amecea 2) Prof. Peter Gichure from Catholic University of Eastern

By Pamela Adinda, AMECEA Online News

The AMECEA Secretariat has taken initiative towards implementing one of the key resolutions of the 19th AMECEA Plenary Assembly which was held in Addis Ababa Ethiopia in July 2018, which is to find ways to revitalize, strengthen and cultivate solidarity, collegiality and Synodality in the region, otherwise referred to as the spirit of 'AMECEAness'.

According to the Association's Secretary General Rev. Fr. Anthony Makunde, this came up as the first resolution during the third session of AMECEA 19th Plenary Assembly. It is against this backdrop that the AMECEA Secretariat, with financial support from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) organized a workshop for representatives from Member Conferences between 30th and May and June 1st in Nairobi, Kenya, which was attended by the Secretaries General from AMECEA member conferences, National Coordinators of Pastoral, Social Communications and Integral Human Development departments.

Also in attendance were delegates from the region who had come to attend the launch of AMECEA Child

Safeguarding Standards and Guidelines. They included National Child protection Officers, National Coordinators of Catholic Education Department as well a National Coordinators of Health department.

Fr. Makunde in his presentation at the workshop explained that the term 'Synodality' came up after His Eminence Joseph William Cardinal Tobin of Newark, New Jersey in USA, presented his paper at the 19th AMECEA Plenary Assembly in Addis Ababa of which most of the bishops came to the conclusion that it was high time AMECEA started new ways of strengthening that spirit within its Member Conferences.

"Solidarity talks about unity, an agreement of feelings, of action among individuals who have a common interest or a common purpose. In simple terms, the AMECEA Fathers are saying that yes we have been united for quite a long time but it is high time now that we find ways to strengthen that spirit of unity that has been there since AMECEA was born," Fr. Makunde explained, adding that Synodality is a term that came to the Plenary after the presentation of Car-

dinal Tobin, who is Bishop chairman of the Special Committee for Africa in USCCB, and that the term can be traced back from the Second Vatican Council, and that it means to journey together.

He further indicated that 'Collegiality' is more of a theological term referring to the life marked by cooperation among colleagues or people of the same profession such as lawyers, medical doctors and the clergy.

"In Church context, it refers to the participation of bishops in the governance of the Church in collaboration with, and under the Pope. When combined, these three terms, synodality, solidarity and collegiality, add up to something substantial which the AMECEA Fathers are telling us. It is an appeal to all the Member conferences and to you present here, representing the conferences. It is our responsibility to find ways how we can strengthen that spirit which the bishops are calling us to work upon."

During the workshop, participants were also drilled on the concept of self-reliance as a tool for building up AMECEAness and solidarity; as well as the role of Catholic learning institutions in the member countries on the same.

Participants made various recommendations and prominent among them was the need for AMECEA to decentralize some of its institutions by establishing them across the member conferences to enhance participation and inclusion.

It was pointed out that visibility of AMECEA is lacking in some member conferences where knowledge on what the association stands for is lacking. It was therefore suggested that AMECEA needs to create awareness of its mission, vision, objectives and activities among its Member Conferences to promote the visibility of the association.

It was also suggested that AMECEA should mobilize resources to enable it conduct at least one meeting every two years, involving all the various departments from the national conferences.



# Pope at Mass: 'Serve others freely, as God freely loves you'



Pope Francis celebrates Mass on Tuesday morning (Vatican Media)

By Devin Watkins

"Give freely that which you have received freely," Pope Francis said in his homily at Mass in the Casa Santa Marta on Tuesday, June 11, 2019.

Focusing his remarks on the Christian's relationship with God, the Pope noted that we are called to serve and love our brothers and sisters in the same way that God has done with us adding that our relationship with God is completely gratuitous and only requires us to open our hearts to His grace.

## Vocation to serve, not to make use of others

Taking his cue from the day's Gospel (Mt 10:7-13) in which Jesus commissions the disciples to go out on mission, Pope Francis said Christians cannot remain stationary, since our way of life impels us to "hit the

road, always".

He added that Jesus has already given us our mission: "As you go, make this proclamation: "The kingdom of heaven is at hand to cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, and drive out demons."

"Christian life is for service. It saddens us to find Christians who at the beginning of their conversion or awareness of being Christians, serve and are open to serve the people of God, but who later end up making use of the people of God. This causes much harm to God's people. Our vocation is to 'serve', not to 'make use of'," Pope Francis explained.

## Expand our hearts

Christian life, said Pope Francis, is lived gratuitously. "Without cost you

have received; without cost you are to give," he said, was how Jesus described the core of salvation.

He said salvation cannot be bought, because God "saves us free of charge" and "requires no payment".

As God has done with us, so we are to do with others, he said.

"Realize that the Lord is full of gifts for us. He asks just one thing: that our hearts be open. When we say 'Our Father' and we pray, we open our heart, allowing this gratuitousness to enter. Often when we need some spiritual grace, we say: 'Well, now I will fast, do penance, pray a novena...' Fine, but be careful: this is not done to 'pay' or 'buy' grace. We do it to open our hearts so that grace might enter. Grace is freely given."

All God's gifts, said Pope Francis, are given without cost. And he warned that sometimes "the heart folds in on itself and remains closed", and it is no longer able to receive "such freely given love. We should not bargain with God," he added.

## Freely give

Pope Francis then invited Christians, and especially pastors and bishops, to give freely and not try to sell God's graces.

"It pains the heart," he said, when we see pastors "that make money off of God's grace: 'I can help you, but it will cost this much...'"

"In our spiritual life we always run the risk of slipping up on the question of payment, even when speaking with the Lord, as if we needed to bribe the Lord. No! That is not the correct path... I make a promise, in order to expand my heart to receive what is already there, waiting for us free of charge. This relationship of gratuitousness with God is what will help us to have the same rapport with others, whether it is in Christian witness, Christian service, or the pastoral work of those who guide the people of God. We do so along the way. Christian life means walking. Preach and serve, but do not make use of others. Serve and give freely that which you have received freely. May our life of holiness be permeated by this openness of heart, so that the gratuitousness of God – the graces that He wishes to give us without cost – may enter our hearts."

## Pope names new head of Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue



Bishop Miguel Ángel Ayuso Guixot, the new President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue

Vatican Media

Pope Francis has appointed 66-year-old Spanish Bishop Miguel Ayuso Guixot as the new President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

Bishop Guixot succeeds the late Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, who died in July 2018. He has been serving as Secretary of the Vatican Dicastery.

Born in Seville on June 17, 1952, Bishop Guixot was ordained priest on September 20, 1980. He is a Combonian Missionary of the Heart of Jesus.

He was a missionary in Egypt and Sudan until 2002. He obtained a degree in Arabic and Islamic studies at the Pontifical Institute of Arabic and Islamic Studies (PISAI) in Rome in 1982, and a doctorate in dogmatic theology at the University of Granada in 2000.

From 1989 he was professor of Islamology, first in Khartoum, then in Cairo. Later he taught at PISAI, where he held the office of Dean until 2012. He has presided over various meetings of inter-religious dialogue.

On June 30, 2012, Benedict XVI appointed him Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

Appointed by Pope Francis as titular bishop of Luperciana, he was consecrated a Bishop in March 2016.

In addition to his native Spanish, he knows Arabic, English, French and Italian.

## Sudan violence crushes hopes for peaceful transition to democracy

By Nathan Morley

Police in Sudan used teargas on protesters who were trying to erect roadblocks in the capital Khartoum on Sunday, June 9.

The latest violence comes as Pope Francis appeals for prayers for dialogue and peace for the common good of the people of Sudan.

According to reports, the teargas was fired on the first day of a civil disobedience campaign, designed to get the ruling military council to relinquish power. At least one person was killed in the violence.

It's reported that a number of bank, electricity and transport workers were arrested prior to the strike. The main roads and squares in Khartoum have



Sudanese soldiers stand guard a street in Khartoum (AFP or licensors)

been deserted for days.

Last week, a ruthless assault on demonstrators left over 100 people dead in the capital, crushing hopes for a swift, democratic transition of power. Outside of Khartoum, there are reports that the strike is spreading



Pope Francis

## Pope at Regina Coeli prays for dialogue in Sudan

By Linda Bordoni

On Sunday June 9, 2019, Pope Francis appealed for prayers for Sudan, where he said news of the past days is causing sadness and concern. The Holy Father addressed the faithful after celebrating Mass in St. Peter's Square.

"Let us pray for this nation, so that the violence may cease and that the common good may be sought in dialogue," he said.

Sudan is in the midst of a political

crisis after security forces opened fire on pro-democracy protesters in the capital, Khartoum this week, allegedly killing over 100 people.

Representatives of the protesters had been in talks with the military over who will take control following the ousting of long-time President Omar al-Bashir.

Pope Francis concluded his Regina Coeli address thanking the many pilgrims from Italy and many parts of the world who were in the Square to celebrate Pentecost Mass on Sunday.

"I encourage everyone open themselves with docility to the action of the Holy Spirit, offering the world testimony of a variety of charisms and the image of fraternity in communion," he said.



Pope Francis (internet photo)

## Pope Francis Approves Updated Translation of Lord's Prayer: *'Do Not Let Us Fall Into Temptation'*

By agencies

Pope Francis has officially approved a change to the translation of the Lord's Prayer found in Matthew 6:13 that replaces "lead us not into temptation" with "do not let us fall into temptation," which many scholars say is a better translation of the original text.

US Catholic reported Monday that the Vatican enacted the change on May 22.

The Pope said he thought the current English translation was not correct because it implies that God leads people into temptation, an action that is against his nature as a good and holy God.

"A father doesn't do that, a father helps you to get up immediately," Francis said of the line in question. "It's Satan who leads us into temptation, that's his department."

For years, Christians have wrestled with the actual meaning behind, "Lead

us not." After more than 16 years of study, some biblical researchers say a better translation of the scripture would be: "Abandon us not when in temptation."

The late theologian Charles Spurgeon explained during a sermon in 1863 that the word "temptation" in Matthew 6:13 actually holds two meanings, both the temptation toward sin and the facing of trials and tribulations.

While Spurgeon agrees that God does not tempt us, he does argue that God will send us into trials and situations in which temptation toward sin is ever-present.

"God tempts no man," Spurgeon said. "For God to tempt in the sense of enticing to sin [is] inconsistent with his nature, and altogether contrary to his known character; but for God to lead us into those conflicts with evil which we call temptations, is not only possi-

ble but usual."

The Catholic Church is using the Latin Vulgate translation of the Bible to try to determine the best phrasing. But Spurgeon argues in his sermon that he believes the original Greek version, which says "lead us not" is best.

Dr. Corne Bekker of the Regent University School of Divinity agrees with Spurgeon's analysis. He told CBN News he believes the bigger question is, "What is the purpose of temptation?"

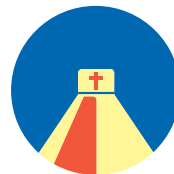
"God allows us to be tempted, and I think two things happen. We get to know ourselves a little bit better, and of course what we learn is that we have no recourse against sin. But more importantly, we get to know God Himself. We have to remember the next phrase in the Lord's Prayer - 'and deliver us from all evil.' He's able to do that," Bekker explained.

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