



**Pope Francis' prayer intention for February:
Say "No" to Corruption** » **VATICAN** Page 19

ARUA DIOCESE HOSTS 2018 PRAYER PEACE WEEK



Catholic faithful holding a banner during the Peace Week event at St. Mary Assumpta Parish in Moyro. PHOTO BY MAGDALENE KASUKU

Story on Page 2

Inside



USCCB boosts UEC Social Communications Department with new media equipment **Page 4**

Hundreds of choir members begin rehearsal for 2018 Uganda Martyrs Day celebration **Page 4**

PRODUCTION AND SALE OF CLOTH IN ZAMBIA BEARING IMAGE OF A FAKE POPE **Page 7**



TRAVEL STORY

MASAAI MARA
Page 8

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2018 **Page 18**



Editorial

Every year during the Season of Lent, the Holy Father gives us a message to guide us in our Lenten journey. The message for this year is titled, "Because of the increase of iniquity, the love of many will grow cold" (Mt. 24:12). As the Pope indicates, these words were spoken by Jesus while preaching about the end of time. He was foretelling a situation when false prophets would lead people astray and cause the love in their hearts to weaken.

The false prophets, the Holy Father notes, are also active in our own time and they come disguised in different forms. They manipulate people and present evil as good, falsehood as truth. This eventually destroys love and leads to the rejection of God, which in turn leads to emptiness and all forms of violence and destruction.

During this Season of Lent, the Pope invites us to look into our hearts "to see if we are falling prey to the lies of these false prophets". We need to be attentive and critically understand what is happening around us. In social media, we have witnessed the activities of the false prophets in the form of "fake news", which the Pope addresses in his message for the World Communications Day 2018 entitled, "The truth will set you free (Jn 8:32): Fake news and Journalism for Peace".

As we renew our spiritual life through repentance and the Lenten spiritual exercises of fasting, prayer and almsgiving, let us also examine ourselves to see if we are victims or perpetrators of false prophecy.

I wish you a spiritually enriching Lenten Season.

Fr. Philip Odii
Editor/Executive Secretary of
Social Communications



Archbishop Odama (left) flanked by Bishop Odoki (right), gives a speech

Arua Diocese Hosts 2018 Prayer Peace Week

By Gaetano Apamaku, Radio Pacis

Thousands of pilgrims, converged at Moyo Catholic Parish in the Diocese of Arua for the 13th Annual GANAL (Gulu, Arua, Nebbi and Lira) Ecclesiastical Prayer Peace Week.

The annual event, which was held from January 22-26, 2018, was celebrated under the theme: "Migrants and Refugees; Men and Women in Search of Peace". It was initiated in 2005 by the Bishops of GANAL to provide room for social interaction, prejudice reduction, healing and reconciliation amongst the communities of Northern Uganda who became victims in the region following the past insurgencies in the region that lasted for two decades.

This year, the event emphasised increased dialogue and solidarity amongst the communities of Northern Uganda, Southern Sudan and Eastern Congo. It began with a peace march in Moyo town led by Most Rev. John Baptist Odama, the Archbishop of Gulu and Chairman of the Uganda Episcopal Conference, Rt. Rev. Sabino Ocan Odoki, the Bishop of Arua Diocese, Rt. Rev. Joseph Franzelli, Bishop of Lira Diocese and Rt. Rev. Sanctus Lino, Bishop of Nebbi Diocese. Several cultural and political leaders were also in attendance.

In his speech, Archbishop Odama told the South Sudanese refugees who live in the Northern region not to look at themselves as foreigners. "Don't take this idea of being a foreigner or refugee! You are not a refugee. That is why you

were offered land in the settlement free of charge", said Archbishop Odama.

The Archbishop further appreciated the South Sudanese for participating in the prayer peace week urging them to forgive Ugandans for any contributions to the war. "We owe you a debt of forgiveness. You need to forgive us, Ugandans. We might have contributed somehow to your troubles.", he added.

While addressing the pilgrims, Bishop Wanok of Nebbi Diocese disclosed Nebbi's readiness to host the refugees, should there be an over flow of refugees. He said that two big places have been offered by the Alur community in the Diocese waiting for refugees to be settled.

Bishop Odoki of Arua Diocese, in his remarks told the faithful to work for peace; "to obtain peace, we need to look firmly to the future with hope and trust in God. When we lose hope, we lose everything." He called on everyone to build a relationship of trust and tell stories that promote peace not hatred.

Fr. Dr. Maximiano Ngambirano, the Associate Professor in the Department of Good Governance at Uganda Martyrs University who was the lead facilitator at the event noted that refugees and migrants are a global reality adding "they are running away from wars and conflicts that are caused by greed for power, greed for wealth." He further urged the pilgrims to promote Peace as a positive action.

Meanwhile, the community leaders in Northern Uganda used the event to ▶

urge fellow community members to treat each other equally. The leaders highlighted the poor treatment of women in the traditional cultural set up that they say has contributed to

low level of women participation in political, cultural and religious organizations and other activities.

About 1.3 million refugees are being hosted in Uganda, majority of

whom are South Sudanese hosted in West Nile districts and Lamwo district in Northern Uganda. The Diocese of Lira will host the 2019 Prayer Peace Week

Pictorial of the Prayer Peace Week in Arua



Pilgrims in the procession to mark the event



Bishop Odoki (centre) of Arua Diocese and Bishop Wanok (left) of Nebbi Diocese during the Eucharistic celebration.



Liturgical dancers at the event



Dancers perform a cultural dance



The bishops pose for a group photo with the cultural leaders



Archbishop Odama planting a tree in commemoration of the event

USCCB boosts UEC Social Communications Department with new media equipment



The UEC Secretary General, Msgr. John Baptist Kauta (right) inspects the new media equipment upon delivery as the Executive Secretary, Fr. Philip Odii looks on.

INSET: The Executive Secretary of the UEC Social Communication Department, Rev. Fr. Philip Odii (left), and the UEC Procurement Officer inspect the photocopier

By **Jacinta W. Odongo**
Media Officer, UEC

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has boosted the Social Communications Department of the Uganda Episcopal Conference (UEC) with a grant worth \$15,000 (UGX 54.4M) for the purchase of new media equipment.

The department received the grant in 2017 from USCCB's Pastoral Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa. The new media equipment procured includes three Desktop Computers, two Laptops, one Camera for

still photographs, one Video Camera and one Printer. Others are: one Photocopier, one LCD Projector, one Power Stabilizer and three APC Battery Backup and Surge Protectors, all aimed at improving the efficiency of the SCD.

In an interview conducted recently, the Executive Secretary of the UEC Social Communications Department (SCD), Rev. Fr. Philip Odii, lauded the USCCB for the grant adding that the equipment will strengthen the capacity of the department to communicate effectively.

"We are grateful to the USCCB for their continued support to our department," said Fr. Philip. "This is in line with the Department's Strategic Direction 4, namely, promoting the use of digital technology in evangelization and development activities of the Catholic Church in Uganda."

He described the arrival of the items as timely noting that the Department is already using the media equipment to enhance the publication of the Online Magazine (New Contact) of Uganda Episcopal Conference and to improve information sharing for effective evangelization and development in Uganda.

He also said that the desktop computers and laptops are being used by the department staff for their daily office work and media activities which include writing and editing news stories/articles for the Online Magazine.

Meanwhile, this is not the first time for the USCCB through its Pastoral Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa to donate grants to the SCD. In 2008, the USCCB donated funds for the purchase of two computers, a photocopier, printer and projector, which have now become old and are not functioning properly.

The SCD also received another grant in 2009 to facilitate a workshop for Catholic Communicators in Uganda on promoting Reconciliation, Justice and Peace.

Hundreds of choir members begin rehearsal for 2018 Uganda Martyrs Day celebration

Media Officer, UEC

With three and a half months left to the 2018 Uganda Martyrs Day (UMD) celebration, over 250 choir members have begun rehearsal in the Archdiocese of Tororo.

The choir members have been drawn from all the 12 deaneries in Tororo Archdiocese. In addition to the 250, the Archdiocese has selected other 100 members who originally hail from Tororo Ecclesiastical Province but reside in Kampala. Tororo Archdiocese will animate the

2018 UMD celebrations on behalf of Tororo Ecclesiastical Province which comprises of the Dioceses of Jinja, Kotido, Moroto, Soroti and Tororo.

The Vice Chairperson of the Tororo Central Organizing Committee for the 2018 UMD celebration, Rev. Fr. Godfrey Okello, has confirmed that the rehearsal officially kicked-off on January 10 in Tororo Archdiocese.

"The first phase of the rehearsal kicked-off on January 10, 2018 for four consecutive days. The choir had great enthusiasm during the training thus, we now plan to do an



The choir during the Mass last year's Uganda Martyrs' celebrations.

evaluation and identify a common place where all the members from the 12 deaneries will be meeting regularly for further training alongside the additional choir members ▶

►living outside Tororo,” he said in an interview during the second meeting of the National Central Organizing Committee for the 2018 UMD celebration on February 6, 2018 at the Uganda Catholic Secretariat premises.

He noted that for the hymns and readings, they took into consideration a number of things which includes the universality of the Church, the history of the Martyrdom of the Uganda Martyrs and cultural diversity of the pilgrims.

“We have already chosen the hymns and readings but, have translated them (hymns and readings) into various local and international languages to cater for everyone. Our aim is to sing better and put all the pilgrims into a pilgrimage mood,” he explained.

Meanwhile, the Archdiocese has also pledged to put up an information desk at Entebbe International Airport to assist all international pilgrims who will fly in, upon arrival for the 2018 UMD celebration.

“We want to assist all the pilgrims in all possible ways, therefore we will put up an information desk at the airport to assist international pilgrims upon arrival with information regarding visa application process and transportation to their respective hotels,” Fr. Okello stated.

Several activities have also been lined up in a bid to raise US\$198,029 (an equivalent of 720m Ugandan shillings) that is required for the preparations and actual celebrations. The Archdiocese has so far raised \$53760 (US\$ 192m) as of yesterday, February 6.

The 2018 celebration coincides with the centenary anniversary of the martyrdom of the two Catechists from Paimol: Blessed Daudi Okello and Blessed Jildo Irwa, who were killed in 1918. The two Blessed Martyrs are usually commemorated on 20th of October but they will be remembered in a special way on June 3, 2018.

The annual UMD celebration commemorates the 22 Catholic Martyrs who were killed on the orders of Mwanga II the Kabaka (King) of Buganda between 1885 and 1887. Millions of pilgrims from across the globe usually throng Namugongo Catholic Shrine to celebrate this day.

Tororo Archdiocese last presided over the UMD celebrations in 1998

Diocesan Youth Chaplains undergo leadership skills training



Fr. Benedict (in black) and other priests during the Diocesan Youth Chaplain workshop

Media Officer, UEC

In an effort to equip and empower Youth Chaplains with good evangelism skills in their ministries, over 40 Diocesan Youth Chaplains from across the country have gathered at Namugongo in the Archdiocese of Kampala, Uganda for a four-day leadership and mentorship skills training.

The training, which kicked off on Wednesday 17th January 2017, was held until Saturday 20th, January, 2017 under the theme: “Empowerment in the Youth Ministry Today.” Fr. Benedict Mugerwa, the National Youth Chaplain said the training aimed at inculcating leadership skills to the Chaplains to assist them to nurture future leaders.

“The outcome of this training in the medium and long term is to assist chaplains in the moulding of young leaders who are able to sustain institutions that they lead and more importantly to lead amidst inherent leadership challenges,” he said adding that, “we are in a changing world where the behavior of young people keeps changing so we need some expertise on how to deal and handle youth affairs.”

The four-day training featured a range of activities such as technical presentations and case studies (experience sharing) through interaction with the participants and the facilitators. Some of the topics covered include: Working with Today’s Youth, Youth Ministry Trends, Chal-

“THE OUTCOME OF THIS TRAINING IN THE MEDIUM AND LONG TERM IS TO ASSIST CHAPLAINS IN THE MOULDING OF YOUNG LEADERS WHO ARE ABLE TO SUSTAIN INSTITUTIONS THAT THEY LEAD AND MORE IMPORTANTLY TO LEAD AMIDST INHERENT LEADERSHIP CHALLENGES,”

lenges and Struggles of Today’s Youth, How badly the Youth need the Church today, Jesus Youth a Joyful Reality and Ugandan Context Youth - job for everyone, rural youth, unemployment, open society and migration to cities among other topics.

The event attracted Diocesan Youth Chaplains from all the 19 Dioceses in the country and other participants including youth leaders in charge of universities and schools.

Representatives from Jesus Youth India, an international Catholic youth movement with a charismatic spirituality, facilitated the training. Jesus Youth is a network of small but vibrant groups of young people who try to reach out to other youth. In their own life situations, they strive to give time to the Lord, responding to the challenges of today’s world in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Catholic Church honors Church of Uganda Archbishop Nkoyoyo

Media Officer, Uganda Episcopal Conference

The Catholic Church has honored the life and work of former Archbishop of the Church of Uganda, Livingstone Mpalanyi Nkoyoyo.

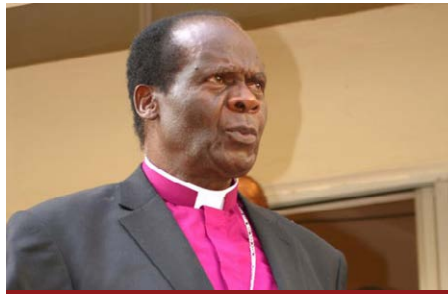
Archbishop Nkoyoyo succumbed to pneumonia on Friday, January 5, 2018, at Kampala Hospital. He had been undergoing cancer of the throat treatment in London, United Kingdom (UK) since December 2016 and returned to the country on June 29, 2017. However, on January 1, 2018 his health deteriorated significantly and he was admitted at Kampala Hospital where he passed on.

In a press statement that was issued on January 5, the Catholic Bishops described Nkoyoyo as a great Church leader and a simple man of the people.

"On this sad occasion, the Conference extends its condolences and sympathy to you, the Bishops, Clergy, family, relatives of the deceased, and the Faithful of the Church of Uganda," reads a section of the statement that was signed by the Chairman of the Uganda Episcopal Conference, Most. Rev. John Baptist Odama, also the Archbishop of Gulu Archdiocese.

He added: "Our Clergy, Religious and the lay faithful, join their bishops in prayer for the repose of the soul of retired Archbishop Nkoyoyo. The great contribution of the retired Archbishop to the Church cannot be forgotten. He has been a great Church leader and a simple man of the people."

They further hailed the late former Archbishop as an ecumenist who supported inter-religious dialogue and



The Late Archbishop Nkoyoyo (Daily Monitor)

struggled for human rights.

"His love for the Uganda Martyrs and his participation in the preparations of the Holy Father's visit to Uganda is still vivid in our memory," read the statement "We shall surely miss him, may the Lord grant him a reward-eternal rest and forgiveness for his human failures."

Born in 1938, Archbishop Nkoyoyo was one of 25 children to Erisa Wamala Nkoyoyo, a sub-county Chief in Busimbi, Mityana. He attended Mpenja Primary School, in Gomba, and later moved to Aggrey Memorial School and Mityana Junior Secondary. His father's work caused the family to move often, so Nkoyoyo dropped out of school after completing Junior Secondary School and became an auto mechanic, something that has been a lifelong interest.

On May 1, 1965 Nkoyoyo married Ruth Nalweyiso at St. Paul's Cathedral, Namirembe. Together, they have five children and, over the years, have supported hundreds of other orphans and disadvantaged children. In 2015, Nkoyoyo and Mama Ruth celebrated 50 years of marriage.

According to the Church of Uganda

website, after serving as a Suffragan (Assistant) Bishop in Namirembe Diocese, Nkoyoyo was elected and enthroned as the first Bishop of Mukono Diocese in 1983. Then, in 1995 he was elected by the House of Bishops to be the 6th Archbishop of the Church of Uganda. He served as Archbishop of the Church of Uganda from 1995 to 2004. During his leadership, he pioneered many visionary initiatives, including upgrading the Bishop Tucker Theological College in Mukono into Uganda Christian University, the first university in Uganda to be privately chartered. The university has grown from the original 120 students to more than 12,000 students on the main campus, at two constituent colleges, and a number of study centres around the country.

Upon his retirement, Nkoyoyo was able to combine his entrepreneurial gifts and ministry passions into such projects as building the Rest Gardens Retreat Centre in Bweyogerere, establishing the Words of Hope Radio Ministry, and spearheading the fundraising and construction of the Uganda Martyrs Museum in Namugongo.

In 2015 he received the Bible Leadership Excellence Award from the Bible Society of Uganda for outstanding and faithful leadership and for retiring "scandal-free."

Nkoyoyo was buried on January 9, at the Uganda Martyrs Museum in Namugongo. His burial ceremony attracted hundreds of mourners including religious leaders, political leaders and other top dignitaries in the country.

May his soul rest in eternal peace

WISE QUOTES FOR REFLECTION

"Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage." – Lao Tzu

God gave us the gift of life; it is up to us to give ourselves the gift of living well." – Voltaire

"Nothing is a waste of time if you use the experience wisely." – Auguste Rodin

You come to love not by finding the perfect person, but by seeing an imperfect person perfectly." – Sam Keen

"Today is life--the only life you are sure of. Make the most of today. Get interested in something. Shake yourself awake. Develop a hobby. Let the winds of enthusiasm sweep through you. Live today with gusto." – Dale Carnegie

"Anybody can sympathise with the sufferings of a friend, but it requires a very fine nature to sympathise with a friend's success." – Oscar Wilde

"When one door closes, another opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one that has opened for us." – Alexander Graham Bell

"...talent means nothing, while experience, acquired in humility and with hard work, means everything." – Patrick Süskind

"The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well." – Ralph Waldo Emerson

"True friendship comes when the silence between two people is comfortable." – David Tyson

Kenya Media shut down over Odinga's Oath Event



Amecea 3) Raila Odinga (center) takes Oath of office as Kenya's people's president

SOURCE: Online News, Nairobi

Three main television stations in Kenya were switched off after airing live footage as the opposition prepared to swear-in Raila Odinga as the "people's president" on Tuesday, January 30, 2018.

The Nation Media Group's NTV, Royal Media's Citizen, and Standard Group's KTN News went off air mid-morning while showing live broadcasts of National Super Alliance (Nasa) supporters who had gathered at the historic Uhuru Park from as early as 5am.

The Kenyan government had on Monday January 29 2018 been reported to have warned the media against airing Mr Odinga's oath taking.

According to reports the government previously had summoned some media representatives last week and were threatened with shutdown and revocation of licences should they broadcast live the planned Nasa "swearing in".

Other reports stated that the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) engineers had been told to be on standby on Tuesday 30th January 2018 at the country's main transmission station in Limuru, in central Kenya, should any local TV station broadcast live the event at Uhuru Park.

The "inauguration" has raised fears of violence as police had vowed not to allow the event to go ahead. However, officers kept their distance as hundreds gathered at the Uhuru Park venue.

Government expected to restore the signals after High Court suspended the switch off for 14 days pending case being heard. However, all the three TV stations remained off air despite a court order on Thursday that they be allowed to resume broadcasting, overturning a government-ordered shut down.

Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops condemns production and sale of cloth bearing image of a fake pope

By AMECEA Online News Correspondent

The Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops (ZCCB) has strongly condemned the production and sale of a Chitenge, a cotton print clothing bearing the image of a fake Pope, which is currently being sold to unsuspecting Catholic Community.

According to a press statement sent to media houses by ZCCB Director of Communications Rev. Fr. Winfield Kunda, unscrupulous people have produced Chitenge bearing the portrait of Pope "Francis Benedict XVI", who actually has never existed.

Fr. Kunda clarified that in the history of the Catholic Church, there has never been any Pope with the name Francis Benedict XVI.

"This development is meant to dupe people out of their hard earned cash. We further warn the producers and all involved in the selling of such



material to withdraw it out of the market immediately," the statement said.

The Catholic Church in Zambia further advised that anybody who wants to buy genuine Chitenge carrying the current Pope's image, should contact the Pontifical Mission Society in all the dioceses in Zambia or Catholic Secretariat in Lusaka.

AMECEA secretariat launches 19th AMECEA Plenary Assembly Steering Committee

By AMECEA Online News Reporter

AMECEA Secretariat on January 31, 2018, launched a steering committee to spearhead preparations for the 19th Plenary Assembly in a meeting that was held at the Secretariat premises in Nairobi, Kenya.

Speaking during the launch, the AMECEA Secretary General, Rev. Fr. Ferdinand Lugonzo said that the setting of the committee was based on the gaps experienced during the 18th Plenary Assembly held four years ago in Malawi, in view of bridging them for the smooth preparation and actual running of the 19th Plenary Assembly.

The committee is comprised of Management Staff and Program Coordinators at the Secretariat and Heads of AMECEA institutions.

The meeting also set up sub committees to take responsibility of various aspects of the preparations. These include; Communication and Logistics Committee that will deal

with communication with participants as well as itineraries; Content Committee, which will deal with topics to be presented and presenters, Fundraising Committee to deal with financial aspects; Reports Committee which will be dealing with Reports to be presented during the Business session and finally the Documentation Committee that will be dealing with the recording of proceedings and production of the final acts of the Plenary Assembly.

Fr Lugonzo said that more committees will be unfolded as time goes on depending on the preparation activities. The AMECEA Steering committee will be working hand in hand with organising committee of the 19th Plenary Assembly in the host conference, Ethiopia.

In his closing remarks Fr. Lugonzo asked the members of the Steering Committee to play their due roles to make sure that the plenary becomes a success.



Zebras and wildebeests
in Masai Mara

PHOTOS BY: JACINTA W. ODONGO

My first safari in Masai Mara: the jewel of Kenya's wildlife

By Jacinta W. Odongo

I have always been an ardent fan of wildlife documentaries especially the *Big Cat Week* on *Nat Geo Wild* channel. Watching how the lion 'king of the jungle', hunts down other predators effortlessly has always mesmerized me. Thus, for a long time, it has been my dream to go for a safari to see the famous 'big five' especially the lion.

Last year in December, my friend and I embarked on an exciting three-day road safari to the famous Masai Mara Game Reserve in Kenya. We opted for a group safari as we knew the safari would be more adventurous. Besides, we knew this is the

best of all the other options for us to be able to see a lot of things on the way. At about 8am, we were picked from our apartment in Nairobi City, where we were residing, to join a group of other tourists: two from France, one from Russia and two from Kenya.

After the pick-up, our tour guide Stanley briefed us about the whole trip and asked us to make brief introductions before departing. We set-off from Nairobi at exactly 8.30am to the Reserve. Driving from Nairobi to Masai Mara took us about seven hours but it was worth it. We passed through the Great Rift Valley

where we made a 10 minute stop-over to get a close-up view and take some photos. The view of the valley is breath-taking! It is bordered by escarpments to the east and west. The floor is broken by volcanoes, some which are still active, and contains a series of lakes. Our tour guide was well-informed so he gave us a very detailed background of the Great Rift Valley. Along the way, we also got a chance to see other interesting features including the under-construction multi-billion railway set to extend to Uganda, Rwanda, South Sudan and Ethiopia.

At about 1.30pm, we arrived in



A herd of buffaloes grazing at Masaai Mara.

Narok town where we had our lunch break and, visited a Masaai souvenir shop to buy some Masaai gifts. Afterward, we continued with our trip to our destination but, the road to Masaai Mara from Narok town is a bit too bumpy and dusty. At 4.00 am we arrived at our camp, Lenchada Tourist Camp Masaai Mara very exhausted. However, we were warmly welcomed by the hotelier and a group of Maasai warriors dressed in Masaai regalia, something that made us feel at home. We then checked into our tented camp for a 30 minute break before Stanley came to pick us for our day-one evening safari.

Located in Narok County, Masaai Mara Game Reserve is one of the most popular tourism destinations in Kenya. It is open grassland that covers about 1,510 km² (583 sq mi) and, is named in honor of the Maasai people (the ancestral inhabitants of the area). Its southern boundary is adjacent to Serengeti National Park in Tanzania. Masaai Mara is regarded as the jewel of Kenya's wildlife viewing areas and is rated as the world's finest wildlife destination. This is not just by chance; the reserve is a home to 95 species of mammals, amphibians and reptiles and over 400 birds' species among other animals and wild plantation.

Moreover, it is globally famous for its exceptional population of the big five (buffalo, elephant, leopard, lion, and rhino), cheetahs, hippo-

potamus, Nile crocodiles, and the annual migration of over 1.5 million of wildebeests, zebras and Thomson's gazelle, to and from the Serengeti every year from July to October, known as the Great Migration. Nowhere in Africa is wildlife more abundant.

For our day one evening trip, we encountered our first wildlife sighting shortly after entering the main entrance of Masaai Mara, Sekenani Gate. We came upon a large family of wildebeests, Thompson gazelles and zebras gracing around. This was incredible because never in my life had I seen live wild animals apart from baboons and snakes that are kept in the zoos. We made several stop-overs for a photo-session of the spectacular vast and scenic wilderness and so many other animals including antelopes, giraffes, and cheetahs. We used an open roof safari van to take us for the safari so this offered us a great opportunity to see the animals with a better view. Later at 6.45pm, Stanley drove us back to our camp this was after several attempts in the hope of catching a glimpse of the big five.

The next morning, we woke up quite early, had our breakfast and left for our full day-two safari. On barely entering the park, we again saw a large family of wildebeests, Thompson gazelles and zebras. However, this time round we didn't make a stop-over since there were other animals ahead that we wanted to see



The multi-billion railway line that is under construction



A tower of giraffe in Masaai Mara.

desperately.

During the game drive, we also came across hundreds of buffaloes which were busy grazing. But here something went wrong! One of the male buffaloes came charging at our van during our stop-over for a photo-session. The look in its eyes was more than enough to make us all scream except Stanley. At this point everybody was panicking waiting to see what happens next. Stanley immediately took out a red scarf from his pocket and waved it continuously at the buffaloes making them to take-off very fast. We then quietly left the place to see more animals. For our next stop, we saw a tower of giraffes eating shrubs and grass. Unlike the buffaloes which charged on us, giraffes are so calm, beautiful and graceful. So here, we made a long stop-over to take as many photos as possible.

A few meters down the road, we saw five majestic lions sleeping peacefully. It's no wonder they are called the 'king of the jungle'. At this point the vehicle went quiet and all that could be heard was the subtle sounds of our cameras. Stanley as



A lion at Masaai Mara



The writer (left) at the Masaai village

PHOTOS BY: JACINTA W. ODONGO



Cheetahs feasting on a dead antelope.



Hippos in Mara River

usual gave us an interesting detailed back ground of lions. He told us that male lions spend 18 to 20 hours a day sleeping, while females get 15 to 18 hours. He said this is because the lionesses spend more time hunting and taking care of cubs. The main danger the males face is fighting off other males that want to take over their pride and territory.

We also managed to see elephants, warthogs, baboons and two cheetahs which were feasting on an antelope. We tried to look for leopards and rhinos in vain but luck was not on our side. Stanley told us that leopards and rhinos always go in hiding especially when they are satisfied. Later in the plains, we came across birds such as ostriches, crested cranes, guinea fowls, vultures and marabou stokes enjoying the beautiful sunshine. Ostriches are

very tall, fast and aggressive so we didn't dare move closer to them. At about 2pm, we gathered together under a tree in the Reserve and had our packed lunch – for me this was like a fairy tale.

Afterward, we went to the Mara River, home to the *world's Seventh Wonder*. Every year, over 1.5 million Wildebeests migrate from Serengeti into the Maasai Mara by crossing The Mara River. But, what makes it more spectacular is the presence of predators in the river, namely Nile Crocodiles and other animals waiting to hunt down the wildebeests as they crossover. The Mara River is very small compared to River Nile but, it is infested with big predators that will make you take-off. We saw a herd of huge hippos that kept submerging only to surface seconds later to grunt loudly with dis-

pleasure at our presence. We also spotted Nile crocodiles, the continent's largest reptile sunbathing on the riverbanks. After about one hour, we went to see the border point of Serengeti National Park and Masaai Mara, then drove-off in exhaustion back to the Camp.

For our day-three safari, we didn't do much except visiting a Masaai village to interact with the Masaai communities that live close to The Mara. The Masaai community welcomed us with a traditional dance and gave us a brief background of their history, their tradition and experience of living close to wild animals. They also took us for a tour inside their manyatta before we departed back to Nairobi.

One thing that immediately fascinated me about Masaai Mara was the sheer size of the Reserve, the diverse environments of grassland, woodland savanna, and the abundant wildlife. The security at Maasai Mara is also on point. Hardly will you travel a few miles without bumping into security keepers on patrol checking on the safety of both wildlife and tourists visiting the Reserve. This is a reason enough for me to come back to Masaai Mara for another safari!

DESIGNED BY JOHN PAUL DDEMBE

Bringing God to Unchurched People



FR. LAZAR ARASU,
Priest And School Administrator

A rough estimation could put about 300 new births in Kampala city and its suburbs every day. Putting together various government health facilities and other private health units, it is possible that there are about 300 deliveries that take place in Kampala daily. Let us also not forget that there are many new migrants to Kampala from the rural areas on daily basis. Given to this fact, every day a new church needs to be built in Kampala to accommodate 300 new people. But that is not the reality and it is physically not possible. Then the question is 'does the Church meet the spiritual needs of her faithful or do they really need spiritual and pastoral assistance?'

Various surveys tell us that only 13% to 23% of Christians (who officially call themselves Christians) attend church on Sundays. As a matter of fact, if all the Christians, (who could be over 1.5 million) come to various churches, they will be overwhelmed and cannot contained all. The available priests and pastors will be exhausted in serving them. Now the question is 'how can the Church's ministers bring to God the unchurched people?' (By unchurched, I mean non-Church goers; 'church' with small letter mean the church 'building'; Church with capital letter mean "People of God")

It is not an easy task at all. But it should be the primary task of all the church workers to attend to all the unchurched people. After all Christ wanted them more than the others who are good and faithful, for he said, "Only the sick need the doctor; not the healthy." This is exactly what Pope Francis says, "Church should be like a field-hospital..." treating



INTERNET PHOTO

emergencies in conflict and war situations. Again he says, "We need to take the Church to those who do not come to the Church." Church ought to exist in the streets where people are commonly found.

Why are there so many unchurched people than ever before? Perhaps, it is the effect of secularism, materialism and other post-modern trends that down play the role of God and religion in the society and in the lives of individual people. What could be its effect in the life of the society and individuals? Certainly there will be a decline in the sense of God, a decline in morals and other traditional values and ethos. Surely Church is an esteemed institution in the world for over 2000 years.

The Kenyan Christian scholar John Mbiti famously said sometime in 1960s, "Africans are notoriously religious." Actually he meant, Africans are ardent lovers of God and fervent on religious values. Few decades after he made this statement, the word "notorious" has come to mean different from actually what he meant. It has almost come to mean its usual meaning—dishonourable and ill repute.

What could be the characteristics of unchurched people? Actually these people do not have any big problem with God or the institution of the Church. They are just indifferent. If their indifference is tackled they will surely return to Church and eventually to God. Having been indifferent for a long time, they have stopped feeling guilty about it. One of the positive value of guilt is bringing

a person to the right track. Most of the unchurched people have a sense of God. Because today there are very few who vehemently deny the existence of God. So there is hope in bringing them back to Church and God.

Many of them are never given proper instruction in faith and Church matters. All that they learned about God is when they were in their early teens. Now it is important to rethink the methods of evangelization and re-evangelization. Many have tried God and have been in Church but the lures of the world has distracted them. Now faith ought to be proposed with more affirmation.

Many of them are good in morals and generous at heart. A good evangelizer needs to capitalize on their positive side. Surely many unchurched people sight Church scandals, hypocrisy and other worldly behaviour within Church as things that put them off. Surely setting good examples is the key in re-evangelization.

Finally making faith relevant to them, appealing to their intellect and sensibility is vital. As much as possible is also important to reduce legalism and make the faith lively and dynamic. It is also important to make the modern man and woman feel welcome and useful in the society. People are looking for opportunity to serve, belong to and find a place and meaning in what they do. Surely putting God into the lives of people will make the society a better place to live in.

arasuafrica@gmail.com
www.arasulazar.org

A renewal of my Faith 2018

By **ROSE KABABIKIRA**
National Program Coordinator,
Uganda Young Christian Students

I would like to welcome you back from the Festive season and congratulate you upon successfully landing in 2018! The Lord is good! In this January issue, I will share with you my Christmas Season experience and bring out the best of how my faith was renewed.

I was among the lucky people who attended three Masses on Christmas Day hence, the experience I got from one sub parish to the other was very unique.

I was touched by a number of things: countless groups of people (mostly families) moving together to places of worship, children eloquently and confidently taking readings in Masses, parents looking out for their children during offertory to give them money to put in the offertory box, associations and movements like YCS, Legion of Mary taking part in cleaning and decorating the church and constructing a Symbolic Bethlehem etc. In fact, in one of the sub parishes, the youth living in

Diaspora took charge of the Christmas meal for three elderly members of the church. It was such a gesture!

One thing that I am quite sure of is; faith itself is a story to be told, a life to be lived, a story made up of many stories, stories of creation, of redemption, of new life, of love, of patience, of hope and of courage all of which centers on Jesus Christ the eternal Son of God, who was born, suffered, died and resurrected for our salvation.

Just like Jesus, let 2018 be a year to focus on making our families more involved and engaged in church activities, but not leaving our children behind much as it is contradictory to the trends of our modern society. For example children watching cartoons rather than going for Missionary Holy Childhood programs at Church. Frederick Douglass, an African-American social reformer, orator and writer, once said "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men and

women."

Mother Church has given us many opportunities to keep witnessing our faith for instance being chosen to be god parents to children. Thus, we should let the spiritual wellbeing of our god sons and god daughters be the first priority.

Each one of us should ask ourselves this question: Are you worthy of being emulated in your community? Those who have witnessed to couples during their marriage ceremony in the church, how often have you followed up to see how these couples are living their marriage life? Recently, during one of the chats with a friend called Brian, he revealed that he still holds the marriage certificate of a couple that he witnessed in November 2015 (the weekend of the Pope's visit, but my question to him was does he follow up to check on them?

In conclusion, I would like to appreciate everyone that made an impact in someone's life during the festive season. Let us also continue to pray together with the Holy Father for Christians and other religious minority groups living in different parts of the world, that they may be able to practice their faith at ease.

LITURGICAL READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2018



FEBRUARY 2- Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple

Lectionary: 524

Reading 1 *MAL 3:1-4*

Responsorial Psalm *PS 24:7, 8, 9, 10*

Reading 2 *HEB 2:14-18*

Gospel *LK 2:22-40 OR 2:22-32*

FEBRUARY 4- Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 74

Reading 1 *JB 7:1-4, 6-7*

Responsorial Psalm *PS 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6*

Reading 21 *COR 9:16-19, 22-23*

Gospel *MK 1:29-39*

FEBRUARY 5- Memorial of Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

Lectionary: 329

Reading 11 *KGS 8:1-7, 9-13*

Responsorial Psalm *PS 132:6-7, 8-10*

Gospel *MK 6:53-56*

FEBRUARY 6- Memorial of Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

Lectionary: 330

Reading 1 *1 KGS 8:22-23, 27-30*

Responsorial Psalm *PS 84:3, 4, 5 AND 10, 11*

Gospel *MK 7:1-13*

FEBRUARY 10- Memorial of Saint Scholastica, Virgin

Lectionary: 334

Reading 1 *1 KGS 12:26-32; 13:33-34*

Responsorial Psalm *PS 106:6-7AB, 19-20, 21-22*

Gospel *MK 8:1-10*

FEBRUARY 11- Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 77

Reading 1 *LV 13:1-2, 44-46*

Responsorial Psalm *PS 32:1-2, 5, 11*

Reading 21 *COR 10:31-11:1*

Gospel *MK 1:40-45*

FEBRUARY 14- Ash Wednesday

Lectionary: 219

Reading 1 *JL 2:12-18*

Responsorial Psalm *PS 51:3-4, 5-6AB,*

12-13, 14 AND 17

Reading 22 *COR 5:20-6:2*

Verse before the Gospel, *SEE PS 95:8*

Gospel *MT 6:1-6, 16-18*

FEBRUARY 18- First Sunday of Lent

Lectionary: 23

Reading 1 *GN 9:8-15*

Responsorial Psalm *PS 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9*

Reading 2 *1 PT 3:18-22*

Verse Before The Gospel *MT 4:4B*

Gospel *MK 1:12-15*

FEBRUARY 22- Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter, Apostle

Lectionary: 535

Reading 1 *1 PT 5:1-4*

Responsorial Psalm *PS 23:1-3A, 4, 5, 6*

Verse Before The Gospel *MT 16:18*

Gospel *MT 16:13-19*

FEBRUARY 25- Second Sunday of Lent

Lectionary: 26

Reading 1 *GN 22:1-2, 9A, 10-13, 15-18*

Responsorial Psalm *PS 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19*

Reading 2 *ROM 8:31B-34*

Verse Before the Gospel *CF. MT 17:5*

Gospel *MK 9:2-10*

How to keep the sacred covenant of marriage



By Barbara Nabukenya

A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.

Ecclesiastes 4:12

As the year begins, let me first begin by wishing you all a Happy New Year.

Modern society is still suffering from the sickness of the “Me Generation,” which has contaminated the covenant of marriage. The selfish Me-Gen person says in effect, “When marriage serves my purpose, I’m on board. But when it ceases to make me happy, when it’s too much effort, when the unexpected shows up and creates additional pressure, I’m outta here.” Some leave physically; others leave emotionally and withdraw.

But let us not forget the three basic truths about their commitment to each other:

1. Marriage is a covenant between three, not two. On our wedding day, I entered into a covenant both with my husband and with God. Our marriage is not a contract but a sacred cord of three strands that will not be easily broken.

2. Marriage vows require us to forgive each other. No marriage is a perpetual walk through the daisies. There will be unmet expectations, unwise decisions, troubles with schedules and finances, and other unexpected pressures that will rattle our relationship until we think it’s about to fall apart. But when hurt and disappointment come, our vows demand that we forgive one another. This is not an optional accessory. It is the life and breath of our marriage.

Forgiveness is an essential component of successful romantic relationships. In fact, the capacity to seek and grant forgiveness is one of the most

significant factors contributing to marital satisfaction and a lifetime of love. Forgiving yourself and others is about being willing to acknowledge that you are capable of being wounded. It also means that you are willing to step out from the role of victim and take charge of your life.

3. Marriage vows are enduring. When the pressure becomes relentless and intense—when the cultural voices around us entice us to look out only for ourselves and quit—our vows shout, “DON’T!” (Or, as my kids say, “Deal with it.”)

Quitting on your marriage may temporarily reduce the pressure you feel, but I promise you that a broken marriage and family will add truckloads of new pressures over a lifetime. It takes courage to do what you know is right. Remaining devoted to your spouse becomes your living testimony to the faithfulness of God and the strength of your marriage covenant.

Let us pray that you will always love as God loves, forgive as He forgives and endure as He endures.



UGANDA EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE

(UGANDA CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT)
Nsambya Hill, 672 Hanlon Road

Our Ref:.....

Your Ref:.....

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

PRESS RELEASE


FAKE VIDEO ALLEGING THE RESIGNATION OF POPE FRANCIS

I would like to bring to the attention of the public that there is a fake video being circulated in the social media alleging that His Holiness Pope Francis has announced his resignation. This is an absolute lie and should be treated with the contempt it deserves.

The Holy Father has not given any indication of resignation and as a matter of fact he is presently on his Apostolic Journey to Chile and Peru (January 15 - 22, 2018).

Official information pertaining to the Holy See is available on the official Vatican website (www.vatican.va).

Wishing you God’s abundant blessings.


+John Baptist Odama
Archbishop of Gulu, and
Chairman of Uganda Episcopal Conference
Kampala, January 15, 2018

THEME FOR WORLD COMMUNICATION DAY 2018

“The truth will set you free.” (Jn 8:32).

***Fake News and
journalism for Peace***

- Pope Francis

KEY EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2018

Friday, February 2- Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple



INTERNET PHOTO

Known originally as the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is a relatively ancient celebration. The feast celebrates the presentation of Christ in the temple at Jerusalem on the 40th day after His birth.

The Feast of the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple is also known as the Feast of the Encounter: the Liturgy says at the beginning that Jesus goes to meet his people. Thus, this is the encounter between Jesus and his people, when Mary and Joseph brought their child to the Temple in Jerusalem; the first encounter between Jesus and his people, represented by Simeon and Anna, took place. It was also the first encounter within the history of the people, a meeting between the young and the old: the young were Mary and Joseph with their infant son and the old were Simeon and Anna, two people who often went to the Temple.

Monday, February 5- Memorial of Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

St. Agatha, also known as Agatha of Sicily, is one of the most highly venerated virgin martyrs of the Catholic Church. It is believed that she was born around 231 in either Catania or Palermo, Sicily to a rich and noble family. From her very early years, Agatha dedicated her life to God. She became a consecrated virgin, a state in life where young women choose to remain celibate and give themselves wholly to Jesus and the Church in a life of prayer and service. St. Agatha died in defense of her purity, in Catania, Sicily, where she was born. After Quintanus, the governor of Sicily, tried in vain to force her to consent to sin, she was imprisoned for a month with an evil woman. He then turned from sensuality to cruelty and had her breasts cut off; but that night Agatha was healed by St. Peter. She was then rolled over sharp stones and burning coals, and finally taken to prison where she died while praying. Her name appears in the

Roman Canon.

Patron: Breast cancer; breast disease; Catania, Italy; against fire; earthquakes; natural disasters; nurses; rape victims; single laywomen; sterility; torture victims and volcanic eruptions.

Wednesday, February 14- Ash Wednesday

This is a day that is an integral part of the Lenten season in many Christian religions including Catholic, Orthodox and some Protestant religions. In the Catholic religion,



INTERNET PHOTO

the ashes used on Ash Wednesday are remnants of the palm leaves distributed from the prior year on Palm Sunday. Catholics keep the palm leaves throughout the year and return them to the Church before Ash Wednesday of the next year. The leaves are then turned into ashes for use in the Ash Wednesday services. During the service, the parishioners proceed to the front of the church and the ashes are placed on each person's forehead in the shape of a cross. The ashes are not to be washed off but are to remain on the forehead throughout the day of Ash Wednesday.

Sunday, February 18 – First Sunday of Lent

Lent is a religious time period of 40 days before Easter Sunday focusing on prayer, penance, and a renewal of faith. Lenten season is a time to prepare for Jesus rising from the dead. The focus, beginning on Ash Wednesday, is to seek penance for sins of the past and to renew the relationship with God through the three pillars of the Lenten season. The three pillars are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Prayer is to allow people to focus or meditate on many aspects of their personal lives and to also pray for others. Fasting is to assist in "developing self-control. It is often an aid to prayer, as the pangs of hunger remind us of our hunger for God." Fasting also assists in the changing of behavior. "The prophet Isaiah insists that fasting without changing our behavior is not pleasing to God." When reading Isaiah 58:5-8, it states. Almsgiving is a continuation of prayer and fasting. It is a time to be thankful for all that God has given us. It is also a time to care for others as God cares for us.

Thursday, February 22- Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter, Apostle

The feast of the Chair of Saint Peter at Rome has been celebrated from the early days of the Christian era on 18 January, in commemoration of the day when Saint Peter held his first service in Rome. This feast brings to mind the mission of teacher and pastor conferred by Christ on Peter, and continued in an unbroken line down to the present Pope. We celebrate the unity of the Church, founded upon the Apostle, and renew our assent to the Magisterium of the Roman Pontiff.

Pope Francis' prayer intention for February: Say "No" to Corruption



Pope Francis

Vatican Radio

Pope Francis has released a video message accompanying his monthly prayer intention for February 2018.

This month's intention "Say 'No' to Corruption" is that those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.

The text of the video message reads:

What is at the root of slavery, unemployment, and disregard for nature and goods held in common? Corruption, a process of death that feeds the culture of death because, the thirst for power and possessions knows no limits.

Corruption is not countered with silence.

We must speak about it, denounce its evils, and try to understand it so as to show our resolve to make mercy reign over meanness, beauty over nothingness.

Let us pray that those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network of the Apostleship of Prayer developed the "Pope Video" initiative to assist in the worldwide dissemination of monthly intentions of the Holy Father in relation to the challenges facing humanity.

"Money has to serve, not rule"

—Pope Francis

Pope calls for Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace on 23 February



Pope Francis addresses the crowds in St. Peter's Square during Sunday Angelus (AFP or licensors)

By Linda Bordoni, Vatican Radio

Pope Francis is asking all men and women of goodwill to join him in a special Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace for the war-torn people of the Democratic Republic of Congo and of South Sudan, regardless of their religious denomination.

Addressing the crowds gathered in St. Peter's Square for the Sunday Angelus on February 4, the Pope said that "Faced with the tragic protracted situations of conflict in different parts of the world, I invite all the faithful to take part in a special Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace on February 23rd, the Friday of the First Week of Lent".

Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace

He said our prayers will be offered especially to those suffering violence in the DRC and in South Sudan, and he continued, as on other similar occasions "I also invite non-Catholic and non-Christian brothers and sisters to join us this initiative in whatever ways they deem most appropriate".

Prayers for cyclone-struck Madagascar

Pope Francis also assured his closeness to the populations of Madagascar, "recently hit by a strong cyclone, which has caused victims, displaced people

and wreaked extensive damage" and prayed that they may be comforted and the supported by the Lord.

New Blessed seed of hope and fraternity for the young

During his address following the Angelus prayer, Pope Francis also mentioned the Beatification on Saturday of a young man called Teresio Olivelli who was killed for his Christian faith in 1945 in Hersbruck concentration camp.

"He gave witness to Christ in his love for the weakest and he joins the long line of martyrs of the last century. His heroic sacrifice is a seed of hope and fraternity especially for the young" he said.

Day for Life in Italy

The Pope mentioned that in Italy today The Day for Life is marked on the theme "The gospel of life, joy for the world" and said he joins the Italian Bishops in expressing appreciation and encouragement to the different ecclesial realities that in many ways promote and sustain life.

Finally, amongst those whom he greeted with a specific mention, was a delegation from the Sicilian city of Agrigento to whom he expressed gratitude for its commitment to welcome and integrate migrants.



Pope Francis celebrates Mass at Casa Santa Marta (Vatican Media)

Pope says there is no humility without humiliation

By Linda Bordoni, Vatican Radio

Pope Francis has told believers that there is no true humility without humiliation.

The Pope was speaking during morning Mass at the Casa Santa Marta on January 29 as he reflected on the first liturgical reading of the day which speaks of the humiliation of King David.

Pope Francis said David was indeed a great man: he had overcome Goliath, he had “a noble soul” because twice he could have killed Saul but he had not done so. But David, he continued, was also a sinner: he had committed the serious sins of adultery and had arranged the murder of Uriah, Bathsheba’s husband.

“And yet, Francis noted, the Church venerates him as a saint” because he let himself be transformed by the Lord, he “accepted” forgiveness, he repented and recognized himself as a sinner.

David is humiliated

The First Reading, the Pope said, focuses on the humiliation of David: his son Absalom revolts against him but at that moment David does not think of “saving his own skin” but of saving his people, the Temple and the Ark of the Covenant.

He flees, he explained, and his gesture that appears cowardly is really a courageous one: “he wept without ceasing, his head was covered, and

he was walking barefoot”.

David lets himself be insulted
Pope Francis noted that the great David is humiliated not only by defeat and by flight, but also by insult. In fact, during his escape, a man named Shimei “cursed and threw stones at David” telling him that the Lord had requited him and put the kingdom in the hands of his son Absalom.

Shimei, the Pope continued, tells David that he is now suffering ruin “because he is a murderer” and David lets him continue to curse and insult him saying: “Perhaps the Lord will look upon my affliction and make it up to me with benefits for the curses he is uttering this day.”

“Ready-to-wear” humility is not salvific

Pope Francis noted that David’s ascent up the Mount of Olives is prophetic of Jesus’ climb up the hill of Calvary to give life: he too was insulted and discarded. This he explained refers precisely to the humility of Jesus:

“Sometimes we think that humility is to go quietly, perhaps head-down looking at the floor... but even pigs walk with their heads down: this is not humility. This is that fake, ready-to-wear humility, which neither saves nor guards the heart. We have to be aware that there is no true humility without humiliation, and if you are not able to tolerate, to carry humiliation on your shoulders, you are not truly humble: you pretend you are, but you are not”.

Turning humiliation into hope

The Pope pointed out that both David and Jesus burden themselves with sins and said: “David is a saint, and Jesus, with the sanctity of God, is really a saint” and they are both humiliated.

“There is always the temptation to counter slander and oppose anything that humiliates us or makes us feel ashamed - like Shimei. But David says “No”; the Lord says “No”, that is not the right path. The path is the one taken by Jesus and prophesied by David: bearing humiliation. ‘Perhaps the Lord will look upon my affliction and make it up to me with benefits for the curses he is uttering this day’: turning humiliation into hope.

There is no humility without humiliation

Pope Francis concluded warning that humility is not justifying oneself immediately in the face of an offense and trying to look good: “if you are unable to bear humiliation, you are not humble” he warned: “this is the golden rule”.

“Let us ask the Lord for the grace of humility, with humiliations. There was a nun who used to say: ‘yes, I am humble, but never humiliated!’ No, no! There is no humility without humiliation. We are asking for this grace. And if someone is brave – just as as St. Ignatius teaches us - he can even ask the Lord to send humiliations so he can be more like the Lord



How Can We Defend Ourselves From ‘Virus’ of Fake News? Pope Francis Gives Radical ‘Antidote’

**Pope Criticizes ‘Fake News’
in Message for World
Communications Day
Published on Zenit.org on
January 24, 2018,**

By Deborah Castellano Lubov,
Vatican Dicasteries/Diplomacy

Pope Francis has given a radical ‘antidote’ for the ‘virus’ of fake news, namely purification by the truth.

The Holy Father did so when denouncing ‘fake news’ in his message for the 52nd World Communications Day, titled “‘The truth will set you free’ (Jn 8:32). Fake news and journalism for peace’. This year, the day will be celebrated on May 13, the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord.

In the message, the Pope reminds that human communication is an essential and beautiful part of life, but warns that distorted communications can cause much harm.

Examining how to “recognize” such false news, the Pontiff reminds that when the truth is manipulated, it is not just ‘the public’ or ‘an audience,’ that is affected, but real people.

The Pope then posed the question, ‘How do we defend ourselves from this?’ Responding

“In today’s fast-changing world of communications and digital systems, we are witnessing the spread of what has come to be known as “fake news.” This, the Pope said, calls for reflection.

The Pope stressed his desire to contribute to “our shared commitment” to prevent the spread of fake news and to rediscovering the dignity of journalism and the personal responsibility of journalists to communicate the truth.

Fake news, the Pontiff said, is a sign of intolerant and hypersensitive attitudes, and leads only to the spread of arrogance and hatred, which he said, is the end result of untruth.

“None of us can feel exempted from the duty of countering these falsehoods,” he noted, while acknowledging that this is no easy task.

“Yet preventing and identifying the way disinformation works,” he went on to say, “also calls for a profound and careful process of discernment.”

“Constant contamination” by deceptive language, the Pope said, can end up darkening our interior life.

“So how do we defend ourselves? The most radical antidote to the virus of falsehood is purification by the truth.”

The Holy Father encouraged communicators to realize that we discover and rediscover the truth when we

experience it within ourselves in the loyalty and trustworthiness of the One who loves us. This alone, he said, can liberate us.

To discern the truth, we need to discern everything that encourages communion and promotes goodness from whatever instead tends to isolate, divide, and oppose.

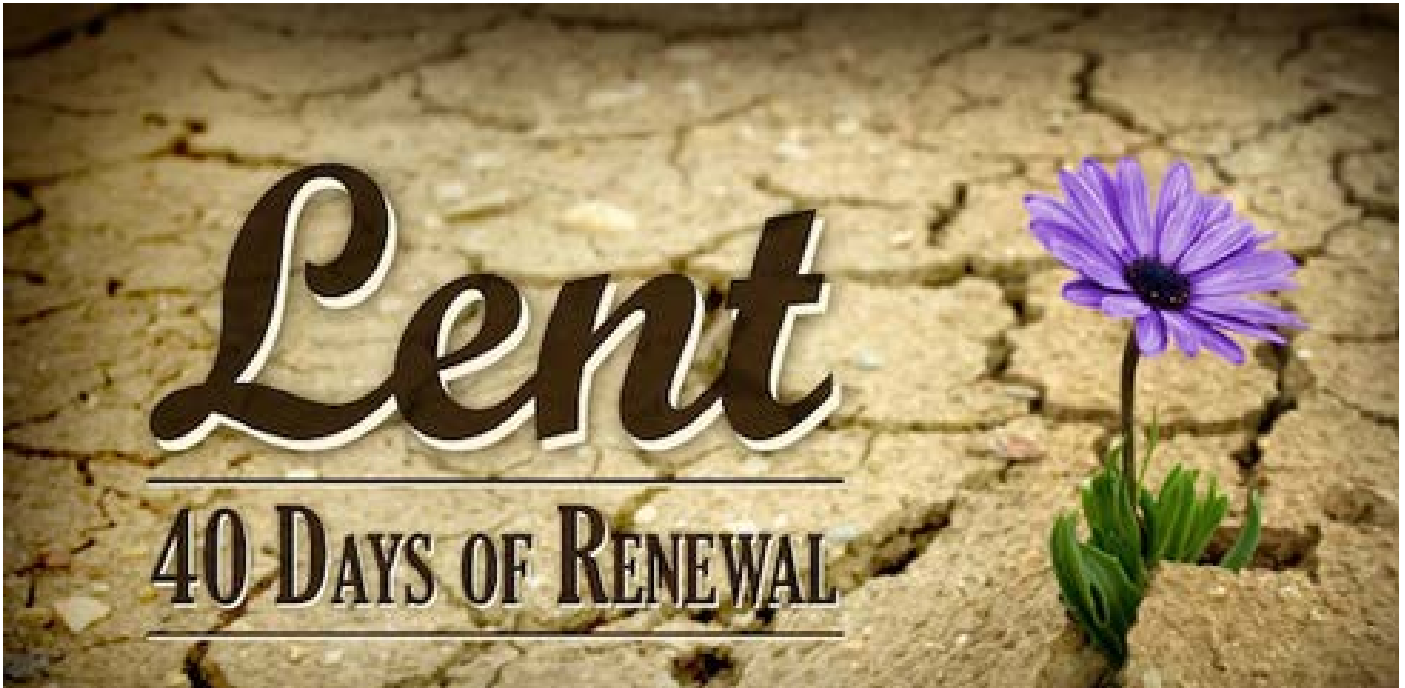
Peace, the Pope said, is the true news. The best antidotes to falsehoods, the Pontiff said, are not strategies, but people, people who wish to listen and are interested in sincere dialogue to make the truth emerge.

“If responsibility is the answer to the spread of fake news, then a weighty responsibility rests on the shoulders of those whose job is to provide information, namely, journalists, the protectors of news. In today’s world, theirs is, in every sense, not just a job; it is a mission.”

The Pope went on to invite everyone to promote a journalism of peace, in other words, a journalism “that is truthful and opposed to falsehoods, rhetorical slogans, and sensational headlines. A journalism created by people for people, one that is at the service of all, especially those – and they are the majority in our world – who have no voice.”

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2018

“Because of the increase of iniquity, the love of many will grow cold” (Mt 24:12)



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Once again, the Pasch of the Lord draws near! In our preparation for Easter, God in his providence offers us each year the season of Lent as a “sacramental sign of our conversion” Lent summons us, and enables us, to come back to the Lord wholeheartedly and in every aspect of our life.

With this message, I would like again this year to help the entire Church experience this time of grace anew, with joy and in truth. I will take my cue from the words of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew: “Because of the increase of iniquity, the love of many will grow cold” (24:12).

These words appear in Christ’s preaching about the end of time. They were spoken in Jerusalem, on the Mount of Olives, where the Lord’s passion would begin. In reply to a question of the disciples, Jesus foretells a great tribulation and describes a situation in which the community of believers might well find itself: amid great trials, false prophets would lead people astray and the love that is the core of the Gospel would grow cold in the hearts of many.

False prophets

Let us listen to the Gospel passage and try to understand the guise such false prophets can assume.

They can appear as “snake charmers”, who manipulate human emotions in order to enslave others and lead them where they would have them go. How many of God’s children are mesmerized by momentary pleasures, mistaking them for true happiness! How many men and women live entranced by the dream of wealth, which only makes them slaves to profit and petty interests! How many go through life believing that they are sufficient unto themselves, and end up entrapped by loneliness!

False prophets can also be “charlatans”, who offer easy and immediate solutions to suffering that soon prove utterly useless. How many young people are taken in by the panacea of drugs, of disposable relationships, of easy but dishonest gains! How many more are ensnared in a thoroughly “virtual” existence, in which relationships appear quick and straightforward, only to prove meaningless! These swindlers, in peddling things that have no real value, rob people of all that is most precious: dignity, freedom and the ability to love. They appeal to our vanity, our trust in appearances, but in the end they only make fools of us. Nor should we be surprised. In order to confound the human heart, the

devil, who is “a liar and the father of lies” (Jn 8:44), has always presented evil as good, falsehood as truth. That is why each of us is called to peer into our heart to see if we are falling prey to the lies of these false prophets. We must learn to look closely, beneath the surface, and to recognize what leaves a good and lasting mark on our hearts, because it comes from God and is truly for our benefit.

A cold heart

In his description of hell, Dante Alighieri pictures the devil seated on a throne of ice in frozen and loveless isolation. We might well ask ourselves how it happens that charity can turn cold within us. What are the signs that indicate that our love is beginning to cool?

More than anything else, what destroys charity is greed for money, “the root of all evil” (1 Tim 6:10). The rejection of God and his peace soon follows; we prefer our own desolation rather than the comfort found in his word and the sacraments. All this leads to violence against anyone we think is a threat to our own “certainties”: the unborn child, the elderly and infirm, the migrant, the alien among us, or our neighbour who does not live up to our expectations. ►



Giving alms or contributing to charity is one of the three pillars of Lenten practice.

► Creation itself becomes a silent witness to this cooling of charity. The earth is poisoned by refuse, discarded out of carelessness or for self-interest. The seas, themselves polluted, engulf the remains of countless shipwrecked victims of forced migration. The heavens, which in God's plan, were created to sing his praises, are rent by engines raining down implements of death.

Love can also grow cold in our own communities. In the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, I sought to describe the most evident signs of this lack of love: selfishness and spiritual sloth, sterile pessimism, the temptation to self-absorption, constant warring among ourselves, and the worldly mentality that makes us concerned only for appearances, and thus lessens our missionary zeal.

What are we to do?

Perhaps we see, deep within ourselves and all about us, the signs I have just described. But the Church, our Mother and Teacher, along with the often bitter medicine of the truth, offers us in the Lenten season the soothing remedy of prayer, almsgiving and fasting.

By devoting more time to prayer, we enable our hearts to root out our secret lies and forms of self-deception, and then to find the consolation God offers. He is our Father and he wants us to live life well.

Almsgiving sets us free from greed and helps us to regard our neighbour as a brother or sister. What I possess is never mine alone. How I would like almsgiving to become a genuine style of life for each of us! How I would like us, as Christians, to follow the example of the Apostles and see in the sharing of our possessions a tangible witness of the communion that is ours in the Church! For this reason, I echo Saint

Paul's exhortation to the Corinthians to take up a collection for the community of Jerusalem as something from which they themselves would benefit (cf. 2 Cor 8:10). This is all the more fitting during the Lenten season, when many groups take up collections to assist Churches and peoples in need. Yet I would also hope that, even in our daily encounters with those who beg for our assistance, we would see such requests as coming from God himself. When we give alms, we share in God's providential care for each of his children. If through me God helps someone today, will he not tomorrow provide for my own needs? For no one is more generous than God.

Fasting weakens our tendency to violence; it disarms us and becomes an important opportunity for growth. On the one hand, it allows us to experience what the destitute and the starving have to endure. On the other hand, it expresses our own spiritual hunger and thirst for life in God. Fasting wakes us up. It makes us more attentive to God and our neighbour. It revives our desire to obey God, who alone is capable of satisfying our hunger.

I would also like my invitation to extend beyond the bounds of the Catholic Church, and to reach all of you, men and women of good will, who are open to hearing God's voice. Perhaps, like ourselves, you are disturbed by the spread of iniquity in the world, you are concerned about the chill that paralyzes hearts and actions, and you see a weakening in our sense of being members of the one human family. Join us, then, in raising our plea to God, in fasting, and in offering whatever you can to our brothers and sisters in need!

The fire of Easter

Above all, I urge the members of the Church to take up the Lenten journey



Prayer is one of the pillars for Lenten Season INTERNET PHOTOS

with enthusiasm, sustained by almsgiving, fasting and prayer. If, at times, the flame of charity seems to die in our own hearts, know that this is never the case in the heart of God! He constantly gives us a chance to begin loving anew.

One such moment of grace will be, again this year, the "24 Hours for the Lord" initiative, which invites the entire Church community to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation in the context of Eucharistic adoration. In 2018, inspired by the words of Psalm 130:4, "With you is forgiveness", this will take place from Friday, 9 March to Saturday, 10 March. In each diocese, at least one church will remain open for twenty-four consecutive hours, offering an opportunity for both Eucharistic adoration and sacramental confession.

During the Easter Vigil, we will celebrate once more the moving rite of the lighting of the Easter candle. Drawn from the "new fire", this light will slowly overcome the darkness and illuminate the liturgical assembly. "May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds", and enable all of us to relive the experience of the disciples on the way to Emmaus. By listening to God's word and drawing nourishment from the table of the Eucharist, may our hearts be ever more ardent in faith, hope and love.

With affection and the promise of my prayers for all of you, I send you my blessing. Please do not forget to pray for me.

*From the Vatican, 1 November 2017
Solemnity of All Saints
Francis*

ST. DANIEL COMBONI CENTRE - NAMUGONGO

FOUNDED BY THE COMBONI MISSIONARY SISTERS FOR PROMOTING SPIRITUAL AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE



WHAT WE OFFER

THE CENTER IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING DIRECT/GUIDED AND PREACHED RETREATS.

We also offer accommodation for the following activities:

- Chapters and Assemblies
- Seminars, workshops and meetings opened also to Humanitarian/Social Organizations (NGOs)
- Church related activities, e.g. youth programs, leaders' formation, women promotion, etc.
- Christian events, e.g. Baptisms, First Communions, etc.

OUR FACILITIES

- A big Chapel for prayer celebration of liturgy and Christian events.
- A small Chapel in the inner courtyard for adoration and private prayer
- 43 self contained rooms.
- Conference hall with a sitting capacity for over 100 people
- A dining hall with a sitting capacity of 60 people
- Ample green areas with trees and flowers for rest & reflection.
- Internet availability in the premises



For booking please contact: P. O Box 7193, Kampala; Phone: +256 392719719; Mob: +256 785773625; Email: comboni.retreats@mclinkmail.com



New Contact is a publication of the Uganda Episcopal Conference

Nsambya Hill, 672 Hanlon Road, P.O. Box 2886 Kampala, Uganda, **Tel:** +256-414-510570/0414-10544/ 0414-510571/0414-510398,
Mobile Tel: +256-782746812, **Fax:** +256 414 510 545, **E-mail:** ucsnewcontact@gmail.com, **Website:** www.uecon.org

