

## THOUSANDS OF CHRISTIANS CELEBRATE THE EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF BISHOP KIRABO

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



By Jacinta W. Odongo

Archbishop Bakyenga lays hands on Bishop Kirabo during the Ordination Rite. (INSET) Bishop Kirabo (center) before his Ordination.

**THOUSANDS** of Christians from the Diocese of Hoima and other dioceses across the country attended the ordination and installation of Bishop Kirabo as the new Bishop of Hoima diocese.

The colourful celebration, rich in symbolism took place on Sunday, February 28, 2016 at Our Lady of Lourdes Cathedral, Bujumbura in Hoima Diocese. It was scheduled to start at 10.00 am, but the Christians eager to witness this rare event of an ordination of a bishop began filling up the premises by 7am as others queued patiently to access the venue.

The Mass was presided over by Most Rev. Paul Bakyenga, the Archbishop of Mbarara Archdiocese, who was the principal consecrator. He was assisted by the Emeritus Bishop of Hoima, Rt. Rev. Edward Baharagate and Rt. Rev. Lambert Bainomugisha, the Auxiliary Bishop of Mbarara and formerly the Apostolic Administrator of Hoima diocese.

During the Episcopal ordination rite, Archbishop Bakyenga, after the laying on of hands, placed the open Book of the Gospels upon the head of the bishop-elect and recited the prayer of consecration. There was great jubilation when it was announced after the prayer that Kirabo was now a bishop.

The Archbishop also placed a skull cap commonly known as a zucchetto (purple in colour) and a triangular hat also referred to as a mitre, an action which drew ululation and applause from the Christians. He further gave him the bishop's ring, a sign of his fidelity to his ministry, and then the crosier – a sign of the pastoral office of a bishop, who is called to watch over his flock in the diocese as their shepherd.

In a moving and symbolic action of installation, Archbishop Bakyenga led the newly ordained Bishop to occupy his chair to signify the point in which he officially took his seat as the Bishop of Hoima. This was followed by the kiss of peace by all the bishops present and the promise of obedience by the priests of Hoima Diocese and the representatives of the religious and laity in the diocese.

The Mass was also attended by H.E Michael August Blume, the Apostolic Nuncio to Uganda, His Eminence Emmanuel Cardinal Wamala, Most Rev. John Baptist Odama, the Chairman of the Uganda Episcopal Conference and Archbishop of Gulu, Most Rev. Dr Cyprian Kizito Lwanga, Archbishop of Kampala, Most Rev. Emmanuel Obbo, Archbishop of Tororo, 27 bishops from

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## THE EDITORIAL



**T**he month of February 2016, saw two significant events in the Catholic Church in Uganda. On the sad note, we lost one of our bishops, Rt. Rev. John Baptist Kakubi, the Emeritus Bishop of Mbarara. Bishop Kakubi passed away on February 11, 2016 at the age of 86 and was laid to rest on February 13, 2016 in Mbarara Archdiocese. We thank God for the gift of him to our church and country, and we pray that he receives the reward of eternal life.

On the bright side, the Diocese of Hoima witnessed the Episcopal ordination and installation of their new bishop, Rt. Rev. Vincent Kirabo, on February 28, 2016. As we congratulate Bishop Kirabo and the Christians of Hoima Diocese, we also thank God for giving us a new shepherd.

In this edition of **New Contact**, you will find news stories and pictures of the colourful Episcopal ordination of Bishop Kirabo, held at Our Lady of Lourdes Cathedral, Bujumbura, Hoima Diocese. You will also read about the office of a Catholic bishop and what he is identified with and much more.

For any feedback, news stories, adverts or inquiries pertaining to our publication, please contact us on +256 782 746 812 or send an email to [newcontact2013@gmail.com](mailto:newcontact2013@gmail.com) or [podii2002@yahoo.com](mailto:podii2002@yahoo.com). New Contact is circulated via email and can also be accessed on the website of UEC ([www.uecon.org](http://www.uecon.org)) and on Facebook.

Let us keep in contact through **New Contact**.

I WISH YOU A VERY ENRICHING LENTEN SEASON.

Fr. Philip Odii  
**Editor/Executive Secretary of  
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*New Contact is an electronic news bulletin of Uganda Episcopal Conference*

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## Thousands of Christians celebrate Bishop Kirabo's Episcopal Ordination

FROM PAGE 1



His Eminence Emmanuel Cardinal Wamala lays his hands on Bishop Kirabo.



The Apostolic Nuncio to Uganda, H.E. Augustine Blume lays his hands on Bishop Kirabo.

By Jacinta W. Odongo

Uganda and over 500 priests and religious men and women.

Religious leaders from various denominations, cultural and political leaders were also present at the celebration. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni was the Chief Guest and he was accompanied by Hon. Henry Kajura, the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Service and Hon. Matia Kasaija, Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

In his speech, Bishop Kirabo, 61, expressed his gratitude to Pope Francis for appointing him a bishop and thus joining the college of bishops.

*"I am humbled to have been chosen but I do know that I am not going to walk alone in this journey,"* Bishop Kirabo said after his consecration. *"I thank all the consecrators and the Emeritus Bishop of Hoima for their exemplary life and I ask them to continue praying for me. Assisted with the grace of God I am prepared to work with you and promote God's kingdom in Hoima."*

Bishop Kirabo expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Bishop Bainomugisha for his contribution to Hoima diocese during the time it did not have a substantive Bishop. He also thanked the Apostolic Nuncio, the Cardinal, Bishops, religious men and women, the President, the King of Bunyoro Kingdom, Solomon Gafabusa Iguru I and the Christians for coming to celebrate his Episcopal ordination.

In ordaining Bishop Kirabo, Archbishop Bakyenga, said: *"Bishops are called to serve and care for the flock of Christ. Remember that you are chosen from among men and appointed to act for men and women in relation to God. As principal ministers of word and sacrament, stewards of the mysteries of God, they are to preside at the Lord's Table and to lead the offering of prayer and praise. Always pray and offer sacrifice for the people committed to your care and so draw every kind of grace for*

*them from the overflowing holiness of Christ."*

He further emphasized to him to embrace love and emulate the Holy Father by caring for the poor, strangers and the homeless.

The Apostolic Nuncio told the Christians to welcome Bishop Kirabo with prayer, wise counsel and Christ-inspired action so that his burden may be light. *"In that way he will fulfill the promise that he makes during the Ordination Liturgy to guide the Holy people of God in the way of salvation as a devoted father and sustain them with the help of the priests and deacons,"* he said.

Meanwhile, Archbishop Odama who also introduced all the Bishops of Uganda present, asked the Christians of Hoima to take Bishop Kirabo as a precious gift of God given to them by the Pope. He urged them to hold him with care, to protect and defend him.

Bishop Kirabo was later led around the Cathedral by Bishop Bainomugisha to bless everyone gathered at the venue. He chose the motto **"Stay With Us Lord"**.

The joyful occasion ended in a grand style with President Museveni handing over car keys of a brand new Mitsubishi-Pajero as a gift, to Bishop Kirabo.

Hoima Diocese was erected by Pope Paul VI in his decree of 9th August 1965 and was inaugurated on 15th September 1965. The following have been its previous bishops: Rt. Rev. Cyprian Kihangire(RIP), Rt. Rev. Albert Edward Baharagate, Rt. Rev. Deogratias Byabazaire(RIP), and Rt. Rev. Lambert Bainomugisha, who was the Apostolic Administrator of the diocese until the appointment of Bishop Vincent Kirabo. ■



# FORMER BISHOP OF MBARARA, RT. REV. KAKUBI DIES AT 86

By Jacinta W. Odongo



(LEFT) Archbishop Bakyenga leads the funeral Mass. (RIGHT) The portrait of the late Bishop Kakubi.



The Vice President of Uganda, H.E Edward Ssekandi and a cross section of the mourners gathered in Lubaga Cathedral to pay their last respects.



His Eminence Emmanuel Cardinal Wamala incenses the casket.



Archbishop Odama and Bishop Paul Ssemogerere lay a wreath on Bishop Kakubi's casket.

By Jacinta W. Odongo

**ON** February 11, 2016, the Uganda Episcopal Conference woke up to the sad news of the death of one of its own, Rt. Rev. John Baptist Kakubi, the Bishop Emeritus of Mbarara.

Bishop Kakubi died at Kampala Hospital after a long battle with hypertension and diabetes. He was 86.

He was the third ordinary and first indigenous African Bishop of Mbarara to take over from Bishop Jean Marie Ogez, who succeeded Bishop Lacoursiere F.X. Bishop Kakubi led Mbarara from 1969 to 1991.

Born on September 23, 1929 in Mbarara District, he attended Primary School from 1939 to 1943 and joined St. Francis Xavier Kitabi Minor Seminary in 1944 to 1950.

According to his Memoir 'A Day to Remember' a total of 24 students joined the seminary but, only four students, him inclusive, completed the seven-year journey. "I had made a resolution in my preparatory at Kitabi that even if all my 23 classmates leave, I shall become a priest." Bishop Kakubi narrates in his memoir.

He then joined Katigondo Major Seminary in 1951 to 1956. In 1958 Bishop Ogez sent him to England to continue with his studies at Allen Hall St. Edmund's College, Ware Hertfordshire. He was ordained a priest on June 11, 1960 at Westminster Cathedral in London by William Cardinal Godfrey of Westminster Archdiocese. He had his first Mass at St. Patrick London University Church in Soho Square.

After his ordination, he remained in London and attended a course in Catholic Social Studies at St. Peter Clever Institute from 1960 to 1961. He was a teacher at Katigondo Major Seminary from 1963 to 1964 after which he worked as Diocesan Secretary for Education for Mbarara and Kabale from 1964 to 1966.

On July 5, 1969 he was appointed Bishop of Mbarara and consecrated on August 1, 1969 by Pope Paul VI at Kololo Airstrip together with other four Bishops. His motto was **"Lord you are my shield"** Psalm 3:3.

From March 1992 to the time of his death, Bishop Kakubi lived in Ibanda Priest's House (house for priests and

those that are retired and sick) which he renovated and expanded.

On many occasions, Bishop Kakubi was invited to give spiritual talks and retreats to priests and religious both in the Archdiocese of Mbarara and other dioceses.

A Requiem Mass was held for him at Lubaga Cathedral on Friday February 12, 2016. Bishop Kakubi was later laid to rest on Saturday February 13 at St. Joseph's Vocational School chapel, as per his wish, in Mbarara Archdiocese. He has lived and served as a priest for 56 years and as a Bishop for 46 years. May his soul rest in eternal peace. ■

**A TOTAL OF 24 STUDENTS JOINED THE SEMINARY BUT, ONLY FOUR STUDENTS, HIM INCLUSIVE, COMPLETED THE SEVEN-YEAR JOURNEY. "I HAD MADE A RESOLUTION IN MY PREPARATORY AT KITABI THAT EVEN IF ALL MY 23 CLASSMATES LEAVE, I SHALL BECOME A PRIEST."**

**BISHOP KAKUBI NARRATES IN HIS MEMOIR 'A DAY TO REMEMBER'**



# PICTORIAL: BISHOP KIRABO'S EPISCOPAL ORDINATION

FROM PAGE 3



Bishop Kirabo (center) is ushered to the Altar for his consecration



Bishop Kirabo lays down during the Ordination rite.



Archbishop Odama lays his hands on Bishop Kirabo



The Book of the Gospels is placed on Bishop Kirabo's head



Archbishop Bakyenga places a zucchetto (skull cap) on Bishop Kirabo's head as Bishop Bainomugisha (left) and Bishop Bahargate (right) look on.



Archbishop Bakyenga (center) places a mitre on Bishop Kirabo's head.



The Omukama (King) of Bunyoro Kingdom Solomon Gafabusa Iguru I



Bishop Kirabo's mother (second right, second row) at the function along with other Christians.



Some of the invited guests



A cross-section of the faithful in attendance.



# PICTORIAL: BISHOP KIRABO'S EPISCOPAL ORDINATION



Archbishop Bakyenga (right) leads Bishop Kirabo to his seat.



Bishop Kirabo (second-right) in his seat as new Bishop of Hoima Diocese.



Bishop Kirabo celebrates Mass.



The Choir at the celebration



Guild Women carry the offertory



Bishop Kirabo gives Holy Communion to the faithful.



Liturgical dancers during the Ordination Mass.



President Museveni congratulates Bishop Kirabo.



Bishop Franzelli of Lira Diocese, congratulates Bishop Kirabo upon his Ordination and installation as Bishop of Hoima Diocese.



President Museveni (in a dark suit) and Omukama Solomon Gafabusa Iguru I (third-right), pose for a group photo with the Bishops.



Omukama Gafabusa Iguru I, congratulates Bishop Kirabo



Bishop Kirabo (center) blesses the faithful as they congratulate him upon his ordination



The brand new Mitsubishi Pajero car that President Museveni gave to Bishop Kirabo.



# CHURCH SHOULD ENCOURAGE POLITICAL LEADERS **TO WORK TOGETHER** FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTRY AFTER ELECTION UNCERTAINTY

By Jacinta W. Odongo



**LEFT:** Bishop Franzelli in an earlier event. **RIGHT:** Voters, at one of the numerous polling stations across the country, queue up to vote their leaders in the recent elections.



Internet Photo

**THE** 2016 General Elections in Uganda may have passed, but the responsibility to work together for the common good still remains.

The current political tension in the country, which lately has climaxed in clashes between the Uganda police and journalists reporting on news about Dr. Kizza Besigye who is currently placed under house-arrest at his home, and the post-election violence in Bundibugyo district, are negative indicators that should not be taken lightly.

As Bishop Joseph Franzelli of Lira Diocese and Chairman of the Social Communications Commission of Uganda Episcopal Conference indicated, the church should not wait but rather be proactive in spreading the message of

peace and encourage all political leaders and Ugandan citizens to work together to promote national unity and development.

*"This is an important time for our society," Rt. Rev. Bishop Franzelli, the Bishop of Lira said. "As Catholics we should extensively get involved in the social life of this country just like we did before and during the election. We should encourage all the elected leaders to govern properly and ensure the inclusion of those leaders who lost in the elections so that the country runs smoothly. This is the most appropriate time they need such assistance. We should learn not to wait to prepare court leaders."* He also called upon all the Ugandan citizens to play their role of maintaining peace and harmony, and ensuring that the newly-elected

government implements the manifesto they had outlined during the campaign period.

*"Ugandan citizens should cooperate with their leaders and pray for them to successfully accomplish their duties to the society, amongst others,"* he explained. Bishop Franzelli further urged everyone to embrace Pope Francis' message of, *"Politics if well practiced is an experience of love because you are taking care of the whole community."*

He asked all the leaders and citizens to make use of the Uganda Episcopal Conference Pastoral Letter on the Guiding Principles for the 2016 General Elections, which was released last year, as it is still of relevance even after the elections. ■

## MY TRIBUTE TO MY BELOVED BISHOP VINCENT KIRABO

*"The Lord has sworn and He will not waver;  
'Like Melchizedek, you are a priest forever'."  
(Ps. 110:4)*

### **Our Bishop: Our Kirabo (Gift) Mary's Beloved Priest**

*His Holiness Pope Francis visited Uganda with an envelope, containing a message that would bring happiness to Christians of Hoima Diocese and Uganda at large.*

*By motherly love held secure, your heart, is worn on your sleeve.*

*From your mother's womb, you came as a gift. No sooner had you touched the earth, than a voice came from heaven, to be named Kirabo, the gift that would be given to Christians. Overshadowed by the Holy Spirit, your fervor, glows without restraint.*

***Taught by one whose love  
knows no limit,  
your caring passes no-one by.***

*Chosen to be Christ again to the world,  
your feet can never flee the cross.*

*Attached by beads to a glorified Queen,  
your hopes boundless!*

*You are the image and likeness of God  
but with you the morning awakens  
with the call to rise not for you*

***But always for others in whom Christians  
of Hoima Diocese beckon.***

***God handpicked you from  
a myriad of souls  
Molded you since you were a baby  
To prepare you for a journey Not for you  
But always for others.***

*My Lord Bishop, God blessed  
you with wisdom  
To use, to give, form to his plans  
And love to carry them out  
Not for you  
But always for others.*

*Mary walks with you  
Guiding and loving you  
For to her you are a Christ  
Not for you  
But always for others.*

***You hold the Body of Christ  
Embrace his name and proclaim it***

***And a father and counselor you have  
become. Not for you  
But always for others.***

*God forever bless you  
Walk and carry you when  
your feet are weary  
Bring peace and joy to your heart  
For though your life is never for you  
It is Christ's and he delights in you.*

***To live in the midst of the world with no  
desire for its pleasure...***

***To be a member of every family yet  
belonging to none...***

***To daily go from men to God to offer  
Him their petitions...***

*To return from God to men  
to offer them His hope...  
To have a heart of fire for charity and a  
heart of bronze for chastity...  
To bless and be blest forever.  
O God, what a gift, a life, and it is yours,  
**O Priest of Jesus Christ!***

By Evers Bagamuhunda,  
Fort Portal Diocese



# MUNYONYO MARTYRS SHRINE BECOMES PARISH

By Juliet Lukwago (Earlier published in the New Vision of 29th January 2016)



PHOTO BY JULIET LUKWAGO

Pope Francis is joined in watering the Unity Tree at Munyonyo Martyrs' Shrine by Archbishop Cyprian Kizito Lwanga (on his right), the retired Anglican Archbishop Livingstone Mpalanyi Nkoyoyo (on his left), Anglican Archbishop Stanley Ntagali (second-right) and Fr. Kajubi Golab, the Shrine Rector (right).

**KAMPALA ARCHDIOCESE** has turned Munyonyo Martyrs Shrine into a fully-fledged Catholic parish, as revealed by Archbishop Dr. Cyprian Kizito Lwanga.

It is the location where the Uganda martyrs started their journey headed for execution at Namugongo over a century ago.

His Grace Dr. Lwanga was speaking during the celebration of the Parish Day of St. Agnes Catholic Parish Kibuye-Makindye recently.

He said Munyonyo was turned into a parish in remembrance of Pope Francis's pilgrimage to the shrine during his visit in

November last year.

On his first ever visit to Uganda, the Pope also made a pilgrimage to Namugongo where he celebrated the 50th anniversary of the canonization of the Uganda Martyrs – an event delayed for a whole year in anticipation of the Pontiff's visit.

They were canonized in Rome on October 18, 1964. As a parish, Munyonyo will take St. Ponsiano Ngondwe sub-parish Kyamula.

The Archbishop thanked the Christians of Nsambya, Ggaba and Kibuye-Makindye parishes for their support towards

Munyonyo.

Munyonyo is headed by the Franciscan Fathers, a religious congregation in the Catholic Church. It will be the 64th Catholic Parish in Kampala Archdiocese. Andrew Kaggwa and Denis Ssebugwaawo were killed at this very spot while Ponsiano Ngondwe was killed at Kyamula where St Ponsiano Ngondwe sub-parish is located. ■

**MUNYONYO WAS TURNED INTO A PARISH IN REMEMBRANCE OF POPE FRANCIS'S PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINE DURING HIS VISIT IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR**

## WISE QUOTES FOR REFLECTION

*'The things you are passionate about are not random they are your calling.'*

**- Fabienne Fredrickson**

*'Never put a question mark where God has put a period. When something is over and done, let it go and move on to the next chapter of your life.'*

**- Joel Osteen**

*'Circumstances do not make a man they reveal him.'*

**- James Allen.**

*'Do the one thing you think you cannot do. Fail at it. Try again. Do better the second time. The only people who never tumble are those who never mount the high wire.'*

*This is your moment. Own it.'*

**- Oprah Winfrey.**

*'If you want to know what a man's like, take a good look at how he treats his inferiors, not his equals.'*

**- Sirius Black**

*'Show respect even to people who don't deserve it. Not as a reflection of their character but as a reflection of yours.'*

**- Dave Willis**

*'An attitude of gratitude opens the portals to a richer, more abundant life.'*

**- Diane Rose Atkinson**



# KOTIDO DIOCESE CELEBRATES **ORDINATION AND OPENING** OF THE YEAR OF MERCY

By Fr. Philip Lokel and Peter Loono Lorok

**AT THE** end of 2015, two events took place in Kotido diocese almost in quick succession. The first one was the ordination to priesthood of Rev. Fr. Patrick Mulumba by the Rt. Rev. Giuseppe Filippi, the Ordinary of Kotido Diocese, on December 5, 2015. The second was the solemn launching of the Year of Mercy on December 8, 2015.

Rev. Fr. Patrick Mulumba was ordained in a very colorful ceremony which attracted Christians from all the corners of the diocese. Fr. Mulumba attended Uganda Martyrs Seminary Alokolum in Gulu where he did his Philosophy studies. Later on he was promoted to continue with theological studies at St. Mary's Seminary Ggaba. His ordination attracted also guests from his home Diocese of Masaka as well as friends and relatives from Kampala and Gulu. His ordination brings the number of diocesan priests in Kotido to 17, although not all work on full-time basis within the diocese. The new priest has already been assigned to Kaabong parish, which is one of the largest and the oldest parishes of Kotido Diocese having been founded in 1955.

During his homily the Bishop emphasized the aspect of love which Jesus himself emphasizes in the gospel when he says: *'I love you just as the Father loves me; remain in my love'* (John 15:9). The Bishop also said that priests are supposed to do their work freely, without demanding for remuneration since they have been ordained out of love. *"Priests must be exemplary in their lives by what they preach because true love is expressed in action,"* he said. He quoted St. Paul who told Timothy, *'Be an example for believers in your speech, your conduct,*

**HIS ORDINATION BRINGS THE NUMBER OF DIOCESAN PRIESTS IN KOTIDO TO 17, ALTHOUGH NOT ALL WORK ON FULL-TIME BASIS WITHIN THE DIOCESE.**



*Bishop Giuseppe Filippi reads the gospel before opening the door of mercy*

*your love, faith and purity'* (1 Tim. 4:12).

Meanwhile, the launching of the Year of Mercy took place on December 8, 2015 at Morulem Parish, which is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception. Bishop Filippi, however, symbolically opened the Door of Mercy at the Good Shepherd Cathedral in Kotido on December 13, 2015. The liturgical celebration of the day started with a solemn procession to the cathedral from the nearby Kotido Youth Centre and was punctuated by moments of silent prayer as well as songs of mercy and forgiveness.

The bishop, in his homily, called upon Christians to go through the Door of Mercy in a symbolic manner and said that whoever entered through it will experience the love of God who consoles,

**CALLED UPON CHRISTIANS TO GO THROUGH THE DOOR OF MERCY IN A SYMBOLIC MANNER AND SAID THAT WHOEVER ENTERED THROUGH IT WILL EXPERIENCE THE LOVE OF GOD WHO CONSOLES, PARDONS, AND INSTILLS HOPE.**

pardons, and instills hope. He cited the example of the Good Samaritan and stated that Christians are invited to emulate the caring attitude of that character in the gospel. At the end of the solemn Holy Mass celebrated that day, the Bishop imparted a special Papal Blessing to all the faithful present in accordance with the directive of Pope Francis. ■

## WISE QUOTES FOR REFLECTION

*'What angers us in another person is more often than not an unhealed aspect of ourselves. If we had already resolved that particular issue, we would not be irritated by its reflection back to us.'*

**- Simon Fuller**

*'When one door of happiness closes, another opens, but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see*

*the one that has been opened for us.'*

**- Helen Keller**

*'No matter how many mistakes you make or how slow you progress, you are still way ahead of everyone who isn't trying.'*

**- Anthony Robbins**



# ZEC HOSTS A MEETING FOR THE COUNCIL OF THE LAITY IN EASTERN AFRICA

By Pamela Adinda, AMECEA online correspondent



Participants in a meeting

**THE** Zambia Episcopal Conference (ZEC) hosted a meeting for the Council of Laity in Eastern Africa (COLEA) from February 16-19, 2016 in Lusaka, Zambia.

The three-day conference was conducted under the theme: *"The Vocation of the Laity in the Life of the Church and Society Today."*

*"The Conference for the Reviving of*

*COLEA was meant to enhance collaboration with the activities that promote Lay Apostolate through Conferences organized by the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM) and the Pontifical Commission for the Laity,"* said Fr. Febian Pikiti, the AMECEA Pastoral coordinator.

Among the many expectations expressed by the participants at the beginning of the conference included desire for networking, sharing of experiences and learning from one another. The participants also expressed their joy that the conference is coming at an opportune time when unity in the church is very important and solidarity is paramount.

Fr. Pikiti said that the success of hosting the council members was brought about by the enormous contribution of the laity, participation at liturgy, provision of services and financial contributions from

the Parishes. *"It is, therefore, important that the revival of the Council of the laity in Eastern Africa (COLEA) be done in order to promote structures of collaboration of the laity with the Bishops in the AMECEA region so as to enhance their participation in the mission of the Church."*

Addressing the conference participants, the Secretary General of the ZEC Rev. Fr. Cleophas Lungu challenged them to exercise their mandate by being true backbone of the Church.

Fr. Lungu referred to the three documents of the Church; the Post Synodal Exhortation *Africae Munus*, Apostolic Exhortation on New Evangelization *Evangelii Gaudium* and the Apostolic Letter *Misericordiae Vultus*.

He asked the participants to be agents of mercy especially as they continue with the journey during this Jubilee Year of Mercy. ■

# PRESIDENT SALVA KIIR RE-APPOINTS MACHAR AS VICE PRESIDENT

By CRN



President Salva Kiir shakes hands with Dr. Riek Machar after signing the agreement

**ON** February 11, 2016 South Sudan's President Salva Kiir issued a decree appointing his rival Dr Riek Machar to be his first Vice President and James Wani Igga Second Vice President.

President Kiir's decree is an implementation of the peace agreement signed in August 2015 according to a South Sudan Television.

Media agencies report that Dr Machar welcomed the appointment. He thanked President Kiir for the bold step taken so that the agreement can be implemented.

*"There is no way out except to implement the agreement,"* Dr Machar said.

The announcement returned the presidency to where it was soon before

fighting erupted between supporters of the two men in December 2013 - a conflict that went on to kill thousands of people and force more than two million to flee. South Sudan has been mired in conflict since December 2013, when clashes broke out between troops loyal to Kiir and soldiers backing Riek Machar, who previously held the vice president position. ■



## ANTICIPATED EVENTS FOR MARCH 2016

### March 15-20, 2016- CARITAS WEEK

The Caritas department of the Uganda Episcopal Conference will hold its Caritas week in the Diocese of Fort Portal. This year's event will run under the theme, *'Be Merciful as your Heavenly Father is Merciful.'* Cfr: Luke 6:36

### HOLY WEEK CALENDAR

#### March 20, 2016- PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday, the final Sunday before Easter, marks the beginning of Holy Week. On this day, Christians commemorate Jesus' triumphal entrance into Jerusalem before his arrest and crucifixion. They carry palms or other branches and wave them in procession to imitate the people of Jerusalem who welcomed the Lord, while singing "Hosanna" and waving palm branches.

#### March 24, 2016- HOLY THURSDAY

Holy Thursday (also known as Maundy Thursday) is the Thursday before Easter. At the Chrism Mass on Holy Thursday morning, the bishop concelebrating

Mass with his body of priests, blesses the oils and consecrates the Chrism.

With the celebration of Mass on the evening of Holy Thursday, the Church begins the Easter *Triduum* (the three days before Easter) and recalls the Last Supper in which the Lord Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and instituted the Eucharist and the Priesthood.

#### March 25, 2016- GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday is the day on which Christians commemorate the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ on the Cross, the act that brought salvation to all who believe. On this day, the Church does not celebrate the Eucharist, but Holy Communion is distributed to the faithful during the celebration of the Lord's passion. It is a day of penance, prayer and fasting. It is a public Holy Day in Uganda.

#### March 26, 2016- HOLY SATURDAY

Holy Saturday is the day before Easter Sunday and the last day of the Holy Week. On this day, the Church keeps vigil, meditating on the Lord's passion

and death and his descent into hell, awaiting his resurrection with prayer and fasting.



#### March 27, 2016- EASTER SUNDAY

This is the Sunday in which Christians celebrate the great mystery of the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from death.

#### March 28, 2016- EASTER MONDAY

Easter Monday is the day after Easter Sunday and is a public holiday in many countries worldwide.

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# A CATHOLIC BISHOP AND WHAT HE IS IDENTIFIED WITH

Fr. Paulino Mondo, Mbuya Parish, Kampala

**THE** Catholic Church is made up of geographical areas known as dioceses, each of which is headed by a bishop who is officially the leader of that local Church. The bishop of the more important towns, ecclesiastical provinces and historically important places is given the title of Archbishop to show a level of seniority and respect.

A Catholic bishop has three main responsibilities: to preach, govern and sanctify. A bishop is the principal teacher in his diocese. He has the immediate and long term responsibility to preach the Word of God to his people, and to ensure that those delegated to teach in his name, namely priests, teachers, catechists and others, teach only the truth as prescribed by the Catholic Church tradition.

## Governance

The bishop is also meant to govern, in the name of Jesus, a particular territory assigned to him by the Holy See. To govern in the sense of faith refers to providing and overseeing the needs of the local community in all forms necessary whether material, social, personal and spiritual while at the same time he ensures that Church laws are observed.

The diocesan bishop is ultimately responsible for training and supplying priests to all his parishes; he looks and manages the finances of the diocese and holds in trust all Church property. A bishop has particular authority to stipulate some Church laws. He is the judge in Church matters when it comes to enforce observance of these laws he has endorsed. These laws generally relate to worship, preaching, administration of the sacraments, safeguarding the faith and morals of the faithful and religious instruction in his particular diocese. To make these laws however, the diocesan bishop works prudently with his college of consultors, the diocesan synod and the diocese laity pastoral council.

The bishop has the duty to sanctify the people and the place entrusted to his pastoral care by ensuring that the sacraments are administered. He at the same has the special authority to ordain priests who are to serve in his diocese and to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to all those who have been baptized and are of age of maturity. In a supervisory manner, the bishop ensures that Mass is celebrated in every parish of his diocese every Sunday, on major feasts and holy days of obligation.

The bishop is expected live and work in the diocese for most of the year, unless on official business in Rome or when attending a Church Council. The bishop has a serious duty to be present at his cathedral during the seasons of Lent and Advent and on the feasts of Easter, Pentecost, Christmas and Corpus Christi.

## Relations with Rome

The Holy See expects that every five years a bishop must send a report to Rome to review and evaluate the situation and progress of faith and human development within the diocese. The bishop must visit Rome to meet with the Pope at least once every five years to discuss matters pertaining to the roles that have been entrusted to him and visit the tombs of the Apostles Peter and Paul. The bishop must attend in person meetings of Bishops when they are called unless his health is in question.

## Parish Supervision

The bishop is expected to regularly visit each part of his diocese at least once a year. While in the Parish, he needs to study and sign the registers of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Matrimony. He may also request to see the registers for sick calls and go through the finances of that Parish and how they are managed. It is recommended that during such a canonical pastoral visit he meets his priests individually and in a group to see how harmoniously they are managing the Parish. He should also see to it that he addresses the Parish Pastoral Council with a clear agenda.

## The bishop's symbols of office



### Crosier and Mitre

When presiding over Holy Mass for the flock, the bishop holds a Crosier. This is shepherd's staff used on ceremonial occasions only. It symbolizes being the shepherd of the people in the diocese. The bishop wears a Mitre when he is celebrating Holy Mass with a congregation.



This triangular hat is also worn by the Pope since he is the bishop of Rome. The Mitre is removed whenever the bishop is about to pray.

### Pectoral Cross and Ring

The bishop also wears a Pectoral Cross, which is a large ornamental cross worn as a necklace on top of his usual cassock. It is a reminder that service to the people of God is an obligation and a responsibility that has been entrusted to him by the Church and he has to fulfill it always. The bishop also wears a Ring worn on the third finger of the right hand as a symbol of the bishop's fidelity to and nuptial bond with the church. Some people even kiss the bishop's hand as a sign of their love for him and the recognition that he is a living icon of Christ in the midst of the Church.

### Skull Cap and Coat of Arms



When putting on the ceremonial tunic, the bishop also wears a Skull Cap, traditionally known as a Zucchetto. A bishop wears a purple zucchetto; a Cardinal wears red while the Pope wears a white one. Each bishop has a designed and canonically approved coat-of-arms. A bishop chooses symbols appropriate to himself and his diocese. The coat of arms of the diocese may occupy the left side whilst his personal coat arms occupy the right. The bishop develops a motto in order to motivate the faithful and to set for himself a specific direction. Every bishop selects a set of meaningful words, often written in Latin, the official language of the Catholic Church, at the bottom of the Coat of Arms.

## Mode of Address

How is a bishop addressed? Once a priest has been appointed bishop by the Holy Father, he is addressed as Bishop-Elect. After ninety days he is expected to be consecrated publicly with at least three bishops present as witnesses. After the episcopal ordination he should be addressed as Bishop. However it does no harm to address him with a more formal title accorded to a bishop, such as My Lord Bishop or Your Lordship. However in this era and time, we need to remember the writings of St. Augustine of Hippo who told his Christians on several occasion that 'for you I am a bishop but with you I am a Christian'. Lord, bless and protect our bishops. ■



## FR. FEDERICO LOMBARDI RETIRES AS HEAD OF VATICAN RADIO

Vatican Radio



Internet Photo

**FATHER** Federico Lombardi is set to bid farewell to Vatican Radio.

Fr. Lombardi will leave *"the Pope's Radio"* after 26 years of extraordinary service, initially as Director of Programmes, and since 2005, as General Director.

He will continue to serve as Director of the Press Office of the Holy See.

This is not the only change Vatican Radio is facing at this time in history following the implementation of a major overhaul of the Vatican's media sector, as signaled by Pope Francis last June when he established the Secretariat for Communications.

Another figure of reference due to leave Vatican Radio on February 29, 2016 is Alberto Gasbarri, Director of Administration. Gasbarri, however, is perhaps best-known to the general public for having been the organizer and coordinator of Papal journeys for the last four decades.

Meanwhile, announcing that neither Lombardi nor Gasbarri will be replaced, Monsignor Dario Edoardo Viganò, Head of the Vatican Secretariat for Communications has appointed civil lawyer Giacomo Ghisani as Vatican Radio's *"ad interim"* Legal Representative and Director of Administration.

Ghisani, who serves as Head of Vatican Radio's International Relations and Legal Affairs, is Vice-Director of the Secretariat of Communications.

According to Msgr. Viganò in a communiqué, Ghisani's appointment is to ensure *"the Radio's ordinary administration within the current context of review and restructuring of the Vatican's media operations"*.

Father Lombardi, 73, will still head the Vatican press office for the time being and continue serving as Vatican spokesman. ■

## POPE REFLECTS ON VOYAGE TO MEXICO AT SUNDAY ANGELUS

Vatican Radio



Internet Photo

Pope Francis reaches out to greet youth dressed in traditional Mexican outfits as he is escorted by Mexico's President Enrique Peña Nieto, behind, and first lady Angelica Rivera, upon arrival to Benito Juárez International Airport in Mexico City. The pontiff was in Mexico for a week-long visit.

**ON** February 21, 2016 the faithful welcomed Pope Francis back to Rome at the Angelus on Sunday following his five day trip to Mexico. The Holy Father Francis reflected on his Apostolic Voyage to Mexico during his Angelus address in St Peter's Square on the Second Sunday of Lent.

The Sunday Gospel tells the story of the Transfiguration of Jesus; Pope Francis said his journey to Mexico was also *"an experience of transfiguration,"* where *"the Lord showed the light of His glory through the body of His Church, of the*

**"FROM ALL OVER AMERICA," HE SAID, "THEY COME TO PRAY AT THE PLACE WHERE THE "VIRGEN MORENITA" SHOWED HERSELF TO THE INDIAN JUAN DIEGO, GIVING A BEGINNING TO THE EVANGELIZATION OF THE CONTINENT AND TO ITS NEW CIVILIZATION, THE FRUIT OF THE ENCOUNTER BETWEEN DIFFERENT CULTURES."**

*holy People who live in that land."*

The Pope said that the focus of his pilgrimage to Mexico was the visit to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Meditating before the miraculous image, the Holy Father reflected on the love and compassion the Blessed Virgin has for the many pilgrims who come to her with their sorrows. *"From all over America,"* he said, *"they come to pray at the place*

*where the "Virgen Morenita" showed herself to the Indian Juan Diego, giving a beginning to the evangelization of the continent and to its new civilization, the fruit of the encounter between different cultures."*

And this, he said, is the true heritage Mexico has received from the Lord: *"to guard the riches of diversity, and, at the same time, to manifest the harmony of the common faith."* Pope Francis said he had come to Mexico, like his predecessors, to confirm the faith of the Mexican people, but also to be confirmed by them — and he pointed to the witness of Mexican families, of young people, of priests and religious, of workers and of prisoners; *"a testimony of a clear and strong faith, the testimony of a lived faith, of a faith that transfigures life."*

Pope Francis offered thanks *"to the Lord and to the Virgin of Guadalupe"* for the Voyage; and also expressed his gratitude to all those who welcomed him to Mexico and made the journey so successful.

Finally, Pope Francis praised the Most Holy Trinity for his meeting with his *"dear brother Kirill,"* the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, which took place in Cuba on his way to Mexico. The Pope concluded his address with the prayer that *"the Mother of God might continue to guide us in the journey to unity."* ■

