

CATHOLIC COMMUNICATORS CELEBRATE 51st WORLD COMMUNICATION DAY



Bishop Kakooza (center) and communicators from Kampala Ecclesiastical Province (left) hand over the communication drum to communicators from Nebbi Diocese (right) who will host the 2018 World Communication Day. PHOTO BY JACINTA W. ODONGO

Story on Page 3

Inside

UEC appoints new Pastoral Coordinator
Page 4

Hundreds participate in 2nd 'Walk of Faith' pilgrimage ahead of 2017 Uganda Martyrs celebration
Page 7

Adolescence, Technology and Identity
Page 8

AMECEA



Catholic Bishops challenge Kenyans to choose leaders of integrity
Page 12

Pope Francis appoints new Apostolic Nuncio to Tanzania
Page 12



The Vatican welcomes new refugee families from Syria. Page 13

Pope and Trump discuss peace, dialogue, support for immigrants

PAGE 14

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

Editorial



On May 28, 2017, the Catholic Church celebrated the World Communications Day (WCD). It is a day when as a church we remind ourselves of our duties in the communication apostolate, pray for its success and make financial contribution to support it. On this day we also appreciate all the men and women who are committed to serving our society through the media.

This year's celebration marked the 51st WCD, celebrated under the theme *"Fear not, for I am with you (Is 43:5): Communicating Hope and Trust in our Time"*. This theme was given to us by His Holiness Pope Francis and it is also the title of his message. In his message, the Holy Father calls upon all of us whether in our professional work or personal relationships, to ensure that what we communicate enriches other people. He wants us "to engage in constructive forms of communication that reject prejudice towards others and foster a culture of encounter, helping all of us to view the world around us with realism and trust".

The Pope discourages negative reporting that focuses on "bad news" and thus causing fear and anxiety among people. He wants us as communicators to see life and events that happen in society with a Christian lens or perspective. He wants us to bring the good news to what we report and that good news is Jesus Christ. It is Jesus Christ who helps us to see and experience the love of God in the challenges of life and to realise that we are not alone in the journey of life. God is with us and we should not be afraid.

As communicators, therefore, we are challenged to practice constructive communication. Communication that inspires, gives hope and builds society.

Fr. Philip Odii

Catholic communicators celebrate 51st World Communication Day

By Jacinta W. Odongo and Valerian Kkonde

Catholic communicators from across the country on Sunday, May 21, 2017 gathered in the Diocese of Lugazi to celebrate the 51st World Communication Day (WCD) at national level.

The celebration was held at Our Lady Queen of Peace Cathedral under the theme of 'Fear not, for I am with you.' (Isaiah 43:5): Communicating Hope and Trust in Our Time' as released by Pope Francis.

WCD is usually celebrated by the Catholic Church annually on the Sunday before Pentecost, which was on May 28 this year. However, the communicators in Uganda held their national celebration in anticipation on May 21.

This year's celebration, which attracted hundreds of faithful, began at exactly 8.30am with a procession of bishops, priests, and communicators including heads of various social communications departments and commissions in the country.

The Bishop Chairman of Social Communications Commission of the Uganda Episcopal Conference (UEC), Rt. Rev Joseph Franzelli and the Bishop of Lugazi, Rt. Rev Christopher Kakooza joined the communicators, faithful and special guests to mark the day with a Thanksgiving Mass.

In his homily, Bishop Kakooza urged the communicators to make Christ known and loved in their communication work.

"Let us use all means of communication to make Jesus Christ known and loved. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. May we follow the footsteps of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, the greatest communicator, and communicate hope to the distressed using all available means of communication," Bishop Kakooza said.

He added that peace can prevail in the world if people walk and converse with the Lord, and allow Him to direct their daily lives.

Bishop Franzelli in his speech, urged the communicators to learn how to live and work together so as to spread the good news of the Lord effectively.

"Whatever we have at our disposal we must spread for the sake of others. Each one of us in our individual lives, families and communities must ensure our lives are a message of God. Let us be a channel of communication of good news in our offices, parishes and Churches so as to make a difference in our communities and transform our families," Bishop Franzelli who is

"Whatever we have at our disposal we must spread for the sake of others."

also the Ordinary of Lira Diocese explained.

Speaking during the celebration, the Executive Secretary of the UEC Social Communications Department, Rev. Fr Philip Odii, outlined the success story of the Catholic communicators, stressing that despite of the numerous challenges the communicators are faced with, their professional services to the public were always noticeable.

"Communication is part and parcel of human life. It is what makes social life possible and without it our lives would be like stones. If Jesus Christ, the prophets and the Apostles did not communicate through preaching we wouldn't have known who God is." he noted.

He appealed to the faithful to constantly give support, both spiritual and financial, to the communicators to ease their daily work of communication. He also called upon the Minister of State for Higher Education, Dr. John Chyrstom Muyingo, who was the chief guest to intervene for the church so that they can acquire the TV license which they had applied for to the Uganda Communications Commission a few months ago.

Fr. Odii also highlighted the Pope's message for the 2017 WCD and called upon the communicators to share the inspirational message widely in their respective dioceses.

The celebration concluded with a fund-raising drive for the communications apostolate and a handover ceremony of the communication drum to the communicators from Nebbi Diocese, who will host the 2018 WCD celebration. Later, it was also marked with a tree planting session and an exhibiton of various items.

Meanwhile, the 51st WCD celebration was one of the activities that were held during the Annual Communication Week for the communicators that began on Tuesday May 16 at Nile Hotel Jinja in Njeru town. Other activities that were held included an Annual General Meeting (AGM) and a workshop on *'Financial Planning and Management for non-Finance Managers'*, funded by Propaganda Fide with the recommendation of SIGNIS.

The communication week was organized by the Social Communications Department of the UEC in collaboration with the Diocese of Lugazi.

Pictorial of the Communication Week for the Communicators



Communicators during the *Workshop on Financial Planning and Management for Non-Finance Managers*



Communicators pose for a group photo



Servers lead the procession for the World Communicatin Day Holy Mass



A procession of priests and bishops for the WCD celebration



The choir during celebration



Bishop Franzelli gives his speech



The faithful during the celebration



Hon. Dr. Muyingo gives his donations during the fundraising



Bishop Kakooza blesses the communication drum



Bishop Kakooza blesses the faithful after the celebration



The Bishop poses for a group photo with priests and other dignitaries



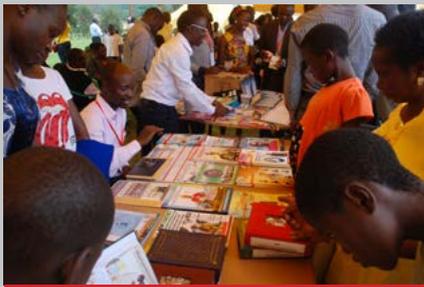
The Bishop waters the tree he planted after the celebration



Hon. Dr. Muyingo plants a tree after the celebration



Fr. Philip Odii waters the tree he planted after the celebration



Children reading some of the books at the exhibition PHOTOS BY JACINTA W. ODONGO

UEC appoints new Pastoral Coordinator

By Jacinta W. Odongo

The Uganda Episcopal Conference (UEC) has appointed Rev. Fr. John Baptist Kaganda as the new Pastoral Coordinator.

Fr. John Baptist succeeds Fr. Edward Ssemogerere who left UEC in March, 2017 after serving as Pastoral Coordinator for several years. His appointment was announced on April 24 during the weekly Mass at the Uganda Catholic Secretariat by the UEC Secretary General, Msgr. John Baptist Kauta.

"We have seen great progress in the UEC in terms of growth across our various departments. We are confident that Fr. John Baptist is the right person to ensure that the Pastoral department continues its positive development. He has good education background and vast experience in pastoral work and that is why he was successfully recruited," Msgr said.



The new Pastoral Coordinator of UEC, Fr. John Baptist Kaganda

He holds a Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) in Dogmatic Theology and Master of Arts degree in Dogmatic Theology both attained from Catholic University of Eastern Africa in Nairobi, Kenya. He was ordained priest on June 20, 1992 and immediately appointed as Chaplain and Teacher at St. Charles Lwanga Senior School in Masaka, which was his first job.

With his vast experience and

knowledge in Pastoral work, he believes his new job will offer him great opportunities.

"I am happy to work for the UEC. I feel this is an opportunity for me to make a humble contribution towards the Catholic Church in Uganda. I believe with team work I will be able to succeed," he said.

Fr. John Baptist took over his new role on April 15.

KEY EVENTS FOR MAY 2017

Monday, May 1 - Labour Day

Labour Day is an annual holiday to celebrate the achievements of workers. It has its origins in the labour union movement, specifically the eight-hour day movement, which advocated eight hours for work, eight hours for recreation, and eight hours for rest.

For most countries, Labour Day is synonymous with, or linked with, International Workers' Day, which occurs on May 1. For other countries, Labour Day is celebrated on a different date, often one with special significance for the labour movement in that country. Often this day is a public holiday in many countries.

Wednesday, May 3- Feast of Saints Philip and James, Apostles

Two of the favored witnesses of our Beloved Jesus' Resurrection come before us today. Sts. Philip and James are here, bearing testimony to us that their Master is truly risen from the dead, that they have seen Him, that they have touched Him, that they have conversed with Him (1 John 1: 1), during these forty days. And, that we may have no doubt as to the truth of their testimony, they hold in their hands the instruments of the martyrdom they underwent for asserting that Jesus, after having suffered death, came to life again and rose from the grave. St. Philip is leaning upon the cross to which he was fastened, as Jesus had

been; St. James is holding the club wherewith he was struck dead.

Sunday, May 14- Mother's Day

Mother's Day is a day for many people to show their appreciation towards mothers and mother figures and the influence of mothers in society worldwide. It is an annual event but is held at different dates in the calendar, depending on the country. It complements similar celebrations honoring family members, such as Father's Day, Siblings Day, and Grandparents Day.

Wednesday, May 31-Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The feast of the Visitation recalls to us the following great truths and events: The visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to her cousin Elizabeth shortly after the Annunciation; the cleansing of John the Baptist from original sin in the womb of his mother at the words of Our Lady's greeting; Elizabeth's proclaiming of Mary under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost as Mother of God and "blessed among women"; Mary's singing of the sublime hymn, Magnificat ("My soul doth magnify the Lord") which has become a part of the daily official prayer of the Church. The Visitation is frequently depicted in art, and was the central mystery of St. Francis de Sales' devotions.

**COMBONI MISSIONARY SISTERS
RETREAT AND HUMAN FORMATION CENTRE-
NAMUGONGO**

AVAILABLE PROGRAMMES OFFERED

Directed/Preached Retreats

- ❖ Healing Guided Retreats

Bible Week

- ❖ Weekend Programmes (free booking)

Other activities

- ❖ Seminars, Workshops and Meetings, open also to Organizations/NGO'S
- ❖ Church related activities for different groups
- ❖ Religious events, e.g. Baptism, First Communion, etc.
- ❖ Assemblies for Religious Congregations
- ❖ Free bookings for personal and group recollections,
- ❖ Open to Pilgrims especially for the Feast of the Uganda Martyrs

- ❖ **Private programs must be booked in the previous year**

The Centre has been renovated: self-contained rooms are available to all; a new Chapel has been constructed.

Programmes begin on the **evening of the first day** and finish **after breakfast** of the last day. Arrival time from 3:00 - 6:00pm

Fee for the Retreats: 300.000 UGX

For other programs, please contact us.

Booking fee: 50.000 UGX. It will be deducted from the total fee, but not-refunded if the retreat is not attended. It can be paid via mobile money adding 1,000 UGX for MTN charges.

COME WITH: a notebook, a pen, a torch, a pair of slippers, and other personal items you may need. Bibles are provided.

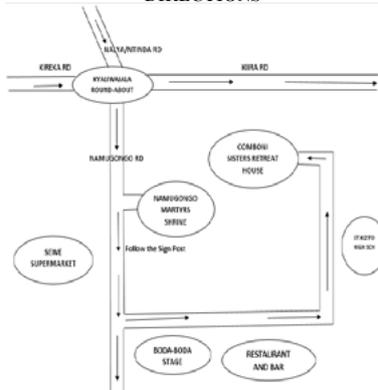
Priests willing to concelebrate are asked to bring their own vestments.

We regret we are unable to cater for special diets.

Comboni Missionary Sisters
P. O Box 7193
KAMPALA—UGANDA
Mobile No. 078 5773625
Fixed No. 039 2 719 719

E-mail: comboni.retreats@mcinkmail.com

DIRECTIONS



MISSION STATEMENT

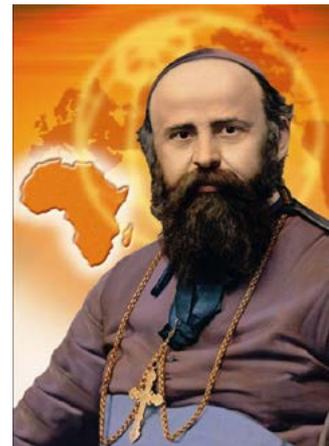
To promote Human and Spiritual Growth

Private booking for a few days: Weekend Retreats, Workshops/Seminars, Meetings, Celebrations, Youth Programmes or any other group activities.

Dates for private booking: January – December 2017

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| January 20-24 | May 16-20 |
| February 24-26 | July 7-9 |
| April 27-30 | August 18-20 |
| May 12-14 | Sept. 29- October 1 st |

**St. Daniel Comboni
Retreat and Human Formation
Centre-Namugongo**



*"The infinite power of prayer
is our strength"*

St Daniel Comboni

**PROGRAMME
2017**

SCHEDULE 2017

***** JANUARY *****

January 2-8 Come and See: CMS Candidates

January 11-19 **Preached Retreat**

Facilitator: Fr. Gerald Chabanon Miss. Afr
Theme: "PRAYER, FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION"

January 25-31 **Bible week**

Facilitator: Fr. Evert Van Oostrom, Miss. Afr
Theme: THE JOURNEY OF ST. PAUL

***** FEBRUARY *****

February 3-11 **Directed Retreat**

Facilitators: 1. Fr. Edmund Mallia, SJ
2. Fr. Gerald Chabanon, M. Afr.
3. Sr. Antonia Sanchez, CMS

February 14-22 **Preached Retreat**

Facilitator: Fr. Lazar Arasu, SDB
Theme: MERCY AND SPIRITUALITY

***** MARCH *****

February: 28-8 **March Private Booking:**
Come with facilitator

March 13-21 **Preached Retreat**

Facilitator: Fr. Raphael Karalathukaran, VC
Theme: FRESH ANNOINTING IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

March 23-31 **Preached Retreat**

Facilitator: Sr. Romina Nyemra, OLCG
Theme: ONLY LOVE WILL DO! "On the journey from selfishness to Christ Centeredness"

***** APRIL *****

April 3-11 **Directed Retreat**

Facilitators: 1. Fr. Edmund Mallia, SJ
2. Sr. Paskwa Binen Anena, SHS
3. Sr. Mary Jo Grethel, MMS

April 18-24 **Provincial Assembly, CMS**

***** MAY *****

May 2-10 **Healing Guided Retreat**

Facilitators: 1. Fr. Luis Arellano, MCCJ
2. Sr. Mary Jo Grethel, MMS

May 22-30 **Directed Retreat**

Facilitators: 1. Bishop Damiano Guzzetti, MCCJ
2. Fr. Peter Alenyo, MCCJ
3. Sr. Dorine Oyela, SHS

***** JUNE *****

May 31-4 June for Pilgrims (Uganda Martyrs)

June 6-14 **Preached Retreat**

Facilitator: Fr. Peter Alenyo, MCCJ
Theme: RUNNING THE RACE: Invitation to Vibrant religious life, for religious only

June 16-24 **Preached Retreat**

Facilitator: Fr. George Ukken, SJ
Theme: PRAYING WITH THE HEART

***** JULY *****

June 28-6 July **Preached Retreat**

Facilitator: 1. Fr. Arsene Kapya, M. Afr.
Theme: "YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES"

July 11-19 **Preached Retreat**

Facilitator: Fr. Peter Alenyo, MCCJ
Theme: I REFUSE TO DIE: over coming the trials of life

July- 22-30 **International Workshop of CMS**
Theme: Human trafficking

***** AUGUST *****

Aug 1-7 **Private Booking:** come with facilitator

August 9- 15 **Seminar**

Facilitator: Fr. Evert Van Oostrom, Miss. Afr
Theme: PRAYING WITH PSALMS

August 23-31 **Directed Retreat:** CMS Novices and other participants.

Facilitators: 1. Fr. Romano Rokani Dada, MCCJ
2. Fr. Gerald Chabanon, Miss. Afr
3. Sr. Dorine Oyela, SHS
4. Fr. Peter Alenyo, MCCJ

***** SEPTEMBER *****

September 1-9 **Preached Retreat**

Facilitator: Fr. Michael Lubega, DP
Theme: "DO WHAT HE TELLS YOU"

September 13-15: Religious Profession of the CMS Novices

September 18-26 **Directed Retreat**

Facilitators: 1. Fr. Bernard Phelan, MHM
2. Fr. Arnold Schaeetzen, Miss. Afr.
3. Fr. Sylvester Hategek'imana, MCCJ

***** OCTOBER *****

October 6-10 **Workshop** Comboni Family: Priests, Srs. & Bros. Open to other Provinces

Facilitator: Sr. Adele Brambilla, CMS
Theme: COMBONI SPIRITUALITY
Oct. 10 Celebration of St. Daniel Comboni's Day

October 13-19 **Preached Retreat**

Facilitator: Sr. Adele Brambilla, CMS
Theme: "RISE UP. HE IS CALLING YOU" (Mk.10:49)

October 23-31 **Directed Retreat**

Facilitators: 1. Fr. Sylvester Hategek'imana, MCCJ
2. Fr. Romano Rokani Dada, MCCJ
3. Sr. Monica Nambusi, IHMR
4. Sr. Antonia Sanchez, CMS

***** NOVEMBER *****

November 3-11 **Preached Retreat**

Facilitator: Fr. Raphael Karalathukaran, VC
Theme: EUCHARIST EXPERIENCE

November 12-18 **Seminar**

Facilitators: 1. Sr. Romina Nyemera, OLCG
2. Sr. Jane Yatuba OLCG
Theme: HEALING OF FAMILIES

November 20-28 **Directed Retreat**

Facilitators: 1. Bishop Giuseppe Filippi, MCCJ
2. Fr. Lazar Arasu, SDB
3. Fr. Sylvester Hategek'imana, MCCJ
4. Fr. Arnould Schaeetzen, Miss. Afr.

***** DECEMBER *****

December 2-7 **Seminar**

For the S.6 students of St Mary's Coll.Aboke S.S. (Booked) Facilitators:

1. Fr. Paulino Mondo, MCCJ
2. Fr. Philip Gbao, SDB
3. Sr. Antonia Sanchez, CMS

December 8: Celebration of the Immaculate Conception, CMS

December 11-19 **Preached Retreat**

Facilitator: Fr. Bernard Phelan, MHM
Theme: "LORD, TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?"
You have the message of eternal life"



Bishop Kirabo (centre) leads the pilgrims during the "Walk of Faith" PHOTO BY JULIET LUKWAGO

Hundreds participate in 2nd 'Walk of Faith' pilgrimage ahead of 2017 Uganda Martyrs celebration

By Jacinta W. Odongo and Francis Jjunju

With less than a week to the 2017 Uganda Martyrs Day celebration, hundreds of pilgrims from across the country participated in the 'Walk of Faith' pilgrimage that was held on Saturday, May 27.

The pilgrimage started from Munyonyo Martyrs Shrine and concluded at St. Matia Mulumba Parish in Old Kampala, where St. Matia Mulumba (one of the Catholic martyrs) was killed. Munyonyo is the place where King Mwanga II made the decision to execute the martyrs for their strong faith in Jesus Christ.

It is also the place where the majority of the martyrs started their two-day painful but inspiring journey to Namugongo to face their death. However, some were killed along the way, while others were burned alive in Namugongo on June 3. The first three Martyrs, namely, St. Denis Ssebuggwawo, St. Andrew Kaggwa and St. Pontiano Ngondwe were killed at Munyonyo on May 26, 1886.

The one-day walk was flagged-off at 10am by Most Rev. Cyprian Kizito Lwanga, the Archbishop of Kampala Archdiocese.

Archbishop Lwanga urged the pil-

grims to walk with faith and to promote peace with God, their families and neighbor as well as peace with themselves.

"Peace brings joy and happiness. Let us cultivate and strengthen our relationship with God our Father who loves each one of us by promoting peace in our families, neighbors and country," he said.

During the walk, the pilgrims made stopovers at various shrines for personal prayers, before proceeding to their final destination at St. Matia Mulumba Parish where they received a special blessing by Rt. Rev Vincent Kirabo, the bishop of Hoima Diocese.

This is the second 'Walk of Faith pilgrimage' since it was introduced as part of the Uganda Martyrs Day celebrations due June 3. It was organized to enable Christians today experience the martyrs' pain and their last moments on earth in a commemorative walk.

Various dignitaries including First Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Leader of Government Business in Parliament, General Moses Ali and the deputy chief executive director of Uganda Tourism Board, John Ssempebwa, were some of the pilgrims that took part in the walk.

The pilgrimage was organized by Hoima Diocese (which will animate this year's celebration) in partnership with Uganda Episcopal Conference and Uganda Tourism Board.

Meanwhile, Catholic faithful across the country have begun a novena in honor of the Martyrs. The novena started on Thursday May 25 and will conclude on June 2, just a day before the actual celebration.

WISE QUOTES FOR REFLECTION

"Tenderness is not weakness; it is fortitude. It is the path of solidarity, the path of humility," – *Pope Francis*

"When a character of a man is not clear to you, look at his friends," – *Japanese proverb*

"Your vision will become clear only when you can look into your own heart. Who looks outside, dreams; who looks inside, awakes," – *Carl Jung*

"Breaking is just another way that we become. For it gives us the chance to shed light on and grow in places that we didn't know existed within us," – *Becca Lee*

"In order to move on, you must understand why you felt what you did and why you no longer need to feel it." – *Mitch Albom*

"A moment of prayerful reflection can prevent a lifetime of bitter regret," – *Woodrow M. Kroll*

"Strength comes from struggle. When you learn to see your struggles as opportunities to become stronger, better, wiser, then your thinking shifts to "I can't do this" to "I must do this," – *Toni Sorenson*

"As a well spent day brings happy sleep, so a life well spent brings happy death," – *Leonardo Da Vinci*

"In life, some beautiful paths can't be discovered without getting lost," – *Erol Ozan*

"The more powerful you are, the more your actions will have an impact on people, and the more responsible you are to act humbly. If you don't, your power will ruin you and you will ruin the other," – *Pope Francis*

Adolescence, Technology and Identity



By Fr. Lazar Arasu



Adolescence is a period of searching and finding Identity. It is a period when a young person tries to understand oneself and find identity within the given society and time. They become conscious of themselves and constantly preoccupied with constructing and reconstructing their personhood. The period of adolescence can be nebulous and contested as the question of identity itself. They are vague, imprecise, and unclear. At this period in life, the growing young person has an enormous task of finding one's place in the society and the appropriate activity that one can do. Due to one's upbringing and the situation this search can be extended into early adulthood. For this, the adolescent relies on the feedback they receive from the society, for which technology has become very handy.

Young people are the by-products of society and all that happens in the society. They mirror the society, its happenings, its changing beliefs and values. Often adolescents' behavior and their ways of doing things could cause anxiety among the adults and even create tension between them. Adults often tend to criticize them according to their own standards of evaluation. Here the adolescents find technology, with its social networks favorable. It could be employed both as personal as well as anonymous. Positive things about networks are persistent (extending the period of communication existence), The ability to search, replicability (ability to reproduce) and invisible audience (maintaining anonymity).

Communication and self-expression are part of this growing up. Within the social and historical circumstances young people try by themselves to be known, heard and seen through various forms of communication. It is a fact that in technology, the youth could be

more creative and persuasive in their communication than the adults. In the postmodern period technology has become a major tool for the youth for self-expression and a tool for searching and asserting their identity. Technology-based communication provides young people enormous opportunities for learning about themselves and making self-presentation.

Through personal sites and social medial networks they express themselves and their personal interests through alterable statements, images, links, etc. This provides them with opportunities for connection and relationship building which they value highly. Communication technology provide them space and places for search of their identity; it is a new opportunity for self-expression, venue for constructing self-portraits that are abstract, a help in distinguishing the real and ideal self and different aspects of their personal selves. It helps them to dialogue with themselves leading them to introspection.

Besides, young people promote themselves and want the adults to recognize their self-worth and importance through their personal creations. It is a way of fitting into the social world or making them become popular in society as a way of proving their self-worth. It is a "world" to them.

Social media networks and personal sites also help to release pent-up feelings and give a therapeutic value. Youth are able to express emotions and personal concerns and be at stable in emotional flux. Because self-expression is all that they want at this period in life. As a record of performance it can help to evaluate one's own performance and make change where necessary. It could help to reach-out to others and receive help as well. They are able to communicate with their significant others and people of their interest and identity. It's an easy mode, economically favorable, and a wide

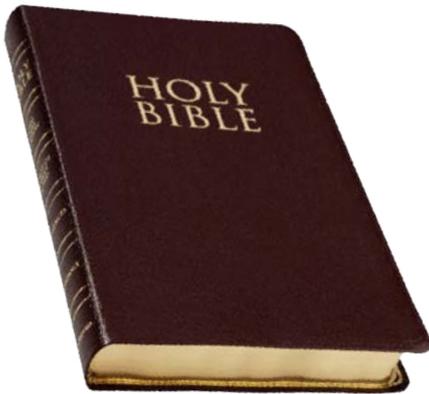
audience is of great advantage. Internet music too helps the youth to be in touch with a culture that is familiar to them.

Promoting oneself through technology is easy and thrilling. It only takes little guts and determination or even self-awareness in the process. At times it tends to be artificial and a kind of mirage where the youth view personal sites as avenues to participate in, or respond to, a culture that valorizes as an end in itself. It can easily become direction-less, and devoid of any purpose; it can become an unending activity that does not satisfy and even become addictive, consuming the precious time that can be utilized in other creative activities like learning.

Often, the youth are exposed to many ideas and values that are not scrutinized or even do not promote a positive living. They look into their immediate society for principles and traits to copy and internalize thus causing conflict and tension. This could cause depression and a sense of failure if their desired goal is not met. It can also build unhealthy competition when others who apparently appear better and successful in personal sites.

Youth fall into a fix in putting their best selves forward thus creating untrue self of their being. In posting mean aspects of themselves, pornographic contents and subscribing to similar expressions/presentations, they can also lose a sense of inhibition and develop a feeling of guilt, which can even make long term retardation of personality. In the process they become vulnerable to the manipulation of others and their presentations. Depending on their culture and family and social values they have to create different mechanism to dodge parental and social control. Those who live in poorer or emerging society tend to idealize western society as their model and suffer the loose of their cultural heritage and even become "culture-less".

LITURGICAL READINGS FOR MAY

**Fourth Sunday of Easter****Lectionary: 49**

First reading Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Responsorial Psalm Ps 23: 1-3a, 3b4, 5, 6

Second reading 1 Pt 2:20b-25

Gospel Jn 10:1-10

Fifth Sunday of Easter**Lectionary: 52**

First reading Acts 6:1-7

Responsorial Psalm Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

Second reading 1 Pt 2:4-9

Gospel Jn 14:1-12

Sixth Sunday of Easter**Lectionary: 55**

Reading 1 Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

Responsorial Psalm Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20

Reading 2 1 Pt 3:15-18

Gospel Jn 14:15-21

The Ascension of the Lord**Lectionary: 58**

Reading 1 Acts 1:1-11

Responsorial Psalm Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9

Reading 2 Eph 1:17-23

Gospel Mt 28:16-20

Seventh Sunday of Easter**Lectionary: 59**

Reading 1 Acts 1:12-14

Responsorial Psalm Ps 27:1, 4, 7-8

Reading 2 1 Pt 4:13-16

Gospel Jn 17:1-11a

Called to be witnesses to God's love and concern to neighbor



By Rose Kababikira,
National Coordinator, UYCS

On April 14, 2017 (Good Friday), the National Team of the Uganda Young Christian Student Association (UYCS) flagged off a delegation of 22 youth to Gulu town to visit families that have victims of Nodding Disease Syndrome.

Among the families that the team visited includes a household which has five children suffering from the disease. According to the mother of these five children, her husband ran away after the tragedy since he believed it is a curse from the woman's side. Thus, the desperate situation has forced her to struggle daily to make ends meet for her children. Her story was indeed very sad and touching.

On our way back from the village, we got a chance to meet and interact with Most Rev. John Baptist Odama, the Archbishop of Gulu Archdiocese, on short notice. Archbishop Odama's act of humility humbled us as young people.

From the little time that we spent with him, we learned that human beings should be witnesses to Christ's love by the way we live, speak and act. Besides, we should make life relevant since God loves human beings as declared in John 3:16, hence it is our responsibility to show signs of his love to fellow human beings. We also learned that God is love and He is in us, so we are servants to his suffering people.

When we look at the example of the Uganda Martyrs, each one had something to witness; St. Joseph Mukasa Balikidembe was killed because of asking why Kabaka had killed the late Bishop Hannington and the other Martyrs; reality and value of life shouldn't be squandered. His courageous act encourages us as young people to stand for the truth, to make meaning of what we are, as human beings, to bear witness to the truth, a life being told and acted.



Archbishop John Baptist Odama

Archbishop Odama also gave us an estimation of the people who participated in the way of the Cross. He said over 15,000 people from Gulu Archdiocese, the youth being the biggest in number, took part in this great deed. He challenged us to become more practical in our daily lives by practicing good deeds because such actions lead to tremendous impact. "We shouldn't relax, we should sow something here, suppose all youth did what YCS has done, the world would be a better place," he explained.

He was also grateful to the youth for sacrificing their time to visit the victims of the nodding disease syndrome and for donating basic items like clothes, food to them.

The Archbishop encouraged us to voice concerns of the voiceless. He concluded the meeting by sharing with us his past experience of how he became a peace advocate in the region.

"I missed being shot twice on Kampala road here in Gulu town. But, we were humiliated, the rebels took my rosary, I kept telling them that those are beads not bullets but all was in vain. Since then I have been working for peace that is from 1999 and I believe it was a calling from God for me to do something for my ecclesiastical province..... I prayed for peace over and over and up to-date I haven't given up on fighting for peace in Uganda. I remember while in the bush with my friends, the religious leaders and the rebels, I told them that we are representatives of two people and we have an obligation to them: the first person is God and the second is the people, both victims and the rebels. For as long as you are fighting for the truth and justice, be ready to be humiliated and to sacrifice your own life."

The Bible Society of Uganda's ministry outreach to the blind

by **Barbara Atwine**
 PVD Project Coordinator,
 The Bible Society of Uganda

Since 2009, The Bible Society of Uganda has implemented the People with Visual Disability Project which aims at helping the blind people to attain Braille literacy, get easy access to Scriptures in Braille, Audio and large print format and advocacy for their inclusion in church activities. The life story of Job motivates us to continue reaching out to the Blind. In this magazine we will share our story out reach to Eric Wakoko that dates way back in 2010 up to 2013 as a student in Kyambogo University. His desire to own a Braille Bible as a person couldn't be met then because our focus then was to distribute Bibles first to schools and institutions that serve the blind in order for them to share the Bible. We couldn't help then but only involved him in our few activities like the Skills retreat, Friends of the blind Bible symposium and Public way of the cross. The opportunity came in 2016 and Wakoko received a Full Braille Bible and he had this to share with us.

Journey to independence, a golden and fascinating opportunity as shared with us directly from Wakoko

Like anybody else, I too define independence as the state of being free from every kind of bondage, redeeming yourself time at owner's will to access whatever one needs to. It has never

been simple to both know and understand GOD properly especially when his word is just read to you by people whose programs are dynamic. Salvation could be a "hill, valley" and anything else too hard to move through but from the time of acquisition of the Braille Bible, salvation is a living hope, promising life and an answer to the would be difficult questions.

In a nutshell, I now know who I am in the lord and by his grace can self-read the Bible, help others discover themselves as well as making a changed environment worth a joyful living. Continuous gratitude to The Bible society of Uganda for identifying with and supporting persons with disabilities in this empowerment program of the PVD project among others. With the Braille, audio and Large Print Bibles availed to all, we are left but with no excuse on the judgment day. My inspiration-



Eric Wakoko

al quotes are numerous but at least these because they directly point to my calling: Proverbs 14:12, Romans 1:16, Ezekiel 22:30, 1John 4:4. Says Eric Wakoko

Eric wakoko Like Job 29; verse 12 writes;

"I was known for helping people in trouble and standing up for those who were down on their luck.

The dying blessed me, and the bereaved were cheered by my visits.

All my dealings with people were good.

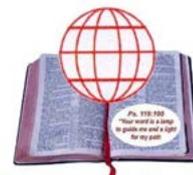
I was known for being fair to everyone I met.

I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame

Father to the needy, and champion of abused aliens".

What an opportunity for you join us first as a member of The Bible Society of Uganda and then you reserve your date of 7th October 2017 to come at Bible house and you witness what people with Visual disability can do. This event is annual and free and it usually happens on every first Saturday of the month of October commonly known as Friends of the blind Bible symposium.

For more information you can contact +256775342220



God's Word Life for All

NEW CONTACT ADVERTISING RATES

| SPECIFICATION | AMOUNT | OFFERS |
|--------------------|-----------|---|
| Back Cover Page | 2,500,000 | An equivalent advert in the electronic version plus Editorial boost |
| Inside Back Cover | 2,000,000 | An equivalent advert in the electronic version plus Editorial boost |
| Inside Front Cover | 2,000,000 | An equivalent advert in the electronic version plus Editorial boost |
| Centre Spread | 5,000,000 | An equivalent advert in the electronic version plus editorial boost |
| Full page | 1,500,000 | |
| Half Page | 750,000 | |
| Quarter Page | 300,000 | |
| Classified | 150,000 | |

Kindly contact **New Contact** Managing Director, **Fr. Philip Odii**, (0782746812 / 0702606851) or 0700800171 / 0784783800

What Christ's Resurrection means for your marriage



By Barbara Nabukenya, UCMB

Easter was much more than a history-changing miracle. It provided more than just our salvation. Because of Easter, believers have been granted the same power that raised Christ from the dead. His resurrecting power can breathe life into a dead marriage. It enables us to love as God loves, and grants us the ability to forgive and view our spouses through a Christ-centered lens.

THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION

Most of us have heard the Easter story so many times in that we can't easily miss the miracle of this event. Jesus, fully man and fully God, experienced one of the most brutal forms of execution. He was flogged to near death and driven into life-threatening condition, then nailed to a tree until, with a deep exhale, He willingly released His Spirit.

Dead men don't come back to life. And they certainly don't break forth from sealed tombs secured by large stones and guarded by armed soldiers. In other words, Jesus had everything against Him at this point, but nothing man stacked against Him could overcome the power of God.

The Scripture tells us we have that same life-giving, resurrecting power living within us. The Holy Spirit, given freely to all who believe in Christ, is our power source the One who draws us closer to Christ and enables us to love as God does.

EASTER ENABLES US TO LOVE CHRIST.

Prior to Pentecost, when God unleashed His Spirit on believers, mankind was powerless to overcome his sinful nature. Though we loved, our love was largely conditional, selfishly motivated, and comfort-based. This type of love says, "If you treat me a certain way, I'll show love to you. But if you hurt or disappoint me, I'm out of here."

Divorce courts are filled with men and women who jumped into a relationship when it "felt right" but determined to leave when things became hard.

But on Easter, Jesus modeled a much different, much deeper, more persevering kind of love, a love that stays and gives to the point of death. This is the kind of love Jesus calls spouses to show one another—a love of mutual submission (Ephesians 5:22-33) and sacrifice, and of putting one another's needs above our own (Philippians 2:3-8). This is a lofty command, one that is impossible to obey in our strength.

But Jesus hasn't left us on our own. Because of His death and resurrection, we've been given everything we need to live a Godly, Christ-centered life. (2 Peter 1:3).

ON EASTER, CHRIST DESTROYED THE POWER OF SIN.

Scripture tells us, prior to Christ, sin held us in bondage. Though we longed to do better, and perhaps even made countless plans to follow through, our efforts were futile and short lived. Our relationships were marked by selfishness, fear, grasping for control, and self-protection. But through His death, Christ broke the power of sin and freed us to live and love as we were created. Romans 6:6 tells us, "We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin" (ESV).

This means, if we belong to Christ, we don't have to persist in our negative old patterns of behavior to mention but a few: procrastination, overspending, overeating, or poor time management. We have the power to rise above. Because of Christ, we as believers have the same power living within us that raised Christ from the dead. Therefore, in terms of obedience, the question is not can we live and love better, but will we?

EASTER DEMONSTRATED WHAT IT MEANS TO FORGIVE.

Early in my marriage, I could work and argue an offense until both my husband and I were brain—and heart—dead. This refusal to forgive nearly destroyed my marriage, until one day, in the middle of a fight that brought a cold silence over our home, God gave me an image that radically changed my perspective.

As I was going over all of my husband's wrongs, likely asking God to "fix" him, a picture filled my mind. It was of Jesus, shortly before His betrayal, kneeling before one of His disciples, washing his feet.

Only this wasn't just any disciple—I knew with certainty, it was Judas whom Christ was serving, Judas, the man who, with a kiss, would soon betray Him—to His brutal death. In that moment, God spoke to me, asking me to forgive my husband for whatever wrongs I felt he'd done, regardless of whether I felt he deserved it but rather, because Christ did.

In other words, I was to forgive out of love for and obedience to Christ, the One who had died for me, the same scenario happens to couples at different times, and levels and every person can forgive every person. Remember To err is human, to forgive divine: All people commit sins and make mistakes. God forgives them, and people are acting in a godlike (divine) way when they forgive.

EASTER GRANTS US THE ABILITY TO PERCEIVE CLEARLY.

Shortly before He was arrested, Jesus shared an intimate, farewell conversation with His disciples where He told them how they would survive—and thrive—without Him. He says, "It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you... But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth"(John 16:7,16). In 1 Corinthians 2:16, we're told we've been given the mind of Christ. Through Jesus and the Holy Spirit, we have direct and constant access to the Only one who can see others, and our spouses, clearly.

Our perceptions, apart from Christ, are often faulty and marred by selfishness and sin. But when we draw near to Christ and seek His wisdom, He grants us clarity and allows us to see our spouse through a lens of grace.

Relationships in general are difficult, but marriage is 10 times harder. Many times, our spouse sees us at our worst and feels the brunt of our sinful behaviors. But because of Easter, we don't have to live enslaved to destructive patterns any longer. In Christ, we have the power to love fully and sacrificially, to forgive, and to view our spouse, our relationship, and conflict through a lens of grace. Therefore, the question is not can we build a strong, unbreakable marriage, but will we?

Catholic bishops challenge Kenyans to choose leaders of integrity



(From Left) Rt. Rev. Cornelius Korir of Eldoret Diocese, Rt. Rev. Philip Anyolo of Homabay & KCCB Chairman, Rt. Rev. John Oballa Owaa of Ngong & KCCB Vice Chairman and Most Rev. Zacchaeus Okoth of Kisumu during the Bishops Press Conference in Nairobi

By Pamela Adinda

Catholic Bishops in Kenya have noted with concern the unfolding political crisis which is evident from the ongoing Political Party Primaries and cautioned citizens to be alert and not engage in practices that are likely to fuel tension as well as political and ethnic divisions. They have called upon Kenyans to choose leaders who are God fearing, morally upright and committed to promoting human dignity and solidarity among people.

The Bishops said this on Friday 28th April, 2017 during a press conference held at St. Thomas Aquinas Major Seminary in Nairobi. The Press Conference was held at the end of the Bishops Ordinary Plenary Assembly, which has been going on at the same venue throughout the week.

“What we are seeing now when the political parties are nominating those who are going to contest for the various elective seats is worrying and is a clear indication that we could be heading towards the wrong direction,” said Rt. Rev. Bishop Anyolo Chairman of Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB).

The Bishops in their statement to the press said that the inability by most of the political parties to conduct clean and transparent elections as well as the mistrust that has been generated among politicians even of the same party leaves a lot to be desired.

“The chaotic situations we are seeing demonstrate how fragile the political system in Kenya is at the moment. It is a system that is open to manipulation and abuse by characters with no integrity and who are not mature enough to

discern between what is good and evil. Such people should not have been allowed to present themselves for elective positions in the first place.”

The Bishops called upon Kenyans to shun corruption and corrupt leaders by saying no to politicians who are using their resources to bribe Kenyans to vote in their favour.

“Our dear Kenyans, if we allow corrupt people to be our leaders then we have no right to complain if all the national resources are looted and channeled into the bank accounts of very few, while millions of our people are wallowing in poverty. We want to state clearly that the greed that we are seeing, the lust for power and the uncaring attitude and arrogance that is displayed by those who have access and control our patrimony, be it at the national or county level, will be our undoing as Kenyans.”

They also challenged the Kenya electoral body the Independent Electoral Boundary Commission (IEBC) to do a better job in planning and executing the forthcoming general elections which are scheduled for August 8th 2017.

“Free, fair, transparent elections will result in peaceful elections that will be acceptable to all. IEBC should be firm and unequivocal in dealing with any malpractice and any individual who does not follow the law should immediately be disqualified from taking part in the elections.”

The Bishops reminded Kenyans that the destiny of the Nation is in the citizens’ hands and called upon them to be vigilant in ensuring that they vote in the right leaders who are capable of leading the Country in the way of peace and the way that will lead to greater justice and prosperity for all.

Pope Francis appoints new Apostolic Nuncio to Tanzania

AMECEA news

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has appointed H.E. Most Rev. Marek Solczynski new Apostolic Nuncio to Tanzania. Archbishop Solczynski takes over the position from Most Rev. Francis Padilla who was appointed Apostolic Nuncio to Kuwait and Apostolic dele-



Archbishop Marek Solczynski, the new Apostolic Nuncio to Tanzania.

gate to the Arabian Peninsula in April 2016.

The New Papal Envoy of the Republic of Tanzania was until his appointment the Apostolic Nuncio to Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Archbishop Marek was born in Poland on 7th April 1961 and was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Warsaw on 28th May 1987. He was ordained Titular Archbishop of Caesarea in Mauretania in January 2012.

He holds Doctorate in Canon Law and apart from his native language Polish, Archbishop Marek is fluent in English, French, Spanish, Italian as well as Russian languages.

The Vatican welcomes new refugee families from Syria



Pope Francis welcomes Syrian families to Vatican

Vatican Radio

Three new Syrian families have found shelter and welcome in the Vatican as part of an ongoing effort to provide the means and the tools for integration and a new life of hope for those fleeing conflict and persecution.

All in all, thirteen people - from two Christian and one Muslim family - have been able make their homes in three Vatican-owned apartments recently vacated by other refugees who have since moved on to more permanent situations.

According to a communiqué released by the Vatican Press Office on April 3, 2017, two of the families have fled violence and discrimination because of their Christian faith. They arrived in Italy in March.

The first family is composed of the mother, two adolescent children, the grandmother, an aunt and a Syrian woman who lives with them.

The second family includes a young couple with their two-week old baby daughter, Stella, who was born in the apartment they now live in. The mother had been abducted and in the hands of the so-called Islamic State for many months.

The third family first set foot in Italy in February 2016. It is made up of the parents and two children, one of whom with serious health problems. The children both go to school and the mother is following a University course for Intercultural Mediators.

The refugees hosted in the Vatican have all been able to travel safely to Italy thanks to the “humanitarian corridor” project promoted by the Community of Sant’Egidio, the Federation of Evangelical Churches in Italy and the Waldesian Table.

The project is a concrete response to the appeal launched by Pope Francis on 6 September 2015 during the An-

gelus when he called on parishes, religious communities and sanctuaries of all Europe to take in a migrant family.

“Faced with the tragedy of tens of thousands of refugees fleeing death on account of war and hunger, and who are traveling toward a hope for life, the Gospel calls us to be ‘neighbors’ to the smallest and abandoned, and to give them a concrete hope” he said.

Thanks to the “humanitarian corridors” 70 families have found welcome in Rome, for a total of 145 people.

The main goals of the self-funded project are:

1. To avoid journeys on the boats in the Mediterranean, which have already caused a high number of deaths, including many children;
2. To avoid human trafficking, preventing the exploitation of human traffickers who do business with those who flee from wars;
3. To grant to people in “vulnerable conditions” (victims of persecution, torture and violence, as well as families with children, elderly people, sick people, persons with disabilities) legal entry on Italian territory with humanitarian visa, with the possibility to apply for asylum.

As well as providing adequate housing, the project foresees a process of integration for those involved which includes Italian lessons.

Beyond the hospitality provided, the Holy See also gives economic support to the 21 refugees who came to Italy with Pope Francis from the island of Lesbos, and who have found hospitality in private and religious houses.

Previous Issue



Pope and Trump discuss peace, dialogue, support for immigrants

By Vatican Radio

Pope Francis and U.S. President Donald Trump met in the Vatican Wednesday on May 24, discussing issues of peace, interfaith dialogue and religious freedom, as well as the role of the American Church in education, healthcare and support for immigrants.

The American leader spent half an hour in conversation with the Pope behind closed doors in the Apostolic Palace, before meeting with Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, and Archbishop Paul Gallagher, the Holy See's Secretary for Relations with States or foreign minister.

Press office statement

A statement from the Vatican press office said during the course of the cordial encounter, the two men discussed the good bilateral relations that exist between the U.S. and the Holy See. They also spoke of their "joint commitment in favour of life, religious liberty and freedom of conscience".

The statement expressed the hope for a "serene cooperation between the State and the Catholic Church in the United States", which is engaged in service to people "in the fields of health care, education and assistance to immigrants".

Dialogue and negotiations

It said the Pope and the President also exchanged views on international affairs and on the promotion of peace through political negotiations and interfaith dialogue, mentioning especially the situation in the Middle East and the protection of Christian communities.

Trump, who was accompanied by his wife Melania, as well as his daughter and son-in-law, is on the third leg of a nine day presidential tour that has already taken him to Saudi Arabia, Israel and Palestine.

Sistine chapel visit

After the papal audience, Trump was taken on a tour of St Peter's Basilica and the Sistine Chapel, before meeting with Italian President Sergio Mattarella and with Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni.

Melania Trump, meanwhile, visited Rome's 'Bambin Gesù' Children's Hospital, while the president's daughter, Ivanka, was scheduled to meet with victims of trafficking together with members of Rome's Sant'Egidio lay



Pope Francis and President Donald Trump shake hands

Catholic community.

Please find below the full statement from the Holy See press office:

This morning, Wednesday 24 May 2017, the Honorable Donald Trump, President of the United States of America, was received in Audience by the Holy Father Francis and subsequently met with His Eminence Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Parolin, accom-

panied by His Excellency Msgr. Paul Richard Gallagher, Secretary for Relations with States.

During the cordial discussions, satisfaction was expressed for the good existing bilateral relations between the Holy See and the United States of America, as well as the joint commitment in favour of life, and freedom of worship and conscience. It is hoped that there may be serene collaboration between the State and the Catholic Church in the United States, engaged in service to the people in the fields of healthcare, education and assistance to immigrants.

The discussions then enabled an exchange of views on various themes relating to international affairs and the promotion of peace in the world through political negotiation and inter-religious dialogue, with particular reference to the situation in the Middle East and the protection of Christian communities.



BN ROYAL

EXECUTIVE SUITES

DINO ROAD, NAMUGONGO

NEW

Elegance • Style • Comfort

- ◆ 2 Bed Room Apartments
- ◆ Bedsitters
- ◆ Furnished Rooms
- ◆ Unfurnished Rooms
- ◆ Ample Parking Space
- ◆ Guaranteed Security
- ◆ CCTV and Intercoms
- ◆ Installed DSTV
- ◆ Wi-fi in & Out
- ◆ Gym

Call us: +256-775828536, +256-794579184

Email: royal.palm.properties@outlook.com

300 metres from main road





TO LET



Message of his Holiness Pope Francis for the 51st World Communications Day

**Fear not, for I am with you (Is 43:5):
Communicating Hope and Trust in our Time**

Access to the media – thanks to technological progress – makes it possible for countless people to share news instantly and spread it widely. That news may be good or bad, true or false. The early Christians compared the human mind to a constantly grinding millstone; it is up to the miller to determine what it will grind: good wheat or worthless weeds. Our minds are always “grinding”, but it is up to us to choose what to feed them (cf. SAINT JOHN CASSIAN, Epistle to Leontius).

I wish to address this message to all those who, whether in their professional work or personal relationships, are like that mill, daily “grinding out” information with the aim of providing rich fare for those with whom they communicate. I would like to encourage everyone to engage in constructive forms of communication that reject prejudice towards others and foster a culture of encounter, helping all of us to view the world around us with realism and trust.

I am convinced that we have to break the vicious circle of anxiety and stem the spiral of fear resulting from a constant focus on “bad news” (wars, terrorism, scandals and all sorts of human failure). This has nothing to do with spreading misinformation that would ignore the tragedy of human suffering, nor is it about a naive optimism blind to the scandal of evil. Rather, I propose that all of us work at overcoming that feeling of growing discontent and resignation that can at times generate apathy, fear or the idea that evil has no limits. Moreover, in a communications industry which thinks that good news does not sell, and where the tragedy of human suffering and the mystery of evil easily turn into entertainment, there is always the temptation that our consciences can be dulled or slip into pessimism.

I would like, then, to contribute to the search for an open and creative style of communication that never seeks to glamourize evil but instead to concentrate on solutions and to inspire a positive and responsible approach on the part of its recipients. I ask everyone to



I AM CONVINCED THAT WE HAVE TO BREAK THE VICIOUS CIRCLE OF ANXIETY AND STEM THE SPIRAL OF FEAR RESULTING FROM A CONSTANT FOCUS ON “BAD NEWS” (WARS, TERRORISM, SCANDALS AND ALL SORTS OF HUMAN FAILURE)

offer the people of our time storylines that are at heart “good news”.

Good news

Life is not simply a bare succession of events, but a history, a story waiting to be told through the choice of an interpretative lens that can select and gather the most relevant data. In and of itself, reality has no one clear meaning. Everything depends on the way we look at things, on the lens we use to view them. If we change that lens, reality itself appears different. So how can we begin to “read” reality through the right lens?

For us Christians, that lens can only be the good news, beginning with the Good News par excellence: “the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Son of God” (Mk 1:1). With these words, Saint Mark opens his Gospel not by relating “good news” about Jesus, but rather the good news that is Jesus himself. Indeed, reading the pages of his Gospel, we learn that its title corresponds to its content and, above all else, this content is the very person of Jesus.

This good news – Jesus himself – is not good because it has nothing to do with suffering, but rather because suffering itself becomes part of a bigger picture. It is seen as an integral part of Jesus’ love for the Father and for all mankind. In Christ, God has shown his

solidarity with every human situation. He has told us that we are not alone, for we have a Father who is constantly mindful of his children. “Fear not, for I am with you” (Is 43:5): these are the comforting words of a God who is immersed in the history of his people. In his beloved Son, this divine promise – “I am with you” – embraces all our weakness, even to dying our death. In Christ, even darkness and death become a point of encounter with Light and Life. Hope is born, a hope accessible to everyone, at the very crossroads where life meets the bitterness of failure. That hope does not disappoint, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts (cf. Rom 5:5) and makes new life blossom, like a shoot that springs up from the fallen seed. Seen in this light, every new tragedy that occurs in the world’s history can also become a setting for good news, inasmuch as love can find a way to draw near and to raise up sympathetic hearts, resolute faces and hands ready to build anew.

Confidence in the seed of the Kingdom

To introduce his disciples and the crowds to this Gospel mindset and to give them the right “lens” needed to see and embrace the love that dies and rises, Jesus uses parables. He frequently compares the Kingdom of God to a seed that releases its potential for life precisely when it falls to the earth and dies (cf. Mk 4:1-34). This use of images and metaphors to convey the quiet power of the Kingdom does not detract from its importance and urgency; rather, it is a merciful way of making space for the listener to freely accept and appropriate that power. It is also a most effective way to express the immense dignity of the Paschal mystery, leaving it to images, rather than concepts, to communicate the paradoxical beauty of new life in Christ. In that life, hardship and the cross do not obstruct, but bring about God’s salvation; weakness proves stronger than any human power; and failure can be the prelude to the fulfilment of all things in love. This is how hope in the Kingdom of God matures and deepens: it is “as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow” (Mk 4:26-27).

The Kingdom of God is already present in our midst, like a seed that is easily overlooked, yet silently takes root. Those to whom the Holy Spirit grants keen vision can see it blossoming.

They do not let themselves be robbed of the joy of the Kingdom by the weeds that spring up all about.

The horizons of the Spirit

Our hope based on the good news which is Jesus himself makes us lift up our eyes to contemplate the Lord in the liturgical celebration of the Ascension. Even though the Lord may now appear more distant, the horizons of hope expand all the more. In Christ, who brings our human nature to heaven, every man and woman can now freely “enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh” (Heb 10:19-20). By “the power of the Holy Spirit” we can be witnesses and “communicators” of a new

and redeemed humanity “even to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:7-8).

Confidence in the seed of God’s Kingdom and in the mystery of Easter should also shape the way we communicate. This confidence enables us to carry out our work – in all the different ways that communication takes place nowadays – with the conviction that it is possible to recognize and highlight the good news present in every story and in the face of each person.

Those who, in faith, entrust themselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit come to realize how God is present and at work in every moment of our lives and history, patiently bringing to pass a history of salvation. Hope is the thread with which this sacred history is woven,

and its weaver is none other than the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. Hope is the humblest of virtues, for it remains hidden in the recesses of life; yet it is like the yeast that leavens all the dough. We nurture it by reading ever anew the Gospel, “reprinted” in so many editions in the lives of the saints who became icons of God’s love in this world. Today too, the Spirit continues to sow in us a desire for the Kingdom, thanks to all those who, drawing inspiration from the Good News amid the dramatic events of our time, shine like beacons in the darkness of this world, shedding light along the way and opening ever new paths of confidence and hope.

FROM THE VATICAN, 24 JANUARY 2017



Pope’s prayer intention for May: Christians in Africa

Vatican Radio

Pope Francis’ prayer intention for May is dedicated to Christians in Africa: That Christians in Africa, in imitation of the Merciful Jesus, may give prophetic witness to reconciliation, justice, and peace.

The Apostleship of Prayer has produced the Pope’s Video message on this prayer intention.

The full text of the Pope’s Video message is below:

When we look at Africa, we see much more than its great natural richness.

We see its joie de vivre, and above all, we see grounds for hope in Africa’s rich intellectual, cultural and religious heritage.

But we cannot fail to see the fratricidal wars decimating peoples and destroying these natural and cultural resources.

Let us join with our brothers and sisters of this great continent, and pray together that Christians in Africa, in imitation of the Merciful Jesus, may give prophetic witness to reconciliation, justice, and peace.

The Sanctum

Turning Moments into Memories

The Sanctum (an apartment hotel) is a private company that has been in existence since January 2009. We offer accommodation, conference, food and beverage and banqueting services. Located at Kitala - Entebbe Road, we are engaged in every aspect of hotel and luxury, setting international standards of hospitality and comfort. We are 10 minutes’ drive from the airport and 40 minutes’ drive from the capital city of Uganda, Kampala, we also operate a shuttle for airport transfers at a sur charge. We are an apartment hotel built to suit individuals, corporates and long term holiday makers who seek a quiet, comfortable and truly authentic African environment.



The Sanctum Aparthotel

Address: Plot 343, Kitala, Entebbe, Uganda Phone: +256 774 110993 / +256 702 289 896

Email: reservations@thesanctum.co.ug | website: thesanctum.co.ug



Official portrait of Francisco and Jacinta Marto designed by Silvia Patricio COURTESY OF THE FATIMA SHRINE CNA

Francisco and Jacinta have officially been declared saints

By Hannah Brockhaus
Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis on Saturday May 13 officially declared Francisco and Jacinta Marto saints of the Catholic Church in front of hundreds of thousands of pilgrims at Fatima, Portugal teaching us that even young children can become saints.

“For the honor of the Blessed Trinity, the exaltation of the Catholic faith and the increase of the Christian life, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, and our own, after due deliberation and frequent prayer for divine assistance, and having sought the counsel of many of our brother Bishops, we declare and define Blessed Francisco Marto and Jacinta Marto to be saints,” Pope Francis exclaimed May 13 as the crowd roared with applause.

“We enroll them among the Saints, decreeing that they are to be venerated as such by the whole Church. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

Pope Francis presided over their canonization Mass during his two-day pilgrimage to Fatima, Portugal May 12–13 to take part in celebrations for the 100th anniversary of the appearance of Our Lady of Fatima.

The brother and sister, Francisco and Jacinta, who tended to their families’ sheep with their cousin Lucia Santo

in the fields of Fatima, witnessed the apparitions of Mary, now commonly known as Our Lady of Fatima.

In her message to the children, Mary brought with her requests for conversion, prayer (particularly the recitation of the rosary), sacrifices on behalf of sinners, and a three-part secret regarding the fate of the world.

The children followed Mary’s requests, praying often, giving their lunch to beggars and going without food themselves. They offered up their daily crosses and even refrained from drinking water on hot days.

With anti-Catholic sentiment very prevalent in the country, the mayor in the district of Fatima had grown suspicious of the growingly popular apparitions, and had unsuccessfully tried to get the children to renounce their story.

Wanting to stop the children from seeing the fourth apparition, Artur Santos, an apostate Catholic and high Mason who was the local mayor, devised a ruse to kidnap the children before the scheduled day of her appearance.

Despite bribes, threats of death by burning oil, and threatening to lock them in a cell with criminals, the children never recanted their story.

Convicted by Mary’s requests and the vision of hell, both children lived lives of prayer and penance after the apparitions, offering themselves for sinners as Mary had asked. Francisco was known for his devotion to the

Eucharist and his strict physical mortifications, while Jacinta was especially known for having a heart for the poor and the suffering.

Both children fell victim to the influenza epidemic of 1918 that swept through Europe. In October 1918, Mary again appeared to the sick siblings and promised to take them to heaven soon. On April 3, 1919, Francisco declined hospital treatment for influenza and died the next day.

Jacinta was given hospital treatment in hopes of prolonging her life, but she knew that she would soon join Francisco in heaven. On February 19, 1920, Jacinta asked the hospital chaplain who heard her confession to bring her Holy Communion and administer the last rites, because she was going to die “the next night.” But the priest said that her condition was not that serious and that he would return the next day. The next day Jacinta was found dead – she had died in her sleep.

Pope John Paul II beatified Francisco and Jacinta May 13, 2000, on the 83rd anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady at Fatima. Both under 12 years old, they were the youngest non-martyrs to be beatified in the history of the Church.

Sister Lucia, the third visionary, lived much longer, dying in 2005 at the age of 97. The Church is currently examining documents and collecting testimonies for her beatification cause.

Brazilian boy's survival of brain injury cited by Vatican as the Fatima 'miracle' needed to canonize two children

By The Associated Press

FATIMA, PORTUGAL—The parents of a Brazilian boy whose recovery from a severe brain injury is being cited by the Vatican as the “miracle” needed to canonize two Portuguese children broke their silence Thursday May 11, 2017 to share the story.

Joao Baptista and his wife, Lucila Yurie, appeared before reporters at the Catholic shrine in Fatima, Portugal, on the eve of Pope Francis's arrival. Francis will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the so-called Fatima visions of the Virgin Mary by canonizing two of the three Portuguese children who experienced them.

The “miracle” required for the canonization concerns the case of little Lucas Baptista, whose story has to date been shrouded in secrecy.

His father said Thursday that in 2013, when Lucas was 5 years old, the boy fell 6.5 metres from a window at the family's home in Brazil while playing with his infant sister, Eduarda.

The ambulance to the hospital took an hour, and when Lucas arrived, he was in a coma and had suffered two heart attacks, Baptista said. During emergency surgery, doctors diagnosed a severe traumatic brain injury and a “loss of brain material” from the child's frontal lobe.

Doctors said Lucas had little chance of survival, and if he did live, would be severely mentally disabled or even in a vegetative state, the father recalled.

Baptista said he and his wife, as well as Brazilian Carmelite nuns, prayed to the late shepherd children who said the Virgin Mary appeared to them in “visions” in 1917. Two of those children, siblings Francisco and Jacinta Marto, will become the Catholic Church's youngest-ever non-martyred saints on Saturday.

The third child, Lucia dos Santos, Francisco and Jacinta's cousin, became a Carmelite nun. Efforts are un-



Parents of the miraculously healed child read a statement at a Press Conference in Fatima Portugal.

derway to beatify her, too, but couldn't begin until after she died in 2005.

Joao Baptista, wearing a blue shirt and tie as he read a statement at the Fatima shrine and took occasional pauses to compose himself, said doctors removed tubes from his son six days after Lucas' fall.

“He was fine when he woke up, lucid, and started talking, asking for his little sister,” Baptista said. After another six days, Lucas was released from the hospital.

“He's completely fine . . . with no after-effects. Lucas is just like he was before the accident,” his father said. “The doctors . . . said they couldn't explain his recovery.”

Journalists were not allowed to ask questions.

Sister Angela Coelho, the Portuguese postulator who led the project to canonize the shepherd children, said her office was informed of the Brazil story about three months after it happened.

She said officials had to wait and see whether the boy's recovery was complete before presenting the case to the

Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints. The recovery must be medically inexplicable.

“We thank God for Lucas' cure and we know in all faith from our heart that this miracle was obtained with the help of the little shepherd children Francisco and Jacinta,” Baptista said. “We feel immense joy to know that this was the miracle that led to this canonization, but mostly we feel blessed by the friendship of these two children that helped our boy and now help our family.”

Jacinta Marto was 7 years old and Francisco Marto was 9 when they first witnessed the apparitions on May 13, 1917, along with their 10-year-old cousin. They both died two years later during the Spanish flu pandemic.

The Fatima basilica and the vast square in front of it, where some 1 million people are expected to attend the canonization mass, were filling up with pilgrims Thursday as rain fell. Huge images of the future saints hung from the sides of the basilica.

The pontiff is due to arrive in Fatima on Friday afternoon.



Emmanuel Macron, who defeated Marine Le Pen in the French Presidential election on Sunday, photo by The New Yorker.



Emmanuel Macron shows a sign of a thumbs up to his supporters after his win

FRENCH ELECTION: What Emmanuel Macron's win means for Africa

BBC, May 7, 2017

Emmanuel Macron's decisive win in the French presidential election has not only spurred enthusiasm in Europe. Across Africa, where France retains huge influence in its former colonies, his election has been celebrated in the hope that it will usher in a radical change in France's African policy. The BBC's Lamine Konkobo looks at what that change might look like.

On Sunday evening, as supporters of Emmanuel Macron gathered at the Louvre's Esplanade in central Paris waiting for their champion to arrive and address them, the podium was turned for about 15 minutes into a gigantic dance floor by one of Ivory Coast's most famous bands.

Magic System took to the stage, flooding the Parisian night with rhythms and dance moves not often heard and seen in this part of town.

It was a nod to Africa; a nod that reflected the positive message of openness and universalism which has underlined Macron's winning campaign.

It could also be seen as one in the eye for defeated far-right candidate Marine Le Pen, who must have felt repulsed by such a cultural invasion.

If the sight of Magic System at the Louvre was refreshing for Africans, which is not why the French presi-

dential contest was closely watched across Africa.

Mr Macron is expected to deliver on issues of far greater importance in respect of the continent.

Fighting Islamist militancy

Mr Macron has said little on his African policy on the campaign trail, because Africa was not a decisive topic that could give him the votes he needed to win.

However, from the little he said about the continent, it appears that fighting Islamist militancy will be prominent on his African agenda. He was elected while France was under a state of emergency following a series of Islamist attacks in recent years, some of which were carried out by people with African links. But while on the campaign trail, he made it clear that he realized that France was not the only country affected:

"Africa is struggling more and more with terrorism," he told Jeune Afrique. "We saw it in Bamako [Mali], in Ouagadougou [Burkina Faso] and in Grand Bassam [Ivory Coast]."

Islamist militants targeted hotels in all these places last year, killing many people, including foreign tourists.

"Everyone should get involved in the fight against terrorism," he said.

France has deployed about 4,000 troops in the Sahel region of Africa

as part of the anti-terrorism Barkhane operation. The president-elect has no plan of withdrawing these troops in the foreseeable future.

On aid, trade and development

There is a famous saying that nations have no permanent friends but only permanent interests.

Mr Macron has been elected to serve France's interests and he will do so in his relationship with Africa, political analyst Serge Theophile Balima told the BBC.

"Macron is a neo-liberal who believes in businesses and trade," Mr Balima says. "He will do his utmost to open Africa to a maximum of French businesses. That is obvious."

However, the new president believes that partnership with the continent will be more beneficial if Africa is strong. As a candidate, he vowed to lobby the G20 at its July summit in Germany to support economic development in African countries.

In clearer terms he has pledged to channel to Africa most of France's foreign aid, which he intends to increase to 0.7% of his country's GDP.

Immigration

What was strikingly different between Mr Macron and Ms Le Pen was how the two approached immigration.

Ms Le Pen's closed-border proposition was that she "has love for the Africans but only if they are at home in Africa", while Mr Macron has defended a policy of immigration that should be defined by France's needs.

In other words, under President Macron, there would be no reason to stop an African from coming to France if they have skills that are useful to the country's economy.

Since the 1970s, waves of migrants from North Africa and then former colonies south of the Sahara have found their way into France, playing a role in various sectors of the country's economy.



Let's move with you

SAVE TIME AND TRANSPORT COSTS

with **CenteMobile.**



Move with your bank. Dial *211#

CenteMobile lets you use your Airtel or MTN Mobile Money registered line to:

- Deposit money to your Centenary account from your Mobile Money line
- Withdraw money from your Centenary bank account to any registered Mobile Money line
- Check bank account balance
- Block your ATM card incase it gets lost
- Donate to Radio Maria

Register for CenteMobile at your nearest branch with your ID.

*Service only applies to Airtel or MTN mobile money users.



For more information call our toll free line
0800 200555



Secure. Easy. Efficient.

Centenary Bank: Head Office - Mapeera House, Plot 44-46 Kampala Road and Plot 2 Burton Street, P.O. Box 1892 Kampala, UGANDA.
Call Centre: 0800 200555. Tel: +256 (0)414 346856, 251276/7. Fax: +256 (0)41 251273. Email: info@centenarybank.co.ug Web: www.centenarybank.co.ug
Regulated by Bank of Uganda AI.005

