

GULU ARCHDIOCESE LAUNCHES UNIVERSITY OF SACRED HEART



The Chancellor of USHG (right), Archbishop Odama shares a light moment with the Apostolic Nuncio PHOTO BY FR. SAMUEL MWAKA

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Editorial



Uganda Episcopal Conference in partnership with Trócaire, is running a programme on the empowerment of women. The programme which started in March 2017 uses a holistic approach to women empowerment. It recognises that a human being is both physical and spiritual and thus should be empowered in all aspects of life: spiritual, intellectual, moral, social, economic, etc.

There is no doubt that women in Uganda like in many parts of the world have been marginalised and yet they play a crucial role in the family and in the development process of society. In some of our villages for instance, when parents do not have enough money to educate all their children, the boys will be favoured to go to school as the girls are coerced into early marriage. This trend of events needs to be changed if our society is to develop.

I believe that the women empowerment programme that the Catholic Church in Uganda and Trócaire have embarked on will go a long way to ensure that both men and women in Uganda have equal access to resources (material and non-material) and opportunities such as, education, leadership, spiritual and moral guidance.

As I conclude, I propose that this empowerment should start right from the family level, since it is in the family where values such as, respect for other people, sharing, and hard work are first communicated to children.

Fr. Philip Odii
Editor/Executive Secretary of
Social Communications
Uganda Episcopal Conference

Gulu Archdiocese launches University of Sacred Heart

By Fr. Samuel Mwaka
Social Communications Coordinator,
Archdiocese of Gulu

The Catholic Church in Uganda has marked another milestone in the education sector after University of the Sacred Heart in the Archdiocese of Gulu (USHG) was launched on Saturday, July 15.

This brings the number of Catholic founded Universities in the country to three. The other two are Uganda Martyrs University and University of Kisubi.

The colourful ceremony began with the celebration of a Solemn Holy Mass followed by the inauguration of the University Council. The Holy Mass was led by the Archbishop of Gulu Archdiocese, Most Rev. John Baptist Odama, who is also the Chairman of the Uganda Episcopal Conference and concelebrated by the Apostolic Nuncio to Uganda, Most Rev. Michael August Blume, Archbishop of Mbarara Archdiocese, Most Rev. Paul Bakyenga, Bishop of Arua Diocese, Rt. Rev Sabino Ocan Odoki, Bishop of Nebbi Diocese, Rt. Rev Sanctus Lino Wanock and several priests.

In his homily, Archbishop Odama said that the reasons for opening the University was to help in psychosocial rehabilitation after war trauma in the northern region, thus promoting meaningful settlement, lasting peace and development in the Acholi Sub-region and the nation. Northern Uganda had suffered from civil unrest since mid 1980s. Some 1.8 million people had been displaced and tens of thousands kidnapped, mutilated or killed in the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) insurgency that lasted for over two decades.

"The University arises from the past experiences of people in this region, Uganda as a whole and indeed all parts of the world. Our experiences in this region and in other parts of the world indicate that our society is sick. However, we have to deal with the effects of conflicts and war including trauma, isolation, poverty, apathy, suicide etc. We also have to deal with the sickness in our attitudes and mindset, our socio-economic system that leads us to conflicts and war; we need to deal with all these issues that hinder the human being from living the fullness of life to which he or she is called by the creator," said the Archbishop adding that the centre of the establishment of USHG



The Chancellor and the Chairman of the University Council in the Vice Chancellor's Office.

is the identity and dignity of the human person.

Archbishop Odama is renowned for his peace building efforts in the horrendous conflict in the northern region. He served as the chairman of the Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative (ARLPI) from 2002-2010, and it is at that point that the group engaged the government to talking peace than taking military action to end the war against LRA under Joseph Kony.

The launch was graced by the Commissioner at the Directorate of Educational Standards, Dr. Kedrace Turyagyenda, who represented the Minister of Education and Sports, Hon. Janet Kataha Museveni as the chief guest.

The Nuncio, who was the Guest of Honour and a Visitor to the University, installed Archbishop Odama as the Chancellor of the University while Bishop Wanok was installed as the Chairman of the University Council and Bishop Odoki as a member of the Governing Council.

In his inauguration speech, the Nuncio said, "healing, rebuilding, and growth in the quality experience of human community are noble aspirations that the new university will foster as the first steps of an ongoing evangelization, that will make this land overflow with a greater knowledge of God's mercy and of man's dignity."

Rev. Fr. Dr. Jino Okech Mwaka, the University Vice Chancellor in his speech informed the gathering that USHG enters the educational landscape as a partner and collaborator to all academic and non-academic institutions, organizations and communities. He also said that contribution to personal and social healing growth and holistic development (which is the USHG mission) requires joint efforts.

USHG is a private institution dedicated to academic excellence in liberal arts and

educational sciences. The University has a strong institutional commitment to the local community and the larger world community in the understanding of humanity. Its vision is to be a centre of excellence producing high calibre human resources rooted in Catholic values to address the needs of society; to be a university of choice and an engaging centre of quality teaching, learning, research, transforma-

tive community service and educative consultancy.

The University is accredited by the Uganda National Council for Higher Education. It offers two academic programmes on a semester-based academic calendar. In addition to the regular programmes, the University also has week-end programs catering for those who are already employed and family people. It offers courses

such as Bachelor of Counselling Psychology with three options – Hospital option, School option and Community option as well as Bachelor of Information Systems.

It is located in the western part of Gulu Town, about three kilometres on Gulu-Juba Road, near St. Joseph's Catholic Cathedral at Bardege Division. The area is commonly called 'For God'.

Pictorial of the launch of University of Sacred Heart



Entrance procession for the Holy Mass



Entrance Procession led by the Band



Entrance Procession to the Altar.



Celebrants at the Altar.JPG



The choir animating the Holy Mass



Celebrants receiving the offertory gifts



Celebrants at the exit procession.



Academic procession nearing the podium for the inauguration functions



Academic procession with the incoming Chancellor, Archbishop John Baptist Odama

PHOTOS BY FR. SAMUEL MWAKA

Lugazi Diocese gets four new priests and deacons



Bishop Kakooza and Bishop Ssekamanya pose with newly ordained priests and deacons PHOTOS BY ANNET NANTALE

By Annet Nantale

Lugazi Communications Office

Rt. Rev. Christopher Kakooza, the Bishop of Lugazi Diocese, on Saturday July 29, 2017 ordained four diocesan priests, six missionary priests and four deacons at Our Lady Queen of Peace Cathedral in Lugazi. Two seminarians also received the ministries of lector and acolyte.

The four diocesan priests included Rev. Fr. Martin Oyo from Lugazi Cathedral Parish, Rev. Fr. Gerald Tebandeke (Nazigo Parish), Rev. Fr. Charles Kabuusu (Mbikoko Parish) and Rev. Fr. Frank Kyazze from Nkokonjeru Parish.

Among the missionary priests, five were from the Order of Friar Servants of Mary in Kisoga Parish while one priest hailed from the Missionaries of St. Francis De Sale based in Tanzania. The five priests included Rev. Fr. Paul Julius Maria Layoo from Mbuya Parish in Kampala Archdiocese, Rev. Fr. Mathew Maria Otika from Palabek Parish (Gulu Archdiocese), Rev. Fr. Jean Evangelist Katembo Kamala (Maria Loutu Parish found in Democratic Republic of Congo), Rev. Fr. Godfrey Paluku Kavingulwa (Butembo Parish, DRC) and Rev. Fr. Grace Basirika from Matovu Maria Bisanje Parish in Masaka Diocese. Ugandan-born priest, Rev. Fr. Sebowa Lawrence, was from the Missionaries of St. Fran-



The newly ordained priests

cis De Sale, Tanzania.

Hundreds of people were in attendance, including the Bishop Emeritus of Lugazi, Rt. Rev Matthias Ssekamanya, dozens of priests and deacons, women religious, and lay faithful.

In his homily Bishop Kakooza thanked the newly ordained priests for dedicating their lives to serve God and urged them to carry on with their duties in the Mother Church by following Jesus Christ the High Priest. He called upon them to be Lord's witnesses of Christ through their good deeds.

In his speech, Mr. Joseph Were the father of one of the newly ordained priests, Rev. Fr. Martin Oyo, who represented other parents, challenged the

newly ordained priests to remain obedient as they have been in the seminary in order to serve God's people effectively. He thanked the parents, teachers, and all the Christians who helped them in educating their children and urged them to continue with that spirit.

Rev. Fr. Gerald Tebandeke who spoke on behalf of the newly ordained priests also expressed his gratitude to Bishop Kakooza for accepting them to serve God's people as ordained ministers. He further thanked Bishop Ssekamanya, priests and all people of God for enabling them attain their dream of serving in the Lord's Vineyard.



Some of the youth from the refugee and host communities undergoing tailoring training program PHOTO BY JACINTA.W. ODONGO

Caritas empowers over 100 South Sudanese refugees through livelihood skills

By Jacinta W. Odongo

Media Officer, Uganda Episcopal Conference

Caritas Uganda's commitment to address the socio-economic challenges of the South Sudanese refugees deepens as it expands its efforts to empower the refugees and their host communities by focusing on food security and livelihood skills, health, nutrition, hygiene and environmental awareness.

In a bid to equip the refugees and the host communities with requisite skills in food production and non-agricultural income generating, Caritas Uganda has trained about 124 young persons from the refugee and host communities living in Bidi Bidi Refugee Settlement in Yumbe District.

According to Caritas Uganda Project Coordinator for the Refugee Emergency Response in Bidi Bidi, Godfrey Onentho they have been empowering refugee farmers to grow crops to supplement the food that they usually receive from the World Food Programme.

"As an agency, our main functions are in areas of social services, development and advocacy with the main goal of providing emergency relief and rehabilitation, poverty eradication and improving community livelihood among

" WE HAVE SO FAR PROVIDED SEEDS AND TOOLS TO ABOUT 5500 HOUSEHOLDS AND THEY HAVE ALL DONE TREMENDOUS JOB IN FARMING. THEY HAVE GROWN VEGETABLES WHICH THEY CONSUME IN THEIR HOMES TO SUPPLEMENT THEIR DIET AND NUTRITION WHILE OTHERS SELL AS A SOURCE OF INCOME."

others. Hence, we are providing basic training in agronomic practices such as dry planting, seed management, paste and disease management and seed multiplication to farmers in both the refugee and host communities," he said adding that it is the policy of the Uganda Government that whatever support is given to the refugees 25 percent of it must go to the host communities.

Onentho also said that they are offer-

ing different vocational skills such as carpentry, building and construction, tailoring, mechanics and metal fabrication to the youth from both the refugee and host communities.

He revealed that they have also been providing women and girls in both communities with reusable sanitary pads, mosquito nets, basins, tree seedlings for fruit and timber as well as seedlings and tools for growing cash crops.

"We have so far provided seeds and tools to about 5500 households and they have all done a tremendous job in farming. They have grown vegetables which they consume in their homes to supplement their diet and nutrition while others sell as a source of income." He said

Caritas Uganda, which is a department of the Uganda Episcopal Conference, rolled out this livelihoods training program in October 2016 for a one-year period in the camp as one of the practical solutions to help them become self-reliant in the long run. This was after receiving donor aid from its confederation members and other partners towards the project in the refugee camps. They committed to assist 3000 newly arrived South Sudanese refugees and the host community that they are living in and around Bidi Bidi.



Education scholars from East Africa region pose for a group photo with Bishop Martin Wamika of Jinja Diocese COURTESY PHOTO

Education scholars in E. Africa aim to improve quality of education in the region

By Jacinta W. Odongo

Media Officer, Uganda Episcopal Conference

A strong education system is the cornerstone of any country's growth and prosperity. Thus, education scholars from the East Africa (E. Africa) region converged in Uganda from July 20-23, 2017 for an annual seminar to seek ways to improve the quality of education in the region.

The three-day seminar was held under the theme of Education for Life, Education for Development: Changing Approaches in a Changing World. Over 70 top education scholars from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda took part in the seminar.

According to the National Executive Secretary for Education of the Uganda Episcopal Conference, Fr. Lucian Arinaitwe the aim of the seminar was to help the scholars find collaborative initiatives that will make great strides in strengthening the education systems in their respective countries.

"The world isn't static. We need to

keep checking the status of our education as a region since the main purpose of education is to nurture what is best in the individual in a holistic way," he said.

Some of the topics that were discussed during the seminar include: developing the value of the learners, developing the practical skills of the learners and developing knowledgeable people to learn.

It also involved several dimensions, including well-adapted learning environments, the effective design of curriculum and course content, a variety of learning contexts (including guided independent study, project-based learning, collaborative learning, experimentation and others), soliciting and using feedback, and effective assessment of learning outcomes.

"We also compared how the issue of engaging in sexual activities is hampering our learner in the region. We discovered that the way school administrators handle students who are found to be pregnant is very dis-

"THE WORLD ISN'T STATIC. WE NEED TO KEEP CHECKING THE STATUS OF OUR EDUCATION AS A REGION SINCE THE MAIN PURPOSE OF EDUCATION IS TO NURTURE WHAT IS BEST IN THE INDIVIDUAL IN A HOLISTIC WAY,"

criminative hence causing negative impact to these students. Our work is to find a common ground and harmonize these challenges," he explained.

The seminar was organized by the Diocese of Jinja in collaboration with the KAAD Association of Scholars from East Africa. The opening ceremony was graced by the Rt. Rev Charles Martin Wamika, the Bishop of Jinja diocese.

UEC Family Desk holds women empowerment workshops to boost social transformation

By Jacinta W. Odongo

In an effort to boost economic growth and social transformation in Uganda, the Family Desk under the Lay Apostolate Department of the Uganda Episcopal Conference (UEC) organized a series of workshops on Women Empowerment (WE) and Domestic Violence Prevention Campaign.

The workshops, which were held on separate dates from July 25 to August 4 in Namugongo, Kampala attracted representatives of national women mobilizers, catechists, heads of married men and women as well as diocesan pastoral coordinators and lay apostolate directors.

Mrs. Florence Kwesigabo, the UEC Family Desk National Coordinator said that the aim of the workshop was to help the participants become conversant with the new WE programme and help them identify their roles and responsibilities in the new programme.

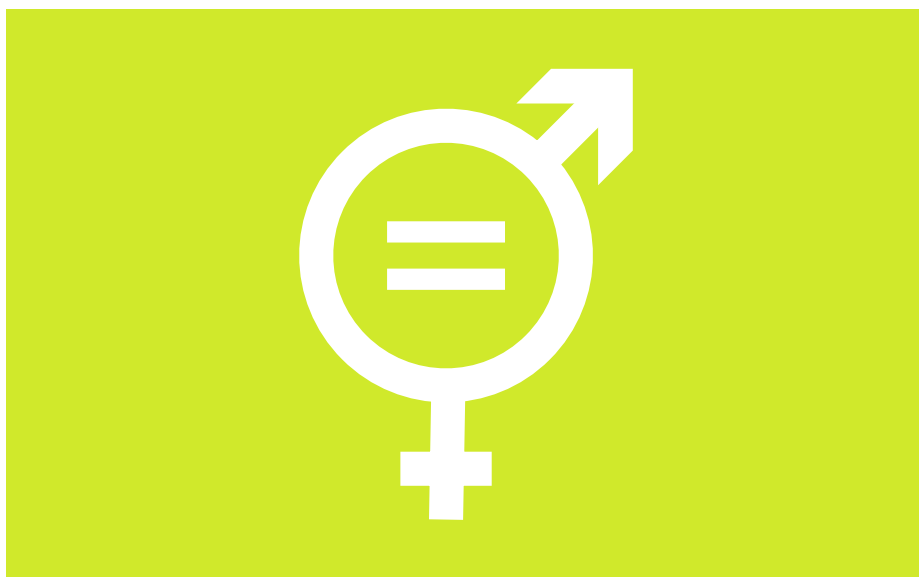
"Women Empowerment and Domestic Violence Prevention Campaign (WE-DVPC) is a new programme which started on March 1, 2017. It proposes an outcome in which women in targeted areas are free from violence and its associated risks," said Mrs Kwesigabo adding that they also

discussed about the upcoming WE fund-raising dinner slated for November 8 2017.

WE-DVPC is a successor programme of the National Domestic Violence Prevention Campaign Programme (NDVPC) which ended in February 2017. WE-DVPCP is running in all the 19 Catholic Dioceses in Uganda through the national and diocesan structures of the Catholic Church. WE programme commenced with the training of programme staff on programme and finance management.

Meanwhile, the Catholic Church in Uganda under the umbrella of UEC has been running a NDVPC programme in partnership with the Irish organizations, Trocaire Uganda and Irish Aid for the last five years.

The NDVPC programme addressed one of the UEC overall objectives of contributing to elimination of inequalities and ensuring that women, men and children have equal rights and opportunities to fulfill their human potential and play an active role in building society.



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Catholic Church in Zambia celebrates 125 years of faith



Zambian Catholic bishops after the celebration (AMECEA PHOTO)

The Catholic Church in Zambia has celebrated 125 years of Catholic Faith. The celebrations were held from July 14-15 at the Lusaka Show Grounds Main arena, in Zambia.

The two-day event attracted over 2000 delegates from the 10 Catholic Dioceses in Zambia. The National Pastoral Office of the Zambia Conference

of Catholic Bishops (ZCCB) organized various activities for the first day of the event which included: a Moment of Prayer and Reflection punctuated by various Exhibitions from Dioceses, Religious Congregations, Lay Movements and Youth Teams.

The day was also marked with a Media-interaction event. On the same

day, the Catholic Youths took a leading role in animating special activities, highlighting the different faith activities done in their respective dioceses. Asked about the participation by the Youth, Fr. Justin Matepa, the ZCCB National Pastoral Coordinator stated: "The Zambian Church, though 125 years old, is in essence a young Church. As such, the youth who are the majority in terms of numbers should take center-stage in the forthcoming activities. Their participation is good for posterity".

The celebration climaxed on July 15 with the closing ceremony at the Show Grounds. Most Rev. Teresphore Mpundu, President of ZCCB led the celebration of the Holy Mass that was concelebrated by all the Catholic Bishops of Zambia. The celebration was graced by the Vice President of the Republic of Zambia, H.E Inonge Wina, who led a high-level delegation from the Government. Fr. Stanley Lubungo, Superior General of the White Fathers was also in attendance.

AMECEA Secretariat holds a joint meeting with ECS on preparation of 19th Plenary Assembly

By AMECEA Online News Reporter

AMECEA Secretariat had an opportunity to hold a joint meeting from July 31 to August 4 with some members of the main committee of the 19th AMECEA Plenary Assembly scheduled for July, 2018.

The meeting which took place at the Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat, (ECS) in Addis Ababa was led by the Chairman of the Committee Honourable Ambassador Dr Berhane Gebray and coordinated by Very Rev Abba Hagos Hayish, the Secretary General of ECS.

Resource mobilization was the top agenda of the meeting between the host conference-Ethiopia and AMECEA secretariat.

Alemu Tereda, the ECS Coordinator for the 19th AMECEA Plenary Assembly informed the members that the fund raising strategy starts from the diocese where they are categorized in three levels depending on the number of the Catholic Faithful. "Our plan is to involve every faithful in the fund-raising strategy; for example, even the



ECS staff have committed themselves to contribute something from their salaries as part of their contribution towards the plenary," he said.

Abba Hagos said that a number of preparation activities have already been set. These include the logistics arrangement of obtaining visa for the delegates; the venue for the opening ceremony, conference and its facilities as well as accommodation and publicity of the event. "Indeed we are receiving very good cooperation from the government, bishops, laity, partners and various people in the country in order to ensure that the plenary is a success," he said.

Speaking on behalf of AMECEA Secretariat, Very Rev. Fr Ferdinand Lugonzo, the Secretary General of AMECEA thanked the ECS Committee members for their commitment towards the realization of the 19th AMECEA Plenary Assembly. "I am grateful with the reports of the preparatory committee. We promise the Bishops' Conference and the Preparation Committee our maximum collaboration for a successful Plenary Assembly," he said.

Fr Lugonzo added that, the success of the upcoming plenary depends on the commitment of committee members, right from the planning and preparation to the actual plenary. He called for the collaboration of partners and other people of good will from within the region and beyond for the success of the coming plenary.

The 19th AMECEA plenary Assembly which is scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from July 13-23, 2018 is expected to bring together about 300 delegates from around the region and beyond. This is the first time that Ethiopia is hosting the AMECEA Plenary Assembly since its inception. Ethiopia joined the Association in 1979.

KEY EVENTS FOR AUGUST 2017

Sunday, August 6- Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

The feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ celebrates the revelation of Christ's divine glory on Mount Tabor in Galilee (Matthew 17:1-6; Mark 9:1-8; Luke 9:28-36). After revealing to His disciples that He would be put to death in Jerusalem (Matthew 16:21), Christ, along with St. Peter, James, and John, went up the mountain. There, Saint Matthew writes, "he was transfigured before them. And his face did shine as the sun: and his garments became white as snow."

The purpose of the Transfiguration was to encourage and strengthen the Apostles who were depressed by their Master's prediction of His own Passion and Death. The Apostles were made to understand that His redeeming work has two phases: The Cross, and glory—that we shall be glorified with Him only if we first suffer with Him.

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, in addition to the Feast of the Transfiguration; this day also mark the feast of Sts. Sixtus II and Felicissimus & Agapitus who were martyred during the persecution of Valerian.

Tuesday, August 15- Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Celebrated every year on August 15, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary commemorates the death of Mary and her bodily assumption into Heaven, before her body could begin to decay—a foretaste of our own bodily resurrection at the end of time. Because it signifies the Blessed Virgin's passing into eternal life, it is the most important of all Marian feasts and a Holy Day of Obligation.

On November 1, 1950, Pius XII defined the Assumption of Mary to be a dogma of faith in the Catholic Church: "We pronounce, declare and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma that the immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul to heavenly glory." As a dogma, the Assumption is a required belief of all Catholics; anyone who publicly dissents from the dogma, Pope Pius declared, "has fallen away completely from the divine and Catholic Faith."

Tuesday, August 29- Memorial of the Passion of Saint John the Baptist

The Church, having celebrated the earthly birthday of St. John the Baptist on June 24, today honors the anniversary of his martyrdom. Besides our Lord and our Lady, St. John the Baptist is the only one whose birth and death are thus celebrated.

Today's Gospel relates the circumstances of his execution. He had the courage to blame Herod to his face for the scandal of his illegal union with his sister-in-law Herodias, whose husband was still alive. Herodias contrived to make Herod imprison him and took advantage of an unexpected opportunity to obtain through her daughter Salome the beheading of the saint.

Catholic faithful in Kenya begin novena ahead of the general elections



Rt. Rev. Philip Anyolo, Chairman KCCB

AMECEA PHOTO

By Pamela Adinda

AMECEA Online News

Catholic faithful in Kenya held a novena for peaceful forthcoming general elections that were held on August 8, 2017. The novena started on July 30 upto August 7, 2017, just a day before the general elections.

According to the Chairman of the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB), Rt. Rev. Philip Anyolo, the Catholic Church was beseeching God to take charge of the whole process of Elections.

Bishop Anyolo who spoke during a press conference at Kenya Catholic Secretariat in Nairobi on Friday 28th, August, 2017 called upon all Kenyans to seize the opportunity and exercise their constitutional right by electing leaders of integrity.

"The clarion call has been to have just, fair, peaceful and credible elections. We need to create a peaceful environment, to demonstrate our patriotism for our wonderful Country, and ensure that all parts of Kenya are in peace," he said.

Bishop Anyolo who is the Local Ordinary for the Diocese of Homabay added that the Bishops have noted with appreciation, the relatively peaceful manner in which campaigns have been conducted and urged all the candidates to continue conducting themselves with decorum and sobriety in the remaining stretch of

the campaigns, in order to achieve cohesion and National integration.

"We appeal to the youth to restrain themselves from violence and instead be the agents of peace. We exhort them to uphold to the culture of peace and engage in activities of peace-building," he said

The Bishops further appealed to the entire country to accord the Independent Electoral and Boundary Commission (IEBC) all the support it needs to discharge its constitutional mandate while at the same time asked IEBC to see to it that they secure just, fair, transparent, credible and peaceful elections.

The Bishops said that they are planning to work closely with all the election observation groups, and all agencies and non-State actors involved in the electoral process while imploring the media to remain objective in helping to create a peaceful environment and promotion of a culture of justice, peace and reconciliation.

They invited all faithful in their respective dioceses and all people of good will to join in the Novena Prayers for the country. According to the Catholic Website of Pray More Novenas, the word novena is taken from "novem," the Latin word for nine. A novena is made up of nine days of prayer and meditation usually to ask God for special prayer requests or petitions.



Religious leaders in Kenya pose for a group photo (AMECEA PHOTO)

Religious Leaders appeal for credibility in the upcoming General Election in Kenya

By Amecea online news report

Senior religious leaders drawn from different faiths in the country under the auspices of the Multi Sectoral Forum made an appeal to government bodies to conduct the general electionS in a credible, peaceful free and fair manner.

In their statement issued at the end of the meeting held in Nairobi on July 13, 2017 the religious leaders stated that the primary factor that would cause conflict during and after the elections is credibility. "For this reason, we call upon all stakeholders to do all that is required of them for the elections to be credible," read the statement.

In ensuring credible election, the religious leaders listed some of the preventive measures against violence as commitment by all actors to resolve disputes through courts, severe and immediate punishment for incitement to violence and hate speech and intolerance to disparaging of the courts calling on the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to ensure that all electoral systems are functional, staff members are well trained and competent and that stake

"LET US ALL INCREASE OUR PRAYERS FOR THE NATION SO THAT GOD WILL GRANT US TO HAVE JUSTICE, UNITY, PEACE, LIBERTY AND PROSPERITY IN OUR NATION."

holders monitor IEBC processes and system.

They urged all the security agencies to ensure security coverage for all Kenyans and to firmly deal with the perpetrators of hate speech and Incitement to violence as is provided for in the law adding that special focus should be put on stopping the current wave of intimidation and violence being vested on women candidates.

The religious leaders urged Kenyans not to vote for any candidate who incite their followers into violence saying that, anyone seeking to offer elec-

tive leadership must be held to account to respect and uphold the rights of all Kenyans especially those who do not support them.

They reminded all Kenyans that, for each position being contested for in the coming elections, there will be only one winner. "As such, each candidate in these elections has a very high chance of losing to their competitors. We advise every Kenyan to prepare for this eventuality, and especially to recognize that life will continue regardless of the outcome of the elections," read the statement in part.

The Religious leaders expressed their confidence and support for the IEBC, which is the only constitutionally, mandated agency to conduct elections and announce results.

"Let us all Increase our prayers for the nation so that God will grant us to have justice, unity, peace, liberty and prosperity in our nation. We remind all Kenyans that rigging elections is a grave sin. Our desire as religious leaders is that we have clean elections that result in election of credible leaders," concluded the statement.

Genetically Modified Organisms or Biosafety; which way for Uganda?

By **Betty Rose Aguti**,
Policy and Advocacy Specialist, Caritas Uganda

As Uganda is desperately in need of putting in place legislation on Biotechnology and Biosafety, the race between the pro- Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and anti GMOs has become so tight as each side is putting across their position before key decision makers in Uganda. The process and debate on the kind of law that Uganda needs has been on since 2013 when the Current Bill was tabled in parliament.

The current National Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill, 2012 seeks among others to facilitate “the safe development and application of modern biotechnology, to designate a national focal point and a competent authority and to provide mechanisms to regulate research, development and general release of GMOs and for related matters in Uganda”.

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and individuals under the coordination of Caritas Uganda, with the quest of enhancing the contribution of agriculture towards poverty reduction among the communities in Uganda have persistently been in the campaign to see to it that the proposed legislation on Biotechnology and Biosafety in Uganda is pro-poor and indeed works for the good of all people in Uganda and more so small holder farmers who constitute a greater percentage of farmers in Uganda.

The most contentious issue at the moment is not the rejection of a legislation as it has been perceived of CSOs by some sections of the public in Uganda, but the most important question is, what kind of law does Uganda need at the moment? This question can be broadened to ask whether the current Bill in Parliament is the kind of regulation that Uganda needs. According to the scrutiny done by civil society the current bill leaves a lot of questions un-answered as to whose interest the Bill stands to serve.

Whereas it ought to be noted that Caritas Uganda, the Uganda Farmers Common Voice Platform (a brain child of Caritas Uganda), individuals



(Above) Ms Betty Rose Aguti addressing participants at a past workshop on GMOs (Below) Participants attending a workshop on GMOs

and indeed other CSOs have been part of the stakeholders consulted on the above Bill and have raised a number of concerns on the gaps therein the Bill at various fora, the majority of farmers who stand to be affected (either positively or negatively) by the Bill in question if passed have very limited information on the matter. Besides, many of the key decision makers also have limited information on the Bill and yet they are supposed to debate and or pass the Bill. It is worth noting that some decision makers and stakeholders still maintain the position to pass the contentious Bill without due regard to the concerns raised by different CSO and Ugandans as a whole.

In the bid to close the information gap, Caritas Uganda and other CSOs conducted various activities including among others the mobilization of signatures by the farmers to petition the

Rt. Hon. Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda, Rebecca Kadaga, to express displeasure over the level at which the Bill was being rushed without the completion of the full consultations as recommended by CSOs, other stakeholders and the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda and drafting of an alternative position; which was presented to different stakeholders.

A number of lobby and advocacy meetings have been organized. The highest level meeting was chaired by the First Lady Hon. Janet Museveni at State House. The meeting attracted political leaders, scientists and CSOs both for and those against the proposed legislation. Presentations were made by both sides and the political leaders present agreed that the Bill still lacks major safeguards and should therefore revert to Cabinet for redrafting. Tempers flared as some legislators argued vehemently with the Minister for Science and Technology for the presentation of a “bad bill” in their eyes. It was agreed that more consultation is necessary and both proponent and opponents of GMOs should make their presentations to a cabinet meeting chaired by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. It was further agreed that important stakeholders like Caritas Uganda, Advocates Coalition for Environment and Development (ACODE) and the Uganda Medical Practitioners Association, who had all made presentations, should also make these presentations in the presence of the President and cabinet.

A wider section of Ugandans is increasingly getting to understand that the Bill in Parliament was drafted without due consideration of Biosafety and protection of the rights of farmers to grow, save, re-use and share their own seed; a position shared by Caritas Uganda and other CSOs in Uganda. The current Bill therefore should be withdrawn from parliament to pave way for the drafting of Biosafety legislation as a priority and for the benefit of all Ugandans as opposed to the current Bill.

However, there are powerful GMOs seed companies in place and may do anything possible to influence the passage of the Bill at the expense of the small holder farmers and indeed the people of Uganda.

Why Catechism or rather Catechesis is important



Fr. Lazar Arasu SDB

Jesus taught using parables, though some remained ambiguous to His disciples. Among the parables he explained was the Parable of the sower. He told them, "When anyone hears the words of the Kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart. This is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path" (Matthew 13:10, 18-19).

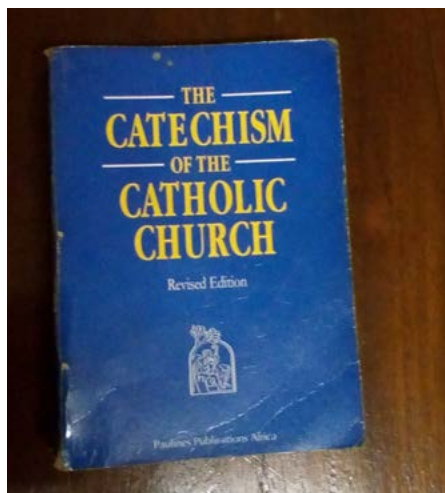
As Catholics we are normally baptised as infants. It becomes tragic if we are not instructed in faith as we grow up. The seed of the gospel has been sown into our hearts at Baptism. But that was only the beginning. We must do everything in our power to grasp the meaning of what we believe; otherwise the devil will come along and steal the faith from our hearts. We will also be lured into secularism and its related vices. Then we become weak to withstand against the world.

Catechesis also helps us to shape our morals. Through it we are introduced to the Christian way of living moral lives. We will also be instructed to live our ordinary lives fruitfully and in a godly manner. Through catechesis we are assisted to handle issues, such as family life, sexuality, making informed decisions on various life events.

It is only through catechesis that we are taught the greatness of Catholic faith which makes us proud of being a part of a global faith. Above all, we are made to realize that there is a God who became like us, shared his life with us and he continues to walk with us in our life. This realization is indeed our salvation.

Need to teach Catechism

Apostles began their ministry by teaching catechism which is rudiments of faith instructed in a simple way for one to know, understand and live. Among them St. Paul was an ardent teacher of faith. He was willing to be cursed if he failed in his duty to cate-



chise (catechesis, meaning education to faith) for he said, "Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel." His letters are in fact lengthy lessons instructing the faith-seeker about faith and the letters continue to instruct us down through the centuries.

The Church is always challenged in the task of teaching faith. It is a patient job that requires constant innovation and renewed enthusiasm amidst various changes in the society and the world. The apostles gave us a few lessons on catechesis. We are required to "continue in the faith, stable and steadfast" (Colossians 1:23). We need to mature in faith and are urged to "attain to the unity of the... knowledge of the Son of God...so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine" (Ephesians 4:13-14). We are warned of false teachers and distorters of faith. "There are many deceivers" (1 John 2:26). We are cautioned on difficult doctrines, "which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction" (2 Peter 3:16). We are admonished on leadership who must be raised up who can "give instruction in sound doctrine and also confute those who contradict it" (Titus 1:9). Often times the need for catechism is felt by the flock even more than the shepherds.

A few months ago, I happen to read a letter to some priests from a certain parish in Kampala Archdiocese on the need to teach catechism. The concerned writer of that letter is a young person, an ardent faithful who practices faith ardently. This person complains of "not enough" pastoral activity in the parish, inadequate pastoral work and above all the ignorance faith and doctrine by the people, especially the young. In a polite and loving manner

the writer requests for better ministry. It is worth mentioning a few sentences from the letter.

"By observing the participation of Catholic Christians today, I have several times realised that we still do not know much beyond attending the Mass; in any case why do we attend it at all. Sometimes I wonder if when the "storm" comes, how many would remain firm? This fact doesn't seem to bother most clergy. When the Holy Father visited us in November last year, he passed on a number of serious messages. It seems like just the basics have been implemented, but the rest ignored."

The writer quotes from Saint Athanasius "...The more violently they (pastors) try to occupy the places of worship, the more they separate themselves from the Church. They claim that they represent the Church; but in reality, they are the ones who are expelling themselves from it and going astray. Even if staunch Catholic faithful are reduced to a handful, they are the ones who are the true Church of Jesus Christ."

There is another quote from St. John Vianney, "...The need to build awareness of the values of the teachings of the Catholic Church.... Yes, my dear brethren, we shall see at on judgement day that the largest section of Christians practiced a religion of whim or caprice only – that is to say, the greatest number of them practiced their religion merely from the motives of routine and very few sought God alone in what they did." The writer says.

"God gave us skills. We can always be creative, instead of remaining on the constant pumping of the same information the same way into a busy adult's mind. These minds must be receptive and we must find them at the appropriate moment. How can we ever know if we do not look and try....? This is open to any suggestions or criticism if you like, but my prayer is that all take a positive turn to building a better Christian community."

The writer also suggests to have well prepared lessons at a suitable time for the learners to learn. It ought to be given also to adults who have not instructed enough. The parish should set aside a suitable place for teaching and priests should be available for this important pastoral duty and do it as priority.

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**LITURGICAL READINGS FOR
AUGUST****August 6- Feast of the Transfiguration of
the Lord****Lectionary: 614***Reading 1 Dn 7:9-10, 13-14**Responsorial Psalm Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9**Reading 2 2 Pt 1:16-19**Gospel Mt 17:1-9***August 10- Feast of Saint Lawrence,
deacon and martyr****Lectionary: 618***Reading 1 2 Cor 9:6-10**Responsorial Psalm Ps 112:1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 9**Gospel Jn 12:24-26***August 13- Nineteenth Sunday in
Ordinary Time****Lectionary: 115***Reading 1 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a**Responsorial Psalm Ps 85:9, 10, 11-12,
13-14**Reading 2 Rom 9:1-5**Gospel Mt 14:22-33***August 14- Memorial of Saint Maximilian
Kolbe, Priest and Martyr****Lectionary: 413***Reading 1 Dt 10:12-22**Responsorial Psalm Ps 147:12-13, 14-15,
19-20**Gospel Mt 17:22-27***August 20- Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary
Time****Lectionary: 118***Reading 1 Is 56:1, 6-7**Responsorial Psalm Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8**Reading 2 Rom 11:13-15, 29-32**Gospel Mt 15:21-28***August 24- Feast of Saint Bartholomew,
Apostle****Lectionary: 629***Reading 1 Rv 21:9b-14**Responsorial Psalm Ps 145:10-11, 12-13,
17-18**Gospel Jn 1:45-51***August 27- Twenty-first Sunday in
Ordinary Time****Lectionary: 121***Reading 1 Is 22:19-23**Responsorial Psalm Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8**Reading 2 Rom 11:33-36**Gospel Mt 16:13-20***August 29- Memorial of the Passion of
Saint John the Baptist****Lectionary: 426/634***Reading 1 1 Thes 2:1-8**Responsorial Psalm Ps 139:1-3, 4-6**Gospel Mk 6:17-29*

Effects of technology in today's life

**By Rose Kababikira**

National Co-ordinator, Uganda YCS

Like the saying goes, 'if you don't want change, change will move you'. Everyday each one of us seeks to be a better person than we were yesterday. It has always been our desire to have a deeper understanding of the things around us and to find ways to utilize what we have effectively and efficiently. From the fire place gathering style of story-telling used in the past centuries, to writing letters, to now having a conversation with someone far away with the use of new digital technologies, it is of importance for each one of us to take a pause and see how these things are being integrated into our lives today.

I have realized that technology makes us closer to the people who are far away from us and further to the people near us. We always feel so good about the fact that the people we love, no matter how far they are, can be reached as if they are physically present. We are usually excited about checking out their status updates on social media and yet we neglect the people who are in our close proximity. What difference does it make to attend a function and you spend 90% of your time browsing the internet on your phone?

We have also become so obsessed

with shows and programs—When I was unemployed, I was so addicted to soap opera that one day I missed an interview. Another friend of mine missed a call from her prospective employer as she was busy focusing on some series of Soap Opera. Watching programs that show what we desire or what we need to know makes us feel that we are deeply united with other people who are watching the same thing we watch. However, it is hard to not notice that the fantasies presented are forcing their way into our realities. Issues and problems repetitively presented in films gives us the feeling that it is the new norm, and some of us subconsciously accept what the films present until it is able to place its root in the society. Just like how various reports of controversies in politics gives us the notion that all politicians, and those aiming to be one, always have a personal agenda in mind.

Let us not forget that progress and advancements must not only be with technology but must also include our growth as a society including the humanity as a whole. We must seek progress that recognizes the past, lives the present, and looks forward to the future.

Change this unhealthy norm. Be the one in charge. Take the lead in your own life.

SEE, JUDGE AND ACT

What does commitment mean in marriage



By Barbara Nabukenya
UCMB

But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation.

2 Corinthians 1:6 NASB

What do you have that could be of benefit to others?

That's the question you may ask yourself every time you go exploring through your attic or garage. You realize how much you tend to keep and accumulate, even when your need for these items has long subsided. Often the stuff you find crammed deep into your closets isn't even worthy of charitable donation. It's just junk, better thrown out with the garbage.

But when it comes to the junk in your own personal life—the mistakes you've made, the poor judgment you've exercised, the hurt you've caused each other—God may have a purpose for it even still. Over the years, I've challenged many couples to step forward as mentors. But they have their own reservations and excuses. Many feel they just aren't qualified. They say they have nothing to share with younger adults. They don't think they know the Bible well enough.

Many of them are simply haunted by their own mistakes—their own junk. They don't realize that those mistakes may be among the most valuable tools they possess in teaching a younger couple about how to grow a marriage and family God's way.

Marriage is born, nurtured, flourishes, dies. Marriage is a living thing according to me. It takes a lot of commitment for marriage to survive the turbulence of the world.

"Christian's couples are to stay married"

But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband (but if she does



Young couple taking marriage
VOWS



Old couple celebrating their
wedding anniversary

INTERNET PHOTOS

leave, let her remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not send his wife away.

To Christian husbands and wives, Paul says, "If you're married, stay married." There is no distinction made here as to the type of marriage involved, whether it was Jewish or Roman, formal or common-law, civil or religious. These new converts in the church in Corinth would have marriages representing every kind of arrangement practiced in that day, every type of marriage that we can imagine. It's clear that Paul is addressing his instructions to marriages in which both partners are Christians in these two verses, because Paul never gave apostolic commands to non-Christians. Unbelievers don't have the internal spiritual resources to obey the commands that God lays down in his word.

So that there is no doubt as to the source of this call to commitment in marriage, the apostle adds the phrase, "Not I, but the Lord." In Matthew 19:4-9 Jesus has already taught this truth during his earthly ministry. In verse 5 Jesus quoted the creation orders of marriage from Genesis 2:24: "For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh." Then in verse 6 Jesus made some inferences for us: "Consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate." In answer to a specific question that the Pharisees had posed to him, he went on to explain that God directed Moses to permit divorce only because of his people's hardness of heart, or sinful stubbornness. Divorce was established to guard innocent people who were being taken advantage of in the rush to put spouses, usually women, away. Jesus added that divorce was allowed—not commanded—only in the case of adultery. Verse 9: "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman has committed adultery."

Everyone struggles with marriage and family issues. That's why the core curriculum for learning how to minister to other couples includes the textbook of true-life experience. Weakness and disappointment provide some of our best resources for sharing life messages with others. They provide both content and context to our instruction.

You see, it's not junk if somebody else can use it. The only way it becomes a waste is if we're afraid to admit we've still got it, if we're unwilling to let God use our garbage for His glory.

Pope Francis approves decrees for miracles, martyrdom

By Vatican Radio

Pope Francis on Friday July 7 authorized the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints to promulgate several decrees, after meeting with Cardinal Angelo Amato, the Congregation's Prefect.

The Holy Father approved the following decrees:

- the miracle, attributed to the intercession of the Venerable Servant of God Anna Chrzanowska, Lay woman; who was born on October 7, 1902 in Warsaw (Poland) and died on April 29, 1973 in Krakow (Poland);
- the martyrdom of the Servant of



Pope Francis (right) is welcomed by Cardinal Angelo Amato, the Congregation's Prefect

God Jesús Emilio Jaramillo Monsalve, of the Institute for the Foreign Missions

of Yarumal, Bishop of Arauca; who was killed in hatred of the Faith in 1989 near Fortul (Colombia);

- the martyrdom of the Servant of God Peter Ramírez Ramos, diocesan priest; who was killed in hatred of the Faith on April 10, 1948 in Armero (Colombia);

- the heroic virtues of the Servant of God Ismael Perdomo, Archbishop of Bogotá; born February 22, 1872 in El Gigante (Colombia) and died on June 3, 1950 in Bogotá (Colombia);

- the heroic virtues of the Servant of God Luigi Kosiba (born Peter), Lay professor of the Order of Friars Minor; born

on June 29, 1855 in Libusza (Poland) and died on January 4, 1939 in Wieliczka (Poland);

- the heroic virtues of the Servant of God Paola of Jesus Gil Cano, Foundress of the Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of the Most Pure Conception; born February 2, 1849 in Vera (Spain) and died on January 18, 1913 in Murcia (Spain);

- the heroic virtues of the Servant of God Mary Elizabeth Mazza, Foundress of the Institute of the Little Apostle Sisters of Christian Schools; born January 21, 1886 in Martinengo (Italy) and died August 29, 1950 in Bergamo (Italy);

- the heroic virtues of the Servant of God, Mary Crucified of Divine Love (born Maria Gargani), Foundress of the Congregation of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart; born December 23, 1892 in Morra Irpino (today Morra De Sanctis, Italy) and died on 23 May 1973 in Naples (Italy).

(Vatican Radio) Pope Francis issued an Apostolic Letter *motu proprio* on Tuesday, by which he created a new category, distinct from martyrdom, under which a Servant of God may be declared Blessed: *oblatio vitae*, or "the free offering (i.e. "oblation") of [one's] life".

The Letter, *Maiorem hac dilectionem*, takes its title from the words of Our Lord as recorded in the Holy Gospel according to St. John, "Greater love than this no man hath, that a man lay down his life for his friends, (Jn 15:13)".



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Former Brazil's President Lula gets prison term



Former President of Brazil Luiz Inacio Lula Da Silva

By Vatican Radio

Twice President of Brazil Luiz Inacio Lula Da Silva, has been sentenced to nine and a half years after being convicted by a Judge for corruption charges.

Judge Sergio Moro found Lula guilty of accepting the equivalent of 1.2 million dollars in bribes, principally in the form of a luxury apartment in return for steering State Petroleum Company Petrobras contracts the way of engineering company OAS. Lula, who's denied any wrong doing, says it's been a political witch hunt. Characteristically he's said: "I'll keep fighting." Born into acute poverty, a shoe shine boy who became a union leader, and twice President of Brazil, economically pulling it up by its bootstraps, Lula remains very popular amongst the millions he helped elevate from dire poverty. His chosen successor Dilma Rousseff was impeached and removed from the Presidency for allegedly manipulating the economy via banks. And current President Michel Temer, has been formally charged with bribery.



Pope Francis creates new category for beatification: oblatio vitae

By Vatican Radio

Pope Francis issued an Apostolic Letter *motu proprio* on July 11 by which he created a new category, distinct from martyrdom, under which a Servant of God may be declared Blessed: *oblatio vitae*, or "the free offering (i.e. "oblation") of [one's] life".

The Letter creates a new category - a *facti species* in technical language - called, *oblatio vitae*, and distinguishes it from the *facti species* of martyrdom, by five (5) criteria:

- The free and voluntary offering of one's life, and heroic acceptance *propter caritatem* of a certain and soon-to-come death;
- A nexus - i.e. close relation - between the offering of one's life and the premature death of the one who offers it;
- The exercise, at least in ordinary degree, of the Christian virtues before the subject's offering of his or her life and, afterward, perseverance in those virtues unto death;

- The existence of *fama sanctitatis* - i.e. the reputation for holiness - on the part of the subject, and of signs [in confirmation thereof], at least after death;
- The necessity, for beatification, of a miracle, one that occurred after the death of the Servant of God, and by said Servant's intercession.

The *oblatio vitae* of the Servant of God, in order that it be valid and efficacious for beatification, must respond to all of the aforementioned criteria.

The *positio* prepared by the diocesan inquest into the Cause of the Servant of God must respond to the following question: An constet de heroica oblatione vitae usque ad mortem *propter caritatem* necnon de virtutibus christianis, saltem in gradu ordinario, in casu et ad effectum de quo agitur, which is, "Does [the case of the Servant of God] consist of [an] heroic offering of his/her life up to death for the sake of supernatural love of God (*propter caritatem*) and also of the Christian virtues, at least in the ordinary degree, on the occasion and to the effect for which [the subject's offering of his/her life] was made?"

Pope urges governments to take the lead in caring for creation



LAUDATO SI' & BIG CITIES

By Vatican Radio

Respect, responsibility and relationship are the three themes highlighted by Pope Francis in a message

addressed to the "Laudato Si' & Big Cities" conference that was held in July in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The three-day event is organized by the "Antoni Gaudí Foundation for Big

Cities" that aims to contribute to the humanization of large urban centers in a world in which a growing 52% of the global population lives in highly populated urban centres.

Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si'" is being used as a focal point of discussion and reference regarding environmental, ethical and management issues pertaining to big cities.

Respecting Creation is one of our "core tasks" Pope Francis writes in his strongly worded message to conference participants, and he reaffirms, as he did in his encyclical – to which the Rio conference is dedicated – that we "cannot just remain on the sidelines when we notice a serious degeneration in the quality of the air or an increase in the production of waste that is not adequately disposed of".

Situations such as these, the Pope warns, "are the result of an irresponsible form of exploitation of creation and demand that we act responsibly for the good of all".

Unfortunately, Francis continues, what we continue to see can only be described as "indifference towards the safekeeping of our common home".

The Pope goes on to say that "this passivity proves that man has lost his sense of responsibility" and thus it is ever more urgent that governments adopt policies that encourage responsible behavior for the respect of the environment in which we all live.

Focusing his message on three points: "respect, responsibility and relationship", Francis points out that respect for Creation is a duty we also have towards future generations and says that "We must teach and pass on the need to care" for the planet.

In his message he also emphasizes the importance of access to clean water that, he recalls, is a "fundamental right" that must be guaranteed to all.

The Pope finally shines the light on the importance of human relationships that, in big cities – he says – appear to be getting more and more difficult.

"Sometimes people become closed-in and live not trusting their neighbor". This mistrust, Francis says, produces isolation that in turn generates poverty. That is why, he concludes, a joint political, educational and religious effort is needed to "create human relationships" that "break down the walls" that marginalize people.

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Pope Francis donates €25 thousand to ease East Africa famine

By Vatican Radio

Pope Francis has donated €25000 to the efforts of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation, FAO, in support of people facing famine and food insecurity in East Africa.

The Holy Father had pledged personal assistance in a message to FAO's Conference on July 3, 2017 in which he said he was "inspired also by the desire to encourage Governments".

In February of this year, famine was declared in parts of South Sudan (where civil strife has largely interrupted daily life). While the situation has eased after a significant scaling up in the humanitarian response, some 6 million people in the country are still struggling to find enough food every day.

Pope Francis said the funds are "a symbolic contribution to an FAO programme that provides seeds to rural families in areas affected by the combined effects of conflicts and drought."

The pontiff's remarks were contained in a letter written to FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva by Monsignor Fernando Chica Arellano, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the UN food agencies in Rome.

Pope Francis' gesture stemmed from a pledge he made in a message to FAO's Conference on 3 July 2017 and was "inspired also by the desire to encourage Governments," Monsignor Chica wrote in the letter.

Famine was declared in parts of South Sudan in February and while



Women fleeing conflict in South Sudan



South Sudanese refugees undergo building and construction training in Bidi Bidi refugee settlement in Uganda

the situation has eased after a significant scaling up in the humanitarian

response, some 6 million people in the country are still struggling to find enough food every day.

Meanwhile the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in five other East African countries - Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda - is currently estimated at about 16 million, which marks an increase of about 30 percent since late 2016.

Pope Francis, who has made solidarity a major theme of his pontificate, is set to visit FAO's headquarters on 16 October to mark World Food Day. This year the event is being held under the slogan: "Change the future of migration. Invest in food security and rural development".

WISE QUOTES FOR REFLECTION

"Take up one idea. Make that one idea your life -- think of it, dream of it, live on that idea. Let the brain, muscles, nerves, every part of your body be full of that idea, and just leave every other idea alone. This is the way to success." -- Swami Vivekananda

"A comfort zone is a beautiful place, but nothing grows there."- Anonymous

"There are two types of people who will tell you that you cannot make a difference in this world: those who are afraid to try and those who are afraid you will succeed."

-Ray Goforth

"The biggest risk is not taking any risk... In a world that's changing really quickly, the only strategy that is guaranteed to fail is not taking risks." -- Mark Zuckerberg

"If you have no critics you will likely have no success."- Malcom X

"Though no one can go back and make a brand-new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand-new ending." -- Carl Bard

"Chains of a habit are too light to be felt until they are too heavy to be broken."- Warren Buffett

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." - Barack Obama

"Stay away from negative people they have a solution for every problem."- Albert Einstein

"Be happy in the moment, that's enough. Each moment is all we need, not more." – Mother Teresa



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