

## CARDINAL FILONI APPEALS FOR SUPPORT OF THE WEAK AND VULNERABLE



Cardinal Filoni during the Holy Mass at Namugongo Catholic Shrine  
PHOTO BY JULIET LUKWAGO

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**Editorial**

On October 29, the Archdiocese of Kampala celebrated its Golden Jubilee anniversary under the theme, *"Remember, Rejoice and Renew"*. It was a belated celebration since the Archdiocese was erected in 1966. We congratulate His Grace Dr. Cyprian Kizito Lwanga, the Clergy, Religious and all the Faithful of the Archdiocese for this historic and memorable event. We appreciate His Eminence Fernando Cardinal Filoni for honouring us by his presence, for presiding over the various liturgical celebrations but more importantly for his challenging message.

The Cardinal among other things challenged us to be attentive to the needs of the weak, the vulnerable and the suffering in our midst. The message was delivered in word and deed. His Eminence not only called on us to love our neighbour as we love ourselves, but he personally visited the sick, orphans and elderly at Nalukolongo in Kampala. As people of faith and as Ugandans, we need to embrace this message wholeheartedly and endeavour to do something to assist our brothers and sisters in need. We may not have much to give but a small act of love can go a long way to bring a smile to somebody's face.

Let each and every one of us remember the many blessings that we have received from the Lord and let us share some of those blessings with the needy in our midst.

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



Cardinal Filoni (third left) poses for a group photo with the Apostolic Nuncio to Uganda, Most Rev. Michael August Blume (third right), other bishops and priests, President Museveni (centre) and the Katikiro (prime minister) of Buganda kingdom, Charles Peter Mayiga (extreme left)

## Cardinal Filoni appeals for support of the weak and vulnerable

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

The Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples at the Vatican, H.E. Fernando Cardinal Filoni has appealed for support of the weak and vulnerable people in the country.

Cardinal Filoni made this appeal, while speaking at the golden jubilee anniversary celebrations of the Archdiocese of Kampala on Sunday, October 29. He presided over the Holy Mass at Namugongo Catholic Shrine reminding Ugandans of the "greatest and first commandment of love" proposed by the Gospel.

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with your entire mind. This is the greatest and first commandment," Cardinal Filoni said in his homily. "Then immediately Jesus added: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. This is the second. Like the two faces of the same coin, the two commandments cannot be separated. The first commandment is inseparably connected with the second, a reality that can also be expressed in this way: Whatever you do to the least of my brethren, you do to me."

Reiterating the first reading from the book of Exodus, he condemned the unjust treatment of the weak and vulnerable in the community who includes strangers,

the widow, the orphan, refugees and the poor.

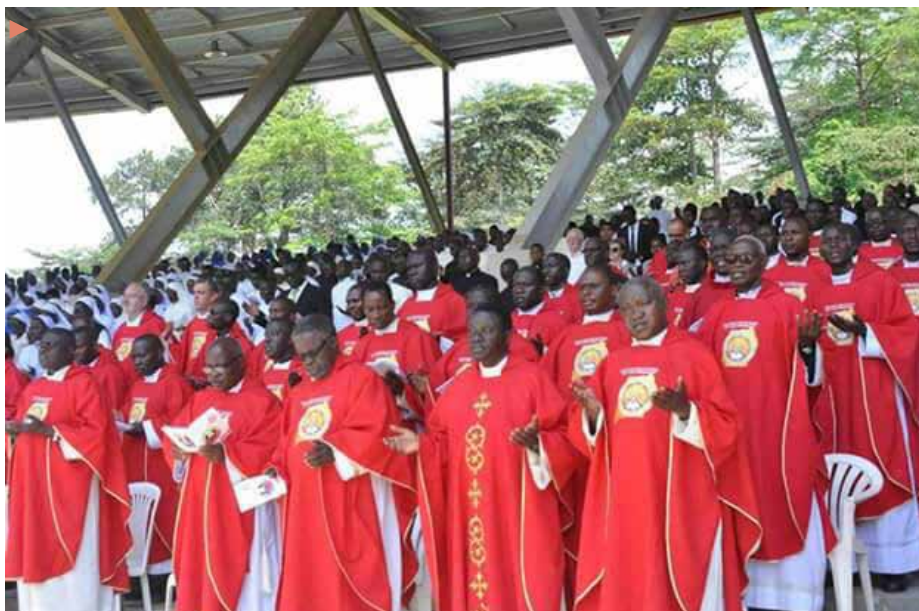
"Generally speaking, it warns against the oppression of the suffering humanity, including the needy, the sick, the excluded, the marginalized, the migrants, the refugees, the victims of armed conflicts and others whose dignity is endangered," he explained.

The Cardinal said that the Catechetical tradition of the Church counts the oppression of the poor among the sins that cry to heaven. "In fact, God says through the sacred author of the passage we have heard: If ever you wrong them and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry."

He spoke in particular of the numerous Ugandans that have arrived in Kampala capital city from all parts of the country, in search of work and a better life. He also acknowledged that Gulu Ecclesiastical Province hosts hundreds of thousands of refugees from South Sudan who are looking for shelter to save their life from violence, hence called on all Ugandans to reach out to them with love and mercy of Christ.

"We must not let them be abandoned to themselves. Perhaps we cannot do a lot at this moment, but it is important to get to know them, whether they are Catholics or from another denominations. When we know them the Lord will show the way to gathering them closer to our communi-





A section of priests during the Holy Mass



The choir at Namugongo Catholic Shrine



A section of pilgrims during the celebration at Namugongo



Cardinal Filino burns incense at Munyonyo Shrine



Cardinal Filino also visits orphans and the sick children at Nalukolongo

ties," Cardinal Filoni said.

He compared this type of unconditional love to what Pope Francis called "going to the existential peripheries of society" and coming to know the smell of the sheep.

On the occasion of the jubilee anniversary, the Cardinal said that jubilee is a time to help one's neighbor get a fresh start. "This Golden jubilee marks an important step in the life of this Archdiocesan church. Mine is a call for a new engagement; indeed, a favorable time to create new prospects; to mark out the path of the Catholic Church for the coming 50 years," he stated.

He also paid tribute to the three prelates that governed the Archdiocese of Kampala, since its creation: Cardinals

Emmanuel Nsubuga and Emmanuel Wamala and Most Rev Cyprian Kizito Lwanga (the current Archbishop of Kampala Archdiocese).

The Mass was also concelebrated by the Apostolic Nuncio to Uganda, Most Rev. Michael August Blume, the Archbishop of Kampala Archdiocese, Most Rev. Cyprian Kizito Lwanga and other bishops as well as priests. The celebration attracted thousands of faithful from across the country including President Yoweri Museveni, who was the Chief Guest.

Meanwhile, as part of the celebrations, on October 27 Cardinal Filoni met with the Youth at YES Centre in Nsambya. He later paid a courtesy visit to H. E Emmanuel Cardinal Wamala before proceeding to St. Mbaaga

Major Seminary Ggaba to meet the religious, priests, deacons, and seminarians. On the same day the prelate also met with President Museveni and later held a meeting with the married couples at Lubaga Cathedral.

Cardinal Filoni also visited a home for the elderly and the vulnerable children at Nalukolongo on October 28. He met with elderly people in their rooms, and placed a wreath on the tomb of Cardinal Nsubuga (1914-1991) before proceeding to Busega where he planted a mango tree. He also visited vulnerable children including the orphans and the sick. Later, he visited Munyonyo Martyrs' Shrine, where he met with the Catechists and Teachers, and officially consecrated the magnificent Martyrs Shrine in a Eucharistic Celebration. The Cardinal also paid a courtesy visit to the Kabaka of Buganda on the same day.

The Archdiocese of Kampala was erected on August 5, 1966. It has 63 parishes, 288 diocesan priests and 72 religious priests, 160 major seminarians, 285 non-religious priests and 666 nuns.



# Thousands commemorate the beatification of Blessed Martyrs from Paimol

By Johnisani Ocakacon and Fr. Samuel Mwaka

AGAGO—On October 20, 2017, thousands of pilgrims from across the world flocked at Wi Polo Paimol Martyrs Shrine in Kalongo Sub County, Agago District, to commemorate the beatification of Blessed Martyrs Daudi Okello and Jildo Irwa.

The two Catechists, both of Acholi decent, were killed on October 18, 1918 for refusing to denounce their faith. Okello was only 17 years old while Irwa was the youngest (14 years) by the time they met their death.

The duo preached equality against the practice of slavery, witchcraft and clan discriminations contrary to what many believed then. They were beatified by St. Pope John Paul II on October 20, 2002 and since then; the celebration has been gaining rapid momentum as far as the number and devotions of the pilgrims is concerned.

This year's celebration, which marked the 99th anniversary of the martyrdom, was animated by Christ the King Deanery Kitgum under the theme "Christ with us in Our Mission to Paimol, Don't Be afraid".

It kicked off with a procession of Bishops and priests and later concluded with a Holy Mass. The Mass was presided over by Rt. Rev Joseph Franzelli, the Bishop of Lira Diocese and con-celebrated by other bishops, several priests and the religious.

In his homily, Bishop Franzelli urged the pilgrims to live by example and emulate the lives of the two Blessed Martyrs as they (pilgrims) gather to commemorate their beatification

"The two Martyrs were Catechists of faith hence we are celebrating the fruits of their work today. We need to emulate their spirit of preaching the good news when we come here for prayers," Bishop Franzelli said.

He called upon the pilgrims not to be afraid of sacrificing their Christian lives for the sake of the gospel adding that it is because of faith that they (the pilgrims) walked, travelled and gathered at Paimol.

Most Rev. John Baptist Odama, the Archbishop of Gulu and Chairman of



A section of the pilgrims and the choir at the celebration



**Left:** Bishop Franzelli receives offertory from the faithful. **Right:** Traditional and Liturgical dancers at the celebration. PHOTOS BY FR. SAMUEL MWAKA



"THE TWO MARTYRS WERE CATECHISTS OF FAITH HENCE WE ARE CELEBRATING THE FRUITS OF THEIR WORK TODAY. WE NEED TO EMULATE THEIR SPIRIT OF PREACHING THE GOOD NEWS WHEN WE COME HERE FOR PRAYERS,"

the Uganda Episcopal Conference in his speech called on the pilgrims to dedicate their lives to the two Martyrs of Paimol through prayers and devotion."

The Rector of Paimol Shrine, Rev. Fr. Joseph Okumu said that the place Wi Polo is always remembered with the Lord's prayers "Our Father" which was taught by the disciples. The priest added that the Archdiocese is on the process of documenting graces received by the pilgrims, so as to help the Holy Father decide on whether or not to canonize them as Saints.

Meanwhile, the 2018 celebrations will mark the Centenary of the martyrdom of the two Catechist Martyrs. The celebrations will be animated

by the host Deanery and Parish of Kalongo where the Shrine is located.

## TESTIMONIES FROM PILGRIMS

Denis Otim a youth from Gulu said his legs have been swelling and couldn't get cured but when he persistently prayed to the two Martyrs he got healed. Since then he has never missed going for pilgrimage at Paimol, this year being his fourth time.

Everlyn Lanyero, 36 years old from Holy Rosary Parish said her faith has increased as she walks on foot every year to Paimol. Besides, whenever she faces problems in her daily life, her prayers have always been answered.

The chairperson of Gulu District, Martin Ojara Mapenduzi said he has been attending this prayer yearly and it has molded him as a believer to be a God fearing person in his leadership in the Acholi sub region.

Hellen Angeyo, a 46 year-old pilgrim from Gulu said that this year is her third time to go to Paimol. She has always been praying for her drunkard husband during her pilgrimage and currently he no longer takes alcohol.

# Catholic Bishops condemn the consecration of self-excommunicated priest as 'bishop'

By Jacinta W. Odongo

The Catholic Bishops in Uganda have strongly condemned the consecration of a self-excommunicated priest, Fr. Jacinto Kibuuka as the first 'bishop' of the Central and Eastern Province of the Evangelical Orthodox Church (EOC) in Uganda.

Fr. Kibuuka was consecrated as 'bishop' on Sunday November 12 by another self-made 'bishop' of the Evangelical Orthodox Church in-charge of Uganda and Nigeria, Tom Sibayirwa Kiiza at Mamre Prayer Centre in Namugongo.

Prior to his consecration, the Catholic Bishops in Uganda issued a press statement on November 10 challenging the authenticity and validity of his consecration as seen from the point of view of Antiochian Orthodox Church and the 23 independent Churches within the Catholic Church led by Pope Francis.

"Indeed this question should be examined from the above two points of view since Kibuuka has at one time claimed to be part of the Antiochian Eastern Catholic Church which is in communion with Pope Francis. So far it clear to us all that he does not belong to the Antiochian Eastern Catholic Church (presided over by His Beatitude Moran Mor Ignatius Joseph III Jonan) since as stipulated in the 1983 Code of Canon Law, canon 112, a Roman Catholic needs the permission of the Pope to cross over to any Eastern Catholic Church, which permission he lacks," reads a section of the statement that was signed by the Chairman of the Uganda Episcopal Conference (UEC), Most Rev. John Baptist Odama also the Archbishop of Gulu.

The statement further says: "As far as the validity and authenticity of Episcopal Consecrations in the Orthodox and Catholic Churches are concerned, the apostolic lineage/succession is of paramount value. The notion of succession/lineage is not foreign even to many of our cultures in Uganda."

The Catholic Bishops also challenged 'Kibuuka and his group to prove with documentation from the Antiochian Orthodox Patriarch the claims that one of the EOC's bishops was consecrated in the Apostolic lineage within the



Above: Fr Kibuuka after his consecration as bishop INTERNET PHOTOS

"AS FAR AS THE VALIDITY AND AUTHENTICITY OF EPISCOPAL CONSECRATIONS IN THE ORTHODOX AND CATHOLIC CHURCHES ARE CONCERNED, THE APOSTOLIC LINEAGE/SUCCESSION IS OF PARAMOUNT VALUE. THE NOTION OF SUCCESSION/LINEAGE IS NOT FOREIGN EVEN TO MANY OF OUR CULTURES IN UGANDA."

Antiochian Orthodox Church.

"The Apostolic 'succession' refers to the lineage from the 12 Apostles to the current bishops in the Orthodox and Catholic Churches. This lineage is very important in evaluating the validity of Episcopal Consecrations.....The UEC would like to enlighten the public on the lack of apostolic succession in Evangelical Orthodox Church and challenge Kibuuka and his group to prove with documentation from the Antiochian Orthodox Patriarch the claims that one of the EOC's bishops was consecrated in the Apostolic lineage within the Antiochian Orthodox Church," reads part of the statement.

Regarding Kibuuka's claims that he has joined the Antiochian Rite and is thus in communion with the Pope, the bishops noted that no one can change from one rite to the other by personal declaration unless granted permission from the Holy See (Canon 112) through the Apostolic Nunciature following prior consultations with the local bishops concerned.

They also questioned the use of liturgical vestments by Kibuuka and his group that are similar to that of the Catholic Church. "Regarding Kibuuka's group, the similarity of its liturgy to the Roman rite is notable and wrong. No genuine Eastern Catholic Rite uses vestments of the Catholic Roman Rite. Furthermore, their way of dress and liturgy is quite different from ours.

Let Kibuuka and his group stop misleading the innocent faithful with false doctrine."

However, despite the Catholic Bishops' statement Kibuuka's 'consecration' was Roman Catholic in nature. The liturgical vestments that the priests and consecrators from his denomination wore to the style used to consecrate him and the songs used by the choir were similar to the Catholic Church. These raised many questions among the public including Catholic faithful.

Kibuuka, a charismatic leader and former priest who was ordained into priesthood in 2008 in the Archdiocese of Kampala, was suspended on July 12, 2016 from the Catholic Church by Most Rev. Cyprian Kizito Lwanga, the Archbishop of Kampala Archdiocese due to disobedience, including resisting a transfer to Ggoli Parish, and operating an unauthorized prayer, Mamre Prayer Centre which is outside of his jurisdiction.

Archbishop Lwanga also announced, in a five-page statement that was issued on the same date (July 12), the banning of activities at his Mamre Prayer Centre and instructed the clergy, religious, and laity that it was forbidden to participate in any event held there. His suspension meant that all his priestly duties were withdrawn, including celebrating the sacraments and Holy Mass, preaching the word of God as well as pastoral care of the faithful. The suspension prompted Kibuuka to immediately quit the Catholic Church to join the Orthodox Church where he vowed to continue his priestly duties.

Meanwhile, on October 29, 2016, months after Kibuuka's suspension, a group of rebel priests led by Kibuuka, Fr. Deogratius Ssonko, Fr. Vincent Byansi and Fr. Bruno Muhindo joined two-self made 'bishops' who include Dr. Tom Sibayirwa Kiiza to ordain two new priests.

The chief guest of the 'consecration ceremony' was the Minister of Justice and Constitutional affairs Gen. Kahinda Otafiire who represented President Yoweri Museveni. Other guests included Minister without Portfolio, the Bishop of the Canada-based Evangelical Orthodox Church (EOC) among other religious and political leaders.



# Catholic women hold inaugural fundraising dinner for rural women



Some of the Catholic women that graced the function

By Jacinta W. Odongo

On November 8, 2017, Catholic women from across the country gathered at Hanlon Gardens in Nsambya for a fundraising dinner towards the economic empowerment of rural women in Uganda.

The dinner, which was the first of its kind, was organized by the Family Desk under the Lay Apostolate Department of the Uganda Episcopal Conference (UEC). It attracted representatives from the four ecclesiastical provinces who include bishops, diocesan women leaders and corporate figures among others.

The National Coordinator of the UEC Family Desk, Mrs. Florence Kwesigabo said that women are central to the development of rural areas and to national economies, thus they decided to organize the fundraising dinner to boost their projects.

"Often, rural women are the caregivers who look after children, the elderly, and the whole household in general. Majority of these rural women are small business entrepreneurs who dedicate most of their earnings to the well-being of their families and

**WOMEN ARE CENTRAL TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS AND TO NATIONAL ECONOMIES, THUS THEY DECIDED TO ORGANIZE THE FUNDRAISING DINNER TO BOOST THEIR PROJECTS.**

societies. So we realized as a Family Desk, we need to empower them (rural women) to improve their daily live hood," she said.

The fundraising dinner is one of the strategies that have been introduced by the Family Desk since the launch of the Women Empowerment and Domestic Violence Prevention Campaign (WE-DVPC) programme on March 1, 2017. WE-DVPC proposes an outcome in which women countrywide are free from violence and its associated risks. It stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on areas:



The Bishops cutting a cake to crown the fundraising dinner



The Bishops deliver their apostolic blessing at the conclusion of the function



Archbishop Odama joins Catholic women for a dance

ending violence against women; enhancing women's economic empowerment and increasing women's leadership and participation;

It is a successor programme of the National Domestic Violence Prevention Campaign Programme (NDVPC) which ended in February 2017.

The new programme is running in all the 19 Catholic Dioceses in Uganda through the national and diocesan structures of the Catholic Church. WE-DVPC programme commenced with the training of programme staff on programme and finance management.



We all have the duty to do good. — Pope Francis

# National Catholic Council of Lay Apostolate elects new leaders



The Bishop chairman of the Lay Apostolate Commission, Rt Rev. Paul Ssemogerere pose for a group photo with the new leaders

By Jacinta W. Odongo

The Uganda National Catholic Council of Lay Apostolate (UNCCLA) has elected its new leadership to serve for a three-year term.

The Council elected its new leaders during their Annual convention from October 25-27 at Pope Paul Memorial Hotel in Kampala. Gervase Ndyanabo from Mbarara Archdiocese was elected as president of the UNCCLA while Anthony Matega from Kampala Archdiocese as vice president. Helping Ndyanabo and Matega to lead the UNCCLA board are: secretary Richard Akena (Arua Diocese); vice secretary Augustine Murugahara (Kasese Diocese) and treasurer Paul Baliraine from

Jinja Diocese.

The Council also elected Rose Ndekezi (from Tororo Archdiocese) as Woman Representative while Robert Nyango (Kiyinda-Mityana Diocese) was voted as Youth Representative.

After the elections of the new Executive, the new president Mr. Ndyanabo gave a word of thanks on behalf of his executive. He thanked the participants for giving them the unique opportunity to serve the Church and he promised that they will do their best to implement the objectives of UNCCLA in collaboration with all members, and with the support of the hierarchy of the Catholic Church in Uganda.

In accordance with the UNCCLA Constitution, the new office bear-

ers will also be joined by ex-officio members of the UNCCLA Executive Committee who include the National Executive Secretary of Lay Apostolate, the National Youth Coordinator, the National Youth Chaplain and the National Women Apostolate Organizing Secretary

The main function of the Executive Committee is to initiate, propose, co-ordinate and fulfill the program of action as passed by the AGM for the next three years.

The new Executive Committee resolved to improve the visibility and relevance of UNCCLA nationally and amongst Dioceses, strengthen and utilize the various Associations of professionals and Lay Apostolate movement in the work of evangelization, ensure effective ongoing catechesis on the doctrine and teaching of mother Church as well as strengthen active participation of the lay faithful in all activities of the church both religious and secular.

They also pledged to mobilize the lay faithful for empowerment, to increase the spirit of sacrifice such as more donations to the activities of the Church and the operations on UNCCLA as well as keenly follow political development in the country and actively participate in all debates to influence policy and leadership for our heritage.

The 2017 AGM was organized by the UNCCLA in collaboration with the Lay Apostolate Commission of the Uganda Episcopal Conference.

## WISE QUOTES FOR REFLECTION

"A smart man makes a mistake, learns from it, and never makes that mistake again. But a wise man finds a smart man and learns from him how to avoid the mistake altogether" - **Roy H. Williams**

"Listening is such a simple act. It requires us to be present, and that takes practice, but we don't have to do anything else. We don't have to advise, or coach, or sound wise. We just have to be willing to sit there and listen" - **Margaret J. Wheatley**

Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough" - **Oprah Winfrey**

"No one who achieves success does so without acknowledging the help of others. The wise and confident acknowledge this help with gratitude" - **Alfred North Whitehead**

"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language that goes to his heart" - **Nelson Mandela**

"If you wish to succeed in life, make perseverance

your bosom friend, experience your wise counselor, caution your elder brother, and hope your guardian genius" - **Joseph Addison**

"Sometimes you don't realize your own strength until you come face to face with your greatest weakness" - **Susan Gale**

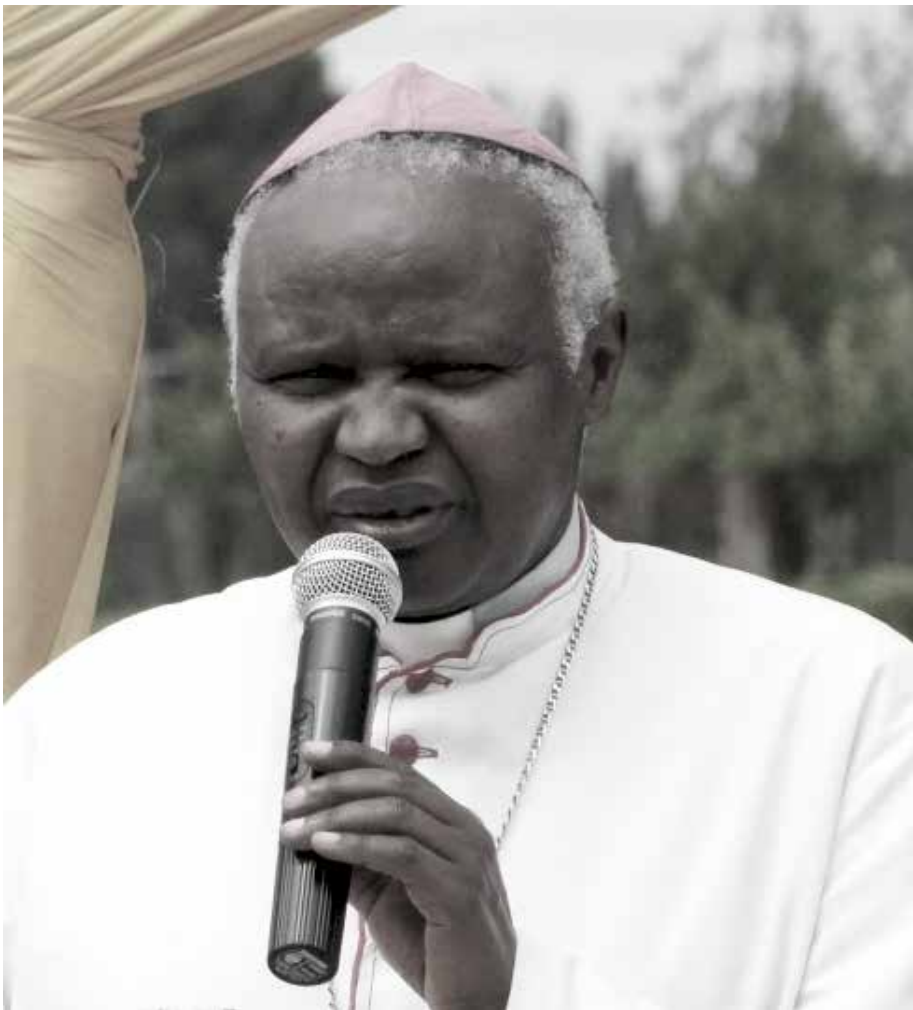
"Never give in.. never, never, never, never, in nothing great or small, large or petty, never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense. Never yield to force, never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy" - **Winston Churchill**

"Strength does not come from winning. Your struggles develop your strengths. When you go through hardships and decide not to surrender, that is strength" - **Unknown Author**

"Sometimes, being strong is to forgive in the name of love, to make someone smile when our own heart is broken, to comfort a friend when we ourselves needed help and to keep faith when we have lost hope" - **Brigitte Nicole**



# Kenyan Bishop passes on, laid to rest in a state funeral



**The Late Rt Rev Cornelius Arap Korir**

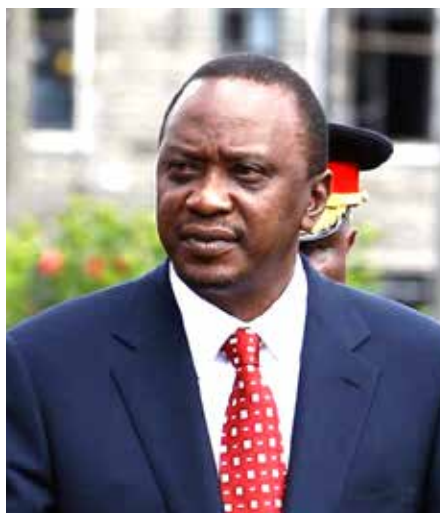
By Rose Achiego, Waumini Communications KCCB

On October 29, 2017 the Catholic Church in Kenya woke to the devastating news of the death of the Bishop of Diocese of Eldoret, Rt. Rev. Cornelius Arap Korir. Bishop Korir died in his house at the age of 67.

Confirming his sudden death in Eldoret Diocese, The Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB) Chairman and the Bishop of Homabay Rt. Rev. Philip Anyolo said Bishop Korir was to be taken to Nairobi for further treatment on the 30th, October, 2017.

"He was to fly to Nairobi later in the day but when a priest went to check on him he was not awake. A doctor was called who confirmed that the bishop was no more. We are very saddened as a church," said Bishop Anyolo.

The Late Bishop of Eldoret Rt.



**Kenyan President-elect Uhuru Kenyatta**

Rev. Cornelius Korir was laid to rest on November 11, 2017, inside the Sacred Heart Cathedral, in accordance with Catholic traditions.

A state funeral was conducted at the Eldoret Sports Club where all the Bishops, the clergy, religious brothers and sisters, the faithful,

government officials and other religious leaders paid their last respects.

Kenyan elect-President His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta and Deputy President William Ruto among other dignitaries were in attendance at the state burial.

In an interview with Waumini Online News the Vice Chairman of KCCB – Catholic and Justice Commission (CJPC) and the Archbishop of Mombasa Most Rev. Martin Kivuva said Bishop Korir's work has been recognized by the county of Eldoret, hence the county was going to accord him a state burial.

Bishop Korir was buried in a tomb which is 2.9 meters long and 1.225 meters high located at the Grotto of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a small room behind the altar. The tomb is similar to a cabin with two opening doors. His body was clothed in the vestments he loved most.

At the same time, inscriptions of his personal details, including his date of ordination and the date of his death, have been written on an adjacent slab. "Mkitendee kazi chakula kidumucho" (Work for food that endures) reads the inscription on the slab.

Till his death, Bishop Korir was the Chairman for KCCB- Catholic and Justice Commission and the Bishop of Eldoret. He was among Church leaders in North Rift region who have been warning political leaders against utterances that might divide Kenyans along tribal lines.

The bishop was famously known and respected for his role in peace-making and condemning social injustices and due to this the religious leaders from the interfaith communities under the umbrella of the Dialogue Reference Group (DRG) elected him to be the Chairman. The group comprises of top leadership from Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops-KCCB, National Council of Churches in Kenya-NOCK, Supreme Council of Kenya Muslim (SUPKEM) and National Muslim Leaders Forum (NAMLEF), Hindu Council of Kenya-HCK, Evangelical Alliance of Kenya-EAK, Organization African Instituted Churches-OAIC, Seventh Day Adventist-SDA and Shia Ithna-Asheri.

May he Rest in Peace, Amen.



# Kenya's Election Marred by Low Turnout and Violence, Proper Strategy to Unify the Country is needed



violence in Kenya after the repeat elections



By Amecea Online News Reporter

Kenyan repeat of Presidential election on Thursday, 26, October, 2017 was marred by low voter turnout, boycott and violent protest that left some people dead and scores wounded.

According to the Election Commission, about 6.5 million voters (out of 19 Million registered Voters), that is less than 35 percent, went to the polls on Thursday. The turn-out was much lower than the nearly 80% of registered voters who participated in the August election that later was nullified by the Supreme Court.

The low turn-out was mainly caused by the National Super Alliance (NASA) party Honorable Raila Odinga's (The main opposition party presidential candidate) refusal to take part in the re-run, on grounds that the Independent Electoral and Boundaries commission (IEBC) had failed to make the

necessary changes to ensure a free, fair and credible elections. Despite of his call to his supporters to stay peacefully at home during the Election Day, still they attempted to block voting in some areas, a situation that created mayhem especially on opposition strong holds, prompting police to fire tear gas, water cannon and live bullets.

The vote came after a two-month political drama that began when the Supreme Court overturned the victory of President Uhuru Kenyatta in August 8 elections due to illegalities and irregularities.

President Uhuru Kenyatta who spoke to journalists after casting his vote in Gatundu South, said he intends to reach out to the opposition leader, who boycotted the repeat presidential election, in a bid to heal the nation and bring it together. "As a responsible leader, you must reach out, and

that is my intention," Mr Kenyatta said of the initiative, which he said would take place after the election.

Recently, the Holy Father Pope Francis during the Angelus at St. Peter's Square on 22nd, October, 2017 asked all the faithful to join him in prayer for peace in the world with special attention to the situation in Kenya, a country he visited in 2015. "I am praying that the entire Country may know how to face the current difficulties, in an atmosphere of constructive dialogue, keeping deep in their hearts the need to find and sustain the common good for all," Pope Francis said.

The message of the Holy Father was reverberated by the Catholic Bishops in Kenya on 25 October (a day before the election) in their press statement titled 'State of the Nation and the Fresh Presidential Elections' in which they appealed to President Uhuru Kenyatta and Honourable Raila Odinga to bring down the tension in the Country so as to avert the worst political and security scenarios prevailing at the moment. "It is important that they lead the Country to come to a closure of election period through a free, fair and credible election. We have also drawn their attention to look beyond post-election challenges which need their attention before and after the October 26 Presidential election," read the statement of the Bishops.

## Tanzania Episcopal Conference mourns the death of Bishop

By Bernard James,  
Tanzania Episcopal Conference

The Catholic Church of Tanzania is in grief following the death of Rt. Rev. Castory Msemwa of Tunduru Masasi Diocese.

Bishop Msemwa died on Thursday, October 19th, 2017 in Muscat (Oman) where he was on transit to India to seek further medical treatment.

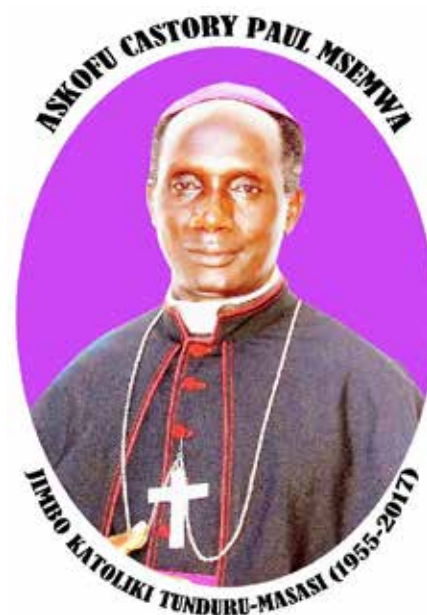
According to the Vicar General of Tunduru Masasi diocese, Rev. Fr. Jordan Liviga, Bishop Msemwa has had some health problems for a period of two years, and has been receiving

treatments in various hospitals.

"He left the country on Wednesday (October 18, this week to India for medical treatment before death struck him while being on transit," he said.

Archbishop Castory Paul Msemwa was born in 1955 in the village of Kitulira, the Matola Parish of the Catholic Diocese of Njombe. He was ordained a priest on 7th, June, 1987 and a bishop on 30th, January, 2005. On 25th, August, 2005, Bishop Msemwa was appointed to lead the Catholic Diocese of Tunduru Masasi.

May he Rest in Peace, Amen.



**Vaduz Castle**, the residence of the head of state of Liechtenstein

# My one day trip to Liechtenstein; World's third richest country

By Jacinta W. Odongo

During my stay in Switzerland in September, I had an awesome opportunity to visit Liechtenstein. A Liechtensteiner friend of mine and his wife had invited me for a short stay, so I grabbed the opportunity with both hands.

Liechtenstein is a small independent country with a 'small-town feel'. It is located in Central Europe on the banks of River Rhine, between Switzerland and Austria. Both of these countries that border Liechtenstein, Austria to the north and east and Switzerland to the south and west are landlocked, meaning it is double-landlocked. Liech-

tenstein is mainly mountainous, making it a winter sport destination.

This small German-speaking country is a principality governed under a constitutional hereditary monarchy. It has a form of mixed constitution in which political power is shared by the monarch and a democratically elected parliament. The head of state is Prince Hans-Adam II von Liechtenstein and has ruled since 1989.

At 62 square miles, Liechtenstein is the world's sixth-smallest independent country by total land area. This state is so small that a city within another nation is a giant compared to it. In fact, here almost everyone knows everyone

and everyone knows what everyone else is doing.

Having never been to such a micro-state destination I was very excited to see what it has to offer. Thus I set out on a road trip from the eastern Swiss town of Flums in Sargan (the border entry point from Switzerland) to Vaduz City in Liechtenstein.

The ride from Flums to Vaduz took me about 30 minutes. Actually I didn't even know that I had crossed over to Liechtenstein because there is no official border control point or a sight of immigration officers to announce that you have switched countries. Reason being, Switzerland and Liechtenstein ►





Postalmuseum in Liechtenstein.



Inside Vaduz Cathedral



The Kunstmuseum



The Government House and the Cathedral (far right)

► have been in a customs union since 1923, and also share the same currency.

Once you are in Vaduz, the whole city takes about 30 minutes to stroll from end to end. One day is more than enough to explore the entire city so you wouldn't need to include any major sight-seeing activities on your to-do-list. Vaduz is the capital of Liechtenstein but not its largest city: Schaan is slightly larger. However, this capital city is worth visiting because everything here is just perfect and classy from cars, roads to residential buildings. It is mostly a residential town, but the main and probably only tourist-friendly part of Vaduz is its walking arcade lined with restaurants, hotels, and modern museums.

This city is also home to the Prince of Liechtenstein castle and his museums, thus this was my main point of interest as a tourist. Vaduz Castle lies on a hillside 120 metres above Vaduz City. It is the symbol of the capital and can be seen from far away. It is a must visit place in this country because it's habitable unlike many castles which were built in the medieval period. The castle was constructed in the 12th Century

before living quarters were added in 1287. It came into the ownership of the Princely Family in 1712 and the west wing served as the family's official residence until 1732. However, the building became increasingly dilapidated and fell into disrepair before being rebuilt and renovated between 1905 and 1912.

Under Prince Franz Josef II the castle was extended and once again made fit for living. In 1939 the Prince moved in with his family and adopted Vaduz Castle as his official residence. Prince Hans-Adam II (current head of state) resides here together with his family. Although closed off to tourists as a private residence, it offers great views of the whole of Vaduz and if not, Liechtenstein.

As of January 1, 2016, the population of Liechtenstein was estimated to be 37,622 people with Vaduz having only 5,425. Because of this small population, on the country's national holiday, Prince Hans-Adam II, and his son, His Serene Highness Hereditary Prince Alois, invite the residents of their tiny principality to have beer in the garden of Vaduz Castle, the princely ancestral residence.

After visiting the castle I went to the Postal Museum. This Museum belongs to the Principality of Liechtenstein since 1930. It was founded with the intention of creating a special collection which would comprise stamp issues from 1912 and with their original designs, engraving plates and print proofs, exchange stamps of Universal Postal Union countries as well as numerous documents and historical postal equipment. The Postal Museum collects and preserves important documents regarding Liechtenstein's philately and the history of its postal services, and makes them accessible to a wider audience in the exhibition.

The Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein is also another place worth visiting. It is a state museum of modern and contemporary art in Vaduz. The building, which was completed in November 2000, is clearly structured with maximum space devoted to art. This museum also belongs to the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Beyond the area of museums and shops at the end of the main street you will find two other important attractions: The Government House and the Vaduz Cathedral built around ►



An aerial view of Vaduz, behind are the alps with snow covered on the mountain.



An aerial view of Liechtenstein on the banks of River Rhine.



Clean roads in Vaduz



The writer at the Alps



Statute of Prince Franz Josef of Liechtenstein and his wife outside the Vaduz Cathedral

►the 18th Century with a neogothic style. The government of the Principality of Liechtenstein has five ministers, each of whom is responsible for one or more governmental departments. The five-person government forms the state's administrative organ and is appointed by the Prince following a proposal made by the government.

An interesting fact to note is that, Liechtenstein's parliament comprises of 25 members and, together with the Prince, they form the state's legislative branch. The 25 members of parliament are elected for a period of four years via proportional representation. All laws passed by the parliament must be approved by the Prince, countersigned by the Prime Minister and published in the Liechtenstein Legal Gazette. Laws not approved by the Prince within six months do not come into force and are considered as having been rejected by

the Prince.

Liechtenstein is formed of eleven municipalities. Each municipality has its own administration and is headed by a mayor and a number of members of the regional council. Citizens also have the right of initiative and right of referendum at municipal level.

This country also has no army since 1868 and has never been involved in any conflict. It has only 40 police officers.

As a tourist, it is also important to note that being a doubly landlocked country Liechtenstein has no airport. To get here you must either go through Switzerland or Austria. Regardless Liechtenstein is among the top five richest countries in the world. It has the world's third highest per capita income behind Qatar and Luxembourg and has the lowest unemployment rate (1.5%). Besides, it has the world's low-

est external debt and has one of the lowest corporate tax rates in the world at 12.5 percent, which is why people here are super rich. During my one day trip here, I literally saw more than 10 people driving Porsches cars. In fact, it is very normal to drive such kind of cars here something that left me speechless.

According to the Constitution of Liechtenstein, the Roman Catholic Church is the official state religion of Liechtenstein hence the Church enjoys the full protection of the State. Vaduz Cathedral or Cathedral of St. Florin was built in 1874. Prince Franz Joseph II of Liechtenstein and his wife were both buried in the cathedral in 1989.

Liechtenstein is one of the smallest countries in the world but it offers much more than many big countries. For me that is a reason enough to go back to Liechtenstein. Actually, I walked away thinking Liechtenstein is a privileged place for a privileged few.

## Did You Know?

### Liechtenstein has,

- No airport
- No military
- One train station
- One hospital
- One TV channel
- One radio station
- Two newspapers



# What is Pastoral Zeal?



Fr. Lazar Arasu SDB

"The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few" (Mt. 9:37). "Let us go on to the next towns, which I may preach there..." (Mk 1:38). "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!" (Lk 12:49). "For zeal for your house has consumed me" (Jn.2:17).

Gospels are full of statements that highlight Jesus' pastoral zeal—to reach Father's love for humanity. Jesus was filled with pastoral zeal from the moment he realized his vocation, even as a little child in Nazareth. Indeed it was his childhood desire to do his Father's desire. At the temple in Jerusalem he said to his parents, "Don't you know that I have to be busy with my Father's business." Pastoral zeal is the realization and fruitful living of one's vocation. It is the best way of furthering the Kingdom of God. And it is a hallmark of religious life.

Religious life and Pastoral ministry grows and finds deeper meaning in and with pastoral zeal. It defines the life and mission of church leaders—ordained ministers, vowed religious of both sexes, and other pastoral agents such as catechists. The vows of poverty, chastity and obedience are geared to strengthening the pastoral zeal. The religious are expected to strengthen their consecrated life through their pastoral zeal. The vowed life would become shaky without or diminished pastoral zeal.

What is Pastoral Zeal? It is pasturing the flock with whole hearted love and commitment. It is commitment that makes a difference in our life. Synonyms of the word 'Zeal' explains it all. Zeal is enthusiasm, passion, fervour, keenness, eagerness, devotion, wholeheartedness, vehemence and the like. These synonyms are virtues, characteristics, quality and

description of a dedicated worker in the vineyard of the Lord. These are human qualities coated with religious motivations.

Pastoral zeal is the fruit of one's inner happiness and contentment in vocation. Vocation is a task, assumed responsibility and a way of life someone has chosen for oneself. Something becomes vocation only when it is assumed with joy after a well thought out discernment. When it is a fruit of discernment it will create a passion in the individual to assume the responsibility with joy. Then it becomes bliss for oneself and others who are the beneficiaries of the pastoral activities. For Jesus said, "I know my sheep and they know me. And I am willing to die for them." (John 10:14). It is a blessing to the pastoral agent and in turn he or she becomes a blessing for others.

Pastoral zeal also improves the relationship of the pastoral agent with the flock he or she serves. The zeal that generates love for the flock brings the shepherd close to the sheep. Pope Francis who has been a pastor of a large urban flock in Argentina would say, "The pastors should know the smell of the flock and the sheep should know the smell of their shepherd." We cannot serve and love the flock that we do not know. St. John Bosco who worked for the young would tell his spiritual sons, "It is not enough you love them; but young people should know that you love them."

Throughout her history Church has seen numerous dedicated pastors. Their words and actions remain perennial source of inspiration for us to follow. On his commitment to evangelization of Africa St. Daniel Comboni would say, "Africa or death." When St. John Bosco came forward to work for abandoned young people he said, "For you I study, for you work, for you I live, for you I am ready to give my life." The patron of priests, St. John Mary Vianney would pray, "Lord grant me the conversion of my parish; I am willing to suffer whatever you wish, for my entire life." Their commitment is in line with the words of St. Paul, "Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel."

Often times these saintly pastors

were so immersed in their pastoral care that they cared little for their health and personal well-being. Pastoral zeal gave them enormous courage and strength to carry on the task they assumed on themselves. They understood clearly that it is what the Lord wanted them to do.

Pastoral zeal gives meaning to religious vows. It is a concrete way of practicing the evangelical counsels. Poverty through its counsel of detachment from earthly things helps the religious to concentrate on pastoral responsibilities. Chastity helps to renounce exclusive human affections to love the flock entrusted to the pastoral agent with single mindedness. Vow of obedience helps them to be available for the flock away from their own attachment to place and earthly desires.

Pastoral zeal makes pastoral agents to be effective in their ministry and helps them to achieve more for the Lord. It is reaching out to the flock more frequently and more meaningfully. It makes the priests in parishes make "safari" to meet the flocks oftener and administer sacraments frequently not expecting monetary benefits. It makes a religious health worker to dedicate more time and be more patient. It makes the religious in schools to reach-out to the poor more and find more opportunities for catechesis and evangelization within school context. Pastoral zeal makes the consecrated persons involved in secular activities of the world to go out to teach catechism, offer sacramental assistance, make pastoral visits to Christian homes, and be close to the poor. Pastoral zeal makes us better religious. It makes us to serve without counting the cost; only the Lord and his flock that counts.

Pastoral zeal challenges the consecrated to give witness in personal and community living. It makes inculturation process easier and enjoyable. It helps the pastoral agent to love the people to whom he or she is sent. It brings the shepherds close to the people and people close to the shepherd by sharing life together. It is indeed a sure way to find holiness and makes religious life a joyful enterprising for the Lord. Pastoral zeal is a practical way of extending the Kingdom of God and being the leaven in the world.

[www.arasulazar.org](http://www.arasulazar.org)

# Walking With God in Your Marriage



By Barbara Nabukenya

For several hundred years, the two trees had grown individually; 15m apart, but as they got larger, their trunks grew closer and closer together. Sometime later on, the trunks literally touched, and they began fusing together as one tree. There they stood throughout the centuries the Faithful Couple; and literary or miraculously as we grow up, from different back grounds, environment, we fuse as a symbol of love and commitment.

I thought to myself, what a perfect symbol of a Godly marriage that knows oneness in Christ and spiritual vitality! As two people sink their roots deep by following Christ, studying Scripture, and responding to the leading of the Holy Spirit, they also grow together as one, a faithful couple.

Marriage first and foremost is a spiritual relationship. It works best when two people are connected individually to God, walking with Him, obeying Him in the Scripture, and praying as individuals and as a couple. If you push the spiritual dimension to the side, you are ignoring the very God who created marriage and the One who can help you make it work.

## Founded on the Rock

Jesus spoke about two different foundations for a life. His statements are equally applicable to a couple building a home together:

Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on

the rock. Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall. (Matthew 7:24–27)

Jesus was talking about the need to build your spiritual house on solid stuff and the way to support your life through increasing obedience to God and His Word. When you build your house on that Rock, you can withstand the cultural storms and the “currents” of your selfishness and shortcomings.

How do we help each other set Jesus Christ apart as Lord and Master in command of our lives?

These seven spiritual disciplines will help us build our marriage on the rock-solid foundation of Jesus Christ:

**Prayer,** Every good relationship survives or dies on its communication. Prayer is the way we communicate with God. You need to pray as individuals and as a couple. Perhaps the two of you can pray briefly before you go to sleep at night.

**Bible study,** In the Word we learn everything we need to know about God, His promises, and what He wants from us—and we see Jesus—our Leader—in action and can learn better how to follow Him.

**Worship,** We are commanded to worship God, individually and collectively. If we are not worshiping God, we probably are worshiping something else. Find a vibrant, Christ-worshipping, Bible-believing church.

**Giving,** We are stewards of resources on loan to us from God. We need to be diligent in sharing with others so their needs are met and they in turn give thanks and glory to God. Regular tithing (giving 10 percent of your income) to your local church and giving to other Christian causes is a great way to share God's goodness to you.

**Fellowship,** The body of Christ is our family; we need others and they need us to accomplish the work of the kingdom as a loving team. How about joining or offering to lead a small-group Bible study at your church?

**Service,** It is a privilege to serve others in the name of Christ, partic-

ularly those who are needy or alone. In every community of any size there are agencies that need volunteers to feed the hungry and help the poor. Seek one out.

**Witness,** Jesus entrusted to His followers the task of reconciling the lost to God. That involves all aspects of the process, from cultivating friendships with neighbors and others who are not believers, to planting seeds by sharing testimony and the Word, to actually reaping the harvest by asking those made ready by the Holy Spirit to receive Christ. Do you work with someone who needs you to live out the gospel by showing genuine love?

## Growing together in Christ

These disciplines are as important to develop as a couple as they are as individuals. As you seek God together as a couple, you will also draw closer to each other as you develop a deep, close spiritual, emotional and physical and intimacy.

The problem is that most Christian couples wish they spent time together praying and encouraging each other from the Bible, but they just don't do it. They let other priorities crowd out what should be the most important aspect of their marriage relationship.

Couples who have used these devotionals have reported that this daily time together has taken their relationship to a new level of oneness and intimacy.

Many couples never stop to consider that floods, wind, and the like will assault their marriage. They aren't prepared spiritually, so these elements overtake them. Mathew 7

Spending time in prayer and in the Word as a couple helps you anticipate what will come in your next seasons of life. It helps you make prayerful, thoughtful application of Scripture—for example, to prepare for a child, or for a child leaving the home. It helps you work on your values as a couple and what you want to build into children, and it helps you determine your priorities in the final years of life.

Spiritual intimacy will draw you closer as a couple ... and it will help you stand strong in every season that comes.



## LITURGICAL READINGS FOR DECEMBER



### December 3- First Sunday of Advent

Lectionary: 2

Reading 1IS 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7

Responsorial Psalm PS 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

Reading 21 COR 1:3-9

Gospel MK 13:33-37

### December 8 - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Lectionary: 689

Reading 1GN 3:9-15, 20

Responsorial Psalm PS 98:1, 2-3AB, 3CD-4

Reading 2EPH 1:3-6, 11-12

Gospel LK 1:26-38

### December 10 - Second Sunday of Advent

Lectionary: 5

Reading 1IS 40:1-5, 9-11

Responsorial Psalm PS 85:9-10-11-12,  
13-14

Reading 22 PT 3:8-14

Gospel MK 1:1-8

### December 13 - Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Lectionary: 183

Reading 1IS 40:25-31

Responsorial Psalm PS 103:1-2, 3-4, 8  
AND 10

Gospel MT 11:28-30

### December 17 - Third Sunday of Advent

Lectionary: 8

Reading 1IS 61:1-2A, 10-11

Responsorial Psalm LK 1:46-48,  
49-50, 53-54

Reading 21 THES 5:16-24

Gospel JN 1:6-8, 19-28

### December 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Lectionary: 11

Reading 12 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16

Responsorial Psalm PS 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29

Reading 2 ROM 16:25-27

Gospel LK 1:26-38

### December 26 - Feast of Saint Stephen, first martyr

Lectionary: 696

Reading 1ACTS 6:8-10; 7:54-59

Responsorial Psalm PS 31:3CD-4, 6 AND  
8AB, 16BC AND 17

Gospel MT 10:17-22

### December 28 - Feast of the Holy Innocents, martyrs

Lectionary: 698

Reading 11 JN 1:5-2:2

Responsorial Psalm PS 124:2-3, 4-5, 7CD-8

Gospel MT 2:13-18

# Pope Francis bans the sale of cigarettes inside the Vatican

Vatican Radio

Pope Francis is putting a stop to the sale of cigarettes and tobacco inside Vatican City State.

A statement released on Thursday November 9, by Greg Burke, Director of the Holy See Press Office, explained that the Holy See "cannot be cooperating with a practice that is clearly harming the health of people."

Citing the World Health Organization statistics that smoking causes more than seven million deaths worldwide every year, he said cigarettes will not be sold at the Vatican as from the beginning of next year.

Burke acknowledged that the sale of cigarettes has been a source of revenue for the Holy See, but he

said "no profit can be legitimate if it is costing people their lives."

"Although the cigarettes sold to employees and pensioners in the Vatican at a reduced price are a source of revenue for the Holy See, no profit can be legitimate if it puts lives at risk" the statement said.

He added that the sale of large cigars would continue for the time being because the smoke is not inhaled.



## Pope Francis' prayer intention for November: To witness the Gospel in Asia

Vatican Radio

On November 3, Pope Francis released a video message accompanying his monthly prayer intention for November 2017.

This month's intention is for Evangelization: To witness to the Gospel in Asia. That Christians in Asia, bearing witness to the Gospel in word and deed, may promote dialogue, peace, and mutual understanding, especially with those of other religions

The text of the video message reads:

The most striking feature of Asia is the variety of its peoples who are heirs of ancient cultures, religions and traditions.

On this continent where the Church is a minority, the challenges are intense. We must promote dialogue among religions and cultures.

Let us pray that Christians in Asia may promote dialogue, that peace and mutual understanding, especially with those of other religions.

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



An Asian woman praying

# Indian court sentences Bangladeshi man to life in jail for raping nun

Vatican Radio

An Indian court on November 8 sentenced a Bangladeshi man to life in prison for raping an elderly Catholic nun in eastern India's West Bengal state over 2 years ago.

The 71-year-old Indian Religious of Jesus and Mary (RJM) needed surgery after the attack on 14 March, 2015 when a gang of robbers broke into the order's Convent of Jesus and Mary school in Ranaghat, some 80 kms north of the state capital Kolkata, where she lived in the residential block. It was one of the several cases that fueled anger at high levels of sexual violence in the nation.

"What happened to the elderly nun is a blot on West Bengal's legacy where Mother Teresa worked for the poor," additional judge Kumkum Singha told a packed court in Kolkata, where Church officials and some nuns from the school were present.

On Tuesday the court found Nazrul Islam, alias Noju, guilty of rape and attempted murder, among other offences. Five others arrested, found guilty of charges unrelated to the sexual assault, were sentenced on Wednesday to 10 years in prison.

The nun, who cannot be named for legal reasons, moved out of West Bengal after the assault. She later travelled to Ranaghat and identified the accused from a police lineup, chief public prosecutor Tamal Mukerjee told AFP.

The prosecution had charged all the six with gangrape, robbery and criminal conspiracy among others. The judge noted the charge of gangrape was established only in the case of Nazrul Islam. The only Indian, Gopal Sarkar, was found guilty of harbouring the five criminals at his residence.

Archbishop Thomas D'Souza of Kolkata, told AFP, "The incident shook the conscience of people. It took the Church a long time to recover from the ghastly incident."

Government data for 2015 shows 34,651 rapes in India were recorded, but campaigners say the true figure is likely to be much higher given the social stigma that still surrounds such cases.



Indian nuns demonstrate



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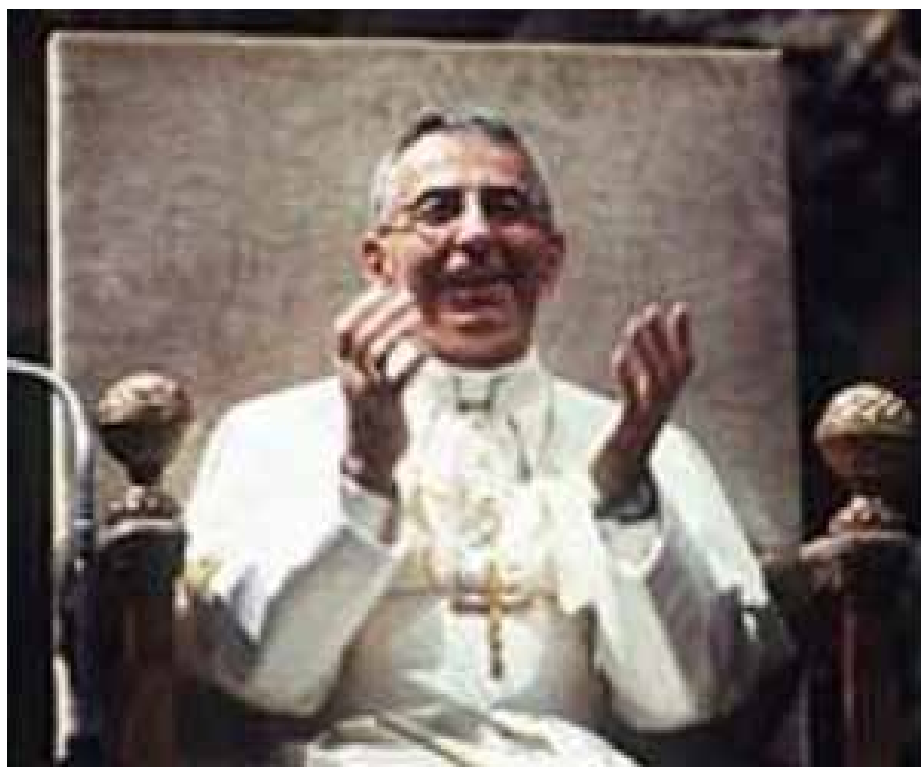


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# Pope approves the heroic virtues of Pope John Paul I



Pope John Paul I

## Vatican Radio

Pope John Paul I has moved a step closer to sainthood with the recognition of his heroic virtues. Pope Francis on Wednesday November 9 authorized the Congregation for the Causes of Saints to promulgate the decree approving his predecessor's heroic virtues which confers on him the title 'Venerable'.

Pope Francis also authorized 7 other decrees along with that of John Paul I – two of them on martyrdom and 5 on heroic virtues.

Venerable Servant of God Pope John Paul I

Pope John Paul I whose heroic virtues Pope Francis has approved and declared him 'Venerable Servant of God' had a brief papacy of just 33 days, yet has left an indelible mark on the Catholic Church.

A 'Smiling Pope' as he is called in that short duration of his pontificate gave nine speeches, three messages, wrote three Apostolic letters and four other official letters, gave two homilies and had five Sunday 'Angelus' prayers and four Wednesday general audiences. This short encounter if not his vast experience as a priest, bishop, Patriarch of Venice and then the Cardinal has proved him to be a person of faith, humble and meek person yet tough when it comes to

Church teachings. Love of God and love of neighbor was his special hallmark.

Born on 17th Oct 1912 at "Forno di Canale (Belluno, Italy), Albino Luciani was son of Giovanni Luciani and Bortola Tancon. He was baptized the same day at home, by the midwife, as he was in danger of death but formalized two days later in the Church by the curate. On 2nd Feb 1935 he was ordained deacon and on 7th July 1935 Ordained to the priesthood at St. Peter's Church of Belluno diocese of Belluno e Feltre.

In February 1947 he graduated from the Gregorian University in Rome with a doctorate in Sacred Theology, his thesis being, "The origin of the human soul according to Antonio Rosmini". 27th December 1958 he was Consecrated Bishop by John XXIII at St. Peter's Basilica together with the newly consecrated bishops, Gioacchino Muccin and Girolamo Bortignon.

In 1977 he participated in the IV Ordinary General Assembly in Rome of the Synod of Bishops regarding "Catechetics in Our Time". August 10 the following year brought him again to the Vatican after the death of Pope Paul the VI.

On August 26, during the second day of the conclave, he was elected Supreme Pontiff of the Roman Cath-

olic Church and he chose his name John Paul I, wishing to serve the Church as his predecessors did. During his first Sunday Angelus he humbly acknowledged that he chose that name knowing that he neither had the wisdom of the heart of Pope John nor the preparation and culture of Pope Paul. With this name he became the first Pope to take up a dual name in papal history.

Luciani vowed to serve as a teacher and a servant and had taken up Humilitas (Humility) as his episcopal motto which was evident even after he was appointed a pope. He wished to do away with Papal Coronation mass and chose to have just papal inauguration. He also preferred not to use the 'sedia gestatoria' or the ceremonial throne like an armchair on which the Pope travels from St Peter's Square.

Luciani a warm, gentle and kind man with a friendly disposition was loved by the people who were in awe of his persona. He had impressed people with his excellent oratory skills. His ideologies reflected the spirit of humanity and showcased the immense love and warmth that he had for God and his people.

His swift six point plan defined what the journey of his pontificate would be. He planned to renew the Church through the policies implemented by Vatican II, to revise canon law, to remind the Church of its duty to preach the Gospel, to promote Church unity without watering down doctrine, to promote dialogue and to encourage world peace and social justice.

His successors looked upon him as a gentle soul with a heart filled with love. If his immediate successor Cardinal Karol Wojtyła spoke of his values of faith, hope and love, Benedict XVI commented that it was due to his virtues that despite holding papacy for just 33 days, he was able to win the people's hearts. For Pope Francis, John Paul I was an icon of mercy and humility and he has quoted him in his homilies and in an interview. His qualities of heart and mind made him affable.

Already two miracles are attributed to his intercession and are under examination. If any of them is recognized, he would be cleared for Beatification.

# Robert Mugabe stuns Zimbabwe by failing to quit – as it happened

By The guardian news

President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe on Sunday evening, November 19, 2017 addressed the nation after ruling party Zanu-PF gave him a deadline of noon on Monday, November 20 to resign or face impeachment.

It has been another extraordinary day in the history of Zimbabwe - here is a summary of the latest events...

- Mugabe remains head of state against all the odds after refusing to resign as president.
- He was expected to stand down in a historic address live on television after conceding to military takeover.
- But instead he clings to power



Robert Mugabe (right) meets generals at State House in Harare on Sunday  
Photo by AP

following a rambling speech which left the nation stunned and baffled.

- In a statement delivered in Harare he claimed military intervention, which saw him placed under house arrest four days

ago, was no challenge to his authority.

- The army stepped in to block Grace Mugabe's tilt at power.
- Speaking slowly and occasionally stumbling as he read from pages, Mugabe talked of the need for solidarity to resolve national problems.
- He ended his speech by saying he will preside over an upcoming conference of the ruling Zanu-PF party.
- His defiance comes despite his sacking by Zanu-PF and in the face of huge public opposition.
- The news means widespread disappointment for those who thought they were witnessing the end of the Mugabe era and celebrated in euphoric scenes in the streets of Zimbabwe yesterday.
- His refusal to go plunges the country into deep uncertainty.
- The leader of Zimbabwe's influential war veterans said plans for impeachment would go ahead as scheduled.

The generals involved in the military takeover will issue a statement on Monday.

## Army seize control in Zimbabwe

By Vatican Radio

The bitter rivalry to succeed Robert Mugabe as President of Zimbabwe came to a head Tuesday, November 14 when Zimbabwe's Army chief, Gen Constantino Chiwenga effectively seized control of state power. The military took control of state television Tuesday and announced that it was acting against economic "criminals" surrounding Mugabe.

Mugabe and his family were said to be safe and South African President, Jacob Zuma is said to have spoken with Mugabe. A military spokesperson denied their actions were a coup.

Unconfirmed reports say former Vice President, Emmerson Mnangagwa, sacked by Mugabe about a week ago, has returned to Zimbabwe from South Africa where he had fled. The Army could install him as interim President.



*The Sanctum*

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Grace Mugabe (left) with Emmerson Mnangagwa, the Vice President who was sacked two weeks ago

Other reports say that Mugabe, his wife Grace and some senior members of his circle are under house arrest.

With Mugabe at 93, and becoming feeble by the day, the succession battle has been playing itself out for years.

In the end, it came down to Zimbabwe's first lady, Grace Mugabe, and the former Vice-President Emmerson Mnangagwa.

When Mugabe fired Mnangagwa, it was seen as a move paving the way for Mugabe's wife to be appointed Vice President. This would have put her in line to be 'annointed' President were Mugabe to step down.

Both Mnangagwa and Grace have rival groups backing them within the ZANU PF. This time though it appears the Army and Independence war veterans feel that their interests are better protected under Mnangagwa.

The Zimbabwe Independent newspaper Online describes Mnangagwa as a former security aide and personal

assistant to Mugabe for 50 years.

Mnangagwa will undoubtedly need to reinvent himself and make some democratic concessions in a bid to consolidate power, should he be appointed.

But it is early days and the situation in Zimbabwe unfolding by the hour. Mnangagwa and army allies know they have to contend with the ZANU PF youth wing at some point. The youth wing fiercely backs Grace Mugabe. Perhaps Tuesday's military deployment of tanks and heavy weapons in Harare's suburbs was meant to send a message to Grace's supporters.

On Wednesday, Zimbabwe capital, Harare, mostly remained calm and people stayed indoors.V

## KEY EVENTS FOR DECEMBER 2017

### December 1- World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day takes place on the December 1 each year. It's an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness. Founded in 1988, World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day.

### December 8- Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

It is very appropriate that we celebrate this Feast of the Immaculate Conception as we do during the Season of Advent, when we are preparing to celebrate Christmas, because this Feast invites us all to stop for just a moment, so that we can reflect on how God prepared the world for the coming of the Savior in the birth of Jesus Christ two thousand years ago.

On December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX officially declared the Immaculate Conception a dogma of the Church, which means that all Christians are bound to accept it as true. Our Lady Immaculately Conceived is the patroness of the United States of America thus this is a holy day of obligation in the United States.

### December 13- Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

St. Lucy (283-304) was born in Syracuse, Sicily, where she also died. She was of a noble Greek family, and was brought up as a Christian by her mother, who was miraculously cured at the shrine of St. Agatha in Catania. Lucy made a vow of virginity and distributed her wealth to the poor. This generosity stirred the wrath of the unworthy youth to whom she had been unwillingly betrothed and who denounced her to Paschasius, the governor of Sicily. When it was decided to violate her virginity in a place of shame, Lucy, with the help of the Holy Spirit, stood immovable. A fire was then built around her, but again God protected her. She was finally put to death by the sword. Her name appears in the second list in the Canon

### December 25- Christmas Day

Christmas is an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, observed most commonly on December 25 as a religious and cultural celebration among billions of people around the world. Christmas Day is preceded by the season of Advent. This Day is a holiday in many, but not all, countries.

Many homes usually have Christmas trees and other

decorations in the weeks leading to Christmas Day. Some workplaces hold Christmas parties prior to December 25. Festive activities include exchanging presents, singing Christmas songs, going to parties. It's a special time when children get presents from family, friends and "Santa Claus", or Father Christmas. Christmas cards are also given or sent out prior to Christmas Day. For some, Christmas is an exclusive family affair, while others invite friends to a Christmas buffet. Churches have special services and may include a crèche or miniature Nativity scene.

### December 26- Boxing Day/ Feast of Saint Stephen, first martyr

Boxing Day is a day after Christmas and is only celebrated in a few countries; mainly ones historically connected to the UK. It was started in the UK about 800 years ago, during the middle ages. It was the day when the alms box, collection boxes for the poor often kept in churches, were traditionally opened so that the contents could be distributed to poor people. Some churches still open these boxes on Boxing Day.

The deacon Stephen, stoned in Jerusalem two years after the death of Christ, has always been the object of very special veneration by the faithful. He is the first martyr. The account in the Acts of the Apostles relating his arrest and the accusations brought against him emphasize the parallel with our Saviour's trial; he was stoned outside the city wall and died, like his Master, praying for his executioners. He was one of the seven deacons who helped the apostles; he was "filled with faith and with the Holy Spirit," and was "full of fortitude." The Church draws a comparison between the disciple and his Master, emphasizing the imitation of Christ even unto the complete gift of self. His name is included in the Roman Canon.

### December 28- Feast of the Holy Innocents, martyrs

The Feast of the Holy Innocents dates back to about the fifth century. It commemorates the massacre of the children by King Herod in his attempt to kill the infant Jesus (Matthew 2:16-18). Herod was "greatly troubled" when astrologers from the east came asking the whereabouts of "the newborn king of the Jews," whose star they had seen. Herod became furious and "ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under."

These children were regarded by the early church as the first martyrs. The Holy Innocents are the Patron Saints of babies

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