



DIOCESE OF JINJA

YOUTH APOSTOLATE OFFICE

Rubaga Student's Centre, Plot 53 Kiira Road

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30th July 2018

HALF YEAR REPORT 1ST JANUARY TO 30TH JUNE 2018

DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND:

Most of the priests took the initiative to do youth apostolate in their parishes and schools; however in 1966 a centre was created for the youths. By early 1970's there was Rubaga social centre located on Rubaga Hill (now the Uganda Martyrs' Minor seminary). In March 1974 it was decided that this centre opens up to older youths. Rev. Fr. Picavet, from Holland started conducting weekend seminars for students within and around Jinja at this social centre. In October 1977 Bishop Joseph Willigers appointed Rev. Fr. Wynand Huys (a Mill Hill Missionary from Holland) as youth chaplain and called upon other priests in the Diocese to cooperate with him in this important but neglected apostolate.

When the social centre was transformed into Uganda Martyrs Minor Seminary, it was deemed necessary to shift the social centre to kiira Road Plot 53 where it is now, known as **RUBAGA STUDENTS' CENTRE**. Fr. Picavet continued to work with the youths while Fr. Wynand was the youth chaplain. Rev. Fr. Kees Groenewoud (a Mill Hill Missionary) was appointed Diocesan youth chaplain in 1983 and took up residence at **Rubaga students' centre**. With the help of Mr. Bonaventure Ibanda a social worker, the late Fr. Kees started working with and among the rural youths, mobilizing, organizing and giving them seminars and trainings on leadership, agriculture and development courses across the Diocese, but also continued with the weekend seminars for the youths in schools. In 1987 the first Diocesan Youth Council and executive were formed under the patronage of "ST.GONZAGA GONZA" (one of the Uganda martyrs who hailed from Busoga Region). To date we have a forty year old student's centre with a large number of active youth.

VISION:

Having health responsible youths, with Christian social, moral, economic and political values, with positive and innovative attitude and able to use the available resources efficiently to sustain their development.

MISSION:

Organizing, Evangelizing and involving the youth for integral development.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDENTS CENTRE:

The objectives that guide the youth apostolate office in pursuing her mission and achieving her vision are:

- To net work and coordinate the youth apostolate.

- To promote economic awareness among the youths on how to use the available resources efficiently.
- To create awareness and strengthen the capacity of the youths in preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS.
- To promote Christian and cultural values among the youths.
- To empower the youths to increase qualitative food production at house hold level.
- To promote gender-equality awareness and participation in the youth apostolate.
- To create and promote awareness in the prevention of drug and substance Abuse among the youths.
- To empower the youth to be agents of peace and justice in their communities.
- To disseminate the social teachings of the church among the youths.
- To scale up youth programmes and design new ones.
- To organise the youth in order to actively participate in church related activities.
- To mobilize resources to sustain the youth apostolate.
- To empower the youths to exploit their potential.

PROGRAMMES OFFERED AT THE STUDENTS CENTRE:

- Weekend seminars/ workshops.
- Development courses on income generating activities.
- Youth Day celebrations
- Students' Day celebration.
- Youth conferences
- Holiday programmes for the students
- Monitoring and touring of youth project.
- Meetings.
- Youth Encounter the Saviour (Y.E.S) retreats
- Sunday and Weekday Liturgical celebrations
- Games and sports.
- Talent development.

Some achievements

We have successfully completed the perimeter wall around the centre. The work is looking very beautiful so far.

The main hall which serves as our Church on Sunday has been given a new facelift with tiles put by one of the old boys of the centre and the Christians that pray at the centre.

The small chapel has been renovated and painted with new biblical images.

We have mobilized and strengthened the group of the old boys of the centre.

A new pavers machine has been acquired courtesy of our friends from California.

There is more morale in the rural youth outreach ministry thanks to the donation from the late Fr Kees.

A poultry project has been started at the centre in a move to create more sources of income for the centre.

We have realized a good turn up of Christians for Sunday Mass.

Music lessons are still going on at the centre and our choir called Uganda martyrs choir is doing well.

Our Sunday school which was started by the late Fr Kees is also growing and continued to attract more children.

We have continued to conduct the school outreach ministry in both Catholic and non Catholic schools

Summary of activities

| DATE | ACTIVITY | VENUE | PURPOSE |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------|--|
| 11 st -14 th January | Major seminarians gathering | RSC | Reunion |
| 16 th -20 th January | National Youth conference | Namugongo | Youth animation |
| 26 th -27 th January | Comboni seminarians | Rubaga | Spiritual recollection |
| 2 nd -4 th February | Kyebando rural youth seminar | Kyebando | Youth entrepreneurship |
| 9 th -11 th February | Iganga schools | Iganga | YCS flag day |
| 16 th -18 th | Jinja Girls | RSC | Weekend seminar |
| 23 rd -24 th February | Diocesan Youth Council workshop | RSC | Drafting the year planner |
| 1 st -3 rd March | St John Bosco SS | Kamuli | Spiritual recollection |
| 10 th -11 th March | Jinja urban youth Lenten recollection | RSC | Spiritual Renewal |
| 24 th March | Iganga school of Nursing | ISN | Students leadership seminar and handover party |
| 22 nd -27 March | Pastoral spiritual formation | Walukuba | Spiritual course |
| 28 th April | Catholic Patrons | RSC | Planning for |

| | | | |
|---|--|-----------|--------------------------------|
| | meeting | | schools Apostolate |
| 1 st May | Kakira youth leaders seminar | Kakira | Leaders induction |
| 10 th -13 th May | Bugembe semi- urban youth workshop | Bugembe | Youth Encounter the Saviour |
| 19 th May | How to start and maintain business | Budini | Improving youth livelihood |
| 21 st -23 rd June | Weekend seminar-Matuumu SS | Nawanyago | Youth for Christ |
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PENDING ACTIVITIES

We plan to put up new gates replacing the old ones.

After replacing the roof we are looking forward to acquiring another water tank to harvest more water.

After acquiring a new pavers machine we are going to put compound pavers in some part of the compound. This pavers machine will be used by the community and in a way we think that it will bring some money to the centre.

We are still in need of bed sheets and blankets for our rooms.

Our Jazz band needs some new music instruments like guitar and drum kit.

Leveling of the compound of the centre so as to attract functions for hire.

We still have to work on actualizing the construction of the rental guest wing behind the main building.

WAYFORWARD

We are going to hold our Diocesan youth camp in Budini from the 30th August to 2nd September.

The Diocesan Catholic students' day will be in October.

We further plan to participate in the National youth conference in the Northern part of Uganda in Nebbi Catholic Diocese.

We are starting a new programme in schools called TRY PRAYER/BIBLE CONTEST in schools.

We shall continue with more exciting and educative outreach programmes for the urban, semi urban and rural youth.

Our weekend seminars have continued at the centre but also in schools which are far from Jinja.

VOTE OF THANKS

We would like to thank God who has enabled us to accomplish a number of activities and programmes as you can see above and also in the summary of the pictorial.

We are further moved with gratitude to our beloved donors and friends in the Netherlands that is; M&O Working group-Capelle for their unceasing support and contribution to the youth ministry.

Furthermore, we thank God for the timely donation from the fund of the late Fr Kees courtesy of the Mill Hill house. We promise to do our best as per the wish of the late Fr Kees.

We are further indebted to the diocese of Jinja for the support.

The Cooperation of youth leaders at the Diocesan level and parish youth chaplains.

The high Commitment of some school patrons and head teachers.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Benedict Wakabi', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Fr Benedict Wakabi
Diocesan Youth Chaplain
30th July 2018