



DIOCESE OF JINJA

YOUTH APOSTOLATE OFFICE

Rubaga Student's Centre, Plot 53 Kiira Road

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6th March 2019

A REPORT FOR THE SECOND HALF FROM 1ST TO 31ST DECEMBER 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 strengthened and promoted the rural youth apostolate courtesy of the donation from the late Fr Kees. We hope these will lead to more lobbying, networking and advocacy for those trained. The turn up of the participants is quite promising.

Our poultry project is doing well. We hope to make it bigger in the future if we can get some money.

The Sunday Masses have attracted more people to the centre for prayers.

The new grotto has also promoted the devotion of Mary among the young people who come every day for the Rosary.

We successfully organized a memorial Mass for the Late Kees at the centre and this is going to be an annual event.

We installed new energy saving lighting system at the centre. The bills were becoming too high for us to pay.

There has been an increase in youth church marriages around the Diocese.

We have continued to do more renovation and maintenance on the main building.

The programme for the school outreach ministry in both Catholic and non Catholic schools has continued to take root.

We held a very successful Diocesan youth camp and students day.

Summary of activities

| DATE | ACTIVITY | VENUE | PURPOSE |
|---|---|--------------------|--|
| 1 st July | Diocesan Pilgrimage | Bugonza | |
| 6 th July | Youth Exposure trip | Hoima | Youth networking |
| 11 th July | Joint youth choirs assembly | RSC | To reorganize and involve youth in choirs |
| 15 th July | Youth ministry in Jinja Diocese | Jinja. Kodheyo T.V | Youth healthy living and children upbringing |
| 16 th July | Youth and vocational discernment in Africa | Kampala | How to tap vocations |
| 18 th July | Jinja Diocesan parish youth chaplains meeting | RSC | Planning and evaluation of youth activities |
| 21 st July | Diocesan pastoral youth council seminar | Budini | Planning |
| 27 th -29 th | Weekend seminar St John Bosco | RSC | Leadership course to school prefects |
| 3 rd -5 th August | Weekend seminar | Budini | Carrier guidance. |
| 10 th -12 th | Rural youth Apostolate Jinja Deanary | Kagoma | The culture of saving among the young people |
| 17 th -19 th | Rural youth Apostolate Iganga Deanary | Iganga | How to start and maintain a business |
| 26 th | Parish youth day | Mengo Kisenyi | |
| 30 th August -2 nd Sept | Diocesan youth camp | Budini | Strengthening youth activities |
| 8 th Sept | Youth day | Kamuli | |
| 21 st sept | Weekend seminar | Iganga | Students and prayer |

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|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Greenfields High sch | | |
| 26 th Sept | Opening of youth hall | Salesians Kamuli | |
| 28 th -29 th | Spiritual recollection | Mill Hill | prayer |
| 30 th Sept | Fr Kees memorial Mass | RSC | To keep the legacy of Fr Kees |
| 1 st Oct | Spiritual recollection | Jenima High sch | |
| 2 nd Oct | Blessing of candidates of senior four | New Glory SS | |
| 3 rd Oct | Carrier guidance | Magogo SS | |
| 4 th Oct | School prayer day | Kamuli progressive SS | |
| 13 th Oct | Catholic students day | PCJ | Reunion to students |
| 21 st Oct | Youth encounter the savior | VIVA College sch | |
| 3 rd Nov | Urban Youth prayer day | RSC | |
| 15 th Nov | Blessing of candidates | Jinja Primary teachers college | |
| 16 th -18 Nov | Rural youth Apostolate | Buwaiswa | Land management |
| 12 th -16 th December | National youth cooference | Nebbi | |

PENDING ACTIVITIES.

Most of the pending activities are still the same as those we put in the report of the first half.

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.

We renovated the rooms but still no need of bed sheets and blankets for our rooms.

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

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

We intend in the near future to install a solar system at the centre.

WAYFORWARD

We are going to elect new Diocesan youth leaders later this year.

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.

N.B it is the practice of the church to pray for the dead and so we request if possible that you could send us some names of our departed donors from M & O Working Group so that we could offer them Masses. We feel we do not have a better a way of thanking them for their contribution towards them apart from saying Masses for them.

VOTE OF THANKS

Our hearts are filled with gratitude to God who has blest our ministry as put in the photos attached.

Secondly, we grateful to our beloved donors and friends in the Netherlands that is; M&O Working group-Capelle for their unceasing support and contribution and guidance to the youth ministry. We are thankful too to Peter Simons for his wonderful coordination.

We cannot e thank God for the donation from the fund of the late Fr Kees towards the promotion and programmes among the rural youth courtesy of the Mill Hill house. We shall continue to serve and fulfill the dreams of Fr Kees.

We are further indebted to the Bishop of 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

6th March 2019