



DIOCESE OF JINJA

YOUTH APOSTOLATE OFFICE

Rubaga Student's Centre, Plot 53 Kiira Road

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26th JULY 2017

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. 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 1977 Rev. Fr. Wynand Huys (a Mill Hill Missionary from Holland) was appointed as youth chaplain.

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**. 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, something we are still carrying out as an office/ centre. To date we have a forty year old student's centre with a large number of active youth. And I want say that for over forty years now the centre has received material, spiritual and financial support from M&O Working group from Netherlands.

The centre now is under the leadership of Fr Ben Wakabi who is serving as the director of the centre and the Diocesan youth chaplain, with the help of a manager of the centre Emmanuel Kawanguzi who also serves as the Diocesan Youth Coordinator. We also have other people who help at the centre in one way or the other.

Objectives

- 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 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 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.

Among the programmes we have been able to realize so far in the centre and around the Diocese of Jinja are the following;

- We have conducted weekend seminars/ workshops.
- We carried development courses on income generating activities.
- We have held Diocesan Youth Day celebrations.
- We had a successful Students' Day celebration.
- Youth conferences
- Holiday programmes for the students
- Monitoring and touring of youth project.
- Games and sports.

Summary of activities from 1st January to 30th June 2017

January			
Date	Activity	Objective	Venue
12th-15th 2017	Major seminarians gathering	Reunion	RSC
20TH-22 Amuria	Youth Leaders visit	Benchmarking	Amuria
26th	Uganda Martyrs General meeting	Strengthening and planning	RSC
February			
3rd	Catechist and Youth	The role of youth in church and how to bring them on board	Kamuli
4th-5th	Diocesan pastoral youth council meeting	Drafting the annual plan	RSC
16th	Iganga deanery youth music festival	Talent promotion	Iganga
22nd	Youth encounter the Saviour	Spiritual renewal	Jinja school of Nursing
23rd	Carrier guidance	Helping students in making choices	Mother Kevin SS
March			
10th -12th	Weekend seminar	Responsible living	RSC
18th 19th	Youth/students Lenten recollection	Easter preparation	RSC
25th	Urban youth and the HIV/AIDS		Enkabi centre
April			
1st	Youth meeting		RSC
7th-9th	Weekend		RSC
23RD	Jinja youth party	Reunion	RSC
May			
5th	Term one ends		

7 th -13 th	Pastoral spiritual year		Walukuba
25 th -28 th	Bishop/youth visit	Exposure	Same Tanzania
29 th	Term two begins		
June			
16 th -18	Weekend seminar		St Patrick Kigulu
24 th	YCS enrollment		PCJ
25 th	Youth recollection	Leadership training	Bugembe

Some of the achievements.

We have managed to renovate some part of the centre courtesy of some friends from Jinja and Kampala as seen in the photos. This has created a new ambiance of the centre both outside but also in some rooms that have been worked on.

We have succeeded in conducting a number of weekend seminars and workshops both at the centre and also in several schools around the diocese.

Our choir Uganda martyrs choir has gained more popularity as they have been invited to animate several functions.

Our water tank has continued to help cut down some cost of water bills especially when it rains.

We acquired a new Altar and priests chair for our chapel as seen in the photos.

We have received 3 brick making machines from some friends from United States of America. 2 are manual and one auto. Work has already started of making bricks.

Plans

We intend to embark on putting a perimeter all around the centre now that we have the bricks for making these bricks. This will improve on the safety and security of the centre.

Our project that we applied for the funds from PMS office in Rome last year was approved and so we are starting roofing the centre from the first week of August as we look for more money to put the centre and further put the room in order.

Our rooms lack good bedsheets and blankets and so we are looking forward to acquiring new ones.

We intend to participate in the National youth conference in Kabale Diocese in December.

As Jinja diocese marks fifty years, the Apostolic Nuncio to Uganda will have a full day with the youth of Jinja Diocese at Our Lady of Fatima.

We further intend to continue with the weekend seminars and workshops, Catholic students day celebrations in October.

This year we are not going to have the diocesan youth camp simply because all parishes are focusing on the Golden Jubilee of the Diocese.

Vote of gratitude

Thank you friends for your kindness and generosity without which our apostolate would have been in vain. And so on behalf of Rubaga students centre and Youth Apostolate Office, I convey our messages of gratitude to all the members M & O Working group, under the coordination of Peter Simons. To the youth leaders, chaplains, patrons and heads of schools for the wonderful cooperation in this noble task of mentoring the future generation.

Yours Faithfully,

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

Fr Benedict Wakabi
Diocesan Youth Chaplain