



DIOCESE OF JINJA

YOUTH APOSTOLATE OFFICE

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END OF YEAR REPORT 1ST JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2016

I greet you from a most heartfelt feeling from Rubaga Students centre/Youth Office. We thank God who has made it possible for us to minister to the young people and to the of M&O Working Group who have made it possible for us to be able conduct the centre activities and also the youth programmes around the Diocese.

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, 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 acquired a new keyboard courtesy of the support and donation of M & O Working group.

13 of our youth of the Diocese of Jinja participated in the World youth day in Poland.

The main hall has been renovated with a new roof, new ceiling, window mosquito nets, new curtains, new lighting, fans, tails at the front part of the hall and fully painted and hence this has given it an a look.

Secondly, our shower rooms and toilets attached to the main hall have also been renovated with wall and floor tiles, new toilet system and also a new system in the shower rooms. We would like to extend our vote of thanks for the donation you sent us that partly contributed to the new facelift of the main hall and the washroom.

We successfully hosted the National youth conference in December that attracted hundreds of young people from 3 different countries that is Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda for the very first time to host youth from our Uganda during the national youth conference.

We further had colourful annual students' at PCJ. This also brought together many students from across the Diocese.

We won the foot ball trophy at the National level after defeating Lira Diocese 1-0 during the National Youth conference. However, we lost the Netball to Kampala Archdiocese.

We had a successful tour in many schools where we carried out sensitization and mobilization to students and teachers on a number of issues.

Many schools and institutions turned up for the weekend seminars and workshops at the centre as you will see in the summary of the activities.

Our choir of the students centre has gained more fame because of their singing. It is indeed a committed choir. Due to their style of singing it has attracted many young people to join it.

We registered quite a good number of young people especially in the third term turning up in the computer room for research.

Our water tank is still in good shape however, due to the long dry season which has lasted from almost October to date, as I write now it is empty for now some time.

A number of parishes had inter-parish exchange tour as a way of knowing each other and sharing faith experiences.

Summary of activities

Date	Activity	Venue	No. Participants
2/7/2016	Patron's meeting	RSC	19
10/7/2016	PMM/ Mwiri reunion	RSC	73
12/7/2016	Youth Meeting	Cathedral	
24/7/2016	Leadership training for Jinja College (prefects)	RSC	52
30/7/2016	Diocesan Youth Pastoral council	RSC	57
31/7/2016	St Peter's High School	RSC	
5-7/8/2016	Trinity College	RSC	
9-10/9/2016	Youth Executive meeting	RSC	13

18/9/2016	Cathedral/Irundu sports day	Irundu	
20/9/2016	Transport/accommodation committee meeting for National youth conference	Cathedral	41
24/9/2016	Namwendwa Youth day	Namwendwa	
1/10/2016	Cathedral Youth visit Fort Portal	Fort Portal	38
3-4/10/2016	Matuumu SS Recollection	Matuumu	
7-10/10/2016	St Andrea Kaahwa SS	Kibaale	
15/10/2016	Students day	PCJ	
22-23/10/2016	Nsambya youth visit Fatima youth	Fatima	
27/10/2016	National Youth conference meeting	RSC	28
28/10/2016	Kamuli school of Nursing school	Source of the Nile	
29/10/2016	Busedde SS	RSC	62
31/10/2016	St Benedict P/S	Wanyange	
5/11/2016	Youth Council	RSC	
11-13/11/2016	Youth Family life seminar	RSC	32
13-15/11/2016	St Cyprian Kyabadde High School	Nagalama	
19/11/2016	Jinja College staff Recollection	PCJ	106
9/12/2016	Mbikko Recollection	Generalate	18
14-18/12/2016	National Youth Celebrations	Jinja College	

WAY FORWARD

We plan to continue with the promotion of talent development through sports and music by acquiring more music instruments to boost our choir.

Weekend workshops and seminars have proved appreciated by many people.

Furthermore, we plan to continue with the renovation of other parts of the building which are leaking especially on the wing of the hostels for visitors.

We are still considering a possibility of acquiring solar energy system so as to cut down the bills especially on lighting.

Appreciation Note

The success of our activities in this period has been due to the financial aid, moral support and guidance from:

1. To our beloved donors in the Netherlands that is; M&O Working group-Capelle and the diocese of Jinja. No words can explain the support, generosity that you show us.
2. The Cooperation of some youth leaders at the Diocesan level and parish youth chaplains.
3. The high Commitment of some school patrons and head teachers.
4. Finally, to all the youth who are devoted to serving the church and willing to participate in the centre programs

Yours Faithfully,



Fr Benedict Wakabi
Diocesan Youth Chaplain
7th, February, 2017