



# DIOCESE OF JINJA

YOUTH APOSTOLATE OFFICE

Rubaga Student's Centre, Plot 53 Kiira Road

P.O. Box 2144 Jinja – Uganda.

Phone: +256-434-124122 / +256-774-202406

E-MAIL: [bennteba2015@gmail.com](mailto:bennteba2015@gmail.com)

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## A REPORT FOR THE SECOND HALF FROM 1<sup>st</sup> JANUARY TO 31<sup>st</sup> JULY 2019

### DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND OF THE CENTRE AND YOUTH APOSTOLATE OF THE DIOCESE:

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**

=Through some friend we acquired a three phase diesel generator which is used when there is load shedding.

=We have installed surveillance cameras (CCTV). This helps a lot with security in and around the centre.

=We were visited by Tom Beuker a nephew of Fr Kees and Yannick from the Netherlands. We had very good time with them.

=The youth visited the childrens hospital during Holy week and offered the sick children some basic items.

=We bought new liturgical books (Missals), three volumes.

=Some new pairs of bed sheets we bought to be used in our guest rooms.

=We initiated a youth healing and deliverance Mass at the centre.

=We renovated the boy's rooms.

=The poultry project is still doing well.

=The school outreach ministry in schools has continued.

=We managed to conduct and elect new youth bearers right from the parishes to the Diocesan level.

=We successfully hosted the youth who visited our Diocese for benchmarking from Kampala Nsambya parish.

### **THE SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES**

<b>NO</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>VENUE</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>
1	1.1.2019	New year youth party	Cathedral hall	
2	10.1.2019	Major seminarians gathering	Buluba	
3	20.1.2019	Youth friends in focus	Mbikko	
4	24.1.2019	Young entrepreneurs	Wesunire	
5	4.2.2019	Beginning of first academic term		
6	8-10.2019	Youth and modern farming	Kamuli	
7	16-17.2019	Youth and vocational discernment	Wanyange	
8	21-24.2019	Youth workshop and election of new diocesan leaders.	RSC	
9	26.2.2019	School ministry	Mother Kevin	
10	7.3.2019	School recollection	St Agnes Nagalama	
11	8-10.3.2019	Rural ministry	Iganga	Start your own business (SOB)
12	15-17.3.2019	Weekend seminar	Kamuli school of Nursing and midwifery	
13	30.3.2019	Spiritual recollection	Kagoma	Youth and religious life
14	13.4.2019	Semi urban youth	Fatima	
15	16.4.2019	Youth talk	Tororo	Carrier guidance
16	23-25.2019	School girl guides	RSC	Empowering girl child
17	26.4.2019	Primary school ministry	St Patrick P/S	
18	27-29.4.2019	Arrival and departure of Tom and Yannick	RSC	

19	28.4.2019	Youth Mass with Tom and Yannick	RSC	
20	2.5.2019	School ministry	PMM girls school	
21	3.5.2019	End of academic term		
22	4-5.2019	Rural youth workshop	Buswale	
23	15.5.2019	School Apostolate	Jinja school of Nursing	
24	17-19.5.2019	Semi-urban youth seminar	Bugembe	Anti domestic campaign
25	7.6.2019	Diocesan youth executive	RSC	
26	13-15.6.2019	Weekend seminar	St John Bosco SS	
27	23.6.2019	Try prayer schools contest	Bugembe	
28	26.6.2019	School prefects seminar	Jinja College	
29	28.6.2019	St Michael primary school	Namunyumya	
30	29.6.2019	Praise and Worship recollection	RSC	

### **Ongoing activities**

=Our computer laboratory is set still in operation.

=We are going to have a diocesan catholic student's day in October.

=The outreach programmes for the urban, semi urban and rural youth will continue.

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

=We intend to have Fr Kees memorial day/ Mass celebrated here at the centre.

=The work on the centre gardens is still ongoing and so far the work is looking good.

=We are also seriously mobilizing for the National youth conference to be held in the Diocese of Kasana Luwero.

### **CHALLENGES**

=Busy and tight school programmes which sometimes do not favor our activities.

=We lack good blankets in the guest rooms.

=Early this year one of the trees on the compound at the centre was blown down by a strong wind and as a result it brought down some part on the perimeter wall.

=We got a setback with the Fr Kees rural youth fund since it has not yet come and yet we had early this year planned for it and activities have been going hoping that it will be sent later.

## VOTE OF THANKS

Our sincere vote of thanks 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 equally grateful to Tom Beuker and Yannick for their visit to Rubaga students centre. Thanks Peter Simons for the connecting them to us.

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**

28<sup>th</sup> August, 2019