



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

20th February, 2020

A REPORT FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR 1st-JULY-31st DECEMBER 2020

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

=We managed to conduct a number of successful rural/urban workshops on financial literacy, youth responsible living, youth in the mission of the church and society, youth livelihood programs among many others.

=We have slowly but steadily started on the construction a modern outside toilet at the following the recommendation of the municipal authorities.

=We replaced the curtains in the main hall that were stolen in 2018.

= We held a wonderful annual Catholic students day at PCJ that attracted quite a number of students around the Diocese.

=As we had agreed in our Diocesan pastoral youth council, that in memory of Fr Kees we would be holding the Fr Kees day call it memorial day, even this time we celebrated it at the centre.

=The work on the gardens of the centre is ongoing but so far so good. We hope these gardens upon completion will help to raise some money for the centre.

=The youth choir that is Uganda Martyrs youth choir of the centre has continued to win admiration around the Diocese as they have received invitations to animate Masses in so many places.

=The perimeter wall was painted with water repellent varnish to keep it strong against the strong rains.

=The youth healing and deliverance Mass at the centre is still going on and i want to report that the turn is really massive.

=The school outreach ministry in schools has continued.

=To promote talents especially through games and sports, we gave out balls of football, volleyball and netballs to parish teams and this has strengthened and brought back more morale to the fans of sports. Inter parish competitions and friendly encounters have been held.

=Through Fr wijnand Huys we received music instruments such as a tenor sax, Alto Sax, trumpet, 2 flutes, a new set of drum set, 2 sets of choir and jazz uniforms, stands for the choir.

=We actively participated in the National youth conference which was held in Kasana-Luwero. We were represented by 94 youths from Jinja Diocese.

THE SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

No	Date	Activity	Purpose	Venue
1	1st.7.2019	Postulants course		Nalufenya
2	4th.7.2019	Seminarian gathering		Rsc
3	6th.7	Patrons meeting		Rsc
4	7th.7	Diocesan pilgrimage		Bugonza
5	11th.7	Tutors/instructors recollection, Salesians of Don Bosco		Kamuli
6	14th.7	New Glory SS		Buwenge
7	19th -21st	PMM girls school	Weekend seminar	Rsc
8	27th-28th	Buyala youth workshop	Financial literacy	Cathedral
9	3rd -4th August	Youth executive meeting	Evaluation workshop	Rsc
10	7th August	St Francis De Sales Iyolwa	Students recollection	Tororo
11	17th August	Ordinations		Namilari
12	23rd. August	End of term		All schools
13	30th -31st	Kyebando Youth workshop		Mayuge

14	6th-8th September	Namasagali campus students recollection		Kamuli
15	16th September	Urban youth seminar on business management and culture of saving	Workshop	RSC
16	20th -22nd September	Kamuli Sch of Nursing and midfrey		Kamuli
17	2nd October	Kamuli Progressive school	Prayer day	Kamuli
18	5th October	Annual Catholic students day		PCJ
19	6th October	Mt.St.Henry SS	Blessing senior candidates	Mukono
20	9th October	Namwendwa youth workshop	Youth livelihood	Kamuli
21	10th -11th October	St John Bosco SS	School prayer retreat	Kamuli
22	18th October	Seeta Junior	Blessing Pupils of primary seven	Lugazi
23	20th October	Wesunire youth seminar	Financial literacy	RSC
24	25th -27th October	Weekend seminar		Kiyunga
25	2nd November	Seeta High School	Blessing Mass for senior senior six	Lugazi
26	10th November	Youth pastoral council		RSC
27	24th November	Bishops 40 years in priesthood and 25 years as Bishop		Cathedral
28	1st -6th December	Clergy Retreat		Tororo
29	10th -15th December	National Youth conference		Kasan-Luvero
30	18th December	Seminarian and culture seminar		RSC
31	22nd December	Uganda Martyrs Choir	Annual party	RSC
32	29th 31st December	Retreat with the Holy Cross Sisters		Rubaga Hill
33	31st December	New Year prayers	Overnight	Kamuli.

CHALLENGES

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

=We lack good blankets in the guest rooms.

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 equally grateful to Peter Simons for his selfless support and coordination.

Our pickup double cabin broke down and was such a big setback for us. A lot of money was spent to put it right. We thank you friends of M & O for standing with us and the Diocese for all the support.

We are indeed indebted to the Mill Hill Family through whom we received the support of the late Fr Kees to strengthen the apostolate. Their financial support has greatly boosted and revived the ministry.

The support and Cooperation of youth leaders at all levels, friends of the youth and parish youth chaplains.

We did not have a diocesan youth camp last year simply because of the many diocesan related programs which prompted the Diocesan pastoral coordinator to request all the different chaplains to suspend the groups celebrations like the youth camp.

A vote of gratitude to the school heads and patrons who have been very supportive to our ministry and activities.

In all I can say that it was a good year as we managed to conduct most planned activities.

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
20th February, 2020