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FAITH DOING JUSTICE

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Dear friends and collaborators,

As we approach Christmas, the Staff of John Paul II Justice and Peace Centre wants to share with you some news and reflections.

The 2nd Synod for Africa:



Some of the Bishops during the synod

Bishops and delegates from all over the African Continent and the world gathered in Rome from the 4 to the 25th Oct. 2009. to reflect on the challenges of **Reconciliation, Justice and Peace.**

Some 236 different speeches were delivered during the Synod.

“There is no easy way “, said the Pope during the luncheon that gathered all the participants around Benedict XVI,” the temptation would be to fall into politicking or to spiritualize everything” he explained. “However, the problems and obstacles we come across should not prevent us , following the example of the cripple at the Pool of Bethzatha, from

taking up our mat and walking onwards”. Jn. 5,9

You might have read the final message and the 57 recommendations of the Synod:

The following were highlighted:

- **Economic and Political Justice** the Synod recommends re-enforcing education in a culture of justice and peace.
- **Social justice and inequality**, the Synod recommends developing a new and holistic system of education.
- **Justice and food security**, the Synod recommends a sustainable, familial, social and ecological model, and to invest in rural areas and to develop public services.
- **Justice between women and men**, the Synod recommends including women at all levels of decision making in the State and the Church.
- **Sustainable peace in Africa**, the Synod recommends lobbying against weapons trade and to develop a culture of peace and integral development.
- **Inter-religious conflicts**, the Synod suggests promoting inter-religious dialogue.
- **Human rights and democracy**, the Synod says to advocate a culture of transparency and integrity, to care for the urgent needs of the vulnerable and for the environment
- **Africa reconciled with globalization**, the Synod urges that some key sectors like health, education, provision of water, infrastructures and other areas, be in the hands of the State. Transnational companies should invest in Africa in transparency and seeking the common good.

“ Africa arise and walk “! (Jn.5,9)

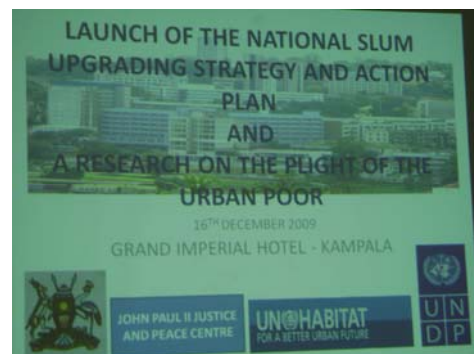
I. EVENTS

1. THE CHAIRPERSON OF JPIIJC- BOG : FR. GIUSEPPE FILIPPI BECOMES BISHOP OF KOTIDO

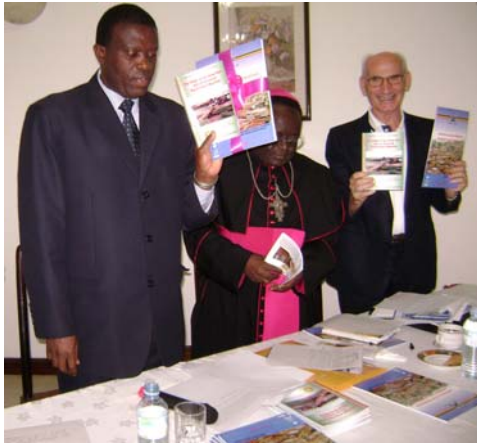
JPIIJC is happy and congratulates Fr. Giuseppe Filippi, the Chairperson of the BOG for being chosen to be the new Bishop of Kotido diocese. We miss him already for he was and still remains deeply committed to the objectives and running of the Centre.

2. LAUNCHING OF THE RESEARCH FINDINGS IN TEN SLUMS OF KAMPALA

“The plight of the urban poor and yet increased rural-urban migration”



On the 16th December 09, a joint launching by the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development on one hand and JPIIJC on the other, took place at the Grand Imperial Hotel in Kampala. Prior to the national launching organized by the Ministry, the research findings were shared with the slum dwellers in view of empowering and supporting them in their efforts to improve their situation.



Hon. Michael Kafubusa- Minister of State for Housing,
Archbishop Cyprian Kizito Lwanga –Kampala Archdioces,
Fr. Lazaro Bustince MAfr –Director - JPZJPC

The findings highlighted that the situation of the families in the ten slums of Kampala is more precarious than last year. Then, the Government also shared their upgrading strategy and action plan to improve the living conditions of the slum dwellers. Arch. Cyprian K.Lwanga and Hon Minister Michael Werikhe were present, as well as other Ministries and institutions representatives. 132 participants attended and 50 of those came from the slums.

3. MEETING WITH THE UGANDA EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE.

On the 6th Nov.09, the director of JPIIJPC met the Bishops of Uganda , gathered for their regular Nov. meeting. An update of the activities and challenges of the center was shared with them. The Bishops greatly appreciated the contribution of JPIIJPC to make the Catholic Social Teaching (CST) more known and relevant to teachers, parents and leaders. This resonates very well with the recommendations of the Synod for Africa. Several Bishops plan to start

a serious program on the CST for their diocesan pastoral agents and educators.

4. CONSTANT “GHOSTS” EMPTYING PUBLIC COFFERS

For the last few weeks in Uganda the national media have revealed many “GHOSTS”

- On the 25th Nov. we read in the New Vision, that 100 ghost health centre were uncovered,
- On the 19th Nov. we read in the Daily Monitor, that 9 billions were spent on absentee Chogm delegates.
- On 26th Oct. Daily Monitor, more than one million voters were ghost in 2006
- On the 3th Nov., the President acknowledged that ghost voters existed,
- On 31st. Nov. the Daily Monitor reported that 80 b. sh. of The National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) had disappeared.
- On 15th Oct., Daily Monitor, Government aims to eliminate ghost pupils, ghosts soldiers, ghosts, ghosts, ghosts !

II. ACTIVITIES

1.CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING (CST) EDUCATION FOR SELECTED GROUPS OF PARENTS AT DEANERY LEVEL.

During the last three months the Centre has carried out four CST sessions of two days each for selected groups of parents (7 couples from each parish) at a

deanery level. So far we have met parents in Lira: Apach and Doko deaneries, in Hoima: Kibale and Hoima deaneries.



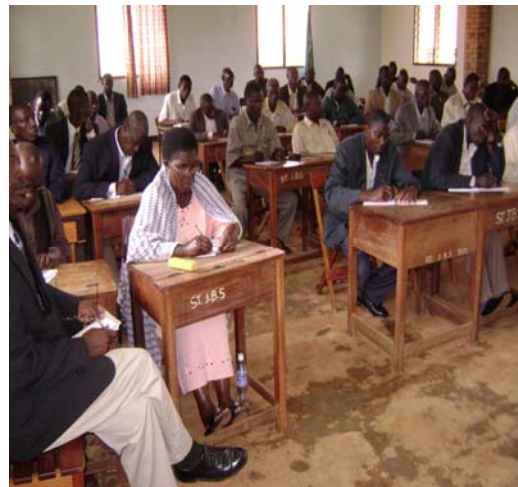
CST for parents in Lira

The aim is to train parents interested in promoting justice, peace and integrity of creation in the local parish communities. The centre plans to accompany these groups at least once a year.

The Synod for Africa has awakened the interest and demand for sessions on JPIC in many dioceses of Uganda.

2.ETHICS-CIVIC EDUCATION FOR TEACHERS OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

JPIIJC has carried out a three days workshops (Friday to Sunday) for teachers in four dioceses : Hoima, Soroti, Kabale and Kasese. The teachers who attended ethics-civic education workshops were between 30 to 56 participants in each diocese. The teachers see the urgent need for ethics-civic education.



Teachers in Hoima during the training

They are also eagerly waiting for the Ethics-civic education manual the Centre is completing soon. The long term aim is that ethics-civic education becomes part of the national Curriculum in all learning Institutions of Uganda. To this effect, we remain in collaboration with the Ministry of education.

2.CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING IN GGABA NATIONAL SEMINARY

The Centre has started a program of lectures on CST, from the community experience perspective, at Ggaba national seminary. These lectures take place once every month.

1.RESEARCH ON FOOD INSECURITY

JPIIJC is carrying out a research on food insecurity in four districts of Uganda, namely: Adjumani, Arua, Amuria and Katakwi districts in Soroti region. This will be a comparative study on the food situation in two different regions of Uganda.



Some of the children who suffer the impasse of famine Katakwi

The publication of the findings should be ready by the end of Feb..2010

2.ADVENT RADIO PROGRAMS

As in the last two years, the Centre continues to present one hour radio programs every Sunday of Advent . The program is called “the social Gospel”, and you can follow it on Radio Maria between 8,30 and 9,30 pm every Sundays.

3.WORKSHOP FOR THE RELIGIOUS MAJOR SUPERIORS OF UGANDA.

On the 11th Nov., the Centre was invited to facilitate a workshop with all the Religious Major Superiors of Uganda on the themes of Advocacy and the 2nd Synod for Africa. It is hoped that the Religious Major Superiors become more involved and pro-active in the implementation of the Synod recommendations.

III. ATTENDING MEETINGS AND NETWORKING

1. EVALUATION OF TROCAIRE

Trocaire has carried out a serious evaluation on the collaboration with local partners like JPIIIPC.

A professional consultant was employed by Trocarie for this purpose. One of the recommendations of this evaluation is that the Centre must mainstream and prioritize the issues of gender and care for the environment in all the programs.

2. NETWORKING

Representatives of several close partners have visited the centre: MANITOBA University, UMU, COVENTRY, HAKIMANI, JCTR, DUKE, AGEH, DKA, MISEREOR, TROCAIRE to keep improving the quality and impact of our cooperation.

3. CAPACITY BUILDING

AGEH facilitated a workshop of two days for local partners on the new method for planning, monitoring and evaluation, called: **Outcome Mapping!** Its is a very helpful method to assess the change of behavior of partners , collaborators and target groups.

4. POLITICAL ELECTIONS

JPIIIPC continues to work together with UJCC to help in preparing the citizens through civic education for the upcoming elections of 2011.

IV. UPCOMING EVENTS

1. CONTINUED TRAINING

The centre will continue with regular Ethics-civic training workshops for Teachers and CST sessions for selected groups of parents and leaders in all dioceses of Uganda.

2. RESEARCH

During the first quarter of 2010, the Centre will publish the research carried out on “food insecurity” in four districts of Uganda. JPIIIPC will also carry out another research on the slums of Kampala, extending the research to new informal settlements and enlarging the questionnaires on the issue of rural-urban migration.

3. JANUARY GATHERINGS

During the month of January, the Centre attends several important gatherings: Bujumbura meeting on “Political participation and leadership”, the annual Peace week in Arua from 10th to 16th and others.

4. NEW BILLS FROM PARLIAMENT

There are some Bills still in discussion and not public, namely: Land bill, Homosexuality and Female mutilation. It is important to focus and speak on the most crucial issues of this nation: land grabbing, corruption, poor leadership, food insecurity, poverty, degradation of the environment, gender abuse etc.

Our Stand is and will always be: the Stand of the Gospel and of the CST:

- respect of the Dignity of every human being, especially the most vulnerable,
- respect for human rights and duties
- compassionate justice towards every one.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. NEW STAFF MEMBER

In Feb. 2010, we expect the arrival of the new member of JPIIIPC staff: Mrs. Kai von Ungem-Sternberg, a lawyer and member of AGEH. Welcome!

2. NEW STRATEGIC PLAN OF ACTION

The centre is evaluating the first Strategic Plan of action 2008-2010 in view of drafting a new one 2010-2012 to keep the staff focused in all commitments.

The Staff of JPIIIPC wishes all our collaborators and friends a very Blessed Christmas and may the new year 2010 bring to us all a renewed commitment to promote justice, integral human development, care for the environment and true Peace.