



## JOHN PAUL II JUSTICE AND PEACE CENTRE

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### *FAITH DOING JUSTICE*

### **NEWSLETTER No.7. April-June 09**

Dear Friends and collaborators:

20.6.09

#### **1. EVENTS ACTIVITIES:**

#### **& JPIC- MDD at Uganda Martyrs SS Namugongo**

#### **Research and Advocacy**

Following up the last year research: Kampala Basic Needs Basket (KBNB) the centre has carried out a wider research this year entitled : “The plight of the urban poor and the increased rural-urban migration”. It is a socio-economic analysis done in ten informal settlements of Kampala. The booklet is being printed right now and in one week it will be available at JPIIJC centre. Note that this time we have expanded the research from six to ten informal settlements and looked into the reasons for rural-urban migration.

Another research has been implemented regarding the Traditional Wisdom values with two representatives from all the main ethnic groups in Uganda. This was the third workshop completed with them. The audio-visual material gathered at the workshops is being edited and will be included in the manuals for ethics-civic education.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> June we attended a full day of JPIC education through Music, Dance and Drama (MDD) organized and carried out by the students-staff of the above school. Hundreds of parents attended the festival.

Five plays of one hour each, presented different social challenges from the justice and peace perspective. JPIIJC had offered, at their request, some themes or reflections on reconciliation, justice and peace. This informal way of education through MDD is a very powerful , enjoyable and creative way of raising awareness and commitment to JPIC issues. This initiative could be taken to other centers of learning and houses of formation. We were deeply impressed with the standards of acting and content of the plays, all of which were underlining justice and peace challenges. The quality of their dances was excellent. The whole MDD festival was most educative and relevant.

## Open lectures on JPIC

For five evenings in May , JPIIJC conducted Open Lectures for the students of Kampala International University (KIU), from 2pm to 5pm each day ( 15 hours in all) on the themes: J.P Environment and Human Rights. These open lectures were very appreciated and JPIIJC plans to extend such seminars to other universities and houses of formation. Any one interested do not hesitate to contact JPIIJC

## Training

Seven CST sessions have been carried out for parents and parish leaders in several parishes: 3 in Lira, 3 in Nebbi and one each in Moroto, Naoi Parish. At the moment we are focusing very much on the North and North east of the Country. Why ? Though the level of tension and violence is increasing in the whole Country by the day, the situation of land, food and life insecurity is more dramatic in the North and N.East.

Other CST sessions for religious leaders have taken place in Gulu (27-31 May 09), Mbarara (16 may), at Gogonya (29 April), at St Augustine's for priests (16-23 May).

**While in Gulu** we had inspiring contacts with some relevant opinion leaders in the area, including Pabbo camp. We celebrated Pentecost at Pabbo IDP camp. It is simply amazing to see their Faith! About 35.000 people still remain in the camp. We also learned that most of the camp IDP, because no food is given to them now, are moving into other smaller camps, closer to their original area. Sr. Mary Castello informed us about the extraordinary

resilience of people who made the best of an inhuman situation. They also felt little support for the last 20 years, from the south of the Country

## Evaluation

The Staff of JPIIJC engaged on 8-10<sup>th</sup> of June in a systematic and in depth evaluation facilitated by our consultant Dr. F.X.Bisasso. We analyzed the programs and activities carried out in the context of the Strategic Plan: 2008-2010. The purpose was to learn from the past experience and make some recommendations for the future. We found the exercise very beneficial and necessary to keep re-focusing and prioritizing activities in the line of our basic objectives.

## Interviews with Fr. Joseph Okumu, Arch. J.B.Odama

As we were in Gulu , we conducted some interviews with some charismatic and outstanding leaders in the region.

The first one was Fr. Joseph who is the director of Gulu Catechetical centre and who is also an anthropologist. He is involved in a very systematic research on the Acholi culture.

The second interview was with Arch. J.B. Odama, archbishop of Gulu, who is also chairperson of the Justice and Peace commission of the U.E.C. His witness, experience and reflections on the conflict resolution and reconciliation in the North is invaluable and most impressive. His commitment to JPIC education, starting with the families is very enlightening , saying: "If the family is not at peace, we will have broken children and broken society ".

We have already planned another interview with Hon Norbert Mao, LC5 in Gulu who can open many contacts for ethics-civic education in the North.

## **Building the new premises**

The foundations have started to appear above the ground level. During 09 we hope to see all the foundations finished as well as the main building, leaving the two wings for 2010

## **The Comboni Sisters have joined the founding members of JPIIIPC and therefore the BOG.**

JPIIIPC was first started by five Missionary Congregations and officially opened on the 10.11.07. We are very happy for the first Community of Sisters joining us as founding members and so form part of the BOG of the centre.

Their Provincial Sr. M.Rita already attended her first BOG meeting. We trust that other Sisters Congregations will gradually join us.

## **The world environment day: 5<sup>TH</sup> June.**

**“Uganda needs you: Unite to combat Climate Change”** was the theme, as published by the Monitor 5.6.09. An estimated 20 per cent of emissions contributing to Climate Change globally are as a result of deforestation. Ugandans are warned on bad climate, says the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). JPIIIPC marked the above occasion by planting seven trees in the new premises.

## **2. ATTENDING SESSIONS**

### **Land grabbing**

As you are aware, land grabbing is going out of hand. The powerful “investors” grab land at the expense of the poor farmers creating an explosive situation in several parts of the Country. 31 districts have serious problems of land grabbing in Uganda. On the 18<sup>th</sup> June New Vision we read that “The land disputes keep increasing in many areas while most of the district land boards are not fully operational as mandated by the land act of 1998. In Bunyoro alone the land wrangles between the Bagungu and Balaalo have continued to date, resulting into hundreds of killings over the last two years”. Other countries like Egypt also want some 840.00 ha of land in Uganda. “Why this latest scramble for land in Uganda, Africa and elsewhere?” asks W.Schonecke. “Three factors: the financial crisis, the food crisis and the energy crisis.”. Source: New People No.120 May June and: <mailto:infoserv@africafiles.org>

Being such a big challenge, we need to join other groups and NGOs like Trocaire to network and empower people to face this challenge.

### **Trocaire and partners**

Trocaire organized the annual partners meeting in Gulu, May 25-27, to look into the implications of the financial crisis on the funding of the programs and into the degradation of the environment. We are grateful for the

support and collaboration with such serious partners.

## **AGEH workshop on monitoring and evaluation**

On 24 to 27 June 09, AGEH (Association for Development Co-operation) planned a 3 day session on monitoring and evaluation for all the partners in Uganda. There is a felt need, that we must be taking more seriously the question of systematic planning, monitoring, and evaluating our programs and activities if we want to optimize our performance. To have a lasting impact, we need to become more effective and efficient in all our activities.

## **3.FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

1. From the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> Aug.09, the **International Unions of Superiors General** of all Religious (USG/UISG) are organizing a JPIC training session for members ministering in Anglophone East Africa.

2. **Sessions in CST^ for Comboni Sisters:**

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug.09 one day in Moroto

On 29<sup>th</sup> Aug. one day in Gulu

On 23 Sept. one day in Namugongo

3. **Catechists centre in Kasese, Kangole and Mityana:**

A three-four day session is being planned at each of the above centres.

4. **CST sessions in Ggaba**

JPIIJPC will start regular sessions on CST in Aug.09 at Ggaba National Seminary. We trust that

these sessions, from the people's experience perspective, will reach other centres of learning and houses of formation.

## **5. Further CST sessions are being organized for parents in parishes of the North and North East.**

## **Publications**

- In about 2 weeks the new research in the informal settlements of Kampala will be available with the title: “ **The plight of the urban poor and yet increased rural-urban migration**”
- The booklet on **Human Dignity** (the first of the CST series to be published by JPIIJPC) is being finalized and shall be printed and available by August 09.
- A new booklet on the second **African Synod** is nearly ready for printing and publication and would come out by August 09 as well. The purpose is to bring this second Synod closer to the people by making the contents more contextualized and relevant to our Ugandan situation. We trust this publication will be beneficial to many and support their commitment to build a more just and peaceful society.

## **Launching the research**

JPIIJPC is planning to launch the contents and findings of the research first in the ten informal settlements and then, at the national level, to influence the policy makers. The main purpose is

to empower the slum dwellers to improve their inhuman situation.

## Networking with NJPC , ARU and UJCC

Regarding the coming Elections in 2011, JPIIJC wishes to collaborate with other similar minded groups to prepare civil society for the forthcoming Elections. We intend to do our small yet relevant contribution to empower the electorate in making choices inspired by our Christian Faith and in view of the common good

## Workshop

On 31 Aug. to 4 Sept 09, AGEH is planning a workshop on Reconciliation for partners from all over Africa in Sierra Leone. The purpose is to learn from the experience of S. Leone and other Countries at this level of conflict resolution and reconciliation. JPIIJC will participate.

## 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

### STAFF

- We wish to thank very sincerely **Lawrence Kyaligonza SJ**, soon leaving us to continue his studies and formation process. Lawrence has been with us for nearly two years and has been a tremendous support to the Centre. Thanks Lawrence for your presence and contribution and God's Blessings upon you.

Welcome to two new members of the Staff: **James Moro SJ**

- who also comes to JPIIJC for two years.
- The second member coming in July is **Richard Anguyo**, Mill Hill, who comes for a year with us. Richard you are most welcome.
- **Some Days to remember:**
  - 1 July = Pro- Life Day
  - 11 July = World Population day
  - 12Aug.= International Youth day
  - 9 Sept = Racial Justice day
  - 25 Sept = International day of Peace.

NOTE: You will find a version of this Newsletter with PICTURES in our Website: [www.jp2jpc.org](http://www.jp2jpc.org)