



## JOHN PAUL II JUSTICE AND PEACE CENTRE

P.O. Box 31853 Kampala-Uganda.

Tel: 0414- 267372

Email: [jp2justice@sat.signis.net](mailto:jp2justice@sat.signis.net)

Email: [jp2justice.director@sat.signis.net](mailto:jp2justice.director@sat.signis.net)

Website : [www.jp2jpc.org](http://www.jp2jpc.org)

**NEWSLETTER**

**No. 6. January-March 09**

**FAITH DOING JUSTICE**

Dear

Friends and collaborators : PEACE !

### 1. EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES:

#### **WORLD DAY OF PEACE: 1<sup>ST</sup>.Jan.**

**Theme: Fighting poverty to build Peace:**

We started the New Year praying for Peace! Together with prayer, we also need to promote justice with compassion, by addressing the root causes of the injustices people experience, such as: unfair distribution of goods, wars over resources, abuse of power and gender, poverty etc.

**Challenge:** The present financial crisis has shaken the whole world and it will affect mainly the poorest because of the greed of powerful multinationals and leaders.

#### **WORLD DAY FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE: 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY:**

##### **International Social Justice Day:**

The world day for **Social Justice** was adopted by the 192 members States of

the United Nations during their Nov. 2007 General Assembly.

**Social Justice** includes: the just distribution of resources (distributive), the fair dealings between individuals and groups (commutative) and the just treatment of the victims of injustices (restorative). Every faith to be real must actively promote social justice.

*“The World Day of Social Justice gives us an opportunity to take stock of how we can work together at the national and global levels on policy and programs in these areas. This is needed now more than ever”- Mary Robinson*

The World Day of Social Justice will contribute to the efforts of the international community in poverty eradication, the promotion of full employment and decent work, gender equality and access to social well-being and justice for all.

***“If you want Peace work for Justice” Pope J.P.II***

## **INSTALLATION OF B.OBAMA AS PRESIDENT OF USA on 21.1.09 brings NEW HOPE:**

The dream of Martin L.King has become true to a great extent. The election and installation of B.Obama as President of USA has been the most significant event of the last few months which has brought great hope to millions of people in USA, Africa and all over the world, a fresh new style of leadership, focused on the wellbeing of all the citizens, transparent, inclusive, extending hands to all in dialogue and justice . The world needs such a “paradigm shift” in leadership.

## **TRAINING IN CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING (CST):**

### *Parents-Catechists:*

JPIIJPC continues to reach out to parents and catechists in the parishes with our program in CST. We held workshops in three parishes of Lira diocese and three of Nebbi diocese. We plan to continue with this program in other parishes, especially in Northern Uganda.

### *University students:*

We continue with the education of university students in CST to empower them in their concern and commitment to justice, peace and integrity of creation (JPIC).

This year we intend to establish “Peace Clubs” in universities, major seminaries, SSS , houses of formation etc.

## **TRAINING IN CATECHETICAL CENTRES:**

JPIIJPC continues to offer 3-5 days workshops on CST to the nine catechetical centers in Uganda. These catechists become often vital pillars in the animation of the local Christian communities.

## **RESEARCH IN TH SLUMS OF KAMPALA:**

JPIIJPC is carrying out a follow up of the 2008 research in some slums of Kampala, published as:” Kampala Basic Needs Basket” (KBNB). This year research has two new aspects: the first is that instead of interviewing 20 families in each of the 6 slums, we have extended the research to 20 families in 10 slums of the city. The second new aspect of the research is that we have included questions regarding the rural-urban migration and the reasons for this coming and staying in the slums of the capital.

## **LECTURES AT UMU ON CST**

For the second year, JPIIJPC has been invited to give some lectures on CST from our perspective of grass roots experience, at UMU.

## **UNIVERSITY STUDENTS OPEN FORUM**

On the 20<sup>th</sup> Feb.09, some 70 students from KIU attended an Open Forum on JPIC at the grass roots level , the role of the civil society in advocating for civil rights. A follow up will take place on March 20<sup>th</sup> on the theme of :care for the environment.

## **RADIO LENTEN PROGRAMS**

JPIIJPC continues during lent with the weekly radio programs on the Social Teaching of the Church. The “Social Gospel” program takes place every Sunday evening during the five Sundays of lent, from 8,30 to 9,30 pm. at Radio Maria. This year, focus is laid on the main themes of the CST, always in relation to some critical challenges facing our society.

## **BURNING OF OWINO MARKET:25.2.09**

Ash Wednesday became a harsh Wednesday with the dramatic experience of fire and ashes at St. Balikuddembe market in Kampala! The vendors say that the bus company, interested in the grounds of the market, set the market ablaze! If it is true, it reflects the level of violence the nation has reached. The reality remains that hundreds of families lost everything they had to live on!

## **ATROCITIES IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION**

Following the last military intervention by the UPDF at the end of 08, to end the LRA rebellion, we have heard of new atrocities committed by LRA in the D.R.Congo and Sudan against innocent and unprotected civilians! The peace process was non violent and getting somewhere, but this new military intervention goes against all reasons for peace!

Other awful military interventions are taking place in the Eastern region of Congo: Goma and North Kivu. Are the 4.5 million people massacred in East Congo during the last 14 years not enough to shake public opinion? Why are these regional conflicts for resources allowed to continue for so long? Who is benefiting? Are these "blood diamonds and gold" not benefiting some "bloody" leaders and multinationals?

## **CHILD SACRIFICES IN UGANDA:**

In recent months, we have been reading almost daily about child-adult sacrifices and mutilations of children (cutting off sexual organs) in the Ugandan Newspapers. These dramatic events are shaking our minds and hearts! What

leads people to such extreme practices and abuses of innocent lives? How are we responding to these tragedies? Another fact related to this is that according to our research, there are about 10.000 to 12.000 children being trafficked in Uganda. How are we dealing with the roots of these tragedies, particularly through ethical education?

## **2.ATTENDING SESSIONS:**

### **PEACE WEEK IN GULU:**

**Jan.16-20,2009**

**Combating poverty, building Peace.**

Political, cultural, religious and cultural leaders together with thousands of people attended this annual event to build peace and reconciliation in the troubled Northern Uganda. This is an annual event geared to strengthen justice and peace in the region.

### **WITNESS OF ARCH. J.B. ODAMA:**

Arch. J.B. Odama, kneeling in front of hundreds of children at the Kaunda sports grounds, said: *"I dedicate my remaining life on earth for bringing peace to children"* (10.1.09).

This took place during the above Peace week in Gulu. And he added: *"I will give my life for that, with the little that I can contribute"*. He asked all the people to join hands so that together, they can work for peace and combat poverty.

Such Prophets as Arch. J.B. Odama are badly needed in our country and in our world!

[justice.peace.commission@gmail.com](mailto:justice.peace.commission@gmail.com)

Newsletter of JPC of Gulu. Jan.09, vol.9-1

**RECONCILIATION IN  
BUJUMBURA-BURUNDI:  
January: 3-11, 2009**

**Theme: Identity, Community and the Gospel of Reconciliation in the face of Tribalism.**

JPIIIPC attended the above gathering on Reconciliation and peace building organized by Duke University , in Bujumbura. It was an international gathering to promote peace and reconciliation in the great lakes region. Emphasis was laid on tribalism and ethnicity as a means to foster unity. The atrocities committed by Christians in Rwanda, Burundi, Congo, Uganda and Kenya pose a great challenge. Is the blood of tribalism thicker than the waters of Baptism?

**RECONCILIATION IN MUKONO:  
January :16-17<sup>th</sup> 2009**

The centre for reconciliation in the Netherlands organized a two day meeting on Reconciliation in Northern Uganda, at Mukono. Emphasis was laid on networking at the grass roots communities, monitoring and evaluation for greater effectiveness.

ethnicity as a means to foster unity. The atrocities committed by Christians in Rwanda, Burundi, Congo, Uganda and Kenya pose a great challenge. Is the blood of tribalism thicker than the waters of Baptism?

**TROCAIRE – KIGALI  
GATHERING: 28-9<sup>th</sup> March 09.**

**Theme: To share and learn.**

Trocaire organized a full week gathering with all the partners in Uganda to : see,

share and learn from the experience of Rwanda with the following objectives:

- gaining insights on peace building and conflict resolution process,
- gaining insights on citizens participation in influencing policies and programs at all levels.
- to understand the role of civil society in promoting socio-economic justice.
- to understand the task of civil society in caring for the environment.

**3. FORTHCOMING EVENTS:**

**TRAINING AT NAMUGONGO  
SPIRITUAL FORMATION CENTRE  
(NSFC): MARCH : 23-28, 2009**

As in previous years, JPIIIPC will facilitate a course in CST for the 29 participants (9 priests and 20 sisters from different African Countries) attending the nine months renewal course in NSFC.

**RESEARCH INTO TRADITIONAL  
WISDOM: 3<sup>RD</sup> WORKSHOP:  
March 18-21 , 2009**

JPIIIPC is preparing the third traditional wisdom workshop at St. Augustine's Institute. Some 30 participants, 2 from each of the main ethnic groups in Uganda, will attend.

The aim is to gather first hand information, such as: stories, proverbs, songs etc. concerning the cultural values being transmitted to the children. This is done in order to include this cultural values component into the Manual for civic education in secondary schools.

**WORKSHOP FOR PRIESTS, at St.  
Augustine's : April 15-19 , 2009**

The target groups in JPIIIPC activities are the educators , multipliers, leaders in

the community and policy makers of our society. We welcome therefore these opportunities to reflect with priests on the critical social issues affecting the people they minister to.

### **WORKSHOP FOR RELIGIOUS in GULU: May 27-31, 2009**

In the same spirit of empowering leaders with the CST, we are always ready to facilitate sessions on JPIC issues for the religious in different dioceses.

### **WORKSHOP FOR JPIC PROMOTERS IN EAST AFRICA: At St. Augustine's : August 2 – 16 , 2009**

The JPIC general Commission of the Missionary Congregations in Rome is planning a training session for East Africa JPIC promoters, at St. Augustine's Institute in Kampala. One of the aims is to make our networking a more effective collaboration to promote JPIC in the region.

### **4. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

#### **NEW FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR**

JPIIIPC has a financial administrator called: Mr. Joseph Busulwa Kayongo, a highly qualified financial advisor with a wide experience across Africa.

#### **CURRICULUM ANALYSIS**

The Analysis of the Curriculum is finished and ready to be presented to the Minister of Education. Together with the analysis, we shall present the outline of

the Manuals for ethical education in SSS: the Text book and the Curriculum.

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

JPIIIPC is preparing the first booklet on "Human Dignity" to assist the parents and catechists in their efforts for ethical education. We plan to publish three such booklets during 2009.

#### **CONSTRUCTION OF JPIIIPC PREMISES**

The building of our premises has started. The perimeter wall is nearly completed together with the gate-keeper's house. The foundations of the main building will soon start.

#### **NEW ENCYCLICAL ON SOCIAL ISSUES: CARITAS IN VERITATE :**

Things at the Vatican always move slowly, but this social encyclical is taking several years to come to light. All we know now is the title: Caritas in Veritate, and that it is to come out soon!  
[www.vanthuanobservatory.org](http://www.vanthuanobservatory.org)

#### **WORLD day for the ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION March 21. 2009**

**WORLD WATER DAY: March 22.09**  
*Theme: Attention to waters that cross borders and link us together.*

*JPIIIPC wishes you all a very fruitful Lent and a joyful Easter.!*



Please remember to visit our Website: [www.ip2ipc.org](http://www.ip2ipc.org) .  
There you find our Newsletter with pictures.