

THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF RUMBEK SOUTH SUDAN



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AN OVERVIEW



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF RUMBEK SOUTH SUDAN

**An overview
2018 Edition**

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PREFACE

The Catholic Diocese of Rumbek is one of the seven dioceses in the Republic of South Sudan. After the sudden death of our Bp. Caesar Mazzolari on 16th July 2011, the leadership of the Diocese of Rumbek was entrusted to Fr. Fernando Colombo mccj as diocesan administrator. In December 2013, Fr. Colombo resigned from this position due to ill health. Consequently, Fr. John Mathiang was appointed as diocesan coordinator by the congregation for the evangelization of the people in the Vatican through their prefect Cardinal Fernando Filoni.



Many activities have taken place since 2013 such as the construction of churches, upgrading of four missions into parish status, growth in the number of Christians, building of schools, responding to humanitarian emergencies and many more activities as have been summarized in this overview.

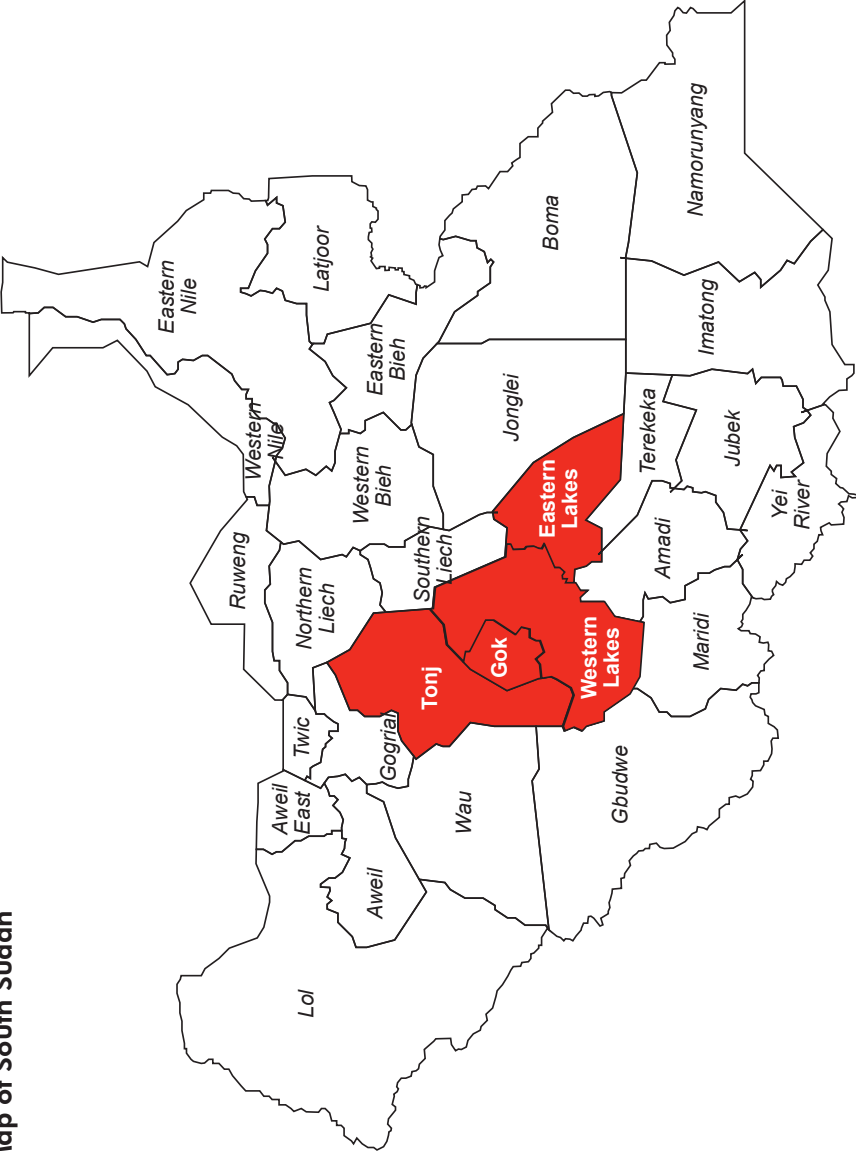
I am truly thankful to all the institutional and private donors who have made this possible through their generous support to the diocese and it is my wish that we will continue to enjoy a good working relationship.

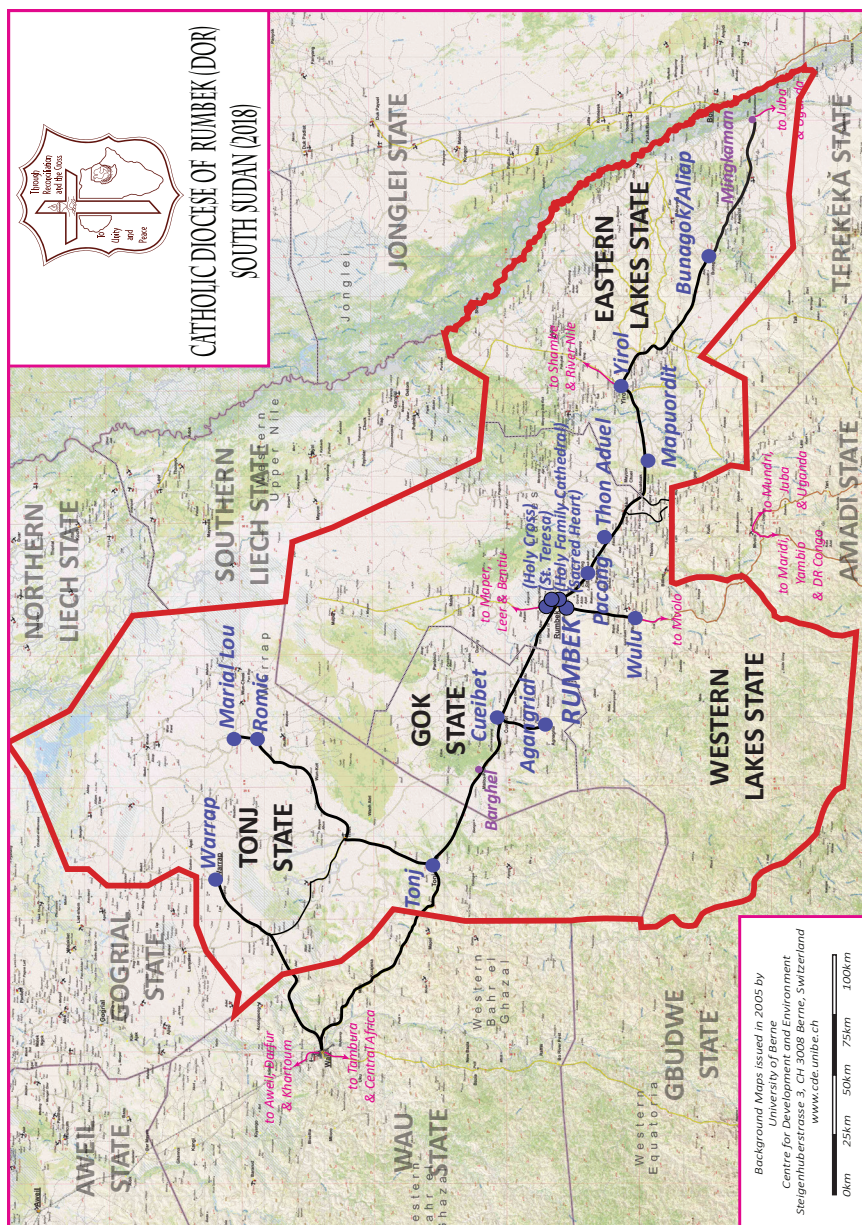
May God Bless you all and I count on your support so that we can continue offering the essential services to the people of Rumbek Diocese and work towards building a better nation. We continue praying for peace in South Sudan so that the country can develop and provide essential services to the general populace.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Mathiang Machol', written in a cursive style.

Fr. John Mathiang Machol
Diocesan Coordinator

Map of South Sudan





1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Catholic Diocese of Rumbek (DOR) is one of the seven catholic dioceses in the Republic of South Sudan.

It is located in the very heart of the country, covering the whole territory of Eastern and Western Lakes State, Tonj and Gok State – a territory of around 65,000 km² (larger than Switzerland). Its population can be estimated to 1.6 million people, of which around 180.000 are Catholics, although reliable statistics are not available.

Established as an Apostolic Vicariate in 1955, it was elevated to the status of a Diocese in 1974. The leadership of the Diocese of Rumbek since December 2013 has been under the care of Fr. John Mathiang Machol as Diocesan Coordinator.

1.1 The Missions/Parishes

At this moment, the Diocese of Rumbek has 16 established missions or parishes, many of them with a number of sub-parishes and around 150 outstations and prayer houses.

The parishes of the Diocese are:

1. Holy Family Cathedral parish, Rumbek
2. Sacred Heart Parish, Rumbek
3. St. Theresa Parish, Rumbek
4. Holy Cross Parish, Rumbek
5. Our Lady Help of Christians, Pacong
6. St. Daniel Comboni Parish, Marial Lou
7. Romic Parish
8. Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Warrap
9. Sacred Heart Parish, Tonj
10. Mary Mother of God Parish , Agangrial
11. St. Francis Parish, Cueibet
12. St. Peter and Paul Parish, Wulu
13. St. Josephine Bakhita Parish, Mapuordit
14. Holy Cross Parish, Yirol
15. St. Anselm Parish, Bunagok
16. Good Shepherd Parish – Thon Aduel

2.0 VISION, MISSION, OVERALL GOAL, GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The main goal and objective of the Diocese of Rumbek passed during the follow-up of the 14th DOR General Assembly in 2016 is as follows:

2.1 Vision

To promote humane co-existence of people inspired by gospel values.

2.2 Mission

Evangelization and integral human development through pastoral care, education and health.

2.3 Overall goal

To promote spiritual growth and human development of the person.

2.4 General objective

Promotion of education, spiritual growth and health care.

The Diocese of Rumbek's main aim is to promote spiritual growth and human development of the person, thus pastoral work and evangelization are tools – besides many others – to achieve this goal.

3.0 HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF RUMBOK

Catholic missions in the area of today's Diocese of Rumbek go back to the "Apostle of Africa", Saint Daniel Comboni himself. In 1857-58 he lived in the mission station Holy Cross at Shambe, on the western bank of the river Nile from where the catholic missions among the black Africans of Eastern-Central Africa started. But since then historical events and political decisions hampered most of the missionary activities in the area: soon after the death of Bishop Comboni - during the so called "Mahdi Revolution" (1881 - 1899) against the Egyptian occupation - Christian missionaries were expelled from the territory of today's Sudan and South Sudan. Then, gradually the British Colonialists gained control over the area and ruled the Sudan until 1956. They gave preference to Anglican missionaries but divided the country into Catholic and Protestant areas. Almost the whole territory of today's Diocese of Rumbek was allocated to the Anglicans.

Documents report a Catholic mission in the town of Thiet in 1949² Rumbek in 1951³ and Tonj in 1953⁴ all by that time under the Apostolic Vicariate of Bahr el-Ghazal (Wau). Rumbek was established as Apostolic Vicariate on July 3rd, 1955 by Pope Pius XII⁵, including a territory much larger than today's Diocese of Rumbek. Ireneo Wien Dud, a Southern Sudanese, was ordained Bishop and appointed Apostolic Vicar of Rumbek. But the history of the Church remained very troublesome and confusing, so that regular evangelization work was almost impossible. Less than a year after the establishment of the Vicariate of Rumbek, in 1956 the power in the Sudan shifted from the British Colonialists to some Arabic tribes who governed the Sudan from Khartoum. The Southern Sudanese never accepted the new masters, and a freedom struggle begun that would last practically half a century: from 1955-1972 the so called "Anyanya"-rebels led the fight. After a short period of relative peace and autonomy of the South, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) took up arms in 1983 until it forced the government of Khartoum to the "Comprehensive Peace Agreement" (CPA) in 2005.

In 1960, Rumbek's Apostolic Vicar Ireneo Wien Dud was transferred to Wau,

¹ Most of the information in this paragraph derives from the booklet "Gold in the Crucible. History of 50 Golden Years Diocese of Rumbek 1955 – 2005", collated by H.L. Bishop Caesar Mazzolari, Fr. Fernando Colombo with Peter Kioni and Lucia Amuyira, Kenya, 2005.

² Gold in the Crucible, p. 24

³ Gold in the Crucible, p. 21

⁴ Gold in the Crucible, p. 24

⁵ SACRED CONGREGATION "DE PROPAGANDA FIDE", Rome 13th July 1955, Protocol n. 3150/55, quoted in: Gold in the Crucible, p. 8

while Rumbek Vicariate was entrusted to Msgr. Lino Toboi (1960-1972). In March 1964, all foreign missionaries were expelled from Sudan by the Military Government of General Abboud. They all fled to the neighboring countries of Uganda, Zaire and Central Africa. They left the Church to very few local clergy and catechists.

The persecution continued even after Abboud was overthrown in October 1964. Of particular note is the killing of the Vicar General, Fr. Arkangelo Ali, in July 1965 during a raid of Arab soldiers in Rumbek parish⁶. After his death also the last priests left, including the Apostolic Administrator Lino Toboi who escaped to Zaire but remained officially in charge until 1972. The Church in Rumbek was abandoned for decades.

During the following period, a few pastoral activities in the area (Rumbek, Tonj, Yirol) were undertaken by the Apostolic Vicariate of Wau.

Although in 1972 the Addis-Ababa Peace Agreement ended 17 years of civil war, many catholic priests did not come back to Rumbek Diocese. From 1974 to 1981, there was only one priest in the territory of the Diocese of Rumbek: Fr. Raphael Riel⁷

Officially, Rumbek was elevated to the status of a Diocese on December 12th, 1974⁸, with the Apostolic Vicar of Wau, Bishop Ireneo Wien Dud as Apostolic Administrator (until 1975) and Bishop Gabriel Zubeir Wako, Bishop of Wau (today referred to as Emeritus Archbishop and Cardinal in Khartoum), as caretaker (1975-1976).

The first Bishop of Rumbek was Gabriel Dwatuka, appointed on January 24th, 1976. In the same year, the missions of Tonj, Thiet and Warrap were shifted to Rumbek Diocese, because of political boundaries.

Bishop Dwatuka resigned in 1981. The leadership of the Diocese was entrusted to the Archbishop emeritus of Khartoum, Agostino Baroni mscj, who accepted to be Apostolic Administrator of Rumbek from 1981-1983 – the year when the second South Sudanese Liberation war started (1983-2005).

Archbishop Baroni was succeeded by Fr. Giuseppe Pellerino mscj as Apostolic Administrator of Rumbek from 1983-1990. In 1986 Fr. Pellerino was held

⁶ *Gold in the Crucible*, pp 52ff

⁷ *Gold in the Crucible*, p 23

⁸ <http://www.catholic-hierarchy.org/diocese/drumb.html>

⁹ *Gold in the Crucible*, p 24

in captivity for 112 days. As soon as he was freed, he returned to serve his people in the area, mainly in Tonj, until 1990, in spite of the many difficulties and military disruption. Also in 1986 the local clergy (only two priests at that time) fled from the civil war, taking refuge with many youths in Ethiopia. In 1992 they returned to Sudan, but not to the region of Rumbek, which was then occupied by the government of Khartoum.

Fr. Mazzolari became Apostolic Administrator in 1991 and was consecrated Bishop in January 1999. Under his leadership, the Diocese of Rumbek was rebuilt practically from scratch to its present level of development.

The first important step was to reactivate the diocesan presence in the so-called "Liberated Area" – the territories of Southern Sudan conquered by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). This was possible by July 1991, and the region of Yirol was the first to be served but had soon to be abandoned again due to the war activities. However, Rumbek was still under the occupation of the forces of Khartoum and practically inaccessible for the Bishop, who directed the Diocesan activities from other towns of Southern Sudan or Nairobi, Kenya and through – often highly risky - trips into the territory whenever possible.

In the following years Missions were built up far away from the main roads "in the bush" where the people fled from the atrocities of the war: Mapuordit (1993), Marial Lou (1994), Agangrial (1995).

Notwithstanding the scarcity of personnel, the Diocese continued to serve the Lakes province and large areas of the Diocese of Wau and the Nuba Mountains. The Diocese developed 12 centers, only 4 of which remained operative; the others had to be abandoned one by one, because of war activities.

In May 1997, Rumbek township was re-conquered by the SPLA forces and the Bishop was able to take again possession of the Episcopal town. The whole of Rumbek had been razed to the ground.

Since around 1997, the Diocese of Rumbek assumed also the pastoral care of the "liberated areas" in the Diocese of Wau, since its Bishop was impeded from reaching this territory. With the large missions of Nyamllel and Gordhim in this area, the Diocese of Rumbek served an area covering

10 Letter of agreement of Bishop Caesar Mazzolari (Diocese of Rumbek) and Bishop Rudolf Deng Majak (Diocese of Wau): Resetting the boundaries between the Dioceses of Wau and Rumbek, Rome, March 11th, 2010.

80,000 km² and an estimated population of around 3,800,000 until July 2010, when these missions were handed back to Wau Diocese. Tonj and Yirol Missions were re-opened in 1999, Warrap reopened in 2003, in the same year when Wulu and Aliap/Bunagok Missions were founded. In 2005, the missions of the Jesuits in Rumbek became a parish.

Bishop Mazzolari led the Diocese until his death on July 16th 2011, only one week after the Republic of South Sudan had obtained independence (July 9th 2011).

The leadership of the Diocese of Rumbek was then entrusted to Fr. Fernando Colombo mccj as Diocesan Administrator, and under Fr. Colombo Sacred Heart Parish in Rumbek was reopened. In December 2013, Fr. Colombo resigned from this position due to ill health. Consequently, Fr. John Mathiang Machol was appointed as Diocesan Coordinator by the Congregation for the evangelization of the people in the Vatican through their prefect Cardinal Fernando Feloni. In Fr. John Mathiang's time, the diocese has grown in terms of parishes and education facilities; for example Good Shepherd pastoral zone, Thon Aduel, Holy Cross sub-parish, Rumbek and Romic mission and Our Lady Help of Christians, Pacong were elevated to Parish status in December 2017 by His Lordship Bishop Hiiboro of Tombura Yambio diocese.

3.1 ORDINARIES OF THE DIOCESE OF RUMBEC

The Ordinaries, Administrators and Coordinator of the Rumbek Diocese in chronological order are:

1955 – 1960	Bishop Ireneo Wien Dud, Apostolic Vicar
1960 – 1972	Msgr. Lino Tiboi, Apostolic Administrator
1972 – 1975	Bishop Ireneo Wien Dud, Ap. Vicar of Wau, Apostolic Administrator
1975 – 1976	Bishop Gabriel Zubeir Wako
1976 – 1981	Bishop Gabriel Dwatuka
1981 – 1983	Archbishop Agostino Baroni, MCCJ, Apostolic Administrator
1983 – 1990	Rev. Fr. Giuseppe Pellerino, MCCJ, Apostolic Administrator
1990 – 2011	Bishop Caesar Mazzolari, MCCJ, Apostolic Administrator up to 1999, then Bishop
2011 – 2013	Diocesan Administrator, Fr. Fernando Colombo
2013 to date	Diocesan Coordinator, Fr. John Mathiang Machol



3.2 How DOR is organized

The main administrative work of the Diocese of Rumbek is shouldered by the following:

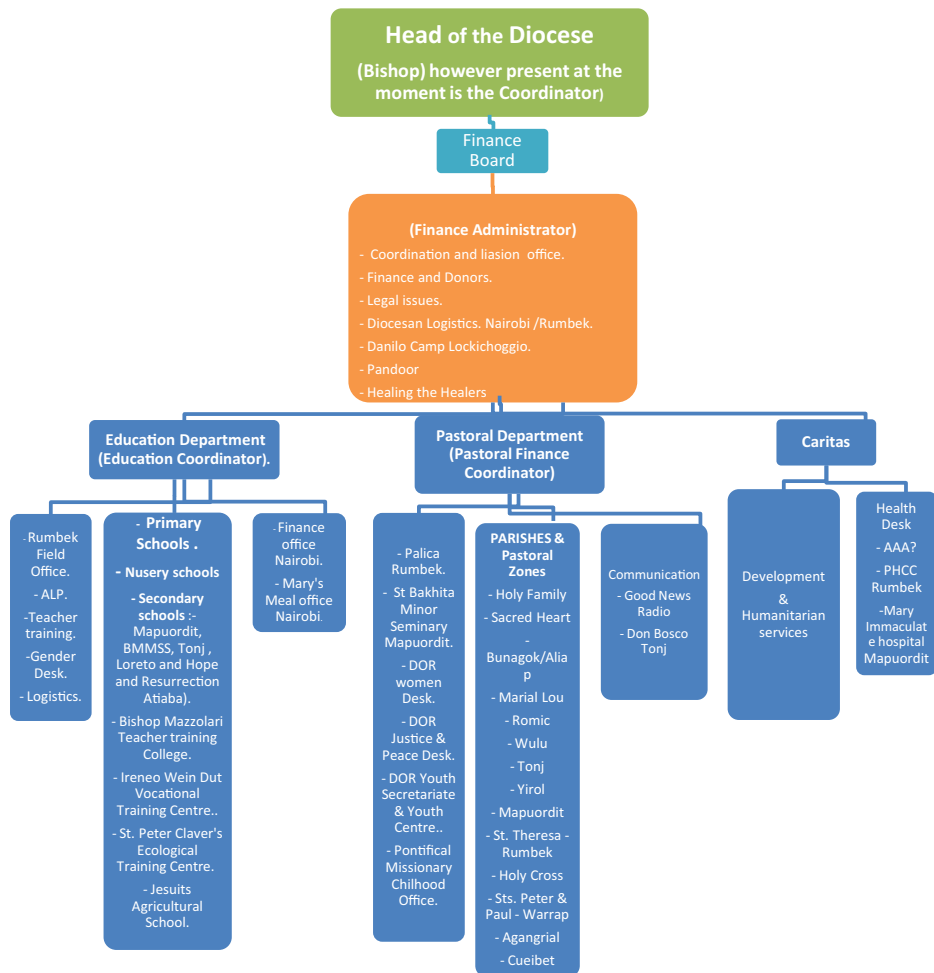
The Diocesan Coordinator Fr. John Mathiang Machol leads the Diocese during this period of sedisvacancy. Under him are three Departments: The Administration Department in “Bethany House”, Nairobi is headed by the Diocesan Financial Administrator who coordinates all other departments, the logisticians in Nairobi and Rumbek, and manages the diocesan finances. The Education Department with its offices in Rumbek and Nairobi coordinates the schools and teachers in the Diocese and is headed by the Education Coordinator.

The Pastoral Department in Nairobi is in charge of the specifically pastoral tasks of the Diocese in the parishes and diocesan institutions and is headed by the Pastoral Financial Coordinator.

The diocesan health department is indefinitely constituted as an NGO named Arkangelo Ali Association (AAA) and works autonomously from the main diocesan organisational structure.

The 16 parishes are collaborating with the various departments depending on the nature of the tasks. A number of institutions work within the Diocese but independently or in loose collaboration.

3.3 Organization Structure



4.0 DEPARTMENTS

4.1 Administration Department

The administration department of the diocese is based at Bethany House, Nairobi, Kenya, for a combination of historical, financial, operational and medical reasons.

The department has the task of the overall coordination of all administrative, financial and logistic activities in the Diocese in support of the Diocesan Coordinator. The department has been headed by Mr. Jonathan Barsby since 2007 and he coordinates the other two departments in Nairobi. He is also responsible for issues involving finance, oversees the logisticians in Nairobi and in South Sudan and all income generating activities of the Diocese, consults the ordinary of the diocese and other diocesan staff on administrative and legal issues, ensures maintenance of the diocesan facilities and maintains contacts with key institutional donors and other guests of the Diocese.

4.1.2 Bethany House



"Bethany House" the Administrative offices of the Diocese of Rumbek in Nairobi

This property was acquired in 1994 by the late Bishop Caesar Mazzolari for the diocesan personnel and the religious congregations working in the diocese to have a place for rest and reflection. The diocesan offices are located here.

4.1.3 Logistics

The lack of infrastructure in South Sudan, the long distances within the diocese and the difficulty of sourcing goods in South Sudan requires high logistical knowledge for purchase, shipment, clearing of goods and transport of persons. The logistics department falls under the administration department and its main task includes sourcing of goods both in Kenya and South Sudan. Logistics operations of the diocese are headed by Mr. Barnabas Kipkoech. He coordinates both Nairobi and field logistics offices. Barnabas is based in Nairobi while his assistant Mr. Abednego Marol is based in Rumbek as a field logistician. The logistics department organizes the purchase of goods in Nairobi, arranges transport by truck to South Sudan, and prepares export documentation and applications for import tax exemption letters from the Government of Republic of South Sudan. It also coordinates the international shipments donated to the diocese. Other responsibilities include facilitating the safe travel of all personnel in the diocese as well as for the donors and visitors who come to visit the diocese, including such activities as obtaining visas, airline tickets, hotel reservations and transport of personnel to and from the airports. Logistics office also ensures that all properties of the diocese are kept in good condition in regard to repairs and maintenance of automobiles and generators.



Offloading of goods upon arrival in Rumbek

Challenges

The logistics department faces many challenges in carrying out its work, ranging from frequent rule changes in both Kenya and South Sudan, to the poor state of the roads in South Sudan especially during the July-November rainy season.

4.2 Education Department

The Diocese of Rumbek education department is one of the principle providers of education services in the Greater Lakes and Greater Bahr el Ghazal regions. The diocese has well established kindergarten, primary and secondary schools in all its mission centers. These schools continue a tradition of academic excellence and faith-formation in safe, respectful and caring environments conducive to learning.

The mission of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Rumbek is an essential part of the fulfillment of the educational ministry of the Roman Catholic Church. Its primary goal is the ongoing formation of the Christian person by developing the spiritual, intellectual, social, cultural, emotional and physical gifts of the students entrusted to our care.

It has two offices one in the field, (Rumbek), and the other at Bethany House, Nairobi. These offices provide the administration and supervision of financial management of the education programs. The department has been led by the Education Coordinator Mr Moses Kopurot since.

To fulfill the mission of the diocese, the education department's ultimate goal is to transform and develop the people to have respect for human dignity and values of life. Its operations are guided by a community based development approach that involves participatory planning, implementation, monitoring, and demonstrating a high degree of transparency and accountability. It is from such an approach that the DOR has established the trust between the communities and the diocesan departments.

Institutions in the Diocese.

The schools in the Diocese of Rumbek include:

- 17 DOR primary schools with 17,716 learners (10,888 boys and 6,828 girls).
- 5 secondary schools with 1,569 learners (791 boys and 779 girls).
- 8 ALP (Accelerated Learning Programme) centers with 1,206 learners (849 males and 357 females) .

- 1 teacher training institute with 18 learners (14 males and 4 females).
- 5 kindergartens with 2,413 learners (1,505 boys and 908 girls)
- 2 vocational institutions with 183 learners (146 males and 37 females)
- 9 communities' established primary schools which operate mostly in the open air under trees with 3,731 learners (2,784 boys and 947 girls).
- 45 schools under Mary's Meals feeding programme with 24,764 children (15,804 boys and 8,960 girls).

Therefore we can say there are over 50,000 children who are educated in the diocesan schools.

Activities of the education Department:

DOR education department is implementing a number of programmes to strengthen the education sector in Greater Lakes and Greater Bahr el Ghazal. These programmes combine: **policy measures, quality improvement and investment through the three areas of:**

- i. Access and equity.
- ii. Quality and relevance.
- iii. Governance and management.

i. Access and equity: Increasing access to education through:

Construction and rehabilitation of worn-out structures.

The department works under pressure from the rapid increase in enrolment in most of the diocesan schools, and thus needs to address the concerns regarding access to learning spaces as well to renovate and repair the old structures (made of grass thatch) which have been destroyed either by termites or wild fires. It is in this context that the department is improving access through construction of new classrooms blocks.



Newly constructed block at St Bakhita girls Rumbek

The department is annually engaged in regular repairs and maintenance of the locally made school structures (grass thatch roofs), to include such items as fences, doors, windows and blackboards, especially after the long rainy season and the dry blustery period; these two seasons normally cause a lot of unpredictable damage to the buildings. The roaming animals also contribute to the breaking of the fences.

Provision of school materials.

The department has been supplying various school materials to support the implementation of the New South Sudan Curriculum. Provision of textbooks, teaching materials, sports equipment as well as furniture has been the annual routine process in achieving progress in the diocesan schools.



3 in 1 student's desks

WASH programmes (construction of pit latrines and provision of clean water).

Inadequate access to clean water points and lack of proper sanitary facilities have taken a toll on health. Many school children suffer from disease outbreaks weakening the already vulnerable communities' ability to cope with the multiple shocks. Therefore the department has been engaged in improving the sanitary facilities as well as provision of clean water points in many of the diocesan schools.



(VIP) Ventilated Improved Latrine

School feeding programme.

Through the support of Mary's Meals International based in Scotland, The department is able to provide over 24,000 children with daily meals in a place of learning; currently 45 schools are benefiting from this programme. The feeding programme has improved



Pupils enjoying their lunch

retention and attendance as well as the performance of the children in the last 4 years. The daily meal to the children in lower primary has greatly reduced the high level of malnutrition in the schools.

Support vulnerable girls but with good academic background with school fees subsidy.

Girls are the most disadvantaged persons in these communities of the cattle keepers; they are viewed as sources of wealth, therefore through the girl-child affirmative action the understanding of their roles and civil rights are be awakened through life skills training and subsidizing their school fees. Many girls dropout of schools due to poverty, thus giving them opportunities to be in school has several positive impacts.



Provision of reusable sanitary pads

ii. Quality and relevance:

In Lakes and Warrap states, less than 35% of the teachers are trained and most of the teacher workforce at primary schools has only finished primary level education with a minority having completed secondary schooling; teachers are therefore untrained, this signifies the poor quality of education in South Sudan. Those with professional qualifications are often poached from the teaching profession to go and work with other organizations with better pay resulting in a high turn-over of teachers within schools. Therefore to improve the quality education with the support of the Jesuits was able to start the teacher training course at Mazzolari Teachers College. In this year 14 teachers were able to graduate with a Grade III teaching certificate.

iii. Governance and management:

The department embraces capacity building of the parent teacher associations (PTAs). During the training sessions the PTA members are encouraged to create a sense of ownership within the school communities with respect to education facilities. They are encouraged to contribute school fees for their children and also to intervene on emergency issues such as minor school repairs and annual upgrading of the schools.



Community empowerment workshop

DOR also collaborates with education authorities at all levels – (the national, state, county and payams), this allows DOR to effectively lobby for its ideas and propositions. This collaboration has resulted in several positive impacts during most of the DOR education projects and the education department benefits from maximum state support in any planned interventions.



Joint Education officials capacity development workshop

4.3 Pastoral Department

Without trying to enumerate the many pastoral activities at the level of

the parishes or sub-parishes, below is a list of institutions operating or coordinating Pastoral work at a diocesan level or collaborating with the Pastoral Department in Nairobi.

4.3.1 Pastoral Department of the Diocese of Rumbek

The Pastoral Department of the Diocese of Rumbek is still located in “Bethany House” Nairobi/Kenya. Its main aim is to provide the clergy, religious and catechists working directly in the field of pastoral and evangelization with what they need for their service: upkeep, medical care, transport, spare parts, housing, construction and maintenance of parish facilities, consultation and support in the development, implementation and administration of pastoral projects and raising funds for them. Mr. Simon Muchiri has been in charge of the department since May 2016.

The Pastoral Department works under the direct supervision of the Diocesan Ordinary. The main partner in the “field” is PALICA Rumbek. Other partners are all the Diocesan Priests, religious clergy and Sisters serving in the parishes and diocesan organizations.

4.3.2 Diocesan Institutions for Pastoral Work

4.3.3 PALICA Rumbek (Pastoral-Liturgical-Catechetical Centre)

The institution coordinating pastoral work “in the field” is the Pastoral-Liturgical-Catechetical Centre – short: PALICA – in Rumbek. It is among others, in charge of:

The formation of catechists through various activities.

- The ongoing formation of clergy, religious and ecclesiastical lay staff
- Visiting all the parishes of the Diocese for monitoring and training especially catechists and Sunday school teachers.
- Translation of catechetical and liturgical material into the local language, Dinka
- Keeping a small bookstore of basic literature for pastoral work and liturgy for the missionary personnel as well as for all Christians
- Providing the parishes with hosts, mass wine and other needs for the liturgy
- Offering specific workshops to specific groups, such as Sunday School Teachers’ Training, Dinka Language and Culture Courses.
- Hosting participants of workshops of any kind for Christians at reasonable prices

- The Director of PALICA is Fr. John Mathiang, like Diocesan Coordinator. He is assisted by Sr. Teresa Mogesi, MCEsm from Tanzania. They are assisted by catechists and local professional translators.

4.3.4 Women's Desk

Almost all the missions and many outstations of the parishes have well-functioning Women Groups emphasizing different aspects of empowerment of women: for example adult education, income generating activities such as sewing, oil products, handicrafts, women's restaurants, justice, peace and reconciliation trainings and initiatives, and Trauma healing. On the diocesan level, these initiatives are coordinated and supported by the Women's Desk Coordinator. With very little available means this office finds efficient ways of giving support to the Religious Sisters in the parishes and the female catechists who are natural leaders of women. Women's workshops for the group leaders in the parishes are taking place annually.



St. Monica Women group sewing clothes

The Diocesan Women's Desk was entrusted to Sr. Mary Mumu OLC, a Kenyan who until her death in June 2018, worked for and with women in Rumbek for almost two decades.

4.3.5 Diocesan Youth Secretariat and Youth Centre

Youth groups are well established in all of the parishes of the Diocese.

A Diocesan Youth Secretariat is supporting them. The main event of this secretariat is the annual diocesan youth congress, for five days of reflection, prayers, entertainment, sharing of experiences and news. The Diocesan youth secretariat comprises of Fr. John Waweru, a diocesan priest assisted by Sr. Esther Wambughu, MCESM.

Youth Congress: Since 2008, between 1000 and 1500 youth from all over the Diocese gather for the annual Youth Congress (except 2011). For the youth this is one of the rare occasions to go beyond the limits of clans and tribes to know and appreciate age-mates from other parts of the country and experience how the faith creates unity beyond the known borders. It is a modern evangelization event with liturgical elements, talks and discussions of topical issues, visibility towards the surrounding population, sports, music and relaxation.



Youth Congress held in December 2017 in Rumbek

4.3.6 Justice & Peace Desk

Justice, Peace and Reconciliation is one of the four core priorities of the Diocese of Rumbek and therefore promoted on many levels, for example at the grassroots level in the parishes and sub-parishes, in the ordinary announcement of the Gospel and in homilies, through Radio programs, in Women Groups, and during the formation of catechists. Additionally, the Diocesan Justice & Peace Desk offers seminars in various parishes and in Rumbek. They normally hold workshops with different groups i.e. the youth, religious personnel and local authorities. The issues covered include understanding conflict, peace, reconciliation and trauma healing. The coordinator of the Justice & Peace Desk is Mr Abraham Malual Wantok, who

was appointed on 19th November 2015.



Participants in a Justice and Peace workshop held in Rumbek

4.3.7 Coordination Office for Pastoral with Children

More than half of the population of South Sudan is younger than 18 years. During the assemblies and liturgical celebrations of the Church, the percentage of children is even higher, as they are particularly attracted and open to the message of the Gospel, even though very few have been baptized.

The coordinators of the office are two Missionary Congregation of Evangelizing Sisters of Mary, Sr. Maria Chesang and Sr. Vastine Nzabandora. Their task is to coordinate the pastoral work with this privileged group at a diocesan level. They visit the parishes and assist them in their pastoral work with children with advice and animation of events for the children.

4.3.8 Pastoral Programs with children

Feasts for children

Once a year, usually at the occasion of the liturgical feast of the children (28th December), we believe the poorest children living in the territory of the Diocese should have a great feast-day without worries and needs. Therefore each parish holds a feast for them, with sports and games, songs, stories, snacks and drinks.



Sunday school children being taught how to pray
by Srs. Maria and Vastine

Alleluia dancers and altar servers: Altar Servers and Alleluia Dancers are an integral part of the Eucharistic celebrations in our Diocese, especially on Sundays and feast-days. They are trained and receive catechesis within the missions either directly by the parish priest, or by a religious sister or by catechists. In some parishes, for example in Rumbek Holy Family Parish, they are invited to “seminars” of 2-3 days where they receive more profound teaching about the mysteries celebrated in the liturgy and the Word of God – combined with a lot of plays, games and songs.



Alleluia dancers

4.3.9 Itinerant Formation of Catechists

Catechists have been the backbone of Evangelization in South Sudan for decades, and the Church in this country cannot be realized without their contribution; the Diocese of Rumbek has around 450 catechists. The formation of these catechists is crucial, but it's challenging in the given conditions. Due to high transport costs, tough road conditions and the insecurity due to the war, in the past it was never possible to gather the catechists for a longer period at the Bishop's see in Rumbek. In response to this challenge, since 2008 the team of the PALICA-centre visits every year each mission of the Diocese and offers in loco courses of one week for the catechists. This "Itinerant Formation of Catechists" has borne great fruits, and the Diocese is committed to continue the itinerant formation courses.

4.3.10 Courses for Head Catechists at PALICA

A new series of more intense formation for head catechists started in Rumbek in November 2012. PALICA offers two courses per year for 30 "head catechists", each course with a duration of one month. This project has reached approximately 180 committed catechists by 2017. They are expected to share what they learnt with the other catechists in their areas and utilize the acquired skills to evangelize these communities.



Sr Teresa and the Catechists during one of the training sessions in PALICA Rumbek

4.3.11 Dinka Language and Culture Courses

Especially created for newly arriving missionaries and lay staff, the PALICA offers a course of three months in the language and culture of the predominant ethnic group in the Diocese - the Dinka - in order to give

them a basic understanding of the Dinka way of living and enable them to have simple conversations with the local population. Teachers are the local diocesan priest Fr. John Mathiang plus native trained language teachers.



Participants of the Dinka course in 2017

4.3.12 Retreat of Diocesan Priests

The group of Diocesan Priests is still very small. Eight of the eleven of the incardinated priests are native South Sudanese, three are East African expatriates. At least once a year these priests have a retreat for one week with the Diocesan Coordinator outside the territory of the diocese. The diocese organizes an annual retreat for them which gives them opportunity to share their experience in their respective parishes, reflect on life issues affecting their ministry and rejuvenate their spiritual strength. The 10-days-retreat is normally directed by a spiritual director who guides them and moderates their sharing. This gives the priests an opportunity to rest and delve into their personal spiritual matter.

4.3.13 Orientation Course and Vocational work

Vocational work happens on various levels in the Diocese. An annual "Orientation Course" helps young men to distinguish their vocation towards priesthood and gives the diocesan vocational director the possibility of a first evaluation. The long term implications include having Seminarians well prepared to join the next step of formation towards priesthood. This training is only done once and is never repeated.



Fr. Andrea with some participants of the orientation course – May 2017

5.0 PARISHES

5.1 Holy Family Cathedral Parish - Rumbek

Opened: around 1955, reopened after 1997

Parish Priest: Fr. Luka Dor Aghor Dor

Location: Western Lake State, approx. 2 km distant from Rumbek Airport

Catechists: 40 full time (25) and part time (15)

Outstations: 6 (Holy Family, Loreto Centre, Our Lady of Holy Rosary Lang Cok, Aber Chapel, Pantiit Chapel and Gurmor William Chapel)

Religious Congregations:

Missionary Congregation of Evangelizing Sisters of Mary (MCESM 5 sisters) working in Pastoral, visitation of the areas, education (comboni primary school & youth and training of the catechists) children, scc, altar boys and girls, alleluia dancers

Missionaries of Charity (MC 8 sisters): working with the poorest of the poor, taking care of the poor around holy family. Run an orphanage and a small clinic for the missionaries of charity

Loreto Sisters (I.B.V.M. 2 sisters): involved in girls education

Schools and other Institutions:

St. Daniel Comboni Primary School

Bishop Mazzolari Kindergarten and primary school

Bishop Mazzolari Memorial Secondary School

Loreto Primary school

Loreto Girls secondary school

Lang Cok primary school

Catholic University of South Sudan - campus

Diocesan Institutions:

Education Field Department

DOR Logistics Field Office

PALICA (Pastoral-Liturgical- Catechetical Centre)

DOR Women's Desk – St. Monica

DOR Justice & Peace Desk office

DOR Pontifical Missionary Childhood Office

PHCC – Primary Health Care Centre

DOR Youth Secretariat and Youth Centre

PANDOOR Guest House

Caritas Diocese of Rumbek (Caritas DOR)

Rumbek Holy Family Cathedral Parish is the “Mother Church” of the Diocese in the capital city of Western Lakes States and one of the largest cities of South Sudan.

The pastoral care of Rumbek Holy Family Parish with its outstations is entrusted to a Diocesan Priest of Rumbek, Fr. Luka Dor Aghor Dor. The community of Missionaries of Charity (MC), next to the cathedral compound runs an orphanage and a health centre for the most disadvantaged persons in Rumbek.

Sr. Mary Mumu OLC until her death in June 2018 was managing the St. Monica Women Group in Rumbek since the year 2001. The group still exists, has various income generating projects, is offering programs for peace and re-conciliation, women empowerment, alphabetization, and tailoring courses. It is now extending its activities to a number of outstations around Rumbek such as Rumbek Holy Cross (at the Secondary School), Pan-bar-kol, Pacong, Rumbek Sacred Heart and recently Lang-cok Military Camp in the North of Rumbek.

History

The Cathedral of Rumbek Diocese in her tumultuous history has become a symbol for the equally interesting story of the Diocese of Rumbek. It was built shortly after Rumbek had been instituted as an Apostolic Vicariate in 1955. In the same year the first South Sudanese Liberation War (1955-1973) started. In 1960 Fr. Paulino Doggale, the parish priest of Rumbek Cathedral, was arrested and condemned to many years in prison for having protested against Sunday abolition by the Islamic Government of Khartoum. In 1964, the Sudanese regime expelled all foreign Christian missionaries from the country. In July 1965, Arab soldiers killed the Vicar General, Fr. Ark-Angelo Ali, during a raid. After these events, the priests escaped and the cathedral of Rumbek was closed and burnt down though some catechists continued to assist the Christians. In 1972 an Apostolic Delegate was able to re-open the Mission in Rumbek. During the Second Secession War (1983-2005), Rumbek had to be abandoned again. Up to 1997 the Bishop (initially as an Apostolic Administrator) of Rumbek led the Diocese from Kenya. In May 1997 the SPLA/M gained control over Rumbek. By that time, the see of the Bishop in Rumbek township was vastly destroyed: the Cathedral, the Bishop's House, the residence of Fathers and Sisters, the premises of the medical dispensary were in a desolate condition. The only thing left of the cathedral was a part of the round wall and the wall behind the altar with a painting of the holy family. Little by little, the mission was rebuilt.



St Augustine choir at the Holy Family Cathedral

5.1.1 Renovation of Rumbek Cathedral

The cathedral is very old and has numerous cracks on the walls and it is a historical symbol of the diocese; it represents the past of the local community but also its future, it is also the burial place of the late Bishop Caesar Mazzolari. The Cathedral is being renovated with funding from the Diocese of Rottenburg Stuttgart.

5.1.2 Multipurpose Shelter

The members of Catholic faithful in the Diocese of Rumbek have increased significantly and on Sundays the parish is not able to accommodate all of them in the Cathedral which is old and small, most parishioners are forced to stand outside during mass and in the rainy season this is not possible. With the help of Church in Need the diocese has constructed a multi-purpose shelter that will accommodate the many hundreds of people who come to attend Sunday Mass and other religious ceremonies.

The shelter is still under construction but the diocese has been able to hold some functions in it for example the Youth Congress 2017 whereby more than 1,000 youths attended, and the Priestly ordination of two deacons that was held in December 2017.



Multipurpose shelter (still under construction)



Ordination of the two deacons by H.L. Bp. Hiiboro

5.1.3 The Primary Health Care Centre (PHCC)

In late January 2017 Fr. John Mathiang the diocesan coordinator and Mr. Jonathan Barsby the financial administrator of the diocese agreed that the diocese would take over the management of PHCC in Rumbek, located on DOR land, from the German NGO Sign of Hope (SOH) who had been managing it since 2011, as SOH were leaving South Sudan. The diocese has been able to secure funding from institutional donors to finance the PHCC running costs such as medicines and staff salaries.

The key activities of the PHCC are:

Provision of maternal care services, preventive health care services,

consultation and treatment of patients with communicable and non-communicable diseases, nutrition services especially to the young, an outpatient therapeutic program, HIV AIDS testing and counselling and immunization. Rumbek PHCC benefits the communities within Rumbek who come here for treatment.



Patients being attended to at the PHCC

5.1.4 Pandoor

Pandoor also known as “House of Peace” has been accommodating the diocesan personnel, lay personnel and visitors/donors who come to visit the diocese. It also hosts the diocesan department’s offices (DOR Education field office, Caritas-Rumbek and CEDS). The diocese has been able to raise some local funds in Pandoor by hosting seminars, workshops and this money helps to fund some diocesan activities. Pandoor has a total of 15 staff and the Administrator is Joseph Buoi.



Ground view of some of Pandoor structures



Pandoor hosting a meeting (May 2018)

5.1.5 Bishop Mazzolari Memorial secondary school.

A mixed day secondary school established three years ago in the honour of our late Bishop Caesar Mazzolari; this secondary school is one of the fastest growing institutions in the diocese, its main goal is to cater for the numerous number of primary 8 leavers from all the diocesan primary schools to enable them continue with the quality education being offered. This year the enrolment has gone up to 1,180 children (820 males and 360 females).

In 2017 12 classrooms were constructed and a borehole drilled to provide access to clean water to this huge number of students.



Bishop Mazzolari secondary school

5.1.6 Loreto Sisters

Loreto Girls Secondary School is situated 7 km west of the town of Rumbek. The Loreto sisters came from Ireland to South Sudan in 2006 and in 2008 opened a Secondary Boarding school for girls at the invitation of the Catholic Bishop of Rumbek. The Bishop was seeking a female congregation

to begin a girls boarding secondary school. The community of Maker Kuei donated over 80 acres of land for the school. The community welcomed the Sisters and the mission for girl child education but requested that the Loreto Sisters further develop its institutions within the community by starting a primary school (opened in 2010), and a clinic (the Primary Health Care Unit opened in 2016). The management are fully qualified teaching staff and work in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, using the new Secondary Syllabus for South Sudan and the Government of South Sudan (GoSS) examination. In the past 10 years, the high standard of teaching and discipline has given Loreto a very good standing with parents and students. The girls follow the Government of South Sudan secondary curriculum and avail of a range of extra-curricular activities unequalled in the region. In 2012/2013, the Loreto Sisters also started a Primary School.

The Loreto Primary School has an enrollment of over 1,000 students from the local community in primary levels, Kindergarten through Primary 8. Due to a shortage of classrooms and other resources, the school has divided the day into 2 sessions: a traditional school in the mornings and an accelerated afterschool program in the afternoons. Due to economic hardships, especially food security, the school has become one of the most stable elements of these children's lives. When a child comes to the school, they are guaranteed a quality education, clean water, a simple but nutritious meal and free access to health care. The ongoing food security issues in South Sudan have forced a paradigm shift in parents who have traditionally worked against formal education (especially that of young girls). These parents have started encouraging attendance and enrollment at Loreto. The school experienced unprecedented levels of attendance this year with more than 90% attendance overall; up from a 3-year average of approximately



The lower primary school in a parade

81%. Moreover, this year the Loreto Primary School is celebrating 44% female enrollment between the 2 primary school sessions.

The Loreto Girls Secondary School has grown in strength and quality and has a strong reputation for girl-child education and protection. Students enrolled in the school are provided with a broad spectrum of resources designed to support them throughout their rigorous educational program. The education offered by the Loreto Girls Secondary School is designed to be highly relevant to either formal employment or continuing education and the school actively works to create opportunities for their graduates. In early 2017, the Loreto graduating class sat for the National Secondary School Examinations and all 29 girls passed, including several girls who achieved top marks in the state. 97% of the Loreto girls who have sat the national secondary school leaving examinations over the last 3 years have passed. Around 60% of Loreto girls have attended tertiary education programs and 30% have found formal employment within South Sudan.

Today, the school is home to over 290 secondary school girls from across the country. The support for their education, financially and otherwise, is provided through the Loreto Sisters and their donors. In addition to comprehensive academic courses, the students are also provided with a diverse assortment of clubs that encourage student leadership, peace building, trauma awareness, healing and resiliency, the sharing and celebration of cultures, and creativity within the student body.



Loreto Girls

Catechism classes are offered to all students who wish to join the Catholic Church. With the support of the local parish, Sunday liturgies are held in the chapels compound.



Budding scientist – Senior 3 science class – more and more girls are following careers in health and medicine.

All of the educational programs offered through Loreto – Rumbek are built on the foundation of the official South Sudan curriculum, but also provide teaching and lessons in life skills, parenting skills, music, leadership, advocacy, public speaking, health education, peace building and trauma healing, computer sciences and catechesis. All of the students both primary and secondary and the Loreto graduates participating in the Professional Internship Program participate in a family mentorship program wherein the secondary girls help mentor primary school girls, and the graduates help mentor the secondary school girls, creating a system of surrogate family support. This mentorship program is essential for girls when they lose the support of their families for their education.



Some of the Loreto Secondary School Graduates – many are in Universities and Colleges - and others working with various NGOs.

In addition to the 2 schools and their educational features, Loreto – Rumbek opened a school-affiliated **Primary Health Care Unit (PHCU)**. This program is designed to provide primary health care to students and dependents of the school and to provide health education to the students, their families, and the community of Maker Kuei. In the first 6 weeks of operation, this program provided an essential 1,500 clinical consultations to community members, a trend that has continued over the last 2 years. With a mandate to diagnose, treat and educate, the Loreto PHCU has extended primary health care services to some of the most vulnerable populations of people in South Sudan: children and women. As an educational organization, the Loreto PHCU has a 2-fold strategy toward health care: clinical primary health care services for vulnerable populations such as children and women, supported by community-based health education focusing on a curriculum for basic health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and nutrition issues.



Sr Penina (a Loreto Sister) the Head Nurse working in the Loreto Primary Health Care Unit.

In addition to the two day-schools and PHCU, Loreto – Rumbek has several additional programs offered for non-conventional students:

- Accelerated Learning Program (ALP)
- Masonry Vocational Program
- Professional Internship Program
- Teacher Training Program
- Community Health Education Program

In support of these programs, Loreto has also implemented a wide range of projects in advocacy and protection, agriculture, capacity building, sustainable energy (solar), water harvesting and recycling, water sanitation

and hygiene, food security, emergency relief, security, and construction projects.

In April 2018, Loreto Celebrated 10 years of operation; the community, State government, Loreto and diocesan leadership, religious and priests, past pupils and many guests came together to celebrate 10 years of success and wished Loreto continued success, impact and growth.

Recently the Loreto Compound welcomed the De La Salle brothers and their first class of Secondary School Boys. The brothers are embarking on building a school close to Loreto and hope to officially inaugurate the De La Salle School next year.



Principal Br Joseph with brothers and De La Salle boys
enjoying the Loreto 10th anniversary – April 2018

5.1.7 Caritas Rumbek

Caritas Diocese of Rumbek (Caritas DOR) was started in 2012 as one of the seven dioceses of Sudan Catholic Bishops Conference – South Sudan Secretariat (SCBC –SSS) implementing Sudan’s Vision and Mission to respond to one of the worst humanitarian crises in the newly independent state of South Sudan as a result of civil strife and inter-ethnic fighting.

Caritas South Sudan (CSS) was founded in October 2011, just after South Sudan received its independence in July 2011. It comes under the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Sudan which regrouped Sudan and South Sudan Bishops as one Bishops’ Conference, with a secretariat in Juba. Caritas South Sudan is the socio-pastoral service arm of the church in South

Sudan, operating under the Secretariat and registered with the Relief and Humanitarian Commission, Republic of South Sudan, in November 2011. Caritas South Sudan (CSS) operates in all seven Dioceses of South Sudan namely, Archdiocese of Juba, Diocese of Yei, Torit, Tombura Yambio, Rumbek, Wau and Malakal.

As a Christian organization, Caritas has a duty to give the best they can to alleviate the suffering of the poorest and witness the universal love through action and compassion. Their mission is to give hope to those who are marginalized, and contribute towards establishing social justice and dignity to the citizens of South Sudan. The first Director was Fr. John Waweru, under his leadership Caritas DOR made significant progress in addressing the needs of communities affected by violence and internal displacement of population. The current Director is Fr. Henry Gidudu who took over the office in August 2017.



Distribution of food in Pagarau, Yirol East

Caritas Rumbek is involved in the following activities;

- Emergency food distribution
- Giving out seeds to the communities for cultivation i.e. groundnuts, millet, sorghum maize and simsim seeds
- Ox-ploughs were given to farmers in Adior and Pagarau
- Small scale enterprise capital assistance and training for 18 women groups
- Training of hygiene promotion volunteers
- Construction of pit-latrines among others

5.2 Our Lady Help of Christians Parish - Pacong

Opened: 2012

Priest in charge: Fr. John Waweru, Diocesan Priest

Catechists: 17

Location: Western Lake State, around 20 km East of Rumbek on the road to Yirol-Juba

Outstations: 4 (Malengagok, Pan Bar Kou, Amer, Pacong Centre, Pan Awac)

Institution: Primary school as from pre-unit and primary 1-3 with 20 children

Pacong was originally the oldest mission in the Rumbek area because Rumbek town had been reserved for Anglicans by the British colonialists, the Comboni Missionaries chose this place in the periphery of Rumbek to build up a mission. The wars from 1955 to 2005 destroyed all this work. However, the first local priests of our Diocese originate from this area.

According to the book "Gold in the Crucible", the village of Pacong was razed by the army of the Sudanese Government on Christmas eve 1984. Seven people were reported killed, many wounded and the village plundered.

The Parish has managed to build a church, St. John Evangelist – Malengagok and St. Daniel Comboni outstation in Pan bar kou. It was officially opened on 3rd June 2018 by Fr. John Mathiang the Diocesan Coordinator. They also train women in using sewing machines and the women also engage in other activities like agricultural farming which is being supported by the parish.



Our lady help of Christians parish - Pacong

5.3 Sacred Heart Parish - Rumbek

Opened: July 1983

Parish Priest: Fr. Henry Gidudu, Diocesan Priest

Location: Rumbek Town, near market and city centre

Outstations: 4

Catechists: 25

Institutions:

Radio Good News

Sacred Heart Parish Rumbek was founded before the beginning of the second South Sudanese Secession war (1983-2005), probably on July 1st 1983 in a location by then called Malual Bab. Fr Magalasi was the first parish priest of the new parish of Malual Bab, and Fr. Bettini acted as the coadjutor.

In 1987, a fighter jet from Khartoum attacked the new Church during Sunday Mass, while the faithful waited for Fr. Raphael Riel who had gone home to collect his bible which he had forgotten. Many were killed and the ruins remained untouched until 2012, although used for liturgical celebrations.

Around 2005, the late Bishop Caesar Mazzolari decided to re-open the mission as a sub parish of Holy Family Cathedral Parish and put in charge Fr. Andrea Osman and Fr. Henry Gidudu, both Diocesan Priests.

In January 2010, the newly constructed Diocesan Radio Station, Radio Good News, started broadcasting from their facilities in the immediate neighbourhood of the ruins of the Church.

In 2011, the Diocesan Administrator Fr. Fernando Colombo declared Sacred Heart as an independent parish in Rumbek and put Fr. Don Bosco Ochieng, Diocesan Priest, in charge of it. Fr. John Mathiang, who was a parish priest from 2012-2013 renovated and roofed the ruins of the Church building. Fr. Henry Gidudu, Diocesan Priest is now the parish priest and is assisted by Fr. Andrea Osman. The parish has four outstations: Malou, Meen Atool, Malith and Nyitangui.

The Parish also engages in income generating activities such as tailoring, a shop, a saloon, bakery under the care of St. Bakhita Women of Sacred Heart parish, a photo studio under the care of the youth committee and tailoring activities for women at St. Mother Teresa parish in Kuel Kuac.



Sacred Heart Parish

5.3.1 Radio Good News Rumbek

Radio Good News is a community-based diocesan radio station. Translated in the indigenous language (Dinka) as “Radio Thong Path”, Radio Good News broadcasts mainly in Dinka language since the natives of the region of its coverage are predominantly of the Dinka tribe. But there are also programs in English, particularly the daily news and pre-recorded programs addressing topical community issues.

The radio started with an 8-hour daily broadcast in 2010 under the leadership of Fr. Don Bosco Ochieng, a diocesan priest. Its present Director is Fr. Andrea Osman Okello, a diocesan priest.

Radio Good News is a community based church radio for the Catholic Diocese of Rumbek. It is one of the eight radio stations which constitute the Catholic Radio Network (CRN) in South Sudan and the Nuba Mountains. It has a coverage of 150Km radius reaching the whole of Western Lakes (Rumbek), Eastern Lakes (Yirol), Gok State (Cueibet), parts of Amadi and Tonj States, and reaches three quarters of the territory of the Diocese of Rumbek. It has an estimated audience of 500,000. Daily programs on the radio include news, civic education programs on health, and education, peace building and evangelization.

Staffing: the radio has 16 staff, with seven staff working as reporters, producers and presenters respectively. There are three administrators – the station manager, programs manager and desk Editor. There are six sub-

ordinate staff - three watchmen, two for the main gate of the Sacred Heart Parish Compound, and one for the gate to the radio, two cleaners and a cook.



Radio Good News Rumbek

Radio Good News has the following Projects

- **Radio equipment and radio peace building project:** with the support of DKA Austria the radio is running a peace building program which will run for the next 3 years. They have equipped the radio with mixing console, microphones and other on-air broadcast equipment. Most of the equipment at the station has been functioning for the past 8 years and getting worn out.
- **ICT Hub/Youth Resource Center:** USAID through AECOM/VISTAS have built a Youth Resource Center that will be directly under the care of Radio Good News (as it's a property of the Diocese of Rumbek). The building has one big hall, a mini hall and two offices. The big hall can accommodate over 150 people for workshops, seminars and trainings. A small hall will be an internet cafe. The radio intends to generate some income by hiring out the hall for workshops, and charge internet users who will be coming to browse.



Youth Resource Center

5.4 St. Teresa of the Child Jesus Parish - Rumbek

Opened: 2005

Parish Priest: Fr. Augustine Edan Ekeno SJ

Location: In the North of Rumbek

Religious Congregations: Jesuits

Outstations: 2 (Maperand Alor)

Catechists: 5

Institutions:

St. Peter Claver Ecological Training Centre

Agricultural School (MAJIS)

The parish started in the late 1990s as an outstation of the Holy Family Cathedral Parish. Fr. Salvatore Ferrao, SJ, popularly known as Sal, who was then working at the Cathedral noticed the potential of this outstation to become a full-fledged parish to serve the big number of children that were attending catechism classes and a few adults attending Sunday communion service. Fr. Sal's view was also to initiate a parish in that part of Rumbek town where the priest(s) can serve as chaplains to hospitals, prisons and educational institutions located in the area. The outstation was declared a full-fledged parish in 2005 by the late Bishop Caesar Mazzolari. The parish was named after St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, whose feast is celebrated on 1st October. Fr. Salvatore served as the parish priest until August 2017 when he was replaced by Fr. Augustine Edan Ekeno, SJ, and is assisted by Fr. Michael Mungai, SJ who joined him in January 2018. Both of them are Kenyans.



The Society of Jesus popularly known as Jesuits are the ones serving in St. Teresa parish.

The Jesuits also run the St. Peter Claver Ecological Training Centre which offers training to the local youth in water and sanitation, construction, solar energy, electricity and computer science.



Fr. Michael Mungai, SJ, Assistant Parish priest of St. Teresa Parish with the youth

5.4.1 St Peter Claver Computer Center: The computer center teaches basic computer skills i.e. Windows 7, 8, and 10, basic typing, word, excel, publisher and power point. The course takes 7 weeks in total.

5.4.2 St Peter Claver Ecological training center: The center teaches in the fields of solar energy and electricity. Students learn the basics of electricity and solar power and then have practical experience in both these areas. When they graduate they are able to wire a house and install solar systems. A second group studies basic construction, water and sanitation, the students study principles of building and the laying of bricks and blocks, they also learn plumbing and repairing of hand pumps. This is a full time course which starts at 0900 hrs and ends at 1700 hrs with a lunch break of two hours 1300 to 1500 hrs. Combined, both courses take a total of 8 months.



Students conducting a full conduit wiring

5.4.3 Multi-education and Agricultural Jesuits Institute of South Sudan; (MAJIS). The intention of MAJIS was to teach the community about agriculture and farming. Due to insecurity in the area the project has not properly started but it has managed to teach women about planting and growing of vegetables and now they can get some money to feed their families including their husbands. MAJIS has also started a pre-primary school for children because the primary school in the area is not running due to insecurity. They also teach women who did not go to school how to read and write. We hope and pray that peace returns in the village so that the school and other projects could start.

5.5 Holy Cross Parish - Rumbek

Opened: 1948 (2018)

Parish Priest: Fr. John Skinnader, CspP

Location: Rumbek Center

Religious Congregations: Spiritans (Holy Ghost Fathers)

Outstations: 6

Catechists: 15

Schools / Institutions: Higher level learning: Rumbek University, a hostel which is in the process of opening. Secondary Studies: Rumbek National Secondary School, DOR Primary Schools: St Bakhita Girls Primary School, St Gonzaga pre - primary School and St. Joseph Primary School, Malou.

Holy Cross Parish Church was initially constructed as a chaplaincy of Rumbek National Secondary School probably before 1948. It goes along with the

history and the struggle of the Church in South Sudan, and in Rumbek in particular. Later on, it was entrusted under the care of St Teresa Parish in Rumbek and later on became the outstation of the Holy Family Cathedral Parish Rumbek. However, due to a high population in the area there was a need to make the Holy Cross Chaplaincy a parish of its own. The Spiritans were requested to take over the running of the parish both in pastoral care and development of the Parish and its projects. At the moment there are two Spiritan priests, namely Frs John Skinnader, CSSP (the Parish Priest) and Nolasco Mushi, CSSP (the Assistant Parish Priest). Currently they reside in Pandoor Guest House as the Fathers' residence is still under renovation.

There are on-going parish projects or activities which include education, (three pre and primary schools), women's project (the roofing was blown away in April this year) and youth activities. There is a hall for the youth and part of it is being used as an office for St Gonzaga Primary School.

5.6 St. Peter and Paul Catholic Mission - Warrap

Opened: 1954 (re-opened in 2003)

Parish Priest: Fr. John Drici AJ

Location: Tonj State, South Sudan, approx. 100 km northeast of Wau and 80 km north of Tonj

Religious Congregations: Apostles of Jesus

Outstations: 24

Catechists: 48

Schools / Institutions: Comboni Primary School (1,216 students in 2018)

Warrap parish was started by Comboni missionaries in 1954. After all the missionaries were expelled from Sudan in 1964, the diocesan premises became army barracks and headquarters for the governor of "Arabs" who fought against the population of Southern Sudan.

In 2003 - two years before the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) – the late Bishop Caesar Mazzolari allowed the parish work to be resumed by the congregation of the Apostles of Jesus. At the moment, there are two priests in Warrap: Fr. John Drici AJ and Fr. Alex Ojera AJ.

The parish has 48 catechists and 24 outstations or Chapels: Warrap centre, Awul Chapel, Apor Lang, Pagakdit, Rum Tii, Lur-chuk, Pagol, Rum-thony, Mabiordit, Kirik, Majok, Agany, Lor-abeit, Aliek, Pantei, Lual, Makok, Kuany, War-pach, Majangdit, Pankot, Manlor, Farasika, and Alabek.

The people of the area belong mainly to the ethnic groups of the predominantly pastoralist Dinkas, the Jur Chol and Jur-Bonggo who are farmers. Warrap Mission has a large primary school, but there is no church and the Fathers' house requires renovation or construction of a new one. Around 800 people pray in the main parish under the shade of mango trees.



Parishioners worshipping under a tree in Warrap

5.7 St. Daniel Comboni Parish - Marial Lou

Opened: 1994

Parish Priest: Fr. Benjamin Madol, Diocesan Priest

Location: Tonj State, approx. 80 km north of Tonj

Outstations: 8 outstations (Ngapagok, Palal, Achuat, Akuop, Langkap, Kiriit, Majak and Athiangpuol) and 4 prayer centres (Panther, Alerwai, Magooil and Parieng)

Catechists: 16

Institutions:

Comboni Primary School (1074 pupils in 2018)

Tuberculosis Clinic is run by the Arkangelo Ali Association

Marial Lou Parish was established in 1994 with the Diocesan Priest Fr. Benjamin Madol who was soon joined by Fr. Mario Riva, a Comboni Missionary.

Marial Lou is located in a swampy area far off the main roads; during the second South Sudanese Secession war (1983 – 2005) people took refuge there. The Church followed them and built a mission among them.

The diocese built a primary school and a large TB-clinic, a kindergarten and finally a girls' boarding school "St. Bakhita Boarding School".

Even after the war had ended in 2005 Marial Lou saw many conflicts between neighboring clans with disastrous consequences. Several communities working in Marial Lou fell victims of the attacks or insecurity. In 2010 the Priests of the order "Verbo Incarnato" and the "Evangelizing Sisters of Mary" had to be evacuated. Today, there are two diocesan priests in charge of the mission, Fr. Benjamin Madol is the Parish priest assisted by Fr. Peter Garang. The mission is still without a church, people pray under a tree; the parish priest is struggling to build a small church.



Marial Lou Church

5.8 Romic parish

Opened: 2011

Parish Priest: Fr. Ireneo Mayok, Diocesan Priest

Location: Tonj State, near Marial Lou Mission, approx. 80 km north of Tonj

Outstations: 16 prayer houses (Aliang, Panhial, Paweng, Pagur, Pautakou, Makuach, Unlit, Ngapaguk, Kachuat, Mapara, Unchuei, Palal, Tuerangot, Carayika, Mayen Adoor, Abiok)

Catechists: 30

Schools/Institutions: Mission primary school with 516 pupils (2018)

Romic is a young growing center near Marial Lou on the main road from

Tonj heading northeast into Unity State. It had been a sub parish of Marial Lou before recently being made a full parish.

During the last war people had fled from the main roads into the bush, (and the Church followed there and built up Missions like Marial Lou), now people are moving towards the main roads, so places like Romic become increasingly important also for the Church.

In 2011, Bishop Caesar Mazzolari agreed with a priest of the Diocese of El Obeid, Fr. Ireneo Majok Jangko, a native from Romic area, to ensure a permanent presence of a priest in Romic. After Bishop Mazzolari's death, the Diocesan Administrator, Fr. Fernando Colombo mscj, confirmed this status and continued supporting the sub parish in view of eventually making it an independent parish.

People in Romic are still praying under a tree, the priest has a humble two room house. As a small income generating activity, in 2013 a number of locally built guest houses (tukuls) were erected. Romic became a parish in December 2017.



Romic Church

5.9 Sacred Heart Parish - Tonj

Opened: 1953 (re-opened in 1999)

Parish Priest: Fr. Paul Antimi SDB

Religious Congregations:

Sisters of Mary of Kakamega (SMK)

Missionary Sisters of Mary, Help of the Christians (MSMHC)

Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco (FMA)

Salesians of Don Bosco (SDB)

Location: Tonj State, 120 km West of Rumbek on the Road to Wau

Outstations: 20 prayer houses and 7 other outstations

Catechists: 45

Institutions:

2 Secondary Schools (Don Bosco & St. Bakhita Sec. Schools)

2 Primary Schools (Don Bosco & St. Bhakita Primary Schools)

2 Nursery Schools

1 Girls' Boarding Facility

2 Youth Centres (Oratorio)

1 Lepers colony (Leprosorium)

1 Health Centre (Hospital)

1 Radio Station (Don Bosco Radio 91.0FM)

1 Boys' Boarding Facility

Women promotion centre

In 1953, the church of Tonj was built as an outstation of Thiet mission, which was founded in 1949 by the Comboni Fathers under the Diocese of Wau. After the end of the first South Sudanese independence war (1955-1972), a house was built for Fathers and Sisters as well, but most times remained empty.

In 1980 Bishop Gabriel Dwatuka (1979-1982) appointed the Diocesan Priest Fr. Benjamin Madol as the first resident priest of Tonj. In June 1982, the Salesian Fathers took over Tonj with Fr. Ernesto de Gaspari as parish priest and Fr. James Pulickal as assistant. In 1983 Salesian Sisters joined. In Nov. 1986, shortly after the beginning of the second secession war, Fr. James Pulickal was imprisoned by the Sudan People Liberation Army (SPLA) and Fr. Ernest left for Wau; the mission remained unattended to. Only Fr. Giuseppe Pellerino mscj, by then Apostolic Administrator of Rumbek, visited Tonj occasionally coming from Wau. But basically Tonj Mission was dormant up to 1994, and was attended to from Marial Lou Mission.

On 12th June 1999 the late Bp. Caesar Mazzolari offered the mission to the Salesians, Fr. James came to scout the mission land and to decide on the possibility of taking up the mission again. In August 1999 the Salesians, with Fr. James Pulickal, came back to reopen the mission and a year later the Salesian Sisters Sr. Myriam and Celestina joined.

The mission has since developed to envelop the entire area and integrating the diversified tribes of Bongo, Jur, Dinka and Fertit (Mapel) into a reconciled people through the intense Don Bosco inspiring presence among the youth, and through outstanding pastoral, educational and health programs.

Today the parish still utilises the original parish church, and the Salesians have constructed a multipurpose hall in the new mission compound which is 2km from the old church. The structure is used to host the second mass every Sunday, Feast days and special occasions.



Don Bosco Tonj – Multipurpose Hall

Tonj Mission now has outstations spread over a wide area, five of them have primary schools with around 200 students each, and there are several pastoral centers, namely Mabior Yar (35km distant), Malual Mok (18km), Aguko (36 km), Kuelcok (15 km), and Bab Cok (15km). In Thiet there is a large church. Other chapels and primary schools are under construction.



Parish Brass Band

5.9.1 Formal Schools

The mission compound has a Nursery, Primary and a Secondary School (with approximately 1,200 students in 2017) All religious are potential teachers though some are specifically engaged in health (dispensary for outpatients, TB patients, lepers and a mobile clinic that caters for those who are living far from the mission).

In the interests of nation building and creating harmony between the different tribes and clans, the following activities are carried out in school

- Preparation for the Sacraments
- Choir
- Formation of the school leaders which assists in the smooth running of the school
- Catechist formation
- Visit to the families
- Sports, debates and clubs

There are 131 children in the Kindergarten and 557 in Primary school from P1 to P8.

5.9.2 Boarding facility

There is a boarding facility that caters for boys and girls. Girls are taken

care of by the Sisters of Mary of Kakamega and boys by the Salesian of Don Bosco fathers and brothers.

5.9.3 A Youth centre

Don Bosco Mission has a Youth centre that caters for youth activities including brass band, daily sports programs and drama. Integrated within the activities of the centre are also catechetical programs, seminars, faith matters, prayer services, and community service activities such as visiting the sick and elderly.

5.9.4 Informal alphabetization for Adults (Women)

Adult education is mainly targeting the women most of whom did not have the opportunity to attend formal school because of cultural and family constraints. They meet three times a week to learn reading, writing and counting. The aim is to enable the women to read and explain the scriptures in their weekly prayer meetings and in extension their family.

5.9.5 Groups and movements

The parish is supported by different groups and movements active within it. These include the Legion of Mary, the altar servers, the Pontifical Missionary Children, Alleluia Dancers, Daughters of Mary, Vocation group, brass band and the Sunday School children.

5.9.6 Chapels

The number of chapels are over 30, of which only 14 are attended to on a regular basis. Many are reachable only seasonally (during dry season). Some are located in areas that are frequented by perennial skirmishes (cattle raids, insecurity and mass displacements of entire population)

5.9.7 Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco (FMA)

The Salesian sisters manage “Bakhita Educational Centre”, consisting of a nursery and primary school, a Women’s Centre with an agricultural training program, Accelerated Learning Programs for adults and a Youth Centre.

The Salesian sisters are involved in the following activities:

a) Women Promotion

In South Sudanese society women are the back bone of the families. The situation of poverty; hunger, illiteracy, health and hygiene that is experienced in this area can be changed only through the empowerment of the women. For this reason the sisters commit themselves to empower the women through agriculture, sewing, embroidery and other skills that can help them to improve their family situations. By the end of this year they should be able to stitch the uniform for the centre and the neighboring schools. In the agriculture sector there is a group that is managing a vegetable garden and another group practices sustainable agriculture where each woman has cultivated one fedan with sorghum.

b) Literacy class

This class is for young girls and boys who are of age but they do not go to school. The aim is to motivate them in education and be admitted back to the formal schools. Those who are frequenting this class are 40, both boys and girls between the ages 10 to 15.

5.9.8 Missionary Sisters Mary Help of Christians

The Congregation is dedicated first and foremost to the missionary apostolate, evangelization and catechetical instruction especially of women and children in the village schools, boarding houses, oratories, dispensaries, homes for the aged, orphans and street children, vocational training centers, schools for the differently abled and rehabilitation of HIV/ AIDS patients are various activities through which the MSMHC serve the church. Imbued with the Salesian spirit, the congregation is pledged to practice Don Bosco's method of education in its own educational institutions and in those it runs for the parishes as well.

The MSMHC sisters joined the community of Tonj, South Sudan in September 2011. The community has four members and is involved in the following apostolic activities;

- The MSMHC sisters are given the management of the hospital by the Salesians. Two sisters are fully involved in the hospital and take care of the smooth running of the hospital.
- One sister helps in the secondary school
- Pastoral work and helping in the Church
- Take care of the women especially in the villages, including organizing seminars and programmes for them

- Take care of the daughters of Mary group.
- On Sundays, sisters visit the villages together with the priests.
- Take care of the World Food Programme (WFP) activities. There are 9 schools which receive WFP food and also the hospital. Sisters take care of the distribution, monitoring and reporting.
- They help the lepers by visiting them, giving them medicines and taking care of their wounds.

5.9.9 Sisters of Mary of Kakamega

The Sisters of Mary of Kakamega are active in education, health care and pastoral work. They have a group of women called the Legion of Mary and it is headed by Sr. Esther. They empower women in their homes with issues regarding the environment, hygiene and subsistence farming, particularly creating a kitchen garden in every family to help provide fresh vegetables and food to curb malnutrition in children. They have a vegetable garden for the lepers

5.9.10 Don Bosco Radio

The Parish also runs a radio station popularly known as Don Bosco FM Radio. The radio station is located within the mission compound, alongside the primary and secondary schools and presbytery. It has a 60 meters tall mast and an outreach of about 90 km radius. It has a music recording studio as well as a meeting room. The signal reaches Medil, Mapel, and Mbili en route to Wau.



Radio Don Bosco Tonj

5.10 Agangrial : Mary Mother of God Parish

Opened: 1995

Parish Priest: Fr. Sangkwon Lee (Michael), Fidei Donum

Communities:

Fidei Donum priests from the Diocese of Suwon, Korea

Missionary Sisters of Mary Mother of the Church (MSMMC)

Location: Gok State, 20 km south of Cueibet, off Rumbek-Wau-road

Catechists: 17

Schools / Institutions:

Comboni Primary School Agangrial with 680 students (2018)

St. Bakhita TB-clinic (entrusted to Arkangelo Ali Association)

Agangrial Mission was established in 1995 by the Comboni Fathers and Comboni Sisters around 20 km from Cueibet and the main road from Rumbek to Tonj and Wau. Like Mapuordit and Marial Lou, the mission was developed in the bush, where the people fled from the atrocities of the Civil War between Southern Sudan and the Sudanese government troops. The humble church of Agangrial was built around 2006/2007.

Since 2008, Agangrial Mission was entrusted to a community of Fidei Donum priests from the Diocese of Suwon / South Korea, who are developing the mission and Cueibet parish rapidly.



Agangrial Church

5.11 St. Francis Parish - Cueibet

Priest in Charge: Fr. Sanghyup Lee (Gregory) Fidei Donum

Communities:

Fidei Donum priests from the Diocese of Suwon, Korea

Society of Jesus (Jesuits)

Comboni Sister (CMS)

Location: Gok State, circa 50 km west of Rumbek on the road to Yirol-Wau

Catechists: 20

SubParish: Barghel

Schools / Institutions:

Mazzolari Teachers College,(MTC) run by the Jesuits

Adult Learning Program in Cueibet

Cueibet parish is located on the main Rumbek-Wau road. After the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 2005 and the following relative stability people are moving out of the bush towards the main road. Cueibet is becoming a booming center, whereas there was almost no building during the war. Fr. Joseph Pellerino built a small church in 2006 and the Korean Fidei Donum Priests built a house for themselves in 2012. A larger church was built by the Fidei Donum priests in 2014.

The Comboni Sisters community settled in Cueibet in 2009 and are active in pastoral work and Adult Education. In the first stage they taught children and even adults (who had missed out on school) under trees in the Parish compound. A new school was built in 2015 having four classrooms, a teachers' room and a library. It now operates as an office and regular primary school.



St. Francis Church - Cueibet

One of the dearest initiatives of the late Bishop Caesar Mazzolari is the Mazzolari Teachers' Training College in Cueibet, which was opened in 2016 and is being run by the Jesuits community.

There is also a Cueibet Construction Cooperation (C.C.C.). The purpose of CCC is to create jobs and also develop the economy. It has more than 20 members who cooperate with the Cueibet Community and Government through such activities as construction, assistance in carrying food, maintenance of the roads, and car repairs and service. The program is an initiative of the Fidei Donum priests.



Some members of the CCC team

5.11.1 Mazzolari Teachers College (MTC)

On July 4th 2016, Mazzolari Teachers' College (MTC) opened its door for the first time with 18 students. Located in Cueibet, Gok State, South Sudan, MTC is run by the Jesuits of Eastern Africa Province on behalf of the Catholic Diocese of Rumbek (DOR). The College currently trains Primary School Teachers, but plans are underway to expand it to include training for teachers of higher levels.

At present, there are 3 Jesuits working at the College; Fr. Victor-Luke Odhiambo SJ, the Principal, assisted by Fr. Benard Omondi, SJ the administrator and a Tutor, and Scholastic Paschal Isimwamu, SJ who works as a Tutor and also takes care of the library. In addition, there are 3 members of staff and 7 support staff.

The MTC has had a long gestation period from the time the late Bp. Caesar Mazzolari, mccc, the Bishop of the Diocese of Rumbek, who in 2007 thought it fitting to train South Sudanese teachers in their country instead of Kitale, Western Kenya where Diocese of Rumbek had constructed a large Teachers' Training College. Many organizations, benefactors and individuals welcomed the idea and in 2008, the students who were studying in Kitale, Kenya, were moved back to South Sudan to other teacher training institutions. A number of institutional donors have since been consistent in supporting the

development of the college.

The College offers a 2 year full time Certificate course for unqualified teachers men and women, who have completed High School or are teaching in Primary Schools with no qualifications, or to teachers who want to improve their educational qualifications. Plans are underway to offer a 3 year full-time diploma course in the near future.



Students in class at Mazzolari Teachers College

In April 2018, MTC had their pioneer 14 teacher graduates who successfully completed the 2 year Teacher Training Program. Four students in the outgoing second year class dropped out largely due to the recurrent security threats. Plans are underway to organize their graduation ceremony in the next few months. The number of students applying to MTC is modest due to the unpredictable tribal conflict that often erupts in the area. A case in point is the clan violence that erupted late 2017 that left 189 people dead. Before the aforementioned violence MTC had around 500 refugees residing in their College premises for three months in the aftermath of earlier clan violence that left 70 people dead. In spite of all these circumstances, MTC has managed to enact learning under very challenging circumstances. The vision of the college is to have two intakes of 20-35 students per year.



MTC students in the Library

The Teacher Training Program offered is comprehensive with a wide range of courses that fall under the following categories: professional studies courses, language education courses, mathematics education courses, general science education courses, social studies courses and health education courses. The students are aware of the social ills that are present in South Sudan and they are advocating for the society to put an end to these ills.

5.11.2 Barghel subparish

Priest in Charge: Fr. Michael from Fidei Donum Priests.

Location: Gok State, about 20 km west of Cuiebet on the road to Tonj

Schools / Institutions: Ireneo Wien Dud Vocational Training Centre with 130 students in 2018

In Barghel sub parish, the main project is the Ireneo Wien Dud Vocational Training Centre (a vocational school for mechanical engineering, construction, masonry, carpentry, and borehole drilling, combined with a secondary school).



Ireneo Wien Dud Vocational training centre

5.12 Saints Peter and Paul Parish - Wulu

Opened: 2003 (re opened in 2012)

Parish Priest: Fr. Sospeter Kiarie CSsP

Communities: Holy Ghost Fathers (Spiritans)

Location: Western Lake States, around 45 km South of Rumbek on the road to Mvolo

Catechists: 8

Wulu is around 40 km distant from Rumbek. Wulu County has approximately 20,500 inhabitants, while the “payam” (smaller administration unit) of Wulu counts 7,800 persons.

Wulu Mission was officially opened in 2003 and entrusted to the Congregation of Apostles of Jesus but remained vacant from 2007/2008, due to a lack of priests. After that it was taken care of by the Rumbek Holy Family Cathedral Parish in Rumbek.

In 2009, violent tribal clashes destroyed almost the whole of the humble mission facilities and made them uninhabitable. The Comboni Primary

School was given to the local civil authorities.

In 2010, the late Bishop Caesar Mazzolari decided to reconstruct the mission and agreed with the congregation of the Holy Ghost Fathers (Spiritans) to entrust the pastoral care of Wulu to them. In exchange he would make sure that a solid house was built for them. Sadly Bishop Mazzolari died in 2011 before sufficient donors were found to re-build the parish house.

The Spiritans came at the end of 2012 to Wulu and started their pastoral and developmental service for the community. The Spiritans thereafter arrived in Diocese of Rumbek in the absence of Bp. Mazzolari who had organized and invited the Congregation with great interest. However Fr. Colombo who was appointed diocesan administrator respected the invitation and secured Wulu mission for the Spiritans. Fr. Sospeter who arrived in May 2012 was introduced to the mission and stayed alone until November 2012 when Frs. Nolasco and Skinnader arrived to join him. Wulu mission is slowly being established as a Spiritan base. It has a vast area of pastoral work covering 2 counties (Wulu and Barghel) on the political map. The Spiritans have requested the Diocese to recognize two pastoral zones, Wulu and Nukta Manga, with a view that the latter becomes a mission (Parish). At present, Fr. Sospeter Kiarie cssp remains the Parish Priest of Wulu Parish covering the two zones.

Wulu Parish collectively has an estimate of about 4000 Christians. The majority of these are young people who are greatly interested in the Catholic faith while some of their parents keep their faith as protestant's. The youth are engaged in various Christian activities and they also participate in the annual youth congress and other diocesan youth activities.

Wulu zone has six villages each with a high population. In each of these villages there are two catechists who volunteer to teach catechism and lead the Christian communities during Sunday services and other Christian activities. In all the villages Christians gather under trees for prayer and worship except in Wulu center where the Spiritans have constructed a church building. We are struggling to look for funds to construct permanent churches or shelters in these villages.

5.12.1 Nukta Manga

This pastoral zone has 4 villages with a high population. The Spiritans have constructed a primary school (St. Joseph) which also promotes the Spiritan Presence. St. Joseph primary school was established in 2016 and now has over 300 pupils. With the presence of this primary school pastoral work

becomes easier to organize. There are over 100 young people, among them pupils in the primary school, who are now under Catechetical instructions and being prepared for baptism and other sacraments.

5.12.2 Formal Education

The Holy Spirit is leading the Spiritans to discover new ways of evangelization especially through formal education. They have constructed and established a nursery school (St. Mary's Nursery Wulu) with a view of continuing to primary (St Joseph primary school) and secondary levels. It is the Spiritans hope that through formal education and other development activities the local community will become more faithful Christians.



Kindergarten children playing

5.12.3 Wulu Women Agriculture Group Project

This was started in 2013 with only 15 members and now has over 181 members. Sustainable agriculture is the project's main objective but the women have vegetable gardens, knit and bake bread among other activities. This group is non-denominational and only 11 women are catholic members while others are Protestants or non-Christians.



Women in the garden

5.13 St. Josephine Bakhita Parish - Mapuordit

Opened: 1993

Parish Priest: Fr. Placide Majambo mccj

Religious Congregations:

Comboni Fathers (MCCJ),

Sisters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (OLSH),

Contemplative Evangelizers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (CECC)

Location: Eastern Lakes State on the border to Western Equatoria State, approx. 20 km off Akot on Rumbek-Yirol road. (80 km from Rumbek)

Catechists: 35

Outstations: 13: (3) pastoral zones (PZ)

1. Atuot PZ: Alel, Aguran, Mabui, Ngop.

2. Apac PZ: Agany, Aluakluak, Mayom Cuei, Ameth, Makok, Iguel

3. Jur PZ: Barbol, Kakor, Apiatic

Schools/Institutions:

Comboni Primary School with 1.358 students enrolled in 2018, plus five satellite schools

Comboni Secondary School with 350 students among which 50 are girls (2018)

Comboni Nursery school with 186 students (2018)

St. Josephine Bakhita Minor Seminary with 70 seminarians

Mary Immaculate Hospital with 113 beds, 6 inpatients wards and about 92 employees (2018)

The women groups in Mapuordit, Agany and Aluakluak with various programs and activities

Mapuordit is a remote zone around 20 km south of Aluakluak on the road connecting Rumbek and Yirol, where people fled to during the war.

It is the oldest mission (after Yirol) since the Diocese entered the so called "Liberated Area" (conquered by the SPLA). In 1992, the Comboni missionaries were forced to evacuate Yirol and chose to stay in Mapuordit. In 1993 Mapuordit began to flourish with a diocesan priest, the late Fr. Raphael Riel, and Comboni Church personnel, Fr. Joseph Pellerino, Fr. Michael Barton and Bro. Dominic.

Today, missionaries are involved in different area of activities such as: Liturgical and youth Ministry – they animate the youth groups in the parish (Sunday school, oratorio and the choir groups) and they offer Catholic religious education and liturgy in Comboni and government schools.

Comboni pre-school (nursery) has a total number Of 186 students and 6 teachers (female 3, male 3). Comboni primary school has 1,358 students. Comboni secondary school has a total number of 350 students (300 boys and 50 girls) and 13 teachers (8 South Sudanese, 1 Kenyan and 3 Ugandans).

There are 22 government (satellite) schools (greater Ngop county -= 3 schools, Jur area= 8 schools, Aluakluak county = 3, Rumbek East = 8 schools)

The diocese supports the government (satellite) schools with exercise books, chalk and blackboards, and 10 schools now receive food donated by Mary's Meals.

In 2008, the diocese transferred the minor seminary from Kitale (Kenya) to Mapuordit (S. Sudan). Fr. Joseph Orina is the Rector of the seminary. Seminarians attend their lessons in Mapuordit Secondary School. The number of the seminarians this year has increased to seventy Students, and they are very much involved in apostolate in the parish.

Catechetical Pastoral – There are several groups following catechesis in the centers (Mapuordit and Aluakluak) and in various outstations. Priests have regular visits to the outstations where catechesis is taught in schools;

they had 34 first communions and 135 infant baptisms and 98 confirmations in 2017.

Social Pastoral and Health ministry-

The parish collaborate with the diocese in the activities for justice and peace through workshops and meetings on the ground, the JP group is dedicated to foster a peaceful coexistence among the communities (Jur, Apac and Atuot) of the parish.

The parish supports about 130 vulnerable people (blind, lepers, disabled, elderly, very needy people) from Panamaat and St Joseph Communities. Missionaries provide for them the basic needs such as feeding (food distribution every Monday), shelter, primary health-care, and education for their children.

There are women Groups in the parish and outstations. “The Legion of Mary” group has provided women with structures and a prayer-based background to enter the general Mapuordit society in a committed way. The women regularly attend mass and the Sacraments and commit themselves to a variety of works within the parish. They empower local women in Mapuordit and several outstations with a holistic approach. Many activities such as gardening, tailoring and cooking-restaurant projects are run by the OLSH sisters.



St. Bakhita Parish Church, Mapuordit

Today, Mapuordit is one of the best developed missions and it is under the care of the Comboni Missionaries and the Parish priest is Fr. Placide Majambo, mccj. There is also Our Lady of Sacred Heart Sisters (OLSH) congregation who are involved with women development and education.

5.13.1 Mary Immaculate DOR Hospital Mapuordit is situated 75 kms south west of Rumbek. It has a size and services of a County Hospital, having grown to its present 116 bed status over the years since its foundation in 2002. It is now known as the best hospital in Lakes State notwithstanding the hardly accessible location, and people come from far and wide to get treatment there. Since its inception in 2002, the hospital has been managed for Diocese of Rumbek by the Comboni Missionaries' Congregation (MCCJ). They have availed 3 Comboni Brothers, two doctors (one being the Medical Director and acting Administrator and the other being a surgeon) and a nurse. Currently the hospital is led by Bro. Dr. Paolo Rizzetto, a Comboni Brother, supported by a Slovakian rotating team of doctors (from St. Elizabeth University). The hospital has 6 wards comprising of 116 beds (Medical, Surgical, Surgical Septic, Paediatric, Maternity and Isolation), as well as a very busy outpatient section (more than 36,000 patients were seen and 500 surgical operations were performed in 2016). The majority of the qualified staff are local people who have graduated from the Certified Community Nurse training (CCN), upgraded three years ago to Enrolled Nurse standard offered by Rumbek Health Sciences Institute.

5.13.2 The OLSH Sisters from Australia are doing outstanding educational and pastoral work in the mission. There are three women groups in Mapuordit led by Sr. Rita Grunke, OLSH. St. Bakhita Women group is empowering local women in Mapuordit and several outstations with a holistic approach. The St. Joseph's women group operates among the "poor and blind", and a third women group in "Panamat" lepers centre runs among others an agricultural project.

In 2017 the OLSH Sisters formed "The Legion of Mary" who enter into the general Mapuordit society in a very committed way. Their work as members of the Legion include:

- Interventions in family life especially marriage problems
- Visits to school assemblies offering advice to students, especially to student leaders
- Visit the hospital
- Identifying the really needy persons and their needs
- Visiting and counseling women prisoners

They run a restaurant which provides an income for the group. The restaurant supervisor provides 12 meals daily to destitute persons; an additional 10 persons are served tea and mandazi. A member of the group is currently in Rumbek learning tailoring. By the end of October she will have completed her training and will then assist with sewing, and mending in the hospital and elsewhere according to need. This lady has also attended and completed the basic construction course run by St. Claver Training Centre in Rumbek. It is hoped that at least two women will attend an Agriculture college in Uganda for training specifically in vegetable growing.

5.13.3 St. Bakhita Minor Seminary

The Diocese of Rumbek has a Minor Seminary in Mapuordit with 70 students. Fr. Joseph Orina, from the Contemplative Evangelizers Congregation, is the rector. He accompanies the students in their spiritual and vocational formation while they attend the Catholic Secondary School in the mission. The students come from all the parishes in the diocese.

The main activities of the seminary are study, prayer, work and sports. The Seminarians start the day early by attending Mass and then go to school after taking their breakfast. Every Saturday they do manual work, such as cleaning the compound, collecting firewood and also cultivate the vegetable garden.



Seminarians weeding

The form four's join other students to study the computer course. The Seminary students continue to take the top places in term exams but the performance of the Comboni secondary school students in the national exams is still poor compared to the national average, this is something that is continually being addressed by the school management and the diocese. We hope that in the future the Seminary will have their own school within their premises.



St. Bakhita Seminarians

Pastoral Activities at St. Bakhita Seminary

Students are encouraged to keep up their pastoral activities which they had been doing in their respective parishes before coming to the minor seminary. Many of the students get the chance to go out to the outstations on a Sunday with a priest. The students enjoy this experience of going out and meeting new and various groups of people. They also help to organize the Rosary activities and Bible study in Small Christian Communities.

Overall, 2017 was a successful year in the seminary despite the long dry season, the insecurity problems, and the anxiety of having enough food to keep the seminary functioning. Most of the seminarians in Mapuordit are good young men with a keen interest in getting a good education and contributing to the building up of the new South Sudan.

5.14 Good Shepherd Parish - Thon Aduel

Opened: 2015

Parish Priest: Fr. Boniface Isenge CssP

Religious Congregations:

Holy Ghost Fathers (Spiritans, CSsP)

Location: Western Lake State, approx. 20 km off Akot on Rumbek-Yirol – Juba road.

Catechists: 19

Outstations: 9 Chapels Makur-agar, Atiaba, Neemthok, Mathiangic, Thon-Aduel, Barpakeny, Paloc, Tinlaal and Joklei.

Schools/Institutions:

A Kindergarten and primary school that goes up to primary three.

Thon-Aduel was an outstation of Mapuordit parish until 2014 when Fr. John Mathiang, the Coordinator of the Diocese of Rumbek, approached the Spiritans to take over Thon-Aduel pastoral zone.

In January 2015, Thon-Aduel pastoral zone was entrusted to the Spiritans as a pastoral zone (known as Thon-Aduel pastoral zone (TPZ) but under Mapuordit parish. Fr. Boniface Isenge CSSp (In-Charge of Thon-Aduel pastoral zone) was assisted by Fr. John Skinnader CSSP to the mission from Mapuordit as there was no fathers' house in Thon-Aduel; at that time Fr. Skinnader was also the rector of the Minor Seminary.



Fr. Boniface with parishioners outside the church

Thon-Aduel pastoral zone was run from Mapuordit until July 2017 when the construction of the presbytery in Thon-Aduel was completed and the Spiritans formally moved to Thon-Aduel.



Father's house/presbytery

Thon-Aduel pastoral zone remained under Mapuordit parish until 17th December 2017 when the Bishop of Tombura Yambio (Bishop Edwardo Hiiboro) declared Thon-Aduel pastoral zone as a parish. A simple grass thatched structure presently serves as the Church.

5.15 Holy Cross Parish - Yirol

Opened: 1999

Parish Priest: Fr. Tacuri Samaniego Pedro mccj

Religious Congregations: Comboni Fathers (MCCJ),
Missionary Sisters of Mary Mother of the Church (MSMMC)

Location: Eastern Lakes State, 120 km south east Rumbek on the road to Juba (80 km from Rumbek)

Catechists: 100

Outstations: 54 (9 with permanent buildings)

Schools/Institutions:

Holy Cross Primary School with 1749 students enrolled in 2018, plus 27 satellite schools

St. Daniel Comboni Primary School, 794 pupils (2018)

St. Bakhita Kindergarten

4 Women's Centres (Adior, Billing, Titmarier, Lualngeng)

Hospital administered by the Arkangelo Ali Association

There is a community of four Comboni Fathers and Brother: Fr. Tacuri

Samaniego Pedro, Fr. Girardi Giovanni, Fr. Ketemepi Komivi Dodzi (Boris), Fr. Parlade Jose Javier and Bro. Pomykacz Jacek Andrez. There is also present the commitment of Missionary Sisters of Mary Mother of the Church with two sisters: Sr. Patricia Tumushabe and Sr. Immaculate Nannyonga.

Chapels in permanent building: Nyang, Lekakudu, Panakar, Pagarau, Billing, Adior, Malik, Arwau, Majak. Chapels in temporary building in iron sheets and mud: Kadula (Returnees Yirol), Nohmlao (Returnees of Nyang), Shambe, Lualngeng, Langatoot, Anuol, Genggeng. Other chapels in grass: Betoï, Lokidwayot, Titmarier, Akokoi, Panabi, Matbaar, Arer, Mading Awen, Ramciel, Tot, Bunagany, Akonkon, Thonaburkok, Yaly, Kap, Pirchok, Ichuuluk, Kuch, Mathiang, Ngop, Burtit. The rest are chapels under the trees and centres in the schools.

The St. Joseph Hospital in Yirol is administrated by the Arkangelo Ali Association (AAA).

History:

The Diocese of Rumbek started its activities in the so called “Liberated Area” – the territory conquered by the Sudan Peoples’ Liberation Army (SPLA) - in Yirol in November 1991. The missionaries had to leave Yirol during the military occupation from the North (April 1992 – May 1997) and then resumed its support from Mapuordit.

In 1999 Yirol was fully reopened as Holy Cross Mission with its own Comboni School, dispensary and wide evangelization.



Holy Cross Parish, Yirol

The different fields of activities are:

5.15.1 Liturgical Pastoral: It takes care of the good development of the liturgical celebrations in the Parish. The Parish has 30 settled outstations in different villages. 12 of them have chapels built in permanent materials and 6 others have their chapels in temporary materials (iron sheets and mud blocks). The rest have their gathering under trees or grass thatched shelters. In the main church and in all the chapels, The Priests organize in collaboration with local catechists the liturgical celebrations such as mass and devotional prayers. The Parish is divided in three different sectors or pastoral zones.

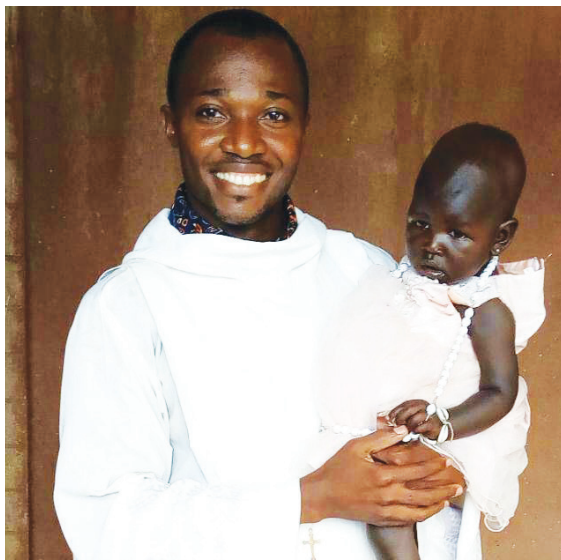
5.15.2 Catechetical pastoral: organizes different kinds of sacramental preparation and the on-going formation in faith in the Parish. The catechetical year in preparation for the sacraments of initiation follows the school year as the teaching of catechism is mainly organized in the schools. The catechism teaching is scheduled over three years, each year preparing the catechumen for one of the three sacraments; Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion. They organize a course for the catechists in the different pastoral zones.

5.15.3 Social Pastoral: it is an effort to enlighten the process of transformation of the social reality through the Gospel and the social teaching of the Church, empowering local people to build justice, brotherly and solidary society, in harmony with the creation.

5.15.4 Women promotion: one sister of the congregation of the Sisters of Mary Mother of the Church, trains women in tailoring. In Adior, Billing and Lekakudu, the sisters have women groups practising agriculture and trading in cooperatives.

5.15.5 Education: The mission has two big primary schools: Holy Cross has 1,800 students this year and St. Daniel Comboni School with 1.200 pupils. There are 33 satellite schools, 10 of them with permanent school buildings. The satellite schools are now under the administration of the County Education office but the mission has the paternity and the spiritual responsibility. Through the missionaries, 19 satellite schools receive food aid supplied by Mary's Meal. Three years ago, an Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) commenced in Yirol to offer primary education to adult people who did not have the opportunity to go to school when they were younger. This year about 200 people were registered.

5.15.6 Youth and children ministry: different groups are organized that participate actively in the liturgical life of the Church and animate the large number of youth and children that form our Christian community. They are: the youth choir, altar servers, childrens drama and dance group, the alleluia dancers, and the Young Catholic Student Movement (YCSM).



Fr. Boris, mccj carrying a child

5.16 St. Anselm Parish - Bunagok (Aliap)

Opened: 2004

Parish Priest: Fr. Marko Tong, Diocesan Priest

Location: Lakes State, around 80 km southeast of Yirol

Outstations: 12 prayer centres

Catechists: 6

Schools / Institutions: Primary School with 401 pupils (2013)

Bunagok and Aliap are two different names used for the same mission. Bunagok/Aliap parish was established in April 2004 by Bishop Caesar Mazzolari. The first parish priest was the late Fr. Raphael Riel. The mission at the extreme eastern end of the territory of the Diocese of Rumbek still needs much development and is located near the river Nile.

It has been twinned to Gussago, Italy in February 2005 and needs to be developed at all levels of evangelization, education and health since it has been a neglected area. The parish has around 12 prayer outstations, among others Abuyung, Mingkaman, Awerial Centre, Alel, and Kathok. The parish is located in a territory which is traditionally mainly covered by the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS – Anglican Tradition). In 2010/2011 a new small parish house and a little multipurpose hall, functioning also as a church, were built in the Parish.



St. Anselm Parish

6.0 DIOCESAN PRIESTS

1. Fr. John Mathiang Machol, South Sudanese: Rumbek; PALICA
2. Fr. Andrea Osman Okello, South Sudanese: Rumbek
3. Fr. Henry Gidudu, Ugandan: Rumbek, Sacred Heart
4. Fr. Dor Aghor Anyuon; South Sudanese: Rumbek Holy Family
5. Fr. John Waweru; Kenyan: Pacong
6. Fr. Benjamin Madhol, South Sudanese: Marial Lou
7. Fr. Peter Garang Akol; South Sudanese: Marial Lou
8. Fr. Ireneo Mayok, South Sudanese: Romic
9. Fr. Marko Tong, South Sudanese: Bunagok/Aliap
10. Fr. John Malou, South Sudanese: Bunagok/Aliap
11. Fr. Don Bosco Ochieng, Kenyan: Nairobi



Diocesan priests

7.0 RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS WORKING IN THE DIOCESE

7.1 Female Congregations

Missionary Sisters of Mary Mother of the Church (MSMMC): Yirol and Agangrial

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Sisters (OLSH): Mapuordit

Missionaries of Charity: Rumbek

Missionary Congregation of Evangelizing Sisters of Mary (ESM): Rumbek

Loreto Sisters (IBVM): Rumbek

Comboni Sisters (CMS): Cueibet

Sisters of Mary of Kakamega (SMK): Tonj

Missionary Sisters of Mary, Help of the Christians (MSMHC): Tonj

Salesian Sisters (FMA): Tonj

7.2 Male Congregations

Comboni Fathers (MCCJ): Yirol, Mapuordit

Holy Ghost Fathers / Spiritans (CSsP): Wulu, Rumbek, Thon Aduel

Jesuits (SJ): Rumbek, Cueibet

Salesians of Don Bosco (SDB), Tonj

Apostles of Jesus (AJ), Warrap

Fidei Donum

Fidei Donum Priests from the Diocese of Suwon / South Korea: Agangrial, Cueibet