

DIOCESE OF RUMBEEK – SOUTH SUDAN



Activity report

October 2018 – August 2019

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1.0 Introduction

This report highlights the main activities of Diocese of Rumbek for the period between October 2018 and August 2019. The main activities comprise of development projects, pastoral programs, health programs, education projects, social activities and the general administration of the diocese. The diocese is very grateful to the esteemed international partners who have been the backbone of its development and sustainability. Their immense financial support has enabled it to stand firm and remain committed towards achieving its set goal of promoting spiritual growth and human development of her people.

Under the leadership of Fr. John Mathiang Machol, Diocesan Coordinator, the diocese has made great strides in education, health and evangelization. For instance, establishment of the satellite campus of Catholic University of South Sudan in Rumbek, and the running of Public Health Care Centre (PHCC), are recent challenges which the diocese has undertaken. in Rumbek. Other achievements include sustenance of diocesan priests and religious men and women.

For effective management of the diocese, the diocesan coordinator is assisted by Mr. Jonathan Barsby, the financial administrator, who oversees the financial management and general administration of the diocese. He is based at Bethany House, Nairobi which is the administrative office of the diocese. It hosts the administration department, pastoral department and the finance office of the education department. The success of the diocese is attributed to sound and prudent financial management, workable administrative policies and dedicated human resource at all levels of the organization structure.



Fr. John Mathiang during the 60th Anniversary celebrations of Misereor in Aachen, Germany

2.0 Administration

The administration department is headed by Mr. Jonathan Barsby. Its main purpose is to advise, supervise and coordinate all the other departments in support of activities and requirements of the diocesan coordinator. The main activities include:

1. Maintaining good institutional donor and partner relations and liaison
2. Supervision of all financial transactions passing through the Diocese of Rumbek's multiple Nairobi bank accounts and associated financial activities.
3. Provide operations support for the diocese and external partners through the logistics and operations office
4. Handling and resolution of all legal matters.



Mr. Jonathan Barsby, Financial Administrator

Other personnel in the department include:



Shadrack Ojwang – Senior Accountant



Lucia Amuyira – Administrative Officer



Barnabas Kipkoech Cheruyoit – Operations Manager



*Abednego Marol – Logistics in
Rumbek*



Joseph Nzalu Nthanga - Driver

The diocese has logistics offices in Nairobi and Rumbek. The operations manager in Nairobi coordinates all the logistics work both in Nairobi and Rumbek offices. He procures goods from Nairobi and coordinates their transportation to Rumbek. He also prepares export documentation, tax exemption letters from Government of the Republic of South Sudan, and coordinates the international shipments of goods donated to the diocese. Other activities 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; he organizes for visas, tickets, hotel reservations and their collection to and from the airports. The logistics department also ensures that all properties of the diocese are kept in good condition in regard to repairs and maintenance of automobiles and generators.

Security guards and House Keeper at Bethany House



Joseph King'ori Muriithi



Harrison Nyamai Mbai



Geoffrey Mulongo



Selestine Wandera – House-keeper

3.0 Pastoral department

The pastoral department's office at Bethany House is headed by Simon C. Muchiri.



Mr. Simon C. Muchiri - Financial Coordinator

Other personnel in the pastoral department based at Bethany House are Deogratius Keeya and Peter Kimosop.



Mr. Deogratius Keeya – Projects Officer



Mr. Peter Kimosop – Accountant

The main role of the pastoral department is to:-

1. Cater for the upkeep and health of the diocesan priests, religious men and women and lay staff who are appointed by the head of the diocese to work predominantly in the pastoral field, in particular through providing the means and facilitate the following:
 - Monthly allowances and salaries
 - One flight per year for the diocesan and religious personnel for vacation or retreat
 - Incentives and formation of catechists
 - Medical evacuation scheme for all pastoral personnel
2. Fundraising for recurrent expenditures and developmental activities of the department
3. Project management to ensure that all donor funded projects are prudently managed and financial resources accounted for with transparency.
4. Sustain the diocese by building capacities of her personnel through training, formation and empowerment programs.

Ongoing Pastoral Programs

3.1 Programs run by PALICA

The Pastoral-Liturgical-Catechetical Centre PALICA in Rumbek is headed by our Diocesan Coordinator Fr. John Mathiang and assisted by Sr. Silvesta Mkabahati, mcesm.



Sr. Silvesta – PALICA

It is the main implementing organization of pastoral programs. In most cases, the pastoral department in Nairobi facilitates their activities with fundraising and consultation for the project implementation and reporting

as well as accounting. The on-going activities include:

- Courses for head catechists.
- Dinka language and culture courses for new foreign pastoral agents working in the diocese.
- Orientation courses for those aspiring to join the major seminary.
- Itinerant formation of catechists

PALICA also provides the liturgical and catechetical materials to the parishes and diocesan institutions.

3.2 St. Monica Women Group – Rumbek

The Women Desk was established to promote and create opportunities for women to actively contribute towards nation building. St. Monica Women Group was initiated to bring women together to share their life experiences and learn some basic life skills like tailoring, embroidery, handcrafts, peace building and reconciliation among others.

This group has helped many women from all over the diocese to engage in income generating activities such as tailoring, vegetable gardening, beadworks and catering. Some are able to sustain their families from the income they generate.



Sr. Esther Wambugha, MCESM coordinator of Women Desk

3.3 St. Josephine Bakhita Minor Seminary, Mapuordit

Transforming St. Josephine Bakhita Minor Seminary into a centre of excellence in education, leadership and life skills is an on-going project supported by Kindermissionswerk, Germany and St. Peter Apostle. It aims at providing good quality education for the minor seminarians so that they can aspire and discern to serve their communities as priests or civil leaders.

The minor seminary is a home for 70 young men who are studying at St. Daniel Comboni Secondary School, Mapuordit. During the weekdays, they follow the school program and while at the minor seminary they participate in prayers, sports and farm activities. During the weekends they join the priests serving at St. Josephine Bakhita Parish for liturgical activities at the seminary and nearby chapels.

The current rector is Fr. Andrea Osman Okello, who recently replaced Fr. Joseph Orina Nyabena who was recalled to Kenya by his congregation of Contemplative Evangelizers.



St. Josephine Bakhita Minor Seminary students with Fr. Andrea and Fr. Orina

3.4 Major Seminary

The Diocese of Rumbek has 11 seminarians who joined Philosophy I in Juba in 2019, 4 in Philosophy II, 7 in philosophy III, 5 in Theology I, 1 in Theology II, 3 in Theology III and 2 in Theology IV.



Major Seminarians studying in Juba

3.5 Justice and Peace desk

The Justice and Peace desk's main task is to work towards peace among the communities. It advocates for equality for all persons before the law, peace and peaceful co-existence. The desk also acts as a voice for the poor, needy, and the voiceless by raising awareness and concerns for the protection of vulnerable groups. To achieve this goal, the desk has set up Justice and Peace Committees across the diocese consisting of young men and women who have a duty of promoting a culture of justice and peace among their communities, they are a voice of the church in promoting Gospel values which call upon all the communities to live in peace and harmony.

The Justice and Peace desk has been involved in many activities during this period which are supported by DKA Austria. These include:

i. Trauma healing workshop for chiefs, spear-masters and youth leaders

The Justice and Peace desk conducted trauma healing workshop for the chiefs, spear-masters (spiritual leaders) and community police from 29th July to 3rd August, 2018, at Pandoor Guest House, Rumbek. The training brought together 21 participants, among them were 7 chiefs, 6 spear-masters or spiritual leaders and 8 community policing leaders from the parishes within Rumbek town. Sr. Rosa Elvira Escobar, a Comboni Missionary Sister working in

Cueibet mission facilitated the workshop.

The objective of the workshop was to teach the participants simple methods and healing skills so they may help people who have been affected by trauma, violence, intra-tribal conflicts, and the challenges of life. The training seemed to have had an immediate impact on the participants themselves because they were able to acknowledge the challenges they face, their roles in propagating hatred and revenge culture in their communities as well as their fears.

ii. Trauma healing for the diocesan and religious priests and sisters

The workshop was held from 13th to 16th November, 2018, and attended by 13 priests and 6 sisters of the Diocese of Rumbek at Pandoor Guest House. It was facilitated by Sr. Barbara of Solidarity with South Sudan. Unfortunately, during the course of the workshop, one of the Jesuit priests working in the diocese was tragically killed by intruders at the priests' house at Mazzolari Teachers College, Cueibet, which traumatized the participants. The facilitator encouraged them to be strong and continue preaching peace in their parishes.

iii. Parish Visits

Justice and Peace desk visited Holy Cross Parish, Yirol, Good Shepherd Parish, Thon-Aduel, Mary Help of Christians, Pacong, St. Peter and Paul Parish, Wulu and St. Francis Parish, Cueibet. Some parishes like St. Josephine Bakhita, Mapuordit and those in Tonj State were not visited due to insecurity and sporadic attacks along the roads and revenge killings. These areas are also not accessible during the rainy season because the roads are in a deplorable condition.

Visit by partners from DKA Austria and eRko Slovakia

In February 2019, Stefanie Apuri and Jozef Magda visited the Justice and Peace desk in Rumbek and held a series of meetings to assess and evaluate the impact of the project which was supported by DKA, Austria. Among the meetings held was the one with justice and peace committees from 4 parishes in Rumbek. The participants highlighted their successes and challenges that they face in promoting peace and reconciliation in their parishes.



Abraham, Simon, Rebecca, Stefanie - DKA, Jozef – eRko and Malith

3.6 Small Christian Communities

Sr. Teresa in conjunction with parish priests has been conducting workshops to train animators for small Christian communities (SCC). Sr. Teresa is leaving the diocese and has been replaced by Sr. Silvesta who will continue with the work. The diocesan SCC's coordinator needs financial support for continuity of the programmes so that she is able to follow up, strengthen and monitor SCC's in various parishes of the diocese. The Animators also need tools for their ministry such as bibles, rosaries and liturgical diaries or calendars.



Sr. Barbara facilitating the workshop

3.7 Annual Retreat for the priests

The diocesan priests meet at least once per year for retreat and rest. During the retreat they reflect on their vocation, ministerial duties and how to rejuvenate their spiritual lives. Missio Aachen, Germany is funding the retreat of diocesan priests for three years (2018 – 2020). In 2019, the retreat was held in Rumbek and was directed by Fr. Lucas, SJ.



Diocesan priests together with Fr. Lucas, SJ and Fr.Orina

3.8 Humanitarian Aid projects

Although it is not a core task of the Pastoral Department, on several occasions it raises funds for emergency interventions, in response to hunger and as an expression of God's love to his people.

Emergency Food Relief Projects

3.8.1 CESAR – Rise Against Hunger

The Diocese of Rumbek has been a beacon of hope to the suffering populace living within its territory especially the hunger stricken families. In 2019, Rise Against Hunger (RAH) and Cesar - Italy provided 14,500 enriched rice meals to 6,545 people in four parishes in Tonj State. The parishes that benefitted were Sacred Heart – Tonj, Sts. Peter and Paul – Warrap, St. Daniel Comboni – Marial Lou and Romic.



Beneficiaries of Rise against Hunger, Emergency Food Relief - Romic

3.8.2 Emergency food relief project supported by Kindermissionswerk, Germany

Emergency food relief for vulnerable children and hunger stricken families living within the Diocese of Rumbek, South Sudan benefited over 1,000 households (approximately 6,000 people) from 9 parishes. The parishes that benefitted were Holy Family Cathedral and Sacred Heart – Rumbek, Holy Cross – Rumbek, Our Lady Help of Christians – Pacong, Sts. Peter and Paul – Wulu, St. Josephine Bakhita – Mapuordit, St. Anselm – Bunagok, Good Shepherd – Thon-Aduel and St. Theresa of Child Jesus – Rumbek.



Beneficiaries of emergency food relief at Wulu Parish

We are very grateful to Kindermissionswerk and our esteemed benefactors who supported this project. Thank you for putting smiles on vulnerable mothers and children.

3.9 Youth Congress 2018

The Youth Congress is an annual diocesan event which brings together over 1000 youth from the whole diocese. In 2018, it was held at Holy Family Cathedral Parish, Rumbek. Missio Aachen has been supporting this event. The theme for the Youth Congress 2018 was "Let love be sincere, hate what is evil, hold on to what is good."



818 youth attended the event coming from Tonj, Marial Lou, Romic, Warrap, Cuiebet, Agangrial, Sacred Heart, Holy Cross, St. Teresa, Wulu, Pacong, Mapuordit and Thon Aduel. Unfortunately due to insecurity along the roads, youth from Yirol and Bunagok did not make it for the congress. The congress was held from 13th December to 16th of December 2018.



Participants of 2018 Youth Congress

3.10 Dinka Culture and Language Course

This program was designed and intended by the pastoral department to orient and assimilate the newly posted religious personnel to the Diocese. The foreign religious men and women are given an opportunity to learn the Dinka culture and language because the Diocese is predominantly inhabited by the Dinka people. The course introduces them to a new missionary life. Therefore, the course enables them learn to interact with the local communities because they can communicate in the local language and they also know the culture. Knowing people's language and culture are important tools for evangelization.



Participants of the Dinka course during one of the sessions

This is an annual program which is conducted for 3 months. In 2018 the course was held between 5th July and 5th October at PALICA - Rumbek and was attended by three sisters and three priests.

3.11 Sunday School program

This is a program of children apostolate which is supported by Kindermissionswerk, Germany and managed by Sr. Vastine Nzabandora, mcesm. The program involves training of Sunday school animators/teachers, provision of Sunday school materials (like children bibles, rosaries, medals, sports equipment) and feast for the children. The program aims at training at least 2 animators per parish per year and to reach at least 1,900 children.

The animators are taught how to teach the word of God to the children in a language they can understand. They are also provided with bible story books for them to read and colour so that the messages can be easily understood.

Last year, the children dramatized the nativity of Christ during the Christmas season.



Children acting the nativity of Christ

Each year there is an annual feast for the children organized across all the parishes. This year 2019 the theme for the feast will be the baptism of Jesus and the life of John the Baptist.

3.12 Orientation Course

The youth who have finished their formation at the minor seminary and aspire to join the major seminary undergo an orientation course to prepare them. The course offers them an opportunity to discern and reflect on the call to priesthood.

This year there were six youth from different parishes who underwent three months of formation and all of them successfully made it to St. Paul Major Seminary in Juba.



Fr. Augustine, SJ with the seminarians during orientation course

3.13 Good News Radio - Rumbek

The radio is involved in many activities, among them:

Broadcast gospel homilies and prayers.

One of the radio's mission is evangelization, thus, to fulfill its mission it broadcasts homilies, prayers and pre-recorded Sunday masses. It also records and airs major diocesan events so that those who can't make it to the church can access mass celebrations. Vatican radio programs also run on the radio.

Reporting human right abuses and malpractices

Good News Radio continues to be an eye opener in Lakes state, reporting human rights abuses, corruption by authorities, forced marriage by parents and domestic violence. In some cases, the radio partners with other national and international organizations to conduct human rights awareness through trainings, radio talk-shows and dramas.

Focuses on community peace building, education, health and livelihood and advocacy.

Good News Radio has programs on peace and reconciliation, education programs, health, livelihood and advocacy. Some of these programs have been sponsored by our donors such as DKA Austria who are sponsoring a radio campaign for peace, reconciliation and good governance and Signis sponsors a radio campaign to reduce sexual violence against women and girls

in conflict situations. In 2019, Lakes state after being engulfed in community conflicts has seen relative peace, after our constant reminder as well as calls from other organizations, the government finally gave the necessary attention to the conflict and currently civilian disarmament is ongoing.



Comboni primary school teachers training on HIV/Aids

The radio also partnered with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to run a program on cattle ('sukul wutic' which means cattle camp education); turning them into something that can benefit them economically.

Good News Radio computer training center known as the ICT Hub has trained over 12 batches of 26 students each from 2017-2019. The center offers basic computer knowledge for young people in order for them to gain computer knowledge which helps them to access the job market.

3.14 Primary Health Care Centre (PHCC), Rumbek

PHCC has now been under the management of the Diocese of Rumbek since 2017. It is financially supported by Misereor, Germany and Kindermissionswerk, Germany. On average the PHCC tends approximately 2,500 patients per month.

The most common diseases treated at the centre include Malaria, skin infections, respiratory diseases, typhoid fever, urinary tract infection and diarrhea. The centre also attends to people who would like to know their HIV/AIDS status through the voluntary counseling and testing facility.



A patient receiving treatment at the PHCC

3.15 Infrastructure and Construction Projects

Multipurpose Shelter

The huge number of catholic faithful of the Diocese of Rumbek could not fit in the old Cathedral which is small and some were forced to stand outside during Masses. Many diocesan activities were held under mango trees as the small church could not accommodate all the participants. This made it difficult to conduct diocesan activities during the rainy season, and in the dry season months it was too hot for the congregation to stand outside. It is against this background that the diocese found it necessary to construct a multipurpose shelter which would provide a large and comfortable space for worship and conducting many other diocesan activities. It has not been completed but now the christians are able to attend mass and the diocese is also able to hold other diocesan activities there.

We are grateful to Aid to the Church in Need, Germany and Sudan Relief Fund, USA for the financial support towards construction of this multipurpose shelter.

Some of the activities held in the shelter include chrism mass and Easter festivities, Christmas, functions for the children like feasts, competitions and choir practices. In 2018, the Justice and Peace Desk hosted the international day of peace at the premises.



Current stage of the multipurpose shelter

Renovation of the Cathedral

The diocese has managed to restore the dignity to the old Cathedral in Rumbek, emphasizing its historic importance (this is where the late BP. Mazzolari was buried and it also reminds the locals of the war). The renovated Cathedral offers a comfortable place for mass celebrations with good ventilation.



Cathedral after renovation

3.16 Financial situation of the Pastoral department

The Pastoral department raises funds for pastoral activities through projects and donations from our esteemed donors. These funds are categorized as “restricted” and “unrestricted”. The “restricted” funds account to about 90% of

the department's income.

This money is strictly earmarked for well-defined projects. Less than 10% are so called "unrestricted" funds which can be used for staff costs, field allowances and other running costs (unless we manage to integrate such costs into projects). These project funds have to be used as indicated in the budget and we "cannot" divert them because we have to account to the donors as indicated in the cooperation contracts that we sign when we receive the money. The "unrestricted funds" are important to the pastoral department because we depend on them fully for the whole ordinary running of the department. They are therefore an indicator of the financial soundness of the pastoral activities of the diocese.

3.17 Achievements

- The pastoral department has managed to conduct all its activities successfully despite the meager resources that it has.
- Campaigning for peace through workshops in collaboration with Justice and Peace desk and Good News Radio.
- Managed to complete projects with resources from the donors and also some local contribution.

3.18 Challenges

Worsening road conditions and lack of direct flights to Rumbek

One major problem for the implementation of projects has been the poor road conditions. The time window in which supplies for construction projects, spare parts and other material can be transported into Rumbek has reduced drastically to just 4-5 months per year when the roads are dry and passable. Projects are delayed and transport costs have increased due to that.

Insecurity

Insecurity in Lakes State – particularly tribal fighting, but also armed attacks and robbery – has increased very much so that for long periods of time certain important roads could not be passed. Insecurity has also been a great hindrance to the Justice and Peace desk in visiting other parishes.

Lack of enough funds to complete/do some projects

4.0 Education department

The education department of the diocese operates two offices, one in Nairobi (for financial transactions and logistics) all under the supervision of the Diocesan Financial Administrator Mr. Jonathan Barsby and the field office in Rumbek, South Sudan (for programmes and operations). This is where the head of the department is based with 7 other line managers, ALP (Accelerated Learning Program) section, gender office, logistics, Mary's Meals school feeding project officers and operations and finance.



Mr. Moses Kopurot Kenyi –Education Coordinator



Robinson Odong Wani – Field Coordinator



Nancy Nyamunsi Nyabuto – Accounts Officer – Nairobi office



Kockedhie Thomas Daniel – Operations and Finance officer



John Maluk Them – ALP officer/ teacher trainer



Arun Nyanthuoi Dielich – Gender officer



Simon Nduati – Logistics and operations



Susan Aman Mayiek – Mary's Meals project officer



Joseph Madier Mayen – Mary's Meals school feeding officer/trainer

The Education Department has a long experience in implementing educational projects with fully qualified professional staff managing over 80 educational institutions, and by far the strongest and most important non-governmental actor in the field of education in Lakes, Gok and Tonj states.

The department works closely with the government agencies (at County, Payam and Bomas levels) to reinforce the government educational policies. It is also involved in the Girls' Education South Sudan (GESS) project. The department also collaborates well with several local civil organizations/societies, local and international NGOs and educational authorities at all levels (national, regional, and community) to address several educational challenges.

The task of the education department of the diocese is to implement the government and catholic church education policies that will transform and strengthen the vulnerable and marginalized communities towards participating in the field of education. This has been a noble task acknowledged by the communities and the government in the midst of the conflicts in the nation. The clerics do play a vital role in the diocesan education through their resilience and perseverance.

Education institutions in the diocese

s/no	Institution	Number of schools	Enrolment		Total
			Males	Females	
01	DOR primary schools	18	9,872	6,897	16,769
02	Secondary schools	06	1,617	925	2, 542
03	Kindergarten	07	1,467	1,240	2,707
04	ALP centers	09	824	416	1,243
05	Teacher Training College	01	35	11	46
06	Vocational training centers	03	255	114	369
07	Satellite (community based schools)	37	13,526	6,633	20,159
	Total	81	28,280	16,706	44,986



Kids carrying water

There are 1000 (884 males 116 females) teaching staff in the diocesan learning institutions, from kindergarten to the vocational training institute. Out of these only 205 (169 males 36 females) are formally trained teachers. This actually signifies the quality of education in the diocesan territory and the need to train more teachers.

The number of learning institutions in the diocese are 81, being 18 diocesan schools called Comboni primary schools, 37 satellite schools, 6 secondary schools, 4 vocational training centres, 9 ALP (Accelerated Learning Program) centres and 7 kindergartens.

Activities of education department 2019

The Department is implementing a number of programs to strengthen the education sector in Lakes, Gok and Tonj States. These programmes target: access, quality and result-based management of education.

Access to education

Increasing access to education through construction and renovation of dilapidated school structures: the department is working under pressure to cover the ever-increasing enrolment in the diocesan schools by constructing new classroom blocks and latrines. In 2019, 3 classrooms with an office block were constructed at St. Mary's primary school Wulu.



New classrooms block in Wulu

Repair and maintenance work

Repairs and renovation works were carried out at Comboni Rumbek, Agangrial and St. Mary's primary schools. The chain link fence in Rumbek Comboni primary school has been removed and a new wall was constructed however not all the compound has been secured yet. This wall offers a safe and conducive learning environment for the students.



Construction of perimeter wall

Supply of School Materials

The department supplies assorted furniture, school materials, teaching materials, textbooks, sport equipment to all the 18 diocesan schools as well as to the 35 satellite schools.



School desks assembled in Rumbek

School feeding program

The education department with the support of Mary's Meals International, a Scottish charitable organization working in 17 countries is able to organize a school feeding programme for over 50 schools in the three greater Lakes, Gok and Tonj states. Over 31,321 students (20,088 boys and 11,433 girls) are able to benefit from the Mary's Meals school feeding programme. The

school feeding programme has a rapid positive impact in the lives of many households. Retention and completion rates have been enhanced in most of the schools with the feeding programme.



Pupils of Rumbek Comboni primary school being served with food

Girls Education Affirmative Action - 200 girls and 20 female teachers were trained on life skills this year. This activity is supported by Horizont3000, DKA and ADC (Austria Development Cooperation). 4 training sessions were conducted this year (2019) in 4 locations (Rumbek Comboni Primary, Mapuordit Primary, Bunagok and the Yirol schools (Holy Cross and St. Daniel Comboni primary school)).



Photo of girls in Holy Cross, Yirol

The program also provides school fees to 200 girls who are academically excellent and financially disadvantaged. The 200 girls from upper primary are also provided with reusable sanitary pads.

The girls' affirmative action has taken into consideration advocacy and awareness on gender promotion through radio talk shows. Every Saturday 4-5 girls and 3 boys are selected to discuss sensitive topics on gender issues at Good News Radio for an hour; feedback from the community members (listeners) are then tracked and recorded. This activity has given the girls and female teachers the coverage to challenge some of the negative cultural norms that hinders girls' education.

WASH programmes – Access to clean water has been the greatest challenge in most of these locations where DOR education department operates, hence the provision of clean water points has been greatly acknowledged by the communities and the school children. Many children used to travel 2-3 kilometres to access the nearby water point (the schools lose 2 teaching periods per day and 10 periods per week as a result of learners being sent to look for water from a long distance), thus drilling of these boreholes within the school compounds has contributed positively in improving the quality of education to these vulnerable communities.



The importance of having water at school

This year 8 boreholes with IMK 2hand pumps have been installed in 8 primary schools at Abuyong, Meen Atol, Likoduaihoth, Majak, Matbar, Betoï, Paloic and Mapuordit primary schools. These boreholes were drilled through generous support from eRko (Slovakia) and Misereor (Germany). Over 4,463 children

and 1,278 households now benefit from access to clean water points in their areas.



New hand pump installed at Abuyong primary school

VIP Latrine (Ventilated Improved Pit Latrine) – The Lakes State Strategic Development Plan acknowledges the critical lack of domestic and public sanitation facilities. Therefore, facilitating access to improved sanitation is a top priority for the state and is one of the important components supported by DOR education department.



VIP Pit latrine at Rumbek Comboni Primary School

In 2019 a total of 4 latrine blocks with 4 stances each have been constructed in Rumbek Comboni, Meen Atol, Tit-Marier and Abuyong primary schools. These latrine blocks were planned to be located at a distance of 20 meters away from the classroom blocks and at a sufficient distance from all surrounding water sources to prevent contamination. The construction follows the Ventilated Improved Pit Latrine (VIP) model. A 6 meters deep pit is excavated with a 2.5 metres wide concrete slab above, and the latrine are covered with iron sheet roofs. A curtain wall is built in front of the entrance and between the two middle stances to ensure gender separation and privacy. In higher areas the stances were slightly raised and accessible via a ramp to cater for easy mobility especially for the disabled children.

Provision of quality education

It should be noted that the capacity of those imparting the school curriculum in South Sudan is very poor, with less than 35% of the teachers being trained and most of the teachers at primary schools have only finished primary level education with a minority having completed secondary schooling; teachers are therefore untrained, and this indicates the poor quality of education in South Sudan.

With the high turn-over of the professional teachers there is a greater need to continue reinforcing and investing in training teachers.

Therefore, in the diocese of Rumbek this concern has been given a priority through the establishment of the Mazzolari Teachers College (MTC) in Cueibet.

1. Pre and in-service course. DOR entered into an MOU with the Jesuit community of East Africa to manage the administration of the MTC while the ownership remains under the diocese. The college officially opened on 1st July 2017. The college has so far graduated a batch of 16 teachers (14 males and 2 females) with grade III teaching certificates. This year the college has expanded its intake to 46 trainees for the two year course, while 52 trainees are undertaking the teaching course through the in-service programme, whereby practicing teachers receive additional training at the college.

Since its commencement the college has attracted generous support from Cesar, Misereor and CEI. These agencies are able to support the college with:

s/no	Donor agent	Contribution
01	Misereor	Operation cost, construction, furniture, personal cost
02	Cesar	Operation cost, construction of water tank, furniture
03	CEI	Construction and operation cost.
04	Jesuits Community	Provision of personnel (priests)

'ALP' Program (Accelerated Learning Program)

Teachers who are working in schools but do not have any formal training or teaching qualifications attend ALP courses during school holidays so that they may gain teaching certificates.

Management of education institutions

The diocese has a record of working with the community and youth for their development, and in continuation of that it proposes to obtain the resources for the community and youth empowerment initiative which has the potential of integrating the values of a good and productive citizen in youth, motivating them to lead a normal life by providing them with a platform to develop and showcase their abilities and skills.

Therefore, building the capacity of the communities to plan, govern and monitor development at the local level will lead to more sustainable development which is community driven and not highly dependent on outside assistance. Local communities will improve and maintain their learning environments by taking an active role in school development and management.

The department trains Parent Teachers Associations (PTAs) who are expected to raise funds through their acquired entrepreneurship skills (e.g. establishment of small school canteen) and this will increase educational opportunities for their children.

This year 2 PTA training sessions were conducted in Comboni Rumbek and Agangrial primary schools with a total of 87 (68 males and 19 females) participants. These training sessions will continue and it is expected that 120 PTA executives will be trained by the end of the current project.

To optimize programme management at the diocesan education department and to ensure that structures are developed in line with the needs of the education programme, regular internal forums of exchange, like the annual DOR re-planning meetings and the principals and headteachers' meetings (meetings of the DOR education team with senior teachers from all areas) are held. This year 42 head of institutions with their deputies were invited to take part in the conference to discuss achievements, challenges and plan educational activities for the coming year.



Principals' meeting in Pandoor Guest House Main Hall, Rumbek

It should be acknowledged that the context in which the project team operates (that is in South Sudan) is faced with numerous challenges, therefore most of the required acceptable standards for basic project procedures are still in an infant stage and this is coupled with the poor capacity of most government officials and offices with limited resources.

The department would like to appreciate the commitment and generous support from the community, school head teachers, teachers, students and pupils plus the stakeholders for their profound encouragement.

We also do appreciate the constant collaboration of our esteemed donors, Misereor, Mary's Meals International, DKA, Horizont3000, eRko, CEI, Cesar and many others for their tireless effort to support the numerous projects that have given the vulnerable communities the strength and hope to persevere and work with much resilience towards achieving better livelihoods. We are so grateful and proud of these collaborations and partnerships.

5.0 THE MISSIONS / PARISHES

The Diocese of Rumbek has 16 established missions or parishes, many of them with a number of sub-parishes, outstations and prayer houses. There are also institutions in various parishes as will be seen in the report below.

Rumbek Missions and Parishes

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

5.1 Holy Family Cathedral Parish - Rumbek

Holy Family Cathedral is the “Mother Church” of the diocese. It is under a diocesan priest Fr. Dor Luka.

Rumbek mission has a lot of activities on-going and some are handled by different congregations as indicated in this report.

Missionary of Charity Sisters run an orphanage and a health centre for the disadvantaged persons in Rumbek.

The following activities have been going on in the Parish:

- Youth’s workshop on Trauma Healing which was attended by different groups as well as other parishes,
- Trauma Healing workshop for the youth leaders
- Leadership workshop for the youth



Celebration of St. Augustine day

5.1.1 Catholic University of South Sudan Rumbek Campus

Catholic University of South Sudan Rumbek Campus was initiated by the Diocesan Coordinator Fr. John Mathiang Machol based on the fact that the Diocese of Rumbek covers a very large territory of greater Bahr El Ghazal and has many secondary schools, both missionary and private.

This petition was approved by His Lordship Eduardo Hiiboro Bishop of Tombura Yambio as the Chancellor of Catholic University of South Sudan and the President of Sudan & South Sudan Bishops Conference. His Lordship also wrote to the Vice Chancellor of the Catholic University to facilitate and support the Rumbek campus where necessary.

The Vice Chancellor after receiving this letter from the Chancellor then requested the Ministry of Higher Education to approve the opening of two campuses in Rumbek and Yambio. The campus is currently being run by twelve teaching staff, seven full time staff and five part-time staff.

Introduction:

Now many saw them going, and knew them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns, and got there ahead of them. As he landed he saw a great throng, and he had COMPASSION on them, because they were like SHEEP WITHOUT A SHEPHERD: and he began to teach them many things” Mark 6: 33 – 34.

The above scripture is proved by great demand for higher education given the great number of secondary schools run by the Catholic Church in Greater Lakes States beside private and public secondary schools. It is allied with the mother Catholic University in Juba. Rumbek campus has an equal chance

of providing quality education to all people irrespective of their ethnicity or religious background in addition to chances of vulnerable people who have no access to higher education.



Catholic University of South Sudan –Rumbek Campus

Vision

Catholic University of South Sudan – Rumbek Campus is an academic institution of higher education embodied in the Catholic University of South Sudan in Juba. This campus aims to upgrade human life through education, inspired by the Gospel values and Social Teaching of the Church. The campus will provide holistic formation, morally, ethically and intellectually, subject to the norms of Codex Luris Canonici and Ex Corde Ecclesiae. We have a dream to offer quality education in conformity with the mother Catholic University of South Sudan and South Sudan Higher Education policy, and to be a world-class university in the heart of Africa, dedicated to academic excellence. The students will be well-grounded professionally, technically and theoretically to enable them to respect the dignity of every individual, committed to the service of others and to end human suffering.

Mission

The mission of Catholic University of South Sudan – Rumbek campus is to bring higher education closer to vulnerable people of all backgrounds. Rumbek campus approach is holistic, focusing on both character and professional development of young people. In addition to undergraduate and continuing education programs, we will also undertake applied, technical programs and theoretical research, to help young people generate solutions for themselves, the nation and the region in addressing the challenges. This will enhance and promote dialogue between culture and faith.

Mission Objectives are;

- i. To allow poor people to have access to higher education
- ii. To meet the growing demand for higher education
- iii. Consolidate Catholic values in students to meet social and spiritual objectives of the Catholic Church. With Catholic University of South Sudan operating in the State (Rumbek Campus), the seed of catholic values planted in students at primary schools shall be nurtured and consolidated through courses such as catholic social teachings, social ethics, theology, interfaith dialogue and pre-class masses which are part of the Catholic University's curriculum.
- iv. Strategic location of Rumbek lies in the central part of South Sudan and has eight (8) States surrounding it, namely Gbudwe, Amadi, Terkeka, Jonglei, Southern Liech and Tonj. Students from these States can find it convenient to study in Rumbek Campus. This strategic geographical advantage provides the prospect of future growth of the Catholic University Rumbek Campus.
- v. The University will provide learning opportunities to the working class who are currently not able to access higher education, therefore contributing to building the capacity of the population in the state and its vicinities.
- vi. There are structures that can be used for class rooms, offices, libraries among others. The diocese has enough land offered by the government and community for future expansion of the university.
- vii. The university shall provide employment opportunities in areas of academic, administration and support staff.



Students attending lectures at Rumbek Campus

Academic Programs

The Catholic University of South Sudan, Rumbek Campus started with (4) programs.

- 1- Department of Business Administration – Degree and Diploma.
- 2- Department of Education – Degree.
- 3- Department of Accounting Diploma.
- 4- Computer Science – Degree and Diploma.

5.1.2 Loreto Secondary School, Rumbek

The Loreto Sisters are situated close to Rumbek and they have several programmes; namely the girls secondary school, primary school, PHCC and the feeding centre among other activities as stated below.

Loreto - Rumbek comprises of 3 core programmes: an all-girls secondary boarding school, a community based co-educational primary school, and a women and child centric primary health care centre. It is located in the rural community of Maker Kuei in Rumbek Centre County of Western Lakes State in South Sudan.

- **Loreto Primary School (LPS)**

Loreto Primary School had another favourable year. Generally, the candidates have been performing very well in national examinations. The first group of candidates in 2017 had a 100% pass rate. The same trend was observed with the 2018 candidates - 28 students who sat for the national examination qualified to join secondary school. In 2019 LPS has 50 (13 female and 37 male) candidates.

LPS serves students from the local community with an enrolment of 1,167 (673 males, 494 female) students for 2019, up from 1,057 (592 male, 465 female) in 2018. The school enrolled students from Kindergarten to Primary 8. LPS no longer has the Accelerated Learning Program (ALP), but has two 'full' primary schools (morning school and evening school).

Students at Loreto Primary School engage in games such as football and volleyball. Each child is also provided with a daily meal, clean water for drinking and sanitation, and basic health care. So far this year, LPS has served 153,010 wet meals through the school feeding program. This was made possible by our partners such as Mary's Meals.

- **Loreto Girls Secondary School (LGSS)**

Loreto Girls Secondary School is a boarding school which continues to provide high quality education, girl-child protection and empowerment. LGSS has over the years been performing very well in the South Sudan Certificate of Secondary Education (SSCSE). The 2018 candidates (48 girls) all passed with a mean rate of 75% and the school was ranked first in Western Lake State producing seven of the top ten best students. This was the largest number of candidates since 2008. The number of candidates is steadily growing, with 56 candidates registering for the 2019 national exam. This achievement was marked with dance and a celebratory meal by the students, teachers, 2018 candidates and other invited guests.



*Loreto girls secondary school students celebrating culture and diversity
(photo Paul Jeffreys)*

In August 2019 the students held a Science Fair that saw over 40 entrants (either as individuals or as a group). This was a great opportunity for the students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in the science subjects.

- **Loreto Primary Health Care Center (PHCC)**

The Loreto PHCC focuses on facilitating basic health care and health education to the community of Maker Kuei especially the most vulnerable- women and children. In 2019 the clinic was upgraded to a PHCC as a result of the quality services provided in the new premises that opened its doors to the public in March 2019.

The services provided at the Loreto-PHCC include; medical consultations, laboratory tests, Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI), an Emergency Feeding Program (EFP) for malnourished children, referrals of complicated cases, and 12-hour in-patient service.

The Loreto PHCC carries out weekly health education for the LPS and the LGSS students on personal hygiene, proper care for cuts/wounds, caring for the environment, prevention of communicable diseases, flies as disease carriers, emotional health, malaria, oral hygiene and hand hygiene (proper hand washing and maintaining short finger nails).

The Loreto PHCC carried out several health education sessions in other schools within Rumbek with a participation of over 4,000 students, teachers and community members.

In addition to health education and clinical consultations, the Loreto PHCC implements an emergency feeding program that targets malnourished children. The program has been able to reach 85 malnourished children providing them with fortified porridge (with moringa and peanut butter), which is prepared daily and served twice to the children for five days of each week.



Emergency feeding program at Loreto PHCC

5.2 Holy Cross Parish - Rumbek

Holy Cross Parish Church was initially constructed as a chaplaincy of Rumbek National secondary school before 1948. It goes along with the history and the struggle of the Church in South Sudan and Rumbek in particular. Later on, it was entrusted under the care of St. Teresa Parish, Rumbek and later on became the outstation of the Holy Family Cathedral Rumbek. However, due to the high population in the area there was a need to uplift the status of Holy Cross Chaplaincy to a parish and this was done in December 2017 - with six outstations. The Spiritans were requested to take over the running of the parish both pastorally and in its development. There are two Spiritan priests namely Fr. John Skinnader, CSSP (Parish Priest) and Fr. Nolasco Mushi, CSSP (Assistant).



Refurbished presbytery at Holy Cross Parish, Rumbek

Parish projects/activities

The on-going projects/activities include:

1. On-going catechism classes for adults and children to prepare them for the sacraments such as baptism for the adults and first Holy Communion and penance. There is also partial catechism (3 weeks) for the parents who are preparing for their infants' baptism.
2. Education is another sensitive area and normally takes most of the priests' time with regard to construction and expansion of schools, and monitoring of the daily school programs. There are four primary schools: St. Bakhita Girls primary school, St. Gonzaga primary school, St. Joseph primary school, Malou and Abarkou primary school. In Abarkou, the eight classrooms are at the completion stage.



Fr. Mathiang visiting Abarkou School under construction

St Bakhita Girls Primary School has five classrooms, however the school needs to expand. St Gonzaga Pre-Primary School has requested abandoned classrooms from the government secondary school to be made available as there are no classrooms. It is difficult to expand this school because the land is very small and it is under the national government's control. St Joseph Malou primary school operates in an open space in the Army Barracks. We are still looking for funds to construct it on community land that has been allocated for it which is far away from the Army Barracks.

Our main aim in these schools is to make sure that there is a smooth running of the institutions; provision of quality education, a good and conducive learning environment and Mary's Meals school feeding programme reaches the beneficiaries.



St. Gonzaga primary school pupils doing examination in an open space (no classrooms)

There are other groups in the parish that aim to bring people together, work together, pray together, play together and even think together on how to eradicate poverty and dependence as they improve their standard of living. The priests' work is to monitor and give them directions. The groups are:

a) **St Monica Women's Group, Holy Cross Parish**

The women work and pray together. They also have one day in a month to clean the church. They have tailoring machines which they use to improve their living standards and help them to fight poverty and dependency. However the roof of the women's centre was blown off by wind in April 2018 and up to now it has not been replaced due to lack of funds.



Fr. Nolasco with the women leaders

- b) The Youth Group has regular meetings. They also have football and Volleyball teams. This group is also the Choir that animates masses and other religious events in the parish.
- c) The Sunday school program held on Sundays is coordinated by Missionaries of Charity (Mother Teresa Sisters) and on other days they are with the catechists. This also includes Alleluia Dancers and mass servers.

Challenges

Some of the challenges that we face as a Parish include:

- The Parish is too big and we have not managed to reach all centres due to insecurity.
- Lack of permanent classrooms in our schools to allow provision of quality education to the pupils.

- Lack of enough funds to facilitate the smooth running of the parish activities.
- Fear of hunger due to climate change in South Sudan and other countries in the horn of Africa. We experienced rainfall deficit towards the end of last year and this year. This is expected to worsen due to persisting dry conditions and unusually high temperatures as Climate Prediction and Application Centre has pointed out.
- The parish in collaboration with the Diocese of Rumbek and people of goodwill is trying ensure that the local people are living a good life with the hope for the future.

5.3 St. Theresa Parish, Rumbek

The main objectives of the parish are:

- 1) To accompany people and support their resilience in a context of violence and insecurity and, to build community and leadership capacity to help sow the seeds of social transformation.
- 2) To support faith formation and the building up of a faith community, faith is recognized as a very important contributing factor to maintaining individual and community resilience and wellbeing.
- 3) In order to promote peace-building through various youth programs, the justice and peace committee works with men and women's associations.
- 4) To support the development of the Small Christian Communities (SCC) as small units in the community wherein important issues affecting the community can be discussed and responded to.



Children in the parish

Activities

- Infant Baptisms: 23 infant baptisms in December 2018 and 26 baptism in April 2019
- First Communion: 28 youths received first communion on 28th of June 2019. The main celebrant was Fr. John Mathiang.
- Feast of St. Theresa Parish: This event which took place on October 1, 2018 was attended by more than 350 people from the parish and neighboring parishes. The participants were entertained by the youths. It was a successful event that brought together the members of the parish to share their faith, hope and love.
- Children's feast day: December 28th is known as Holy Innocents Day. St. Theresa parish organizes a celebration for children under the age of 12. It is an opportunity for them to come together to pray, play, and feast together. More than 600 children attended the event. Some children from the neighboring parishes were invited.
- Faith and Development
 - 20 women attended a workshop on faith and development organized at the parish. The meeting was meant to enlighten women in the parish to understand the relationship between faith and development. The objective was to encourage women to work hard to be self-reliant and go beyond relying on handouts offered by NGOs.
 - One meeting for the parish council to strengthen their leadership skills.
 - One meeting for 6 catechists to strengthen their capacity as teachers of faith.
 - 6 leaders from the parish were selected to attend a capacity strengthening workshop organized by the AOR development office. The workshop introduced parish leaders to Jesuit spirituality and the place of lay collaborators in a Jesuit mission.
- Youth Formation: The parish held a three day conference for 400 youth from the parish and neighbouring parishes. The conference theme was "Rejoice in your Youth". The conference offered the youth a chance to discuss issues related to justice and peace, HIV/AIDS, social media and faith. The conference gave the youth a chance to interact through sports, drama, comedy and singing competitions.
- Small Christian Communities: One meeting was held for all the Small Christian Communities (SCCs) leaders. The meeting focused on how to organize SCCs, how to enhance faith in SCCs through prayer, and how to use SCCs to bring peace and harmony in the community. The leaders discussed also how to use SCCs to support the poor and the needy in the community.



Youth playing volleyball

5.4 Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Pacong

The parish has been under Fr. John Waweru, diocesan priest. The parish has a humble residential house for the priest, and there is no fence around the compound as the previous fence made locally from bamboos has long been destroyed by the termites. The parish kitchen garden and properties are exposed to theft and destruction by the domestic animals. The parish compound/ farm has recently been demarcated but needs urgently to be fenced before the population encroaches on the church property.

The parish has five main outstations with three having semi – permanent church structures, that is Pacong centre, Malengagok - St. John Evangelist, Pan Bar-kou , St. Daniel Comboni, and two outstations, Amer and Panawac who worship under trees as there is no shelter.

The parish has a Comboni primary school from pre-unit to primary four, with a population of 365 Pupils. Every Friday there is school mass with a catechist who teaches three times in a week in the school for classes three and four. The school too has no fence and has also been affected by frequent clan conflicts experienced in the area.



Catechumens at Pacong parish

The parish has been affected by insecurity which exists in the county and indeed the entire Western Lakes State. Due to the insecurity most activities are delayed and this has caused us a great set back because we cannot develop our area due to uncertainty of the future. Our catechists are youth and some young ladies. For the young men any time there is insecurity they flee the area for their lives. Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Pacong has for the past eight months been able to achieve the following Pastoral activities:

1. Baptism of infants - 30
Baptism of adults - 25
2. First Holy Communion - 35 Christians
3. 15 adult christians have been received into the Catholic Church from protestant fraternity churches.
- Small Christain Communities have regular meetings on Wednesdays and thursdays
4. Youth Activities
 - Games
 - Choir practices
 - Youth farming in parish farm
 - Monthly Youth Mass
5. Catechists
 - Catechists had 2 training sessions
 - We have 12 Catechists in the five outstations
 - Catechesis regularly in local churches
6. Sunday School
 - Sunday school teachers training
 - Every Sunday children are taught separately from the adults

- The catechists/ Sunday school animators meeting once a month
 - Children taught drama on the annunciation
7. Catholic Women Association
- Formation of Catholic Women Association
 - We have already 25 women being trained as CWA members

Women programs take place twice every month with the celebration of mass as the climax of the program. They are trained on the CWA constitution in the parish.



Preparing land for cultivation



School catechesis in progress followed by Mass

5.5 Sacred Heart Parish, Tonj

5.5.1 Activities in the Sacred Heart Parish – 2019, Tonj

The Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco run Bakhita Educational Centre which has an oratory, kindergarten, primary and secondary schools, women promotion program and literacy classes.

- **Oratory/Youth centre**

The young people and children participate in various games at the oratory; football, volley ball and outdoor games. This helps them to learn to live and cooperate with each other in a peaceful way. The oratory is always concluded with prayer. Rosary is prayed on Saturdays and Sundays at the oratory immediately after the games. Periodically we conduct a formation program for the oratory leaders

- **School**

We are living in a mission where people are torn apart by hatred and division due to internal problems among the tribes. So we have committed ourselves to nation building through education; the education that takes care of the whole person. Our school has activities such as preparation for the sacraments, choir, formation of the school leaders that helps a lot in the smooth running of the school, catechist formation, visit to the families and sports, debates and clubs. We have over 100 children in the kindergarten and more than 700 in primary and secondary schools from P1 to P8 and F1 to F2 respectively.

- **Women Promotion**

In our society women are the backbone of the families. The situation of poverty;



Children who attend the literacy class

hunger, illiteracy, health and poor hygiene that is experienced in this area can be changed only through the empowerment of women. For this reason we commit ourselves to empower the women through agriculture and 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 our centre and the neighboring schools. In the agriculture sector there is a 25 member group that is doing vegetable gardening, and the other group practices sustainable agriculture whereby each woman has cultivated one fedan with sorghum. This year they have acquired a bigger area for other crops such as groundnuts and vegetables.

- **Literacy class**

This class is for young girls and boys who are of school going age but do not go to school. The aim is to motivate them in education and be reinstated in the normal schools. Those who are frequenting this class are 35, both boys and girls between the age of 10 to 15 and a few older women.



Women promotion products worn by young girls at the school

5.5.2 Don Bosco Radio Tonj

Radio Don Bosco 91.0 FM is located in Tonj State and is one of the Catholic Radio Network (CRN) stations. It is run and owned by the Salesians of Don Bosco.

- **Vision and Mission**

Our vision as a radio is to proclaim the Gospel especially to the young and the deprived through the means of social communication and creating community and interpersonal peace. Our Mission is to be signs and bearers of God's Love to the young and to communicate this message by journeying with them using

the 'Preventive System.'

- **Transmission**

The station started with 4 hours of test transmission daily for the first 3 months and by the end of May 2010, after the official blessing of the Radio (by the Salesian Provincial of Eastern Africa, Fr. Joseph Pullickal), the hours of broadcast were gradually increased to 8 hours daily until October 2010 when the time was extended to 15 hours with the combination of a generator and solar power, covering a geographical distance of over 150km²

We broadcast in five languages: Dinka, Jur, Bongo, Simple Arabic and English. The radio station operates 15 hours every day (6am – 9pm) with 1 hour break at 4pm.

- **Programs**

The station began with 12 programs and live shows and then gradually increased to 24 in various formats as follows:

- Programs about empowering women and children to assert themselves in society
- Health programs (on Malaria, HIV/AIDS, general sanitation)
- Debate programs on social issues and customs
- Education programs (for children and adults)
- Religious programs
- Programs on Freedom of Expression, Peace Building and Reconciliation.

All the programs are broadcast in various forms – live or as pre-recorded programs. We interact with our radio listeners by opening a line for call-ins from our broadcast outreach areas. We have initiated listeners groups (there



Live radio show in progress

are ten listener groups in the various parts of our geographical coverage). They help us with the feedback on the quality, clarity and the relevance of our programming to the daily social life of our listeners.

- **Current Coverage**

Don Bosco Radio covers a radius of 150km² reaching out to over 100, 000 people. The Radio is operational for 15 hours daily.

5.6 St. Josephine Bakhita Parish, Mapuordit

St. Josephine Bakhita parish is under the care of the Comboni Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Last year, the mission celebrated its Silver Jubilee having been established in 1993. Today, St. Josephine Bakhita is one of the most developed missions in the Diocese of Rumbek with three Comboni schools (nursery, primary and secondary), a 113-bed mission hospital and the diocesan minor seminary. The apostolic community is composed of the Comboni missionaries (MCCJ), the Sisters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (OLSH) and the rector of the diocesan minor seminary. Evangelization, education and health care are the three pillars of the mission.

- **Evangelization**

Mapuordit is considered the place of the restart of the Diocese of Rumbek (DOR) during the time of war. A diocesan priest, the late Fr. Raphael Riel Col, former Vicar General of DOR, was the first to arrive in Mapuordit in early January, 1993. Later, Fr. Joseph Pellerino MCCJ arrived on February 10th, 1993 as the first Comboni missionary, to live and work in the parish. Fr. Placide Majambo Lutumba, MCCJ is the current parish priest. Mapuordit Mission has different congregations working there and also a number of expatriate professional supportive staff working in the education and health sector.

Activities

There are 16 outstations divided into three pastoral zones (Jur zone, Aluakluak Zone and Mapuordit Zone) among which four have permanent buildings (Makok, Agany, Aluakluak and Mapuordit). This year, 162 catechumens received the sacrament of baptism (both infant and adult); 40 received first communion and 64 received the sacrament of confirmation. Priests and sisters have regular visits to the outstations and schools where the chapels are located.

There are 35 catechists and their role is to animate the Christian community, teach catechesis and lead Sunday prayer services in the chapels where no priest or sister is visiting. Catechist workshops have been conducted twice in 2019. The parish also offers some weekly humanitarian assistance (foodstuff, blankets and mosquito nets) to about 150 vulnerable people (blind, lepers,

disabled, elderly, needy people). Many children come to Catholic Church on Sundays. Two big centres (Mapuordit and Aluakluak) run Sunday school very well every Sunday.



Agany Chapel

A couple of years ago, the “Legion of Mary” group was started in order to enter more efficiently into the general Mapuordit society in a committed way. Their work as members of the Legion include:

1. Identifying the really needy persons and their needs
2. Visiting and counselling women prisoners
3. Interventions in family life especially marriage problems
4. Visit and mass preparation for the sick in the hospital



Fr. Pellerino, mccj training the Catechists

5.6.1 Aluakluak Chapel

St Augustine has emerged as a propitious centre of evangelization for the future given the rapid growth of Aluakluak village and its location on the main road linking Yirol to Rumbek. In 2017, the parish was given a large area of land and built a small priests' house and the nursery school. Every Sunday, a priest is available there for the Eucharistic celebration.



Aluakluak Chapel and priests' house

5.6.2 Our Lady of Sacred Heart Sisters (OLSH) Activities in Mapuordit

OLSH Sisters are performing an outstanding educational and pastoral work in the mission. OLSH came to South Sudan in January 1995 but their mother, "Our Lady of the Sacred Heart", had preceded them by more than a hundred years, because in 1875 Daniel Comboni consecrated the whole of Sudan to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. Was it any wonder that her Daughters were meant to follow! Sr. Jo Kenny and Sr. Moira Lynch were the pioneer missionaries who came in 1995. Jo's desire to work with refugees coincided with Bishop Caesar's request for Sisters, resulting in the first OLSH Community at Mapuordit in South Sudan. The mission was already two years old, under the care of Comboni Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. God had other plans for Jo but Moira stayed on, and in the following year, 1996, she was joined by two more – Sr. Maureen Carey (a nurse) and Sr Mary Batchelor (a teacher). Currently, 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” centre runs among others an agricultural project. Last year, two Indonesian sisters Sr. Francisca and Sr. Bernadette came to join Sr. Wendy and Rita (Australian). While Sr. Francisca is fully engaged in pastoral work, Sr. Bernadette is in charge of the nursery school.

“The OLSH Sisters in Mapuordit have a women’s project which they call “BETTER PARENTING”. It began in this way; in October 2018 Sr. Rita was taking a Saturday morning walk with one of the secondary school teachers around the villages of Mapuordit which was interrupted by a woman screaming and a child being severely beaten by her mother. The incident was too shocking for us to bypass, hence we made an intervention to understand what the problem was.

When we addressed the mother she shed tears profusely; her complaint was that she was left alone with her many children, all of whom were of primary school age. She was hungry; they were hungry and she had no food for them. She’d asked her daughter to do some small chore which the daughter refused to accept. She complained also that the school fees she paid seemed wasted since the children no longer respected her; they’d become lazy and frequently didn’t return home until almost dark. We enquired about the father of the children. She cried again. He is seldom at home because he has wives in other areas.



Women in a meeting to discuss their issues

This scene disturbed us greatly and we felt we had to make some form of response; knowing that what we had just witnessed is a very common scene around Mapuordit. We planned a meeting for all mothers who felt

overburdened with home situations and wanted support. Literally hundreds of mothers came to the meeting. Most of their stories were the same and all highlighted the need for the presence of the father figure in the family at all times. Two such general meetings were held until all mothers felt they'd been heard. From these general meetings a smaller steering group was formed to address the issues raised by the mothers. The steering group comprised of mothers and fathers of families, all responsible, respected and representable people.



A woman carrying her harvest of groundnuts

This steering group has since met each first Saturday of every month to address the issues raised and create awareness of the plight of families and mothers struggling at home where the father is absent, sometimes for several months. The mothers requested gardens which would access a continual water supply so that greens could be grown throughout the year thus lessening the severe effects of hunger. This is an ongoing venture where we can already witness alleviation to some small extent of hunger among children."

Provision of secondary education to young women disadvantaged due to distance from Mapuordit

Another of the involvements of the OLSH Sisters in Mapuordit is the provision of a simple residential service for those young ladies from the parish who otherwise would not have the opportunity of having a secondary education.



Some of the girls with Sr. Rita

Currently those in residence, 16 in number, are from Barbol and Kakor (both Jur villages) and from Aluakluak and beyond. Having a mix of Jur and Dinka together in a small residential space for learning is an excellent opportunity for both groups to intermingle, share culturally life's and school experiences, and provides a good preparation for after-school life where today's adult life becomes ever more a much greater mix.

Study opportunity is increased as there is time for homework and night study. Other opportunities are craft activities such as knitting and crocheting.

They have become very adventurous and want to learn skills helpful for future family life.

- **Basic food distribution**

In addition to the above the OLSH Sisters also offer a simple food distribution service. Their main target area here is the very poor, elderly, disabled women, many of whom are too incapacitated to come to the mission compound for food. Food is delivered to several very elderly "shutins" who have lost their freedom of mobility. A good many other elderly, but still mobile ladies come weekly to receive a simple portion of food. Each day, whichever group is presenting, Sr. Wendy "entertains" with Gospel reading and sharing. The wisdom that a harsh life has taught these old ladies unfolds with much delight at each of these meetings. More than 100 ladies benefit from this food service.

5.6.3 Mary Immaculate DOR Hospital (MIH), Mapuordit

It is situated 75 km south east of Rumbek, capital of Lakes State in the Republic of South Sudan. It has the size and services of a County Hospital, having grown to its' present 113 beds status over the years since its foundation in 2002.

The entry point to the hospital is the outpatient department (inaugurated in 2017, after its renewal). The hospital in-patient departments are organized in 4 wards (maternity, paediatric, medical and surgical ward). An operation theatre is ready for emergency 24/7. Accessory services are provided thanks to a well-equipped laboratory, a radiology department, an OPD plus ANC/ EPI Clinic, two care-takers, kitchens and dormitories, a nurse training centre with boarding facilities for 48 students. The hospital permanent staff are 92 (of which 11 are expatriates). There are also 24 part time and trainee staff. The clinical staff are made up of local and foreign skilled personnel.

The hospital is a referral centre for HIV cases, offering VCT, PMTCT, staging and enrolment into ART therapy, when indicated. A weekly outreach team takes antenatal / Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT) and childhood immunization (EPI) services to different communities in the catchment area.

During this time, the hospital's electricity supply has gradually been upgraded to its' present sophisticated and powerful solar system (electricity and water pumps), and there has been a gradual replacement of all but one of the original buildings with solid permanent structures. Since its foundation in 2002, the hospital has been managed for Diocese of Rumbek (DOR) by the Comboni Missionaries Congregation (MCCJ). The Comboni Missionaries have availed 3 Comboni Brothers: two doctors (one being the medical director and acting administrator, and the other being a surgeon) and a nurse anaesthetist. In February 2016 Bro. Dr. Paolo Rizzetto MCCJ was sent to join the Brothers working in MIH.

The top management of the hospital is made by the Interim Board of Governors (IBG). The IBG has met seven times since its inception in 2015 and led to the approval of the foundational document, the Hospital Charter, required for developing and securing the hospital administrative structure.

Among the main hospital activities a special focus is made in addressing the most vulnerable population, i.e. patients coming for the first time, patients in need of admission, expectant women attending antenatal care or coming to deliver in the hospital and infants in need of immunization services.

Observations:

- In all the considered areas (outpatient contacts, inpatients, deliveries, ANC contacts, immunisations), by the end of July 2019 there has been a steadily increasing trend in patient numbers, when compared with the figures of the previous year.
- In terms of admissions and deliveries there has been a substantial increment over the expected figures.

During the years, the trend of this activity has been monitored in order to visualize the performance of the hospital, in response to the needs of the served population. In order to keep track of the activities and services offered by the hospital, the Management Team of MIH has opted to utilize an adaptation of the model used by Ugandan Catholic Medical Bureau (UCMB) for the management of health facilities.

Other Hospital activities include

- **Surgical Operation**

In 2018, 523 surgical operations were performed (139 from October to December 2018). In 2019, the surgical operations between January and July numbered 283.



Surgical operation in progress

- **Anti-retro-viral Clinic (ART)**

In 2018, 6,528 people were tested for HIV, of which 731 were found positive (with a relative prevalence of 14.9%), and 725 were linked to care. From January to July 2019, 4,827 people were tested for HIV; 462 were found positive to the test (9.6% of the screened people). Out of the 462 people found HIV positive, 395 were linked to care.

- **Leprosy and TB Clinic (under coordination of AAA)**

531 people were screened for tuberculosis (TB) in 2018. The total number of TB cases diagnosed at MIH was 182 of whom 83 patients were categorised as New Sputum Smear Positive (AFB): 46 were coming from within the catchment area. 18 new cases of leprosy were found in 2018.

From January to August 2019, 56 Patients were diagnosed with TB, of which 50 were new cases (and 19 among them were smearing positive). 10 patients were diagnosed with leprosy of which 7 were new cases.

- **Nutrition support to Vulnerable Patients**

In 2018, 8,976 children under 5 years were screened for malnutrition. There were among them: 528 with MUAC < 115mm (severely malnourished); 1220 with MUAC >115 and <124mm (moderately malnourished); and 2640 with MUAC >125mm (normal). From January to July 2019 a total number of 3,3558 children under 5 years were screened for malnutrition. There were among them: 265 with MUAC < 115mm (severely malnourished); 453 with MUAC >115 and <124mm (moderately malnourished); and 2640 with MUAC >125mm (normal).

In 2018, 4,461 pregnant women were screened for malnutrition, out of which 1,610 had a MUAC < 210mm (malnourished); 1143 lactating women were screened for malnutrition, out of which 459 had a MUAC < 210mm (malnourished). From January to July 2019, 2,155 pregnant women were screened for malnutrition, out of which 659 had a MUAC < 210mm (malnourished); 627 lactating women were screened for malnutrition, out of which 229 had a MUAC <210mm (malnourished).

From January to December 2018, 17,219 cooked meals were served to vulnerable patients (3,951 from the period between October and December 2018). From January to July 2019 6,956 cooked meals were served.

- **Training Activities**

From February to August 2019, a Basic Nursing Course was completed by 18 candidates to the post of junior hospital auxiliary nurse. At the end of the course, 3 of them were fully promoted to nurse status, 2 were put on probation contract and the remaining continue as translators for the hospital.

- **Buildings and Infrastructure**

No new buildings were planned for the period under review. However major works on the infrastructure involved the renewal of the ceiling in the medical

ward and laying of the pavement around the maternity ward to prevent rain water flooding the department.



Photo of renovated area

5.7 Sts. Peter and Paul Parish - Wulu Mission

Wulu parish has got the following outstations; Wulu centre, Wulu Gedin, Nukta-Manga, Makor (a new chapel), Bargel, Gulmar and Makabele. Activities in the outstations include liturgy, catechisms, and ministry to groups (Women, Youth, Sunday school and Alleluia dancers).

Parish activities between October 2018 and August 2019 include:

- Baptisms

Sunday school fun fair day

Over 150 Sunday school children were registered at the parish centre during a fun fair day after Sunday Mass 26th December 2018 during the annual youth day celebration. (St Stephen's feast day)

Registration of the first group of catechumens this year 2019 in all parish churches was conducted by all the catechists in every chapel/outstation. A total of 136 new catechumens were registered and recorded in the whole parish. They will be baptized next year in December 2020.

60 church leaders attended leadership, management and accountability workshop 13th to 17th May 2019. This workshop was organized by Wulu Church council and the Parish Priest. All the participants were awarded certificates of attendance. Three facilitators were invited to deliver various

topics as mentioned above including skills of formation of groups such as Christian communities and religious groups in their respective churches.

Catechists' quarterly meeting

10 out of 14 catechists attended quarterly meeting at the parish center. This meeting was designated to plan annual activities especially visits of the parish priest and senior catechists to all parish churches this year.

Youth leaders met on June 6th 2019 to plan youth activities for the second half of the year. Tree planting was a major task and sports and games for peace were organized to take place in December 2019. There will be a parish youth congress during December 27th to 30th 2019 in Nukta Manga, the theme will be announced later.



Fr. Sospeter and the football team

Catholic women activities

All women in the parish continue their visits to the old and sick at homes and hospital. This activity brings the women together.

Justice and Peace Commission meeting in the parish

The local commission has 7 members all of them young people (4 boys and 3 girls). The meeting was attended by Mr. Abraham the coordinator of the diocesan Justice and Peace commission. The commission will have a program that will include workshops and rallies within the parish.

DOR emergency food relief

This year the parish received relief food early enough (April) before the rains

and therefore the vulnerable people were reached within the time planned. The 150 target beneficiaries were registered from the 3 identified centres/groups including the IDP camp which was served as an emergency case by this project.

Agriculture training (women agriculture training)

Agricultural projects

Women Agriculture Training in Wulu continues to gain popularity in the larger Wulu community. Between 2017 and 2019 over 200 women have been trained. Our hope is that all the women trained in the Parish Agriculture Centre will implement the knowledge and skills they have learned in their family farms and mobilize more people towards food security to fight drought and hunger in the area. Women are also engaged in vegetable gardening during the dry seasons each year.



Elisabeth Hartl of Caritas – Diocese of Graz-Seckau visiting Wulu agricultural project

- Inauguration of Nukta Manga women group and fencing the agriculture training site at St. Joseph primary school compound.
- Fencing of the Wulu parish church compound almost completed.

While we continue to engage ourselves in various pastoral activities the insecurity in most areas does not guarantee the safety on the roads as we travel from village to village. For this reason in most cases we are entitled to negotiate with the local government to ensure that security is offered either for our parish facilities (schools, church compounds) and/or even during our movements to other areas.

We are committed to continue our mission and apostolate to the people despite all that. The support given to us from the diocesan management and mostly from our esteemed donors give us hope and encourage us to continue serving our people.

5.8 St. Daniel Comboni Parish Marial - Lou

It was in 1994 that Fr. Benjamin Madol Akot was posted as the parish priest of St. Daniel Comboni parish, Marial Lou. The parish has nine outstations/ chapels namely Ngapagok, Wunlit, Kachuat/ Langchok, Agauwei, Rualbet, Akop, Kondok, Marial Amel and Marial Lou.

The parish has the following institutions

1. St. Daniel primary school which is composed of 8 classes that is from p1 - p8.
2. Mother Teresa nursery school
3. Comboni clinic which is run by Arkangelo Ali Association (AAA). This clinic is aimed to treat tuberculosis (TB) patients within Marial Lou and neighboring areas.
4. St. Bakhita girls boarding School. This boarding school brings together young girls within Marial Lou and its neighbouring Romic parish who have the zeal to continue with their studies despite the challenges that they encounter such as lack of food, mattresses, beds, damaged toilets and poor fencing.

Pastoral success

Most infants and adults received sacraments in some of our outstations/ chapels in 2019 as well as in the main parish. Some of them were given the sacrament of confirmation by Fr. John Mathiang. Some of our pupils in St. Daniel Comboni were baptized after catechesis in the school. There is a need for baptism as the majority of girls and boys in the school desire baptism and confirmation.

Some of them from different denominations wish to become Catholics. The Christian communities are always joyful to see the priest celebrating sacraments with them especially boarding girls

Many TB Patients from Marial Lou and the surrounding area receive good treatment, but the clinic staffs have the challenge of transporting medicine from Tonj and Wau towns due to poor roads during the rainy season.



Fr. Garang (Asst. Parish priest, Marial Lou) visiting Warrap Community

Pastoral Challenges

1. Lack of catechists as some of them left due to too much demand on their time from their families
2. Lack of training of the catechists who have offered themselves in service to the church.
3. Pastoral visits to the outstations during the rainy season remains under suspension from June – November due to impassable roads.
4. Lack of electricity during solemn celebrations.
5. The entire community still prays under tree since the parish was opened as there is no church.
6. Community conflict among clans of some different communities.
7. Lack of properly trained and qualified teachers in the school.
8. Community interference in the school and parish administration

5.9 St Francis Parish, Cueibet

The South Korean Fidei Donum priests run the Agangrial and Cueibet missions. They have quite a number of activities going on as listed below:

Visiting villages

Generally in the dry season before Easter and Christmas, we visit our satellite villages to grant sacraments (mass, baptism, first communion, reconciliation) and to promote their Christian faith by catechism. Usually we use audio-visual materials in teaching the bible (for example the movie “Jesus” and “The Ten Commandments”).



Confirmation in Cueibet parish

General medicines and simple medical treatment are offered when we visit the villages for those in need.

- **Catechist training program**

Angangrial and Cueibet missions have a monthly meeting for catechists it is held on the first Saturday of every month and bible study is held every Saturday.

An annual Workshop is provided for the catechists in support of Rumbek Diocese.

- **To supervise catechists**

Every Sunday we send inspectors to each village so that we can be assured of catechists' work.

Educational Work

We support schools and students financially through a scholarship program. Angangrial and Cueibet have libraries for students

- Medical Clinic - we operate a small clinic in Cueibet. Medicines are supplied by Diocese of Suwon, South Korea.
- Charitable Work - we offer work to the people who are not able to get a job (the blind, widows, and old people), and in turn pay them some small incentive to help them take care of their families.
- Water project - since 2014, we have proceeded to drill boreholes and install water pumps at the places which are not able to get water; five villages among our satellite villages have benefited every year.
- A new church in Cueibet - we started to build a new holy edifice in Cueibet parish in 2014. Now the construction is completed and waiting for consecration.
- Farming - we have a farm around the parish with dura and groundnuts. It was cultivated for the school and to help the needy people. Some of the harvest is kept for the next year so that we can provide seeds for the people.
- To promote vocation - we select students who are sincere and eager for the Catholic priesthood and encourage them in their study of the Christian faith. We support them to respond to their vocation.
- Cueibet Construction Cooperation. (C.C.C) - the purpose of C.C.C is creating jobs and developing the local economy. More than 20 members of C.C.C cooperate with Cueibet Community and Government through construction and other help (such as carrying food transport, maintenance of roads and car repair services).
- Friendship volleyball tournament - we held the volleyball tournament with Christians from chapels of two parishes. 23 teams (230 persons) from each chapel participated in the volleyball tournament and enjoyed each other's friendship. We are planning to have this event annually.



Youth playing a volleyball game

5.9.1 Comboni Missionary Sisters, Cueibet

The major work in the mission is to empower the women of St. Francis Parish by providing spiritual and human formation, and capacity building to enable them to develop awareness of their potential and value in family, church and society.

Activities



Women of Car Village

Microcredit

The objective is to help women who are vulnerable and don't have support from their husbands to start a small business so that they are able to support their children. Under this project we have 25 women who have started their small businesses like selling vegetables, sugar, rice, beans, maize, clothes, and mandazi with tea in the market or at home.

Primary School (A.L.P)

It started in 2010. In the first stage of this school, the sisters taught children and some adults (who had not had any education) under trees in the parish compound. In 2015, a new school with 4 classrooms, a teachers' room and a library was constructed. Since then the sisters runs this school as an official and regular primary school.

Education for Peace

Because of much violence in the area we have started a pilot programme

‘Education for Peace’ in Achol Malek Primary school with p6, p7 and p8, the program is held every Tuesday. This year we discussed topics related to peace and forgiveness, and we use Laudato Si for our reflections. One of the initiatives to safeguard our creation was to clean Cueibet town and plant trees in the school compound.



A group of pupils of Achol Malek Primary school cleaning the town

Missionary Childhood Association

Missionary childhood aims to assist children to carry out their local and universal mission adequately. In this missionary pastoral care, we not only do missionary work but we also help others to be missionaries. We propose “To be” Jesus’ disciples.

The aim is to:

help the children to proclaim the Gospel to other children through their prayers, works of charity, inviting others to join them and providing material help to those who are most needy.

- help the children to organize themselves to become little missionaries in their families, community and the church.
- motivate children to share their faith and material means especially with other children.

They have activities like:

- Prayer for peace every Monday
- Announcing the Good News to other children in different zones, once a month
- Visiting families of some vulnerable children.
- Taking care of the environment of the compound of the church
- Drama and music

5.9.2 Mazzolari Teachers College (M.T.C), Cueibet

Mazzolari Teachers College is located in Cueibet, the capital of Gok State. It is the only tertiary institution in Gok State. This State is plagued by a litany of pain, suffering, uncertainties, and desperation due to the frequent inter-clan conflicts and revenge attacks among rival tribes and enemy clans.

The graduates of Mazzolari teachers College have, in a big way, supplied much needed hope and faith to a cynical populace. The M.T.C graduates have increased faith and hope in the community, among parents, pupils, the State leaders and stakeholders in primary and secondary education spheres. Their demonstration of commitment and dedication in teaching and learning has inspired many untrained teachers to join the in-service program offered at the college.

The deficit of qualified and professional teachers from the kindergarten, primary and secondary schools in the state is unbelievable and deplorable. This is the reason why Mazzolari Teachers College is the life-line of education in its territory and the future of this young state. Mazzolari Teachers College needs all the support and help it can get from people of good will and wellwishers to advance this very noble goal and profession.

The demand for graduates from Mazzolari Teachers College is so high that they find jobs immediately after graduation. The graduates are well-trained on the national curriculum. Upon their graduation every year they have proven to be the life-line of the basic and secondary educational institutions in the State. The graduates have brought the much needed character, commitment, and professional qualification in the teaching profession in the State and other neighbouring States.

The MTC is run under the leadership and professional guidance of the four members of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits): Fr James Andrew Ayaga, S.J—the current principal who teaches mathematics, philosophy of education and science. Fr. Busobozi Kizito, S.J—teaches sciences subjects, monitors teaching practices and is the superior of the Jesuit community. Fr. Bernard Omondi, S.J—the academic dean, teaches psychology of education, English language, professional subjects such as designing curriculums, as well as being in charge of the kitchen. Br. Cleophas Wanyonyi Wekesa, S.J—teaches science subjects, computer studies, as well as being in charge of the information and technology department. To complete the team the college relies on some qualified local teachers with the aim of empowering our teacher trainees with basic knowledge, basic competencies and professional skills.



Staff of Mazzolari TTC

Teachers graduating from our college are not only involved in teaching and learning activities in the schools but also offer guidance and counseling, healing seminars and workshops to the traumatized pupils and youth suffering from the prolonged war and violent conflicts among the clans. It is our hope that by ensuring that our graduates continue to receive the basic competencies, skills and best practices in the educational field, they will be teachers and community transformative leaders who are agents of social and cultural transformation in their communities and in the country at large.

2018 was a difficult year for the members of the Society of Jesus working in the college because of the sudden demise of the principal of the college Fr. Victor Luke Odhiambo, S.J, who was killed in the month of November 2018 during a burglary at the college. This criminal act affected not only the Jesuits but also the students and the teaching staff. Yet the Jesuits and the school community have emerged even stronger after this tragic event. The college administration and students are determined to make this college a resource centre for community learning, community leadership, and community development.

The beginning of the year saw the launching of the in-service program for untrained teachers who are nevertheless working as teachers in the state. There are fifty teachers who are currently participating in this program. The program is funded by the Society of Jesus. The program runs every Saturday when the schools are not in session. When the schools are in recess, the in-services

teachers are put through a rigorous training program through a period of two to three weeks. The impact of the in-service teacher training is huge as teachers themselves show a lot of desire, enthusiasm and passion to be empowered by basic skills, competencies and best practices in teaching and learning.



Students of MTC with Fr. Omondi, SJ

The Society of Jesus has also supported and funded the partitioning of the male dormitories. The dormitory was built in the form of a hall and so students found it challenging in the area of privacy. The girl's dormitory had already been partitioned into cubicles. The next development that the college administration will have to do upon availability of funds is the placing of double-decked beds in each cubicle. This will increase the number of beds available for male and female students in the ratio of 40 to 40 bringing the total population of the college to 80 students from the current total of 40 students on the two year pre-service program.

It is challenging to get young women to join the pre-service and in-service programs mainly because of the cultural perceptions of the role of a woman in the Dinka society. However, the college is looking for ways of improving and promoting young women enrolment by giving small incentives. The college administration appreciates any partners and people of good will to work with M.T.C to promote more girls and young women enrolment in this institution. Young women who graduate from the college are employed as soon as they graduate not only by the state but also by local nongovernmental organizations to promote community social and cultural development and transformation.

5.10 Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Warrap

The congregation of the Apostles of Jesus started working in the parish in 2003. At present Fr. John Drici, AJ is the parish priest assisted by Fr. Alex Ojera who is also the principal of St. Daniel Comboni primary school. At the moment the parish has no church building, and around 800 people pray at the parish centre under the shade of mango trees.



The open-air Warrap church

The parish has 7 major centres and 42 chapels. Some centres are about 90 km away and every year the parish has to reach out to them for celebration and other activities when the security is okay.

Activities of the Parish

- Farming since we now have a good fence to protect the crops.
- Plantation of trees, mango trees in particular which act as wind breaks since the wind in the area is terrible in the rainy season
- Training and formation of leaders for peace and justice which include the youth, men and women who are also encouraged to participate in sports4peace in order to improve peace, justice and reconciliation
- Training, teaching and formation of leaders of Sunday school with alleluia dancers and altar servers, small Christian communities and Marian groups. It includes the instruction of children in catholic faith, sacraments, love, social unity, games, sports and plays.

Achievements

1. We have effective transport to reach all our Christians by car or motor cycles

2. Now confirmation can take place in six main centres whereas in the time of the late Bp. Mazzolari and Fr. Colombo we could only reach two centres.
3. Many of our catechists have new bicycles to ease their work
4. The diocese now has formal title deeds for the parish land.
5. The parish and the school are largely fenced.
6. The parish has clean water.
7. We have a solar light power system.

We were able to purchase for some of our disabled Christians wheel chairs and artificial legs.

Challenges

1. The parish house needs urgent repairs. It is already damaged by heavy rain and wind. In fact the priests reside in the nearby house that belonged to the Carmelite sisters who left the area.
2. Lack of a Church building, people pray under trees on ground which is sometimes flooded with water thereby making prayer and masses impossible.
3. Catechists lack some of spare parts of these bicycles of “phonex”. So they requested if spare parts could be provided for them to purchase in the parish, but not for free because it is hard to get them in the market as they are not common ones.
4. Ongoing inter clan and tribal clashes in the area.
5. Severe flooding in the rainy season damaging parish cultivated crops.

5.11 Good Shepherd Parish - Thon Aduel

Good Shepherd parish was started as a pastoral zone under the parish of Mapuordit in January 2015, based at Thon-Aduel. Spiritan priests responsible for the pastoral zone were accommodated in Mapuordit, at the St. Bakhita minor seminary. Construction of the priests' house at Thon-Aduel was completed in July 2017, and so the Spiritan priests responsible for the pastoral zone were able to move to Thon-Aduel.

The pastoral zone started with 6 outstations, namely, Makur-agar, Atiaba, Thon-Aduel, Barpakeny, Mathiangic and Paloc. From each outstation, at least two catechists were prepared to help in the catechetical teaching and in the preparation of catechumen for baptism. We had catechists William Mabor and Barnabas Majak for Makur-agar, catechists Joseph Makuei, Isaac Malith and Camilu Kuech for Atiaba, John Sabit and Michael Deng for Mathiangic, Barnaba Ladi and Joseph Kubil for Barpakeny, Abraham Maker, Tito Mabor, Tito Chol Silac and Isaac Chol for Thon-Aduel, and we had Isaac Makur, Josephine Yar, Emmanuel Makor and Samuel Chol for Paloc chapel.

Some of these catechists were assigned to work in the satellite schools as well. Later on, some catechists went to further their education and were replaced. On the 17th December 2017, Thon-Aduel Pastoral Zone (TPZ) was raised to be a parish and since then it has been known as 'Good Shepherd Parish.'

In 2018, a lot of time was spent following up the growth and establishment of Tit-Alaal and Joklei as independent chapels and in January 2019, Tit-Alaal and Joklei were officially opened as new chapels and started operating like any other chapel with priests visiting them regularly for the necessary sacraments.

At present we have 9 chapels which are very active in their pastoral operations. On every Sunday we have the celebration of the Eucharist in different chapels. We have a rotational program for the celebration of the Eucharist to make sure that all the Chapels are pastorally taken good care of. That means it does not take us long before we go round the chapels of the parish. On arranged moments we have the celebration of the sacraments of penance and of the anointing of the sick. This year 2019, in each chapel, we celebrated the sacrament of penance several times. Still in 2019, we had the anointing of the sick in Thon-Aduel centre and in the chapels of Neem-Thok, Barpakeny, Mathingic and Paloc.



Fr. Boniface during a Church service

On the last weekend of each month we meet with the catechists to evaluate of our pastoral work in the parish. Good Shepherd parish catechists receive advice on how to go about catechetical work in the chapels, villages and schools. Catechetical teaching, Bible teaching, Sacraments, prayers / songs and Doctrine of the Catholic Church are among the issues of interest taught by the catechists in the field.

We have established a Sunday school teaching program in every chapel and we now have two to three Sunday school teachers in every chapel taking care of the Sunday school children. This year (2019) Sunday school teachers have been trained twice and they are due to receive the third training in December 2019.

We have a youth program going on in the parish with workshops and seminars conducted each year. This year (2019) our Good Shepherd parish youth has had two workshops and are yet to have another workshop in December 2019.

‘Women Empowerment Program’: at present we have 25 women being taught empowerment and these are now doing very well in their lives.

In 2019, we have been building a multi-purpose hall and pit latrine for our pastoral centre here in Good Shepherd parish and now we are in the process of finishing these two structures. In October 2019, the multi-purpose hall and the pit latrine shall be in full use by the Good Shepherd parishioners.



Multi-purpose Hall

Education and pastoral work in the school / satellite schools

When the Spiritans came to Thon-Aduel and started Thon-Aduel Pastoral Zone (TPZ) in 2015, the community of Thon-Aduel requested that a kindergarten and a primary school be established so that children of this community could have access to education. Feeling that this was a good idea, and sympathizing with the people of this community, Spiritans started a kindergarten teaching program under a Mango tree and a Lulu tree in 2015. In 2016 those pupils who passed their kindergarten examination were promoted to primary one. In 2017 we built two classrooms and an office for the kindergarten and primary one classroom.

By December 2018, we had kindergarten (two classes) and primary one to three.

Between 2018 and 2019, we managed to have four more classrooms built and so our school now goes up to primary seven with 686 students. Therefore, this year 2019, we managed to have four classrooms built and furnished. At present we are in the process of building the sixth classroom.

In Good Shepherd parish, we have St. Mary's kindergarten and primary school for formal education, an incorporated reconciliation program and catechumen teaching program. We have used formal education, a reconciliation program and a catechumen teaching program as our mode of evangelization in St. Mary's kindergarten and primary school. For the incorporated reconciliation program, we invite students from other schools / satellite schools for friendly matches/tournaments and socialising in our St. Mary's school ground with the idea of bridging the gap that exists between some families, clans and communities following the many years of conflict in the past. Therefore, in 2019, we managed to bring the students of Aduel primary school and the students of Neem-Thok satellite school to St. Mary's primary school ground. There is regular teaching of the catechumen in St. Mary's school. These catechumens are being prepared to receive their baptism on Easter of 2020. Within our parish, we have 13 schools / satellite schools which are under the care of our pastoral work. In each of these schools/satellite schools there is/are catechists responsible for the pastoral work especially in the teaching of the catechumen. Therefore, in 2019, we have pastorally been active in the schools/satellite schools within Good Shepherd parish.

Diocesan priests

1. Fr. John Mathiang Machol – Diocesan Coordinator and Director of PALICA
2. Fr. Andrea Osman Okello – Bunagok
3. Fr. Benjamin Madol Akot – Marial Lou
4. Fr. Ireneo Mayok - Romic
5. Fr. John Malou sacred Heart, Rumbek
6. Fr. Marko Tong – Bunagok
7. Fr. John Waweru – on sabbatical from the diocese
8. Fr. Henry Gidudu – on sababatical from the diocese
9. Fr. Don Bosco – Nairobi
10. Fr. Luka Dor Anyuon – Rumbek, Holy Family
11. Fr. Peter Garang – Marial Lou

Religious Congregations working in the Diocese

Female Congregations

- Missionary sisters of Mary Mother of the Church (MSMMC) Yirol and Agangrial
- Our Lady of Sacred Heart Sisters (OLSH) Mapuordit
- Missionaries of Charity – Rumbek
- Evangelizing Sisters of Mary – Rumbek
- Loreto Sisters (IBVM) – Rumbek
- Comboni Sisters – Cueibet
- Missionary Sisters Mary Help of Christians (MSMHC) – Tonj
- Salesian Sisters (FMA) – Tonj

Male Congregations

- Comboni Fathers (MCCJ) – Yirol and Mapuordit
- Holy Ghost Fathers/Spiritans (CssP) – Rumbek, Wulu and Thon Aduel
- Jesuits (SJ) – Rumbek and Cueibet
- Salesians of Don Bosco (SDB) – Tonj
- Apostles of Jesus (AJ) – Warrap
- De La Salle Brothers – Rumbek

Fidei Donum

- Fidei Donum Priests from the Diocese of Suwon/South Korea – Agangrial and Cueibet



Diocese of Rumbek,
Bethany House
P.O. Box 21102 - 00505, Nairobi
Tel: +254 020 8019653/6