

No Guns No Knives



Masaka Bishop irked

MASAKA Diocese Bishop John Baptist Kaggwa has expressed concern over a religious cult. Bishop Kaggwa advised Catholics not to be lured into such cults. "We shall not carry out any religious ceremonies in the homes of the Catholics who have joined the cult," he warned. The cult is led by FALSE PROPHET Kazibwe.



When Her Excellency The High Commissioner of Uganda Mrs. Rwabwomere visited Uganda Martyrs Catholic Community in March 2009, she was presented with a picture of the 22 Uganda Catholic Martyrs by the Chairman Mr. Robert Mukiibi. Her Excellency Celebrated Holy Mass on Mothers day with UMCC.

In an inspirational speech, Her Excellency, speaking as a mother, reflected on the advances women have made in the Ugandan society. Her speech filled with words of wisdom, was received with great honour and privilege.



Uganda Martyrs Catholic Community

In Faith We Grow

UK AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

AMBASSADORS OF HOPE

Dear Brethren in the Lord,

I bring you Easter greetings in the Risen Lord. Alleluia! Amen. As you may recall, we last met at the end of March, just a week before we celebrated Palm Sunday, which also marked the 24th World Youth Day. Today is an opportunity for us to celebrate our Community Youth Day and warmly welcome His Lordship Bishop Alan Hopes, Auxiliary of Westminster who is also in charge of Ethnic Communities.

Today's theme is: **Youth – A Time of Hope!** Hope is a core virtue in Christian life. Without hope we would all lead miserable and depressed lives! As the sayings go: "*When people expect nothing, nothing happens*" and "*Hope is the last thing to lose*". Hope forms the basis of our existence and life's plans. When you are young you can envisage a whole future lying ahead of you with great hopes, dreams, expectations and plans! Almost everything seems possible for the young mind. But nothing comes to reality unless we make the effort to focus and work at it seriously with determination, courage and hope. Hope takes us beyond the boundaries of our own fears and limitations, and challenges us to face the future with confidence.

Our task now - as we face today's challenges of studies, hardships in family, relationships, finances, choice of careers, lifestyles, doubts about ourselves or our faith, struggles with social and emotional issues, etc... - is to develop a new sense of purpose with renewed hope and resilience. We need to rise above our doubts and become ambassadors of hope as well as messengers of peace.

In today's gospel we hear how the disciples told their story after Christ's resurrection. Like them, we must become true witnesses of the resurrection by opening our minds to Christ's message of hope and peace. When Jesus appeared to the disciples he greeted them: "Peace be with you!" and asked them to cast their doubts away because he was alive

again! **(Luke 24:35-38)**. Let's take this message on board, especially as young people, and embrace our mission by cultivating peace in our hearts, and then pass it on to our families and communities. At times it will feel that witnessing to others about our Christian faith is a frightening, daunting and burdensome task. But with hope, courage and determination there is no need to be afraid.

As we celebrate our Youth Day today, let's resolve to meet our challenges by using the gospel values to form the basis of our morals, attitudes, lifestyles and actions. Let nothing derail us from the project of our life. Remember the great essentials of happiness are: something **to do**, something **to love** and something **to hope for**. Quoting Taitirya Upanishad, 2:8: "Youth must be well-behaved, skilled in duties, full of bright hopes, with invincible will-power and energetic. To such youth, the whole world is the source of treasures of all kinds."

May the Lord bless you in this challenge ahead of you.

Fr. Gerard M. Balimuya

UMCC Chaplain.

Papal Message for Youth Day - APRIL 2009

"We have set our hope on the living God" (1 Tim 4:10)

My dear friends,

As we celebrate the twenty-fourth World Youth Day, I recall the joy of celebration and spiritual enthusiasm experienced during the meeting in Sydney in July last year. Those few days were an eloquent sign of the presence of the Spirit of Christ. The next international gathering will take place in **Madrid in 2011**, with its theme from the words of St. Paul: "*Rooted and built up in Jesus Christ, firm in the faith*" (cf. Col 2:7). This year's theme is based on St. Paul's saying: **"We have set our hope on the living God" (1 Tim 4:10)**, while in 2010 we will reflect on the question put to Jesus by the rich young man: "*Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?*" (Mk 10:17)

Youth, a time of hope

My dear young people, the question of hope is truly central to our lives as human beings and our mission as Christians, especially in these times. We are all aware of the need for hope, not just any kind of hope, but a firm and reliable hope. Youth is a special

Youth Poem

**This little light of mine;
I'm gonna let it shine;
I'm gonna let it shine to you
and the whole world.
It's not for the fame, money
or the fortune, but to make a
point;
That small things can become
big if you commit yourself to
what you want.
So a little message to all those
youngsters:
Do your best and don't give up
the rest!
God makes wonders; believe
this when I say it.**

By Jessica Bukenya xo.

Youth Quote for the day

**"A young man is young only
once; but he can stay immature
indefinitely."**

ANNOUNCEMENT

MASS FOR MIGRANT WORKERS IN LONDON will be celebrated on Bank Holiday **Monday 4th May, 2009** at **Westminster Cathedral**, Victoria, London SW1 starting at **11.30 am**. This is a Mass to support migrant communities who have come to seek shelter from oppression and to improve their economic position. We have always been partners to this cause and we have to be there in big numbers please.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

Congratulations to those celebrating wedding anniversaries in April!

Mr. Charles Lwanga and Mrs. Olivia Kisaala (01.04.07) - two years [Cotton]!

Mr. Godfrey and Mrs. Irene Skesongwe (24.04.04) - five years [Wood]!

Mr. Kizito and Mrs. Edna Edna Bukenya (24.04.93) - 16 years [Sterling of Peridot]!

OBITUARIES

Samuel Kabali Ssaalongo, brother-in-law of Fr. Gerard Balinnya. He died Wed 22nd April, 2009 after a very short illness! May he rest in eternal peace.

time of hope because it looks to the future with a whole range of expectations. When we are young we cherish ideals, dreams and plans. Youth is the time when decisive choices concerning the rest of our lives come to fruition. Perhaps this is why it is the time of life when fundamental questions assert themselves strongly: Why am I here on earth? What is the meaning of life? What will my life be like? How can I attain happiness? Why is there suffering, illness and death? What lies beyond death? These are questions that become insistent when we are faced with obstacles that sometimes seem insurmountable: difficulties with studies, unemployment, family arguments, crises in friendships or in building good loving relationships, illness or disability, lack of adequate resources as a result of the present widespread economic and social crisis. We then ask ourselves: where can I obtain and how can I keep alive the flame of hope burning in my heart?

In search of "the great hope"

Experience shows that personal qualities and material goods are not enough to guarantee the hope which the human spirit is constantly seeking. As I wrote in the Encyclical *Spe Salvi*, politics, science, technology, economics and all other material resources are not of themselves sufficient to provide the *great hope* to which we all aspire. This hope "can only be God, who encompasses the whole of reality and who can bestow upon us what we, by ourselves, cannot attain" (no. 31). This is why one of the main consequences of ignoring God is the evident loss of direction that marks our societies, resulting in loneliness and violence, discontent and loss of confidence that can often lead to despair. The crisis of hope is more likely to affect the younger generations. I have in mind so many of your contemporaries who have been wounded by life. They often suffer from personal immaturity caused by dysfunctional family situations, by permissive and libertarian elements in their education, and by difficult and traumatic experience. For some, the almost unavoidable way out involves an alienating escape into dangerous and violent behaviour, dependence on drugs and alcohol, and many other such traps for the unwary.

Saint Paul, witness of hope

During this Jubilee Year of St. Paul, let us learn from him how to become credible witnesses of Christian hope. When Paul found himself immersed in difficulties and trials of various kinds, he wrote to his faithful disciple Timothy: "We have set our hope on the living God" (*1 Tim* 4:10).

The "living God" is the Risen Christ present in our world. He is the true hope.

The way towards the great hope

Just as he once encountered the young Paul, Jesus also wants to encounter each one of you. But how can I meet him today? When we express our faith in prayer, we find him even in times of darkness because he offers himself to us. Make space for prayer in your lives! Take part in your parish liturgies and be abundantly nourished by the word of God and your active participation in the Sacraments. The Church depends on you for this demanding mission. Do not be discouraged by the difficulties and trials you encounter. Be patient and persevering so as to overcome the natural youthful tendency to rush ahead and to want everything immediately. Like St. Paul, be witnesses to the Risen Christ among your own age group and beyond, to those who are in search of "the great hope" that would give meaning to their lives. Make choices that demonstrate your faith. Show that you understand the risks of idolizing money, material goods, career and success, and do not allow yourselves to be attracted by these false illusions. Do not yield to the rationale of selfish interests. Cultivate love of neighbour and try to put yourselves and your human talents and professional abilities at the service of the common good and of truth, always prepared to "make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you" (*1 Pet* 3:15).

Mary, Mother of hope

We continue to advance towards the fulfillment of the Kingdom accompanied by the Virgin Mary, Mother of Hope. In dangers, in distress, in perplexities, think on Mary, call on Mary ... Following her, you will never go astray; when you implore her aid, you will never yield to despair " (*Homilies in Praise of the Virgin Mother*, 2:17). Mary, Star of the Sea, we ask you to guide the young people of the whole world to an encounter with your Divine Son Jesus. Dear young friends, be assured that I remember all of you every day in my prayers. I give my heartfelt blessing to you and to all who are dear to you.

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