

It's a beautiful thing



NOTICE BOARD

YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

Black Boys Can is a proactive, action-oriented organisation that aims to provide black boys with educational opportunity, valuable life skills, and the self-esteem, confidence and determination to succeed.

The Windsor Fellowship runs personal development and training programmes for Black and Asian students in the UK. The Sutton Trust, though slightly different also benefits disadvantaged youth around the UK



ORBITUARIES

Rev. FR. DAVID KIRIJA KATENDE of Bulu Parish, died 12th December, 2008.

Rev. FR. ANTHONY KASULE of Lweza Parish, died 22nd December, 2008.

Rev. FR. IRENAEUS KASIBANTE of Jinja Karoli parish, died 9th January, 2009.

Fr. Kasibante is uncle to Mrs Magdalene Musajjaakaawa! May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

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Uganda Martyrs Catholic Community

UK AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

In Faith We Grow

Pastoral Letter for the Feast of the Holy Family



Dear Brethren in the Lord,

Greetings and peace to you all in the New Year, 2009! As we celebrate our great day for our married couples who form the cornerstone of our Community, I wish to congratulate you in a special way for having taken such courage to embrace a life of mutual love. You are our stars and we bank on you to uphold the family values on which the society depends to thrive. I would like us to reflect on the message contained in the Pastoral Letter from Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Archbishop of Westminster, to mark the Feast of the Holy Family (28th December 2008) which was heard at parishes throughout the Diocese of Westminster.

In the Pastoral Letter, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor stressed the importance of marriage and the family whilst also acknowledging the difficulties families can experience:

'Like the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, every family is a suffering family at some stage or another. But I believe that the family is the foundation of our society today and, in particular, our Catholic families are a special source of grace and witness within the Church and to the wider world. So today, on this feast of the Holy Family, there is an opportunity for married couples to renew their vows of fidelity and love. May God help each one of you in your family situation and bring about a renewal in family life.'

Single people

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor also spoke of the important role that single people

- including widows and widowers, one-parent families and divorced people play in the family of the Church and of the world.

'I remember well the words of Pope John Paul on his visit to England when he said, "We must reach out in love – the love of Christ – to those who know the pain of failure in marriage; to those who know the loneliness of bringing up a family on their own; to those whose family life is dominated by tragedy or by illness of mind or body".'

Kindness and patience

In concluding the Pastoral Letter, the Archbishop of Westminster stressed the importance of kindness and patience for strengthening family life:

'May God help each one of you in your family situation and bring about a renewal in family life. I love those words of St. Paul in his letter to the Colossians: "Be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another: forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you, now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, put on love". (Col. 3:12-15).'

My prayer is that you continue to bear the light of Christ in your families by being exemplary witnesses of the gospel values by the way you live, act and speak. May Jesus, Mary and Joseph guide you in the path of righteousness.

Fr. Gerard M. Balinnya

UMCC Chaplain

Our Chaplain Fr. Gerard M. Balinnya has been a celebrant at Westminster and can also be seen in the picture below. So for the Bafumbo, you will still have a UMCC representative at Westminster.



Message from Pope Benedict XVI to President Barack Obama



Pope Benedict XVI offered his blessings to Barack Obama, upon the occasion of his swearing-in as the 44th president of the United States of America yesterday. The Vatican has struck a positive tone as it opens relations with the administration of President Barack Obama, emphasizing hopes for cooperation on issues of peace and social justice, and -- for now -- downplaying differences on moral questions like abortion.

Pope Benedict XVI sent an Inauguration Day telegram congratulating the new president and supporting Obama's resolve to "promote understanding, cooperation and peace among the nations."

The Telegram

On the occasion of your inauguration as the forty-fourth president of the United States of America I offer cordial good wishes, together with the assurance of my prayers that Almighty God will grant you unfailing wisdom and strength in the exercise of your high responsibilities. Under your leadership may the American people continue to find in their impressive religious and political heritage the spiritual values and ethical principles needed to cooperate in the building of a truly just and free society, marked by respect for the dignity, equality and rights of each of its members, especially the poor, the outcast and those who have no voice. At a time when so many of our brothers and sisters throughout the world yearn for liberation from the scourge of poverty, hunger and violence, I pray that you will be confirmed in your resolve to promote understanding, cooperation and peace among the nations, so that all may share in the banquet of life which God wills to set for the whole human family (Isaiah 25:6-7). Upon you and your family, and upon all the American people, I willingly invoke the Lord's blessings of joy

Chairman's Message to the April 2008 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

A warm welcome to 2009. Happy New Year and I hope you all had a wonderful and restful festive period. Archbishop Cyprian K. Lwanga of Kampala Archdiocese sends you his greetings too through our Chaplain who met with him after Christmas.



As is usually the case, this part of the year sees a lot of activity for the UMCC. The Executive is frantically putting in place arrangements for our June 2009 Uganda Martyrs' Day Celebrations, not forgetting the planned visit by Bishop Alan Hopes on 26th April, 2009 to mark our Youth Day.

Also, like many areas within which we all live in, our finances have not been as healthy as we would want them to be. The Treasurer together with the whole Executive are working out ways to minimise any risks posed by a drop in our funding streams. At this point, I wish to remind and ask you our members, for your support in this area. One of the areas you can directly influence this is through paying your annual membership subscription, and supporting the planned giving scheme introduced by the executive. I must note that the scheme is optional and members are not compelled to subscribe to it if they do not feel comfortable with it.

Finally, I cannot forget to mention the historical events of Tuesday 20th January 2009, in the United States of America, the inauguration of President Barack Obama as the leader of that great nation. This comes at a time of great anxiety in the world we live in today. I personally, and I think all of you too, anticipate that this will serve to reinforce the notion of hope and instil in us, especially our youth, that with God everything is possible.

May God Bless you all.

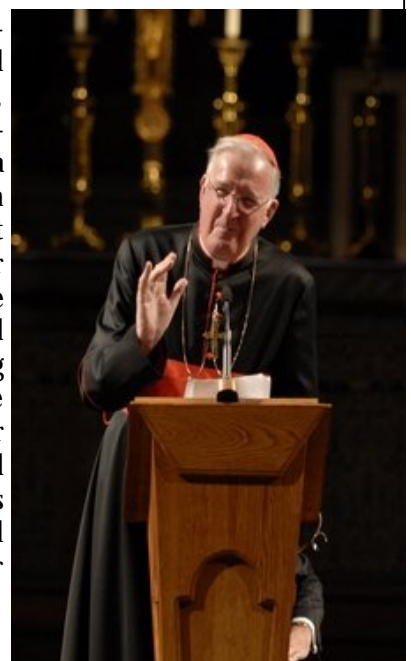
Robert Mukiibi

Chair UMCC

Special Message

Archbishop's Mass of Thanksgiving for Sacrament of Matrimony

The Cardinal Cormac Murphy of Westminster Archdiocese will be inviting all couples who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, 50th and 60th + Wedding Anniversary of Catholic Marriage in 2009, to a Thanksgiving Mass. This will be held on Saturday 30th May 2009 at 3pm at Westminster Cathedral. If you (or know any couple that) qualify, please tell your parish clergy. He will need husband and wife's names, wedding date, full address and email (if you have one) or phone number. The address for correspondence is Dept. for Pastoral Affairs, Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London SW1P 1GQ, email cathmacgillivray@rcdow.org.uk or phone 020 7931 6064.



NEWS ROUND

THE FAMILY: A GOOD FOR HUMANITY

European Catholic-Orthodox Forum - 10-14/12/2008 in Trent.

Preamble

The purpose of the Forum is to concentrate on anthropological issues of crucial importance for the present and future of humanity, to help define common positions on social and moral questions and to make the world aware of our concerns.

Marriage and the family belong to the created order and are not a product of mere human decision. Written into the very nature of human being and revealed to us in the Bible, the family, founded on marriage, was established by God as a union between man and woman. The Bible presents us with a vision of the family as a unity of life-giving love, an indissoluble relationship, open to life.

I – Marriage and Family

According to Catholic teaching, Jesus Christ raised natural marriage to the dignity of a sacrament. This sacramental requires fidelity unto death among the spouses in the indissolubility of the marriage bond. It is the basis of the family, must be promoted by society as its fundamental cell. Sexuality is recognized as a dimension of the image of God in human beings and so has a personal value. Men and women must learn in the language of the body their vocation to responsible love as a true gift of themselves. Other sexual expressions such as fornication, homosexual acts and sexual unions outside marriage are contrary to this vocation to love.

II. Mission of the Family

People are busy with professional advancement and the burden of financial responsibility for the family. Because of this the possibilities of bearing and rearing children are drastically reduced.

A particularly tragic phenomenon has emerged in twenty first century Europe. Due to wages that do not sustain families, parents migrate to wealthier countries in search of basic needs of their families. This has led to divorces, great suffering to children, with many being deprived of the presence of their parents' love and care. The secular vision prevailing in modern society undermines the notion of motherhood as a personal vocation.

A. Family and Education

Having given the gift of life to their children, parents are their first educators. Integral education within the family is not limited simply to the development of a child's natural gifts and capacities, but refers also to spiritual values, in particular the handing on of faith. Parents are to be the first witnesses of the Gospel. In the family life we learn the meaning of faith as the true light that guides a person's life.

In our next issue we shall provide the concluding part.

For our calendar and events please contact any member of the executive



Finally, like never before in modern history, the most awaited moment has come, and the Most Powerful Head of State on Earth is now US President Barack Hussein Henry Obama. "Our time has come. Our movement is real, and change is coming to America." the President said during his campaign. Little did presidential nominee John McCain know that his own words would sound fateful when he said "...the man known to Oprah Winfrey as 'The One.' "

In his victory speech, President Obama said "You know, they said this day would never come. They said our sights were set too high. They said this country was too divided, too disillusioned to ever come together around a common purpose. But on this January night, at this defining moment in history, you have done what the cynics said we couldn't do."

In his inaugural address, President Obama concluded by saying "Let it be told to the future world ... that in the depth of winter, when nothing but hope and virtue could survive...that the city and the country, alarmed at one common danger, came forth to meet (it).

America, in the face of our common dangers, in this winter of our hardship, let us remember these timeless words. With hope and virtue, let us brave once more the icy currents, and endure what storms may come. Let it be said by our children's children that when we were tested we refused to let this journey end, that we did not turn back nor did we falter; and with eyes fixed on the horizon and God's grace upon us, we carried forth that great gift of freedom and delivered it safely to future generations."

It is only befitting, that one of Africa's finest, now leading the most powerful nation on Earth, crowned it all with a series of dances that lasted into the early hours of the morning.



