

# Liturgical, Pastoral and Spiritual Formation Program for the Pastoral Parish Councils for the Triennium 2013 – 2015 at the PALICA Center, Diocese of Wau, South Sudan

## Diocese of Wau

The Diocese of Wau is located in South Sudan, and its operational area includes the whole Western Bahr El Ghazal State and parts of Northern Bahr El Ghazal and Warrap States. The diocese is bordered in the North by South Darfur State, in the East by Lakes State, in the South by Western Equatoria State, and in the West by the Central African Republic. With an operational area of 160,000 km<sup>2</sup> it is one of the largest dioceses in Sudan.

## Background

Following the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement on the 9 January, 2005 and the declaration of the Independence of South Sudan on the 9 July 2011 the situation has changed dramatically. There is freedom of movement; the roads are opened; and even the most remote communities are accessible. The population is still increasing by internally displaced person (IDPs) and returnees coming back to their original places. There is now freedom of practicing religion while before Arabization and Islamization were the agendas of the day. The diocese started to revitalize parishes which were abandoned during war. In 2011, we already have 16 active parishes: 4 are located in Wau town, and 12 outside the town. Each parish has many centres, and most of them are run by catechists who are undergoing formation in order to take up the challenges and to support the Christian communities in their human and spiritual growth. The entire Christian community is experiencing the challenges special with the arrival of the returnees who are coming from the North and the other neighboring countries where the pastoral activities are more participative.

Consequently, in order to respond to the current needs and according to the *vision, mission and values*, outcome of the Diocesan Assembly 2012, PALICA (Pastoral and Liturgical Research Center) has the task to prepare the *pastoral agents in evangelizing and re-evangelizing the faithful*<sup>1</sup>, so we have designed a three year plan with programs related to the *formation of the catechists*, which has been a long term priority for the diocese. As well we have prepared formation programs for the youth, family, missionary children and **Small Christian Communities**. Besides, in the year 2012 we have started to prepare the ground for a liturgical formation program that we are going to implement over the three years to come. PALICA also provides printing materials and other religious articles for the diocesan bookshop so we have planned to purchase more materials.

We organized our programs following the pastoral zone structure, proposed by the general assembly 2012 and recently in November followed by the team for the preparatory meetings of the strategic plan for the diocese. The use of the six pastoral zones structure will help us for the better organization and follow up the formation of the *pastoral agents*; catechists, liturgy groups, youth, animators, family apostolate, children, **SCCs**, etc.

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<sup>1</sup> “Documents of the Diocesan Assembly,” Wau Diocese 2012.

## **PALICA Centre – Wau Diocese**

PALICA Centre Wau was established in 1985 by Father Luigi Penzo with the support from Missio Aachen, Missio Munich and AMA in Holland. At the moment, the PALICA staff is composed of the directress *Sr. Marisela de los Santos*, the lay assistant *Mr. Andrew Garang*, and six volunteers. The administrative personnel are the two above mentioned and the supporter personnel: driver, cooks, cleaners, watchmen and bookshop keeper. As well, there is a liturgical team, composed by four volunteers, who have started an assessment and with the information collected have elaborated a liturgical-guideline and have drawn a suitable program for the liturgical groups in the diocese.

### **Achievements from 2010 to 2012**

Missio Aachen has been supporting most of our programs in PALICA Centre – Diocese of Wau. They have financing course programs for the formation of catechists; regular programs for family, youth, **SCCs**, etc. and printing religious books. The following important results were achieved during the period 1 January, 2010 – 31 December, 2012:

1. 21 catechists have finished their initial catechetical formation. It was three weeks over three years, they were issued with certificates.
2. An average of 350 catechists participated to the mobile formation course, every year. The PALICA team moved into the 12 outside parishes.
3. An average of 40 catechists (both from inside the town and outside) has attended the monthly *on-going formation* program at PALICA Centre.
4. The 8 members of the PALICA team volunteers have attended two meetings every month, over the three years, for programming, implementing and evaluating the formative programs.
5. An average of 50 people from the **Small Christian Communities (SCCs)** has attended monthly recollections and meetings.
6. An average of 30 people has attended the recollections and workshop for families and preparation for the Feast of the Holy Family.
7. An average of 40 youth has attended recollections, workshops and the youth conference in 2010. In March, 2012 the newly appointed Youth Coordinator took over and he and his supporters have organized the first workshop in June 2012 with the participation of 26 youth from the 16 parishes of the Diocese.
8. 60 animators of Holy Childhood were trained in August 2012. More than 600 children have benefited from.
9. 20 priests and sisters have attended a one day session about **Small Christians Communities** on 28 of February 2012.
10. The quarterly parish priests meeting has taken place over the three years.
11. The liturgical team have attended several meetings and have visited the four parishes of Wau town and six parishes outside town for their assessment program in the first half of year 2012.
12. 20 parish priests and assistants PPs have attended a session about the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the *Roman Missal*, conducted by the Liturgical Team on July 2012.
13. An average of 100 liturgical leaders group and other lay faithful have attended the two sessions of enlightenment about the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the *Roman Missal* conducted by the Liturgical team on August 2012.
14. The Diocesan Religious Bookshop is operating successfully. In 2011 were printed one thousand copies of Wau hymnal in English and in 2012 were printed one thousand copies of the simple prayer book in Arabic and one thousand copies of the order of the mass cards

(3<sup>rd</sup> edition RM). The activities need intensified continuation since the level of religious education is low due to the long time of war.

### **Development of the Project: Liturgical, Pastoral and Spiritual Formation Program for the Pastoral Parish Councils for the triennium 2013 – 2015**

One of the long term **priorities** of the diocese is the formation of the catechists. Accordingly, PALICA staff has drawn up a more accurate programme for 2013 – 2015, concentrating in training the trainers. As well other pastoral activities such as Family Apostolate, Youth Ministry, Missionary Children, **Small Christian Communities** and Pastoral Meetings, etc.

However, there are some new activities and target people that we would like to give attention and for what we are *asking other donors* to support us to accomplish them, for instance, the formation program for the liturgical groups, purchasing religious – liturgical-books and the pastoral and spiritual formation program for Pastoral Parish Councils.

#### **A. Liturgical Formation Program**

The liturgy is one of the areas of PALICA responsibility; up to now, we have provided, so far some liturgical literature and facilitated some liturgical celebrations. However, we are aware that it is necessary to provide formation program for the liturgical groups that are active in the parishes of the Diocese. In this regard, we have formed a liturgical team. The members are knowledgeable and with a long lasting experience in the liturgical matter, they are Fr. Natale E. Gurucho, Fr. Buberwa Karongo, Sr. Felicitous K., and Mr. Peter Silverio. In this year 2012, the Liturgical Team had done an assessment visiting some parishes and meeting the liturgical groups in order to make a Diocesan guideline and an accurate formation program.

The liturgical team has taken its task in two different levels.

First, to make an accurate *study* of our liturgy in the parishes in order to prepare a *guideline* applicable in the whole Diocese and to assure the implementation of the *guideline*, as well, they have to prepare a *formative program* with the time frame: 2013-2015. This commitment was accomplished in 2012 and has a follow up until 2015.

Second, to elaborate the liturgical calendar in which to emphasize the particular liturgical celebration during the liturgical years; and as well, to propose any *initiative* to the liturgical groups, in order to improve any aspects of the liturgy. This commitment is continue.

Having done the assessment in the various parishes and consulting various liturgical groups, the Team, have drawn a formation program for 2013 – 2015

- Target group: there are will be two target groups:
  1. Parish priests, their assistants, and other diocesan pastoral agents, there will be 40 participants.
  2. The second groups are 5 member from the liturgical groups of each parish, according to their pastoral zone, there will be 20 participants for each workshop.
- The goal is to improve the quality of our liturgy and to have a common guideline in which the faithful of the whole diocese be united.

- Subjects: General introduction of liturgy, the diocesan guidelines, and specific aspect for each group; for instance, readers, choir, dancers, altar boy/girl, etc.
- Methodology used is workshop where the participants will be exposed to an interactive participation.
- Duration: They are two:
  1. One day meeting with Parish Priests, Assistants and lay pastoral agents for the overview of the program.
  2. Two days workshop/month from March to August of every year.
- Facilitators are the members of the liturgical team, priests and PALICA collaborators.

## **B. Purchasing liturgical material**

In addition to the Liturgical Program we started to elaborate and print up our *Diocesan Liturgical Calendar* in Arabic and in English. Besides we have planned to purchase Bibles, liturgical books and prayer books to help the Christian community in their thirst of coming to know better the Lord. The material request is to provide a stock for the bookshop in order to sell them and in the long run we shall be able to supply the material we need.

## **C. Pastoral and Spiritual Formation Program for the Parish Pastoral Council**

The Parish Pastoral Councils are the heart of the parishes and they have role and responsibilities of what they have to be aware. Therefore, we propose to make awareness of their duty and give them the possibility of proposing some pastoral programs in the parishes or in the zones.

- Target group: 30 parish council members in each zone. The 16 parishes are organized in six zones.
- The goal is to offer pastoral and spiritual formation and the possibility to motivate pastoral programs in their parishes or zones.
- Subjects: Awareness of the role of PP councils, *Bible* sharing, pastoral care to children, youth, family, etc.
- Methodology used is workshops, enlightenment and searching solutions to their pastoral needs.
- Duration is a two-day workshop in each pastoral zone.
- Facilitators are the PALICA Team.

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