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# **CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE**

A pastoral letter by the Catholic Bishops of Uganda on the occasion of the golden jubilee of Uganda's Independence. (Abridged edition)

## **Dear Brothers and Sisters**,

- 1. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad (Ps. 118:24). As believers in the one God who is guiding the history of humankind, of all nations and of each person, we greet you with this joyful acclamation from the liturgy of Easter, the day of the Resurrection of Jesus our Saviour. We repeat it with renewed joy and gratitude, fifty years later, as we celebrate the Golden Jubilee of our beloved country, Uganda. We have so many reasons to be grateful to God who has walked with us throughout our long journey of history.
- **2.** The celebration of fifty years of independence should not be simply an event but, rather, an opportunity for us to celebrate the Lord's deliverance and providence (Ex.13:16).
- **3.** Through all this time, in the events of our history as a nation, God has led and guided us.
- 4. It is in the context of our own Exodus as a nation that we, your bishops, considered it worthwhile writing to you this pastoral letter so that we may reflect together on the great wonders the Lord has done for us (Lk. 1: 46-55), and plan together the destiny of our nation.
- **5.** As reflected in our national motto, **For God and my Country,** Uganda is a God-fearing nation. Over 99% of the population subscribe to any of the established religions in our country. Hope and trust in God have kept us going and growing together as a nation for the last fifty years. In many instances, however, our lived experience as a nation has not been in con-



formity with a truly God-fearing nation.

## PART ONE: THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

**6.** Looking at all the struggles, achievements and failures of our country, we, your bishops, invite you to reflect upon the contribution of the Catholic Church to the history and building of our country.

#### The Growth of the Church

7. Evangelization will never be possible without the action of the Holy Spirit. This proclamation has been truly and affirmatively realized here

in our country. Since independence, the Church has not only grown in number but also in her commitment to the service of the entire country.

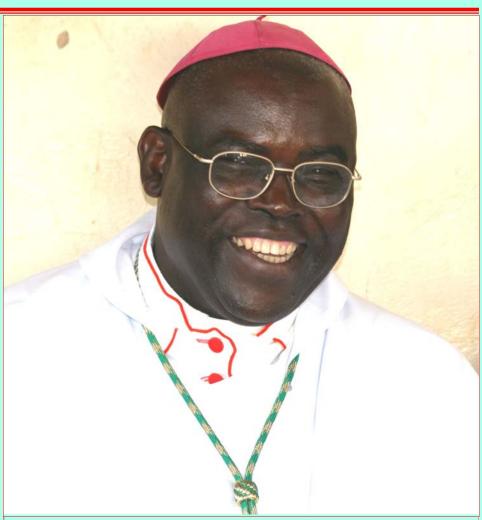
- **8.** It is in the 'consolation of the Holy Spirit' that the Church has grown. The Spirit has led the Church in Uganda to where and what it is today.
- **9.** In the words of Tertullian, *The blood of the Martyrs is the seed of Christianity*, the Church in our nation has grown through the intercession of the Martyrs, Charles Lwanga and his Companions, Daudi Okello and Jildo Irwa. We pray that their blood continues to bless our country with many holy men and women.
- 10. In terms of local Clergy, the first

ordination of two Ugandan priests took place in Masaka in 1913. The number of diocesan priests is currently estimated at 1850.

- **11.** In 1939, Uganda witnessed the ordination of the first-ever African bishop from the south of the Sahara in the person of Archbishop Joseph Kiwanuka.
- **12.** Vocation to religious life continue to grow in both local and international congregations to totaling approximately 3200 men and women. The number of catechists exceeds 13,000.
- **13.** With the number of personnel available, though not yet sufficient, the Church is slowly becoming self-evangelizing and self-ministering.
- **14.** From being a mission Church, in fulfillment of Pope Paul VI's prophecy in 1969 calling upon Africa to be missionary to herself, the Church in Uganda has moved to become missionary to other lands.
- **15.** We are grateful to God for the vibrant Church with structures comprising of four Ecclesiastical Provinces, 19 dioceses each with its own canonical organization.
- **16.** Associations and Ecclesial Movements are visible in the day-to-day life of the Church.
- 17. Following the guidelines of the Second Vatican Council, the Word of God has been brought closer to the people through the translation of the Bible in local languages.

#### **Social Teaching of the Church**

- **18.** The Catholic Social Teaching states clearly that the Church in her mission must reach out to all, especially to the poor and the marginalized, of society so as to proclaim the God of life and build a civilization of love.
- **19.** Already one year prior to independence (November 1961), Archbishop Joseph Kiwanuka in his pastoral letter, *The Church and State: Guiding Principles*, emphasized the importance of a proper relationship between the Church and the State in the growth and development of our country.
- 20. Indeed, at some moments in the history of our country, such relationship has not always been clear and smooth. In the struggle for power, political, ethnic and religious affiliations have sometimes been used in turn to create division and fuel conflict at the expense of the common good and the building of a united na-



Rt. Rev. Sabino Ocan Odoki, bishop of Arua Diocese, which is part of Gulu Ecclesiastic Province

tion.

21. In faithfulness to her teaching role, and in the effort to guide and animate the politics and life of our nation, often characterized by conflict and violence, the Uganda Episcopal Conference has published various pastoral letters in response to the challenges and problems facing our country.

# Ecumenism and Inter-Religious Dialogue

- **22.** The second Vatican Council ushered in a new spirit of relationship between religions. The documents: *The Decree on Ecumenism* and *The Decree on Relationship of the Church with Other Religions* have influenced the position of Catholics towards other Christian believers and other world religions, including African Traditional Religions. In response to this, the Episcopal Conference has established two full-fledged departments for Ecumenism and Inter-Religious Dialogue.
- **23.** In 1963, the Catholic, Orthodox and Anglican Churches, through the Archbishops Joseph Kiwanuka, The-

odorus Nankyama and Leslie Brown respectively, founded the Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC). The Catholic Church has been an active member of this ecumenical organization, whose purpose and focus is to promote peaceful coexistence and collaboration among Christians in Uganda.

**24.** In the year 2000, following in the footsteps of the Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue and inspired by the *World Council of Religions for Peace*, the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda (IRCU) was formed. Its purpose was mainly to promote dialogue and peace among people of different religions. Since its inception, the Catholic Church has been an active member.

#### Women's Promotion

- **25.** In an effort to uplift and further empower the position and role of women in society, the Episcopal Conference has established a National **Women's Desk and encouraged its** formation in all the dioceses.
- **26.** During the past fifty years, Catholic women have contributed a lot to

the transformation of our society and in the growth and activities of the Church. Today, they hold various positions of responsibility and leadership in the social, economic and political life of the nation. Particularly relevant is their contribution in the health and education.

#### **Education**

27. The Catholic Church is proud of the enormous contribution made in the education sector of our nation. Among the many things to celebrate, we mention the prominent schools and institutions established by the Church and often run by religious congregations. These include approximately 139 Pre-Primary Schools, 4775 Primary Schools, 594 Secondary Schools, 150 Tertiary Institutions among which are 5 Major Seminaries, the Philosophical Centre in Jinja run by the religious congregations, Uganda Martyrs University, Nkozi, with its campuses and centres spread across the country, and Rubaga Catholic Social Training Centre.

#### **Social Communication**

**29.** By its very nature, the Church has the mandate to communicate the Truth revealed by God to his people in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. In the field of social communication, the Church has made tremendous

contribution to our country. In the past, newspapers and magazines such as *Munno* and *Leadership* played an important role in the formation of our people through the provision of information, even at times when freedom of expression was at risk. **Today, 13 radio stations spread throughout the country** and **1 television** station, together with a network of bookshops and diocesan bulletins, continue the same task.

#### Health

31. The Church continues the healing mission of Jesus. Right from the beginning of evangelization in Uganda, the Church has invested in health services with a holistic approach to the healing of the human person. Today, we have the largest non-state network of health service providers in the country, comprising of 30 hospitals (23% of the total number), 252 health centres (13%), 28% of total hospital beds, and 13 institutions training nurses and midwives (39%), while providing clinical services (outpatient) to between 15-17% of the total population of the country. We employ 7,500 health workers, representing 20% of all health workers in the country.

**32.** The Church has always defended the value of life at all stages of its development by taking a firm position against abortion.



- **33.** For the last 30 years now, Uganda like any other country in Africa, has been struggling with the devastation caused by HIV and AIDS.
- **34.** In our Pastoral Letter, *The AIDS Epidemic: Message of the Catholic Bishops of Uganda*, published in 1989, we advised that HIV and AIDS should not be looked at in isolation, but rather in relation to many changes in people's attitude towards family life and the loss of moral values. This still remains our position.
- **35.** Today, 28 of our 30 hospitals and 7 health centres provide antiretroviral therapy while all the rest of the health facilities provide care and support, to varying levels, to persons living with HIV and AIDS.
- **36.** The Church's concern about HIV and AIDS cuts across all our pastoral programmes.
- **37.** As bishops, we have also laid strategies to attract resources from various partners of like minds for a wide range of HIV and AIDS responses.

## **Development**

- **38.** In the area of human integral development we, the Catholic Bishops, have spearheaded improvement of household income, sustainable agriculture and food security.
- **39.** Through our emergency relief programmes, challenged by our Christian call to be hospitable, we have also assisted people affected by calamities and disasters.

#### **Environment**

- **40.** Uganda is known as the "Pearl of Africa". Yet, environmental degradation and uncontrolled pollution are affecting our climate very fast and causing unprecedented desertification.
- **41.** In an effort to restore the country's forest cover, the Church has embarked on tree planting.



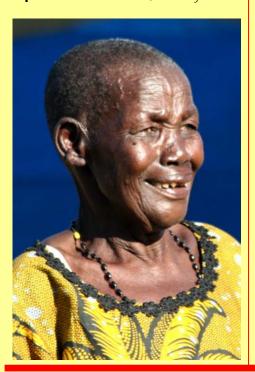
#### **Justice and Peace**

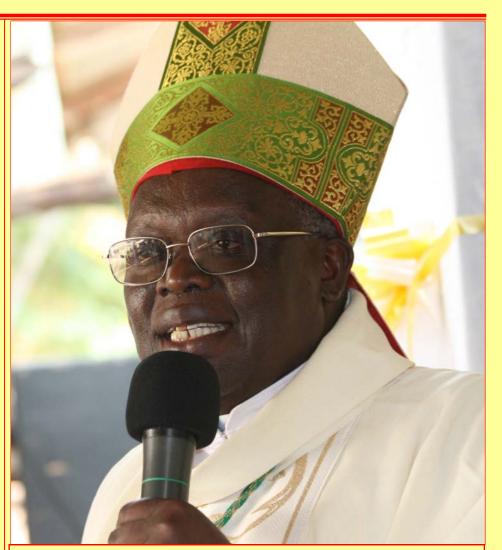
- **42.** The Church has tirelessly contributed towards reconciliation, justice and peace in our country.
- **43.** Together as Episcopal Conference and through the initiatives of individual bishops and leaders, the Church has insisted on dialogue between conflicting parties for peaceful resolution of conflicts, reconciliation and restoration of justice and peace among all the citizens of Uganda.
- **44.** In response to the call made by Pope Paul VI in 1968, the Uganda Episcopal Conference has established the Commission for Justice and Peace at national level, and in all 19 dioceses.

Our repeated and ongoing national campaign against domestic violence is another sign of our commitment to making sure that each of our families becomes what it is supposed to be, a "domestic church", the first place where peace and reconciliation is taught and lived.

## PART TWO: SHORTCOMINGS AND CHALLENGES

- **45.** As the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of independence was approaching, some people, looking at all the troubles, suffering, division and problems which have marked this first period of our modern history, think there is nothing or little worth celebrating. We strongly disagree with such a point of view.
- **46.** At the same time, like any other





Most Rev. John Baptist Odama, archbishop of Gulu Archdiocese and Chairman of the Episcopal Conference of the Catholic bishops of Uganda.

country, ours is a history of both success and failure, a history of joy but also of tears. There have been mistakes and shortcomings.

# **Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue**

**47.** Notwithstanding all the efforts in this field, we sadly note, especially at grassroots, that there still exists strained relationship among followers of various religions as a result of mutual suspicion and mistrust. This jeopardizes sustainable peace and development of our nation.

#### **Women Promotion**

**48.** Regardless of what we have achieved as a nation, it is painful to note that there are still many women oppressed by the sociocultural structures and practices. Among the challenges affecting the dignity of women which need urgent attention is gender based violence. As we celebrate the Golden Jubilee of our nation, we call upon everyone to join the fight against any form of injustice that dehumanizes women in our society.

## **Education**

**49.** Despite all the educational achievements we have attained as a nation, we observe that there is urgent need to reform our education system. We need to produce job-makers instead of job-seekers.

## **Social Communication**

- **50.** The media is a powerful means which affects the masses for good or bad. The proper use of media remains a challenge in our country. We deplore the spreading misuse of the press, radio and television which undermines the fundamental rights and values and dignity of the human person and society.
- **51.** The tremendous speed of technological development in the world of communication poses a big challenge and offers a great opportunity to the Church in Uganda. For our Catholic media in Uganda faced with an increasingly stiffer competition, this challenge calls for networking, new skills, more creativity, courage and discernment in the use of these media.

#### Health

- **52.** We note with concern that many of the diseases affecting our country can be prevented. Unfortunately less attention is paid by both government and citizens to preventive measures.
- **53.** The increasing voices calling for legalization of abortion and prevention of procreation, often proposed and spearheaded by human rights organizations, are a threat to humanity. Our stand on this subject was reaffirmed in our Pastoral Letter, *The Evil of Abortion*, of April 1998.
- **54.** We appeal to the Government and development partners to continue standing by our side, as we search for improved health service delivery. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Health, the whole health sector should be run with more professionalism, transparency and accountability.



- **55.** Official government statistics (Sero-status Report 2011) show that in Uganda there are well over 100,000 new infections of HIV annually. Taking into account that close to 80% of all new infections occur through sexual encounters, and many of them within married couples, we urge all the partners to commit more energy to ensuring stability and fidelity in their relationships.
- **56.** In spite of all the achievements in the fight against HIV and AIDS, we point out some of the challenges that still hamper our effort:
- Complacency.
- Cultural and social behavior.
- Infidelity even among married couples.
- Inadequate coverage of HIV and AIDS services in the country.

# **Development and Poverty Alleviation**

**57.** There is still poverty galore in our country. The gap between the rich and the poor is widening as a result of inequitable resource distribution.

#### Oil

- **58.** The recent discovery of oil in our country is, definitely, a precious gift of God to Uganda, for which we must be grateful. But the way to use this gift for the common good of all Ugandans remains an open challenge. Proper and clear steps must be taken:
- The process of oil production, right from inception to the final product,



Rt. Rev. Sanctus Linus Wanok , bishop of Nebbi Diocese which is part of Gulu Ecclesiastic Province

should be carried out in a transparent manner. This will in the long run prevent suspicion and mistrust which can easily lead to conflict and violence.

- Proceeds generated from oil should be equitably shared by way of improved social services across the country.
- The delicate environment in the oil -producing areas should be safeguarded against pollution; water, soil and air should be protected in the interest of the lives of the people and other biodiversities in these areas

# Reconciliation, Justice and Peace

**59.** Much has been achieved in this field, yet much more remains to be done. The Catholic Church in Uganda, in line with the Post-Synodal Exhortation of Pope Benedict XVI, *Africae Munus (Africa's Commitment)*, intends to double her effort in promoting reconciliation, justice and peace.

# National challenges: Signs of the times

**60.** Despite our contributions to the nation, we recognize that the Catholic Church is just one of the many stakeholders involved in shaping the destiny of our nation. We, therefore, turn to ongoing problems and challenges which call for common action and collaboration of all stakeholders, especially those exercising the executive, legislative and judicial powers in

our country.

# **Political Struggles**

**61.** The struggle for power is a constant characteristic in the history of our country. We have observed over the years that those who are in power tend to keep it at all cost, while the ones who are outside it, want to get it by all means. There is no doubt that this attitude has always been and continues to be the source of conflict and violence since independence.

#### **Social Inequalities**

**61.1** Uganda is gifted by nature both in terms of natural and human resources. We are convinced that if the resources in our country were evenly and justly distributed, no individual or groups would be living in abject poverty. The increasing gap between the rich and poor, if not urgently addressed, will continue to ferment a form of resentment between the two social classes.

#### **Idolatry of Wealth**

**61.2** We are concerned about the attitude of excessive love for wealth and money, which is spreading rapidly in our country. This greed or attitude is driving many of our people more and more away from God.

# The Scourge and evil of corruption

**61.3** In a number of our Pastoral



Rt. Rev. Joseph Franzelli, bishop of Lira Diocese which is part of Gulu Ecclesiastic Province

Letters and Statements, we have always denounced the evil of corruption in public offices which deprive the citizens of their basic rights to services. No doubt, corruption has taken many forms in all walks of life, to the extent that some people are entangled in the vice without fully realizing it.

# Instigated conflict and violence

61.4 As we have noted already, our history as a nation has been tainted by conflict and violence. Recently, our country experienced waves of violence which led to loss of life and property. We remind all the sides involved in such forms of violence that one can never bring about sustainable peace through violence and injustice. On the contrary, such approach perpetuates violence and division.

# Tribalism and other sectarian tendencies

**61.5** One of the gifts that God in his goodness has given to Uganda is the diversity of tribes and cultures. Unfortunately, for the last fifty years, instead of using this great gift to foster **our country's growth and transfor**mation, we have often turned it into a liability. Some groups have tended to consider themselves more important

and entitled than the others. Such attitude has often resulted in tension, mutual hatred and resentment. This is not only a crime against our fellow human beings, but also against the Creator who made us all in his own image (Gen. 2: 26-28).

# PART THRE RECONSTRUCTING OUR RUINS: PERSONAL AND COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY

Then I said to them, 'You see the trouble we are in... Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.... They replied: 'Let us start rebuilding' (Neh. 2:17-18).

**62.** Mistakes are part of human experience and history. They are surely part of the first 50 years of independence of our country. Fortunately, our own mistakes can help us to appreciate where we have come from in order to understand where we are and forge a better future. For this to happen, we must first acknowledge our own mistakes. For us, shepherds of the Catholic Church, to be honest and credible in our appeal to conversion and change, we humbly acknowledge our responsibility both as individuals and

as a Christian community, in the evil which befell our country and the problems and threats which still affect its well-being and development.

- **63.** When we speak and talk about division, corruption, injustice, violence, tribalism, etc., we do not, and, we should never, forget that those responsible for these evils and for the suffering inflicted on our people were and are Christians. This is unfortunate!
- **64.** While celebrating the Eucharist, each one of us is called upon to acknowledge and ask for forgiveness for all sins committed. We share in the guilt and responsibility of the division, injustice and corruption which befell and still affect Uganda because of our own mistakes. Some of these mistakes have come by way of omission expressed at times by our silence and passivism in the political arena.
- **65.** After a season of passionate and active participation of Catholic politicians who contributed greatly to the achievement of independence and the early journey of a free Uganda, at a certain stage it looks as if, for different reasons, we have fallen or withdrawn to the background of public life and leadership of our country. We would like, therefore, to call upon all Catholics, and, indeed, all Ugandans to engage more actively and constructively in the politics and administration of our country to ensure unity and development.
- **66.** Government on its part should endeavor to ensure that representation in the executive, legislative and judicial arms of government reflects and expresses adequately the needs and aspirations of the people of Uganda.
- **67.** We share these reflections not to launch any political campaign or competition, but to invite everybody to a greater sense and practice of responsibility through active and positive participation in the life of our country, at all levels.
- **68.** We observe with concern that one of the main reasons that our country has gone through years of dictatorship, turmoil and anarchy is that the destiny of our nation had been left in the hands of a few privileged individuals or groups. Our stand therefore, is that building a nation is a collective responsibility that calls for the participation of every citizen.
- **69.** In the African lived experience, no individual exists for himself or

herself. Every member of the community lives and exists for the survival of the community, and the community too takes full responsibility for the individual.

**70.** As we celebrate and plan for our country's future, we call upon every Catholic and every citizen of this country to appreciate and embrace his/her own duties and responsibilities towards our nation.

## **Bishops**

**70.1** Bishops, as shepherds of God's people, are by virtue of their office, charged with the duty and responsibility to teach, sanctify and lead the people of God in the ways of God (Deut. 6:4). Whenever the people turn away from the Truth, bishops are tasked to call them back. Their primary role is to lead the people by their example (1 Pt. 5:3) and to be the "conscience" of society, pointing out and correcting any behaviour that is contrary to the law of God. That is why, from time to time, bishops come up to guide and advise leaders to follow God's wisdom in their work.

# **Clergy and Religious**

**70.2** Both Priests and Religious, by virtue of their calling, are expected to live exemplary life worthy of their vocation (1 Tim. 3: 1-6) for they too share in the prophetic mission of the Church.

## **Civic leaders**

**70.3** Every authority comes from God (Rom. 13:1-3). Therefore, in their decisions and actions leaders must be motivated by the love of those put under their care and must seek to promote the common good. Indeed, in their leadership, they must consider themselves as custodians of **God's authority to whom at the end** they must be ready to give accountability (Mt. 24:45).

#### **Family**

70.4 Today, family life in Uganda is facing a lot of challenges. Some of these challenges are due to foreign influence and cultures undermining the cultural and Christian values which used to hold our families together. We can mention here individualism, consumerism, homosexuality, lesbianism, materialism, religious relativism, syncretism and other tendencies. Other challenges are the heritage of our own traditional cultures, such as polygamy, cohabitation, elopement, excessive bridal



wealth and witchcraft. These trends and tendencies undermine the dignity and purpose of the family. It is our call, therefore, to all parents to ensure that their children are nurtured with Godly values.

#### Youth

**70.5** The future of every nation depends on the quality of its young people. The youth should also be formed to live and socialize globally, without necessarily losing their identity as Ugandans. The world today needs leaders and people who think globally, but at the same time live and act locally. We should therefore form young people who are global citizens striving to consolidate.

# PART FOUR: LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE WITH HOPE: OUR ASPIRATIONS

**71.** I have heard the cry of my people (Ex. 3:7). These words addressed by God through Moses to the people of Israel oppressed in Egypt, summarize and express the intervention of God in the history of our country. Half a century ago, God heard and answered the cry of our people longing for independence. A few years down the road, at a difficult juncture in our journey, we used the same expression as a title of our Pastoral Letter.

**72.** After this reflection on our past and present situation and looking ahead to the future of our country, we now share with all the people of Uganda our aspirations of the "Uganda we Want" to see in the coming years:

A God-loving and God-fearing people and nation.

- Peace, reconciliation and harmonious dialogue among all religious, political, social and ethnic groups in our country.
- Freedom of worship and expression, with respect for other people's rights.
- Thriving democracy and good governance.
- Special care and support of the vulnerable members of our society.
- Transparent and accountable leadership at all levels.
- A just nation where resources are equitably shared.
- A peaceful, secure and stable country.
- Empowered and informed citizens participating effectively in the governance of the country.
- Quality education for all.
- Dialogue prevails as means to resolving differences and conflicts.
- A united country where the people identify with our national values.
- Quality health care for all
- Adequate and effective infrastructures.
- Affordable electricity and clean water for all.
- A healthy environment capable of sustaining all forms of life.

**73.** We are, of course, aware that the full realization of these aspirations will take time and may actually be beyond our reach. Therefore, this list is meant to act as:

- reminder and pointer of targets to be achieved and goals to work towards;
- points on which to keep pushing our leaders for accountability and effective delivery of services; and,



#### **PART FIVE: CONCLUSION**

74. Celebrating the "Golden Jubilee" of our nation is both an opportunity and a challenge for all of us individually and collectively. The shared reflections in this Pastoral Letter have led us to thank God for all the gifts bestowed on us during these first fifty years, to acknowledge and ask forgiveness for our mistakes, but above all to face and welcome the challenges and our responsibilities in building a more united, peaceful and prosperous Uganda. The question for each one of us is the same: What can I do, and what am I going to do for my country?

**75.** We are in fact at the same time heirs of the past and people who can shape the future of our nation. Learning from our past mistakes, we want to build a better Uganda than we are in now.

We now specially pray that all our political leaders, regardless of their affiliation, may join hands and learn to collaborate even more for the common good of all the citizens of Uganda.

- **76.** The celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Uganda's independence is marked by the happy and providential coincidence of three important events in the life of the Catholic Church:
- the pastoral implementation of the guidelines handed down to us from the Second Special Assembly of the Synod of the Bishops on Africa through the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation Africae Munus (Africa's Commitment) of Pope Benedict XVI;
- the celebration of the Synod of

Bishops on the New Evangelization, in Rome from 7th – 28th October, 2012:

- Fifty years since opening of Vatican Council II; and
- the beginning of a special "Year of the Faith" on October 11th, 2012.

It is not just a chronological coincidence. All these events are a reminder of the renewed call of God for us, his people, at this crucial moment in the history of our country.

■ Like the universal Church throughout the world, we are called to be "the salt" and "light" of Uganda (Mt. 5:13-14). Our mission is to be "at the service of reconciliation, justice and peace" in our nation. We are called to renew and deepen our faith in order to be messengers and instruments of a "new evangelization" of our people and cultures. This is the best gift and contribution we can give to our country.

77. We are, of course, aware that; if the Lord does not build the house, its builders labour in vain... (Ps. 127:1). Praying for our country is an act of love, a concrete sign of authentic patriotism, a duty for every Christian. We, therefore, invite all of you to join us in prayer. We can do this in our own words, personally, in our families, communities and churches. The liturgy offers us this invocation which we invite you to share:

God our Father, You guide everything in wisdom and love.
Accept the prayers we offer for our nation, Uganda;
by the wisdom of our leaders and the integrity of our citizens,
may harmony and justice be secured and may there be lasting prosperity and peace. Amen.

As we sing together with all our people: "Oh Uganda, may God uphold Thee", we hear the echo of the words of Jesus to the man who had been paralyzed for thirty eight years (Jn. 5:8) and addressed by the Second Synod for Africa to the whole continent.

Today, the same words apply to our country, now fifty years young: "Uganda, get up... and walk!" In freedom, peace and unity, let us keep walking towards the future God has in store for us!

We commend you and our country to Mary, our Mother, Queen of Africa, and to the

intercession of Uganda Martyrs. May God bless you, as we all stand together "for God and Our Country".

+ Hodoma

Most Rev. John Baptist Odama, Archbishop of Gulu and Chairman Uganda Episcopal Conference

and your shepherds and servants in Christ:

Emmanuel Card. Wamala	Archbishop Emeritus of Kampala, Patron of UEC
Joseph A. Zziwa	Bishop of Kiyinda-Mityana, V-C/man UEC
Paul K. Bakyenga	Archbishop of Mbarara
Cyprian K. Lwanga	Archbishop of Kampala
Denis Kiwanuka Lote	Archbishop of Tororo
James Odongo	Archbishop Emeritus of Tororo
Henry Ssentongo	Bishop of Moroto
Matthias Ssekamanya	Bishop of Lugazi
Deogratias Byabazaire	Bishop of Hoima
Egidio Nkaijanabwo	Bishop of Kasese
John Baptist Kaggwa	Bishop of Masaka
Robert Muhiirwa	Bp of Fort-Portal
Callistus Rubaramira	Bishop of Kabale
Charles M. Wamika	Bishop of Jinja
Giuseppe Franzelli	Bishop of Lira
Sabino Odoki	Bishop of Arua
Emmanuel Obbo	Bishop of Soroti
Paul Ssemogerere	Bishop of Kasana-Luweero
Giuseppe Filippi	Bishop of Kotido
Sanctus Linus Wanok	Bishop of Nebbi
Lambert Bainomugisha	Auxiliary Bp of Mbarara, Apost. Admin. of Hoima
Christopher Kakooza	Auxiliary Bishop of Kampala
Joseph Mugenyi Sabiiti	Auxiliary Bp of Fort-Portal
Edward M. Baharagate	Bishop Emeritus of Hoima
John B. Kakubi	Bishop Emeritus of Mbarara
Barnabas Halem'Imana	Bishop Emeritus of Kabale
Paul Kalanda	Bishop Emeritus of Fort-Portal
Robert Gay	Bishop Emeritus of Kabale
Erasmus D. Wandera	Bishop Emeritus of Soroti
Joseph Oyanga	Bishop Emeritus of Lira
Frederick Drandua	Bishop Emeritus of Arua
Martin Luluga	Bishop Emeritus of Nebbi