



EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE OF MALAWI

CATHOLIC NEWS UPDATES

Monthly Newsletter

No.4/2014

Print & Online Edition

November 2014

'NO SAME-SEX MARRIAGES WITHIN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'

Bishop Zuza Clarifies ECM Position at the Synod of Bishops on Family in Rome

The Chairperson for the Episcopal Conference of Malawi, His Lordship Bishop Joseph Mukasa Zuza has reiterated that the Catholic Church values and

they were looking at the issue of the family and not necessarily as topical issue on the agenda.

Bishop Zuza who is also the Bishop for Mzuzu diocese said Africa is being affected with this issue because of donor dependence but as far as the African Church is concerned, that will not motivate them to accept homosexuality in Africa.

He expressed concerns with some Western influences that are advocating and advancing their wishes to same-sex marriages.

"If homosexuality is allowed here in African then what is the meaning of stopping our Christians from, let's say, a man marrying two or three wives (Mitala in vernacular language)?," wondered Bishop Zuza

Commenting on the issue, the Deputy Secretary General for the Episcopal Conference of Malawi, Fr. Emmanuel Chimombo said the just ended synod of Bishops on Family was very crucial as it strengthens the Church's values and principles.

"You know the Catholic Church has its own procedures and nobody can just work up today and make his or her own decision or change the law. We are guided by the Holy Spirit through our leaders like the Bishops, so whatever has been spoken about in the press is just as rumors and not as truth as the stand of the Church," he said.

"Just to concur with His Lordship Bishop Zuza, the Synod looked at a family as a man and woman in a blessed marriage. The synod truly discussed the issue of homosexuality but the resolutions to that issue have not come out yet," he added. Fr Chimombo advised Catholic faithful and others not to be carried away with what has been speculated rather they should stick to their Catholic faithful.

As a way forward, Bishop Zuza said each Conference will deliberate, scrutinize and make its own informed decision on the issues that have been discussed during the synod and later submit the decision to the next synod which comes next year.



Rt. Rev. Joseph Mukasa Zuza - ECM Chairman

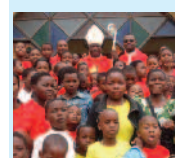
acknowledges Christian families. He dismissed the speculated reports in the press that the just ended Synod of Bishops on families in Vatican, Rome had agreed to acknowledge same-sex marriages and homosexuality acts.

Bishop Zuza was speaking during an exclusive with interview with ECM Communications Department when he returned from Vatican, Rome where he attended the synod which run from 5th to 19th October, 2014.

"As the Catholic Church, we value families which are comprised of a man and woman. We also acknowledges those families that are blessed with children and not otherwise," said Bishop Zuza.

According to Bishop Zuza, the issue of homosexuality came in at the synod as

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Children Challenged Leaders To Protect Their Rights

Written by Prince Henderson,

Children from the Archdiocese of Blantyre have called on government and Church leaders to take a deliberate effort in protecting and safeguarding the rights of children who are regarded as future leaders in the country's development.

the Mass were championed by the Children themselves. Later, after the Holy Mass, the children show cased different activities including poems ,drama and songs which were performed before His Grace the Archbishop. In their petition to the government and the Church, the Children are calling upon the authorities to promote education by supporting

edged numerous challenges that children face and called upon all stakeholders to join hands and make the life a child better than before.

"It is our responsibility to make sure that our children are well protected.And it is for this reason that I also invite parents to make sure that they strive to teach their children grow both body and soul,"said Archbishop Msusa. The Archbishop also called on Children and people of good will to pray for children who are currently struggling in their respective countries that peace should be upon them at all times.

"Please pray for your fellow children who were abducted in Nigeria, pray for your fellow children with Malawi and elsewhere who are currently struggling in different ways. We should also pray for those people that are found of violating children's rights that they should change their behavior and start loving children," said Archbishop Msusa.

He added, "Lastly,pray for your parents,myself your Bishop,Priests,religious men and women and our country's leaders.Make sure also that you also strive to achieve your goals of becoming Bishops,Priests,religious men and womene and even Presidents of this country".

Episcopal Conference of Malawi is currently implementing a Child Protection Project with an aim of contributing to the strengthened capacity of the Catholic Church in Malawi in dealing with issues to child abuse and creating children's safe environment. Meanwhile, the Conference has development a Child protection policy.



Catholic Children from the Archdiocese of Blantyre

The Children expressed this at Saint Montfort, Catholic Institute (CI) during the Archdiocese's celebrations of Holy Childhood Mass which attracted thousands of Catholic Children's faithful drawn from all the Parishes in the Archdiocese.

The Children celebrated the day with a Holy Mass which was presided over by His Grace Archbishop Thomas Msusa of Blantyre Archdiocese as all the arrangements for

them with adequate teaching and learning materials including enough school blocks, eliminate child labour and provide proper security to the children.

According to one Priscilla Njovuyalema who during this day read the first reading from the words of God,Children in this country and elsewhere face a number of challenges hence the need for the leaders to address them.

In his homily,Archbishop Msusa acknowl-

PMS Urges Catholics To Embrace The Spirit Of Sharing

By Prince Henderson

The National Director of Pontifical Mission Societies in Malawi (PMS), Fr. Vincent Mwachwawa has expressed the need for Catholics in Malawi to embrace the spirit sharing with the needy.

Fr. Mwachwawa was speaking at Saint Montfort, Catholic Institute (CI) in the Archdiocese of Blantyre when he presided over the Mission Sunday Mass Celebration.



Fr. Vincent Mwachwawa - PMS Director

During his homily, Fr. Mwachwawa, said there are a lot of needy people elsewhere who need material and spiritual support from Catholic faithful including those from Malawi. The Catholic Church in Malawi has grown because of other Catholics in other countries who for the past 100 years have been sharing their spiritual and material gifts to us. Malawi Catholics have many spiritual and material gifts. Therefore, it is important for the present and future generation of Catholics in Malawi to embrace a

missionary spirit and cooperation by offering sacrifices of prayer and money to the whole world for the salvation of many people.

"You know there are people out there who have not known Christ; there are people out there who are suffering because of wars, poverty, diseases and other natural calamities. Even within our country, there many who are suffering and struggling with life. All these need our love. We have to be in solidarity with them; we have to pray for them and support them with the little we have." said Fr. Mwachwawa.

He asked faithful in the country to contribute money generously for the urgent missionary work of the Church in the world as another way of advancing the evangelization work.

In the Mission Sunday Message of 2014 the Holy Father, Pope Francis says: "God loves a cheerful giver' (2 Cor 9:7).

World Mission Day is also an occasion to rekindle the desire and the moral obligation to take joyful part in the mission ad gentes. A monetary contribution on the part of individuals is the sign of a self-offering, first to the Lord and then to others; in this way material offerings can become means for the evangelization of humanity built on love."

All the collection for the day are sent to the Holy Father in Vatican, Rome where the Pope disburse them to needy countries and mission territories, through the Pontifical Societies for the Propagation of Faith.

Pius X11 Seminary Celebrates 50 years

By Deogratias Mmana, Catholic Journalist

Pius X11 Minor Seminary of the Blantyre Archdiocese celebrated a golden jubilee on Saturday, 1st November in Chiradzulu district with fond memories that it has produced over 150 priests, one bishop, presidential candidate and various men of substance in society.

But it has also been haunted by water problem which has had no permanent solution coupled by security breakdown as it has no perimeter wall among other challenges.

Rector of the seminary Fr. Enoch Kanjira said in an interview that on the positive side, the institution has produced men of high acumen in society that include Bishop Montfort Stima who is now heading Mangochi Diocese, over 150 priests, mayor Noel Chalamanda, presidential candidate George Nnesa, several university lecturers, cabinet ministers like Tracizio Gowelo, Members of Parliament, lawyers, chief executives like Ted Nandolo, civil society leaders, medical personnel, bankers, journalists and presidential advisers like Dr. Collins Magalasi.

“As an academic institution, it has prided in producing the cream in English, Mathematics and Science. The seminary has received various awards and certificates of excellence. Among them are the National Quiz Trophy, National and Regional Drama Trophy, The Kukoma Debate Trophy academic awards in Science examinations,” said Fr. Kanjira.

But he said water problems have been a thorn in the flesh over the 50 years.

“The water board water cannot get this far due to pressure problems and we end up paying for pressure and not the water,” he said suggesting that there is need for more boreholes and submersible pumps.

Other challenges include security breakdown due to lack of a fence, aging structure of the institution and the deteriorating Science laboratory.



CECOM Faults Early Marriages As a Challenge To Girls Education

by Prince Henderson,

The Catholic Education Commission in Malawi (CECOM) has calls on all the stakeholders to work towards improving the quality and access to education especially for girls in the coun-



Steve Ndhlovu - ECM Education Policy Coordinator

In a statement released as Malawi joined the rest of the world in commemorating the International Day of the Girl Child which falls on 11th October, the, the national educational policy officer for ECM, Steven Ndhlovu said that a snapshot of the larger picture is that the education sector in Malawi is facing a number of challenges hence the call to action by all stakeholders as we commemorate the day, and think about the Girl Child's Education in particular.

Ndhlovu indicates in the statement that Child marriages is one of the main barriers to education for young girls in Malawi. He said, on average, half of all girls are married by their 18th birthday and nearly a quarter are married by the age of 15.

“When girls marry at a young age it often means that they are taken out of school and denied any chance at a future. During the period between 2010 and 2013, more than 27,000 girls in Malawi dropped out of primary schools because of marriage, “reads part of the statement.

The statement however urges the faith-based communities and traditional leaders to join hands in educating communities about the advantages of delaying the age of marriage and supporting the government to increase the minimum age of marriage from 15 to 18 years.

According to Ndhlovu, CECOM is working tirelessly to ensure that a national action plan to combat the consequences of child marriage and secure every young girl's right to education is implemented.

“Malawi is the country with the 7th highest prevalence rate of child marriage in the world. Our girls are being unfairly denied their right to a future and we must take action,” he said.

Among other challenges noted in the statement include the enrolment rate which is currently at 97.5 percent primary net enrolment, school completion rated at 51 percent survival to last grade primary, child labour at 26 percent of children in child labour and teachers being at 74/1 pupil/teacher ratio.

There are about 293,000 primary school-age children in Malawi who are not going to school, a number according to Ndhlovu “must be reversed”. On current trends, Malawi will fall well short of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) on universal primary education by the end of 2015.

NGO Gender Coordination Network Chairperson Emma Kaliya said the research findings are not surprising.



“The issue is grave. Parents are forcing children into early marriages which is supported by the law. The minimum age is at 16 years,” Kaliya observed.

Principle Secretary in the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare, Dr. Mary Shawa said every one is responsible for ensuring that there are no early marriages.

“This is no time to finger pointing since these children live in someone's house and the parents or guardians, faith leaders and traditional leaders have a role to look after them, she said.

A nun who hugged Mlambe

By Martin Mlelemba, Catholic Journalist

The Blantyre based Catholic Church owned Mlambe hospital was once a house of pain. It was engulfed in shortage of trained medical personnel and lack of funds. Patients became largely displeased with the poor services offered. That was in 1980s. But today, the health facility, situated in Lunzu



Sr. Germana Munari

Township along the Zalewa Road is a source of unending joy to the sick bodies and broken bones. The hospital's long climb from near-distracted to the restoration cliff did not just come from the blues but rather from the angelic hands and brave brains of a Catholic nun, Sister Germana Munari. Read on as our reporter digs more about two nuns whom they travelled thousands of miles away from their country to save millions of Malawians.

The 76-year-old has been the medical director of Mlambe hospital since late 1980s after the Archdiocese of Blantyre asked for her services. Germana was born on November 16, 1938 in Correggio, a small village in north Italy. Her parents died while she was still young leaving her and two siblings to face life on their own. She says her calling into God's ministry came when she was aged 16. "A strong voice was calling me and I knew that it was the time to go and serve the Lord," Germana recalls.

Only heavens knew then that this call would save thousands of lives away from her land of birth. After meditating about the calling, she decided to join the Franciscan Auxiliaries Lay Missionaries of Mary Immaculate (FALMI), a Catholicism movement founded on the cores of charity. Germana attended vocational seminars in her area and was convinced she could succeed in her calling after being impressed by the commitment women of God had shown towards comforting the suffering.

"I was attracted by the work of FALMI sisters and their faith values, based on bringing the gift of the Gospel to all people and bringing joy on the faces of the needy via charitable works," she narrates. After taking her final vows, her congregation sponsored her to study medicine, specialized in surgery and gynecology at the public university in Italy for five years.

Upon completing her studies in 1974, Germana was deployed to Malawi to work at Namwera health centre in Mangochi. Later, the Archdiocese of Blantyre asked Germana to head Mlambe hospital. She has since been the driving force behind the hospital which now serves 70 surrounding villages.

WHAT IS BEHIND HER SUCCESS AT THE HOSPITAL?

In addition to running the hospital Germana in collaboration with Sister Anna Tommasi, 70, have been empowering local villagers through self-support initiatives that give families food security. The sisters have built 65 nursery schools, almost one each of the 70 villages surrounding the hospital. In all of them they provide essential drugs, food for the needy and run outreach programs for people living with HIV, the virus that causes Aids.

Thokozani Banda, 8, and her three siblings who are orphans live in Kunthembe village near Mlambe hospital have been some benefactors of Germana's charity work. "We had no one to depend on and we never thought we would go to school one day but the FALMI sisters built a nursery school in our village so my two young sisters and me are able to attend classes," Thokozani says. "We face so many challenges: as a result of the AIDS pandemic there are lots of orphans everywhere, including Malawi," Tommasi remarks.

With two medical doctors, 13 clini-

cians and 54 nurses, the hospital offers all aspects of medical care.

"We have been able to provide maximum general health services to thousands of Christian and non-Christians for over 50 years and we have also strengthened spiritual life among patients as we follow the path of our patron, Saint Francis of Assisi, who was well known for charitable works, including caring for the poor," says Germana.

"Our patron also once said: 'While you are proclaiming peace with your lips, be careful to have it even more fully in your heart.'" The hospital also extends its services to people in Mozambique.

As Malawi's population increases, the hospital is facing many problems; it needs new hospital equipment, medicine and money not just to pay additional hospital staff but also to finish extending the patients' shelters. Friends of Mlambe help the hospital to raise funds through activities like sponsored walks, dinner dances and musical shows—but much more money is needed.



Sr. Germana and a nurse attending to a patient

"With the support of Friends of Mlambe we have embarked on a project to develop an eye department that needs a huge injection of funds but we believe the Holy Spirit will be on our side, considering this good job we are doing here," Germana says.

The sisters have also embarked on a project to help over 1,000 prisoners who are either ill or on HIV/AIDS treatment.

The sisters give them free medical care and food, as well as teaching the word of God to all prisoners in the Malawi government's five prisons, Chichiri, Zomba, Mulanje Thyolo and Mikuyu. Germana support towards the orphans, the prisoners and the sick is more or less like a hug from an Angel. It's beyond human belief, beyond human comprehension.



Front view of Mlambe Hospital

Malawi Participates at IMCS Pan African Assembly

By Prince Henderson

The Catholic Church in Malawi and the country at large stands to benefit from the just ended 11th Pan African Assembly in Lusaka, Zambia which attracted a cross section Catholic youths under the International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS).

Malawi's delegation to the assembly comprised of Cynthia Kamulete, Paul Mwale and Martin Njolomole.

Speaking in an interview with ECM Communications department upon his return from Zambia, Njolomole who is also the officer for ECM Pastoral Commission said the meeting was an eye opener to the Malawi delegation and that its crucial to the Catholic Church and Malawi country as a whole.

"We deliberated on quite a number of issues that are crucial to our society. These issues ranges from Climate Change, Good Governance, Family and the New Evangelization, just to mention a few. I must admit here that if we utilize and make use of what we have learnt in Lusaka, Malawi can change for the better," said Njolomole

He said that the issues that were under discussion during the assembly could easily be dealt with by the youths here in Malawi, hence the need for Catholic youths to join forces and address some of the challenges affecting our country.

Speaking to the Pan African International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS), the Secretary General for AMECEA Fr. Ferdinand Lugonzo said, "Africa is blessed with a youthful popula-

tion. Unfortunately these great majorities of the population are engaged in war and conflict".

Fr. Lugonzo who is also Chaplain of International Young Catholic Students (IYCS) said that the youth should deliberately seek peace, which is the result of integral development by acting as responsible citizens. "While responsible citizenship is a virtue; participation in political life is an obligation," he added.

He said that there are three areas that IYCS must be presented in the society in order to promote full human development and pursue the common good. "These include dialogue with State, dialogue with society which includes cultures and sciences; and dialogue with other believers," he said.

"We have to make an impact. We need to be well founded in our faith. Is IMCS providing a solid foundation to its members?" Fr. Lugonzo asked, and added that "This should lead IYCS to reflect on the kind of programmes which accompany their activities."

According to Ms. Catherine Wangui Njuguna, the Coordinator of Pan African Assembly of International Movement of Catholic Students, every four years, the IMCS Family in Africa holds its Pan.



Malawian Youth participants in Zambia

The International Movement of Catholic Students was founded in 1921 in Fribourg, Switzerland and is recognised by the Holy See and likewise a member of the United Nations (ECOSOC-Category B). The movement is present in 90 countries in the world.

Karonga Diocese's Tuntufye Radio Hits The Airwaves

By Prince Henderson

A fourth Catholic radio, Tuntufye Radio Station has hit the airwaves of Malawi in Karonga Diocese, Bishop Martin Mtumbuka has confirmed.

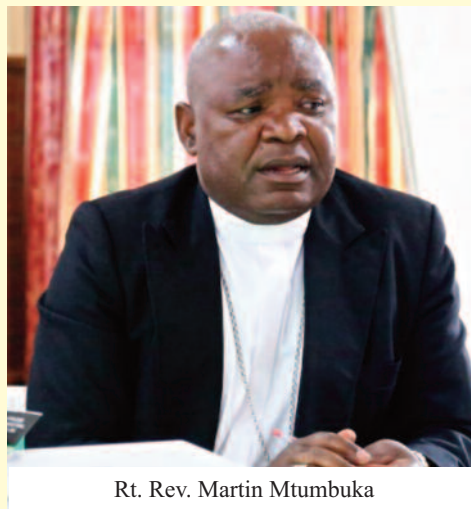
The radio station adds the number of Catholic Media Houses which are Radio Maria in Mangochi Diocese, Radio Alinafe of Lilongwe Archdiocese and Tigabane Radio of Mzuzu Diocese. There is also Likuni Press and Publishing House (LPPH) in Lilongwe, Luntha Television and Montfort Media in Balaka.

Responding to a questionnaire, Bishop Mtumbuka said he is deeply pleased that the diocese has now reached a stage of establishing the Radio Station.

"As a Diocese we are deeply pleased that we have reached this stage of establishing the Radio Station. Of course what we have started doing today is no more than signal-testing. We will continue doing so for some time because we are yet to install the big transmitters which are due to arrive in the country within the next two weeks. But reaching this far is very gratifying indeed and we are very grateful to all those who have support us," said Bishop Mtumbuka.

Bishop Mtumbuka who is also the

Chairperson for Social Communications Commission at the Episcopal Conference of Malawi said establishing a radio station is not a small job for anyone – let alone for a young and small Diocese like Karonga.



Rt. Rev. Martin Mtumbuka

"A lot of work had to be done with very few people to assist us. As mentioned above we still have to install the big transmitters. So there is still a lot of work to be done.

The transmitter we are using now is very small – it can fit in a briefcase. But thanks to advances in technology, with it we are able to reach around 50,000 within and around Karonga Township,"he said.

According to Bishop Mtumbuka,

this is one of the very first projects the diocese thought of when it started as a Diocese. He said the Diocese of Karonga has 6 parishes but with only 16 priests and that the terrain in some of the parishes is extremely difficult in terms of movement of both goods and people.

He said, "Furthermore, we are the only Diocese in Malawi that has large areas where no priest has been to since the Church was born. These are places where there is no road, no school, no hospital, no Church etc. Against this background it was very clear to me from the very beginning of the existence of the Diocese that a radio station would be the most effective means of reaching out to the people within the Diocese with the Good News of Salvation and development which is part of Salvation".

Bishop Mtumbuka said Chitumbuka, Kya Ngonde, Chindali and English will be the main languages when broadcasting its programs.

The radio station has financially been supported by Church in Need, Missio Aachen and the Archdiocese of Cologne. Radio Tigabane has also given a lot of technical assistance for the establishment of the radio station.

St. John's - Mzambazi Parish Clocks 75 in 2015

By Fr. Mark Mkandawire

Officially opened in 1940 by the Missionaries of Africa, after Katete – St. Therese's Parish, St. John's Parish clocks 75 next year. The Parish is situated in the north of Mzimba Boma, west of Mzuzu City and South of Rumphu Boma and borders with Chipata Diocese on the western side. It is divided into 11 zones, has 118 substations with about 38,000 baptized Catholics, 8 Catechists and two Priests.



A number of primary schools within the area are Catholic by foundation, though not all maintain the Catholic identity. There is one Community day Secondary School and plans are under-way for a grant-aided girls Secondary School. Within the Parish headquarters, we have a Diocesan Community Hospital which is managed by the Sisters of the Holy Rosary – an indigenous religious order.

Why is a Jubilee important?

This jubilee is important for the Church in Mzambazi because it provides the local Church a grand opportunity to do a major stock-taking in their lives - a stock-taking that enables them to have a critical assessment of the past years as well as present time in order to celebrate the strengths, challenges and opportunities and be able to strategically position themselves as they prepare for a future of their institution and or individual lives.

This stock-taking is useless, however, if it does not bring some radical and positive change in life. At an institutional level, if all along things have been done at a snails' pace and the institution has hung on to unproductive and incompetent people, this stock-taking should lead to a change of approach which also entails parting with unproductive people and those whose partnership is a waste of time

and resources.

According to Fr Mark Mkandawire out-going parish priest of St John Parish - Mzambazi, the jubilee celebration is also important because it gives people an opportunity to catch up with old friends, make new friends and also let go of those friends who have not added value to your past life, even though parasites, I am told, are important in some ways.

"I also understand that a jubilee celebration is important as it enables people to receive and give gifts, fundraise for some specific and general projects for the future. It is also an opportunity to put on something new, as it is a kind of culture in this part of world to come up with a cloth of some kind," he said as he alluded to the possibility of coming up with a cloth for jubilee.

Other parishes in the area have already celebrated jubilees. For instance, people of John's Parish – Mzambazi have participated in the Diamond Jubilee for St. Therese's – Katete Parish. The jubilee of St John - Mzambazi is scheduled for July, 2015, but the actual date depends on the programme of the Local Ordinary.



Call for support of the event

All people of good will are kindly requested to support this celebration in kind or cash. For details of how to do so, kindly contact: the Parish Priest – Fr. Sam Ng'oma on +265 88 830 6829/99 527 6667 or rev.fr.samuel@gmail.com

Lilongwe Archdiocese trains Catechists on Church affairs

By Prince Henderson

Over hundred Catholic Catechists from Lilongwe Archdiocese have been equipped with knowledge and skills in the current issues affecting the Catholic Church in Malawi.

The Chaplain for Catechists in Lilongwe Archdiocese, Fr. Cyprian Chipala said the Catechists who converged for a week at St. Francis, Kanengo Parish under the theme "Lets move together" and looked at three issues that included the new Catechism syllabus to be introduced by the Episcopal Conference of Malawi (ECM), new Roman Missal and Marriage cases with the Catholic Church.

Archbishop Tarcizius Ziyaye of the Archdiocese of Lilongwe, opened the workshop with a Holy Mass in which during his homily challenged the Catechists to seek for God's guidance and wisdom whenever they are discharging their duties.

"Let everything that we do in our Parishes or Out-stations be centered on prayers for God's intervention. In such a way,

we shall be guided by the power of the Holy Spirit thereby achieving our goals better," said His Grace Bishop Ziyaye.

One of the facilitators to the workshop, Fr. Vincent Mwakhwawa who is the National Director of Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) at ECM presented on the new catechism syllabus and said the National Pastoral Commission of ECM is in the process of producing a new catechetical syllabus for the Catholic Church in Malawi so that there is a common syllabus which harmonize num-



ber of years for catechumenate.

"The project has two phases: phase 1: collection of materials and development of

a draft Catechism syllabus. This phase is done. Phase 2: is pre-testing and launching. We are now in the phase two on pre-testing. Pre-testing is being done in three parish of each diocese. In Lilongwe, the pre-test (ad experimentum) is being done in three parishes of Guilleme, Likuni and St. Patrick's," said Fr. Mwakhwawa.

The Catechists from the three parishes where the pre-testing is taking place gave their feedback on how the process is going and they appreciated the contents of the draft catechism syllabus because it is user-friendly, with simple and effective methods and containing relevant themes that will help nourish the faith of the Catechumens and enhance the intellectual understanding of the Catholic teachings.

Fr, Mwakhwawa also briefed the Catechists on the out-come of AME-CEA Meeting; the just ended XIII Synod of Bishops in Rome on "the Family" and "Catechist: Promoters of Missionary Spirit in the Church." PMS animation among others.

Other facilitators were Fr. John Makola, Fr. Peter Chatambalala and Fr. Audifansio Kapinga

ECM leaves for Rome on *Ad Limina* Visit

By Prince Henderson

All the seven Catholic Bishops in Malawi including the Secretary General for the Episcopal Conference of Malawi (ECM), Fr. George Buleya have left for Vatican, whereby residential bishops deliver account of the state of the local Church to the Holy Father, and visit the tombs of Saints Peter and Paul, once very five years.

According to the program released by the Secretary General, Fr. Buleya His Lordship Bishop Montfort Stima of Mangochi Diocese and His Grace Bishop Tarcizius Ziyaye of Lilongwe Archdiocese left the country already on 25th October and 29th October respectively.

Fr Buleya said that those that have left the country on 4th November 2014 include Bishop Joseph Zuza, who is chairing the Episcopal Conference of Malawi (ECM) and is diocesan bishop for Mzuzu Diocese, Most Reverend Thomas Msusa of Blantyre Archdiocese, Bishop Peter Musikuwa of Chikwawa Diocese, Bishop Emmanuel Kanyama of Dedza Diocese, Bishop Martin Mtumbuka of Karonga Diocese, and himself as Secretary General).

“They shall arrive in Rome on Wednesday, 5th November and connect to



Vatican. They will be accommodated at Saint Martha Hotel,” he said.

The Secretary General also disclosed that on Thursday, 6th November the bishops will Concelebrate Mass at the tomb of St. Peter, and later on hold meetings with the Congregation for the Evangelization of People, where they will meet Cardinal Filoni, Archbishop Hon SDB and Fr. Wojda SAC.

On the same day in the afternoon, the Malawi Bishops will be locked up in a meeting with Archbishop Paglia, Bishop Laffitte and Mgr. Simon Vazquez from the Pontifical Council for the Family.

“A possible meeting with the Holy

Father is scheduled to take place on Friday, 7th and 8th November in the morning. On the afternoon of 7th November, the Bishops will meet with Bishop Galatino, Secretary General of the Italian Bishops Conference. And on 8th November, the Bishops will meet with authorities at the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith, and later on, the Sisters of St. Peter Claver,” said Fr Buleya as he read the program.

The program also indicated that the Malawi Bishops be celebrating Mass at Saint Martha every day from 7th to 12th November.

Other important meetings that the Malawi Bishops will hold include the meeting with the Congregation for Catholic Education, Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, Pontifical Council of Justice and Peace, Supreme Tribunal of the Segnatura Apostolica and the Pontifical Council for Health Care.

Pope Sixtus V issued the constitution, Romanus Pontifex in 1585, where he set the norm for ad limina visits otherwise also known as quinquennial visit ad limina apostolorum. However, the visits have been taking place once in every five years since 1911.

CCJP Sensitizes MPs, Councilors On Governance

By CCJP Project Officer

Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP) for Mangochi Diocese carried out a sensitization meeting with district assemblies and their members of parliament on enhanced citizen participation for accountable and responsive governance a couple of days ago in Mangochi district.

Speaking at the sensitization meeting the project officer Patrick Kumbuyo bemoaned the dwindling standards of education in the district. Kumbuyo said that “high school dropout is aggravated by most video operators in the district who conduct their businesses in the morning hours and this prevents most youths from going to school.” He advised Councilors and other relevant stakeholders to swiftly formulate by-laws hindering operation of video shows in the morning.

In his remarks, the national coordinator for the project, Martin Chiphwanya stressed that members of parliament and councilors must

always be responsive as duty bearers in addressing governance issues affecting their areas. Chiphwanya warned that lack of accountability by duty bearers prevents the grassroots from actively participate in governance. He stressed that quality education is a key to building a generation that is active in governance issues.

School dropout particularly among girls in Mangochi is still high due to early

marriages. Young girls are often married to prominent business men looking for economic favours. Speaking in the meeting, honourable Ralph Jooma (MP) asked fellow duty bearers to actively assist both materially and morally such dropouts so as to combat high levels of illiteracy in the district.

CCJP Mangochi is implementing a 5year project on “enhanced citizen participation for accountable and responsive governance” funded by Tilitonse. Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace is implementing this project in T/A Mponda and Nankumba in Mangochi District with a focus on dwindling standards of education while in Balaka District it is being implemented in T/A Msamala and Nkaya with special advocacy for safe and clean water in the district.



AMECEA trains ECM, Diocesan authorities in capacity building

By Fr. Steve Likhucha, Communications Secretary-Zomba Diocese

Diocesan Catholic leaders together with Catholic Secretariat elite in Malawi are undergoing a four day capacity building training organized by Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa (AMECEA) through Catholic Universities within the region.

Speaking at Catholic University of Malawi (CUNIMA) the AMECEA representative, Sr (Dr.) Elizabeth Nduku, called upon all the participants to take the training seriously as it is a fruit of the 17th AMECEA Plenary which took place in Kenya where it was realized that a lot of things in the region would improve if the Bishops and those surrounding them were to go for the capacity building training.

“We were asked by AMECEA Bishops to address needs in Leadership and Management, Youth Ministry, Communication, Planning and Project Proposals, strategies in Pastoral services and Fundraising strategies in the AMECEA region... We are therefore here to make sure that we fulfill the AMECEA resolution to our best abilities.” Nduku said.

He then asked the participants to take the



training seriously as it will help them make a difference in handling various issues with special skills that will lead to a positive growth of the dioceses and eventually the Church in the AMECEA region.

Delivering his remarks the Deputy Secretary General, Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Chimombo, called upon the members to realize that they are very important in the Church of Malawi and the Episcopal Conference of Malawi (ECM) regards them highly that is why they had to involve them in the training.

Prof. Anaclet Phiri, the University's Vice Chancellor, thanked AMECEA and

ECM for recommending CUNIMA to be the centre for the training and the pastoral arm of the Church in Malawi.

He also furnished the delegates with updated information of CUNIMA of which there is a lot of positive development in many sectors including a new campus of CUNIMA in Lilongwe at Nanjiri which is in the offing.

Malawi is the fourth country to go under training after Sudan, Tanzania and Ethiopia early this year. Kenya, Zambia and Uganda will have similar trainings in 2015.

JOKES

JOKES

JOKES

A sermon about lying

A minister told his congregation, "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17."

The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark 17. Every hand went up. The minister smiled and said, "Mark has only sixteen chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying."

JOKES

JOKES

JOKES

NOTICE

The **ECM Monthly Newsletter** is here to stay. Should you have any news story from your Diocese, Parish or Institutions and Religious groups, please do not hesitate to file with us by using the following email addresses; phenderson@ecmmw.org princehendreson@journalist.com

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CADECOM SHINES AT WORLD FOOD DAY

By Prince Henderson

The Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM), which is a social development arm of the Episcopal Conference of Malawi on Friday 31st October, 2014 impressed the Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, Dr. Allan Chiyembekeza and the rest of the people who attended this year's joint commemoration of the World Food Day and African Day for Food and Nutrition Security.

Malawi joined the rest of the world in commemorating the day at Mchuchu Primary School in Lilongwe through the engagement of various stakeholders including CADECOM, Cisanet, and Concern Worldwide among others.

The Minister and other invited guests toured the pavilions that were mounted by the Non-Governmental Organizations and appreciated the efforts made by CADECOM in as far as agriculture sector is concerned.

CADECOM displayed Energy Saving Stoves, Nutritious Foods, Irrigation Farming and Livestock Farming, among other things.

Almost every person including the Minister was impressed with the Energy Saving Stoves that according to CADECOM's Programmes Coordinator, Chimwenwe Phiri, they consume less firewood during use.

"These energy saving stoves use just less energy yet they are very efficient. For instance, we only use three firewoods to prepare food, starting from cooking relish, Nsima and every water for bath," Phiri said.

According to Phiri, the stoves were imported from Kenya but efforts are under way to train local famers on how to make them locally.

Speaking at the function, Dr. Chiyembekeza said that family farmers are responsible for 56 percent of agricultural production worldwide and that they are also key in preserving traditional food products at the same time contributing to balanced diets, and safe-guarding the world's agro-biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources.

Dr. Chiyembekeza acknowledged that family farmers in the country face a number of challenges in farming.

"For example, family farmers are still experiencing problems in accessing inputs, marketing farm produce and addressing climate change effects," he said.

For her part, a representative for Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Florence Rolle said all over the world, family farmers play a crucial socio-economic, environmental and cultural role, which, amid serious challenges, needs to be cherished and strengthened through innovation.

The theme for this year's commemoration was "Accelerated Action for a Hunger Free Africa". The African Union Heads of State and Government in 2010 established the African Day of Food and Nutrition Security.



CADECOM Farmers exhibit nutritious food at their pavilion



FAO Representative Florence Rolle appreciates CADECOM's Pavilion



CADECOM's lead farmer, Dorothy Chimbalanga presenting to the Minister of Agriculture



Guest of Honour, Minister of Agriculture - Dr. Allan Chiyembekeza and other delegates at the event.