



DO NOT BE AFRAID TO RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL" - CATHOLIC YOUTH CHALLENGED

Written by Prince Henderson, ECM Communications Officer

The Vicar General of Karonga Diocese, Very Reverend Dennis Chitete, has challenged the youth to rely on prayer whenever they are con-



Monsignor Denis Chitete

sidering serving God through priesthood, family life or becoming a religious brother or sister. He said this during a national mass celebration for Vocation Sunday at St. Steven's Kasantha Parish in Kapolo, Karonga diocese.

"Prayer is the only weapon for your achievement in realizing whatever dream you think of. This applies to the vocation you want to follow, be it priesthood, religious man or woman and family life. Through praying to God, you will find a good partner in marriage life for example," said Monsignor Chitete.

Very Reverend Chitete said that the youth in Malawi must be encouraged to consider joining different vocations especially the priesthood and religious life, which are seeing decrease in number of people joining them.

He said the Catholic Church is fast

growing in terms of its membership but servants of God like priests and nuns continue to be defeated by the growing population hence parents and guardians should strive to encourage their children to join these vocations.

"I urge you to pray for the existing priests, religious men and women so that they may live to their vocation and love it. Without priests, for example, it means there are no Sacraments," he said.

On his part, National Director for Pontifical Missionary Society (PMS), Fr. Vincent Mwachwawa said that the vocation Sunday, which is the world Day of Prayers for vocations, is an important day in the Catholic Church worldwide, the day that Pope Francis is also encouraging the youth to consider joining various vocations.

In his message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations this year, Pope Francis challenged the youths in the Catholic Church not to fear when they hear a calling from God, for He is there to protect them all.

"Pope Francis is always encour-

aging you to respond to these vocations. Do not fear for He is there to guide and protect you. Pray the Holy Rosary everyday and Mother Mary is going to help you discern a vocation of your choice," said Fr. Mwachwawa.

In a message for the day, Bishop Chairman of Pastoral Commission and Pontifical Missionary Societies, His Lordship Bishop Peter Musikuwa of Chikwawa Diocese said the Pope, through the society of St. Peter the Apostle, reminds all the Catholic faithful about their Christian responsibility in cooperating with Christ in missionary work.

Bishop Musikuwa said that every Christian has a duty to cooperate with Jesus Christ by offering prayer, which will help in the whole work of evangelization.

"Every Christian must discern his vocation and offer his or her life for the mission," he said.



Some of the Youths encouraged to go for Vocations

Catholic Laity Fundraise For Kachebere Major Seminary

Written by Prince Henderson



Archbishop Msusa: Thank you for supporting the Church

The Chairman for the Episcopal Conference of Malawi (ECM), His Grace Archbishop Thomas Luke Msusa of Blantyre Archdiocese has commended the Catholic laity in Malawi for supporting the Church through various initiatives, which are well organized and patronized at the same time. Archbishop Msusa was speaking at Bingu International Conference Centre (BICC) last Friday (April 24, 2015) during a fundraising dinner and dance for Kachebere Major Seminary which celebrates its Platinum Jubilee (75 years) this year, 2015.

“On behalf of my fellow Bishops and indeed on my own behalf, I would like to thank you all for supporting the Church in various ways. I would like to particularly thank the laity and more especially those from Lilongwe for fundraising initiatives which you have been conducting and have proven to be successful at the end of the day,” he said while referring to other successful activities that led to a successful AMECEA Plenary of 2014, and the Kachebere Major Seminary’s fundraising dinner and dance.

Archbishop Msusa said Malawi managed to host a successful and historical AMECEA Plenary last year because there was proper collaboration between all stakeholders including the laity hence a challenge for a continued support to the Church-more particularly during this year’s Platinum Jubilee for Kachebere Seminary.

The Missionaries who used to assist the local Church all along built the Seminary way back in 1939. “But time has come that the Church in Malawi should take full responsibility in supporting the only Philosophical

College of the Catholic Church in the country”, said he.

Speaking at the same function, His Lordship Bishop Martin Mtumbuka of Karonga diocese and also Chairman for Seminaries at the Episcopal Conference of Malawi said Kachebere Major Seminary, which is also known as St. Anthony Seminary, is facing numerous challenges ranging from renovations to the school’s structures, seminarian’s welfare among others.

Bishop Mtumbuka was however quick to warn the Seminarians of not taking for granted every single assistance that the Catholic Church through its laity renders to the Seminary.

“I would like to warn you Seminarians never to take the support from the faithful and people of goodwill for granted. It’s high time you become serious with your vocation. The laity out there would not want to have priests who are irresponsible when you finish up your studies,” Bishop Mtumbuka warned as he faced the representatives of Seminarians who witnessed the dinner and dance event.

Mr Peter Kulemeka, Chairperson for the organizing committee of the event, said the event was a success and projected that the money that would be realized at that particular day would be far much more than the money raised during all other fundraising events that his committee has organized, as he acknowledged the massive support this time around.

He commended individuals and companies like Blantyre Newspapers Limited (BNL), Nation Publications Limited (NPL), Zodiak Broadcasting Station (ZBS), and Catholic Media Houses that includes; Radio Maria, Radio Tigabane, Tuntufye Radio and Luntha Television for supporting the event with free space and air time for adverts.

The Vice President of the Republic of Malawi Right Honorable Saulos Chilima came as a Catholic Christian and also made a contribution by donating in cash and kind.

His Grace Archbishop Msusa announced that a certain family from Blantyre, which did not disclose their name, also donated a sum of K1 Million towards the event.

Other notable faces that attended the event included Minister of Gender, Children, Social Welfare and Disability, Hon. Patricia Kaliati; Minister of Sports and Culture, Hon. Grace Chiumia and Principal Secretary for Presidential Initiative on Safe Motherhood, Chimwemwe Chipungu. Also available at the event were all the Bishops in Malawi.

Live performance of Kalimba Band and Kachebere Seminary’s Choir spiced up the event with songs.



75 years of serving the Church and Nation - Kachebere Major Seminary



Written By: Rachael Kachali - Catholic Journalist

“Ndayamba ulendo otsata inu ambuye, ku Kachebereee ndikupita ine” This is an old song that used to be popular during the 90’s and early 2000. The music was done by one of the catholic priests from Zomba diocese, Father Emmanuel Mlenga, and honors Kachebere, a major place of formation of priesthood for the Catholic Church in the country.

This year, the seminary, also known as St. Anthony’s Major Seminary, is celebrating its platinum jubilee having clocked 75 years of teaching young men to become priests.

A 7 kilometer travel from Mchinji Boma through the main road from Lilongwe district takes you to this famous historical place which is situated at the foot of Kalulu Hill in Mchinji.

The institution has accommodated and trained many priests and bishops who have contributed in the growth of the Catholic Church in Malawi, Zambia and other countries including Bishop Tarcisius Gervazio Ziyaye, the late Bishop Felix Mukholi and late Bishop James Chiona, just to name a few.

However, before it fully became a seminary, the institute went through changes and challenges.

Narrating the history of Kachebere, chairperson of the sub-committee of history at the institution Father Frank Chingale said prior to establishing a seminary, White Fathers, also called the Society of Missionaries of Africa, opened a parish and a Girls Boarding school at the area in 1903.

“It was in November 1939 when Kachebere Major Seminary opened its doors to the first 15 seminarians. One of the White Fathers, Father Lapointe became the first rector at the place which was then a regional

seminary for Bangweolo and Fort Jameson in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia), Shire (Southern Region) and Nyasa (Central Region) in Nyasaland (now Malawi),” he explained.

However, Father Chingale said the seminary was too small to accommodate all the seminarians and it was a hard time because of war which was taking place in Europe.

“Fortunately, they added to the school what had been a sisters’ house. Also 400 acres of land which included existing buildings, furniture and a maize granary and £25 were offered after a meeting between Bishops of Chipata, Shire and Nyasa,” he said.

Father Chingale mentioned that in 1941 Brother Paul of the Cross who was skilled in carpentry, brick layer, gardening, together with the other seminarians, started constructing some of the buildings that now constitute Kachebere Seminary.

Some of the old buildings include Kachebere’s summer holiday resort situated 7 kilometer South East of the seminary called Villa Maria Theresa where the seminarians spent their resting days when they were not allowed to go home for holidays.

However, the construction work and other activities such as classes at the school were interrupted in 1949 due to famine which struck the whole country.

Father Raphael Mbendera who is the current rector of Kachebere said the construction work resumed after a few years and a lot of activities including sports, Magazine writing were introduced.

“In 1969 the white Fathers handed over the operations of the iseminary to the Episcopo Conference of Malawi,” he said. In 1964 the institution commemorated its 25th anniversary of its foundation and Father Kalilombe who later became the school’s rector, was appointed the first Malawian professor at Kachebere Major Seminary.

“In January 1965 Bishop James Chiona became the first product of Kachebere to be named bishop. And in 1977 the Senior Section of the seminary moved to St. Peter’s in Zomba with Fr. Kamanga as rector of both institutes,” explained Father Mbendera.

He said in May 1989, the seminarians together with other Malawians received Pope John Paul II who visited the country and held mass at Kwacha Park in Blantyre.

On its contribution to the Catholic Church and the nation at large, Father Mbendera stressed that most of the priests and bishops serving the Catholic Church in Malawi, Zambia and other countries are products of Kachebere.

“Apart from the priests, there are also some individuals who did not make it to priesthood but were trained at Kachebere. Most of these people are now working in the government and private sector thereby playing a big role in our nation’s development,” he pointed out.

During the commemorations of the platinum jubilee, the seminarians, through their organization committees have planned a lot of activities such as workshops and Eucharist celebrations to run until October this year.

Chairperson of national Laity Council in the church Wilfred Dodoli said the celebrations, which commenced on January 10th also include fundraising events to find money for renovation of most of the school’s buildings.

“For instance, we organized a fundraising dinner and dance which took place at Bingu Conference Centre in Lilongwe on April 24. We urge all the ex-seminarians, the catholic community and all the people who have in one way or another benefited from Kachebere to be part of this jubilee year,” said Dodoli.

CADECOM Distributes Relief Items in Dedza Diocese

By Prince Henderson, ECM Communications Officer

The Episcopal Conference of Malawi (ECM) through its relief and development arm, Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM) recently distributed food and none food items to



flood victims in Ntcheu, Dedza diocese.

Speaking during the distribution exercise at Traditional Authority Kwataine's Madzanje Headquarters, Dedza Diocesan Secretary for CADECOM, Patrick Namakhoma said the distribution of the relief items follows the K 1 Billion national flood response launch that Catholic Bishops in Malawi launched at January Parish in the areas of Sub Traditional Authority Chimaliro and Traditional Authority Ngolongoliwa in Thyolo.

Namakhoma said just like the Malawi nation was alarmed and grieved that thousands of people were displaced and rendered homeless, houses and crops destroyed and many more injured, Catholic Church through its leadership also saw the need to assist those affected.

Also adding his voice was the Vicar General for Dedza Diocese, Monsignor Francis Sonkhani said "In response to the flood disaster, the Bishop's Conference in Malawi set aside the 8th February, 2015 as a special Sunday for the collections of re-

lief items to support thousands of our brothers and sisters affected by the floods. Further to this, we dedicated all the collections for the AMECEA thanksgiving Mass on 31st January 2015 towards the support of the flood victims".

For his part, Fr. Henry Chinkanda who represented the acting Secretary General of ECM challenged those that received the relief items to appreciate what the church has done to them by not selling the items rather use them accordingly.

District Commissioner for Ntcheu, Harry Phiri, commended CADECOM for remembering Ntcheu with the relief items. He said despite the floods hitting the whole country, many organizations have been concentrating on few districts regarded as the most hit districts leaving aside districts like Ntcheu.

Phiri urged the Catholic Church through CADECOM to continue the kind support which is the only way of complementing government's effort in taking care of its citizenry. He challenged other organizations to emulate the kind gesture as shown by CADECOM.

Elida Kumpukwe who is one of the victims to the floods as her house fell down due to heavy rains thereby rendering her and her six children homeless and they are currently sleeping in a kitchen commended CADECOM for alleviating some of the problems her family has been facing. She urged CADECOM to do the same to other equally affected households.

So far CADECOM has distributed relief items like Cooking Oil, Maize, Pulses and clothes to 600 households in the area but the exercise is on-going.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Eucharistic Celebration for the Consecrated Life at Maula Cathedral on Saturday, **16th May 2015**

Official Opening of Don Bosco Church in the Archdiocese of Lilongwe on Sunday, **24th May 2015**

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;

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