



ARCHBISHOP MSUSA ORDAINS 20 SEMINARIANS AS DEACONS

By Fr. Steven Likhucha, Communication Secretary-Zomba Diocese

Archbishop Thomas Msusa who is the Chairperson of Episcopal Conference of Malawi on Saturday May 23, 2015 promoted 20 seminarians to the order of deacons at Zomba Cathedral in Zomba Diocese.

The celebration which attracted people from all corners of Malawi saw three seminarians from Zomba (Samuel Mangulenje, Isaac Tsegula and Peter Lufeyo), and another three from Blantyre Archdiocese (Daniel Kambalame, Foster Matope and Davison Salamba) being ordained deacons, while one was from Karonga Diocese (Matthews Simwela), two from Franciscan Capuchin Congregation (Vineeth Panackappillil and Febin Mampilly), five from Dedza Diocese (Joseph Biliati, Matthews Chimtendere, Lazarus Magonde, Emmanuel Tchuma and Alfred Kalumbi) and six were from Lilongwe Archdiocese (Damaseke Francis, Andrew Kholowa, Kelvin Khodola, Tadeo Jobo, Raphael Piringu and Alberto Elifala).

During his homily, His Grace Thomas Msusa, who is also the Archbishop of Blantyre Archdiocese and Apostolic Administrator for Zomba Diocese, called upon the new

deacons to be permanently servants in their ministry.

“Service for you should not be temporary but permanent because you will be required to render such services at all times even when you are ordained priests or when you become bishops.” Archbishop said.



“Your ministry will always be threefold; ministers of the altar, ministers of the word and ministers of mercy or charitable works. Thus apart from ministering the Sacrament of Eucharist through the table at the altar you will be consoling and giving hope to people through preaching and serving those in need of help at all levels without discrim-

ination,” Msusa added.

Delivering his speech, the Acting Rector of St. Peter’s Major Seminary, Fr. Samuel Malamulo thanked all the people who have been supporting the seminarians to reach to the level of deacons. He appealed for more support from Christians to the seminary as foreign aid keeps on dwindling at the theological institute.

One of the ordinands, Deacon Joseph Biliati, called upon young people to work hard in school and choose wisely for the future. He called upon parents to guide their children properly.

It takes nine years for one to become a diocesan priest and diaconate ordination takes place in the eighth year when the candidate had already studied philosophy alongside human sciences at Kachebere Major Seminary in Mchinji and three years of theological studies in Zomba.

Vatican Appoints Apostolic Administrator of Zomba Diocese

Written by Prince Henderson

The Holy Father Pope Francis has nominated Most Rev. Thomas Msusa, Metropolitan Archbishop of Blantyre as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Zomba whose seat fell vacant in 2013, and whose diocesan administrator, Rev. Peter Kaleso died after short illness at Blantyre Adventist Hospital on 13th May 2015.

The Nomination means that Most Rev. Msusa has the authority to govern the Diocese with all the local Ordinary’s faculties, until the future Bishop of Zomba will take canonical possession of the Diocese.

The Nomination was communicated to Archbishop Msusa through the office of the Apostolic Nuncio to Zambia and Malawi, His Excellence Archbishop Julio Murat on 18th May 2015, following

the sudden death of Rev. Fr. Henry Kaleso.

Most Reverend Thomas Luke Msusa was once bishop of the Diocese of Zomba, until 2013 when Pope Francis appointed him Archbishop and transferred him to the Archdiocese of Blantyre where he took seat as archbishop.

‘Denounce Anything Unjust in Parliament’: CCJP advises Catholic MP’s

Written by Prince Henderson

The Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP) of the Episcopal Conference of Malawi (ECM) has challenged members of Malawi Parliament especially those from the Catholic Church to strive and announce for the truth about human dignity hence denounce anything which is unjust to the society.



Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Chimombo

Acting Secretary General for the ECM, Fr. Emmanuel Chimombo said this Wednesday when the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace held an interface meeting with all members of Parliament that belong to the Catholic Church at Capital Hotel in Lilongwe.

The meeting which was termed as ‘a working dinner’ between the Catholic Church and Members of Parliament who are currently meeting in Lilongwe for the 2015/2016 national budget was aimed at briefing the parliamentarians on issues that affect their constituents thereby challenging them as duty bearers to take actions during this time when they are meeting for the budget session.

“This gathering is an opportune moment for us as ECM to expose the social teachings of the Church. This is part of the

Church’s moral theological reflection on the complex realities of human existence in society-social, political, economic-in the light of faith, therefore, allow God to play a role in any intervention that you contribute in Parliament,” said Fr. Chimombo in his key note address.

Fr. Chimombo said the social teaching of the Church has a threefold task, which is to announcing the truth about human dignity; to denounce unjust situations in society; and to contribute to positive changes and real human progress.

“We encourage you, our honourable parliamentarians to consider the plight of those affected by floods and droughts. Through this forthcoming budget deliberation currently in progress, the affected ones need to be encouraged by resuscitating their livelihoods. Their food situation needs also to be strengthened by deliberately putting in resources that would support their winter cropping, as an example,” said Fr. Chimombo.

CCJP’s national programmes coordinator for governance desk, Martin Chipwanya in his issue presentation paper towards 2015/2016 budget process said the justice and peace arm of the Catholic Church in Malawi engaged both national and district Civil Society Organisations and Faith Based Organizations to assess the issues that are being impacted by the national budgetary process.

“It is imperative that the Malawi



Chris Chisoni - CCJP National Secretary

Government in the 2015/2016 financial year prioritizes mid-term and long-term recovery plans. As such, our call is for the budget to be a recovery budget setting the tone for fiscal development in the next few years,” said Chipwanya.

Adding his voice, CCJP’s national secretary, Chris Chisoni said the Catholic Church is also concerned with attacks against people with albinism and the xenophobia that rocked the country hence the need for parliamentarians to critically address the situation.

Other notable faces that attended that working dinner included Minister of Transport and Public Works who is also leader of the house in the national assembly Francis Kasaila, former first lady Patricia Dzimhiri, Juliana Lunguzi, Alekeni Menyani, Harry Thomson and Ralph Jooma among others.



Some of the Members of Parliament present at the meeting

Catholic Parliamentarians Celebrate Pre-festival Pentecost Mass

Written by Prince Henderson

The Parliamentary Liaison Office of the Episcopal Conference of Malawi (ECM) recently celebrated a Pre-festival Pentecost Mass with Catholic Members of Malawi Parliament and Cabinet Ministers from the Catholic Church.

Parliamentary Liaison Officer, Fr. Henry Chinkanda, presided the celebration, which was held at Parliament Buildings under the theme “Since we are living in the Spirit, let our behavior and actions be guided the same Spirit”.

“The theme of the celebration was taken from the letter of St. Paul to the Galatians 5: 25,” said Fr. Chinkanda elaborated the Christian symbols of the Holy Spirit such as fire, the hand and finger among others.

Fr. Chinkanda reminded the Parliamentarians that it was by

the finger of God that the electorate voted each one of them into Parliament and it must always be borne in mind that it is God himself who has chosen them as his servants to lead his people in this country.

“The Holy Spirit descended on the Jesus’ disciples in form of tongues of fire. Fire has a transformative power and indeed, Malawi today, more than ever before, needs transformative leadership that can steer the citizenry of this country from the trap of perpetual poverty and moral decadence,” he said.

Fr. Chinkanda prayed that the Politicians lean on the hand of the Lord so as to be guided by the Holy Spirit during their tenure of office for next four years to come.

He also stressed on the need for equitable distribution of resources as a theological reflection in view of the current budget session at Parliament.

AMECEA Challenges Catholic Communicators to embrace ICT

Written by Prince Henderson

Catholic Communicators including Communication Coordinators, Catholic Journalists and correspondents from the AMECEA region met in Nairobi, Kenya where His Lordship Bishop Charles Kasonde, Chairman for the AMECEA Social Communications, challenged them to embrace the use of Information Communication Technologies (ICT) for evangelization.

According to Bishop Kasonde, the workshop that aimed at creating a forum for accelerating the building of ICT infrastructures and capacities of AMECEA was crucial as it envisaged the empowerment of Catholic Communication coordinators and directors in the AMECEA region as well as the lay Catholic media practitioners and journalists in ICT skills and synergizing.

“It is time to evaluate where we have come from, where we are and how best we can move forward with our primary objective of information dissemination and sharing,” said Bishop Kasonde.

Right Rev. Kasonde, who is bishop of Solwezi Diocese in Zambia, also hinted on the need to devise the ICT policy for the AMECEA region which will later trickle down to the member

countries.

He said that the Catholic Church in AMECEA countries has numerous strategies of social-developmental pastoral activities, but due to ineffective ICT system and lack of proper policies guiding the system, the Church has found herself lagging behind in various fields as far as communication is concerned.

ferences and dioceses. The ICT policy would provide some guidelines to all the ICT activities at the Conference level and for the region, and help our officers’ in-charge of communication to design new media strategies in order to promote efforts evangelization,” he said.

The Bishop then challenged Catholic communicators and journalists to stand for the truth and



Catholic Communicators from the AMECEA Region

“During the 18th AMECEA Plenary held in Lilongwe, Malawi in July, 2014, Bishops of AMECEA resolved to establish ICT policy at the regional level that will trickle down to the con-

report issues fairly.

Participants to the workshop are drawn from the host Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan and South Sudan.

Malawi Holy Land Pilgrims to Depart June 17

By Francis Polinyu Banda, Catholic Journalist

A group of 47 pilgrims is expected leave the country on June 17 2015, on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in Israel, through Kamuzu International Airport KIA in Lilongwe.

rector of programs at Radio Maria Malawi challenged the people traveling on this pilgrimage to be prayerful.

“Intensify the daily prayers considering that this trip is not a tourism adventure but aimed at the deepening of faith,” he said.

On the same note Father Kimu requested the pilgrims to get at least

mittee of the trip Agnes Katsonga-Phiri called on fellow pilgrims to intensify prayers as they prepare for this journey of spiritual renewal.

Meanwhile, in a bid to ensure that members on this pilgrimage are well guided in their preparatory prayers, a small hand book of special intensive prayers for nine days (Novena) has been published.

The pilgrims will start observing these prayers from 8th to 16 June while the closing mass for the pilgrimage preparatory prayers will be held at St. Patrick’s parish in the morning of 17th June 2015 in Lilongwe.

Among the pilgrims are five priests and one nun who will have a chance to see holy places such as Cana of Galilee where Jesus Christ performed His first miracle according to the Gospel of St John, Bethlehem, the mountain of temptations, the river Jordan where Jesus was baptised, the mountain of transfiguration, the house of Elizabeth visited by Mary, and the tomb of Jesus among others.

This is the third pilgrimage after the 2011 and 2012 respectively



Pilgrims at the previous Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

According to Fr Joseph Kimu who is leading the group, preparations for the trip started way back in March this year, and all is set after all members have fulfilled payment of the required 900 thousand kwacha each, which is meant for transport, food and accommodation.

Father Kimu who is also the di-

two prayer petitions each to be dropped at the tomb of Jesus in the Holy Land.

He said that by going to the Holy Land, pilgrims would have a chance to see places of spiritual importance, where Jesus Christ performed various miracles memorable activities that are recorded in the Holy Bible.

Chairlady for the Central Com-

Radio Maria Malawi Raises Money for Transmitter

By Francis Polinyu Banda, Catholic Journalist

In a bid to extend its signals and coverage in the Southern region of Malawi, Radio Maria Malawi has raised over 1.8 million Malawi Kwacha for the installation of a transmitter at Mtengo Waung'ono hills in Thyolo district.

The money which is in the form of cash, pledges and airtime has been raised in three days of special programming dubbed Mariathona, which started from Friday 15th May to Sunday 17th May 2015.

Speaking at the closing mass for this drive at Radio Maria chapel on Monday 18th May, the National Director for Radio Maria Malawi, Fr Joseph Kimu thanked all well-wishers and people of goodwill who made various donations including cash which goes towards



ises so that the tower that will send a strong radio signal to Thyolo and the lower shire districts of Chikwawa and Nsanje is realised.

“In this project radio Maria Malawi needs 15 million Kwacha and has so far managed to raise approximately 1.8 million Kwacha after joining all the 70 radio Maria stations all over the world that were also in the same fund raising course for various projects,” he said.

In a separate interview, Radio Maria Malawi National Coordinator Innocent Mphanje, expressed optimism that the station is going to raise the required amount, saying “though the three days of special programming ended on Sunday, the station has left its doors opened for well wishers and people of goodwill to come forward with their support up to 27th June, 2015”.

Currently radio Maria Malawi requires transmission towers in Mzuzu, Nkhonkhotakota, and Karonga in the north of Malawi, and Thyolo in the South.



Rev. Fr. Joseph Kimu

the construction and installation project of the tower in the Southern district of Thyolo.

Fr. Kimu also appealed to those who have pledged their support to fulfill their prom-



Radio Maria House in Mangochi

UPCOMING EVENTS

ECM Plenary from
22nd - 26th June 2016

Official Launch of
Tumtufye Radio
of Karonga Diocese
on 4th July 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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