



Uganda Martyrs Catholic Community

28TH APRIL, 2013

“In Faith We Grow”

NEW COMMANDMENT, FRESH HEART, NEW LIFE!

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Dear Brethren,

Most of us are fascinated by everything that is new. New babies, new homes, new cars, new gadgets, new fashions, new menus, new jobs, new films, etc... We often get excited by everything new. We are eager to access, acquire, try out, experience, touch or be connected with all that is new! “Away with the old; in with the new!”

Today's liturgy of the word puts an emphasis on the new commandment of love (**John 13:34**), new heaven, new earth, new Jerusalem, new creation (**Revelation 21:1,5**) and new or fresh heart (**Acts 14:22**). The gospel recounts the mood of the Last Supper as Jesus bade farewell to his disciples. He gave them a new commandment to love one another as a mark of true discipleship. He exhorted them to think, speak, act and love like him. From love, everything good, noble, desirable, honourable springs to life and fruition. This is why St. Augustine says, “Love, then do whatever you want.” With love you are free to do anything because there is no harm from love.

The disciples made every effort to spread Christ's message of love. They established communities based on love. St. Paul and Barnabas went about preaching and “put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith” (**Acts 14:22**) despite the challenges, trials and sorrows of life. They did not focus on the difficulties, but on the goal of new life won by the risen Christ.

Today's Christians have the same duty and must follow suit. We have to put into practice Christ's new commandment in our ways of life, in our faith practice and in our dealings with one another. Our duty is to renew our hearts, revive our faith, renew our commitment to God and each other, rethink our mission in the world, seek new ways of evangelization, avail ourselves for service in the Church and in the community and be more actively involved in improving our socio-economic and political landscape.

All our efforts for renewal must be aimed at improving the quality of our life as we journey towards the new earth, new Jerusalem and new heaven. We are therefore invited to reflect more deeply about our Christian mission in the world, our depth of faith and love, and how these gospel values impact on our day to day life. Our Christian witness will be the benchmark for our discipleship. Empowered by Christ's new commandment we can develop fresh hearts and be able to lead the new life of the resurrection in the world and in the New Jerusalem. May the Spirit guide and support us in our efforts for renewal.

Fr. Gerard M. Balinnya
UMCC Chaplain

*UMCC advocates Love,
Peace and Friendship*



CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION TO ONE AND ALL!

In this newsletter I would like to thank mainly all the unsung heroes from our community who keep the Uganda Martyrs Catholic Community (UMCC) going. The UMCC would not exist without all of YOU members of our community. Our appreciation goes to our Choir, Liturgy Office and altar servers who continually embrace their roles with dedication and profound enthusiasm. Thanks to all volunteers involved in catering, entertainment, cleaning and all those other tasks, that sometimes go unnoticed. We recognise the UMCC Trustees and our Chaplain,

Fr. Gerard Balinnya, who have always steered the Community and provided guidance on matters pertaining to the strategic direction of the UMCC, as well as the Executive Committee who have shown a great spirit of togetherness and selflessness in service to the Community.

Special thanks go to Fr. Kevin of St. Gabriel's Parish for hosting the Community's events every month, and Fr. John Buckley for availing St. Francis de Sales Parish Hall for the monthly Executive Committee meetings. Our collaboration with our brethren from other communities especially Gildo Irwa and Daudi Okello in Dalston, Okusinza mu Luganda Waterloo, the Uganda High Commission and all those other secular organisations who continually work with the UMCC to promote our mission is valued.

We acknowledge Citizens UK for their unwavering support and guidance in matters of community building and nurturing, as well as the Chinese and the Congolese Communities in Islington with whom we share our facilities. We appreciate the Roman Catholic Dioceses of Brentwood, Westminster and Southwark, and the Uganda Episcopal Conference for their unwavering support and nurturing, and above all for giving us the space to worship and grow. May you all be blessed.

Robert Mukibi

UMCC Chairperson 2012-2013

YOUTH DAY CELEBRATIONS—2013—Joseph Kikomeko, Dorcas Kasozi (Youth committee)

The UMCC Annual Youth Day was held on Sunday 31st March 2013 at St. Gabriel's Church, Archway, starting with Easter Sunday Mass and prayer for Mothers as well as Women's Day and a get together dinner in the hall. The event was a relaxed, participatory gathering spiced with some presentations. The feedback from the attendees, both via a formal survey and post event conversations, indicated a very high level of satisfaction with the event.

Event Purpose

The intent of the youth day was to:

- Get to know each other more and share dreams, visions and goals as young people.
- Develop a shared understanding on the importance of networking among ourselves
- Seek different perspectives and opinions about what can be done to build stronger bonds for solidarity.
- Solicit ideas of possible next steps to build a vibrant youth club.

**Event Structure and Format**

We got involved in the Mass and Liam Ssekweyama played church music. We showcased our gifts and talents by providing entertainment through dances and skit performances, fun and games. The youth fund managed to raise £30 through the raffle draw.

Gratitude

On behalf of the entire youth team, we would like to send out our most warm appreciation to each and every individual who attended the youth day and particularly to all the youth that got involved in one way or the other. Thanks to our MC, Winnie



Nantege! Everything could not have happened single-handedly but rather as a team and as a community we managed to make the day a success. We are very proud of our achievement! **Thank you everyone!**

**APRIL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

Olivia Mukiibi (3rd)
Jordan Ssali (4th)
G.W. Kasibante (6th)
P. Fred M. Kyazze (6th)
Lydia K. Zzinga (16th)
Vincent Kigongo (23rd)
Margaret Hawkins (Apr)
Felicita Katende (Apr)

**APRIL WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

Mr Kizito & Mrs Edna Bukenya 24/04/1993 (20 yrs)
Mr Godfrey & Mrs Irene Ssekisonge 24/04/2004 (9 yrs)
Mr Charles L. & Mrs Olivia Kisaala 01/04/2007 (6yrs)
Mr Gerald & Mrs Grace K. Ssali 17/04/2010 (3yrs)
Congratulations, long live and happy marriage!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

6th May: Migrant Workers Mass at Westminster Cathedral, 10.30 am.
2nd June: Uganda Martyrs Day, St. Gabriel's, 3 pm.
29th June: Usual UMCC Day at St. Gabriel's, 3pm.
8th Sept: Walsingham Annual Pilgrimage
15th Sept: Pan-African Annual Mass, Southwark Cathedral, 2.30pm

AD MEMORIAM (MASS INTENTION)

Mrs. Tereza Pulle and family pray for the repose of the soul of the late **FRANCIS PULLE** (R.I. P. April 1998) on the occasion of his anniversary. May he rest in eternal peace. Amen.