



Uganda Martyrs Catholic Community

31ST MARCH, 2013

“In Faith We Grow”

COURAGE! HE IS RISEN!

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Dear Brethren,

This is indeed a special Easter celebration with the news of freshly-elected Pope Francis! The Church-wide chorus of this holy season is “He’s Risen As He Said. Alleluia!” and now accompanied by a joyful acclamation of “Habemus Papam”...**Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio** who took the name “**FRANCIS**” of Assisi. Since the unexpected announcement by Pope Benedict XVI that he was stepping down, there was a kind of mood akin to Holy Week! It was characterised by questions and uncertainty about the future. Why did he resign? Couldn’t he endure it like others before him? What will happen next? Who will be the next Pope? Where will he come from? Now that we have a new **Pope Francis**, some questions have finally been answered. The journey has begun and we do not know what the future holds for him and the whole Church. Some questions still remain.

Likewise, during Holy Week people asked questions: Why did Judas betray Jesus? Why didn’t the disciples put on a fight to save him? Why did they kill an innocent man? How did he rise? etc...! Some of the questions were answered by the **Resurrection of Jesus**! This is why we are celebrating this ‘feast of feasts’ in the Church because He’s Risen As He Said. Alleluia! We rejoice and are glad because Christ is alive and is with us till the end of time just as we rejoice and thank God for the gift of the new Pontiff, elected to take the chair of St. Peter to guide and lead us to our Father.

Christ, the Eternal Shepherd, came on earth to serve and show us the way to God. He embraced the cross with courage and became victorious. Pope Francis, in the footsteps of Christ, said in his first homily as Pope: “Without faith in Christ’s sacrifice on the cross, the church is nothing more than a ‘pitiful NGO. ...To walk, build and confess without the cross means that we are not true disciples of the Lord.” Thus he invited us to “have the courage to walk...with the cross of the Lord, to build the Church in the blood of the Lord, and to confess the only glory, Christ crucified. And in that way the Church will move ahead.” Powerful message!

As we celebrate Easter we thank the Risen Christ for his sacrifice on our behalf and pray for grace to lead a life of faith with courage, hope and fortitude. We pray for Pope Francis to lead the Church in holiness through humble service. May the Risen Lord bless his Church and lead us all to a glorious resurrection like his.

Fr. Gerard M. Balinnya

UMCC Chaplain

*UMCC advocates Love,
Peace and Friendship*

“HABEMUS PAPAM” Jorge Mario Bergoglio



POPE FRANCIS

Born Dec. 17th, 1936; 1957: Fell ill and his right lung was partially removed.

March 1958: Entered novitiate of Society of Jesus

1961-1963: Studied philosophy at San Miguel Seminary

1964-65: Taught school literature and psychology at Jesuit Secondary School

1967-70: Studied theology at San Miguel Seminary

Dec. 13, 1969: Ordained priest; 1971-73: Novice Master at Miguel Seminary

1973: Takes perpetual profession as Jesuit

1973-1979: Superior of Jesuit Province of Argentina and Uruguay

1979-1985: Rector of Colegio Maximo and theology teacher

1986: In Germany for doctoral studies

June 27, 1992: Ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Buenos Aires

June 3, 1997: Co-Adjutor Archbishop; Feb 28, 1998: Archbp. Buenos Aires

Feb 21, 2001: Elevated as Cardinal;

2005: Runner-up in conclave that elected Benedict XVI (was nearly Pope!)

2005-2011: President of Argentine Bishops Conference;

March 13, 2013: Elected Pope by 115 Cardinals. **Viva Papa!!**



CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends in Christ,

Jesus is risen as he promised. Let us all rejoice, Alleluia! A great welcome to you all to the Community Day March 2013 and I hope you all had a reflective Lenten period. A special welcome also to all the young people and those to be initiated into Christ's family through the Sacrament of Baptism.

March is a month packed with celebrations: 8th March— Women's Day and 17th March— Mothers Day! We thank and give honour to all of them! Undoubtedly, we have friends joining us for the first time, and to you I extend a very warm welcome. For the second year in succession, for practical purposes, we have brought forward the Youth Day celebrations to coincide with the Easter break.

Hope For the Youth

I am very conscious of the not so good economic climate in which we now operate. As for the youth especially of our community, this situation is even made worse by the lack of employment opportunities around. It is easy for anyone to tell you what you should and should not do, and I know that you have probably listened to all that has been said. I would like to add a simple message. Amidst all the noise and apparent despair around you, you need to listen to that inner voice of encouragement, and try to do the right thing. I will borrow some words from scripture where the Lord says, "*Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you*" (Jeremiah 1:4-5). This means you are so precious in God's eyes, and whatever may seem to happen (or not happen) around you, deep down you should know that you will be alright. Continue to focus on doing the right things, and all will fall in place. Feed and act on hope!

Being Young Is Good

Being young is brilliant! Now that is not to say that it does not come with its challenges. However, being young brings that feeling that you can conquer the world. I know that is a tall order, but really you can conquer "your" world. You can do anything that you put your mind to. Remember, your mind has enormous abilities, and you only need to be conscious of this power at your disposal, for you to move those mountains from your path. Use it wisely, and you will conquer **your** world.

What can we learn from the Youth?

For some of us that have passed the youthful age, there is a lot we can learn. The youth have tremendous energy and some of this can brush off onto us, who live close to this age group. Youthfulness gives hope, and anyone without hope will find it difficult to achieve anything. This hopefulness will give us that all important ingredient to enable us to carry through with all that we put our minds to.

Looking Ahead

Plans are still underway to celebrate Uganda Martyrs' Day here in Archway on Sunday 2nd June 2013. We will be communicating details soon. We will welcome your thoughts and prayers for the success of our endeavours. May God bless you all. Happy Easter!

Robert Mukiibi

(UMCC chairperson 2012/13)

WEDDING BELLS: The family of Mr & Mrs Hawkins and that of the late J.B. Nsubuga cordially invite UMCC members to the wedding of their children Roman K. Nsubuga and Samalie N. Kidde at Lubaga Cathedral on Sat. 6th April, 2013. Our prayers and best wishes for them!

MARCH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Marian Ssali	01/03/
Christopher Ssimwogerere	20/03/
Beatrice Nnanyanzi	24/03/
Flavia Namakula Kibuuka	29/03/
Pascal Sserunjogi Katende	29/03/

BAPTISMS:

We warmly welcome our newly baptized children into the Church family:

Elsie Cecilia Okure, Emilia Martha Okure (Cardiff)
Amari Joseph Jackson Shepherd (Sudbury)

MARCH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

John and Juliet Mutyaba: 24th Mar. 1979 = 34 years!

Christopher Ssaalongo Simwogerere & Agnes Nnaalongo
9th Mar. 1992 = 21years!!

Congratulations, happier marriage and long live!

Ad Memoriam

Julie Ssozi, Tina Ssozi, Rose Ssewali and Augustine Ssozi lovingly commemorate their father's anniversary, the late **Mr. John Chrysostom Ssozi** who passed away on 17th March, 1989. May he rest in peace.