

Pastoral Programme Newsletter

January 2025



Training Workshops for Women



From January 6 to 30, 2025, the Solidarity Pastoral Service Team, in collaboration with Sr. Guille Vásquez ACJ, successfully conducted a series of training workshops for 368 young women across six deaneries in CDTY and Western Equatoria State. The initiative, supported by Friends in Solidarity – USA, aimed to promote the social and economic empowerment of girls and women by equipping them with practical skills in modern agriculture, nutrition, water and sanitation, entrepreneurship, and vocational training. Workshops took place in Yambio, Nzara, Ave Maria, Ezo, Rimenzii, and Meridi, drawing participants from diverse backgrounds, including some who had never attended school. Despite age disparities, the sessions fostered active engagement, with older members often taking the lead in discussions. Hands-on training in baking, sewing, small

business setup, and home management proved particularly beneficial, giving the young women a pathway toward self-reliance. Additionally, spiritual and social support through group prayer, trauma healing, and leadership training helped build confidence and resilience among attendees. One of the workshop's most significant impacts was the formation of parish- and deanery-based women's groups to ensure ongoing support and mentorship. Gender awareness and leadership training sparked meaningful reflections on societal roles, further inspiring many to advocate for change in their communities. The initiative yielded tangible outcomes, including increased self-esteem, a stronger understanding of gender equity, and a desire for continued education and skill development. In response, organizers are planning follow-up training modules, incorporating advanced vocational skills and trauma healing activities.



Catechists Capacity Building Program Strengthens Faith Educators

The Catechist Capacity Building Programme organised by the Solidarity Pastoral Service Team in collaboration with the Archdiocesan Pastoral Office took place from 6 to 11 January 2025. Supported by Friends in Solidarity - USA, the workshop successfully brought together 63 catechists from six parishes in the Central Deanery of the Archdiocese of Juba.

The programme was designed to improve the pastoral, spiritual and psychological skills of the catechists, enabling them to serve their communities more effectively. Several essential topics were covered, including psychological self-help, vocation and identity, liturgy, sacraments, scriptures (Bible) and the spirituality of catechists. The sessions were led by distinguished facilitators: J. Alau, Fr. Clement Tombe, Fr. James Rombe, Fr. Hillary Morbe, Fr. Lawrence Lodu and Fr Clement Tombe.

The training used a participatory approach, combining lectures, group discussions, prayer sessions and practical exercises, which fostered collaboration and enabled the catechists to reflect on their role and mission in the Church.

The workshop was a success, although some critical issues were identified, such as limited access to training materials or language barriers, which highlight the importance of continuing to invest in the ongoing training of catechists to strengthen the Church's mission.



Empowering the economic and leadership skills of young women



The Solidarity Pastoral Service team, in cooperation with the Archdiocesan Pastoral Office and with the support of Missio Aachen, successfully conducted the second empowerment programme for young women in the Archdiocese of Juba. The initiative aimed to equip young women with leadership skills, economic awareness and entrepreneurial mindset to promote self-reliance.

The first workshop was held from 16 to 19 December 2024 at the Good Shepherd Peace Centre in Kit, bringing together 47 young women from nine parishes in the Central Deanery. The second session, held from 26 January to 31 January 2025, brought together 53 young women from three parishes in the Terekeka pastoral region. Participants engaged in interactive discussions,

group activities and sharing real-life experiences with experts and practitioners. The main topics covered were leadership, career guidance, entrepreneurship, communication, gender-based violence and trauma healing.

The programme created a supportive learning environment, allowing participants to share challenges and success stories.

The experience confirmed the importance of women's empowerment in building stronger communities. Encouraging young women to share their knowledge within their parishes also has a multiplier effect, extending the impact of the training beyond the workshop context.

With the success of this initiative, stakeholders hope to expand and sustain similar programmes, fostering a generation of empowered and responsible young women ready to contribute to the development of their families, community and Church.



Strengthening Mission Impact: Emanuela and Alice's Field Visit to South Sudan



In a significant mission visit to South Sudan, Emanuela, the Fundraising Director from the Rome Office, and Alice, the Fundraising Officer, arrived on January 29, 2025, to witness firsthand the impact of our services in the region. Their visit included engaging with catechists and participants of women empowerment programs, where they discussed the efficiency and impact of our work. Emanuela and Alice had the opportunity to meet with our local collaborators and partners, who are crucial in building the capacity of pastoral agents in the region. One of the highlights of their visit was a tour of the Buluk Blind School in Juba, where they interacted with

beneficiaries who have received psycho-social and spiritual support. This encounter allowed them to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by those in need and the positive changes brought about by our services. Additionally, the delegation visited the Protection of Civilian (PoC) refugees camp in Jebel, where our team is actively working to assist citizens, youth, children, and school students in overcoming trauma.

We express our sincere thanks to Emanuela and Alice for their visit, support, and dedication to advancing our mission in South Sudan. Their visit not only provided valuable insights into the work being done but also reinforced our commitment to serving those in need across the region.

