

Pastoral Programme Newsletter

May 2025



Training on Small Christian Communities in Torit

A five-day training course on Small Christian Communities (SCCs) was successfully held in Torit from 29 April to 3 May 2025. The initiative, organized by the Solidarity pastoral team in collaboration with the Diocesan pastoral team and supported by Missio München, brought together 57 participants from different parishes.

Led by Father Christy John, CMF, participants deepened their understanding of SCCs, reflecting on the social and pastoral realities of their parishes to identify their potential for growth. The course provided a clear explanation of the role of SCCs in building vibrant ecclesial communities and introduced the seven steps of sharing the Gospel as a method of spiritual nourishment. The interactive nature of the sessions allowed for an exchange of experiences, culminating in renewed enthusiasm and commitment on the part of participants to promote SCCs in their communities. This workshop strengthened collaboration among pastoral agents and provided concrete tools for grassroots evangelization.



Reviving SCCs in the Diocese of Wau



The Solidarity Pastoral Team, in collaboration with the Diocesan Pastoral Team and with the generous support of Missio München, successfully conducted five sabbatical seminars on Small Christian Communities (SCCs) in various parishes of the Diocese of Wau. The seminars took place in the Comboni Parish (15 February – 60 participants), the parish of St Joseph the Worker (22 February – 6 participants), St Mary's Cathedral (12 April – 44 participants), the parish of the Holy Family (26 April – 21 participants) and PALICA with the Catholic Men Association (3 May – 63 participants), reaching a total of 194 participants. Participants shared how the SCCs fostered better mutual understanding, a deeper understanding of the Word of God and a sense of unity, strengthening families and contributing to the

growth of the Church. Feedback was extremely positive, with a strong desire to continue the journey and a follow-up workshop planned for SCC leaders.

Strengthening Faith and Healing Wounds in Bor

From 4th to 17th May 2025, a two-week Catechists Training was held for 28 participants from the Bor Pastoral Region in the Diocese of Malakal, Jonglei State.

Facilitated by the Solidarity Pastoral Service Team under the leadership of Fr. Emmanuel, Director of Solidarity Pastoral Service, and generously supported by Missio München, the training offered comprehensive formation covering the entire catechism syllabus. In addition to deepening their theological knowledge and pastoral skills, the catechists also took part in Trauma Healing

sessions, allowing for personal renewal and equipping them to accompany others who are struggling with emotional and spiritual wounds. On the final day, the Bishop of the Diocese paid a pastoral visit to the group. Addressing the catechists, he said: "You are the backbone of evangelization in our communities. Your dedication and willingness to learn and serve, even in the face of adversity, is a true sign of faith and hope. I thank Solidarity and Missio München for walking with us."

The visit uplifted the participants and affirmed the importance of their mission. One of the catechists shared:

"This training has opened my eyes to the depth of our faith and healed parts of my heart I had forgotten were wounded. I now return home with strength to serve and to help others heal."

This training not only formed new catechetical leaders but also renewed the spirit of the Church in the Bor Pastoral Region. It is a clear testimony of collaboration, compassion, and commitment to building a Church that heals and evangelizes.



Catechists Undergo Phase One Training in Torit Diocese

From 18 to 24 May 2025, the Diocese of Torit successfully hosted the first phase of a training programme for catechists, with 68 participants. Organized by the Solidarity Pastoral Service Team in collaboration with the Diocesan Pastoral Team and supported by Missio München, the initiative aims to strengthen the identity, spirituality and pastoral effectiveness of catechists.

The course covered topics such as the vocation of the catechist, spirituality, Catholic moral teaching and catechesis on the Prophets. John Bosco Lodu, a catechist from Holy Rosary, shared, "This training helped me realize that being a catechist is a full-time witness, not just a Sunday role." Mary Angela Ibitu from Sts. Peter and Paul said, "I now see the prophetic role of a catechist—to speak truth with love even in difficult times."



Fr. Anthony Odoemelam MSP, the Parish Priest of Holy Rosary, praised the participants' dedication and the strong collaboration among partners. "This first phase laid a solid foundation. We look forward to continuing the journey in the next phases," he said.

The next two phases will further deepen the training to strengthen catechists as agents of evangelization and peace in South Sudan.

Peace Trophy 2025 Ends in Glory and Unity

The 5th edition of the Peace Trophy kicked off on 5th April and concluded on 25th May 2025.

Twelve teams battled for the title, with over 800 spectators cheering throughout the tournament. The final match saw Apostles of Jesus edge past Rajjaff FC with a 1-0 victory. The tournament aimed to bring together the youth of the area through football and promote peace. It was not just about winning, but about building friendships and unity across communities. Paul Lado, the player-manager of Apostles of Jesus, said, "We played for peace, not just the trophy." He added, "Every goal reminded us that we can come together despite our differences."



Spectator Martha Nyibol shared, "I saw young people laughing, hugging, and sharing – it gave us hope." She said the tournament brought joy to many families and helped strengthen community spirit.

The 2025 Peace Trophy continues the legacy of previous champions: Rajjaff (2021), Good Shepherd (2022), Kit United (2023), and Apostles of Jesus (2024).

This year's tournament was well-organized, lively, and full of talent. Young players demonstrated skill, discipline, and sportsmanship throughout the games. The prize-giving ceremony celebrated more than football – it celebrated peace and youth empowerment.

Plans are already underway for the 2026 edition, with hopes of expanding the event even further. We are very thankful to Friends In Solidarity – USA for supporting us to have this tournament very successful.



Laudato Si Week celebrations

As part of the global Laudato Si Week celebrations, Kit and Martin de Porres School hosted a vibrant program on 29th May 2025, aimed at raising environmental awareness among students. The initiative was spearheaded by Sr. Guille Vasquez Rubinos, a committed member of the Solidarity Pastoral Service, who organized a series of activities inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home.



One of the key highlights was a one-day workshop where students explored the core messages of Laudato Si, reflected on the ecological challenges affecting their communities, and learned practical steps they can take to care for the environment. The workshop concluded with students developing a concrete Action Plan, demonstrating their commitment to being young stewards of creation. Their proposals included initiatives such as waste segregation, tree planting, water conservation, and environmental awareness campaigns within the school and surrounding areas. The event not only deepened the children's understanding of ecological justice but also empowered them to become agents of positive change in their communities.