

Pastoral Programme Newsletter

September 2025



Success for the YCS Conference in Kit

From 6 to 11 September 2025, St. Augustine Memorial Secondary School in Kit hosted the Archdiocesan and National “Empowering Students’ Leadership for a Peaceful and Sustainable Future – Together for a Peaceful Society through YCS.”

The event, generously supported by Friends in Solidarity, USA, brought together 250 participants from the Archdiocese and the Dioceses of Torit and Yei. The meeting was a joyful and deeply transformative experience. The young people actively participated in sessions, reflections and intense community life, enriching their faith and friendship through prayers, praises, cultural evenings and Bible discussions.



The conference covered a wide range of formative topics, including:

- Communication and its impact
- Christian morality and substance use
- Behaviour change and career guidance
- Leadership and good governance
- The role and vocation of Christian youth/students in the Church today
- Secrecy and spirituality of the human person
- Youth and psycho-social support
- Project writing and strategic planning
- Climate change and environmental care (Laudato Si')

Many students expressed a renewed commitment to live as responsible leaders, peacemakers and stewards of creation

Empowering Women in Tali

From 15th to 22nd September 2025, thanks to the support of the Sisters of Mercy, Americas,, two workshops were held in Tali for young and older women, creating a space for reflection, spirituality, and leadership.

The sessions focused on self-esteem, gender identity, care for creation, and teamwork. The young women (40 participants, ages 19–26) engaged with creativity and energy, while the older women (28 participants, many from the Legion of Mary) brought depth, commitment, and practical wisdom. Both groups made concrete commitments: to value their dignity as children of God, to strengthen women's



groups, and to protect the environment through small but significant actions. Despite some logistical challenges, the warm hospitality of the sisters and the active participation of the women made the workshops a great success. It was certainly a source of deep inspiration and renewed commitment for the participants. Many found a deeper sense of self-worth and purpose. One young participant shared their breakthrough: "I discovered that I have gifts I never valued before, and now I want to use them for my community."

The focus on sustainability clearly resonated, motivating behavioral change at home. An adult woman noted, "The teaching on caring for nature touched me. I will reuse plastic and save water at home."

For those rooted in faith, the communal aspect offered powerful spiritual renewal. A member of the Legion of Mary expressed, "Praying together gave me strength. I feel encouraged to support other women in my parish." Finally, the sense of unity fostered a collective vision for the future, with another youth participant affirming, "It was good to meet as young women and know we can continue together."

Holy Rosary: Recollection for the Family Jubilee



As part of the Jubilee Year, Holy Rosary Parish organized a one-day Family Reflection and Recollection Seminar with the theme "Walking Together as Families of Hope: Building Faith, Peace, and Love in South Sudan." The session was conducted by Fr. Christy John CMF, who guided participants in prayer, reflection, and teaching on the role of families as "domestic churches" and "oases of hope" in society. Drawing from Joshua 24:15 ("As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord"), Fr. Christy emphasized that Christian families are called to be witnesses of faith, forgiveness, and peace in their communities. He invited families to deepen their commitment to daily prayer, reconciliation, and passing on the faith to children, especially in the face of hardships such as conflict,

poverty, and displacement. Two talks highlighted the day: Pilgrimage of Hope in the Christian Life – reminding families that God walks with them in every trial and joy; the Christian Family as a School of Hope and Peace – showing practical ways families can nurture peace, love, and unity in their homes and communities.

The recollection drew 97 participants, who engaged in discussions, prayer, and moments of silence for renewal. Many expressed gratitude for the opportunity to come together as families to strengthen their faith and commitment to God. The day concluded with a strong reaffirmation of the words of Joshua: "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Youth Ecumenical Workshop on Laudato Si'



From September 25th to 29th, 2025, an ecumenical and interfaith youth workshop was held in collaboration with the Archdiocesan Justice and Peace Commission, bringing together 75 participants from diverse faith-based groups and parishes across South Sudan.

The program, supported by friends in Solidarity USA, centered on the theme of justice, peace, and care for creation in the spirit of Laudato Si'. Sessions included reflections on global and local realities of injustice, environmental concerns in South Sudan, and the call of faith to peace and reconciliation. Facilitators guided participants through the SEE – JUDGE – ACT methodology, linking Catholic Social

Teaching and the encyclical Laudato Si' to the lived experiences of youth. Special emphasis was placed on the seven goals of Laudato Si', environmental justice, and storytelling as a way of healing and sharing. A crucial theme was "The Role of Youth in Changing Society" that inspired participants to see themselves as leaders of today, capable of shaping a just and sustainable future.

The gathering drew participants from numerous different Christian denominations and parishes.

Participants expressed their joy in coming together as one family of faith. "We were happy to sit, pray, and learn together despite our differences," shared one participant. Another added, "This workshop showed us that caring for creation unites us all." A third noted, "Our diversity became our strength—we discovered we have the same dreams for peace."

Peacebuilding and Role of Catechists

From 8th to 12th September 2025, the Pastoral Office of the Bishop's Conference of South Sudan organized a workshop in the Diocese of Malakal on the theme: "The Role of Catechists in Peacebuilding in Pastoral Communities."

The five-day program brought together 45 participants, both men and women, representing different parishes and committees in Malakal town. The majority of participants came from the Protection of Civilians (POC) camp, while some catechists were unable to attend due to the prevailing security situation.

The sessions focused on key areas essential for community healing and peace: Peace, forgiveness, and



reconciliation; Trauma healing; The role of the Church in mental health and restoring peace; Practical body-based exercises for releasing trauma tensions.

These activities not only strengthened participants' resilience but also equipped them to support their communities in overcoming the wounds of conflict.

The workshop was facilitated by Fr. Emmanuel Tredou, M.Afr., from the Solidarity Pastoral Team, who guided the participants through the interactive sessions. The program was highly appreciated, as it offered both spiritual and practical tools for healing and peacebuilding in the diocese.

