

Pastoral Programme Newsletter

October 2025



Rising from the Ashes: Women Find Healing and Hope

From 1st to 16th October 2025, more than 250 women from across the five deaneries of the Diocese of Tombura-Yambio took part in a remarkable journey of transformation. With the generous support of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, the Women Empowerment Program is helping women who once carried deep wounds of war, loss, and trauma to rediscover their strength and rebuild their lives. This program was not just about learning new skills — it was about healing, dignity, and new beginnings. It followed an earlier initiative that guided many through emotional and spiritual recovery from their painful pasts. Now, with hope rekindled, the women are learning practical ways to sustain themselves and their families. Each gathering was filled with laughter, the smell of freshly baked bread, and the joy of discovery. Participants learned the art of cookery and baking — preparing bread, cakes, and cookies — skills that many have already begun turning into small home businesses.



“When I first came to the training, I still felt the weight of everything I had lost,” shared Maria from Nzara Deanery. “But as we baked together, I felt something changing inside me. I realized I could start again.” Grace from Riimenze Deanery said with a smile, “In the past, I never imagined I could stand in front of people and share my ideas. But this program gave me confidence and a reason to dream again.” For Juliana from Ezo Deanery, the program brought a sense of unity: “We came from different parishes, but now we are one family of women who believe in each other. We will not go back to silence, we will move forward together.” At the end of the program, the women expressed deep gratitude to the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas and to the Diocese of Tombura-Yambio: what began as a journey of healing has now become a movement of hope — women standing tall, baking not just bread, but a future full of faith, dignity, and possibility.

Holy Rosary Parish – Confirmation Seminar

A total of 192 confirmation candidates from Holy Rosary Church participated actively in a one-day seminar held on October 3, 2025, under the theme “Meeting Jesus in the Sacraments.”

The day’s sessions helped the children deepen their understanding of the sacraments as encounters with Christ, who continues to act in the Church today. Key topics included Christ’s saving work, the role of the Holy Spirit, apostolic succession, and the meaning of grace in the sacraments. Participants also reflected on how God the Father is the source of all blessings and how the Church at prayer unites believers in worship.

Through interactive discussions and prayer, the children grew in faith and readiness to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The seminar concluded with great joy and enthusiasm, as participants expressed their commitment to live as true witnesses of Christ in their families, Church, and community.



Formation week strengthens faith and renews zeal for mission



From 12th to 18th October, 56 catechists from seven parishes of the Eastern Deanery of the Archdiocese of Juba gathered for a week-long formation workshop that rekindled their zeal and deepened their understanding of their missionary vocation. The participating parishes included St. Matthew (Lobonok), St. Thomas the Apostle, St. Charles Lwanga (Lokiliri), St. Joseph the Worker (Lirya), Holy Cross, St. Vincent (Gumbo), and All Saints Church (Rajaf). Supported by the Koch Foundation, the workshop focused on holistic formation under the key themes of Psycho-Social-Spiritual Support, the Synod on Synodality, Catechists’

Identity and Vocation, Moral Life of the Catechist (Practical), Spirituality of the Catechist (Practical Issues), Liturgy, and the Sacraments. The sessions were designed to strengthen the faith, competence, and pastoral sensitivity of catechists who serve as vital collaborators in the Church’s mission. Throughout the week, participants engaged actively in discussions, group work, and prayer moments that encouraged both personal reflection and community building. Many catechists shared that the program had opened their eyes to new ways of living their faith and supporting others in times of difficulty.

One participant noted, “This training has helped me understand that being a catechist is not just about teaching the faith but also about accompanying people with compassion and hope.”

During the workshop, Fr. Hyacinthe Loua, SJ, the Executive Director – Solidarity with South Sudan, had the opportunity to meet and interact with the catechists. His presence brought encouragement and inspiration, as he affirmed their vital contribution to the evangelizing mission of the Church and appreciated their dedication amid many pastoral challenges. The catechists emphasized the need for more regular training opportunities, saying that ongoing learning and sharing greatly enhance their service and renew their enthusiasm for evangelization. As the week concluded, a spirit of joy and renewed commitment filled the group. The catechists returned to their parishes inspired to put into practice what they had learned – to serve with greater love, unity, and dedication as witnesses of Christ in their communities.

Solidarity Annual General Assembly 2025

Juba, 20–25 October 2025 – Members of Solidarity with South Sudan (SWSS) gathered for their Annual General Assembly under the theme “Toward a New Paradigm in the New Context”. The week-long assembly provided space for reflection, shared experiences, and collaborative planning for the future of Solidarity’s mission in South Sudan.

The assembly explored Solidarity’s journey from its founding vision to its current identity and mission. Members shared personal stories of inspiration, challenges, and commitment, reconnecting with the passion that brought them into the mission.

Fr. Christy John CMF, representing the Solidarity Pastoral Service Team, presented a key reflection on “The Identity

and Mission of Solidarity with South Sudan”, highlighting the organization’s dual role as a Church initiative and a responsive service to local communities. His presentation sparked lively discussions on how Solidarity can grow, adapt, and transition leadership to South Sudanese personnel in the future. Daily Masses, personal meditation, and group reflections strengthened the spiritual dimension of the assembly. Participants also reviewed operational matters such as project mobility, recruitment, and resources, ensuring that Solidarity’s work continues to meet the needs of South Sudanese communities.

The assembly ended with a day of recollection focused on the Contemplation of the Resurrection and a Mass of thanksgiving celebrated by Bishop Santo Loku Pio Doggale, Auxiliary Bishop of Juba. Members left the assembly renewed, motivated, and united in their shared mission of collaboration, service, and hope for South Sudan.

