



Girls' Self-Empowerment and Capacity Building Program

From 18 to 30 January 2026, the pastoral region of Terekeka, in the Archdiocese of Juba, hosted two intensive training programmes dedicated to the empowerment and capacity building of women. Both initiatives, led by Sr. Guille ACJ with the support of the Hilton Fund, involved a total of over 70 participants from local parishes, addressing crucial issues such as self-esteem, ecofeminism, spiritual leadership and gender dignity.

The programme brought about a profound personal transformation, as recounted by a young participant in the first session: "I now understand my value and feel more confident to speak and make responsible choices". This awareness was also confirmed during the second session, where one participant added: "This program helped me rediscover my value as a woman and gave me courage to speak, act, and support my family with confidence".



The training did not only touch on practical matters, but also delved deeply into psycho-spiritual identity: "I learned that empowerment begins within—when we know who we are before God, we can stand strong even in difficulties", emphasized one of the women present. The enthusiasm and openness of the participants were praised by Sr. Guille ACJ, who observed: "The women showed deep desire to grow—not only economically, but also spiritually and relationally. Their commitment gives hope for stronger families and parishes."

The series of meetings concluded with the solemn commitment of the participants to promote what they had learned in their own communities.

The programme was welcomed with gratitude by the Parish Priest of the Terekeka Pastoral Region and the Diocesan Pastoral Coordinator, as it





helped women become more confident contributors to parish life and peace-building at the grassroots level, in line the Church's mission of integral human development in the Archdiocese of Juba. The initiative marks a meaningful step in strengthening women's capacity, faith, and leadership, and it reaffirms the Church's commitment to walking with women as key agents of transformation in South Sudan.

Five-Day Youth Leadership Training in the Diocese of Torit

From 26 to 31 January 2026, the Diocese of Torit hosted the Diocesan Youth Leadership Conference, bringing together 96 participants under the theme: 'Called to Lead and Serve with Creativity and Commitment'.

The programme, facilitated by Fr. Christy John CMF of Solidarity Pastoral Service in collaboration with the Diocesan Youth Chaplain, was supported by Missio München and marked a historic step for the diocese: the systematic revision of the Diocesan Youth Constitution.

Each evening, participants engaged in a systematic, point-by-point review of the constitution, ensuring ownership and shared responsibility. The revised draft has now been submitted to the Bishop for approval.

The training was structured through a dynamic experiential approach aimed at strengthening planning, administration and teamwork skills. Through practical and symbolic exercises such as the "Tower Challenge", "Blindfolded Navigation" or the "Leadership Rotation" game, participants tackled complex problem-solving scenarios, such as the desert survival test or the "Human Knot".

These activities, followed by reflection and sharing



circles based on Gospel values, allowed the young people to connect real-life challenges with leadership centred on service and responsibility. The impact of the training is evident in the words of the young people: "This conference helped me understand that leadership is about serving others with responsibility and humility", shared one participant. Another added: "Working in teams taught us patience, trust, and unity. We are now ready to serve our parishes better." Fr. Christy John CMF highlighted the maturity shown by the young people: "The youth demonstrated remarkable energy, openness, and commitment. Their serious engagement in reviewing the Youth Constitution reflects growing maturity and readiness to lead." The conference concluded with a Eucharistic celebration presided over by the Bishop of Torit, Monsignor Emmanuel Bernardino Lowi Napter, who accompanied the young people throughout the programme, urging them to become agents of unity and peace in their communities.

