

# STTC Newsletter - April 2026

Solidarity Teacher Training College, Yambio, South Sudan



## Easter at STTC

STTC had an Easter break from Holy Thursday till Easter Monday. Tutors could celebrate the great feast with their families and students were free and very eager to participate fully in Paschal Triduum Liturgy. Some joined the catholic community in Saint Augustine Parish, some prayed in St. Mary's Cathedral Church. On Good Friday earlier in the morning most of the students joined the big crowd of people of Yambio city and walked the long distance reflecting on the station of the Cross and praying for peace in South Sudan and in our world. The experience was deeply touching and meaningful.

Easter vigil was prolonged into the night, and ended with lots of joy, singing and dancing.

On Easter Sunday after the Holy Mass, students organized themselves to slaughter the goat and cook delicious food. We all shared the meals happily. In the evening there was a disco dance in the College and of course beautiful snacks, drinks and Easter cake. It was indeed a very cheerful and prayerful Easter celebration. We experienced the Risen Lord in our midst. ALLELUIA!



Mr. Steinmetz and Ms. Mania expressed their admiration for the positive atmosphere at STTC and indicated that Caritas Austria is likely to renew its financial support for the college in the coming years.

## Courtesy Visit from Caritas Austria

On Tuesday, March 24, 2026, the Solidarity Teacher Training College (STTC) was honoured to welcome two representatives from Caritas Austria: Mr. Moritz Steinmetz and Ms. Grace Mania.

The principal warmly received the visitors, and over tea and biscuits they shared a cordial conversation before touring the college. Their visit included classroom interactions with students and concluded with a stop at the library, which served as the highlight of the day.

## Four full months in STTC-My first impressions



I arrived at Solidarity Teacher Training College on February 2, 2026, to a warm welcome. The fear and apprehension I had vanished as I noticed well build security men at the gate. The senior students showed me great hospitality and welcome. The neatness and attractiveness of the environment took my breath away. I realized I was in an environment ideal for learning as a trainee.

As I began to settle and to 'catch up' with friends and classmates, I also started to make a mental shift from home to school by getting prepared for the many school activities that were planned for the first few weeks.

The facilities in the college are first class: clean water, interrupted electricity, medical service, healthy food, excellent sanitation, pastoral and spiritual care, etc. There is quality teaching going on here. Our tutors are all professionally qualified in their various disciplines. In my few months here, my confidence has already improved, my capacity for understanding, critical thinking, my creativity, and my faith.

STTC is too good to be true! What happens here has exceeded my wildest expectations. This is my second home! Any challenges I have are unparalleled with the opportunities at my disposal here in this college.

Ms. Grace Nako (PS1B)

## Update from STTC Inservice, Wau

The Inservice trainees in Wau have now completed their first mid-term and are gradually settling into the challenges of the program.

On Friday, 17th April, we held our Easter celebration, which included a special Eucharist presided over by Fr. Francis Anthony, a Salesian priest. In his reflection on the Gospel of the multiplication, Fr. Francis encouraged the students to remain consistent and to persevere despite limited resources. He reminded them that even the little they have—whether in terms of materials or financial support—can be used by God to become something greater and sufficient for all.

The celebration concluded on a joyful note, with the trainees sharing a snack after Mass. Each participant also received a Rosary.



## Strengthening Teacher Education in South Sudan



Sr Dolores Alphonso (Inservice Wau), Tutor Emmanuel Apiku and Sr Jacinta Prunty (Yambio) represented STTC at a two-day workshop 8-9 April 2026 held in Juba as part of an ambitious Ministry of General Education and Instruction project that has as one component, to strengthen Preservice and Inservice teacher training in South Sudan. Funded by the World Bank, the Curriculum development unit of Kenyatta University is to revise the common teacher training curriculum of 2015 (University of Juba), considering the ITT Syllabus and Guidance published in 2020 for the Ministry by the UK Curriculum Foundation. This will, we trust, result in an updated curriculum across the national teacher training institutes.



There are many strands to this project of 'Building Skills for Human Capital Development in South Sudan' but it is the curriculum business that is of pressing interest to STTC. We are serious contributors to this important work and happy to be involved alongside colleagues from the other teacher training institutes in South Sudan, the Curriculum Development unit and the Teacher Development and Management Services of the Ministry, the University of Juba, and the curriculum experts from Kenyatta University.



One immediate follow-up of our time in Juba was the arrival of a team jointly from the National Ministry of General Education and Instruction in Juba and the state Ministry for Western Equatoria to undertake questionnaire surveys and 'key informant interviews' with the teaching staff of STTC. It was the first time the two MoGEI officers were inside the compound of STTC. They were impressed and encouraged by all they saw and heard. The World Bank-funded project ends early in 2028, so we expect the momentum to build up over the coming months, with further meetings both in Juba and Yambio, involving all our tutors and those in Wau.

### Mrs. Agnes Prunty, RIP

On the first week of this month, we received the sad news of the passing of Sr. Jacinta's mother, Mrs. Agnes Prunty, at the age of ninety-four. On behalf of the college, the principal conveyed heartfelt condolences to the Prunty family.

Mrs. Prunty will be fondly remembered at STTC for the many ways she supported our mission. We continue to stand in solidarity with Sr. Jacinta, her siblings, and the extended Prunty family as they mourn her loss and celebrate her remarkable life



## The Sacrament of Christian Initiation at STTC

On Wednesday 15th April 2026, STTC witnessed the celebration of Christian Initiation. The celebration was presided over by Rt. Rev. Barani Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala, of the Catholic Diocese of Tombura-Yambio.

The candidates for the Sacraments were six teacher trainees of STTC who expressed the desire to receive the Sacraments or freely join the Catholic Faith. Two candidates (Simon and Venancio) received the three Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, whilst two others (Monica and Scovia), baptized in the Anglican Church, were received and welcomed to the Catholic Church and received the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. Yet another two (Rezig Justin and Paul Kukudo) received the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. This event was preceded by a period of preparation/formation in many aspects of Catholic Faith which included prayers, Liturgy, Sacraments, Commandments, among others.

This was the first of its kind in the history of STTC and served as a clear testament to the commitment of STTC to offer holistic training to the teacher trainees. The college is grateful to the Pastoral Team headed by Sr. Sherly George and assisted by Fr. Louis Nviekama for the work and energy they put into preparing the young men and women towards this Christian Initiation. We hope others will be inspired to take the plunge and become full-fledged Catholics. To God be the glory!

