Pastoral Programme
Newsletter

September - October 2026






Journey of Grace and Stewardship: Highlights from the RSASS Annual General Assembly

The Religious Superiors' Association of South Sudan (RSASS) successfully held its Annual General Assembly. During the meeting, Fr. Christy John, CMF, presented the progressive and financial report of the Solidarity Pastoral Team.
RSASS President Fr. Grego, MCCJ, alongside Fr. John Lobola (Apostles of Jesus), expressed heartfelt gratitude for the team's dedicated service, highlighting their transparent stewardship and unwavering support as a vital pillar of hope for religious communities across the country. Additionally, the Good Shepherd Peace Center demonstrated solid institutional stability and prudent budget execution, maintaining high standards of accountability despite ongoing macroeconomic challenges.



From Threads to Triumph: Bor Parish Women Weave a New Path of Healing and Resilience



Woven with skill and wrapped in grace, the women of Bor Parish are transforming past scars into a future rooted in hope. Building directly on the successful completion of a six-month sewing project, 44 participants (predominantly young women aged 21 to 35) gathered from September 14th to 19th, 2026, for a transformative 5-day Trauma Healing Workshop supported by SSND. Led by Sr. Guille and the pastoral team, this continuous phase expanded far beyond practical handcrafts to mend the invisible wounds of conflict, displacement, and personal hardship.

A cornerstone of this workshop was the integration of Capacitar body-mind practices, an approach specifically designed to help participants release emotional and physical disturbance stored in the body. Through practical grounding, body awareness, and relaxation exercises, the women learned accessible self-care techniques to regulate stress, restore energy, and build daily personal resilience.
Blending elements of self-awareness, Christian faith, and ecofeminism, the workshop offered a safe, trusting space for participants to unpack personal and collective trauma through storytelling, reflective dialogue, and creative expression. A unique highlight was the active co-leadership of three young women from previous workshops, who served as peer mentors to guide and support their fellow participants throughout the journey.
Reaching over 85% of its core objectives, the program fostered deep emotional release—symbolized powerfully by a ritual burning of fears and painful memories—while establishing local support networks and action plans for community healing. Bor Parish continues to stitch together a resilient community where dignity, faith, and mutual support thrive.

Rekindling the sacred fire: Annual General Assembly in Kit



The Solidarity with South Sudan (SwSS) Annual General Assembly (AGA) 2026 in South Sudan successfully convened from 5th to 9th October 2026 at the Good Shepherd Peace Centre in Kit, concluding with a strong sense of spiritual renewal, enthusiastic participation, and a visionary commitment to the future. Bringing together religious members, pastoral teams, and leadership from across the country, the gathering offered a profound opportunity for reflection and strategic planning.
To anchor the assembly in grace rather than mere administration, Fr. Christy John, CMF, guided participants through a day of recollection centered on rekindling the mission's founding charism and listening to the Spirit into tomorrow. Drawing inspiration from the Emmaus road, the team reflected on moving beyond numerical metrics toward genuine spiritual discernment and listening to the quiet, transformative work within local communities.
Through a comprehensive evaluation structured around the Seed, Weed, and Deed framework, the pastoral team celebrated major recent achievements, including the formation of 2,644 pastoral agents across eight dioceses and trauma healing for over 1,166 participants in recent years, and the continued empowerment of women through leadership initiatives and table banking.

At the same time, the assembly candidly addressed structural hurdles, such as declining donor revenues amid hyperinflation, coordination gaps, and an over-reliance on short-term workshops. As a key strategic outcome, SwSS committed to a decisive shift toward long-term, institutionalized pastoral formation—implementing structured 3-to-6-month modules, local-language catechetical syllabi, and mandatory diocesan cost-sharing models to build lasting self-reliance. Filled with joy and a renewed sense of purpose, participants stepped forward ready to build a resilient local Church in South Sudan.
“The fire is not gone; it is waiting beneath the ash of our busyness to be stirred into flame once more.”



South Sudan Stands United Against Human Trafficking

On October 19, 2026, the Solidarity Pastoral Service Team in Kit, Juba, hosted a powerful Trafficking in Persons (TIP) campaign dedicated to safeguarding human dignity and building community resilience. Spearheaded by the Institute for Healing of Memories (IHOM) in close partnership with Solidarity with South Sudan, the South Sudan Youth Union, and the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND), the gathering brought together local leaders, experts, educators, and youth.



The event opened with a spiritual grounding by Fr. Christy John, CMF, who emphasized that every person possesses inherent sacred value (Imago Dei) and called for a whole-of-society response against modern-day exploitation. Keynote speaker Hon. Josephine Achiro delivered a comprehensive breakdown of the toll of human trafficking, outlining its root causes and introducing the essential 4 Ps framework—Protection, Prosecution, Prevention, and Protest. Throughout the day, expert facilitators and panelists guided discussions on regional transit risks, conflict displacement, and cultural pressures.





A central highlight was the screening of an educational documentary followed by an engaging, student-led discussion with attendees from Brother Augustine Memorial College-Kit. Students actively brainstormed peer-to-peer warning networks, asked critical questions about deceptive overseas job offers, and explored ways to protect vulnerable youth. The event also featured vibrant cultural performances, traditional dances from the Acholi, Shilluk, Nuer, and Madari communities, and powerful student dramas depicting resilience and the legacy of St. Josephine Bakhita, while participants marched with compelling placards carrying slogans such as "Our People Are Not for Sale!".

At the conclusion of the programme, Sr. Guille Vasquez Rubinos, ACJ, representing the Solidarity Pastoral Services Team, expressed deep gratitude to IHOM, facilitators, cultural groups, and the Good Shepherd Peace Centre. She encouraged the young participants to carry the message beyond the event, becoming active agents of awareness, protection, prevention, and hope to build a safer, more resilient South Sudan.

From Pain to Peace: IHOM Workshop Empowers Individuals to Begin Their Healing Journeys



n October 2026, the Institute for Healing of Memories (IHOM) hosted a transformative workshop at Kit, Juba, bringing together participants from Central Equatoria, Jonglei, and Western Equatoria. Designed for individuals carrying the heavy psychological burdens of South Sudan's past and ongoing conflicts, the program provided a vital sanctuary to confront, express, and begin working through personal wounds.

Many attendees arrived carrying deep-seated grief, fear, and unresolved trauma. Through guided sessions, they were able to voice painful memories—ranging from the loss of loved ones to childhood hardships—in an environment free of judgment. To help process feelings often difficult to put into words, the workshop integrated creative, non-verbal therapies such as drawing, which allowed participants to translate abstract suffering into visual artwork to reduce stress, and clay molding, a tactile exercise that helped ease anxiety and restore a sense of personal control. Through small-group storytelling, survivors realized they were not alone. Listening to one another with compassion validated their pain, helping to dismantle feelings of isolation and shame. A profound turning point occurred as participants discovered that healing does not mean forgetting the past, but rather remembering without pain, allowing them to release emotional residue so that past trauma no longer dictates their future decisions and relationships.

This transformation was deeply felt by the participants themselves. Nasir Ibrahim Aburass shared that he arrived with a heavy heart, carrying painful memories of war, including the burning of homes and the loss of loved ones. Finding a safe space to share his story and light a candle made him realize he was not alone. Reflecting on the journey, he noted, "I feel lighter like a heavy stone has been removed from my chest... I feel ready to go back and help mothers, youth, teachers, children and those who lost their beloved ones and properties to heal as well."



Similarly, Florence Ngonga Casmiro described her experience as deeply emotional and transformative, explaining that listening to others without judgment allowed her to understand her own emotions. "I realized that everyone carries a story and behind every story is a human heart longing to be heard," she shared, adding that the process brought her a renewed sense of relief, connection, and hope for reconciliation.

By the conclusion of the workshop—marked by a celebratory gathering that fostered deep community connection and renewed self-esteem—participants left equipped with emotional armor, carrying a renewed sense of peace, and ready to serve as agents of healing within their own communities.