



The Prophetic Witness

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His Excellency, Luigi Bianco, the Apostolic Nuncio to Uganda, with His Grace, Emmanuel Obbo, AJ, (Centre) and some of the Executive Members of the Association of Religious in Uganda (ARU). Photo by ARU reporter.

By Sr. Specioza Kabahuma - DST

CCCU is an initiative of ARU together with her partners from GHR Foundation that seeks: "To strengthen Religious Institutes in the expression of their Charisms, with Religious becoming champions of child care reform and improving outcomes for children living outside of family care i.e. Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children (OVCs)."

It should be noted that Uganda is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child (UN-CRC) and to the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC), both of which state that: "Every child shall be entitled to the enjoyment of parental care and protection and shall

whenever possible, have the right to reside with his or her parents. A child should be allowed to grow-up free of abuse, violence, exploitation and neglect"

The Program Mission is "To be a model for best practice in child care and protection in Uganda" with a vision "To be in the lead of child care and protection for the restoration of dignity of OVCs in Uganda".

The Overall Goal is to strengthen Religious Institutes in the expression of their Charisms, with Religious becoming champions of child care reform and improving outcomes for children living outside of family care i.e. Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children (OVCs).

The programme offers Diploma Bachelors and Master's degree course in Social Work and Social Administration to prepare the Religious to embark on the recommended move to de-institutionalize the care of children so that they grow up in families.

4. Midlife Crisis, Aging Gracefully, Leadership for Community Animators, Counseling/HIV/AIDS Certificate

5. Capacity building for Formators engaged in the formation houses according to courses that they identify in their annual meeting.

6. Counselling course, Leadership and Administration

7. Other Courses:

1)The (CADEP) course involves in training in Sustainable Organic Farming and provision of inputs to improve agricultural practices and farm-household facilities. The Major Superiors can invite the already trained ARU Tutors to offer the course in their Congregations.

The training equips individuals with knowledge and skills required to produce food, prepare and use it to sustain the livelihood of either the individual in question or a household (convent in this case).

"To be continued in the next issue..."

The Editorial



Sr. Mary Lilly Druciru -
MSMMC

Welcome to the last edition of the year 2022! Blessed New Year 2023.

As the great Month of December 2022 unfolded, many packages came with it and no number of pages can contain it therein. These include: end of year parties especially that of the Staff and Administration of the Association of Religious in Uganda (ARU). This simply brings radiant joy in the face of those who witnessed.

Weddings among other activities crowned the year. The most exciting was the Christmas party for the elderly organized by St. Egidio group and partners at St. Charles Lwanga Parish, Muyenga-Kampala.

Along the way, officers got overwhelmed by meetings; where online meetings rated high; with about three meetings per day, besides the routine work. Seminars, workshops, field work and trainings were the order of the day. "I didn't know Sisters also hustle like

some of us!" An observer remarked.

While the end of the year came with joy, relief and a break from tightened activities. Also a moment when one looks back with gratitude, recounting the achievements with joy. Failures taken as learning and unlearning opportunities. Missed opportunities seen with hope of catching up in the future.

The peak events include the two Assemblies: June and November Assemblies that were successfully conducted with great resolutions and matrixes to keep ARU moving to the next level. African Sisters Education Collaborative (ASEC) offered massive trainings for the beneficiaries. While Catholic Care for Children Uganda (CCCU) and Bakhita Educational Partnership (BEP) offered both trainings and field work.

After many years of training, Counselors are putting up a hub at Uganda Spiritual Formation Centre, Namugongo (USFC-N). Thus, bringing

service near to the people.

We also bring you one of the most important episodes, Sisters' break through with *Aguu* street Children in Northern Uganda, boldly telling you how and why they ended in the streets. You will also find Association of Consecrated Women in Eastern and Central Africa (ACWECA) sharpening their communication skills to blend well with the prevailing conditions; abreasted with socio-economic challenges in the society.

In this edition, don't miss out how Bakhita Partnership for Education Scholarship has secured girl-child future, as well as Next Generation Leadership programme NO more Catholic Scholarship as it used to be. Talitha Kum Africa Network is launched with five hubs, with life giving programmes for children and survivors of Trafficking in persons with Laudato Si Action by Sisters and much more...

Thank you for joining the track of becoming a reading guru! The saying: "to hide information from an African is best put in writing," should be a bygone now. This platform offers exchange opportunity for sharing with us your contribution like; events from local community, village, institution, as well as challenges and appropriate technologies you have embraced.

Together we can make the world a better place through communication and or information sharing. Let us catch up in the next issue.

The Holy Spirit is speaking through the Synod: Apostolic Nuncio



His Excellency Luigi Bianco, the Apostolic Nuncio to Uganda (centre) presiding over the Holy Mass during the opening of the Annual General Assembly of Superiors at ARU, Secretariat, in November, 2022.. Photo by ARU reporter.

By Sr. Mary Lilly Driciru

“The Synod of synodality is meant to help us understand what the Spirit of God is saying. God communicates in this this manner. Communal participation is about walking together. We are now in the third stage of continental assemblies...” His Excellency Luigi Bianco, Apostolic Nuncio to Uganda, during the official opening of the Assembly at the secretariat of the Association of Religious in Uganda (ARU) said.

The second Annual Assembly of November 8-12, 2022, was guided by the theme: “Growing together in the Spirit of Synodality: A call to deeper Communion, participation and mission.” The Apostolic Nuncio took the members through deepening and understanding the context of the synod and its importance in the mission today. He reminded the

by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

The Nuncio also urged the consecrated persons to be abreast and read the Church Documents especially Pope Francis’ Apostolic Letter on the Liturgy, *Desiderio desideravi*, officially promulgated on June 29, 2022.

His Grace Emmanuel Obbo, AJ, doubling as ordinary of Toro-ro Archdiocese and liaison for consecrated life in Uganda, appreciated the ministry consecrated persons discharge in Uganda: “The vision of consecrated life in Uganda (ARU) to be a prophetic body of consecrated men and women ... transforming society is great. Moreover, basing upon the Spirit of God which is at the center of prophesy. Prophets speak in God’s name to promote justice and peace.”



His Grace Emmanuel Obbo, AJ, liaison for consecrated life in Uganda addressing the Assembly in November, 2022, at ARU Secretariat.

His Grace reminded the house that, all the baptized are anointed to become prophets. “The spirit of prophesy is portrayed by the way we live; characterized by love, justice and peace. A prophet consoles those with whom they live. They are in good terms with local ordinaries.”

As a member of the Association of Religious in Uganda, the Archbishop in his interactive remarks also guided the contestants on the operational principles of the Church; “charism without prayer is dead, disintegrated communities without prayer and community life are signs of the death of an institute.”

The President of ARU, Mother Speranza Namusisi appreciated the presence of the prelates; who provided opportunity for the Assembly to officially begin with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Sacrifice of the Mass Presided over by the Apostolic Nuncio. “Thank you for the closeness and collaboration we enjoy while serving at ARU and the entire vineyard of God,” Mother Speranza added. She welcomed the participants to the Assembly and called them to feel at home.



Members of the General Assembly in group photo with His Excellency, Luigi Bianco, the Apostolic Nuncio to Uganda and His Grace Emmanuel Obbo, AJ, liaison for consecrated life in Uganda (centre left in suits).



Top-Down: A crosssection of the Members of the Assembly in attendance in November, 2022, at ARU Secretariat.



The President of ARU, Mother Speranza Namusisi appreciating His Grace, Emmanuel Obbo, AJ, liaison for consecrated life in Uganda



Uganda to Establish a Hub for Counselors Network and Services



L-R: Senior Program Officer, AAC:SS, Sr. Eneless Chimbali, SBVM, with Executive Director, AAC:SS, Sr. Rosemary Jefferies, RSM, and Sr. Joanne P. Whitaker, RSM, presenting on All Africa Conference: Sister to Sister (AAC:SS) during the November Assembly at ARU

By Mary Lilly Driciru, MSMMC

Religious Sisters in Uganda are opening up a counseling Hub at Uganda Spiritual Formation Centre Namugongo (USFCN) come 2023! Sisters are 'giving back to the community' after training over 187 Sisters in counseling ranging from Diploma to Masters degree level. "This will strengthen access to counseling services with expanded educational opportunities and a larger pool of credentialed mental health counselors..." Senior Program Officer, Sr. Eneless Chimbali, SBVM, explained.

Since 2002, the Religious Sisters in Uganda and elsewhere in Africa: (Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Nigeria and Cameroon) have studied and acquired skills in counseling facilitated by Reli-

gious Sisters of Mercy of the USA. They helped African Sisters under the organization of All Africa Conference of Sister to Sister (AACSS).

According to the Project Coordinator for the Counselors Network and Service, Sr. Editrudis Joachim Kajuna, OLGC, the trained Sisters are challenged to share their knowledge and skills with the conference at large. "The hub will help to uphold members in support amidst contemporary socio-apostolic challenges in the course of serving the communities. There is need for networking and identifying common needs."

Sr. Editrudis added that, one of the objectives is to empower beneficiaries through workshops and seminars. The new team seeks to respond to the needs of the time,

basing on the fact that the number of counselors has increased. The coordinator is motivated by the saying that, "alone one can do well, together better." Thus, challenges would better be addressed together, and enjoy improved delivery of service. They also intend to use zoom and webinar so as to reach far in a short time, thus, time saving at zero transport cost.

Further explanation by Sr. Eneless is that, AAC:SS knows that as Sisters care for others they need the same for themselves. Sisters are caregivers to those challenged by extreme poverty and the aftermath of the HIV/AIDS and Covid-19 crisis and other chronic challenges. The new centre will cater for the Sisters and those in need of such help.

AAC:SS will continue to support empowerment of Sisters through education, networking, and prayer in their programs. As this is done, the impact of multiple spiritual, social and economic challenges that the Sisters, and the Church face is lessened.



ARU Executive member, Mother Noelina Namusoke, DM, incharge of Formation, submitting during the Assembly.



Project Coordinator for Counselors Network and Service, Sr. Editrudis Joachim Kajuna, OLG, (right) being introduced to the Assembly of November 2022, at ARU Secretariat.

The foundation of AACSS can be traced back to 2002, when two Religious Sisters, Sr. Margaret Farley and Eileen Hogan, belonging to Religious Sisters of Mercy, (RSM) pooled institutes to learn, collaborate, train, and support one another and has been expanded to include a wide range of issues, most recently COVID-19 and mission sustainability. The leadership of the organization is shared between women religious from the US and Africa.

The vision of counselors' network and service is: A platform for refresher courses for trained counselors. Accordingly, the religious communities of ARU network and others will be helped to address personal and communal apostolic challenges. The community is expected to enjoy effective counseling and accompaniment services rendered by the team.

Other specialized beneficiaries among the laity include: families, youth and women. The beneficiaries will be empowered to receive holistic healing for positive lifestyle.

All categories of people are encouraged to visit the counseling Hub at Uganda Spiritual Formation Centre Namugongo for consultation, counseling and psychosocial support come 2023.

Below: Project Coordinator for Counselors Network and Service, Sr. Editrudis Joachim Kajuna, OLG, (right) in the Assembly at ARU Secretariat



Below: Some members of the Assembly having a light moment



Project Counselor, Sr. Maria Josephine Nazziwa, IHMR (right) being introduced to the Assembly in November, 2022, at ARU Secretariat

Sisters reach out to Street Children in the northern Uganda



A courtesy picture of Sr. Rosemary Nyirombe, SHS, reaching out to needy children.

By Sr. Mary Lilly Driciru

In Kampala and other emerging cities there are ravages by racketing street kids commonly known as ghetto, who often seek to be recognized through violently dubious means. *Aguu* (in Luo literally mean people in group causing havoc) is one such group of criminal gangs found in the streets of Gulu City-Northern Uganda. Sr. Rosemary Nyirombe, SHS, encountered this group and had discussion with them before handing them to the younger Sisters.

“Following the call from Pope Francis to reach out to the peripheries and to smell like sheep, we ought to be creative in addressing contemporary challenges,” Sr. Rosemary said. “Youth speaking to youth,” is what the outreach team developed as program. Much as the youth are more open to senior religious sisters, this intervention

offers a mid-way approach. Basing on a series of interviews, participant observations and literature review, *Aguu*’s origin is traced from the conflict in Northern Uganda. *Aguu* are said to ‘upgrade’ from street youth/children, war and displaced persons to “criminal gangs.” The sisters use their listening skills and inclusive methods to reach out to *Aguu* without being judgmental regardless of faith and tribal differences.

This group can be termed as children and youth who are victims of terrible circumstances, who find safe haven in the streets. While others made conscious choice to leave their homes for various reasons and opt for the streets of Gulu city. Others are individuals who resort to unlawful undertakings for survival and livelihood strategy. As thugs, they prey on by-passers and snatch their valuables, and or engage in coordinated criminal activities and are available for hire!

Accounts from police, politicians, community leaders and *Aguu* themselves reveal that, these criminal gangs are recruited by local business men and politicians to commit illegal acts for profit, intimidate opponents, exert revenge and weaken competitors and opponents of the interest group. *Aguu* are both organized gangs and individuals available for hire.

The dubbed *Aguu* in Gulu city have two origins. The first set came from families who lost access to their lands, uprooted from their communities, separated from their livelihoods due to the long conflict and the ‘night commuters’ who trekked to camps to seek relative safety and protection from Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) attacks and abductions at night. Some were child mothers and others could not trace their origins and cultural identity. Hence, find themselves outside Acholi social institutions.

The second set of the street children are the former abductees who were exposed to a variety of traumatic circumstances during the war. They were separated from their family safety and abused through physical and sexual violence. They were stigmatized and misunderstood as collaborators of the rebels by their communities when they escaped from the LRA to return home.

According to Sr. Rosemary, the group does not use real names especially for their leaders, but

nick names and codes like: Latela, Dogos, Afande, Younger, Buddy, Gada fi, Siya, Yoyo, Kadogo, Mchuzi, Jam boys, Toling, Home boys, Ojoko, Kamule, Actor, whatsapp... The *Aguu* follow a set of loose rules that seem to regulate coordination among themselves and their leaders: "Never disclose who assigned you to a particular mission, thou shall not be arrested / caught during an assignment."

Among other reasons for going to the streets include; socioeconomic challenges at home. Some lost their biological parents during the war and sought a board from relatives who themselves had many children. Hence, some of them were forced to leave and try means of survival elsewhere. Others left home with the hope of fending for the families in cases where the head of the family is sick or dead. In some cases, the household was too congested with limited sleeping space and food supply.

Some of the *Aguu* are children born to formerly abducted or returnees, rejected by family and community. While others are born to parents who were directly affected by the war. Victims of trauma and mental illness influenced others to join *Aguu* and gave way to children who resorted to delinquent behaviour. Some got caught up between the law of the land and parental discipline: "Some of us got into the habit of stealing and so we had to run away from home as they could no longer tolerate such habits, others gambled away school fees and or parents' money and ran away for fear of accountability and parents' reactions," some of the *Aguu* recounted.



Courtsey picture of street children that visibly spark off emotions and desire to extend a helping hand towards them.

Others were literally thrown out of their homes by parents and caregivers due to intolerable habits emanating from acts of violence; verbal abuses and physical fights including bad choices of lifestyles. While others were born in the streets. Many are products of prostitution. Some of them were abandoned by their parents in the streets and were forced to survive and fend for themselves. Yet some of the children are born to *Aguu* parents who could not afford to maintain a stable family.

"Some of us left our homes by choice in search for excitement and opportunities. Freedom and opportunity for better life and livelihoods in the city was our dream," others say. To their surprise, some ended in substance abuse such as drugs and alcohol while feeding their addiction by stealing and prostitution. Others ended on the streets due to peer influence.

It is worth-noting that the *Aguu* are not only Acholi but some travelled miles away to Gulu, one of the fastest growing urban centers in the Northern Uganda. The formation of *Aguu*

has its roots in political, social and economic opportunism of the delinquent youth and other stakeholders in Gulu, that contribute to the onset of such criminal organizations, economic opportunism of the delinquent youth and other stakeholders in Gulu, that contribute to the onset of such criminal organizations.

Aguu in-groups vary in size, activities and level of organization. Each group seems to have a leadership structure, where at least one member is considered the main "go-to" leader. Their leadership is based on qualities like; physical strength, experience in the street, cunningness, and above all the social networks. The leaders coordinate their activities with local community, politicians, businessmen, police and other stakeholders for the benefit of and protection of their members.



Catholic Sisters Equipped with Communication Skills



Courtsey picture of a zoom meeting, a mode that was used to conduct communication training for Sisters and volunteers. (Fair use of the picture)

By ARU Reporter

Catholic Sisters of the Association of Consecrated Women in Eastern and Central Africa (ACWECA) region have been equipped with communications skills to strengthen various projects in their institutes within the region. ACWECA communications office hired a consultant to conduct a training on communication to equip sisters and volunteers with skills in communication for projects.

A three day virtual training via zoom hosted a total of 22–23 participants drawn from different institutes in the ACWECA region.

Methods used in the training included; lectures, group exercises, and discussions with Q&A sessions at the conclusion of each training session. Break-out rooms were useful in making the training more engaging and enhanced concentration.

In this way, the trainer was enabled to assess the participants' level of knowledge of the modules.

The use of the “chat box” helped in sharing ideas, especially for participants who were not keen in using the mute button. The plenary discussion equally offered opportunity for the participants to share their group ideas and discussions from the group activities. These approaches enriched the training.

The topics covered included; the importance of communications in project management; identifying communication goals and objectives; identifying organizational voice and tone; audience identification and segmentation; communication tools and channels; story writing skills; communication principles and ethics; working with the mainstream media, and developing communications plan.

Contestants learnt that, communication is an integral part of project management and the most essential skills that a project manager must have. It enables the smooth running of projects, enhances team members to stay aligned and on course. It helps build trust within the group and makes the team members work better to achieve the set goals.

Communication facilitates evangelization. It is critical that projects and organizations identify their stakeholders tactfully and keep them informed about critical and important issues. This can be achieved through deliberate and tactful communication delivered through the right tools to the right audiences at the right time.

The training was also tailored at improving Networking and Communication under the strategic result area of Organizational Development.

In order to implement this, ACWECA Communication Department opted to train contact persons from its ten (10) National Associations in basic communication skills. The trained group will serve as a pilot group and it will be contributing stories about the ministry of Consecrated women from their countries.

The Sisters will confidently use the mass media as a means of evangelization and will serve ACWECA through the provision of News and information for ACWECA's online news and

Bakhita Foundation Secures Girl-Child Future

the ACWECA Magazine.

ACWECA conducts institutional capacity strengthening with a focus on enhancing the technical capacity of sister organizations and institutes in ACWECA region to implement projects in a professional manner.

Feedback and Recommendations indicate that the training was well understood by the participants. This was evident by the kind of feedback, discussions at the plenary, and questions. Most participants reported that they were more knowledgeable and appreciative of the role of communication in projects after the training.

Participants pointed out that they gained more skills and knowledge for working with the mainstream media with hope of performing better. They also noted that their communication within projects and institutes has sometimes been ineffective.

The workshop has helped improve the gaps. The participants recommended training in storytelling through photography, videography, and creative writing for various communication channels.

Communication is an important tool for evangelization as it empowers people to carry out ministry or pastoral work. It keeps the church informed, supports people and programs, provides publicity, sensitizes people, provides a platform for expression and concern about issues, and builds a sense of community.



Female students and Head Teacher of Guadalupe Senior Secondary School in a group photo with Assistant Secretary General, ARU Secretariate, Sr. Specioza Kabahuma, after paying them a visit: Photo by ARU Reporter.

ARU Reporter

At least three hundred (300) girls in fifteen (15) selected rural schools in Uganda secured re-admission in school under the Bakhita Partnership for Education Scholarship (BPE) through the Association of the Religious in Uganda (ARU).

Assistant Secretary General, ARU Sr. Specioza Kabahuma, DST, who doubles as Project Coordinator of Bakhita Partnership for Education in Uganda revealed this in Progress Report presented to the Committee Promoting Integral Human Development at ARU Secretariat, October 13, 2022.

Bakhita Partnership for Education (BPE) is a partnership of the Jesuit Justice and Ecology Network of Africa (JENA) and the Associations of Catholic Sisterhoods in Kenya (AOSK), Association of Religious in Uganda (ARU) and Zambia

Association of Sisterhoods (ZAS). The overall objective of the Project is to ensure 100 percent retention, improved access and quality of education for girls in the targeted countries and schools. In Uganda, so far BPE sponsors 20 girls in each of the selected 15 schools; ten (10) in form three and ten (10) in Form four respectively.



From left is Sr. Specioza Kabahuma, in a group picture with students of Adumi Secondary School Arua: Photo by ARU Reporter.

Continued to the next page...

According to Sr. Specioza, ten schools have submitted status reports indicating the different situations in these schools depending on their locations.

The report reveals that all the 300 girls are still in school and doing well and so far, 150 students of form 4 have written their exams according to the respective head teachers. "Tuition for the second term was disbursed to all the fifteen schools and we take this opportunity to heartily appreciate JENA for this wonderful support to the girl child," Sr. Specioza noted.

All Heads of the fifteen schools have been trained in the Child Safeguarding Policy and all of them have documented and captured the rate at which girls are dropping out of school. They have noted the key reasons leading to school dropout. This will inform the planning of the second phase for the way forward.

According to Sr. Specioza, the project commenced in Uganda with preparatory meetings in which ARU Administration met with Fr. Charles and Mr. Pascal of Jesuit Justice and Ecology Network - Africa (JENA) to discuss the modalities of implementation.

ARU administration met often to prepare the ground for the activities of the programme together with the then Social Pastoral Development Committee for advice. Virtual meetings with the stakeholders especially the Head Teachers of the respective Secondary Schools were conducted.



Sr. Specioza (Right) and Sr. Lilly (Left) and Sr. Rose (centre) pose for a memorial picture with students of St. Theresa Alanyi during inspection visit on the students' study progress. Photo by ARU Reporter

The baseline survey carried out in January/February 2022 to determine the levels and possibilities of Girls' access to education, nourishment of learners, having safe schools, access youth-friendly services, child-centered teaching methodology and advocacy gave a good ground for startup.

The implementing committee identified fifteen secondary schools according to the agreed criteria. The schools had to be owned and run by institutes of Sisters or Brothers and must be in a rural setting with girl-friendly facilities. The project targeted needy girls and school dropouts due to the impact of COVID -19 pandemic. The needy students, their guardians and parents plus the community opinion leaders around the school and some villages where the students come from were interviewed. This led to the development of the methodology of sponsorship – selection, re-reimbursement of tuition and accountability processes.

According to the second Baseline Survey conducted between Septem

ber and November 2022, by Nile Valley Institute for Policy Reflections and Security Studies (U) Ltd on the policy response to the impact of COVID -19 on girls and for girl empowerment in Uganda, it was realized that there are some challenges faced by these sponsored girls.

Most of the challenges in the respective schools are related though in different settings and environmental conditions. In three of the schools, fifteen students remained day scholars because; they could not afford basic requirements for boarding section. Some girls still undergo some challenges of harassment on their way to and from school.



Sr. Specioza, extreme left pose for a memorial picture with students of Morulem Secondary School.

Absenteeism was cited among day scholars especially during the rainy season, market days and those assaulted by hooligans on their way. Tuition alone without basic needs of a girl-child is not helpful enough. Some of the girls are still not free and worry about their future.

During a workshop for the Head Teachers of the fifteen schools with Fr. Charles Chilufya, SJ, the Director - Jesuit Justice and Ecology Network-Africa, it was observed that; the needy boys are not catered for yet the boy child is an endangered species as well.

Girls in boarding still find many challenges when they return for holidays where the family environment is unfriendly to some of them. Some girls are in dilemma about what next after completing Senior four!



Students of St. Theresa, Culcutta share a light moment with Communications Director, ARU, Sr. Mary Lilly Driciru (Right), Photo by ARU.

Apart from tuition, these students need still to satisfy physical, psychological, emotional, material, and health needs. The parents, guardians and community leaders need mindset change about the girl child.



Head Teacher and Students of Mother Kevin Secondary School share a happy moment with Assistant Secretary General, ARU, Sr. Specioza Kabahuma (Left), Photo by ARU Reporter.

The student - beneficiaries appreciate the programme and are happy and hopeful for better future. They pray for extension of the program and to cover their higher education; lest they get stuck on the way again. They also request for some basic needs as girls and for those who could not afford requirements of the boarding section to be considered. They request that sensitization on domestic violence and the rights of a girl child be offered their respective parents and guardians.

All the schools face food shortage after COVID - 19 pandemic, the long droughts. Karamoja was the worst hit. They could not complete their first term and even if they were called back, food remains inadequate.



Dokolo secondary students pose for a group photo with Sisters. ARU Photo.

Students requested feeding component to be part of the scholarship. And most of them felt their homes are no more secure. They are more peaceful and concentrating on their studies in the boarding section. "We appreciate the programme and thank ARU/JENA efforts for boosting our school enrolment and fees," a Head Teachers noted.

The Head Teachers observed that in spite of the Ministry of Education giving some psychosocial accompaniment seminars and workshops to the teachers, they were still living with the COVID-19 trauma. Perhaps there is need to contextualize schools differently. It was discovered that not only the BPE students that were undergoing the challenges of COVID-19 but the entire school.



Ave Maria Girls' School share a light moment with Sr. Specioza (middle).

Catholic Scholarship on progressive twist



The Chairperson Scholarship Board, Sr. Mary Pauline Namuddu, LSOSF, (centre) with the team from Next Generation Leadership Program, during the November Assembly at ARU Secretariat.

ARU Reporter

“Catholic Scholarship is no longer the name we identify with but Next Generation Leadership Program (NGLP),” The Chairperson Scholarship Board, Sr. Mary Pauline Namuddu, LSOSF disclosed this during the Annual General Assembly of the Superiors General, November 2022, at the Secretariat of the Association of Religious in Uganda (ARU).

“This program has been beneficial to the Clergy, consecrated persons and the laity by activating leadership skills in the beneficiaries,” a participant observed.

Next Generation Leadership Program is motivated by the slogan: “Building Catholic Leadership through academic scholarships and leadership training for improved Catholic Institutional capacity.” NGLP is hosted by the University of Kisubi (UNiK). Eligible applicants include: Consecrated persons and clergy who demonstrate leadership

traits and who are nominated by their institution or diocesan leadership.

Also lay persons nominated by Catholic Institution with evidence of a full-time employment with the nominating Catholic Institution for at least three consecutive years and hold a leadership position in the nominating Catholic institution.

The then Catholic Scholarship Programme (CSP) was established in 2005 to provide academic, professional and leadership training to African religious women and men and laity so as to enable them play a leading role in transforming the Church and society.

The Programme provides access to educational opportunities and additional leadership courses including Servant Leadership, Child Protection and Safeguarding, Executive Management Skills and Catholic Social Teaching to persons working with and for the

Church and who have been selected for future leadership roles.

The Programme is supported by Porticus which is an international organisation that manages the philanthropic programmes of charitable entities established by Brenninkmeijer family entrepreneurs. Since inception in Kenya in 2005, the programme has experienced tremendous growth and has been offering scholarships in Uganda since 2008 and in Tanzania from 2011.

The programme is hosted by Tangaza University College in Kenya, University of Kisubi in Uganda, and Mwenge Catholic University in Tanzania. There is a Scholarship Board in each of these countries that manages the scholarship processes on behalf of Porticus.

Next Generation Leadership Program team presented an input to the Assembly about qualities of a leader and zeroed on servant leadership as a model, Lk: 22:25-26, Mt. 20:26-28; where the leader moves with those being led. The consecrated persons are called upon to emulate Jesus the role model of ser-



The logo of Next Generation Leadership Program

vant leader. He is the way, life and the truth, thus, exhibiting being empathetic, a good listener, inclusive with self-awareness being critical.

The presenter also reminded participants about the challenge of living in a busy world; "Self-awareness is critical today.

Take time to look back into the roots! In which areas do you want to grow as a servant leader?" He also noted that sustainability of a program is about looking outwardly and objectively. Ensuring that there is continuity under all circumstances and being vigilant about the affairs of an undertaking.

Much as Next Generation Leadership program has visibly enhanced beneficiaries, they also face some challenges like inadequate support to the program and non-remittance of stipends. They call upon members to cooperate and collaborate in order to achieve common good for the benefit of the universal church.

Sisters in Lira Attain Skills in Child Counseling



Catholic Sisters attentively listen to the facilitators during the skilling workshop skit session on child counseling in Lira. Courtesy photo

By ARU Reporter

Catholic Religious Sisters from various institutions around Lira City were equipped with knowledge and skills in counseling traumatized children during a five-day workshop dubbed Child Acceleration Trauma Treatment (CATT).

The Training workshop took place at Bishop Asili Counseling and Community Development Foundation - BACDF in Ngetta. The five-day training commenced from November 21 - 25, 2022. It was hosted by the Missionaries Sisters of Mary Mother of the church with over 22 participants.

The training included Children's rights and policies, Child abuse and neglect, Child safe guarding, and child protection, Children with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Child Accelerated trauma treatment and the 12 protocols. Dr. Elias from Mbarara and Sr. Florence Achulo Osara, MS-MMC, conducted the training.

At the end of the training, members attained knowledge on child rights, child safeguarding and child protection. This will enhance child counseling especially those who go through overwhelming experiences and are unable to cope and become functional. These experiences could be physical, social, emotional and

sexual abuses, violence, trafficking, child neglect or some natural disasters that were not resolved.

The Superior General of the Missionary Sisters of Mary Mother of the Church, Mother Liberata Madhawun, the Chief Guest that day, lauded the Organization of ACT international through Dr. Elias for accepting to train the Sisters. She assured Elias that the Sisters would easily reach out to the needy and traumatized children after knowledge acquired from Child Acceleration Trauma Treatment - CATT.

"I'm very grateful for the training offered to the community and I urge you participants to be ambassadors of child protection and promote the interest of the child because they are often not attended to. I also appeal to you to encourage families and institutions to take good care of children, socially, emotionally spiritually and physically," Mother Liberata added.



Sisters and lay christians attending the workshop on skills in child counseling.

According to Sr. Florence Osara, Sisters were positively impressed by the training and requested the course be included in the formation houses. This would enable them handle traumatized children and implement CATT for counseling the children. While other participants observed that, this course l

has helped them go back to their inner child and created awareness of their unresolved trauma.

The institutions that participated in the training include; Ngetta Babies Home, Missionary Sisters of Mary Mother of the church -Mother House Community, Nget

ta dispensary Staff, Ongica Head Teacher and neighboring secondary schools, representatives from Center for Adolescent Reproduction and Health (CEFARH) Foundation, a Staff from African Youth Initiative Network (AYIN), and the Staff from Bishop Asili Counseling and Community development.

Talitha Kum Africa launched



Consecrated Men and Women in group memorial photo during the Conference and launch of Talitha Kum Africa in Nairobi

Courtesy Photo

By Sr. Mary Lilly Driciru

The recent premier Talitha Kum Africa Conference in Nairobi occasioned the launch of Talitha Kum Africa Network.

“Traffickers are organized in their networks and so we too need to be organized and strengthen our networks despite geographical and social challenges. Let us break the silence of indifference, and encourage mutual enrichment. Creation of regional hubs will help attain this reality,” Talitha Kum Coordinator for Africa, Sr. Yvonne Bambara, RGS, remarked while delivering

the rationale of the conference. Guided by the theme: “Slavery-Free Africa Network,” representatives from fifteen African nations: Burkina Faso, Malawi, Mali, South Africa, Ivory Coast, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Cameroun, Mozambique, Morocco and Ghana assembled from November 20-26, 2022 at Mary Ward Centre, (Loreto Sisters) at Karen-Nairobi, Kenya to share best practices and forge a way forward.

The general observation was that, most of the countries carry out Prevention; (awareness creation), Prayer (for victims, survivors and perpetrators of human traffick

ing), Protection and Prosecution (four Ps). Additional Ps include Policy, Participation and Partnership. Among others, the objectives of the conference included: Deepening the identity of Talitha Kum Africa Network, Strengthen the network of the HUBs in Africa (In collaboration with the Governments, NGOs and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and formulate the Strategic plan for the HUBs in Africa

Talitha Kum International Coordinator, Sr. Abby Avelino, MM, in a keynote address called upon the members to add their voices to address the rights of victims and survivors of Trafficking in Persons in order to promote a just world. She urged the members to advocate for the needy and bring out the identity of Talitha Kum. Sr. Abby further called upon the members to strengthen networking, collaboration, advocacy and communication to end Trafficking in Persons.

Meanwhile, H.E Archbishop Hubertus Van Megan, Apostolic Nuncio to Kenya and South Sudan celebrated the opening Mass. He encouraged the Talitha Kum Network to strive to carry on the

mission of Christ to create a just world and set the captives free.

The conference was punctuated with out-reaches to partners, inputs like team building through Synodality approach of listening, mission participation, and planning action. Hence, blending the synod of Synodality and team building is the way to go.

This is because anti-trafficking networks comprises people with complementary skills, committed to a common purpose and mutual accountability.



The participants of Talitha Kum Africa share a light moment together after the launch. Courtsey photo.

The identity of Talitha Kum Africa was discussed at length for the sole need of visibility. The presenter took the participants through the notions of Munroe Myles to discover ones' destiny and purpose that leads to the organizational identity. "The greatest tragedy is life without a purpose,"citing Myles, the facilitator emphasized. Other components for identity include personality, culture, multiculturality, mission and end goal.

Sr. Mayra Cuellar presented data collection and research. While the former International Talitha Kum Coordinator, Sr. Gabriella Bottani, CMS, shared the importance of Advocacy in addressing Trafficking in Persons.



Participants of Talitha Kum Africa take part in skit shared during the sessions.

The continent of Africa created regional hubs namely: North Africa, English West Africa, French West Africa, Eastern Africa and Southern Africa. Conclusively, Talitha Kum Africa's Coordinator Sr. Yvonne Bambara, RGS, in her report gave a picture of Talitha Kum Africa, which is still marred with communication and technical challenges with limited shared information.

In another development, this serves to inform ARU Networks that, Talitha Kum Uganda Network (TAKUN) that started in 2011, when ARU trained Sisters who got involved in anti-trafficking activities, after attending Talitha Kum training held in Nairobi-Kenya. The preexisting zeal is being reignited since Talitha Kum Network is the umbrella organization for all Consecrated Persons carrying out interventions on Trafficking in Persons in Uganda.

However, from 2016 to date Talitha Kum Uganda Network -TAKUN has enjoyed upward trend due to increasing numbers of people participating in sensitization: members of the Lay Apostolate, Novices, Junior Consecrated

Persons, Formators and participants of other programs at ARU Secretariat. More arrangements are being done at different levels.

TAKUN is organizing a workshop at the end of January: scheduled from January 30-4 February, 2023, at ARU Secretariat.

As a Conference for Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life in Uganda, ARU will bring on board 30 Religious Institutes from the 19 Dioceses, through ARU Branches in the four Esseciatical to strengthen rebuild Talitha Kum Uganda Network

The members are in partnership and collaboration with Talitha Kum International, Defend Defenders, St. Martha group, John Paul II Justice and Peace Centre, Uganda Episcopal Conference, and Africa Faith and Justice Network (AFJN). You will keep getting more updates.

Through the networks and coalition, the Catholic Bishops in Uganda have written a Pastoral Letter on Trafficking in Persons. "Break the Yoke" Isaiah 58:6. It was released on September 9, 2022, the day of a joint national prayer on Trafficking in Persons at Kololo ceremonial grounds. We look forward to launching the Pastoral Letter soon.



Participants pose for a group picture with branded Talitha Kum Africa bags ahead of the launch.

Sisters in Kabale Consolidate Season of Creation Celebrations



Sisters of Our Lady of Fatima from Kitumba Rushoroza , Kabale Diocese actively participate in the season of creation by embarking on planting trees to restore mother earth.

By ARU Reporter

Every year, Christians around the world join hands to pray, act and advocate for our common home, the Earth, by celebrating the ecumenical *Season of Creation*.

This year, (2022) it was no different as Daughters of Our Lady of Fatima made this dream come true by embarking on planting trees in Kitumba Rushoroza , Kabale Diocese

The season of creation is an annual event that runs from September 1 - October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology. This year the Burning Bush symbolized the theme: *"Listen to the Voice of Creation."* On the right are the illustrated activities, Daughters of Our Lady of Fatima carried out to show their participation in the restoration of our common home, the Earth.



Our Lady of Fatima Sisters busy gathering tree seedlings for planting as a way of marking the season of creation.



Our Lady of Fatima Sisters on a tree planting activity to mark the season of Creation.

Sisters Restore Hope to Survivors of Human Trafficking



The Celebrant lights up the candles during adoration while one of the survivors breaks down in tears on remembering her experience while she was trafficked. Courtesy Photo

By Sr. Semerita Mbambu, CSC and ARU Reporter

Sisters of the Holy Cross and partners in Uganda organized a five-day workshop and prayer for the survivors of human trafficking at Kitumba-Kaihokwa in Fort Portal. It attracted 57 participants joined by 11 children.

The workshop and prayer held from November 2 - 6, 2022, aimed at creating an opportunity for the survivors to undergo psycho-spiritual experience and support, identify and strengthen the skilling and entrepreneurship of the survivors and to create a platform for the Sisters of the Holy Cross to participate in Justice and Peace Ministry.

“Be Compassionate as our father in heaven is compassionate” (Luke 6:36-38) was the theme for the sessions. The Sisters are engaged in numerous ministries in

the implementation of the corporate stand of (2019) - of the institute on the principle of being in solidarity with the poor and the less privileged. In the implementation phase, the Justice and Peace Office implemented several interventions. Rescue and skilling of human trafficking survivors was key. However, the interventions are multifaceted because the needs of the survivors are different and unique in nature.

The survivors participated fully in the liturgy. It was also vital, that the Holy Mass was all encompassing inclusively, since not all the survivors were Catholics.

The varied translations in the languages locally spoken during mass was an added advantage. “We celebrated Holy Mass daily during the retreat as one of the central spiritual programs. It was a source of unity for the participants,” one of the survivors noted. The Holy Mass and spiritual com

munion also, facilitated the processes of healing and deliverance. An evaluation was conducted on how beneficial the workshop impacted survivors and majority reported an overwhelming healing during Mass especially at the time of consecration and communion.

Other prayer sessions included adoration which was intended to heal and deliver survivors from trauma and psycho-spiritual problems. Candle lighting was also key in the event to remember and pray for the victims of Human Trafficking who succumbed to death! This, however, evoked emotional grief among participants.

All participants were encouraged to seek psychological counseling since counselors were present. This included religious sisters and other professional counselors. In the same spirit, survivors were encouraged to share their testimonies with Sisters. It was pain-relieving though an emotional experience. The presence of sisters was significant for lending, “a shoulder for crying upon, a means of providing an empathetic gesture and support to the survivors,” a sister noted.



Survivors of Human Trafficking experimenting hands-on skills during the retreat.

Facilitators endeavored to portray the connection between spiritual and physical healing to survivors through sharing experiences in groups of those who were sexually abused, forced into marriage at a young age, trafficked because of domestic violence and poverty, among others. Through these groups, participants were able to identify their specific abuse experiences and were guided by the facilitators and counselors on what they can do to overcome their challenges, fears and hurting feelings.



Retreat of the survivors of Human Trafficking in session.

At the end of the retreat, majority of the participants reported a great deal of relief and freedom after going through various sessions and therapy. Some of the testimonies included among others; “This prayer session gave me an opportunity to live again because; I had lost hope in life. Thanks to the Sisters of the Holy Cross for organizing such a wonderful program where I have discovered that I can still live againI was thinking about doing harm to myself but sharing with Sisters and Counselors during these sessions has given me life again.” Survivors were equipped with a number of soft life skills for



Retreatants and survivors of Human Trafficking during session.

Equipping Survivors with Entrepreneurship Skills

knowledge on how to carry on with life after long experiences of oppression and trauma.

The facilitators were sisters themselves who trained the participants in a number of skills. They were trained in self-awareness, problem solving, decision-making, creativity skills, among others. Majority of the participants were given an opportunity to share their personal experiences on how they will apply the life skills learnt.

Entrepreneurship skills were intended to enable survivors explore employment opportunities and become job creators since some of them are already under going skilling in a number of trades. Facilitators encouraged participants on the value of creativity.

They were advised that great entrepreneurship opportunities depend on the individual’s creativity in maximizing the use of available resources. A number of skills such as making (MANDAZI, SAMOSAS), puff holder making, doormats, tablemats, craft bags, bead works, among others, were inculcated in the training.

By the end of the workshop and prayer, participants attained; psycho-spiritual exercises, health consultations and guidance, group and individual counseling, entrepreneurship skills. Many Sisters who participated were empowered as well.



Survivors of Human Trafficking together with other retreatants participatin in the Holy Mass.



Pictorial

Consecrated Persons take Positive Economic Twist to save family separation



Sisters reuniting children with their parents after separation due to poverty. Courtesy photo from CCCU.

By Caroline Nansukusa. ARU-CCCU

Catholic Care for Children Uganda (CCCU), a program of Consecrated women and men in Uganda, are economically strengthening families to avoid second separation of the vulnerable persons. This comes as a result of transiting from Child Care Institutions (CCIs) to family or family-like environment.

The economic strengthening process is ongoing since its initial stages from May 2022. CCCU and her partners in their third practical case management support follow-up to the vulnerable families, continued to take a step of ensuring that at least the majority children attain a family like environment. This involved a lot of tracing for the unknown families and actualizing resettlements in alternatives care with the required procedures of care management.

The Team discovered that extreme poverty was a major reason causing child-family separation.

The consecrated persons therefore chose to understand the gaps and strength families, and support them with a start-up capital for instance, identify good breed animals like goats, cows, chicken, with emergency shelter, bedding, food stuff, scholastic materials, medication, training in varied income generating activities such as mixed farming, baking, food processing and promotion of saving-investment culture.

The civil, local leaders, duty bearers and other stakeholders met in the community for engagement meetings in which all participants unanimously agreed that focus should be put on strengthening families to take care of their own children as opposed to sup

porting and raising children in residential childcare institutions. “Institutional care should be the last resort,” a stakeholder observed.

The statement from leaders tallies well with the goal for Association of religious in Uganda; ARU-CCCU that seek to strengthen Religious Institutes in the expression of their Charisms, with Religious becoming champions of child care reform and improving outcomes for children living outside of family care or those that are at risk of being separated from their families.

This affirms Uganda being a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child (UNCRC) and to the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC), both of which state that: **“Every child shall be entitled to the enjoyment of parental care and protection and shall whenever possible, have the right to reside with his or her parents. A child should be allowed to grow-up free of abuse, violence, exploitation and neglect”**

“The Team discovered that extreme poverty was a major reason causing child-family separation”

Children reunite with parents after being cared for and empowered by Sisters as illustrated on the next page. Photo by CCCU.

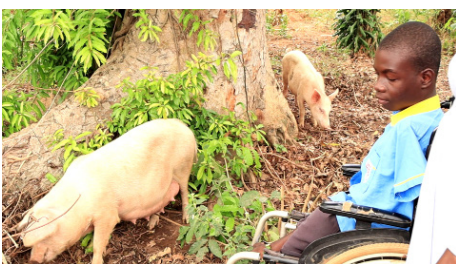
Feeding and Nutrition Specialists (SPOON FOUNDATION) interface with CCCU



Pictorial



Spoon Foundation facilitator during a workshop on Strengthening Nutrition and Feeding for Children in Institutional Care project at ARU Secretariat - Kampala. Photo by ARU Reporter.



By Caroline Nansukusa – ARU-CCCU

In fulfillment of the planned project activities for the ongoing Strengthening Nutrition and Feeding for Children in Institutional Care project, the Association of Religious in Uganda (ARU) with Catholic Care for Children (CCCU) hosted guests from the SPOON Foundation from Portland-Oregon, USA.

The visiting team consisted of two people, Ms. Lauren Hughey the Program Officer and Ms. Kate Miller the Feeding and Disability Specialist.

The six -day visit, of July 10-16, 2022, involved meeting with the administrators of ARU and CCCU, majorly sharing about

the projects, updates, progress and other upcoming activities. A workshop with CCCU administration together with the Master Trainers was part of the event. This workshop helped to update members on project and planning activities.

The SPOON - led Workshop for the CCCU and Master Trainers, for discussing different project activities, areas of concern, updates and progress reports from the field, planning next steps, brainstorming together with Case Management Officer, Nansukusa Caroline on how Nutrition can be added to Case Management and resettlement among others. This activity prompted a Zoom meeting with Advocacy Officer Spoon Foundation, Carolyne Moore.



The guests from Spoon Foundation - USA in a memorial group photo with ARU administration shortly after the meeting at ARU, Secretariat - Kampala. Photo by ARU Reporter.

The meeting culminated into development of a concept note on the same.

The third day was reserved for the Master Trainer Training and Mentorship workshop. Master Trainers were guided on pre-selected topics on disability and nutrition such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, Early Identification of Disability, the Nurturing Framework and discussions on the FEED-Safe Manual among others.

The most anticipated, fourth day, hosted the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting. The TAG is a group of Individuals and or representatives of Organizations that are technical in different aspects of the project that come together to discuss and share project Issues.

TAG Comprises of individuals from the Academia (Makerere University, Kyambogo University), Line Ministries (Health and Gender), Related Partner Organizations

(Mwana Mugimu, UNICEF, World Vision, CRS and Child's i) and Support groups like Spina Bifida. Later, there was another meeting with World Vision leadership.

The week's activities were capped with a team building session at Griffins Nature Park in Lugazi for the whole CCCU/Master trainer team. The team building activity was later crowned with an evening chat and laughter at a sendoff dinner hosted at the Onomo Hotel Poolside.



Catholi Care for Children -CCCU and Master Trainer Team for Team-Building Session at Griffins Nature Park - Lugazi, CCCU Photo

UISG hosts first international meeting of sisters at the forefront of child care reform



A group photo of participants of forefront child care reform in Rome with the Secretary General, ARU, Sr. Lydia Apili Bwor, and CCCU Program Director, Sr. Euphrasia Masika, (second and fourth from right respectively).

By Sr. Euphrasia Masika, CCCU Program Director

Fifteen Catholic sisters and colleagues from six nations gathered in Rome on November 28 for a week-long meeting about new models of care for children, inspired by the vision of a family for every child.

The sisters represent religious institutes and national associations of religious who care for thousands of children in Uganda, Kenya, Zambia, Malawi, South Africa, and Sri Lanka.

Joining them were Kathleen Mahoney and Dan Lauer, Senior Program Officers in GHR Foundation's Children and Families program.

International Union of Superiors General (UISG) hosted the meeting with Sister Niluka Perra, UISG Coordinator of Catholic Care for Children International CCCI, supporting Catholic Sisters' efforts around the world to

reduce institutional care for children and encourage family-based care. It was the first in-person gathering of this international group.

The theme of the meeting was "Journeying Together to Transform Care for Children." It was an occasion for sharing stories, insights, challenges, and milestones from their journeys, describing the work religious do in their nations on behalf of children and care reform.

In these nations, as in many places around the world, sisters typically are among the largest providers of care for children in institutions such as orphanages and babies homes. The shift in favor of family care has involved significant change for sisters and their colleagues, including change in practices of care that now extend beyond the doors of institutions.

Many have acquired training and education in new areas such as in

child safeguarding, and family reunification. To ensure that they are consistently achieving the highest possible standards of practice, they evaluate and refine care practices and work extensively with data.

At the meeting, Sisters described the systematic approaches they are using to collect and analyze data. They explained that, shift toward family care is also a challenge for local communities. This includes new partnerships and new ways of working among local governments, social agencies, churches, benefactors of institutions for children, and others.

They emphasized the importance of communications with all stakeholders whose understanding and support are essential for advancing the family care movement.

Throughout the meeting, the sisters' conversations reflected the complexity of the child's journey between institution and family. They spoke of the need for practices and policies to ensure the child's safety, protection, and well-being not only in institutions but across all settings of the child's care, whether in biological or adoptive families, foster care, kinship care or other setting.

The sisters brought these and other topics into discussion during the week with leaders of Catholic organizations in Rome whose missions relate to children, families, and care reform. On November 29, the group met

with Gabriella Gambino, Undersecretary of the Vatican's Dicastery for the Laity and Family Life, whose focus is on pastoral care of the young and the family.

The following day, Father Andrew Small, Secretary of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, and Emer McCarthy, Projects Manager, joined the group at the UISG office. The Commission offers guidelines and monitors implementation of safeguarding throughout Church entities, such

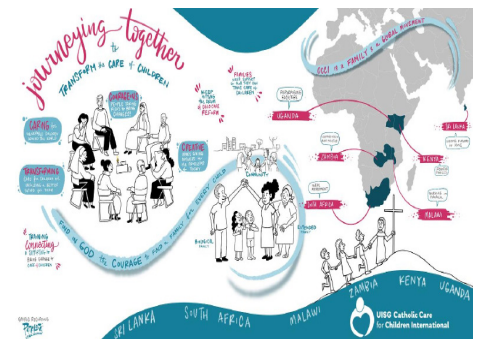
as dioceses, bishops conferences, and religious institutes. Sister Niluka is a member of the Commission.

Later in the week, the group met at the Gregorian University with Msgr. Peter Beer, head of Research and Development at the Institute of Anthropology, and Anthony Ssembatya, a Research Fellow. The Institute advances research on human dignity and the care of the vulnerable persons and offers advance studies in the area of safeguarding. The week's activities also included two conversation ses-

sions. One session, which focused on monitoring and evaluation, was led by CCCI's Monitoring and Evaluation consultant, Nicole Moran, who also served as facilitator for the meeting.

The other session, which focused on communication activities at CCCI throughout the year, was led by CCCI's Communications consultant, Sister Maxine Kollasch. The meeting concluded on December 4, after participants reflected on the week's journey together and looked forward with excitement to the 2023 gathering.

Pictorial of the Meeting in Rome



Sr. Euphrasia Masika, Program Director CCCU, ARU (Left) and Sr. Stella-Maris, Program Coordinator presenting their project during the meeting

Professional Development for Congregational Leadership: Two years in Uganda



Contestants in Professional Development for Congregational Leadership session attentively listen to the facilitator' delivery Photo by ARU Reporter.

ARU Reporter

Professional Development for Congregational Leadership (PDCL), that started way back in 2017 within the region of Association of Consecrated Women in Eastern and Central Africa (ACWECA) is embraced for two years in Uganda today. In 2021/2022, the first group finished their two modules.

December 1-10, 2021, saw programme take off when the facilitators from ACWECA jetted in, as the program coordinator Sr. Margaret Magoba, OLG, enhanced programme activities on behalf of the Association of Religious in Uganda (ARU). "This programme is meant to animate leadership among the Consecrated Women, we encourage more to join despite their tight work schedules," said Sr. Margaret.

The next module for second group begins on March 14-20, 2023. The organizers expect more members to join. "We believe the first cohort shared their great experience with



Professional Development for Congregational Leadership in session. Photo by ARU reporter.

fellow Superiors General, thus, creating motivation for joining," one of the organizers remarked.

Created in Africa for Africa, Professional Development for Congregational Leaders aims to 'fan to flame' the potential of leaders of women's religious congregations to inspire and enable women-for-mission in today's world.

By supporting and strengthening congregational leaders, PDCL contributes to the ongoing vitality of women's religious congregations in Africa as they minister to marginalized and impoverished communities.

PDCL is an outreach programme of the **Centre for Leadership and Management (CLM), Tangaza University College, Nairobi, Kenya.**

Pictorial of the Major Events



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023!

MAY YOUR DREAMS TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE COME TO PASS

The Lord bless and keep you, may His face shine upon you, the Lord lift his countenance upon you and give you Peace Amen.