

REPORT OF THE APOSTOLIC PRIORITIES PRESENTED BY THE MISSION CO-ORDINATOR OF CAMEROON MISSION UNDER THE EAST NIGERIAN PROVINCE. JULY 2011.

INTRODUCTION:

Our Apostolate here in our parishes are purely Parochial, but punctuated with some related cases of Pastoral issues / Challenges that comes up from time to time.

As of now we are fully in control of Three Parishes namely Fulikom, Santa (in Archdiocese of Bamenda) and Ndobo Bonaberi (Archdiocese of Douala).

By the end of September, 2011, we will be entrusted fully with two other parishes, namely Kosala (Buea Diocese) and Kaikiakom (Kumbo Diocese).

These areas are still places of Primary Evangelization, which enables us to bear our missionary witness in the spirit of our Glorious Founder Saint Anthony Mary Claret.

As of this date we are Ten Claretians, missioning in these areas.

NATURE OF OUR APOSTOLATE.

BIBLICAL PASTORAL MINISTRY .

We in our own little ways promote the Biblical Apostolate, since we are Servants of the word, we do not have an established or organized structure to train the laity except on the emphasis we place on the Studying of the Bible, then most effectively through the Bible sharing in the Small Christian Communities (Basic Church Communities, BCC).

In this forum we meet with the Christians every week to share the word of God with them. It has become a common practice and it helps the Christians to prepare themselves with the Gospel of the coming Sunday.

SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES (BASIC CHURCH COMMUNITIES)

This is really the Church in the neighbourhood. This is functional in all our Missions, they are divided into smaller groups where they meet on weekly basis to share their faith. It is normally sharing the gospel of the following Sunday. They read it in various versions of the Bible. This has greatly contributed in uniting the Christians.

From time to time when there are means, leadership training is organized for their leaders, for effective coordination.

YOUTH /VOCATION MINISTRY.

This ministry is a very difficult one here, it is always fluctuating, in the sense that the Youths are always crisis ridden, Parents do not encourage their Youngs to follow up the programmes, also the issue of urban migration in search of better living conditions cripples our efforts. Nevertheless, we always make do with what is at hand.

We accompany the youths in their programmes, organizing Rallies for them, where Seminars on Leadership, Skills Acquisition etc are being emphasized.

From time to time, especially during peak periods / season like Easter, Christmas, Lent and Advent, we bring the youths together for Retreats / Recollections, so as to introduce them to the new season and for a better understanding of what the season is all about.

The Vocation Ministry is very difficult to run in most of our Parishes here, because many of the youths are products of **Broken homes** or **Single Parents**, in other words it affects their vocational life because the foundation is more than weak.

Much emphasis are being laid on the issue of Vocation, though there is an increase in the response now, which means that with time, there will be a great improvement and a bountiful harvest as well.

LAY PROMOTION AND EDUCATION.

It is very obvious that in other to progress in our Ministry and in the work of Evangelization, we must involve Lay Collaborators, and as well educate them to be properly empowered.

We are doing this by involving those already on the ground, and recently we started the **Lay Claretian Apostolate**, whereby we emphasize on the need for the Laity to join us for effective evangelization as Lay Claretians, the response has been encouraging and we are giving them serious attention, they are assigned to a Priest who is incharge of them, and it makes for easy cordination.

The issue of procuring materials for them is an urgent need, this new pastoral year we are looking forward of giving them more formation by organizing Seminars for them atleast quarterly depending on our financial strength.

We also intend to link them to the global Lay Claretians, so that there will be greater interactions among them.

JUSTICE AND PEACE/ INTEGRITY OF CREATION.

There is no organized Justice and Peace set up in our areas, (at the Centre), but since the issue of Justice and Peace are very numerous here, we are organizing in our own levels, as related issues is a daily occurrence. Inter tribal war among two major villages in our Parish at Santa is a nightmare. When one gets involved in looking a way of addressing the issue, one gets hooked up on the way, because of limited experience in conflict resolution. We need to be equipped in other to adequately tackle the issues of Justice and Peace which punctuates our mission areas. There is the issue of Dehumanization of Widows when they lost their Husbands, there are issues of marginalization where and there, the issue of Inheritance, but we are doing our best to put into practice our fundamental option to the poor, always being on the side of the Marginalized.

In some of our parishes we are trying to put in place, a Scheme to assist the poor and the downtrodden in the society, like a Project called “**One Kilo Sunday**” (**Domingo libra**) in Santa.

This is a project whereby Christians bring one kilo of raw food to assist the poor once in a month.

We also have other projects of conselling people living with terminal diseases and people living with HIV/AIDS.

There are still other projects of advising the Widows, Single Mothers, Teenagers with Pregnancy, so that they will not abort their pregnancy.

EVANGELIZATION PROJECT.

In some of our Parishes, knowing fully well that it is a place of primary Evangelization, a year of New Evangelization have been declared and an Evangelization Team have been constituted, all things being equal Seminars and workshop will be organized for them, when the funds are available. The targets are the youths, the family on the whole, and it is also geared towards the promotion of Vocation.

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PROJECT.

The project of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is getting root in the life of our Parishioners. We are trying our best to groom our Christians and the Lay Claretians in the School of the Immaculate Heart. This year's feast which took place on the 2nd of July was well attended by our Parishioners , also the Lay Claretians as well, and the participation was wonderful.

The Lay Claretians joined us in organizing it especially in the area of sensitization. There is a greater awareness now than before about our Charism with special reference to the devotion to the Heart of Mary.

CONCLUSION / RECOMMENDATIONS.

There are high hopes that in the nearest future the Plan of Action of the Prefecture of Apostolate will be realized even before 2015. There are a lot of factors militating against realizing these noble objectives, for instance lack of trained personnel to effectively implement these projects in a professional manner.

The Youth and Vocation Ministry should be given an urgent attention, otherwise there will be no hope as the youths will drift away, there should also be a proper training on the issue of Conflict Resolution as we are in an endemic Conflict area, Missionaries with adequate knowledge of counseling especially to the Youth and the marginalized should be sent to facilitate the work.

Youth Centers are urgently needed where the youths will come together for formation purposes, Counseling and other helps.

The Secretariat of the Biblical Ministry and the Claretian Biblical School is a welcome plan to assist us and our Christians deepen our understanding of the Bible so as to be effective in the ministry as Servants of the Word.

More personnel should be trained in these areas of specialization to expand these projects in our mission areas.

There should be an assessment / follow up from the Secretariat of the General Prefecture of Apostolate, so that these Projects could effectively grow from strength to strength.

Thanks a lot.

**MARCELLINUS MARY OPARAJI, CMF
MISSION CORDINATOR CAMEROON MISSION
UNDER EAST NIGERIAN PROVINCE.**

*MARCELLINUS MARY OPARAJI, CMF,
OUR LADY OF ASSUMPTION PARISH, SANTA.
BAMENDA ARCHDIOCESE,
NORTH WEST, CAMEROON.
TELEPHONE +237 745 738 57*