

Claretian Missionaries, Uganda

Organism Report

We the Claretians arrived in Uganda in the year 1995 .We have 4 missions/communities in Uganda. We are 13 Claretians working in Uganda 12 priests and a brother (the first local priest is ordained in July this year only)

With regard to our missions and ministry, as far as possible we try to implement the priorities of the CEPA, which is very much in line with the overall pastoral priorities of the dioceses where we work in Uganda.

The main option and proprieties that our apostolate in Uganda is to inculcate the common pastoral needs of the church in Uganda as a whole which is to say to help and develop the local church to become truly African and self- reliant in all spheres of its life. We as Claretians have a greater option of identifying ourselves with the local church by being examples of committed missionaries who work together with the people for their development.

Our main ministry in Uganda is parish ministry. One of the most urgent needs of the Ugandan church is to get as much personal as possible to care for the pastoral needs of its large population who are spread out in its vast parishes. One our main task is to bring people closer to the sacraments. For this reason, most of the diocese wants missionaries to open up parishes so that people are given ample chance to frequent the sacraments.

Our pastoral activities include parish work, laity formation, holistic healing, the formation of seminarian, the spiritual formation of children and youth and empowerment of women.

The following is our missions and ministries.

Main Ministry- Pastoral places

1.Kiyunga mission- We arrived in Uganda in 1995 in the diocese of Jinja and we took up this mission in 1997.

There are three main activities associated with this mission

- A) ***St.Gonzaga catechetical and laity formation centre***- This centre is the only centre to train the lay leaders and catechists of Jinja diocese. It has a regular program of nine months to train the catechists. Besides the catechetical courses, the centre runs various pastoral,

liturgical and developmental courses and seminars to empower the lay leaders of the diocese. We try to inculcate some Claretian elements in the programs of this centre, though mostly we follow the diocesan pastoral program and policy in the implementation of various courses and seminars here.

- B) ***Our Lady of as Assumption Parish kiyunga.*** This parish was started in 1955 and was run by the Milhill missionaries. We were given this parish in 2003. Kiyunga parish has got 45 sub stations spread out in a distance of 30 square kilometers. It has got 30 catechists to help the priests to look after the spiritual needs of its vast number of Christians. There are 16 church founded primary schools and two secondary schools in the parish.
- C) ***St. Claret Holistic healing centre***-It is the brain child of Fr. Mathew, one of the pioneers of the Claretian missionaries in Uganda. By making use of the various traditional and natural means of healing and a variety of therapies, this healing centre treat a number of people. It has the facility to accommodate 20 Patients at a go. It also has a trained group of staff to help Fr. Mathew to carry out his activities. This healing centre has been much appreciated both by the church as well as by the civil authorities.
- D) ***St. Claret's Vocational school***-This is an initiative started by Claretians in the year 2008 to help the large majority of the youngsters in our locality to learn a skill to earn a living. Many of the youth find it difficult to continue their regular education due to the poverty of their families. So, we embarked on this idea of offering them vocational training in various disciplines like, plumbing, metal fabrication, tailoring, bricklaying, carpentry etc.
- E) ***St. Marys Nursery school***- We have also started a small nursery in 2005 to help the little children of our locality to get acquainted with the learning environment of the schools and some class room etiquette.

We have also a community of the Franciscan sisters of the immaculate heart of Mary in this mission. They are entrusted the girls boarding school that was started by the parish. They also involve themselves in various activities to empower the women of our parish

We are three Claretians working in this mission

2. St. Claret Parish Nyabwina. This mission was given to us in 2005, in the Archdiocese of Mbarara in western Uganda. The parish has got 6 centre and 10 sub centres. It has a catholic population of 10000 people. There are 15 catechists in this parish.

St.Claret dispensary- this an initiative started by the Claretians in the year 2009.Since Nyabwina is in a remote area, this dispensary is of great help to the local people. There are two nurses and a lab technician working in this clinic.

There is also a primary and a secondary school in the compound of the parish. The Claretians in the parish looks after the spiritual needs of the students in these schools as well as other catholic funded schools in the parish.

There are two Claretians working in this mission

3. St.Charles and Matia parish Katukuru- This is the third mission we have in Uganda which also situated in Mbarara Archdiocese.Katukuru was a sub parish under the cathedral parish of the diocese of Mbarara and it was erected as a parish in 2009.It has got three centers and 4 sub-centers. It has got around 1000 families and the parish church is under construction.

Our main pastoral activity here is to cater for the sacramental life of the people and to empower the Christians in various aspects of Christian faith and living.

We are two missionaries working in this mission

4. Claretian Philosophy House Jinja

We are also having the philosophy formation of our East African Claretian Students in Jinja. The students do their philosophy course in the Queen of Apostles Philosophy centre Jinja,a philosophy institute initiated by a few religious congregation. In 2006, we also joined this institute as one of the founding members.

There are two personal involved in the formation of philosophy students in this house. One of our Claretian is also teaching in the institute.

Objectives for Future.-We would like to continue the pastoral activities that we are carrying out with more vigor and enthusiasm. We are also intending to extend our presence to other dioceses in Uganda by taking up new missions and at the same time we also would like to consolidate the present missions.

Challenges

We have also a lot of challenges to encounter on our way of materializing our goals and some of them are the following

- Lack of personal(missionaries from the province to join us)
- Slow pace of the vocations from Uganda
- Different languages in different parts of the country

- Constant attack of sicknesses like malaria

In spite of these hurdles, we hope that things will work out in our way by the grace of God and by the mediation of our Blessed Mother and the guidance of our founder Claret.

Compiled by
Fr.Joy Mampillikunnel