

December 2021 Newsletter from

THE GOOD SHEPHERD PEACE CENTER & SOLIDARITY PASTORAL TEAM



A Message from the Director: Reflecting on 2021 Learnings and Sending Christmas Wishes.

By Sr. Scholasticah Nganda, RSM

The end of one year and the start of another seems to inspire us to reflect naturally. It typically is filled with wrapping up projects while wrapping presents, planning strategic initiatives for the coming year, planning family celebrations, and reflecting on personal/group accomplishments. And in our case, of course, analyzing the Good Shepherd Peace Centre's (GSPC) performance for the year ending.

Stating the obvious, 2021 has been a challenging year marked by the historical events and unforeseen changes to work and home lives. It has also been a year of learning for all of us, either at the GSPC team or individual level.

Along with welcoming groups and individuals to the Centre for programs, our GSPC family grew in number as six new staff members joined the team. Their presence has made a remarkable contribution to our service delivery, and we are indebted to their generosity of spirit. As a community living and serving in the Centre for Human, Spiritual, Peacebuilding and Reconciliation, we have learned new ways to bond and to build a team. And in the midst of the anxiety and uncertainty posed by Covid 19 pandemic, we still found joy in small moments while we learned more about one another. Truly, the year's activities and challenges have strengthened our bonds of friendship.

As I look back, I wish to appreciate the commitment with which our employees came together to implement the Covid-19 protocols to ensure our guests were comfortable and well served. We're grateful for the lives we have touched and those who have touched our own lives throughout this year. A 'Big Thank You' to all our collaborators, donors, and friends. Thank you for your continued partnership, and we look forward to your supporting our mission goals in 2022.

I can't thank enough the incredible GSPC team! I am truly humbled by and beyond appreciation of your relentless commitment to serving others, dedication to your work, and genuine caring for each other. May 2022 be an even bigger and better year for the GSPC and all our benefactors.

As the year comes to a close, we look back with gratitude to God and say, 'THANKS' for the many Pastoral programs that, we, as Solidarity



Pastoral Team in collaboration with the Diocesan Pastoral Directors were able to facilitate not only in the GSPC, but also in individual Catholic Dioceses across South Sudan. Among these activities were: Formation of Catechists, Trauma-Healing, Youth Training, Trainings on Animation of Small Christian Communities, Counselling Skills for teachers, On-going Formation for Clergy and Religious, Formators' Course for Priests and Religious working in the Major and Junior Seminaries and houses of formation, Preached and Directed Retreats, and Spiritual Accompaniment, to mention but a few.



Wishing the GSPC's partners, benefactors, employees and all friends: A Joyous, Safe and Healthy Christmas Season and a Happy New Year.

A bird's eye view of the going's on at the Centre and other activities the Pastoral team have been up to over the last few months



Accompanying the broken hearted and traumatised, those who survived the ambush that took the lives of our two dear sisters, Sr's Mary and Regina.

May their gentle souls rest in peace.



Visitors to the Centre



Blessed to have had the Sudan and South Sudan Bishop's annual conference here in Kit. Doubly blessed to have had the presence of the Nuncio, His Excellency Archbishop Hubertus Matheus Maria van Megen and the newly appointed Monsignor Ionut Paul Strejac, Chargé d'Affaires of the Vatican Nunciature in South Sudan.

The Diocesan Pastoral Directors gathered in GSPC with members of the Pastoral team to discern and identify a way forward together as church in Sudan and South Sudan by developing a draft National Pastoral Plan. The facilitators were Fr's Ezatirale George & Aquilino Acidri, both from the Diocese of Aura – Uganda.

Thanks to our generous benefactors in Solidarity, this important workshop was able to take place.



Formators Forum: 21 members from the Dioceses of Sudan & South Sudan, 4 Religious Congregations (of which 3 were South Sudanese).



Good Shepherd Peace Centre played host to the first ever gathering of psychosocial agents in South Sudan to discuss, share, challenge & support each other on the mental and psychosocial needs of the South Sudanese people.

The workshop was initiated and sponsored by Misereor. Solidarity with South Sudan and the Catholic University played significant roles in the organisation and facilitation of the smooth running of the workshop.



The Board Members of Solidarity gathered in Kit for some input and training on the new Human Resources manual.

Availing of the opportunity to have all members together, some training in Child Safeguarding and Vulnerable adults was also offered.



A second workshop arranged by Solidarity was for the members and staff of the financial departments.

Here we can see them taking a well-deserved break from their deliberations.



Caritas Germany joined us at the Centre for their on-going training.



ASEA (African Sisters Education Collaborative)

Congratulations Sisters!
After 3 years of commitment
and study, our Sisters
graduated in the area of
Administration and Finance!



Bro Phillippe, Solidarity's newest member, is welcomed by Sr Jane to Kit.

Welcome Brother! May God bless you in abundance for your 'yes' to the service of Solidarity and the people of South Sudan.

Graduation time at Kit!



Basic counselling skills training and Capacitar techniques for our teachers working with traumatised children. Sponsored by Misan Cara and Solidarity with South Sudan.



Adhering to the stipulations from our doners, group supervision was carried out after the initial training.

Some feedback from the participants:

- ✚ “My life has changed since the training; it has also changed the life of my husband.”
- ✚ “Before the children feared me in class, now I sit down and talk to them, they are very surprised”
- ✚ “I realise I can share my trauma experiences with others and have discovered I am not alone”
- ✚ “I have learned to manage my own stress, to make sense of what is going on in my head.



Out and about



Expressing trauma through art in the diocese of Wau.

Teaching Capacitar techniques for the promotion of inner healing and growth in the Archdiocese of Juba.



Trauma healing workshop in the Jesuit teacher training college, Cubit, the diocese of Rumbek.



After months of training from the Solidarity counselling team, graduation day has arrived for the Staff and Interns in Loreto school, Rumbek!



In solidarity with the local football teams

The Good Shepherd had its own team in the football tournament this year. We brought home silver and are very proud!



It's Christmas time, the season to celebrate and share. Solidarity members and staff party with the children from the local Kit community.

Introducing some of our hard-working staff who help improve and ensure the smooth running of the Centre for our guests



Congratulations Mary employee of the year 2021 at GSPC!



Introducing Eunice who was awarded the certificate for her punctuality throughout the year.

The Ladies who make all things sparkle.





Building the foundation for the very much needed water tanks to collect rainwater.



The long-awaited incinerator is almost completed.



Maintenance is an ongoing requirement of the Centre.



Two local art students, Patrick and Stanley, touching up the Mural of the Good Shepherd at the entrance to the Centre.

As we draw near to the celebration of the birth of Our Lord may you be blessed with the promises of this holy night.

May the God who walks with us fill our hearts and all we hold dear with peace and love.

May God in a very special way touch the people of South Sudan this Christmas so that they may experience the healing of God's love and come to believe that with God all things are possible.



*Happy Christmas
and blessings in
abundance from the
Solidarity Pastoral
Team, staff and
management at the
Good Shepherd
Peace Centre.*

