



GOOD SHEPHERD PEACE CENTER



A Community of Christ's disciples sent to provide and assist in the continuing human pastoral and spiritual formation of persons in Church and society...



MESSAGE FROM THE SOLIDARITY PASTORAL SERVICE COMMUNITY LEADER...

July has brought us to the 10th Anniversary of South Sudan as the newest and youngest nation in the World! The Marathon was held, but the “celebration” to greater life, progress and peace for the People of the Nation is still wanting. In the facing of the darkness of this long coming out of civil war and strife, there is the “not knowing” of what possible steps can be taken and made fruitful for the People’s Hope and enduring persistence to build their nation as one of peace, reconciliation and unity.

This is the reason for the existence of “Good Shepherd Peace Center”, that *Solidarity with South Sudan* has assumed and where all ministry is geared to this intention and motivation. All of our programs, initiatives, endeavors are to provide tangible experiences of coming out of the darkness, where South Sudanese and those who serve here, can regain, refocus and recommit their waning energies into a pool of striving individuals building communities and a new society where light and dedication is not merely a dream.

Essential questions are asked in our programs and stand as a platform for all retreats, conferences and workshops. Why are we, am I, here? What / Whom do we wish to serve? The Country has been

stripped to bare bones! In our response to God and to the People, we are being invited, in this time of *Creation Spirituality*, to allow our Christianity to take flesh in following Jesus’ compassion and active presence to the People, in their *co-creation* with God of their Nation, coming out of its chaos into the light of new life. Grace it is, of God’s own work in us, waking us up to deeper awareness, sense of privilege and responsibility to become conscientious workers in this *harvest, ripe for the reaping!* (Jn 4,35)

Terezinha Esperança Merandi MSC
July 20, 2021



⇒ FORMATION AND ONGOING FORMATION...

FORMATORS FORUM...

“Solidarity with South Sudan” has as its vision and mission to assist and accompany the local Church in its capacitating, building up, of its members, especially the ordained priests and religious, both male and female, who are on the ground serving the faithful in the varied Ministries of the Catholic Church in South Sudan.

There is an essential, ever pressing need for deeper on-going “formation” for those who are the “responsible ones”, in forming the future priests and/or religious men and women, who are serving in South Sudan, who are, for the most part South Sudanese, or have lived in South Sudan for some years, and are aware of the strengths and limitations that life and the Church deal with on a **daily basis.**

A program is envisioned at Good Shepherd Peace Center, whereby Formators of Major and Minor Seminaries, Directors of Religious Formation Houses, Novice and Junior Professed Directors, come

together to study, reflect, discern and share on their practice, input received and experience had, in accompanying their formandees. Within the span of 18 months, 3 non-consecutive weeks of input and sharing, with personal accompaniment available on personal request, will be offered as means and tools of learning and better equipping the Formators in their most important and delicate ministry. The first of these 3 weeks is planned to occur from October 31st to November 6th, 2021. It is restricted to specific formation personnel (rectors and spiritual directors of seminaries, formation directors of novices, juniors, scholastics), all who have their formation houses functioning in South Sudan.

A “think-tank” of seven Priests and Religious, male and female, have come together in the month of June on two Saturdays (the 2nd and the 26th), to begin to organize and structure this program for the Formators Forum. It is a gift to our Church and Religious Life that we love, better form, accompany and support in growth the future of our young priests and religious men and women, by caring for and better preparing her Formators.

RETREATS...

Retreats, specifically “Directed Retreats” are an ongoing facet of the general life and activities of Good Shepherd Retreat Center. Individuals are always looking for that time of “coming away with the Lord” (Mk 6,31), to rest, reflect, revise, pray and grow in communion with God and His Will in the everydayness of our lives.

We offer that accompaniment and environment, which favors this special time of closeness to God and to one’s own life, by helping the person to “pray their lives” in the light of the Lord and offering those scriptural passages where Jesus can best make Himself present to the individual’s situation and yearnings for light, growth and conversion.

Directed Retreat—in the month of June and July two sisters followed their directed retreat for 8 days thought the direction of Sr. Terezinha. and one Sister is completing her 30 days of the Spiritual Exercises at the end of July, 2021. Both Laity and Religious are taking advantage of this unique and precious time and space of growing in their relationship with God.

During these month various religious group and Archdiocesan Divine Mercy prayer group used our center to have their preached retreat and Spiritual exercises.

- 17 Comboni Missionaries, both male and female, had their annual

- 04 USRATUNA sisters had their 4days Spiritual Exercises under the direction of Fr. Federico Gondolfi OFM, from June 9th to the 13th of June at our Center.
- Popular Mission Retreat of the Faithful of Archdiocese, Divine Mercy prayer groups and Charismatic Prayer groups of the Archdiocese under direction and with the guidance of their Chaplain, Fr. Nicholas Kiri, organized six days of Spiritual Exercises from July 3rd to the 9th of July, 2021 at the Center. Over 170 Faithful participated in these Spiritual Exercises. Two Priests from Kenya directed their Retreat.



⇒ OTHER ACTIVITIES AT GSPC— ASSEMBLY, WORKSHOPS AND MEETING

The Center for Mission, an Evangelical group used our Center to conducting their annual meeting and workshop for members. This programs was in two phases; the first, from June 31st to July. 9th. Their annual general meeting was from June 31st to July 3rd involving 95 participants. Then from June 4th to July 9th, they had their workshop for the responsible animators.



seven Dioceses in South Sudan and representatives of Religious Communities took an active part in this workshop held at our Center from July 24—26.



A Three-day Health Strategic Planning Workshop...

The Health Coordinator in the Catholic Health Department in SSCBC organized a three-days Health Strategic Workshop for the Health Coordinators, representatives of the Catholic Dioceses in South Sudan. Six out of the



Solidarity with South Sudan celebrated its Annual Assembly this year, from the 13th of June to the 19th, 2021. All Members actively participated in the Annual Assembly.



⇒ OTHER ACTIVITIES AT GSPC— ASSEMBLY, WORKSHOPS AND MEETING...

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF SACRED HEART SISTERS...

The Sacred Heart Sisters celebrated their Congregational Assembly this year at Good Shepherd Peace Center, from the 11th of July to the 18th of July, 2021. There were 11 Sisters who participated in their Annual Assembly.



*** VISIT OF THE TECHNICAL SITE BY NORBERT DEMMELBAUER OF BBM AUSTRIA**

Norbert is the Head of the Major Projects of BMM Austria. He began his technical site visit to Good Shepherd Peace Center on July 6th to the 8th, 2021. We seriously discussed all technical points involving the Center and determined that we need his assistance and supervision. Concluding his visit, he gave a full report of all his technical findings with points of references, suggestions and recommendations.



⇒ WORKSHOP, TRAINING AND SEMINARS BY SOLIDARITY PASTORAL SERVICE TEAM...

TRAINING IN COUNSELING PROCESS AND PRACTICE AT LORETO SCHOOLS— RUMBOK

By: Srs. Scholasticah Nganda & Jane Rose

Sr. Scholasticah Nganda conducted this one week program from the 1st of June to the 8th, 2021. The course of Counseling Process and Practice was conducted for the Members of Staff of the Loreto Rumbek School. The following categories of Staff were trained: secondary school Teachers -- 15, primary school Teachers- — 20, medical clinic Staff — 6, Interns — 27.

⇒ **Course Content**

The training module had 6 units:

- An overview of Counseling.
- Theories of Counseling.
- Counselling Skills and the Principles of Basic Counseling.
- Communication Skills and the Role of Communication in Counseling.
- Stages of a Counseling Session (The 3-Stage Model of Counseling).
- Types of Counseling.



Sr. Jane Rose conducted a one week program from July 12th to the 20th, 2021. She trained the participants in various counseling approaches:

- Psychoanalytic Approach
- Humanistic Approach

She also helped the participants to understand how psychoanalysts handle their clients, as well as how the humanistic approach walks side by side with the clients to make their personal decisions.



⇒ WORKSHOP, TRAINING AND SEMINARS BY SOLIDARITY PASTORAL SERVICE TEAM...

• ONE DAY WORKSHOP AT THE MAZZARELLO WOMEN'S PROMOTION CENTER—GUMBO.

The workshop was conducted for Mothers with Children having special needs. The Team of TOT trainers were prepared by an introductory workshop focusing on psychological support for their service. This workshop was held at Good Shepherd Peace Center, Kit, from the 16th—27th of May, 2021. Seven volunteers conducted this one day workshop. 28 participants took an active part in it.

Most of the Mothers have been traumatized, losing hope for their children. The training renewed their courage in caring for their most vulnerable children. The Mothers opened their hearts and shared their children's stories — how they gave birth to these children, and how to better manage their own stress throughout ensuing traumatic situations with them.

During this workshop, the Trainees were supervised by the Trauma Healing Coordinator, Constance Langoya. At the Workshop's conclusion, the Solidarity Pastoral Team awarded Certificates of participation to the Trainees for having successfully completed this requirement in their Trauma Healing training.



• CERTIFICATE AWARDDNG EVENT AT MANGATEEN

The certificate awarding event was took place on June 10th, 2021 at Christian temple in Magateen. A total of 102 certificates were awarded to 4 groups that were trained between 2019 – 2021. This was because mass gathering were prohibited as a safety measure against COVID 17 transmission. The trainees were eager to be certified and recognized by the T-shirts given. the group that had not finished with supervised one day workshops in the community expressed desire to hold I day workshops so they are recommended. It was well attended.



⇒ WORKSHOP, TRAINING AND SEMINARS BY SOLIDARITY PASTORAL SERVICE TEAM...

● **PROMOTING WELLNESS AND TRAUMA HEALING FOR GUDELE YOUTH UNION FOR 35 YOUTHS**

After the TOT at Kit and the 1 day supervised workshop, Everlyn Angaika, a volunteer for the Solidarity Trauma Healing Team, requested a workshop for an organized Youth group in Gudele. On four Saturdays, during the months of June and July, a 1 day workshop was held. The first workshop on June 12th, 2021, and the 4th on July 26th, 2021.

The content was to empower participants with information about wellness and healing from stress/trauma. Participants were members of the Gudele Youth Union Association. This association is made up of Youth from blocks 4 & 7 and 11 in Gudele; and 2 from Payam. Their vision is to improve life by learning and practicing life skills that will promote peace and development in their communities. Of the 35 participants, 23 of them were male, and 12 — female.

The four workshops were facilitated by the Solidarity Pastoral Service Team and the Trauma Healing Volunteers Team:

1. Sr. Gabrielle Farrell OLA
2. Constance N. Langoya
3. Kuol Thou Majok
4. Everline Angaika
5. James Gatwech Malual
6. Jennifer Apieu
7. Olina Lina
8. Fr. Christy John cmf

Participants reported a better understanding of themselves as individuals within varying situations in the community and in their personal homes and lives. Their understanding that a human being is body, mind and soul, which needs to be kept in balance is for good health and healing of trauma.

They have learned that trauma can be helped towards healing by practicing various exercises, using various parts of the body, daily, and as often as possible.

Some say they have gained more confidence as a young person in the community, even though they have already been active within their community's events.



⇒ **WORKSHOP, TRAINING AND SEMINARS BY SOLIDARITY PASTORAL SERVICE TEAM...**

● **PASTORAL VISIT TO THE DIOCESE OF YEI — 23rd to the 27th of July, 2021.**

Fr. Christy John cmf, Team Member of the Solidarity Pastoral Service, visited the Diocese of Yei on the invitation of Bishop Ercolano and the Diocesan Pastoral Director Fr. Faustino Lumori. Together with Bishop Ercolano and the Priests of the Diocese, there was a meeting relating to the Pastoral Services and On-going Formation for the Priests.

They appreciated the service rendered by Solidarity with South Sudan and the support they have received from the previous Solidarity Pastoral Service Team. They expressed their willingness to build up the capacity of the Diocesan Pastoral Team in collaboration with the National Pastoral Office.

Throughout the discussions, gaps became evident, and thus the need to support and prepare workshops and seminars for the Pastoral Agents on varying levels was agreed upon. The Solidarity Pastoral Team will support these program for the coming year, according to the Strategic Plan and collaborating with the National and Diocesan Pastoral Offices.



● **BASIC COUNSELLING SKILLS & TRAINING FOR TEACHERS**

War and the multiple conflicts in South Sudan have caused tremendous damage in the life of every citizen of the Country. Children are not an exception; in one way or another, they are very much traumatized. Such tragic experiences as these have oftentimes caused severe traumatic reactions, depression, anxiety, reduced concentration and motivation for education and school work.

Taking into account the seriousness of this reality, the Solidarity Pastoral Team, with the help of Misan Cara, organized a program of a six days Workshop, to instruct the Teachers and equip them with basic counselling skills, so as to help these children.

This workshop took place from the 25th to the 30th of July, 2021, at Good Shepherd Peace Center. 33 Teachers from 8 different schools participated actively in this six days Workshop. The program will continue with field supervision, evaluations of their sessions in the field and with field monitoring.

Srs. Scholasticah Nganda RSM and Gabrielle Farrell OLA, conducted the Workshop with classes, group work and practical experience.

We are very grateful to the Misan Cara Organization for their generous support of this program..



⇒ WORKSHOP, TRAINING AND SEMINARS BY SOLIDARITY PASTORAL SERVICE TEAM...

● TWO DAYS WORKSHOP FOR THE GOOD SHEPHERD PEACE CENTER STAFF

After completing many serious programs and being very busy at the Center, we of the Management Team, felt it to be only right and just to give some solid input for our very diligent and hardworking Staff Members. A two days Workshop was organized for them on June 28th and 29th, 2021. All 18 Members of the Staff arrived at the Center on the evening of June the 27th. The two days Workshop was designed and implemented by the Solidarity Trauma Healing Volunteers Team, along with Sr. Gabrielle Farrell OLA. Also Fr. Jackson Yuggusuk, Rector of St. Lawrence Minor Seminary, was invited to give spiritual enrichment to the Group. The participation and appreciation with keenly experienced by All!



● NATIONAL PASTORAL STRATEGIC PLAN

To achieve a National Pastoral Strategic Plan has been the dream of the Solidarity Pastoral Service Team. After the appointment of the National Pastoral Director for the SSSBC, Fr. John Gbemboyo, we had our first meeting on April 14th, 2021. In that meeting we, the Solidarity Pastoral Team, expressed the desire to have a workshop to develop a National Strategic Plan. With the support of MISSIO AACHEN we organized this workshop in the Month of July, from the 26th to 31st, 2021. Frs. George Ezatirale and Aquilino Acidri, from the Diocese of Aura, Uganda, were invited to facilitate this planning meeting and session.

Unfortunately, Fr. George was unable to be present, due to his CORONA positive test result. But we were able to connect with him via Zoom and he facilitated the first two days, walking us through the Vision, Mission and Objectives for the National Pastoral Strategic plan.

The third and fourth days, Fr. Aquilino took over and helped us to draw up an Activity Draft Plan including the Vision, Mission and Objectives we had already worked on.

Besides the Members of the Solidarity Pastoral Service Team, 7 Coordinators, from almost the whole of the Bishops Conference's Dioceses, participated in the Workshop. We are very grateful for the support of Missio Aachen.

Bishop Stephen Nyodho, from the of Diocese of Malakal, is the Chairperson and responsible Head for the SSSBC Pastoral Office. In his concluding remarks at the Workshop, he encouraged and motivated the participants in their presence and participation so as to unify the National Pastoral Team in its function throughout the nine Dioceses of the Conference. He thanked the Solidarity Pastoral Service for their effort and persistence in organizing this Workshop. Bishop Stephen looks forward to the benefits and future endeavors of the National Pastoral Team.



⇒ Other Events...

● INDEPENDENCE DAY 'S CELEBRATION WITH THE CHILDREN

Celebrating the first decade of South Sudan's Independence and becoming the "newest" Nation on Earth, it is only right that the "hope" of the Nation have a special celebration! Yes, 152 children from the village of Kit were these special Celebrants of Hope and Joy! Fun and games, songs and dance, as well as a nourishing lunch, were the schedule and events of the day. There is much happiness and hope to be the Children of the promising and struggling new nation — South Sudan!



● Visit of Holy Trinity Altar Servers...

Seventy altar servers from the Parish of Holy Trinity, along with their Parish Priest, visited Good Shepherd Peace Center, beginning their pilgrimage to Rajaff.



ADVENT RETREAT, 2021!

“OUR HEARTS ARE RESTLESS UNTIL THEY RESTS IN YOU MY GOD”

ST. AUGUSTINE.

“PREPARE THE WAY”

A five days Retreat will be offered by the Solidarity Pastoral Service Team at Good Shepherd Peace Center from December 12th to the 18th, 2021. The fee will be \$30.00 per person per day. This includes everything. A limited number can be admitted for this retreat. It is possible to register via email:

Fr. Christy John CMF— jnxtycmf@gmail.com



⇒ OUR GRATITUDES AND THANKS...

DEAR BENEFACTORS AND FRIENDS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS AND SUPPORT. WE ARE PRIVILEGED TO HAVE YOUR SUPPORT DURING THIS PAN-DAMIC TIME. THROUGH YOUR DONATIONS WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH AND CONTINUE WORKING TOWARDS A PEACEFUL AND RECONCILED NATION. YOU TRULY MAKE THE DIFFERENCE FOR US, AND WE ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL.

SOLIDARITY PASTORAL SERVICE TEAM

&

GOOD SHEPHERD MANAGEMENT TEAM

