

STTC Newsletter - April 2023

Solidarity Teacher Training College, Yambio, South Sudan



Good Friday Experience

The Good Friday liturgy in the parish was continued later that evening with a Taizé-style Prayer around the Cross in the shelter led by Sr Guille. This was an opportunity for the students to reflect in stillness and quiet on the outpouring love of Christ crucified. STTC students along with the principal joined thousands of people, children, young and old, to participate in the famous Way of the Cross under the scorching hot weather on Good Friday. It was amazing to witness the strong faith of the people. The cycle of the Triduum continued to the glory of Easter Sunday when the student choir joined voices with the parish. Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.



Final exams in Diploma: a first for STTC

The first 15 Diploma students started their final written and practical exams as April closed. The exams will be followed by a short workshop on peer teaching ('master teacher'), the last element in their year-long programme before graduation. While the exam process is not yet complete, we can still report on character and attitude. This pioneering group have demonstrated commitment, resilience and great enthusiasm for teaching and learning. Their excellent class spirit has been a pleasure to witness, and the groups who follow will do well to take them as a model.

Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary is one of the longest-established and most faithful clubs in STTC. Its membership is drawn from all classes so that there is always a group ready to take on leadership when their seniors graduate. The Legion members meet at 10am on Saturdays in the College Chapel; praying for peace in South Sudan they consider one of their special duties. Their communal work extends to the parish where they can be found cleaning the path to the church and slashing around the church. Their devotion and good example is a blessing to STTC. They strongly believe faith without action is dead.





STTC Souts

The STTC Scouts conduct the daily raising of the national flag with discipline and respect. Honouring the flag is an expression of patriotism and very dear to the citizens of South Sudan. The STTC Scout practice also prepares student teachers to conduct similar assemblies in their own schools. All the newest arrivals, Y1S1, were drafted into the honour guard at the start of the semester; under the strict and regular instruction of their Generals Ms Sunday Nadia Belu (Y1S2) and Ms Suzy Sobur Yoasa (Y2S1), their performance is now outstanding.

Visit of RNDM sisters, congregation of Sr Margaret Scott

STTC Yambio welcomed two RNDM sisters from Rome, Sr Lucy Wambui and Sr Lissy Sebastian. Their congregation, Religious Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions, has played a pivotal role in Solidarity, giving the college its founding principal, Sr Margaret Scott RNDM and other tutors. Srs Lucy and Lissy were warmly welcomed by the students before moving on to Riimenze where Sr Josephine RNDM was ready to show her superiors the Solidarity Sustainable Agriculture Project (S-SAP) and the Riimenze Nursery and Primary School, in which she has been involving for the past 13 years.



Dictionary

The distribution of the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary is a highlight of the first semester. Students now receive their own copy which they can keep for their school work and personal study into the future. The dictionary is used across all courses and subjects at STTC, a core teaching and learning resource. The dictionary is a tool for life and the students appreciate very much those who have made this possible. Dictionary is used by the students at all times especially for language and literacy course which must be a specific one under the Ministry's new syllabus and guidelines for Initial Teacher Training in South Sudan. Thanks to the students of La Salle College Hong Kong for observing 'casual dress day' to donate for a noble cause.

Health and Hygiene Campaign

Under the leadership of Robert Arike (Y2S1) and Sr Shu Fang, the Hygiene Club launched an intensive week-long campaign under the slogan, 'Your health is my concern. My health is your concern'. Presentations during the morning assembly covered the hygiene of toilets, dorms, dining area - the entire environment was considered. Matron Christine gave health information on STIs, malaria and typhoid. The Open Forum was devoted to the theme, 'Mental health leads to physical health'. A thorough assessment of dorms was carried out, with the King's Palace (men) and St. Bakhita Dorm (women) awarded first place for hygiene. This student-led initiative was the first campaign of its sort at STTC; its success, we trust, will encourage other clubs to forge ahead.



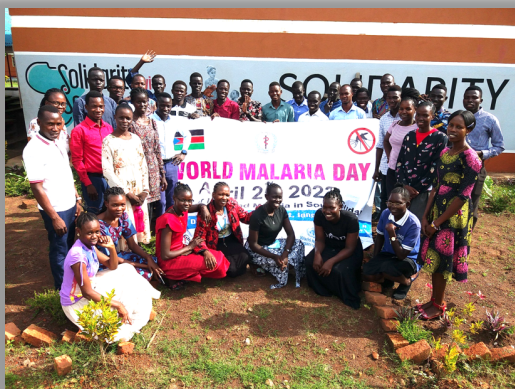
Ministry Workshop

Br Chris Soosai, college principal, attended the Ministry workshop held 17-29 April in Juba to develop a national Teacher Education Policy for South Sudan. The workshop was conducted by the Curriculum Foundation (UK) which has been developing the new syllabus and guidance for Initial Teacher Training in partnership with the Ministry of General Education and Instruction. STTC is very happy to embrace the 'Teacher Education Quality Framework' that resulted from this workshop; it closely reflects the fundamental values of Solidarity and our programme aims.



World Malaria Day

"Malaria is an acute febrile illness caused by Plasmodium parasites, which are spread to people through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes. It is preventable and curable." (Quote from Sudan Tribune) At the same time Malaria is a leading cause of death in South Sudan. The main illness among students and staff at STTC campus is Malaria. World Malaria Day was marked on 23 April 2023. Members of the Hygiene Club visited the local WES Ministry of Health which was pleased to provide information posters. As STTC students return to all parts of South Sudan, this is an opportunity for the health authorities to spread important information widely.



Visit of Monsignor Strejac

Monsignor Ionuț-Paul Strejac, Secretary of State at the Vatican, fitted in a Sunday afternoon visit to STTC after taking part in the ordination ceremony of three new priests for the diocese. Mons. Stretjac spent time talking with the students and finding out about their lives, hopes and the contents of their studies at STTC. He praised in particular the good spirit of volunteering that is a feature of STTC and their practical efforts to live out *Laudato Si'*. As a follow-up to Pope Francis' visit to Juba in February 2023, he urged them to study closely the addresses so that they might disseminate these messages to their home communities and parishes. Having worked in nunciatures across many countries, Monsignor Strejac brings sensitivity and understanding to the challenges and hopes of South Sudan. His concern for young people and their future is evident.



Dinner with Papal Nuncio

The evening of Sunday 30 April Br Chris and three student sisters, Rose, Hellen and Alice, joined the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Hubertus Mathews Maria van Megan and the Bishop of Tombura-Yambio, Bishop Eduardo Hiiboro for dinner. The invited guests were celebrating the ordination that day of the three new priests for the diocese. Archbishop van Megan was keen to learn more about the activities of STTC which he had heard about at the meeting with local religious and clergy the day before. Archbishop van Megan is Dutch with much international experience and a real heart for South Sudan. His role of Nuncio is similar to that of a country's ambassador, maintaining contact with the government and also linking the local Church with Rome. On this first visit to Yambio, it was especially good to see the young religious sisters appreciated by the Church and by the Diocese.