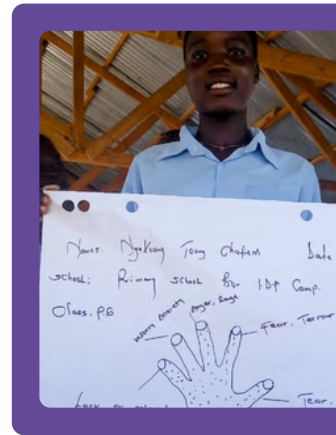


# Pastoral Program Newsletter

October 2023



## Trauma Healing – Diocese of Rumbek

The Justice and Peace Commission of the Catholic Diocese of Rumbek has requested that Solidarity with South Sudan conduct a four-day trauma healing programme (3-6 October 2023) at the Pandoor Guest House in Rumbek. Trauma Healing is one of the thematic areas covered by Solidarity Pastoral Service. This particular programme was designed to aid in the healing of approximately 30 staff members and faithful of the Diocese who, in recent years, have suffered trauma at their places of work or in their communities due to intercommunal violence and other causes. Some of the staff members who experienced the shooting of Bishop Christian Carlassare on 26 April 2021 in Rumbek are suffering from trauma. This programme was supported by the Sudan Relief Fund.



## Psycho-Spiritual Healing Retreat

The reality of women in South Sudan is quite challenging. The oppression that many of them experience continues to be an obstacle to their happiness and well-being. Many of them have stories of pain and suffering that have marked their lives. A Memory Healing programme supported by the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas was offered from 15 to 17 October, and sought to give participants a space for 'freedom and healing'. The training was designed to help participants confront their past and renew their hope for the future. Women leaders were selected from different chapels, particularly those of the Protection of Civilians (POC) camp, belonging to the Archdiocese of Juba.

## Youth Programme – Diocese of Rumbek



From 1 to 6 October 2023, 34 youth leaders from 16 parishes and missions participated in a leadership and empowerment workshop, supported by the Sudan Relief Fund. This week-long programme was a great time for young people to come together and experience their unity as a diocese. They received input on the various types and characteristics of leadership. Presenters emphasized the concept of servant leadership as exemplified by our model and teacher Jesus Christ.

## Trauma Healing and Transformation

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is now seen quite frequently at the Bor Internal Displacement (IDP) Camp. The Solidarity Pastoral Team responded to a request by the Jonglei State Internal Displaced Population for a Capacitar workshop directed to church leaders. Leaders were selected to participate in the workshop, which was conducted in accordance with established best practices for working with Internally Displaced Persons. The hope is that these leaders will return to their congregations and share what they learned so others will feel empowered as they deal with situations of confinement and overcrowding which can result in stress and trauma. Three workshops, generously supported by the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas and held from 11 to 27 October 2023, were offered for different target groups of forty participants each.



## YCS Retreat – Diocese of Yei

The Solidarity Pastoral Team offered a retreat for leaders of the Young Christian Students (YCS) from October 26–28 designed to enrich their spiritual and social lives. Young Student Christians is a movement with the specific purpose of bringing a deeper Christian awareness to students and representing young people in church, school, and society. As a student movement, it seeks to form students as responsible Christian leaders by deepening their understanding of their own reality, learning from their experiences, and taking the initiative to change the situation for a brighter future.

## Soccer Tournament

The Solidarity Pastoral Service Team is committed to building peace and reconciliation among the people of South Sudan. Sport can be a great way of helping people come to a deeper appreciation of others, and so organizing the youth soccer tournament is seen as one of the means for achieving the goal of intercultural understanding. The tournament seeks to empower young people in embracing and practicing human and Christian values so that they can thrive and see life in a positive way. Starting in 2021, we began by focusing on the youth in the area of the Good Shepherd Peace Center and organized soccer matches with teams made up of members from different groups.

