

# Pastoral Program Newsletter

December 2023



## EMPOWERMENT FOR WOMEN IN BOR

Sister Jane Rose Onzia of the Solidarity Pastoral Staff conducted a training for the Empowerment of Women from December 11-15, 2023, in Bor in the Diocese of Malakal. 79 women from Saint Paul parish, from the Protection of Civilians (POC) Camp, and from various other religious groups registered for the program. The participants reported great satisfaction with the training, indicating that Sister Jane Rose's approach was unique from other seminars they have attended. They further indicated that they needed more of this kind of training, and that something similar should be offered for men as well. The training taught them how to take a constructive approach to conflict management that is designed to help to avoid situations that end in tragedy or violence. After living with conflict for so many years, the experience reported by many of the women is one of healing and relief. They have acquired skills that they can now share with their families and children and with other women and friends.



## TRAINING FOR CATECHISTS

The Solidarity Pastoral Staff offered a Training for Catechists in the Northern Pastoral Zone of the Diocese of Wau from December 1-10, 2023. 31 catechists from the two parishes of the zone—Saints Peter and Paul and Turalei Immaculate Heart of Mary (Mayen Abun) participated. Among the topics covered at this in-depth pastoral workshop were:

- The Vocation of the Catechist
- The Timeline of Salvation History
- Introduction to Sacred Scripture, Old and New Testaments
- Introduction to the Liturgy
- Introduction to the Sacraments



## RETREATS AND SPIRITUAL PREPARATION FOR JUBILARIANS

Eleven Sisters of the Sacred Heart had their annual retreat from December 3-9, 2023. Throughout the month of December, two more Sisters of Sacred Heart undertook spiritual exercises to help them prepare for the celebration of their golden jubilees of fifty years as consecrated women religious. Father Emmanuel Tredou, M.Afr. accompanied both groups of Sisters.

Sisters, Brothers, and priests of the Salesians of Saint John Bosco made their annual spiritual exercises at the Good Shepherd Peace Center and were accompanied by Father Christy John, CMF, from December 4-9, 2023.



## CHRISTMAS PARTY



December 2023 provided us in Kit with the opportunity for a unique celebration! Sister Scholasticah Nganda (RSM), our director, returned after a year away from us! A part of that time was for a planned sabbatical, and the rest was due to a serious illness she incurred. We are most grateful that she has returned to health and that she is back with us! Further, Sister Terezinha Esperança Merandi (MSC-Mother Cabrini's congregation), who left GSPC about a year ago, was able to return for a visit. Having these two beloved members of our community with us for our 2023 Christmas Party added grace and color to our celebration. On December 14th, we all gathered in the dining hall for our Christmas celebration. The Brothers of Saint Martin De Porres and our management team members were our hosts. We began with a prayer prepared by Father Christy and his team. A member of each of our departments—administration, security, kitchen, etc.—participated in leading the prayer. The GSPC Staff Christmas Party of 2023 was an expression of the Spirit and Ethos of Solidarity: recognizing the dignity of each person, appreciating and celebrating their unique contributions to the whole, and promoting a community environment in which respect, mutuality, understanding, love, and peaceful living prevail.

## ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Nineteen Solidarity members gathered at the Good Shepherd Peace Center from Dec 27-January 2 for our annual General Assembly. It was a momentous time for us all as we renewed our friendships with one another, relaxed and celebrated together, and worked on our three-year Strategic Plan, which has been carefully designed to ensure the continued impact of Solidarity in the years ahead. We look forward to sharing this plan with our collaborators as soon as the document is finalized.





## End of Year Message from the Director

As this year draws to a close, I am delighted to reflect on what has been a very successful year for the Solidarity with South Sudan Pastoral Team. Focused on our collaborative mission of service delivery aimed at empowering the South Sudanese people to be pastoral agents in their local church and society, the Pastoral Team helped to roll out a variety of pastoral programs during the year, 2023. 2023 was a fruitful year for us and the pastoral programs we rolled out positively impacted the lives of people across the 7 Catholic Dioceses of South Sudan. We could not do this without the support of our friends and donors, and I wish to extend our most sincere 'Thanks' to all who have been with us on this journey.

Without funders and partners such as: Sudan Relief Fund, Friends in Solidarity, Congregation of Sisters of Mercy – Americas and Nairobi, School Sisters of Notre Dame. SSND – Gospel Fund, Missio Aachen, Missio Munchen, Maryknoll Fathers – USA, Koch Foundation, Claretians Missionaries – Province of Germany and other individual funders, our ability to carry out such impactful programs would be significantly curtailed. Thank you again for your support. It is a direct result of this that the Pastoral Team is set to upscale its pastoral activities to reach even greater heights in 2024.

It now only remains for me to wish you all a very happy Christmas season and to offer my best wishes to you for the coming year. We look forward to the onward journey with friends old and new in the year ahead.

Blessings.

Sr. Scholasticah Nganda, RSM

