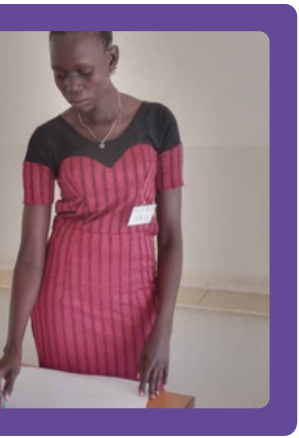


Pastoral Program Newsletter

February 2024



Donors' visits: Missio Munchen

We had a fruitful meeting with Mission Munchen donor representatives Philipp Stangl, Programme Officer, and Jore Bothlime, freelance photographer, who visited the Good Shepherd Peace Center (GSPC) on 3 February. Philipp and Jore came to GSPC to assess the impact of the initiatives for which Mission Munchen had provided financing, and to hear the feedback of those who had benefitted from the initiative and to assess the degree of involvement of the community. They met Sr. Scholasticah Nganda, RSM and our lay collaborator, Lokule Santo, from the Yei diocese. We focused on the impact of GSPC's Youth Empowerment initiatives with and for the young people of Yei, Torit and Bentiu. After an overview of the general situation of youth in the Church, their roles, their gaps in capacity-building, and their participation in Church programs, we reviewed the results of this initiative, particularly with regard to pastoral work among youth in the dioceses involved. We concluded with a discussion of recommendations for lifelong learning in order to have a lasting impact on the empowerment of our youth.



Healing of memories: three-day workshop in IDP camps

Fifteen (15) people from the Jebal, Mangateen, and Bor Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps, together with four representatives of the South Sudan Council of Churches, participated in a workshop by South Africa's "Healing of Memories" project. Ms Loret from the South African Institute of Healing of Memories, with the collaboration of Constance Langoya and Kuol Thou Majok from the Solidarity Pastoral Activities team, facilitated the programme. The three-day event focused on dealing with emotional wounds and promoting reconciliation among participants from the various groups represented. Through experiential learning and facilitator-led discussions, participants explored the complexities of healing from trauma, and moving toward forgiveness and reconciliation. Group activities, stories, and reflection provided everyone with an opportunity for personal growth and greater community understanding.



Donors' visits: Missio Austria



Elisabeth Rittsteuer, Programme Manager for Africa and Asia at Missio Austria, visited the Good Shepherd Peace Center in Kit on 20 February 2024 to assess the progress and impact of the funded project. Our discussions generated valuable insights, facilitating informed decision making so as to assure that our work is in alignment with Missio Austria's goals for development in South Sudan. Fr Christy gave an overview of projects implemented in the region, highlighting achievements, challenges, and areas for growth and improvement. We exchanged ideas on areas of interest and potential future to address the emerging needs of the region. During her visit, Elisabeth also met with Fr Jim Greene (MAfr) to review the impact of the projects Missio Austria had funded, as well as opportunities for future collaboration with Solidarity with South Sudan. This meeting was also a valuable opportunity to strengthen our partnership and our common commitment to the people of South Sudan.

Healing of memories: follow-up for previous participants

The "Healing of Memories" programme offered a special session for people who participated in last year's workshop, a session which provided the opportunity for a deeper exploration of unresolved emotions and ongoing challenges. Topics such as anger management, overcoming hatred, and the journey to forgiveness were all explored.



Healing of memories: follow-up for trainee facilitators

The "Healing of Memories" programme offered an additional workshop for facilitators-in-training designed to help them better understand and implement the Healing of Memories methodology in the South Sudan context. The supervision sessions provided valuable insights and practical strategies to better support the healing process. The workshop served as a vital platform in which participants could address past traumas, reconcile differences, and embark on the journey toward healing and forgiveness. The ongoing commitment of the Healing of Memories project underlines the importance of nurturing sustainable peace and reconciliation efforts in South Sudan.



Justice and Peace Commission Archdiocese of Juba

Father Christy John CMF, a member of our pastoral team, recently participated in a two-day review of the strategic plan for the Justice and Peace Commission of the Catholic Archdiocese of Juba. The event, held on 27-28 February 2024, was designed to evaluate and improve the commission's strategies in promoting justice and peace in the region.

