

Catholic Health Training Institute

Wau, South Sudan



Newsletter

December 2023



Visits and Men's Football Match

On 9 December, the CHTI community welcomed two of the General Councillors of the Comboni Missionary Sisters, coming to the country to visit their communities. They were touched by the beauty of the place, the climate of serenity and peace that actually empowers the students in their work and to prepare for their future as competent health professionals for their country. That afternoon, many were spectators at a football match between the CHTI and UNMISS (United Nations Mission in South Sudan) men's teams, just after the week of final semester exams. Our players were strong enough to win the competition against their more experienced opponents!



Women's Football Match

CHTI women students, led by Sister Beta, CMS, had their football match with the Comboni students. Both teams were beginners and yet played with much joy and enthusiasm. CHTI was defeated 2/0...but it was just the first match ...they are already waiting and planning for the second one! .



End of Semester Celebration

The end of the first semester of the academic year 2023-2024 was marked in CHTI by a joyful celebration on 13 December, the feast of Saint Lucy. Our presider at the Eucharist was Father Angelo, the priest of Holy Family parish. In his homily, Father Angelo recalled the example of Saint Lucy, and encouraged all of the students and staff to be wise and courageous in witnessing to Christ during their Christmas holiday, and to be signs of hope and light for their families and neighbours who support them and rely on them. Under the direction of Sister Sara, SHS, the choir animated the celebration with beautiful Christmas carols. An appetizing lunch was served after Mass, and many songs of joy and thankfulness closed the afternoon.



Preparation for Christmas

On 12 December, the CHTI community had the opportunity for a day of recollection in preparation for Christmas. Father Edgar of the Cathedral in Wau led the day, which included scripture sharing and reflection, the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and—in response to the encouragement of the Bishops' Conference following on the Eucharistic Congress in South Sudan—a time for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. All the students of CHTI were offered half a day of recollection. This gift of time for silence and prayer in order to make our hearts ready to welcome Christ anew at Christmas was concluded with the Celebration of the Mass.

During our usual weekly Mass a few days later, the students were able to offer Father Angelo some goods or money to provide Christmas gifts for the needy of our parish.

On 24 December, we gathered for our Christmas Eve celebration with Father John Baptist, SJ, of Loyola College.



Once again, the choir animated the Mass with beautiful music, and the chapel was richly decorated with the crib and other reminders of the feast of the birth of Christ. Many of our students were not able to travel to be with their families for this feast participated in our celebration. As Sister Bindu, our principal, pointed out, we became a family for one another, all gathered around the baby Jesus.

