

# Pastoral Program Newsletter

November 2023



## Empowerment and Trauma Healing for Women

Between 6 and 23 November, the Good Shepherd Pastoral Team offered empowerment and trauma healing workshops for women in the dioceses of Rumbek, Yei, and Juba. About 300 women, from 20 to 60 years of age, participated in the one-day training. The content and methods are standardized, and the activities are adapted to the needs and openness of the participants, with everyone being fully included and having the opportunity to participate actively. Participants reported that they found the experience to be valuable in helping them recover from traumatic past events and come to a greater appreciation of their own dignity and their freedom to make healthy and life-affirming choices for themselves. This programme was supported by grants from the Sisters of Mercy through Friends in Solidarity USA, and by the School Sisters of Notre Dame.



## Soccer Final

The Cobra Rajaf and the Kit Football Clubs opposed one another in the Soccer Final held on 18 November. Among the nine teams participating this season, Rajaf and Kit were the finalists, and in this final face-off the Kit Club was triumphant by a score of 3-2.

## Trauma Healing Phase II – Diocese of Wau

Last year, Father Christy John of the Claretian Fathers (CMF) conducted a workshop for the pastoral ministers of the Diocese of Wau. In the workshop, Father Christy explored the concept of trauma, its root causes, and the lasting effects of traumatic experiences.

This first workshop was so successful that the pastoral ministers gathered once again this year for the second phase of the program. The assembly was held from 13 to 17 November with about 25 religious and priests participating. Father Nelson Mwaka of the Apostles of Jesus facilitated the workshop. Those in attendance report that the workshop was interesting and renewed their commitment to addressing the trauma experienced by the people of South Sudan and finding positive ways of healing and moving forward. The program was funded by Sudan Relief Fund.



## Annual Retreat for the Priests of the Rumbek and Torit Dioceses

Solidarity promotes the ongoing formation of the priests of South Sudan by seeking to invite priests to embark on an interior journey of renewal so that they can experience fullness of life, engage more effectively in the service of their communities, and, ultimately, enter more fully into union with Christ. Consistent with this goal, the Good Shepherd Peace Center sponsored retreats for the priests of the Diocese of Rumbek (4-11 November) and Torit (13-17 November).

Father Peter Alenyo, MCCJ, chancellor of the Diocese of Wau, facilitated the retreat for 13 priests from the Diocese of Rumbek on “The Identity of the Priesthood”. Father Todo, lecturer at Saint Paul’s Major Seminary, led the retreat for 43 priests of the Diocese of Torit on “Jesus Christ, Our Anchor in Times of Turbulence”.

At the conclusion of the retreats, participants expressed their gratitude for the opportunity of having this deep spiritual experience that helped them to remember and reflect on their call to the priesthood of Jesus Christ. The experience inspired them to renew their commitment and return to their ministries with a fresh perspective and a deepened sense of enthusiasm.