

**DIOCESE OF SOROTI – UGANDA MISSION PARTNERSHIP**

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*History:* Soroti Catholic Diocese is in the rural Eastern part of Uganda. The Diocese was created in 1980. The area has a population of about 3.4 million people out of which 1.4 million are Catholics (45% of the population).

As soon as the diocese was erected, it was plunged into a devastating civil war that lasted for about two decades leaving behind untold suffering in all facets of life.

*Economy:* The area relies heavily on subsistence agriculture which has been adversely affected by unreliable weather patterns as a result of climate change. It is affected by drought and floods.

*Bishop:* The diocese got a new Bishop, Rt. Rev. Joseph Eciru Oliach after five years of being without a chief shepherd.

*Pastoral work*: In the last 40 years, there has been a rapid growth in the population creating the necessity of more personnel, structures, and resources to serve the bulging population.

Just last year alone, we had over 31,000 infant baptisms, and the new bishop confirmed over 26,000 Catholics in his first six months! He has opened 15 new parishes in one year.

Our Mission: *To build a self-ministering, self-sustaining, and self-reliant Church in Uganda that is sensitive to the missionary dimension of what Church is.*

**NEEDS**

1. *Construction.* The diocese has not had a Cathedral for the last 40 years. There is now an initiative to construct the new Cathedral in preparation for the Golden Jubilee. We have also new Parishes that have no Churches and Rectories. The people are able to provide local materials and they will need support for cement and other manufactured construction materials.
2. *St Peter’s Junior High School Minor Seminary.* The Seminary was established in 1983 and has right now 300 boys being formed socially, morally, spiritually, and intellectually. It is a bedrock for our vocations and it has produced over 80 priests serving in many areas including abroad. It has produced our first native bishop. The structures are dilapidated as they inherited a government run vocation school in 1983. They need repairs and they support for their self-reliance projects. This would also cover the training of our Seminarians in the different stages of formation and our lay leaders especially the Catechists.
3. *Catholic Education.* Every parish has Catholic schools, health and social centers. We would want to be able to sustain and support our elementary schools in order to bring up children in the ways of God to be able to be useful members of society.

Thank you very much.

*Msgr Simon Peter Engorait Diocese of Houma Thibodaux – Louisiana*

*Rev. Alex Ojacor Archdiocese of Chicago*