

# DIocese of Soroti Mission Partnership - UGANDA



*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.



*The Inauguration of Christ the King Parish in Olilim in 2020*

## **TO SUPPORT**

1. Pray for the Mission
2. Go on Mission Trip
3. Donate to the Mission

## **CONTACT**

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Bishop Eciru poses for a photo with a section of Confirmed Christians at Anyara Parish

## PROJECTS

*1. Construction of Churches.* Since its inception the Diocese has had no Cathedral. The new bishop has initiated the construction of the new Mary Queen of Peace Cathedral.

Most of the new parishes have no Churches and Rectories at all or use dilapidated structures. Every community is trying their best to build houses of worship and evangelization but are too poor to fund these infrastructural developments. There is need to support them. A bag of cement costs \$10.

*2. Training Personnel.* We have 60 Major Seminarians and 300 Minor Seminarians. Our Junior High School Minor Seminary, St. Peter's, which was established in 1983 has produced over 80 priests including our new bishop, Rt. Rev. Joseph Eciru Oliach. The priests who come through this system serve the Church and the communities not only in Soroti Diocese but also nationally and internationally. We have priests in congregations, in Europe and in the United States from our Diocese that serve the people of God. We are very happy to share our gifts with the universal Church.

However, most of the men we get come from poor families that cannot manage to pay for their tuition and boarding for the long period of formation. We do not want to turn away vocations because of financial constraints.

To keep a Seminarian in Philosophical or Theological Seminary costs \$1,200 annually. Philosophical studies are for three years and theological studies take four years. It costs \$450 annually to educate a Minor Seminarian. The Junior High School Minor Seminary is for four years.

Our Junior High School Seminary is so congested due to lack of space. The old kitchen collapsed and the dining hall, library and science laboratories are still incomplete. The Seminary would like to become self-sustaining by investing in self-reliance projects so that they can produce the food they eat. They need a start-up capital to enable them to achieve this.

We are also keen on training our lay evangelizers especially the Catechists and Development workers.



*3. Children's Education.* We believe that the future of the diocese and the continent of Africa lies in education. All our parishes have Catholic Schools especially at grade school levels. The Church remains one of the outstanding institutions that is contributing to education of children in the country.

However, with the growing population, it is becoming increasingly difficult to sustain our schools that are providing such an essential service to the poor population.

It costs \$100 a year to keep a child in a village grade school for their scholastic materials and uniform.