

CATHOLIC CHURCH INAUGURATES A NEW CENTRE FOR PEACE IN SOUTH SUDAN

By Fr. Raimundo Nonato Rocha, MCCJ

16 October 2016 – The ‘Good Shepherd Peace Centre’ has been inaugurated in Juba this Saturday 15 October 2016. The inauguration ceremony took place within the Eucharistic celebration presided over by the Apostolic Nuncio to Kenya and South Sudan, Archbishop Charles Daniel Balvo, at Kit, where the Peace Centre is located, just about 12 kilometres away from Juba downtown.



Good Shepherd Peace Centre, Juba (Kit)

The Good Shepherd Peace Centre is the first of its kind in South Sudan and has been designed to provide the South Sudanese church and society with a suitable place for human, pastoral, spiritual formation, peacebuilding and trauma healing.

This Peace Centre is an initiative of the Religious Superior’s Association of South Sudan (RSASS), a church institution made up of 47 Religious congregations, over four hundred consecrated men and women, who have been working in South Sudan in the fields of evangelisation and human development.

This Peace project was approved at the RSASS General Assembly in 2014 and the construction of the entire Peace Centre took just about 15 months, despite the many challenges and the ongoing instability in the country.

A good number of church personnel, donors, diplomats, government officials and the local Christian community of Kit and Rejaf joined the RSASS Executive Committee and the Good Shepherd Peace Centre’s staff to officially inaugurate and bless the new Centre for Peace and Development.



Eucharistic Celebration at Good Shepherd Peace Centre

The Good Shepherd Peace Centre's staff informed that its purpose is "to provide integral initial and continuing formation of pastoral agents, spiritual renewal through retreats, to create an atmospheres in the country that would be conducive to the promotion of Gospel values, to assist building up the church in South Sudan in all its dimensions and to contribute to the development of the country and its people through programmes that build a genuine sense of nationhood, people empowerment, dialogue, justice and reconciliation for the common good".

RSASS' chair-person, Fr. Daniele Moschetti, expressed on behalf of all Religious that the Good Shepherd Peace Centre "is a great step forward, giving assurance that we are determined to serve the people and the church of South Sudan for peacebuilding and the formation of a new generation of citizens and Christians".

He added that all RSASS members are committed to "accompany the people of South Sudan on the challenging journey towards peace and prosperity with human and spiritual formation in different missions spread throughout the country and now also through the Good Shepherd Peace Centre".



Chapel at Good Shepherd Peace Centre

A team of five people will be permanently living in the premises of the Good Shepherd Peace Centre in Kit. They will organise some programmes, workshops and retreats. Also, some programmes will be prepared by the SCBC Pastoral Department for all dioceses in the country. Besides, the Peace Centre welcomes individuals and organisations that come with their own programmes and facilitators.



Blessing of the Staff at Good Shepherd Peace Centre

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