

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF BURUNDI

EGLISE ANGLICANE DU BURUNDI

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COMMITMENT TO PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

The Province of the Anglican Church of Burundi organised a six day training workshop on peace and reconciliation for church leaders and representatives from the dioceses. It aimed to engage the church in contributing to peace building and to help people to work for reconciliation whenever conflicts break out.

The Church in Burundi has often been called on to play a role in solving community issues. The training provided skills to help people to build peace in communities.

During the training participants were taught the keys that help people to resolve conflicts. Advocacy, mediation, negotiation and communication were the main topics on which the sessions focussed.

The Bishops of the Province committed themselves to lead as peace makers by example and agreed to fully support clergy, leaders of women and youth leaders in all initiatives towards peace and reconciliation. On behalf of the clergy, priests who attended the training made a commitment to regularly speak of peace in their parishes and communities and to work towards conflict prevention and unity.

EVANGELISM



Nine diocesan evangelism coordinators were invited to attend a workshop aimed to strengthen the ministry of evangelism in the Anglican Church of Burundi.

The Provincial Secretary, Rev. Felibien Ndintore officially opened the training by urging the participants to reflect on what makes a worthy servant of God. Working for the sharing of the Gospel should bring a sense of satisfaction, fulfilment and joy to every Christian especially those called to be pastors.

He warned the participants that evangelism is under threat from distractions and noises that prevent people hearing the cry of those needing salvation. He said the workshop was an opportunity to reflect on strategies and solutions that would better address the challenges surrounding evangelism.

The Province of the Anglican Church of Burundi has recently created a department in charge of evangelism that will work closely with diocesan departments to promote evangelism throughout the dioceses.

NEW BISHOP INSTALLED IN GITEGA DIOCESE



“I have not been chosen because I deserve it more than others nor for my wisdom but because God has entrusted this crucial ministry to me. He enables those He chooses. We trust in him who said that He will be with us for evermore.”

These words were spoken by the Rt. Rev. Aimé Joseph Kimararungu at his installation as the new Bishop of Gitega on 18 August 2018 in the presence of all the Bishops of the Province of the Anglican Church of Burundi and other visitors and guests including some from Rwanda and UK. He succeeds the Rt. Rev. John Wesley Nduwayo and becomes the second Bishop of the diocese.

Bishop Nduwayo extended his gratitude to God for the outcome of the long journey he had had leading the diocese from its beginnings in 1985 when it consisted of two parishes. Among the many things that had been achieved during his 33 years of ministry he identified the establishment of schools, provision of clean water, reforestation of land, support and rehabilitation of survivors of the crisis of 1993, hundreds of literacy circles and savings groups, thousands of people trained to fight against gender based violence, and the establishment of the Dioceses of Muyinga and Buhiga. He apologised for the expectations he was not able to fulfil.

Archbishop Martin Blaise Nyaboho appealed to the new Bishop to pursue the mission that Jesus entrusted to his disciples and that had been entrusted to Bishop Nduwayo when the diocese was established. “You are called to serve the Church of Christ; you now have responsibility for the Anglican family in Burundi”, he said and went on to remind Bishop Kimararungu that the Anglican Church of Burundi is also called to contribute to the life and development of the Anglican Communion.

ORDINATIONS IN RUTANA AND MAKAMBA

There was amazement and excitement among the congregation as the first ordination service took place in the Diocese of Rutana that was established a year ago. Seven deacons and four priests were ordained by Bishop Pontien Ribakare who also made five people Canons.

The ordination of priests will allow for more sub-parishes to be served by a priest and enable communities to grow spiritually. They will also help to facilitate initiatives in holistic development.

In collaboration with the Provincial office the Diocese of Rutana is initiating a community development based approach in Giharo commune. Recently a baseline survey was conducted to find out the needs of the communities and how community members might contribute to them.



Ordinations also took place in Makamba Diocese where seven deacons and four pastors were ordained.