



E-Newsletter of the Subcommittee on Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers (PCMRT)

July 2015



Hello! It's time to relax and be happy! Greetings from sunny and hot Washington, DC. Sit back and enjoy some of PCMRT's news and events.

Also, send us your stories to be published in the electronic newsletter for the Subcommittee of Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers (PCMRT). We hope to provide timely news and information about the activities of PCMRT.

Sincerely,

Sr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ
Assistant Director, Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers, Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church

Namugongo to commemorate the Martyrs' Day. To celebrate the feast day, the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church/Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees and Travelers made a vivid display in the atrium of the USCCB offices on the stories of the Martyrs.

The display garnished a lot of interest and engagement, and those that I spoke with thought that it helped them to understand and appreciate the meaning of the feast and the role of Christians to be ready and prepared to follow Christ, to witness with their lives, to do good works, to preach the gospel, and to grow in the knowledge and teaching of the Lord.

The Feast of the Uganda (African) Martyrs



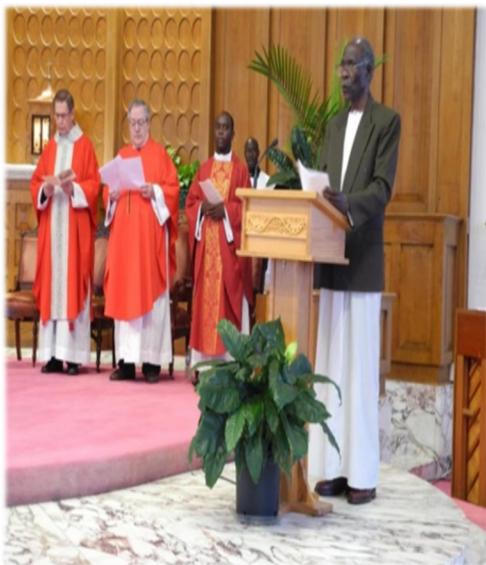
Every June 3rd is the feast day of Charles Lwanga and companions, or the African martyrs. All over the world, and in particular Uganda, thousands of pilgrims gather at the Uganda Martyrs' Shrine in

In June 13, 2015, the Ugandan Catholic community in Washington DC metropolitan area, the African Catholics and well-wishers gathered to celebrate the Uganda Martyrs' Day. Indeed, the Martyrs of Uganda Africa are models for Christians to follow in their faith. They were given choices to either denounce Christianity or die. They chose "to die rather than denounce their faith." Christians must be courageous, they must be devoted and selfless. In his homily, Fr. David Brault the Pastor of St. John the Baptist Catholics Church, Silver Spring, encouraged the attendees to embrace

"martyrdom" by laying down their lives for Christ, by loving one another, and by remaining united.

Indeed, what Pope Paul VI said many years ago is as true today as it was then. In canonizing the Martyrs of Uganda in 1964, Pope Paul VI said: "These African martyrs herald the dawn of a new age. If only the mind of man might be directed not toward persecutions and religious conflicts but toward a rebirth of Christianity and civilization, "That hope expressed by Pope Paul VI now becomes our prayer. As followers of Christ, we need to be ready even to give our lives for Christ. We pray that all Christians may be born anew in their faith so as to live like children of God. May the Ugandan Martyrs inspire and strength us today and always. May that which made the Ugandan Martyrs endure torture and gain martyrdom help all Christians to gain eternal life.

Feast of Medhanie Alem Ge'ez Rite, Eritrean Catholic Community



The first annual Feast of Medhanie Alem Ge'ez Rite, Eritrean Catholic Community, at Holy Spirit Catholic Church of the Arlington Diocese, was celebrated June 6, 2015, thanks to his Excellency Most Rev. Paul S. Loverde, Bishop of Arlington, who welcomed the Eritrean Catholics to the Diocese, and Abune Mengisteab Tesfamariam, Archbishop of Asmara.

As the saying goes "Rome was not built in a day"; it started from very humble beginnings and hardships which did not deter the Christians from forging ahead. The Eritrean Catholics are committed to finding concert ways to take ownership of their new community and plan on how to remain visible in the Church in the Arlington Diocese. In the spirit of unity, and the sacrifices of their time and talent, each member contributes to the development and growth of Medhanie Alem Ge'ez Rite Eritrean Catholic Community.



Events

JULY 2015

July 27-August 2: Annual gathering of the African Conference of Catholic Clergy and Religious in the United States (ACCCRUS) Boston, MA. Visit ACCCRUS website for more information and Register online at <http://accrus.org/>

SEPTEMBER 2015

September 22-27: World Meeting of Families- Philadelphia
<http://www.worldmeeting2015.org/>

September 29- October 3
North American Maritime Ministry Association (NAMMA), Annual Conference, Montreal, Canada. For more information visit <http://www.namma.org/>

OCTOBER 2015

October 1-4: United States Mission Congress - Houston, TX. Theme: *Witnessing Mission: Called to be Missionary Disciples*. The Congress will explore our baptismal call to be missionary disciples and how the evangelization mission of the Church compels us to encounter culture. Register online at www.missioncongress.org

AUGUST 2016

August 3-4: African Conference of Catholic Clergy and Religious in the (ACCCRUS) Annual Convention for religious on August 5-7: Third African National Eucharistic Congress. Check [USCCB's PCMR](#) web page for information about the Congress



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