



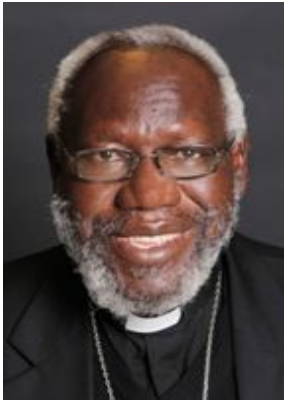
Newsletter Date:-

AN OASIS OF PEACE AND LOVE

JANUARY TO JUNE

## AN OASIS OF PEACE AND LOVE

### BACKGROUND OF HOLY TRINITY PEACE VILLAGE KURON



Bishop Paride Taban was born at Lomura-Opari in 1936. Ordained Priest on 24th May 1964, Ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Juba Archdiocese on 4th May 1980 and was appointed the 1st bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Torit on 7th August 1983.

The dream of Holy Trinity Peace Village Kuron started in 1999. This was after his visit to Himmerod “the Cistraa community of monks at Trier in Germany, the Oasis of Peace “Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salem in Israel and the Catholic University in Bethel, where he had observed people from different communities (Christians, Muslims and Traditionalists) living in harmony as one family. The Bishop was inspired with the desire to create a similar community model in his own country. On his pastoral visits in Kapoeta areas and Boma, he identified Kuron as a potential village for actualizing his dream.

Bishop Paride retired from the administration of the diocese in 2004 to continue with his dream of the peace Village in Kuron, to bring peace among the Toposa, Jie, Kachipo, Murle and Nyangatom who have been using the land around river Kuron as a grazing area and often there is a fight because of pasture and cattle raiding.

It started with a demonstration farm 1999 then a bridge was built in 2000 to connect the two states of greater Pibor and Equatoria. This bridge had its own advantages and disadvantages. It made it easy for the people of Greater Pibor and Eastern Equatoria to move but made it easy for the warring tribes to cross for raiding even during rainy season.

To stop this, Holy Trinity Peace Village was founded near the bridge to acts as a unifying factor for peace to coexist among the tribes. Besides Peace program a health centre, a school was constructed alongside pastoral work.

To date the people from these tribes receives ser-

vices at the health centre, the children study together and the youth play games for peace together. This has stop blood shed though there are incidence of child abduction which is minimal.

This year 2020 He celebrated his 84th birthday in Kuron. At 84 bishop served *fifty six years* as a priest and *forty years* as a bishop.

He is continuing with his work of peace and he hopes to see peace comes to south Sudan and Sudan before God gives him eternal rest.

**Below are the words of Bishop Paride Taban which makes Holy Trinity Peace Village a better place to live in.**

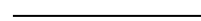
*Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Compassion, Sympathy, Kindness, Truthfulness, Gentleness, Self control, Humility, Poverty, forgiveness, Mercy, Friendship, Trust, Unity, Purity, Faith and Hope. I love you, I miss you, thank you, I forgive, we forget, together, I am wrong, I am sorry. Understanding, discernment and wisdom.*

#### The Fourteen wise words

If you are right then you need not get angry and if you are wrong, then you don't have any right to get Angry. Patience with family is love. Patience with others is respect. Patience with oneself is confidence. And patience with God is faith. Never think hard about the past, it brings tears. And don't think more about the future, it brings fear. Live this moments with Smiles, It brings cheers. Every test in our life makes us bitter of better, every problem breaks us or makes us. The choice is ours, whether we become victims or victorious.

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Beautiful things are not always good, but good things are always beautiful. Do you know why God created gaps between fingers? So that someone who is special to you comes to fill those gaps by holding your hand forever. Hold on to your dreams. The only way to catch your dreams is to chase them and never let them go.

**SECRETS FOR A RIPE OLD AGE**

*Worry less, Play more. Ride Less, Walk more. Eat less, Chew more. Drink less, breath more. Preach less, act more. Waste less, save more. Go less, rest more.*

Pastoral activities is one of the activities carried out in and around Holy Trinity Peace Village. The Bishop and the priests continue to conduct daily Mass with the use of loud speakers at the chapel and on Sundays while observing social distance. The Priest also go to the villages in the evening preaching the word of God to the community as a mobile chapel. This is to increase the faith of the Christians especially talk to them how to protect themselves during this time of COVID 19 because Corona Virus is real.

This year HTPV Kuron is blessed with more missionaries from St. Martin Brothers, a Priest from the Catholic Diocese of Rumbek and more missionaries are interested to come. We give gratitude to God for increasing the laborers for the harvest is rich.

**Objectives**

Improved food security and environmental protection in and around



The Bishop, Priests and Catechists posts for a group photo after Sunday Mass in February 2020



Retreat organised by pastoral committee on trauma healing. Most people are affected by the lockdown especially those who work far from their families.

**AGRO FORESTRY SUPPORTED BY DIOCESE OF MAINZ , CAFOD AND OTHER FRIENDS**

Kuron.

This gives daily casual work for the community women and wives of the staffs.

**Activities:**

Introduction of varieties of vegetables, fruits and food.

**Vegetables:** Sukuma wiki (collards), tomatoes, Egg plants, cowpeas, green grams, beans, pigeon peas, African bitter tomatoes etc.

**Fruits:** Varieties of Bananas, papaws, watermelons, cashew nuts, budded Oranges, grafted mangoes, lemons, sweetsop and sour sop cashew nuts

**Food:** varieties of Sorghum, Maize, sesame, ground nuts, Cassava, sweet potatoes etc.

**Agro forestry:**

Tree planting is geared to mitigate climate change through increase in carbon sequestration. The trees are blending with the existing native trees and which will enrich biodiversity with regards to creating favourable environmental and ecological conditions for life. It is also part of the income generation.



Harvesting of Sukuma Wiki (Collards)



Women learning at the demonstration garden



### AGRO FORESTRY CONTINUES



Women cutting and drying collards for preservation



Garden of Bananas and Sukuma Wiki (Collards)



Packing and transporting of the collard-greens to Juba for sale. We make use of the chartered flight to send the produce for sale in Juba.



Paw paws and water melons ready for harvest



Agro forestry garden and nursery children picking sweet-sop



Young teak trees



Banana plantation and the fruits sold to consumers in HTPV Kuron.



Grown teak plantation which has changed the weather in Kuron with regular rainfalls.

The Toposa community in Kuron are no more pastoralist only but have become also farmers.

**INFRASTRUCTURE (ROADS AND CONSTRUCTION) Supported by EU/NCA**

Activities:

1. Narus—Kuron—Boma Road.

Maintain and rehabilitate deteriorating road sections. This is through creation of scour checks, re-filling of pot holes, reinforcement of lags with gabion wire, preparation of earth-bridges on several road water ways and stone filling

2. Water and sanitation

Rehabilitate damaged borehole platforms, replacement of rusted pipes in non-functional boreholes, creation of water troughs to supply drinking water to livestock during the dry season

3. Improving the institution’s operating environment

Continue to maintain general infrastructure in HTPVK. This involve crack refilling, re-walling of cracked buildings, electrical re-cabling and re-piping and construction of new buildings.



Construction of an Irish bridge near the air strip



Repair of damaged bore holes in the villages around HTPVK



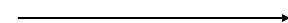
Ferrying of stones and gravels for the road work



Scouring of the muddy road and filling of the potholes at the airstrip.



The community digging pit sand for construction



INFRASTRUCTURE (ROADS AND CONSTRUCTION) Supported by EU/NCA



Community Development Grant committee (M&E) having consultative meeting at the site for Secondary School.



Roofing of the secondary school classrooms



Local materials (Sand and stones) collected for construction of the secondary school classroom



Welding of the doors for the secondary school block by the VTS students.



Painting of the school block



Construction of the secondary school classroom.



Latrine with two stances constructed by VTS for the ECC centre at Lorusothuko

## PEACE PROGRAMME SUPPORTED BY PAX AND EUROPEAN UNION.

### Multi-ethnic peaceful coexistence

1. Improve social cohesion within the community.

Continuous improvement of inter communal social interaction. Inter community dialogue meetings between communities in Kauto and Jebel Boma Counties to resolve evolving conflicts and resolutions on sharing of common natural resources like grazing lands and watering points.

2. HTPVK Continue to implement the early warning mechanism. Engage the joint peace committee on monitoring and early warning mechanisms to diffuse any potential eruption of conflict.

Engaging the youths in Kauto and Jebel Boma Counties in sports and cultural activities to diffuse energy which would have been used in engaging in cattle raids.

3. Arrange exposure visits to other peace areas which once had similar historical conflicts as learning centres e.g in Lodwar in Kenya and in Moroto in Uganda.

### Multi-ethnic socio-economic interaction and development.

1. Engage women in income generating activities like making of different hand crafts from local materials and beads weaving.

2. Create an arena for women and youth from Kauto and Jebel Boma counties to joint exhibit their crafts, and agric cultural products in a peace market.

### Good local leadership and empowered civil society

1. We empower the local leaders, youth leaders and influential women in knowledge on conflict mitigation and transformation.

2. Empower the community leaders, chiefs and youth leaders on their civil rights in order to demand for social services from the government. E.g. schools, health and roads etc.



The monthly community meeting in the ten villages around HTPVK. It involves the youth, elders and female representatives



Both women and me gave their views in the community meetings



## Women Day Celebration in Holy Trinity Peace Village Kuron

As the year 2020 starts there were many hopes and anxiety of what the leap year has for each one of us. The utmost was to see that there comes Peace in the world especially our country South Sudan.

Women all over the world had planned to celebrate the silver Jubilee of the adoption of the Beijing platform for the action of women right, but calamities can't depart from successes. Flood, locusts threatened and boom comes corona virus breaking everything right from the source. Some countries had to postpone until another date or cancel for this year. But these never hindered the women activities in Holy Trinity Peace Village Kuron. Women from all walks of life came to celebrated the day on 12th March 2020 with vigor.

They urge; women to be responsible, self esteem, assertive and self reliant, and not to expect everything from the opposite sex but be proud of being a woman.

Parents; give the girl child a chance to education for you will educate the Nation. Husbands we expect gender equality. Community; we need Social Justice and to the government we need peace, stability and empowerment.

Evidence has shown that gender equality contributes to economic growth as well as a healthier and better-educated society.



Speech by the community Women Representative. She emphasized on girl child education and Peace.



The men joined the women in the celebration with a dance.

Amidst denial of education by parents, she continues to support the family and cook for the brothers who come back from school. She is married off at a tender age for the family to get bride price for a brother or an uncle but she continues loving and visiting them. She is abused, battered by the man she is married to without love, but continues to serve and ensure that there is food on the table for the family. She goes through pain of labor, but continues to add numerous children. She is the family doctor, supporter, planner, economist, peace builder, a guard, with endless responsibilities but she is considered the list in human ranking. She has the heart of forgiveness no matter what she goes through. Her work is only felt when she is no more. This is the person called a woman.

Despite some progress, real change has been agonizingly slow for the majority of women and girls in the world, because not a single country can claim to have achieved gender equality. Multiple obstacles remain unchanged in law and in culture. Women and girls continue to be undervalued; they work more and earn less and have fewer choices; and experience multiple forms of violence at homes, work places and in public spaces.

Women must not condone the behaviours of their partners but help them come out of the challenges"

***Lastly, Every woman has a past and if you see a woman whom you know her past and she managed to stand tall and strong, do not stab her with her past but reward her with peaceful future that she deserves because she still has some hope left in her.***

***Long Live Holy Trinity Peace Village Kuron.***

## Animal Tracking Supported by Caritas—Austria

The aim of introducing animal traction in Kauto Payam is to facilitate transportation by using donkeys' cart. There are no public transport in the area therefore luggage are carried by head then children and the sick are taken to the health Centres on donkeys. It takes many days to reach to the service centres since they walk on foot to cover the distance. This applies also when moving to a new grazing land in search of pasture and water during the long dry spell from October to March

The introduction of the carts will also help women to increase food production and improve family household income to meet their daily basic needs.

The advantage of animal traction is the availability of the animals in families. A family at least have 4—5 donkeys and they use old technology. We built on their available technology and improved on it.



Training of the donkeys in ploughing and cart pulling



Beneficiaries are ploughing using donkeys



The traditional way of transporting children and luggage when relocating to new grazing area.



Bananas being taken for sale to the Peace Market in Kuron



Conception meeting and identifying the beneficiaries in Kuron. Seeds were also distributed to the beneficiaries.



Beneficiaries are being trained on assembling and maintenance of ploughs



Mobilisation from the eleven villages around Kuron area for the animal traction program

The aim is to train at least twenty house holds from the eleven villages who will act as trainers of trainees in the villages.



## COMMUNITY BASED INITIATIVE (EDUCATION) SUPPORTED BY FRIENDS OF SR. EMMANUELLE & STROME FOUNDATION

### Improved access to inclusive quality education

#### 1. Improved conducive learning environment

- Provision of adequate furniture for every learner.
- A teacher to pupils' classroom ratio is optimised by ensuring there is no congestion in the classrooms
- Ensuring the safety and security of learners at all times.

### Improved Academic excellence

- There is quality assurance to the schools through monitoring visits by HTPVK administration to ensure that teachers deliver as expected.
- Untrained teaching staff are advised to undergo upgrading through training during academic holidays and in-service training schedules.
- Literacy skills of the pupils and academic performance is improved by procurement of necessary reading, learning materials and academic exposure trips.
- HTPVK continues to provide the service of learner's transport to enable disadvantaged children access quality education.
- Construction of early childhood development centres in the neighbouring villages for school going age children to access education opportunities was done. Supported by Stromme Foundation.
- Creating awareness to the learners in all schools and vocational training centre in Kuron on peaceful coexistence with others. This is disseminated to pupils through peace clubs and drama. The children acts the drama for the community in the community theatres.

### Provision of infrastructure

- Existing structures are repaired where possible and new construction (Extension) are done.
- The first secondary school was opened in Kauto—Kuron to ensure the continuity of our candidates from primary school to transit to the next level without hindrance.
- Children within Kauto finds it difficult to continue with studies in Narus or Kapoeta because of accommodation problems. Gratitude to UNMISS for supporting the construc-

tion of two classrooms and administration office.



A parent brought children for enrolment at the new ECC centre at Nakubuse



Children of the Nursery scho



Nursery pupils at lunch time at school. The children are served porridge for breakfast and food for lunch before going back home since most of the parents afford only a meal a day.

COMMUNITY BASED INITIATIVE (EDUCATION)



The children in class with the care givers.



St. Thomas Primary School in Kuron during the lockdown.



Children at physical education. Playing time is very important for children both at school and home.



Girls of St. Thomas Primary School for guidance and counselling on girl child challenges. (Early child pregnancies and marriage).



Children are taught how to plant beans and green vegetables in the school garden



The impact of COVID-19. St. Pope John Paul II Nursery during the lockdown as all children have to remain with parents.



The candidates of 2019 after their Primary Leaving Examination posed for a picture with the invigilators and the Director of HTPV Kuron

## Community Basic Curative Health for healthy Living

1. Health care service is provided for local communities. Patients with different minor conditions are treated at outpatient department. Inpatients and outpatients are educated on key preventive measures against various infection for effective infection control in the community

2. Improved neonatal and maternal health care (NMHC) in Kuron operational area. Mothers attend one or more antenatal care services at the facility and are vaccinated against Tetanus.



Out patients waiting at the consultation desks.



Mothers attending Health Education at the PCHC in Kuron.



Food distribution to malnourished children at Fr. Mathew Haumann Memorial PHCC Kuron. Support from WFP

The News about COVID 19 was first heard as stories until when it hit the capital of south Sudan on 5th April 2020. But this did not take Kuron by surprise because they know that it's a pandemic and they have to be ready.

The staff and the community were sensitized on social distancing and washing of hands with soap, ash where necessary and use of Masks.

The community lives in a remote area, but it was easy for them to understand the consequences of the virus. We give gratitude to all our partners in development (FOSE, Stromme Foundation, NCA, CARITAS Austria) to mention but few who donated funds and items to fight COVID-19.



Amidst movement restriction and lockdown, MAF Air was able to deliver items for COVID 19 to Holy Trinity Peace Village Kuron. Supported by Friends of HTPV.



(Off loading items) :- Gratitude to the Norwegian Church Aid in support for the items and flight chartered to deliver the items to Kuron.



Sowing of masks for distribution to the staff and community around Holy Trinity Peace Village Kuron in preparation for COVID-19



The local community based Task force members selected from the villages for orientation.



Patients who come for treatment are being briefed on signs and symptoms of Covid-19 and why people have to use masks.



HTPVK Task Force members with key preventive measures tools during the launch of COVID-19 at HTPV



Rehabilitation of the community boreholes in the villages for clean drinking water and use of water during COVID-19