

# The National Celebrations of World Communications Day

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Attending the prayers at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Gulu on Sunday, 16th May 2010 at the 44<sup>th</sup> World Communications Day Celebrations “The Priest and Pastoral Ministry in a Digital World: New Media at the service of the Word” organized by the Catholic Church was amazing; while I witnessed the young ones creatively incorporate the dances of Acholi traditions and culture into the church service, enriching the hymns sang by the church choir. One couldn't help noticing the unity shown as clergy representing all regions of Uganda backed the Most Rev. John Baptist Odama - the Arch Bishop of Gulu Catholic Archdiocese in Northern Uganda who led the mass; not forgetting prayers made in different languages by different people during intercession; and- other continents like Europe, America etc represented. The message of Peace, Unity and popularizing digital technology for positive development by the Arch Bishop of Gulu Archdiocese, derived from the message of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI was so clear on the spotlight. The thanksgiving session allowed everyone to give what he or she was able in monetary and/or non-monetary terms. Hon. Hillary Onek, Republic of Uganda Minister of Energy and Mineral resources was the Guest of Honour.



**Communication Day Celebrations at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Gulu**



**Workshop Session facilitated by Uganda Joint Christian Council**

Prior to the day celebrations was a one week workshop (National Communication Week) held at St. Daniel Comboni Spirituality Centre-Layibi in Gulu, Northern Uganda under the sub theme: “The Church, Media and Elections” that attracted 17 Catholic Archdioceses (Social Communication Department) from the Republic of Uganda which were: Lira, Kampala, Mbarara, Arua, Kasana-Luvero, Fort Portal, Kabale, Lugazi, Nebbi, Jinja, Masaka, Soroti, Tororo, Kasese, Gulu, Hoima and Kiyinda-Mityana. Participating projects included:- Radio Sapientia (Kampala); Audio-visual ministry (Arua); TV-WA (Lira); Radio Maria (Kampala, Mbale, Mbarara, Gulu); Radio Pacis (Arua); Radio-WA (Lira); Guide Radio (Kasese); Leadership Magazine (Kampala); BOSCO Uganda (Gulu). Other institutions participating were Catholic Media Council-Germany and Uganda Joint Christian Council.

The workshop that drew over 40 participants entailed: (1) Registration of participants; (2) Official opening; agreeing on program of the week; Progress reports [Introduction, Activities, Challenges, Plan-Recommendation]; by representatives; (3) Business meeting [Reading of previous minutes, What are we communicators doing; National Association of Catholic Media Workers]; (4) Learning Picnic day [visit to media houses, relaxation and share meal]; (5) World Communications Day [solemn Mass in Cathedral, Exhibitions, Entertainments, Speeches, Handing over Communication Drum to Mbarara Archdiocese, Lunch]; (6) Screening of different project proposals to be submitted to SIGNIS



**Study Tour:Radio Maria-Gulu**



**Study tour: Mega FM-Gulu**



**Social: Different Cultural dances displayed**

Again, you notice the art/design:



**Lacor Minor Seminary: sculpture of Jesus Christ (white) welcoming friends to the Seminary**



**Alokolum Major Seminary: Participants pose for a photo and view the sculpture (in yellow) of the Uganda Martyrs (Historic) of Namugongo (Kampala-Uganda)**

I just couldn't wait to share the beauty of faith, art and nature portrayed by St. Joseph's Cathedral and the two seminaries (Alokolum Major Seminary and Lacor Seminary-Minor) in Gulu, northern Uganda.