

THE REPORT OF THE CWM- Kampala ARCDIOCESAN CELEBRATIONS OF THE FEAST OF THE WORKERS 1st MAY 2010 IN GAYAZA PARISH

The day started with mass and the main celebrant was the Parish priest of Gayaza Fr. Godfrey Kyeyune, who was assisted by Deacon Kyagulanyi Jude because he was not well. The Choir of Mbuya Base group animated the Christians through singing during mass.



Mbuya CWM base group leading the members in the choir

The parishes with CWM were well represented and these included; Gayaza the host parish, Busega, Old Kampala, Kajjansi, Nsambya and Mbuya. The other CWM groups not present sent in their apologies because it was raining heavily that day.



The Members during the mass



The parish priest celebrating mass

After Mass the Chairperson of Gayaza Base group – Mr. J.B Walusimbi gave a brief talk to the parishioners. He outlined the main objectives of CWM and why it is useful for one to become a member. He also told them that this year their Parish had been chosen to host the celebrations. He then invited all who were interested to know more about CWM to join them in the hall. He thanked the Parish Priest despite him not being well, he was able to celebrate mass for the day, he also thanked the choir from Mbuya for leading the Christians in the praise and worship.

The members were then asked to proceed to the main hall of Our Lady of Good Counsel S.S.S– Gayaza, where the leader of the Laity at the Parish was asked to say an opening prayer.

The Chairperson of the Base group then welcomed all present and members were asked to introduce themselves and where they come from. After the introductions there was a song interlude by the Mbuya CWM youth desk and the Executive Secretary CWM-Kampala was invited to give his talk.



The CWM members (visiting groups) listening to the chairperson

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY CWM-Kampala – Mr. Nsubuga Lukowe Frank

He began by recognizing the presence of the Executive Committee members of CWM-Kampala, he then welcomed all the new and old members and thanked them for honoring the invitation and attending in good numbers.

He then gave a brief history of CWM for the benefit of the new members and informed them that whoever is still in CWM is there by conviction. He said that it is a lay apostolate movement in the Catholic Church and was recognized by the Pope in 1966. The movement embraces all workers who are Catholics and are above 18years irrespective of what job one does.

As Christians we need to belong to a group to help uplift our standards, he said. We have a lot to learn if we join the movement and we always lose a lot of things because we have excuses of no time yet we all have 24hrs in day. God gave us time to manage, therefore it is up to us how we manage it.

He went on to say that each lay apostolate movement has a special mission, our group embraces everyone so that we can come together and work in solidarity, support and supplement each other. We do not need to use other people when we have members who can provide the same services to us and at times at a cheaper rate.



*The Executive secretary
CWM-Kampala addressing
the members*

He then told the members the objectives of CWM and their usefulness to them. CWM uplifts the standards of members spiritually and physically. We meet, talk, plan and evaluate and not just reading minutes and going back to our homes and he emphasized that this should be done in all the CWM groups.

He urged CWM groups to improve on their performances, so that they can always receive visitors because we are internationally recognized. Finally he asked all the members to be managers of everything including time if they are to move forward as members of CWM.

**A WORD FROM THE CHAIRPERSON CWM-Kampala –
Mr. Galiwango .K. Lawrence**

The Chairperson also welcomed the members and thanked them for coming and he said that he wants to bring services nearer to the people by starting CWM in sub parishes especially for

those Parishes that cover a wide area. He gave an example of Gayaza Parish which has 13 sub parishes and when they call for a base group meeting at the parish, some members do not come because of distance. This will also help the groups to become semi autonomous.

He then gave information on the structures of the movement from Base group level to the World Movement of Christian Workers and how each sector works and compliments the other.

He then talked about the idea of the Archdiocese of initiating a revolving fund, its advantages and usefulness to the members and the procedures. He said that this would be discussed in the forthcoming Annual General Meeting because it was useful for us to generate income through monthly savings. He then invited the guest speaker – Mr. Willibroads Ngambi



*The Chairperson
CWM-Kampala
addressing the
members*

THE TALK FROM THE GUEST SPEAKER – Mr. Willibroads Ngambi

The guest speaker began by saying that since he came he had been watching our group and had observed some good things which were not common in other groups in the Church. He said they are many groups in the Catholic Church, who start as Catholic associations and then work and in the end become more business oriented and minded and there are others who only pray and forget about their other needs. He then stressed that we need to do both concurrently that is; pray and work. He went on to say that what he likes about CWM is that, they have the spiritual part, then solidarity and working together and development ideas. We should always try to keep faith and development together, if we are to grow and move forward.

He noted that some of our people have failed to mix work and prayer, but he has been lucky because he has been able to combine these things together. For example he has been in the choir for 26yrs and wherever he goes he has been chosen as a leader and has accepted.



The guest speaker – Mr. Willibroads talking to the members as they listen attentively

He mixes his daily work with Church work and it was on this note that he encouraged everyone to work, because working is good and work was created by God. God created us to work and we can not govern the world, unless we work. All of us have an obligation and it is a must that we work and value work. We need to work for people and the glory of God and not work for money, we need to love work because it is a duty and obligation given by God to us. So when we work, we please God and people.

He then stressed the goodness of saving and he said that you do not have to be rich to save. As Catholic Workers we must learn to value money and not waste it, we should also learn things and ways which will help us to manage our work and money.

In the letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians; he had a right for people to look after him, but he worked by making tents for his living, but he was still the greatest preacher. Therefore he who doesn't want to work shouldn't eat. He requested all members to stop despising work because it has been the root cause of unemployment in our country.

As Catholic Workers we need to treat one another as equals, we must learn to respective each other irrespective of positions.

We also need to market ourselves and our products, we need to **communicate, communicate** and **communicate**, if people are to know what we can provide as individuals or as a group. We need to make our work known by people who can change our lives.

Learn more and more about your work if you are to be successful. Be a person who is knowledgeable and also learn other things which are not of your line of duty, this will help one to invest in the God given skills.

He also urged those without jobs, to always begin as volunteers because through volunteering they will be providing a service and they will be working and getting skills. But when volunteering one

should work more than expected. For those working in formal places, e.g. schools, offices, try to be quiet and work, this will be good when it comes to productivity. The biggest problem most of us have we lack concentration while at work. Lets learn to keep our work as a prayer, when we are working we are serving God and it doesn't matter whether you can not even go for lunch hour prayer.

He said that it is one thing to belong to an association and another to be a Catholic Worker. Belonging to an association/group helps one to be a good Catholic and a good worker. We should also reflect and ask ourselves; what work do I do? Is it in line with the Catholic teaching? Let us all use the Catholic Workers' Movement to change our lives and everyone who will see or meet us, will give glory because they see a Catholic who is a worker in you.

He ended by thanking the members for joining the Movement and wished them all the best and urged them to work harder for the greater glory of our God.

CLOSING REMARKS BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY CWM-Kampala – Mr. Nsubuga Frank

He began by thanking the Parish Priest for celebrating mass despite him being sick, he also thanked Mbuya base group for the choir and the Mbuya youth for entertaining the guests especially since they are the ones who will replace us, thus giving us assurance of CWM continuity.

He went on to thank the catering department for ensuring that all the guests were comfortable and informed the guests and members present that the meal had been served by the catering unit owned by a member of Gayaza base group. He also thanked the groups who exhibited that is; Tonnex and the women's desk of Gayaza base group.

He thanked all the organizers for the day and in a special way recognized Mr. Walusimbi who was the overall organizer of the day. He went on to say that we need people like Tonnex because they can help provide employment. He also thanked the guest speakers like the Chairman CWM-Kampala who talked about savings which will help us on the issue of sustainability. For the guest speaker, his talk was a wonderful one and it helped cover all the pillars on which CWM rotates and also covers the theme of the Archbishop of Kampala "Work and Pray".

He then informed the members of the forth coming Annual general meeting which was scheduled for 30th May 2010 in Nsambya. He also told them of the coming of visitors in August from German and then the others who would be coming the following year from Regensburg Diocese and these are our partners. He also requested the members to fill in the membership forms urgently and send them back to the office.

The master of ceremonies – Mr. Kato Mugerwa thanked the guests and visitor members for coming to celebrate the day in Gayaza Parish together with them. He wished everyone God's blessing and safe journey back home



*The Master of ceremonies
Mr. Kato with a microphone*

The master of ceremonies then invited the Assistant National Executive Secretary CWM-Uganda, who is also the Diocesan secretary CWM-Kampala – Ms. Nkuraija Janet to say the closing prayer.



Ms. Janet saying the closing prayer



The women's desk member- Gayaza Base group explaining to the members how her product works during the exhibition



The members looking at the machines of Tonnex a member in CWM-Gayaza

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