

**THE TRUTH WILL MAKE YOU FREE (Jn 8:32)**

## **Workshop on Evangelization and Education**

**Comboni House, Juba**

**April 2016**

### **Resolutions and Recommendations**

The participants of the Workshop on Evangelization and Education, held at Comboni House in April 2016, are deeply committed to serve the people of South Sudan. At the same time, we are concerned about the current situation and the developments in the country. For the government, education clearly is not a priority. The Church is occupied with many issues so that evangelization and education do not receive sufficient attention.

We are Catholics from different backgrounds: teachers and head masters, diocesan clergy and religious, brothers, sisters and missionaries and lay workers. We have discerned at the workshop and at our places of work what needs to be done in South Sudan and propose the following.

Our message to the government:

- Make education a priority. Release the full amount which is allocated in the national budget for education.
- Train, employ and pay more teachers.
- Invite teachers from other countries in large numbers.
- Encourage higher student enrolment, especially of girls.
- Promote agriculture and vocational training strongly.
- Promote positive critical thinking in all areas of research.
- Accept the principles of good governance and ethical standards.
- Accept diversity in unity, one nation made of many peoples and cultures. Help all citizens to identify positively with South Sudan.

Our message to the Catholic Church:

- At the centre of what the Church says and does is the person of Jesus Christ whom we present as Healer, Liberator and Redeemer. He is the One who leads people to inner freedom because he embodies God's full Truth to humanity in word and deed.
- We need to live Christian values with conviction if we want others to believe that this is the way of true freedom and peace.
- Evangelization today requires re-evangelization of Catholics who have long been in the Church. Church members should know the faith and identify with it. Faith and life need to be integrated.

- Evangelization is not possible if we do not forgive each other. We need to reconcile the wounds of the past.
- Representatives of the Church should be known as humble and should serve the people of God like Jesus, who washed his disciples' feet.
- As we rely on lay people in education, the Church needs to involve them more in evangelization and proclamation of the Gospel.
- We need to develop a national pastoral plan (possibly with the SSCC) that relies on small Christian communities as promoters of healing and non-violent action in a society torn by conflict and war.
- We need a national education council of the Catholic Church or an education secretariat/commission at the bishop's conference (SCBC). The Church needs to be heard nationally and be able to advocate her interests to the government. Good working relations are necessary with the MoEST, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labour. Other issues, besides promoting general education are the protection of the environment and modern technologies that threaten the dignity of the person.
- Coordination on the level of the SCBC may also lead to a more unified teaching model for all Catholic institutions in the country. Students in Catholic schools have the right to be introduced to the full message of the Church and should know the faith well by the time of graduation.
- The Church should offer education in remote areas where the government is not present.
- The Church needs to foster dialogue with the SPLA until real peace is reached. Chaplaincy programmes should be instituted to support and mentor soldiers so that they act within the boundaries of the law and uphold the rights of all.

Sincerely,

the participants