

## 127<sup>TH</sup> DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF FR. SIMEON LOURDEL MAPEERA

On the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2017 we celebrated the 127<sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary of Fr. Simeon Lourdel Mapeera. The celebration was at Mapeera-Nnabunnya Pilgrimage Centre, Lubaga. It is here that Mapeera died in 1890 and was buried until his remains were transferred to Lubaga cemetery in 1901.

The main celebrant was Emmanuel Cardinal Wamala, Archbishop Emeritus of Kampala Archdiocese. Present also was the Archbishop of Kampala, Dr. Cyprian Kizito Lwanga. In his homily, Cardinal Wamala meditated on the relevance for us today of the recommendations of Mapeera to the Christians who were around his death bed. These recommendations which the Cardinal called Mapeera's last will (*Ekiraamo kya Mapeera*) were: **to remain faithful to the faith they had embraced, to be patient in hard times; to pray for him, their country and King.** These, he said, are still very meaningful to us today in Uganda where we are confronted with so many challenges in all spheres of life. He also reminded the faithful about the tradition of praying on this day for all the deceased priests who have worked in Uganda.

Between 250 and 300 people attended the celebration. During the same celebration, a Statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary was blessed by the main celebrant while the Archbishop launched a booklet written by Fr. Nnyombi Richard, M. Afr., entitled "Novena with the Pioneer Missionaries to Mother Mary". The Christians were invited to pray through the intercession of Mother Mary for the success of the cause of the beatification of Mapeera and Amans. Also, the Archbishop launched a Choir named "Mapeera and Amans Choir" whose members would like to contribute to the promotion of the cause of these two Servants of God through church songs.

We are grateful to the Lord for the beautiful day and joyful celebration.



