

CELEBRATION OF THE 138TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST EUCHARIST IN UGANDA

“Stand firm in the Faith the we have been taught” (Colossians 2: 7)

Sunday 25th June 2017, saw hundreds of believers flocking to Nabulagala, the Cradle of the Catholic Church in Uganda, to celebrate the 138th Anniversary of the first Eucharist in Uganda. Since some years, this date is earmarked for the pilgrimage to this place for this particular reason.



The main celebrant was the Archbishop of Kampala, Dr. Cyprian Kizito Lwanga. The theme under which this year's celebration was conducted was the same theme as that of this year's Uganda Martyrs' Day at Namugongo: *“Stand firm in the Faith we have been taught”* (Colossians 2: 7). Blessed indeed were the pilgrims of this year to reflect on this theme at the very place from where this faith was first taught! Blessed also were they to be at the place where the remains of those who first taught this faith in this country are laid to rest!

In his homily, the Archbishop reminded the Congregation of the importance and power of the Eucharist in the life of a believer and encouraged them to love the Eucharistic Devotion



(Adoration); he invited them to renew their baptism promises and the faith that was taught by Mapeera and his confreres; he warned them against ‘religions that seek only miracles’ while negating the ‘Cross’; and making reference to the novena which the pioneer missionaries started immediately after celebrating their first Mass ending it with the consecration to the B. V. Mary, he invited the faithful to deepen their love and devotion to Mother Mary.

To mark the day, fifty children received their First Holy Communion. How blessed are these ‘angels of God’ who received the ‘Body and Blood of our Lord’ for the first time from the place where the first Eucharist was celebrated! We encourage others from all over the country to do the same.

We thank the Lord who graced us with beautiful weather and for all the pilgrims, young and old, who came from far and near. We thank Nakulabye Deanery, the organisers of this annual celebration. We also thank the faithful of Mapeera-Nabulagala Parish, the guardians of this Ancestral Home of the Catholic Church in Uganda, for the warm welcome they showed to the pilgrims!

NOTE: A group of African Christians, from association of “Mapeera Lourdel & Uganda Martyrs Dury Pilgrimage Europe (MUMADUPE), Ugandans and others, mainly from London, made a pilgrimage on the same weekend to the birth place of Mapeera in Northern France. On Saturday, they celebrated the Eucharist with the Christians of the sub-parish where the family of Mapeera lived. Some of these people are related to his family.



They also visited the family house of Mapeera. On Sunday, they celebrated the Eucharist in the Cathedral of Arras. Two Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers) accompanied them. For next year, this pilgrimage will be from 1st to 3rd June 2018. Congratulations to all the pilgrims!

