

NOVENA WITH THE PIONEER MISSIONARIES TO MOTHER MARY

RE-CONSECRATION TO MOTHER MARY IMMACULATE

2017

This year, following in the footsteps of the pioneer missionaries, the Association of Mapeera and Amans Beatification Promoters (MAB-PRO), organised a Novena which started on the 25th June when we commemorated the 138th Anniversary of the First Eucharist in Uganda. The objective of this novena was twofold: go to the school of Mother Mary to learn the will of her Son and how to put it in practice and to pray with Mother Mary for the beatification of Mapeera and Amans.



The Archbishop of Kampala, Dr. Cyprian Kizito Lwanga, who was the main celebrant on that day at Nabulagala, lead us in the opening prayer of our Novena. This Novena was concluded in Lubaga Cathedral with His Eminence, Emmanuel Cardinal Wamala, who was the main celebrant.

On the last day (2nd July), we started our procession with the Statue of the B. V. Mary from the site of the first tomb of Fr. Simeon Lourdel located at Mapeera-Nabunnya Pilgrimage Centre, up to Lubaga Cathedral. Before starting the procession, the *Ssaabakristu* (leader of the laity) of Nalukolongo Sub-Parish, Mr. Emmanuel Mutebi, conducted a simple 'ground-breaking ceremony' at the site where we plan to build the Grotto of Mother Mary.



At the end of the Holy Mass in which 11 seminarians received the ministries of 'readers and servers' and also ten (10) children baptised, we **re-consecrated** ourselves and our Country Uganda to Mary Immaculate as did the pioneer missionaries on the same date in 1879. Then, the procession with Her Statue went back to the site from where we started.

The following day, 3rd July 2017, which in fact was the 9th day of the Novena (NB: the pioneer missionaries prayed for 8 days), a gathering of about 60 people congregated at Mapeera-Nabunnya for the Eucharistic celebration in

thanksgiving for the peaceful and prayerful running of the Novena. On this same day, we remembered the 165th birth anniversary of Bro. Amans.

During this Novena, the Word of God from the daily Mass readings, which focused on our ancestor in the faith, Abraham, filled us with much encouragement and hope in our efforts to pray and to promote the cause of the beatification of Mapeera and Amans. We were reminded that ‘nothing is impossible to God’!



So, with Mother Mary leading us, as She did from Nabunnya to Lubaga Cathedral and back to Nabunnya (Her Statue at the head of the procession), we will persevere in our “procession of prayer” confident that the God to whom nothing is impossible, will one day heed to our plea as He did to that of Abraham and Sarah.

NOTE: A group of African Christians, from “Mapeera Lourdel & Uganda Martyrs Dury Pilgrimage Europe (MUMADUPE), Ugandans and others, participated in this Novena and concluded it on the 2nd July at Bethnal Green St. John’s Hall. Congratulations to all who participated in this Novena!

