

Catholic Diocese of Torit

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مطرانية توريت الكاثوليكية

ص. ب ١١ , توريت

جنوب السودان

ولاية شرق الاستوائية

13 December 2010

Mr. Joseph O'Callaghan and Teresa Kehoe
Irish School of Evangelization
Dublin, IRELAND

Dear Mr. O'Callaghan and Kehoe

On behalf of His Lordship, Akio Johnson Mutek, Bishop of the Diocese of Torit, in my own capacity as Vicar General, and in the name of all the priests who participated in the spiritual exercises you directed together with your colleague, Teresa Kehoe, from the 6th to the 10th of December 2010 at the St. Joseph Center in Ikotos, I write to express our profound and heartfelt thanks.

The theme of the New Evangelization is a very timely one for us as South Sudan prepares to become an independent nation, with all the blessings and challenges that step will bring. We very much appreciated your emphasis on the Eucharist as the source and summit of our priestly and Christian lives, the essential role of the Holy Spirit in our spiritual lives and in the mission of the Church, the centrality and importance of the Scriptures and the necessity for personal prayer. I know I speak for all those who participated in saying that it was a graced moment of spiritual renewal for us, and an experience that opened new horizons and perspectives for our priestly ministry. Our gratitude is all the more for the fact that you not only offered us outstanding spiritual input, but also – with the help of friends and benefactors in Ireland – underwrote the entire cost of the retreat as well as covered the transportation expenses of the priests who attended. You saw firsthand the stark conditions in which we attempt to carry out the Lord's work and the glaring lack of resources. Your financial and spiritual generosity made the retreat a complete and very precious gift in every respect.

We marvel at the ways in which the Lord manifests His providence and care for us, in this case by the connection that was established between you and the diocese through the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, with whom you have collaborated in Ireland and who are also present here in Torit. It is beautiful to see how in the Body of Christ some members serve and act as vital links between others. We are extremely grateful that His Lordship, Bishop Akio, who welcomed you into our diocese when the Friars presented him with that possibility.

Please extend our thanks to all your friends and supporters in Ireland. We ask God's continued blessing on you, on them and on the wonderful work of the Irish School of Evangelization.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Rev. Fr. Celestino Murras
Vicar General

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Copy to: H. L Bishop Johnson Akio Mutek
Catholic Diocese of Torit