ARU@50 YEARS
“In God’s Mercy we are no longer strangers but friends”

PILGRIMAGE TO MAPEERA-NABULAGALA
CRADLE AND ANCESTRAL HOME OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN UGANDA

EUCHARISTIC EXPOSITION, ADORATION AND BENEDICTION

CELEBRANT: His Eminence Joao Card. Braz de Aviz

8th November 2018
EUCHARISTIC EXPOSITION, ADORATION AND BENEEDICTION

EUCHARISTIC EXPOSITION

[Congregation kneeling in silence. As the celebrant and altar servers enter, the people stand. Choir starts the song. The celebrant places the monstrance on the altar, then goes to the tabernacle. The people kneel as the celebrant brings the Holy Eucharist from the Tabernacle to the Altar. He places the Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance. Then the celebrant and servers kneel facing the altar, and the celebrant incenses the Blessed Sacrament.]

Song: SWEET SACRAMENT DIVINE

1. Sweet sacrament divine,  
Hid in thine earthly home;  
Lo! Round thy lowly shrine,  
With suppliant hearts we come;  
Jesus, to thee our voice we raise,  
In songs of love and heartfelt praise  
Sweet sacrament divine (2)

2. Sweet sacrament of peace,  
Dear home of every heart,  
Where restless yearnings cease,  
And sorrows all depart.  
There in thine ear, all trustfully,  
We tell our tale of misery,  
Sweet sacrament of peace (2)

3. Sweet sacrament of rest,  
Ark from the ocean's roar,  
Within thy shelter blest,  
Soon may we reach the shore;  
Save us, for still the tempest raves,  
Save, lest we think beneath the waves;  
Sweet sacrament of rest (2)

4. Sweet sacrament divine,  
Earth's light and jubilee,  
In thy far depths doth shine,  
Thy God head's majesty:  
Sweet light, so shine on us, we pray  
That earthly joys may fade away:  
Sweet sacrament divine (2)

ADORATION

[All sitting. Reading + Short Homily + Silent Adoration]

John 15: 12-17

Jesus said to his disciples;

12 “This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you.  
13 A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.  
14 You are my friends if you do what I command you.  
15 I shall not call you servants anymore, because a servant does not know his master’s business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.  
16 You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name.  
17 What I command you is to love one another.
BENEDICTION

[At the end of silent adoration, the celebrant goes to the altar, genuflects, and kneels and incense the Blessed Sacrament. Then all sing the hymn *Tantum Ergo*. All remain kneeling as the celebrant leads the people in prayer.]

Tantum ergo Sacramentum
Veneremur cernui:
Et antiquum documentum
Novo cedat ritui:
Præstet fides supplementum
Sensuum defectui.  

Down in adoration falling,
Lo! the sacred Host we hail;
Lo! o’er ancient forms departing,
newer rites of grace prevail;
faith for all defects supplying,
where the feeble senses fail.

Genitori, Genitoque
Laus et iubilatio,
Salus, honor, virtus quoque
Sit et benedictio:
Procedenti ab utroque
Compar sit laudatio.
Amen.

To the everlasting Father,
and the Son who reigns on high,
with the Holy Ghost proceeding
forth from Each eternally,
be salvation, honour, blessing,
might and endless majesty.
Amen.

Celebrant: You have given them Bread from heaven.

Congregation: Having all sweetness within it.

Celebrant: [Let us pray.] Lord Jesus Christ, you gave us the Eucharist as the memorial of your suffering and death. May our worship of this sacrament of your Body and Blood help us to experience the salvation you won for us, and the peace of the Kingdom where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Congregation: Amen.

BLESSING

[After this prayer, the celebrant dons the humeral veil, kneeling, then goes to the altar, takes up the monstrance, and turns toward the congregation. Elevating the monstrance, he solemnly blesses the people by slowly making the sign of the cross with the Blessed Sacrament. During the Eucharistic blessing, the thurifer, kneeling, incense the Blessed Sacrament. As they receive the]
solemn blessing with the Holy Eucharist, the kneeling people bow their heads and make the Sign of the Cross.

After blessing the people, the celebrant replaces the monstrance on the altar and returns to his place facing the Blessed Sacrament and kneels. He leads the people in praying (or singing) the Divine Praises; while the people (all kneeling) repeat each phrase after him.

DIVINE PRAISES

Blessed be God.
Blessed be His Holy Name.
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.
Blessed be the Name of Jesus. Blessed be His most Sacred Heart.
Blessed be His most Precious Blood.
Blessed be Jesus in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.
Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.
Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.
Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.
Blessed be her glorious Assumption.
Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.
Blessed be Saint Joseph, her most chaste spouse.
Blessed be God in His angels and in His saints.

REPOSITION

[During the reposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle, the hymn is sung. The people are kneeling. The celebrant rises, goes to the altar, genuflects, removes the Blessed Sacrament from the monstrance, and places it in the pyx. He places the empty monstrance to the side (he may also veil the monstrance). Then he goes to the tabernacle to repose the Blessed Sacrament within it. As soon as the Blessed Sacrament is reposed within the tabernacle, all stand. Facing the altar the celebrant and servers genuflect and withdraw to the sacristy]
HYMN: HOLY GOD, WE PRAISE THY NAME

1. Holy God, we praise Thy Name; 3. Lo! the apostolic train
   Lord of all, we bow before Thee!
   All on earth Thy sceptre claim,
   All in Heaven above adore Thee;
   Infinite Thy vast domain,
   Everlasting is Thy reign.

2. Hark! the loud celestial hymn 4. Holy Father, Holy Son,
   Angel choirs above are raising,
   Cherubim and seraphim,
   In unceasing chorus praising;
   Fill the heavens with sweet accord:
   Holy, holy, holy, Lord.

CLOSING SONG: SANCTA MARIA

Sancta Maria, siccurre miseris
iuva pusillanimes,
refove flebiles.
Ora pro populo,
interveni pro clero
intercede pro devoto femineo sexu.
Sentiant omnes tuum juvanem,
quicumque celebrant
tuem sanctam commemorationem.

Holy Mary, succour the poor,
aid the faint-hearted,
revive those who mourn.
Pray for the people,
intervene for the clergy,
intercede for women religious.
May all experience your aid
who celebrate
your holy commemoration.

RELIGIOUS MEN AND WOMEN IN UGANDA
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF BRO. AMANS DELMAS

When Bro. Amans was chosen to be sent to Uganda (1878), he had just completed his novitiate, meaning that he had just made his first temporary vows. Nine months after his arrival in Uganda, he made his perpetual missionary oath making him the first Consecrated person to do so on the soil of this Country. It was on Sunday, 19th October 1879 at the end of the retreat which he had started on the 11th October. Following the policy of the Society, he
wrote his oath and signed it, and this is the only written document we
have of him!

“I, Brother Amans Delmas, in front of my brothers here
assembled, and you my Father, I commit myself to live a life of
obedience, poverty and celibacy for all my life as it is stipulated
in the Constitutions and Laws of the Society of the Missionaries
of Africa in all that concerns the Brothers in their life and
work. I also promise to work wholeheartedly together with my
brothers in the religious life, following the rules of this Society,
in supporting all the works of charity and apostolate carried out
by the missionaries for the spiritual and material welfare of the
non-Christians.”

The inquiry on the life of Bro. Amans, and his
confrere Fr. Simeon Lourdel (Mapeera), in view
of their beatification and canonization is going
on. The diocesan phase was concluded on the 8th
September 2018 here at Nabulagala, meaning that
we have now started the Roman phase.

To mark this historical event and date when the
seed of consecrated life was sown in this country,
an annual pilgrimage to Nabulagala is organised
specifically for the Religious Men and Women in
Uganda. It is a day of prayer and reflection.

137 years ago, one of Amans’ confreres had this to say about him in his
letter to the Superior General:

“Few moments ago I asked brother Amans to write to you some
few lines, but dead to the world, he does not write even to his old
father. He asks me to tell you many good things. This good brother
is always available and renders precious services of looking after
the children and putting order inside the house. Brothers like him
especially if they have different technical professions would be
of great help for us.” (Fr. Rene Lévesque, Nabulagala, 30 November
1881)

May our pilgrimage to this holy place today, as consecrated men and
women serving in Uganda, renew us in our commitment to a faithful
and humble service to God and to our brothers and sisters, following in the footsteps of Bro. Amans.

[Visit website: mapeeraandamans.org; read also the booklet: Bro. Amans Delmas, M. Afr. A faithful and humble servant, edited by Fr. Richard Nnyombi.]

SOME HISTORICAL FACTS ABOUT NABULAGALA CRADLE AND ANCESTRAL HOME OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN UGANDA

- **March 1879:** Fr. Simeon Lourdel (Mapeera) and Bro. Amans Delmas settle in their first house, built for them by Kabaka Muteesa I.

- **25th June 1879:** 1st Eucharist in Uganda celebrated after the arrival of the three other missionaries – Livinhac, Girault and Barbot - who had remained at Kageye (Tanganyika, Mwanza region).

- **2nd July 1879:** End of the Novena to Mary Immaculate, started on the 25th June; consecrating to Her their life, mission and this country. It was on the Feast of the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth.

- **19th October 1879:** Bro. Amans made his perpetual missionary oath. Annual Pilgrimage in Commemoration of this event.

- **27th March 1880:** Holy Saturday. 1st Baptisms celebrated by Fr. Livinhac. These were: Paul Nalubandwa, Peter Kyonooneka Ddamulira, Joseph Lwanga and Leo Kaddu.

- **28th March 1880:** Easter Sunday. 1st Holy Communion & Confirmation for the four neophytes.

- **30th April 1882:** Baptism of Joseph Mukasa Balikuddembe and Andrew Kaggwa by Fr. Lourdel. These were his first baptisms in Uganda.

- **28th May 1882:** Baptism of Mathias Mulumba and Luka Baanabakintu by Fr. Girault Ludovic.

- **November 1882:** Missionaries left Nabulagala for Tanganyika because of uncertainties and insecurity. When they came back in July 1885, Kabaka Mwanga gave them land at Nalukolongo.

- **25th June 1939:** Mgr. Edward Michaud, laid the foundation stone for the Memorial Chapel to mark the 60th anniversary of the arrival of the pioneer missionaries and the 1st Eucharist in Uganda. On that same day, they renewed the consecration of Uganda to the B. V. Mary.
- **24th June 2007**: Inauguration of the new parish, given the name of ‘Mapeera-Nabulagala’, with St. John the Baptist as its Patron Saint. Guest of honour was Kabaka Ronald M. Mutebi II.

- **6th March 2011**: Burial, in the memorial chapel, of the remains of Archbishop Leon Livinhac, Frs. Leon Barbot, Simeon Lourdel Mapeera and Bro. Amans Delmas.

- **8th September 2018**: Closing ceremony of the diocesan inquiry on the lives of the Servants of God, Fr. Simeon Lourdel Mapeera and Bro. Amans Delmas.

- **25th June**: Annual pilgrimage in commemoration of the First Eucharist in Uganda.

"UNLESS A GRAIN OF WHEAT FALLS TO THE GROUND AND DIE……."

Besides the ‘five pioneer missionaries’ buried in the memorial chapel, there are other missionaries buried here in the “garden of peace”. These, like the first five, are that ‘grain of wheat’ talked about by our Lord Jesus Christ when he said that: “Unless a grain of wheat fall into the ground and die, it remains alone. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.” (Jn. 12: 24).

Among these missionaries we have:

- **Fr. Denoit Camille** who arrived in Uganda on the eve of the day when the future martyrs were condemned to death (25th May 1886) and was co-founder with Mapeera of Nabunnya Mission in 1890. Thanks to him we have the story of the last days of Mapeera, his death and burial. He died at Nabunnya on 26th May 1891 at the age of 29 years!

- **Bro. Pierre Tertyre;** arrived in Uganda in 1890 with two other brothers in the group, Bro. Claes Louis and Bro. Dhooge Jean-Baptist (these two died in Villa Maria) being the three brothers that followed Bro. Amans in this country; died at Nabunnya on 1st May 1891 at the age of 28 years – the third missionary to die
in this country after Frs. Jules Chantemerle (Ssese) and Lourdel Mapeera (Nabunnya).

- **Bro. Cyprian van Griesven Joseph** arrived in Uganda in 1906; he is the architect of Lubaga Cathedral; founder of Kisubi Technical (1911); died on 10th July 1938 at the age of 66 years.

- **Fr. Felix Gracy**; arrived in Uganda in 1897; founder of Narozi Parish (Masaka, 1900) with Fr. Bauducel Pierre; foresaw the hand-over of Buddu to the indigenous priests (1939); died on 9th April 1938 at the age of 67 years.

- **Fr. Jean Gacon**; one of the three pioneer missionaries in Buddu (1891) the other two being Fr. Henri Streicher (Sitenseera) and Bro. Victor Claes Louis; died on 2nd April 1943 at the age of 83 years.

Also, we have in this ‘Garden of Peace’ the tomb of **Natalia Nvanuungi**, sister of St. Joseph Mukasa Balikuddembe. She died in 1997, at the age of more than 100 years old. Natalia’s stay in the neighbourhood and her frequent presence at Kijjukizo played an important role in protecting the church land and the growth of the sub-parish Christian community.

“Well done, good and faithful servant …..come and join in your master’s happiness.”

*(Mathew 25: 21)*
O Loving Pelican! O Jesus, Lord!
Unclean I am, but cleanse me in Thy Blood;
Of which a single drop, for sinners spilt,
Is ransom for a world’s entire guilt.”

(St. Thomas Aquinas, (1227-1274) “Adore te devote”. Verse 6)