



SHINING STAR



NEWSLETTER



SEPT 2020-Nr 37

1. Introduction: The Rutana Diocese produces a monthly Newsletter called: "**SHINING STAR NEWSLETTER**". September 2020 was marked by lots of activities and church events as mentioned below in this article.

2. Deacons and their wives' Retreat

In the week leading to **6 September 2020**, the day of official consecration of the Cathedral to the Lord, a retreat was organized for **8 deacons** and their wives where they spent time together with the diocesan Bishop and all Archdeacons, including the Diocesan Secretary. During that time, various topics appealing them to be faithful ministers in the pastoral ministry, to be good managers of church resources and good planners for sustainable development of their parishes were exposed by some of the archdeacons, Diocesan Secretary and Bishop. Time for open questions and prayers was set and the retreat ended with a very good atmosphere and new strengths.



3. About the Conference Hall

Graciously, the Conference Hall was roofed sooner before the consecration day of the Cathedral and it served during the reception time to **welcome more than 700 people** who were invited from all Anglican Dioceses and various corners of the country. It is still under construction with a hope to finish it all in days to come so that it may serve as a **Diocesan Income Generating Project to sustain the church mission**. The Diocese is grateful to God and to its business people who are making all their effort to build it as their contribution to our new diocese.



4. Bible school construction

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Another project which the diocese is much proud of is the **Bible School** which is under construction at Gifunzo Hill. After the former one was demolished by the heavy rain, the diocese has decided to build a new one just to secure the lives of students and teachers who will be using it. With the struggle to get a financial means needed to construct a new Bible School, the Friends of Burundi (UK) gave their support and had helped the diocese to get some of the construction materials to start with.

Hopefully with the middle of October, there is a hope to have a Bible School roofed though other activities for its completion will be remaining. Thereafter, the **Bible School Year will be scheduled and around 25 students** are expected to come and undergo training



5. Cathedral Consecration Day

The **6th September 2020** was a very unforgettable and Big Day for the Diocese of Rutana where St. John's Cathedral was officially consecrated to the Lord. On that particular day, **8 Deacons were fully priested** and the diocese was also celebrating its **3rd Anniversary since it was created in August 2017**. All Anglican Bishops (9 Active Bishops and 2 retired Bishops) attended the function, the Catholic Bishop and a number of Catholic Priests attended also including Catholic Sisters, many other church legal representatives were present, the First Minister of the Burundi Government attended the service with other many Dignities from the Governments, a number of Country NGOs' Representatives were present with other many people who were invited for the church event attended also. Various gifts were given to some chosen people whose involvement in supporting the work of the diocese was significantly noticed were given and the Diocesan Bishop was given a cow with other many gifts by the Christians. **Great joy and happiness were characterizing the event. Below are some photos**

Photos of the 6th September 2020 event are below:



Prime Minister of Burundi Government

6. A Thanksgiving Day

On 13th September 2020, just one week after the consecration of the Saint John Cathedral, all diocesan Archdeacons, pastors, Catechists and builders were invited to join together in a "Thanksgiving Service" for what the Lord has done to the Diocese during its three years of existence and for using them to build a good **Cathedral from 2012 to 2020** which cost around **400.000.000 BIF** (meaning around **206,718.34 USD**). After the church service, there was a shared lunch held in the Conference Hall and various speeches were delivered consecutively by the builders' Representative followed by the speech of the Diocesan Bishop who vividly thanked all pastors, catechists, other lay representatives and builders to have remarkably got involved in sustaining their new diocese and therefore reached a very considerable stage. He (Bishop) appealed them to be ready for other projects to come until the diocese has its own Income Generating Projects enough to sustain the church mission.

7. Social Service

Another thanksgiving is extended to God for helping the Diocese to have accompanied **4 orphans-students** (all girls) in their schooling years. Among the four orphans who have been assisted by the diocese, two of them namely **NDAYIKUNDA Yvette** and **INTEYITEKA Joella** have recently finished their **A Levels** and are ready to graduate very soon and go to University afterwards. That social Service wasn't easy for the new diocese to offer especially when having no enough financial means to do so. Many thanks to those who generously have been supporting us in such service and may God remain on our side to enable us assist those who haven't finished yet and those who plan to go to universities.

8. Store house for the people in Giharo Commune

Under the **financial support of ERD**, the Diocese of Rutana has constructed a **store house for the people in Giharo** where their harvests will be stored. This store house comes as a response to the major challenge they have been facing for years related to lack of a safer place where their products could be stored after harvesting and has been causing them to sell almost everything earlier. Now the community is appreciating the diocesan initiative because they said:" Even the seed for next agricultural season will be stored in that house instead of selling it and misuse the money for other irrelevant thinks.



Prayer requests:

A six months plan:

- Finishing the construction of the Conference Hall
- Roofing the Bible School and equipping it with tables and chairs to allow students to come for a new bible school year.
- Fundraising money to slowly equip the Cathedral and the Conference Hall with chairs.
- Scholarship for two orphans namely Yvette and Joella to enable them start their university levels.