



Diocese of Yei - Southern Sudan  
**Bishop's Office**  
Catholic Church  
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20<sup>th</sup> August, 2008.

### **TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

The Diocese of Yei is situated in the extreme South of Southern Sudan, at the Ugandan – Democratic Republic of Congo (D.R.C) borders. It falls within Equatoria Region in Southern Sudan. Equatoria Region, Bahr-El-Ghazal and Upper Nile are the three component Regions of Southern Sudan.

The Diocese of YEI is still the youngest Diocese in the Sudan. It was erected on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 1986 and has an area of 46,000 square kilometers with a population of 458,000 of whom 224,600 are Catholics. His Excellency Msgr. ERKOLANO LODU TOMBE is the first Bishop, appointed on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 1986 and ordained Bishop in Khartoum on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 1986.

There are twenty (20) diocesan priests, four (4) religious Missionary priests, two (2) religious brothers and four (4) religious missionary sisters. Besides, there are one hundred (100) catechists, most of them untrained.

There are seven (7) parishes in the Diocese namely: Assumption parish-LASU, CHRIST THE KING Cathedral parish in Yei Town, Mary Immaculate parish -TORÉ, St. Augustine parish, OMBASI, St. Joseph Parish-LUTAYA (Vacant), St. Peter parish -MUNDRI and Sacred Heart parish-LOMIN. LOMIN is the parish where we wish to CONSTRUCT A PARISH CHURCH. There is a MINOR SEMINARY (St. Augustine's) with twenty five (25) students.

The PARISH OF LOMIN in Kajokeji County was opened in 1983 just at the start of the twenty-one year civil war of the Sudan, which ended with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (C.P.A) in 2005. The parish has a population of more than fourty thousand of whom twenty thousand (20,000) are Catholics. The Pastoral Care of the faithful in the parish is entrusted to the Comboni Missionaries of the Heart of Jesus (MCCJ) and Comboni Missionary Sisters (CMS).

The parish was closed in 1987 due to intensification of the civil war in the area which caused big loss of human life, massive destruction of property and flight of people to neighbouring countries. In 1997 and still during the war, the parish was reopened when the Sudan People's Liberation Army/Movement (SPLA/M) liberated the whole territory of Yei Diocese, enabling many people to return home to Sudan but living in camps as Internally Displaced People (I.D.P).



With the signing of the C.P.A in 2005, most of the people have returned home to their villages and towns. Currently they are struggling to rebuild their broken material, social and spiritual life and structures, without forgetting the reconstruction of their spiritual life as well.

In an effort to rehabilitate their spiritual life and structures, the faithful of the parish of Lomin wish to CONSTRUCT A PARISH CHURCH IN PERMANENT BUILDING MATERIALS. The construction of the parish church in this way is seen as growth of the faith even during the civil war and considered as an external sign and expression of WITNESS to the growth of this faith in Kajojeji County and Yei Diocese at large. The parish Church built in PERMANENT CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS reveals the PERMANENCE OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH IN THE AREA: THE CATHOLIC FAITH IS HERE TO STAY. This is the wish of the faithful. They are prepared to contribute in their own way to generously contribute whatever they can for the construction of their parish church.

In the Diocese of Yei, participation of the faithful in Liturgical/Catechetical celebrations is great, particularly on Sundays and Feast Days: Crowds of the faithful fill the churches on these Days. The current church buildings even big ones cannot contain the number of participants in the many Liturgical celebrations on these Days in which two MASSES are celebrated in every parish church. Much larger church buildings are needed: churches with CAPACITY of not less than one thousand (1,000) people. What is expressed here is true of Lomin parish, too.

The PLAN for construction of the parish Church in Lomin has been prepared by Rev. Brother Erich Fischnaller, a Comboni Missionary stationed at LOMIN. Brother Erich is an experienced person in construction of churches. He will be the contractor for the construction of the parish church and the responsible person to prepare and submit financial report on the expenses of the construction. The Brother is born in SUEDTIROL; his mother tongue is German. We trust him; he is competent and a well known person not only here with us but also in Italy, Germany and Austria. The APPROXIMATE COST of the Church to be constructed is Euros 100.000,00 (one hundred thousand Euros). Most of the materials for the construction will be imported from KAMPALA – Uganda.

LOCAL CONTRIBUTION from the Diocese is LAND, which is obtained already. The local population of LOMIN will contribute furniture.

One ORGANIZATION, which we hope will also contribute for the construction of the parish church, is HELFEN WIR. I personally met Hannes Urban here in Yei when he visited on 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> August 2008, and mentioned the idea to him. He was positive and giving us hope with contribution of one third (1/3) of the total cost. His address is Peigarten 89

2053 Jetzeldorf

AUSTRIA.

Tel. 069912178996

Regarding the Bishop.

The current Bishop of the Diocese of Yei is His Excellency ERKOLANO LODU TOMBE in my person, age 65 years.

1. Place and date of birth: Juba, 25/4/1943.
2. Primary and Secondary school studies: in Sudan, from 1952 – 1961.
3. Philosophical studies: St. Paul's National Major Seminary Sudan and Sacred Heart Major Seminary Gulu, Uganda: 1962 – 1965.
4. Theological Studies: Pontifical Urban University, Rome: 1966 – 1970.
5. Priestly Ordination: St. Peter's Square Rome, 17<sup>th</sup> May, 1970, by His Holiness Pope Paul VI.



6. Appointment First Bishop of the Diocese of Yei: 21<sup>st</sup> March 1986, by His Holiness Pope John Paul II.
7. Episcopal Consecration: Khartoum, 28/11/1986, by Cardinal Maurice Michael Otunga, Archbishop of Nairobi, Kenya, as the Principal Consecrating Bishop.

We entrust this important project of faith to God who has initiated it in us and to our mutual cooperation with him.

Assuring you of a prayer "memento" particularly in the celebration of the Eucharist,

Fraternally in Christ,

+ Lodut.T.C.



+ Erkolano Lodu Tombe  
Bishop of Yei

**DIOCESE OF YEI, CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**YEI – Southern Sudan**  
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