



Loreto Rumbek Newsletter



JULY 2017

Confirmation Weekend—The girls at the Loreto Girls Secondary School are provided with many social and spiritual formation activities. One of the core activities is the opportunity to be confirmed into the Catholic Church. The girls who express interest in being confirmed are mentored and educated by Sr. Colette Deasy IBVM and her team of student catechists. This last weekend, 29 young South Sudanese women were confirmed by Fr. John Mathiang of the Diocese of Rumbek. We celebrate them and welcome them as fuller members of the Body of Christ. The spiritual and social formation activities provided to the students are central to the girls comprehensive education.



Confirmation Class—July 2017

Radio Good News reported on the event, and Fr. Mathiang’s statement of encouragement to the girls: “Mathiang urges the new candidates and Christians to strengthen their faith by tirelessly believing.”



One of the Loreto Families—July 2017

A New Kind of Family—The Loreto Girls Secondary School (LGSS) has a tradition of ‘school families’ that provide them with a heritage of role models who have completed the rigorous LGSS program. An incoming Senior 1 student has a ‘mother’ in Senior 2, and a ‘grandmother’ and ‘great –grandmother’ in Senior 3 and 4, respectively. These families extend to the first graduates of the Loreto School (Class of 2011) - young women who have now graduated from university. The families provide the girls with a support system within the school, exclusive of teachers and faculty — people with similar experiences . The families help to mentor the girls, settle disputes, and support them in times of difficulty. School families also help to build the bond of sisterhood between the many ethnic groups represented among the LGSS student body. In addition, school families focus on peer mentoring, conflict resolution, and the dissolution of ethnic discrimination.

“Yes, my school family is my family.” - Jukudu Mary Abraham Paul, Senior 4.

Most of the girls at LGSS face a lack of support at home and have few positive role models of educated women from their home communities. The school family system provides them with a number of girls who are working to succeed and extends into the past to those who have already walked the path that they are on and have succeeded. There is a sense of pride to be a member of these families, a sense of honor and respect for the mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers, and a sense of acceptance for the daughters. In July, the school celebrated its annual School Family Weekend to celebrate these families and their successes.

Competition for Excellence—Each term, secondary school students participate in an English Contest and Mathematics Symposium to improve their presentation skills. In the English Contest, teams of students from each class compete with their peers in weekly assessments. A representative from each team sits a grammar examination and also gives a short speech on a topic of interest. Every week, the team with the highest performing members is announced as the winner during the school assembly. For the Mathematics Symposium, students are given a variety of questions appropriate to their level – junior (Senior 1 and 2), or senior (Senior 3 and 4). One student or a team of students then attempts to answer a question with support from their teachers. After one week of preparation, the students present their answers and receive immediate feedback on the quality of their presentations from peers and teachers. This month, there were more than 20 student presentations at the Mathematics Symposium.



Loreto In the News — The Loreto Schools’ Peace Pilgrimage, an event sponsored by the school for Senior 4 students, was covered by Catholic News Agency for Africa (CANAA). Read more [Here](#). Loreto—Rumbek is receiving support through a partnership with the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) . See their [website](#) for more information about our partnership and how to support this initiative.

A Special Thank You to all of the donors , advocates, and supporters of the Loreto Programs in Rumbek.

Without your hard work or support none of this would be possible.