

# **SOROTI CATHOLIC DIOCESE**

## **DIVINE MERCY APOSTOLATE**

**Chaplain: Rev. Fr. Frederick Obore**

### **Brief History**

The Divine Mercy devotion is an almost a century old devotion in the universal Church. It started with the apparitions of our Lord Jesus to Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska (1905-1938). It cannot be exactly traced when this devotion came to Soroti Catholic Diocese because, for a long time now, many Christians have been devoted on individual basis to the Divine Mercy chaplet and Novena. It has however been popularized by a small number of Christians who attended a Divine Mercy retreat in Tororo about five years ago. The apostolate had no appointed chaplain until Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2019 when Rt. Rev. Bishop Joseph Eciru appointed Fr. Frederick Obore as its first chaplain.

### **Overall mandate**

*The overall mandate of the Divine Mercy devotion is to help Christians appreciate God's gift of mercy through the sacrament of penance, grow in piety through prayer and to enable them put into practice the fourteen works of Mercy as they radiate the mercy received from God to their neighbors, brothers and sisters.*

### **Specific objectives**

1. To strengthen the domestic Church and the spirituality of the body of Christians through the daily recitation the Divine Mercy chaplet and occasional praying of the Novena of Divine Mercy either as a family, community or as individuals.
2. To encourage frequent reception of the sacrament of penance and Holy Communion.
3. Contribute to the psycho-social and economic wellbeing of the vulnerable members of our Diocese.
4. Establish an environment of care for the needy.
5. Help our Christian communities to become self-sufficient, self-reliant and supportive to the Church.
6. To Support the work of Christ in his ordained ministers, spiritually, materially and participate in their welfare.
7. Pool resources together for support in times of need.

### **Divine Mercy in action**

Divine Mercy in action entails movement from our knees to our feet in order to extend the works of mercy to our neighbor. For faith without works is dead (James 2:14-26). We would like to begin with the Church.

The Church receives, from the Christians, contributions in kind and some small cash as Sunday collections. This may be significant in parishes located in urban areas but very minimal in village settings. In some, as low as five thousand shillings is collected on a Sunday.

It is upon this background that the Church collects church support, to cover the welfare of the priests, allowance for the catechists, fuel for the outstations visits, vehicle maintenance, the needs for the Holy Mass; hosts wine, linen and all other Parish needs, including development. This disregards any other help the parish might get from the main Church if any.

The Diocesan programs and projects have depended on donor funds in the eighties and the nineties, but these donor funds have dwindled off and donor fatigue has set in. It is therefore a high time the Diocese began to look for alternative sources of funding, especially internally. The Divine Mercy devotion, therefore, encourages her members to sensitize and mobilize their Parish Councils and Outstation committees to strategically engage in local projects through which they can sustainably support the Church: her ministry, her ministers and her development.

### **Spiritual Programs of the Divine Mercy Apostolate for the year 2020**

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly recollections in parishes</li> </ul>
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly recollections</li> <li>• Procure literature on Divine Mercy in each parish</li> <li>• Procession of the Divine Mercy image from house to house during the Lenten period (Immaculate Conception Parish)</li> </ul>
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly recollections</li> <li>• Monthly group visits to the sick</li> <li>• Initiate the Devotion and the message of Divine Mercy to Alwa parish before 2020</li> </ul>
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly recollections</li> <li>• An annual diocesan Divine Mercy Conference just before Divine Mercy Sunday 2020</li> <li>• To visit</li> <li>• Divine Mercy recollection at Divine Mercy Parish Kamuda by 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020</li> </ul>
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly recollections</li> <li>• Visit to the sick</li> </ul>
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly recollections</li> <li>• Visit to the prisons</li> <li>• Initiate Divine Mercy devotion in another parish</li> <li>• Seek the opening of the Divine Mercy Apostolate in Soroti</li> </ul>

	<p>Catholic Diocese</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Divine Mercy Laity project</li> <li>• Procure and sell distribute more literature on Divine Mercy</li> </ul>
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly recollections</li> <li>• Visit the children in Soroti Regional referral hospital</li> </ul>
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly recollections</li> <li>• Initiate Divine Mercy devotion in another parish</li> <li>• Visit the sick</li> </ul>
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly recollections</li> <li>• Visit the prisoners</li> </ul>
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly recollections</li> <li>• Initiate Divine Mercy devotion in another parish</li> <li>• Visit the sick</li> <li>• 05<sup>th</sup> October is the feast day of St. Faustina, the apostle of Divine Mercy</li> </ul>
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly recollections</li> <li>• Initiate Divine Mercy devotion in one more parish</li> </ul>
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly recollections</li> <li>• Initiate Divine Mercy devotion in another parish and hold a workshop there</li> <li>• Share lunch with the prisoners</li> </ul>

Expected sources of income:

- From local Christian donors using mobile money number 0776697369
- Second collection during the recollections
- Collections during bimonthly meetings
- Devotees also make collections among themselves when they need to carry out an activity