

# **SOROTI CATHOLIC DIOCESE**

## **MARRIAGE AND FAMILIES DESK**

### **Background**

Since the creation of Soroti Catholic Diocese in 1981, the marriage and family apostolate has been existent in the Diocese, but with low and inconsistent flow of activities. The apostolate was under the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Some individual priests who had charisma on family-related issues also made some contributions and interventions at diocesan level. Meanwhile, Parish Priests designed parish-based strategies to handle family and marriage matters in their respective parishes; yet the problems affecting the family are real and vast.

However, in July 2019, after his episcopal consecration and installation as 3<sup>rd</sup> Bishop of the Diocese, Rt. Rev. Joseph Echiru Oliach, among his first appointments assigned two priests to rejuvenate the marriage and family apostolate throughout the Diocese. Six couples were identified from different parishes of the Diocese and, together with the two appointed priests, were sent for a training of trainers workshop in Emmaus Formation Centre, Katikamu, in Lwero District, so as to form a core team to establish the family and marriage apostolate.

It is important to emphasize that Marriage is one of the two Sacraments of service (the second one being Holy Orders). Hence, a lot of attention and formation must be given to couples since it is in the family where we expect responsible Christians. In this case, therefore, continuous formation should be given to couples before, during and after marriage.

### **Family Challenges today**

Today the family is battling with challenges ranging from social, economic, development and spiritual hardships. The Church, therefore, is constantly challenged not only to put emphasis on spiritual family life, but to also put all efforts into addressing the other challenges that pull down the family.

It is against the above challenges that Soroti Catholic Diocese has initiated institutionalized efforts to engage families in sharing their challenges, so as to come up with strategies to overcome the above listed challenges.

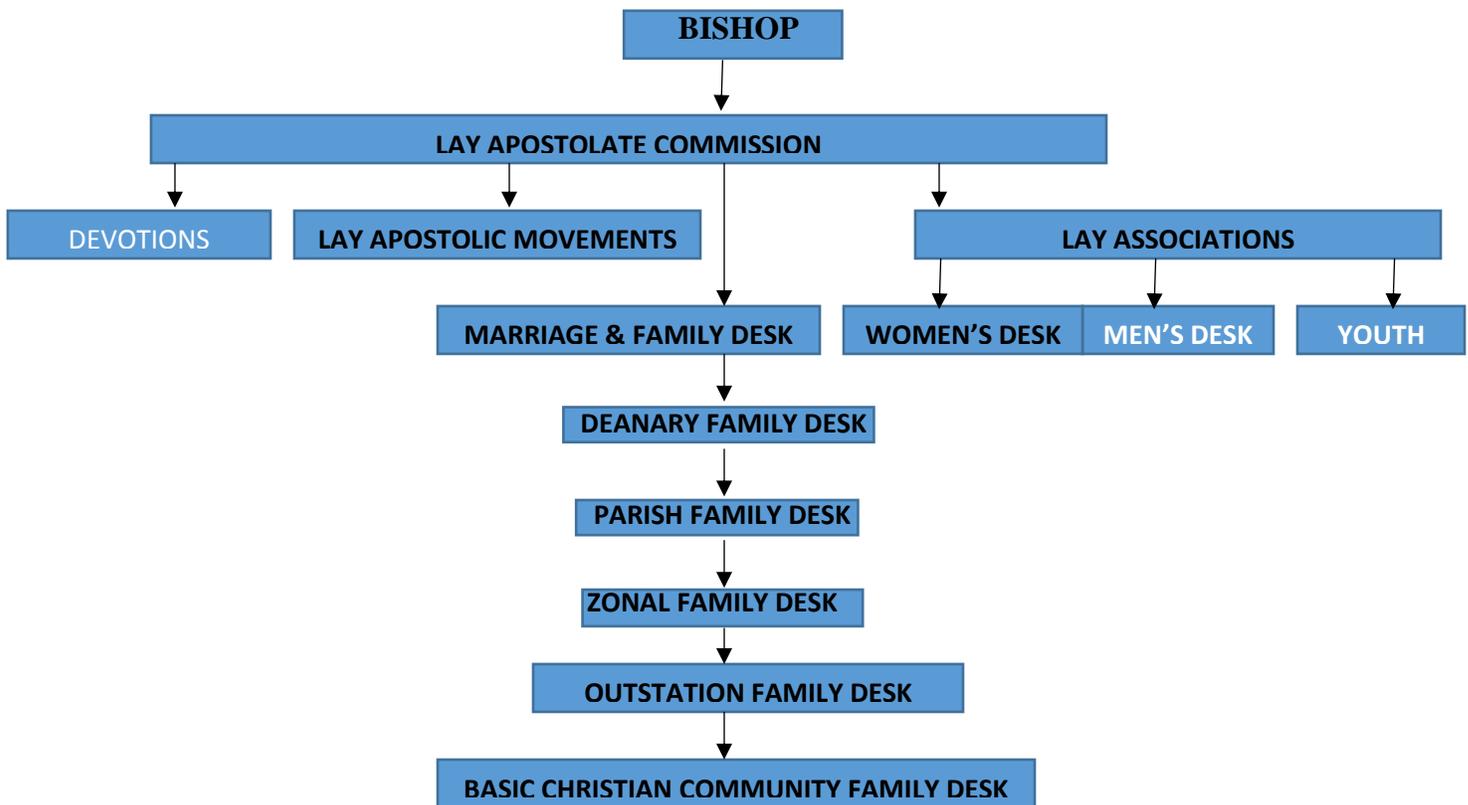
### **Mandate of the Diocesan Marriage and Families Desk**

1. Establish a coordination office in the Diocese.
2. Drawing and implementing plans, and lobbying for the marriage and family apostolate.
3. Train all the priests in the Diocese on issues of marriage and family and, together with them, develop a syllabus for matrimonial training.
4. Identify and train two couples in each of the 41 parishes in our diocese (164 couples in total) as parish level trainers on marriage and family issues.

5. Train all catechists and their spouses throughout the Diocese and equip them with skills in handling family related challenges.
6. Train all Parish Pastoral Councillors and their spouses throughout the Diocese (12 couples per Parish) to be able to support all Parish Committees to mainstream marriage and family issues in their workplans and programs.

The above categories of trainings are very essential at this inaugural point in time, to form a strong base for the marriage and family apostolate in the Diocese. It is a strategy that seeks to use all pastoral fronts to mould a desirable future for the family, the first Church. This, in turn, will contribute to strengthening the Parish and Diocesan Church.

### Organizational Structure:



**CONTACT:** Rev. Fr. Deogratias Oryangatum,  
 St. Pancreas Toroma Parish,  
 Soroti Catholic Diocese;  
 Tel.: +256 784 403388  
 E-mail: [deooryangs@gmail.com](mailto:deooryangs@gmail.com)