

**RECTOR' SPEECH – INAUGURATION OF ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/2023**  
**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**The Guest of honor; His Grace John Baptist Dr. Odama, the Archbishop Ordinary of Gulu Archdiocese,**  
**The Teaching and Formation Staff of Alokolum for the Academic Year 2022/2023;**  
**The Students' Council and the entire Students' Fraternity of Alokolum Seminary;**  
**Beloved Executives of the Foster Parents; dear Technical and Support Staff of Uganda Martyrs' Alokolum National Major Seminary,**  
**Dear all whom I should have acknowledged in this protocol; Praise be Jesus Christ!**

After the cloudy Covid19 marathon Academic Years, the last one being from **October 29<sup>th</sup> 2021- June 24<sup>th</sup> 2022**, by the Grace of God; we are today able to inaugurate the Academic Year 2022/2023 without significant Covid19 restrictions. For seeing us through very difficult times, we give Glory to God - Amen.

In principle generally, the Ordinary in whose jurisdiction a Ugandan National Major Seminary that belongs to the UEC is placed, is expected to grace the occasion of every re-opening of an Academic Year. This being the case, despite his very loaded schedules sometimes, the archbishop of Gulu initially thought that we would have the inauguration of the Academic Year 2022/2023 in **September 5<sup>th</sup> 2022**. God instead designed that we have it today Saturday **10<sup>th</sup> September 2022**. For your dynamism and flexibility to include us in your tight schedules Your Grace, kindly accept our filial sentiments of gratitude to you.

For the current Academic Year 2022/2023, God has blessed us with 21 teaching and formation staff: out of these 99% are already on the ground. The one percent is to join us in the next semester.

- |                                |                                      |                                   |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Fr. Charles Olweny          | 9. Fr. Joseph Ssekanyo               | 16. Fr. Andrew Dr. Madra Anzuvuku |
| 2. Fr. Silver Ndagijimaana     | 10. Fr. Ojuka Walter                 | 17. Fr. Augustine Dr. Mugarura    |
| 3. Fr. Lawrence Mutaawe        | 11. Fr. Samuel Okiria                | 18. Fr. Constantine Dr. Rupiny    |
| 4. Fr. Valentine Banduni       | 12. Fr. Simon Ongwech                | 19. Fr. Calisto Prof. Dr. Locheng |
| 5. Fr. Charles Muhindo Kagheni | 13. Fr. Thaddhaeus Opio              | 20. Fr. Vincent Dr. Awongo        |
| 6. Fr. John Mabunda Bwambale   | 14. Fr. Bonny Ssekanjakko            | 21. Mama Rufina Lamunu            |
| 7. Fr. Vincent Nsumba          | 15. Fr. John Mary Vianney Dr. Wanadi |                                   |
| 8. Fr. John Bosco Adia         |                                      |                                   |

**New arrivals or return back are:** Fr. Charles Muhindo Kagheni; Fr. Constantine Dr. Rupiny; Fr. Bonny Ssekanjakko.

**The work of formation** dear teaching and formation staff members is “a mission given to you/us to fulfil in the Catholic Church. For this matter, the first thing to do in this mission is therefore to study and to know the mind of the Church that we serve. Here, we have to individually always ask: “what is the purpose of my being in the seminary?” to antagonize each other? No, to team up? Yes.

Always, we are required to be guided by the doctrines of the church. The mission of the Church for us to form is not limited to teaching in class only but includes accompanying the candidate to transform him/her in to another person. It is the accompaniment of a candidate to a certain standard, to change the person to something- to have the identity of a priest. The transformation

**RECTOR' SPEECH – INAUGURATION OF ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/2023**  
**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

should begin with the formator himself for we are challenged in our own witnesses as priests to attract the candidates (seminarians) to the priestly call and life”<sup>1</sup>.

Unto you beloved year one seminarians, today goes in to the history book of our institution that for the very first time, you have been welcomed by an archbishop to Alokolum. Together with the continuing students, you are encouraged to be open and interact freely with your formators. The formators are there indeed to help you clarify your motives to the priesthood.

On another note, that we do not have enough space in the accommodation of our seminarians, the bishops are aware. Above all that we have at the moment no choice. To solve this problem at Alokolum, we need to continue praying to the Divine Providence to bless our plans towards this project. In this respect, although two partners have already promised us Euro 70,000, the amount is not yet sufficient to see our plans for a new residence structure.

The bishops are also aware dear people of God of the challenge of people we admit to the seminaries, e.g. those with sexual aberrations. “There should be no compromise with people of certain unnatural tendencies” the bishops would advise. If there should be a trace or suspicion of any sexual pervasion or deviation, the staff are called upon by the bishops to be bold enough to advise the candidate back to quit this call and go back to the diocese because it is not easy for such a person to change. The seminary charter makes it very clear that the vision of the Church through the seminaries is to form holy, convinced, committed, well-equipped and pastoral-oriented catholic priest<sup>2</sup>.

May this vision of the Church in Uganda, be realized through our seminary as we journey together in this formation house, and assisted by Divine Providence for Academic Year 2022/2023

I remain your rector,  
In Christ, Mother Mary, St. Joseph

.....  
Fr. Charles Olweny  
Rector  
Alokolum National Major Seminary.

---

<sup>1</sup> Min. 8/22/2016-17. Closing Remarks and Prayer by Rt. Rev. John Baptist Kaggwa, Chairman Episcopal Commission for Priestly Formation at the 22nd Inter Major Seminary Staff meeting, Katigondo National Seminary, May 24th, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> UEC, Seminary Charter for Priestly Formation, Marianum Press, Kisubi, Nov. 2009, pg.6