



In memoriam

## Rev. Father Albert Byaruhanga Abwooli

12<sup>th</sup> June 1951 – 26<sup>th</sup> October 2009

It is with great sadness that we have to tell that our beloved Father Albert Byaruhanga passed away after a car accident on Monday afternoon, 26th of October 2009 at Kyanda along Mubende-Mityane road.

We know Father Albert as the most kind-hearted and generous person and it was always an honour and a great pleasure co-operate with him.

Albert was born on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1951 in Fort Portal. He was the fifth born of eight children, four girls and four boys.

Albert started primary school in 1960 at St. Charles Nyansozi. In 1966 Albert was admitted to St. Mary's Seminary for primary seven and senior one. From here Albert was sent to St. John Bosco, a new established minor seminary in Hoima.

During his long vacation after senior four, Albert went to teach in Mukole Primary School in Katoke, Mwenge. He was appointed the teacher-in-charge of sports and Discipline Master.

From 1972 to 1974 he joined Katigondo Major Seminary. In the meantime Albert got an idea to join Monfort, an international religious congregation of priests and brothers in Mbarara Diocese.

In 1974/1975 Albert was in Ggaba for theology and at the same time pursuing the Makerere Diploma in religious studies.

In 1975 he left Ggaba for England. At the end of 1976 he joined the Gregorian University for Theology in Rome until 1979. Then he returned to Uganda and he was appointed to teach at St. Mary's Seminary.

On 19<sup>th</sup> October 1980 he was ordained a priest at Virika Cathedral.

He served as a chaplain at Holy Family Virika School of Nursing and at St. Maria Goretti and at Kyebambe Secondary schools.

In 1985 he worked with Diocesan Relief Services Office at the time of NRA/NRM uprising. In the early days of NRM Government he was care taker of the Ministry of Education and later on he was appointed as Special Assistant to H/E President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni on special duties.

He was strongly engaged as Fort Portal Diocesan Development Co-ordinator and a founding member of the establishment of the Mountain of the Moon University in Fort Portal where he was appointed the first Chairperson of the University Governing Council.

As the Secretary to the Education Secretariat of the Uganda Bishops Conference he influenced the education efforts in whole Uganda and at the same time he was National Chairperson of the interconfessional NGO Registration Board.

For Austria it was important when he established Uganda links with some European countries especially Italy, the Netherlands and Austria.

He facilitated the introduction of the Austrian Regional Bureau, the Austrian Consulate in Uganda and the Ugandan Consulate in Austria.

He was a founder and a strong and long-term supporter of Austrian-Ugandan-Platform and he became member of honour of the current Austrian-Ugandan-Friendship-Association.

In Austria he became famous with the phrase "We want to be beggars with a choice" and this was how he acted: running up and down, lobbying for projects, fundraising, looking for support for his war-torn motherland Uganda and her struggling people.

He was always on the side of development, capacity building, advocacy and empowerment for emancipation of the under-privileged.

Father Albert will be sorely missed by all of us especially here in the Austrian-Ugandan-Friendship-Association.

