



Secular Franciscan Order
Ordo Franciscanus Sæcularis



Africa – A Land of Contrasts

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Africa... a place of violence and fear...where Christian Genocide is occurring in the Central African Republic, where 25 Secular Franciscans were killed in the Congo, where 200 Christian and Muslim girls were kidnapped in Nigeria.

Africa ... a place of hope, where youth are taking action for peace, for harmony, where YouFra is alive and well.

During the 2nd International Assembly of Franciscan Youth in Samobor-Croatia in August, Nicholas Kugonza Krigwajjo shared the good news of what is happening in Uganda. In 11 of 19 dioceses, youth have embraced evangelization in the footsteps of St. Francis. They participate in acts of charity to help the needy; they are challenging social injustices, engaging in environmentally sustaining activities, and implementing new ideas on how to sustain their faith. In collaboration with the Secular Franciscan Order, members of YouFra are volunteering in prison ministry and implementing youth and children ministry. All this is taking place in the absence of a National OFS Council. The Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Franciscans of Africa (JPICFA) has been their inspiration.

Their initiatives include:

- Turning the Other Cheek: To create awareness and to promote justice, peace and integrity of creation.



- Children Rights in Education: Advocating for children's rights, they partner with schools, produce a quarterly newsletter, sponsor special children's days and have a monthly radio show.

- Clean Water for Life (CW4L): To advocate for clean and safe water for domestic use, with emphasis on good sanitation and hygiene in and around water sources and in communities as a whole.

- Sports for Development (S4D): Promoting the talents of the individual members in sports such as soccer, netball, and volleyball.

- Technology onto the Young (TOTY):

Understanding that access to information and imparting skill hold the key to the empowerment of people, particularly youth and women, YouFra in Uganda is trying to develop entrepreneurial activities in technology, jewelry, candle wax and bark cloth.

- Teaching the Young to Save (TYTS): Equipping members with basic financial skills to help them become better savers for the future. This project is also meant to promote a culture of volunteerism among YouFra.

- Tree Planting: In conjunction with JPICFA and the Little Sisters of St. Francis, they began a project of planting indigenous trees and bananas at Kitotole-Busunju, Kiyinda Mityana Diocese.



To make their programs sustainable, YouFra tries to retain its members by providing fun-filled activities like camping, singing in church choirs, singing seasonal and Franciscan carols, delving into secular music with a purpose of “edu-tainment”, celebrating Franciscan feasts, organizing talent search competitions, etc.

Ugandan YouFra faces challenges. There is no National OFS; thus they have to justify their legality as YouFra. They have little funding, but this does not deter them from their ultimate goal, to walk in the footsteps of St. Francis.

Indeed, despite all the horrors our Christian brothers and sisters are facing on the African continent, there are many hopeful signs and among them is this wonderful light that shines brightly in Uganda — reminding us all that Francis lives in the lives of our youth.



What an inspiration for all Secular Franciscans! Can we take their passion, their hands-on attitudes and apply them? Where should we begin?

For more information, go to: www.youfrauganda.wordpress.com



Clean Water for Life (CW4L)



This programme was inspired after participating in Franciscan International's water & Sanitation advocacy workshop in 2012 and is meant to advocate for clean and safe water for domestic use with emphasis on good sanitation and hygiene in and around water sources and in our communities as a whole.

