

**Beloved,**

Greetings in the Lord.

My wife and I thank God and appreciate your love and prayers. We are settling in, despite the many challenges. Thank you for all your continued love, support and prayers. Mukama abazimuurire!

We began our pastoral visits on 10th September in Kigarama Archdeaconry and the Lord is doing His work. Congregations are big and warm, many are coming to the Lord, and this is very exciting.

In addition to preaching the gospel, we encourage all Christians to prioritize education of their children, support Ankole Western University, and also reinforce our Jubilee Sacco. The response is very positive, and we give glory to God!

We also thank those of you who leave Kampala, Entebbe, Jinja and other places and join your local churches to worship with us. Many of you have added a lot of value. Thank you!

Let me take a moment and share with you some thoughts about \*unity\* and \*commitment\* as two key virtues that we need in order to serve our Lord unconditionally, as we move together towards becoming a model diocese.

Unity is so vital because it has its roots in the being of God Himself. God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are one God.

Their unity is not a result of sameness but of essence. The Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit is not the Father. Neither is the other, but each is God.

This unity caused the Godhead to accomplish the plan of redemption: the Father created and sustains the universe, the Son effected the entire plan of man's salvation, the Holy Spirit established the church and continues the ministry of Christ in the church.

The same kind of unity in diversity is evident also in man at two levels: as a body, mind and soul or spirit, but also as different parts that make up one body.

In the former category, the three are but one human being. The mind, body and spirit are one being that functions in perfect unity despite the independence of each 'person' to the other.

In the latter category, the body itself, though many parts, is one whole. The body functions perfectly and in harmony as each part plays its role. As a result, the one human being is able to accomplish his purposes and duties.

Harmony, growth and development in WAD will not take a different form. It is unity that will facilitate our ability to think constructively in order to ensure our communal prosperity as a diocese. Unity supports teamwork, creates synergy, multiplies resources, accomplishes the task sooner, and makes the load lighter.

To ascertain perfect and solid unity as WAD, we should purpose to concentrate on what unites us, rather than on what divides us. We should accept, value, and respect one another in spite of our differences. We also should appreciate one another's views and contributions without subjective or preconceived sentiments.

Our differences should never affect our unity as children of one Father. We should not find it hard to realize and understand that unity and oneness are not a result of sameness.

I once counselled a couple that was an inch away from divorce, because the wife's view was that she and her husband were not compatible!

Such thinking in a marital relationship, whose core values are love and commitment, is very unfortunate! Happiness in marriage is neither a result of compatibility nor of sameness. Neither of the two is the other anyway! It is when the couple learns to handle the incompatibility that they are able to live in harmony.

Any solid and lasting relationship must be built on a true, objective, and unconditional love coupled with unswerving dedication and loyalty.

That is how our commitment to loving and serving the Lord in and beyond WA should be. True allegiance to God says: nothing will affect or stop my love for and service to God!

Paul puts it succinctly in

Romans 8:35-39: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?"

He goes on to say, "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

One last thought is that in our own strengths we cannot do much. We are human, fallen and limited. We need Jesus. We must abide in Him if we are to accomplish our duties and bear any lasting fruit. With him on our side, all things are possible.

Let that be our resolve and position as Christians of WA. Let us be one and united in Christ for the beauty and development of West Ankole Diocese.

The Lord is doing a new thing! It is already here. Together we shall cause it to happen. Let us be hopeful; let us be determined.

Unity in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is our strength.

To Him be the glory forever!

**By RT Rev Johnson Twinomujuni chancellor Ankole Western University**