

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND INFORMATION OF THE SEMINARY

HISTORICAL SETTING OF ST. PAUL'S NATIONAL MAJOR SEMINARY, KINYAMASIKA, FORT PORTAL, UGANDA

Over the last four decades Uganda has been graced or gifted with a steady growth in priestly vocations. Up until 1969 there was only one major seminary in and for the whole country of Uganda: namely *St. Thomas Aquinas-Katigondo National Major Seminary, Masaka* was founded in 1911. It was both a philosophicum and a theologicum. With the increase in priestly vocations, it was thought necessary to found a theologicum separated from the philosophicum.

Therefore, in 1970 a new Theologicum (*St. Mary's-Ggaba National Major Seminary, Kampala*) was opened. Still with the increase in priestly vocations a second new philosophicum (*Uganda Martyrs'-Alokolum National Major Seminary, Gulu*) was opened in 1974.

In the late 1980's Ggaba National Major Seminary could no longer contain the big numbers of students of theology. So in August 1992 a second Theologicum (*St. Paul's-Kinyamasika National Seminary, Fort Portal*) was started to cater for the increasing number of priestly vocations.

FOUNDING ST. PAUL'S NATIONAL SEMINARY-KINYAMASIKA

St. Paul's National Seminary-Kinyamasika is currently the youngest of the four national major seminaries in Uganda. The Seminary was opened/founded by the Uganda Episcopal Conference in August 1992.

It is a theologicum and a national seminary. In this Seminary we take in or admit young men from all dioceses of Uganda after they have successfully completed their philosophical studies. We train them in their final four years of priestly formation before ordination to the priesthood. They follow a four-year programme in theological, biblical, pastoral and church history studies.

St. Paul's National Seminary was opened in August 1992 and it started in old buildings inherited from an old teachers' training college (*St. Scholastica T.T.C*) following an agreement/memorandum of understanding which the Uganda Episcopal Conference entered into with the Government of Uganda.

St. Scholastica T.T.C had formerly been built by the White Sisters in 1939 but was taken over by the Uganda government in the wake of independence in 1962. The Uganda Episcopal Conference was granted permission to repossess the premises of St. Scholastica T.T.C.

So the seminary started in old buildings. Some of the buildings needed reconstruction and renovation. However, most buildings needed to be demolished so as to construct new ones altogether. The situation was worsened by a devastating earthquake in February, 1994, which destroyed some of the improvements that had been made.

There was necessity also to provide sports facilities. We constructed a new football field, a new basketball court and new lawn tennis courts. Slowly and steadily the seminary is being given a new face lift.