



# UGANDA MARTYRS PRO-LIFE APOSTOLATE (UMPA)

## UMPA PROJECT REPORT SPONSORED BY DEI GROUP OF COMPANIES (JANUARY TO JULY 2021)

### PREAMBLE

We give glory to God who has enabled us to continue preaching the gospel of life despite serious challenges especially with funds. We are indeed grateful to Mr. Magoola Matthias and the Dei group of companies for rescuing us when we had completely closed due to debts and complete lack of funds.

The Uganda Martyrs Pro-life Apostolate (UMPA), a Christian organization that promotes and defends human life from conception until natural death, carries out various activities with the aim of promoting and defending life and family in line with the teaching of the Catholic church. Our major source of funding is the education office of the Archdiocese which receives money from schools. Closing of schools in March 2020 meant no funds for UMPA activities throughout 2020. We tried to continue doing a few of our activities using the reserve funds which we had, and these soon ran dry and activities were halted. The need for Pro-life message has been even more urgent during the pandemic where the rate of domestic violence and teenage pregnancy and abortion have increased drastically. When Mr. Magoola was approached, he generously offered us 6,000,000/= (six million Uganda Shillings) which enabled us to clear our debts and re-start a few of the activities feasible with the restrictions in place due to COVID.

This time of year has not been easy for our organization; in addition to the challenges brought about by the pandemic, we lost our dear founder and patron Archbishop Dr. Cyprian Kizito Lwanga (May his soul rest in peace). He played a big role in ensuring that we get this donation and our sincere gratitude go to him.

### ACTIVITIES

The following are the activities we managed to do with the donation we received from Dei group of companies during the period of March to July 2021

#### 1. RADIO TALK SHOWS

We resumed our weekly radio talk shows which run every Thursday from 10:30 am to 12noon. We had halted the shows in December 2020 but since March 2021 we are back on air. UMPA reaches the widest audience through this talk show.

During this period, we talked about the sanctity of life from conception to natural death emphasizing the need to value the elderly in society and encouraging them to live their old age gracefully. We also talked about sexuality and the importance of living in accordance with God's plan for our sexuality encouraging listeners to keep sex for marriage as the Church teaches. Parents

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were also empowered to be the primary providers of sexuality education and avoid leaving this topic for schools to handle.

In addition we addressed sexual deviation disorders and the sins against chastity like fornication, pornography consumption, and the LGBTIQ deception empowering listeners to avoid these evils and those trapped to seek help in order to come out of these habits.



### 2. COUNSELING

We continued to offer counseling services to those who needed them as a form of charity reaching 20 people in total.

Two young men requested for counseling because of addiction to masturbation. This was a result of listening to our talk shows on chastity.

We counseled a teenage mother who wanted to give her child up for adoption because she didn't have enough finances to look after him. She was referred to the probation officer for further assessment and help. One mother suffering post-delivery anxiety was also counselled and coped well while a young university student is still receiving counseling for severe post-abortion distress and severe depression; she was also put on tranquilizers.

Our teenage mother aged 17 years received ongoing support and counseling while another young mother needed advice on family planning and was encouraged to use modern effective Natural Family Planning methods.



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During the COVID pandemic, we have received more cases than usual of women and girls (age range 17-40years) seeking abortion services for various reasons. In total during this period, we received 10 seeking to terminate their pregnancies; four of these were students and three were married women. They gave the following reasons for the abortion choice; wanting to complete studies, ashamed because they are not married, spouse not supportive, broken relationship, fear of losing job and for the married women, they felt the pregnancies came too early when they still had young babies. Out of those counselled, six accepted to keep the pregnancies, one remained undecided while the rest were determined to go ahead and abort.

### 3. SENSITISATION SESSIONS

UMPA reached out with the pro-life message to 595 people in 6 sensitization sessions in an effort to create awareness about the sanctity of human life, marriage and the family.

Two sensitization sessions were for Religious brothers, sisters and priests were held and a total of 232 were reached with the Pro-life message imploring them to get involved in spreading this message. Young people in a research done in 2020 mentioned that they trust messages from Religious leaders so we felt it necessary to encourage them to reach out to our youths.

Prior to lockdown, UMPA used to give Pro-life sessions to couples preparing for the sacrament of Holy Matrimony but this had temporarily stopped due to a ban on gatherings. When gatherings were permitted again, we managed to address 50 couples in Rubaga Cathedral Parish at the invitation of the Archdiocesan Ssabafumbo.

We also had the opportunity of meeting 68 leaders of health facilities within the Archdiocese of Kampala and equipped them both as parents and as leaders of health units to uphold life and family as well as evangelize their clients on the same.

Kamwokya Parish organized a function on Mothers' Day, Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> of May and they invited the Director of UMPA as guest speaker on the subject of parenting this generation. It was a very successful event which attracted 83 women and the discussion was indeed rich.

During the same month, St. Peter's SSS Nsambya invited UMPA to sensitize 112 students on Pro-life issues under the theme: "Living a fruitful adolescence in a Christian way". It was an interactive session that attracted many questions and at the end of it, the students appreciated the need of keeping sex for marriage.

### 4. STRATEGIC PLANNING

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A team of 7 ambassadors from different professions (law, social work, media and medical) were selected to embark on making a five year strategic plan with the help of an expert in the area. A total of four meetings took place and the process is still ongoing.



### 5. CHARITY ACTIVITY

Every year, UMPA endeavors to carry out a charity activity to encourage the pro-life spirit of generosity among members and to help the less fortunate. This year during lent, the group visited the 17 year old teenage mother who they have been supporting since last quarter and offered her items collected by UMPA members including food items and household commodities.



### 6. LENTEN RECOLLECTION

The UMPA organizes a Lenten recollection every year for the ambassadors. This year's Lenten recollection took place at St. Joseph's Catholic Chaplaincy Mulago on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2021. It was facilitated by Rev. Fr. Valentine Amuleke the chaplain of St. Joseph's chaplaincy Mulago. The theme for the half day event was "Endurance during times of trial". The ambassadors in attendance

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were cautioned to be relentless in spreading the gospel of life as the world will not easily receive the message. They were also advised to think about the approach of delivering the message for better results. The recollection was attended by 12 participants.

## 7. IEC MATERIALS

It is always important to have IEC materials and distributing them spreads message even further to those who we may not meet physically. We had ran out of leaflets and brochures but thanks to Dei group of companies, we managed to produce 3000 flyers of three different types, 2000 brochures and 1000 leaflets which we have been distributing.

The UMPA brochures were re-designed and modified to include changes that were agreed upon during the strategic planning meeting.



## 8. UMPA GENERAL MEETING

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UMPA usually has annual general meetings attended by ambassadors and teachers who are school club patrons. On 5<sup>th</sup>-June we had a meeting attended by 26 people including ambassadors, patrons and university student UMPA leaders. The aim of this meeting was to present the draft strategic plan to the head of the teaching office commission and other members for further discussion. A very fruitful discussion followed the presentation and the various suggestions taken up to be included in the plan.



### CONCLUSION

We are deeply indebted to Dei group of companies who during this very difficult time of the pandemic offered us funds to keep the Pro-life work going. We are also grateful to His Grace Archbishop Dr. Cyprian K. Lwanga (R.I.P) and Rev. Fr. Denis Ssebunnya who put us in touch with Mr. Magoola Matthias. The need for the Pro-life message becomes more relevant each passing day. We thank God we have a human resource willing to serve but scarcity of funds remains a big challenge. We look forward to continued partnership with Dei group of companies.



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### UMPA FINANCIAL REPORT FOR DEI GROUP DONATION

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Airtime & Internet	290,000
Sensitization campaigns	800,000
Weekly programs on Radio Maria	1,995,500
Transport costs	148,000
Meetings	895,000
IEC materials (brochures, leaflets and flyers)	1,874,000
Lenten Recollection	190,000
Charity activity	35,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>6,227,500</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Contributions from UMPA ambassadors	300,000
Donation from Dei Group of Companies	6,000,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>6,300,000</b>