**UMPA GUIDELINES FOR OPERATING PRO-LIFE GROUPS IN SECONDARY AND TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS**

**What is Uganda Martyrs Pro-life Apostolate?**

Uganda Martyrs Pro-life Apostolate (UMPA) is a Christian organization that promotes and defends human life from the moment of conception until natural death

**Vision:**

A population knowledgeable about the value of every human life and a society based on a genuine and authentic respect for every human life

**Mission:**

Commitment to promoting a culture of life

**Motto:**

Every human life matters

**OBJECTIVES:**

The Uganda Martyrs Pro-Life Apostolate exists to achieve the following objectives;

**General objective:**

Promoting the dignity of every human life

**Specific objectives:**

1. To create awareness about the sanctity of human life, marriage and the family.
2. To offer psychosocial support to persons in need of such services.
3. To build capacity of the target population to defeat the culture of death.
4. Monitoring and evaluation

**Values & Principles:**

* Human dignity
* Right to life for every human being
* Respect for life
* Integrity
* Love and compassion

**HOW TO RUN PRO-LIFE CLUBS**

1. **CONDUCTING CLUB MEETINGS:**

All Pro-life clubs will hold meetings at least two times every month during the time members are at the educational institution. The meetings should have an agenda and members must stick to this.

**THE PROPOSED AGENDA OF PRO-LIFE CLUB MEETINGS WILL RUN AS FOLLOWS:**

*(Meetings should not last for more than one hour ideally. The agenda below is only a guide and clubs are free to adjust according to the need. Time-keeping should be observed)*

1. UMPA anthem and prayer
2. Introduction of new members
3. Communication from the chair (5 minutes)
4. Minutes of the previous meeting in summary (5 minutes)
5. Presentation by a member on a pertinent Pro-life issue and discussion on the topic (20 minutes)
6. Plan for the next activity (10 minutes)
7. Treasurer’s report (5 minutes)
8. A.O.B (3 minutes)
9. Roll call of members present
10. Closing prayer

* Meetings will be chaired by the Pro-life president/ chairperson. In the absence of the president, the vice president will chair the meeting.
* The secretary will take minutes of the meeting. If the secretary is absent, the chairperson will appoint a club member to do so.
* Each club should have a roll call book kept by the club secretary.
* A timekeeper should be appointed before starting the meeting and he/she should be strict.

1. **CLUB ACTIVITIES**

* All Pro-life clubs should hold a day of prayer at least once every school term/ semester. The prayer day is meant to pray for all those especially the unborn whose lives are in danger, for the abortionists to have a change of heart and for pro-lifers to always remain vigilant. The club members can ask the school/institutional chaplain to celebrate a special mass for the above intentions animated by the Pro-lifers. If not possible at least a rosary and other prayers can be said.
* Presenting pro-life Music, dance and drama to schoolmates,
* Write and read pro-life articles on school assembly or include them in school magazines
* Plant trees on school compound
* Put up pro-life sign posts on school compound,
* Organize and conduct charitable activities like visiting the sick, elderly, counseling those who are pregnant or suffering effects of abortion
* Design and produce club notebooks, pens or other articles for club members
* Organize fun filled activities like; tea parties, movie nights, sports competitions with other members of the community, debates with other clubs on Pro-life issues, visits to other Pro-life clubs/groups in other institutions (and any other activity that interests members and in line with Pro-life values)
* Organize an annual farewell party for club members leaving the institution (after completion of studies) and if resources allow, buy and present them with a small gift bought from club funds.

1. **TERM OF OFFICE AND ELECTION OF NEW CABINET/EXECUTIVE**

* New office bearers will be elected in the 2nd term for secondary schools and 1st semester for tertiary institutions without fail. This will allow outgoing leaders to mentor the new executive who should start acting as soon as they are elected.
* Hand-over ceremony may be held as desired by club members. It may be held together with the farewell party.

**4) PARTICIPATION IN OTHER ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED BY UMPA ARCHDIOCESAN OFFICE**

* The UMPA Archdiocesan office will organize activities including the Pro-life annual convention, Pro-life March, Pro-life Archdiocesan Prayer Day, and pilgrimages among others.
* All Pro-life clubs that are invited are encouraged to attend and actively participate.
* The club executive should work closely with the club patron (for secondary schools) to select members to attend based on how active they have been in the club activities.
* A variety of items (e.g. T-shirts, armbands...) will be on sale during these activities, and club members are encouraged to buy these items.

**5) CLUB MONITORING VISITS AND PRO-LIFE CLUB ACTIVITY REPORTS**

* All Pro-life clubs will be visited by a team from the archdiocese during 2nd term for secondary schools and 1st semester for tertiary institutions.
* The purpose of the club monitoring visit is to check on the progress of club activities and provide support to the club members.
* All clubs are expected to keep a record of their activities and these will be used to compile and hand over an annual narrative report during the club monitoring visit.
* Clubs are required to compile and hand over an annual club report during the club monitoring visit.

**6) FORMAT FOR THE ANNUAL PRO-LIFE CLUB REPORTS**

1. **INTRODUCTION:**

This should be brief mainly summarizing the entire contents of the report

1. **ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT:**

These should be in detail describing what exactly was done during the period

1. **CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED:**

This should bring out the challenges encountered while running the Pro-Life club activities and indicate what was done to overcome the challenges.

1. **LESSONS LEARNED:**

These are experiences -positive and negative- from past activities that should be taken into account in future actions and behaviors.

1. **WAY FORWARD/ RECOMMENDATIONS:**

This section should contain practical suggestions on how to address the major obstacles/ challenges and highlight future plans for the club

1. **PRO-LIFE CLUB MEMBERSHIP:**

* All club members should endeavor to uphold the virtue of chastity (i.e. abstinence from all forms of sex before marriage and later in marriage be faithful to one partner of the opposite sex)
* All members should actively attend club meetings and take part in club activities.
* All club members should endeavor to know the UMPA anthem and prayer by heart.
* All club members should pay a subscription fee paid once a year to the club treasurer. This fee will be agreed on by the members of the club.

1. **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PRO-LIFE CLUB LEADERS**

**PRESIDENT**

* The president will oversee and make sure all club activities are performed as planned.
* The president will organize and chair Pro-Life meetings

**VICE PRESIDENT**

* The vice president will deputize the president and act as president in his/her absence.

**TREASURER**

* The treasurer will collect subscription fee, keep financial records and provide updated financial reports (income and expenditure) as and when required.
* Treasurer should spear-head fundraising strategies and activities.
* The treasurer should give a financial report during a pro-life meeting at least once every school term/every semester mentioning the names of those who have & those who have not yet paid their subscription fee.

**SECRETARY**

* The secretary should keep records of all club meetings (i.e. minutes) and club activities.
* The secretary should take lead and work together with the club executive to prepare and hand-over the annual narrative Archdiocesan report every year before hand-over of office.

**PUBLICITY SECRETARY**

* The publicity secretary should make Pro-life known and loved by other young people within the institution/school. The publicity should be creative and innovative and advertise the club in a way that attracts attention
* He/she should ensure that more members join the club.
* The publicity secretary should make sure that other club members know when meetings and club activities are to take place and encourage them to attend.

**CLUB EXECUTIVE**

* The club executive will hold meetings regularly to plan for activities and meetings.
* They should prepare hand-over reports which will be given to new office bearers during the hand-over ceremony.
* The club executive must work together in solidarity to ensure the smooth running of the club by being innovative and trying to ensure that pro-life is the best club in their institution/school.

**PATRON**

* The patron will be the link between the club members, school/institution administration and the Archdiocesan team.
* The patron will mentor and guide the young pro-lifers so that whatever they do is in line with the spirit of pro-life.
* He/she will ensure that the club is active

1. **PRO-LIFE ANNUAL CONVENTION**

* This will be held every year in March.
* It will be organized by the Archdiocesan team.
* Only active members who have paid subscription fee will attend.
* Only those pro-life clubs which have presented their annual report to the Archdiocese will be invited to attend the convention.

**UGANDA MARTYRS PRO-LIFE APOSTOLATE PRAYER**

**By Archbishop Dr. Cyprian Kizito Lwanga**

God creator of life, creator of humans and all living things (Gen1:1-27), we thank You for the gift of life. When man sinned, You condemned him to death. However, through Your love and mercy You sent us Your only Son Jesus Christ who died on the cross for our redemption; on Easter Sunday You restored life through His resurrection.

We pray You to instill in us all, the love for human life as well as spiritual life during these turbulent moments that are promoting the culture of death. May we all adhere to Your commandments (Ex 20:2-17) that assist us to have life in its fullness (Jn10:10). Send us Your Holy Spirit to enlighten us and empower us in all our endeavours to promote life in its fullness. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen. Holy Martyrs of Uganda; Pray for us.

**UGANDA MARTYRS PRO-LIFE APOSTOLATE ANTHEM**

**CHORUS**

***Precious Precious, Life is so precious***

***The highest gift of God which no man can give***

***Life is so precious***

***Precious at the start***

***Precious in the middle***

***Precious at the end, is precious all the way,***

***So be for life, give me a chance***

***God has created me in the image of God***

**1ST STANZA**

I am a person like you; I am a person like you,

Give me a chance, still un-born,

You have no right; you have no right to block my life,

I am a person like you

**Chorus**

**2ND STANZA**

And when am sick I need your help, and when I am getting old, I need your care

I need your love; I need your time to protect my life

I am a person like you.

**Chorus**

**3RD STANZA**

To you my fellow countrymen, you should avoid abuse of drugs, do not smoke

Do not drink excessively as this will ruin and destroy your life

You are in God’s own image

**Chorus**

**4TH STANZA**

I am no threat to challenge you; I am an asset like you

Give me a chance, give me time,

You have no right; you have no right to block my work

I am a person like you

**Chorus**