

The life and times of the Uganda Martyrs: the pioneer African Martyrs from South of the Sahara

Author: John Baptist Ssemitego

Introduction:

The Catholic Faith was brought to Buganda when the people in the region were still glued on tribal beliefs and any shift from the traditional worship was an abomination, the king (Kabaka) was an absolute ruler and a law unto himself and all his subjects had to give unquestionable royalty irrespective of what would be his demand. When the Catholic missionaries arrived, they found the Moslems and Anglicans already in the field and the local community had already been introduced to the worship of a Christian God and at this point several of the king's servants had been enrolled in all the two faiths, one after another. Those who had enrolled in Islam, which came first with the Arabs merchants, considered it superior to their ancestral pagan beliefs. When the Anglican missionaries arrived, they quickly embraced their teaching given the fact that the Arabs had soiled their mission with trading the locals as slaves.

Pere Lourdel quoted Paul Nalubandwa, the first Catholic to be baptized in 1880, as having told him that in the Islamic faith they had taught them that when you sin you wash and get clean, and later the Anglicans taught them that Jesus died for our sins, our task is to believe in him as our saviour and we are saved. Pere Lourdel later collaborated this narrative with that of Mathias Mulumba ...

Publication Type: Book

Keywords: Uganda Martyrs, Catholic faith, Uganda, Christianity, Catholic faith-Uganda, Religion

Series Title: Uganda Martyrs University Book Series, Number 19

Publication Date: 2025

Publisher: Uganda Martyrs University Press

Print ISBN: 9789970090211

Email Contact: editor@umu.ac.ug

Contents:

Buganda opens to the outside world ... Pg. 7

The Catholic missionaries start on their mission ... Pg. 13

How the Catholic Church survived while the missionaries were in exile ... Pg. 18

The making of the martyrs ... Pg. 23

Joseph Mukasa Balikuddembe ... Pg. 23

Denis Ssebuggwawo ... Pg. 43

Andrew Kaggwa ... Pg. 48

Ponsiano Ngondwe ... Pg. 56

Athanasius Bazzekuketta ... Pg. 60

Gonzaga Gonza ... Pg. 63

Mathias Mulumba ... Pg. 66

Noah Mawaggali Pg. 77

Charles Lwanga ... Pg. 83

Achilles Kiwanuka ... Pg. 98

Adolph Mukasa Ludigo ... Pg. 100

Anatole Kiriggwajo Pg.102

Ambrose Kibuuka ... Pg. 106

Bruno Sserunkuma ... Pg.108

Gvaira Musoke Mayanja ... Pg. 112

Mukasa Kiriwawanvu ... Pg. 115

Luke Baanabakintu ... Pg. 117

James Buzabalyawo ... Pg. 123

Kizito ... Pg. 125

Mbaaga Tuzinde ... Pg. 127

Mugagga Lubowa ... Pg. 131

John Mary Muzeeyi ... Pg. 135

Blessed Daudi Okello and Emenegildo ... Pg. 140

(Jildo) Irwa ... Pg. 140

Beatification journey of the martyred catechists ... Pg. 145

The Marvels of Post-Martyrdom ... Pg. 147

Development of the early church in Uganda ... Pg. 147

Archbishop Henri Streicher and the development of Catholicism in Uganda ... Pg. 149

Pioneering priesthood ... Pg. 153

Fr. Basilio Lumu ... Pg. 155

Fr. Victor Mukasa-Womeraka Pg. 56

Another "First" Buddu breaks its own record ... Pg.157

The long journey to canonization ... Pg.159

The rite of canonisation at St. Peter's Basilica ... Pg. 166

The life, works and death of Fr. Simeon Lourdel (Mapeera) ... Pg. 170

Brother Amans Delmas: Pere Lourdel's co-missionary at the Uganda Mission ... Pg. 173

Development of Namugongo Martyrs' site ... Pg. 176

Pope Paul VI's visit to Uganda ... Pg. 179

The Pope's ecumenical pilgrimage ... Pg. 185

Pope John Paul II's visit to Uganda – 1993 ... Pg. 189

Pope's Homily at Namugongo (7th Feb 1993) ... Pg. 191

Pope Francis' visit – 2015 ... Pg. 193

Concluding reflections ... Pg. 199

References ... Pg. 201