



**AMECEA Solidarity Visit To
The Catholic Eparchy of Keren
1st – 2nd November 2017**

The Association Members Episcopal Conference of East Africa (AMECEA) comprises of nine East African countries i.e. **Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia** and **Kenya**. AMECEA was founded in **1960** and in their **18th** Plenary Assembly in 2014 decided to pay a solidarity visit to the people and Catholic Church in Eritrea. The purpose of this visit:

1. To bring greetings and love of all AMECEA members and to share the rich values of the Catholic Church in Eritrea
2. To encourage the socio-pastoral work of the Church in Eritrea and listen to their needs.
3. To show solidarity to the concerns and challenges of the Church in Eritrea.
4. To invite the Church in Eritrea to join to the coming 19th Plenary Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 13-23 January 2018.



The delegates are from **Kenya, Uganda, Sudan and Malawi** will stay in Eritrea from 30th Oct. to 5th of Nov. 2017. The hierarchies and representatives of AMECEA are:



1. His Eminence John Cardinal Njue, Archbishop of Nairobi, Kenya
2. His Grace Thomas Luke Msusa, Archbishop of Blantyre Malawi & Vice-President of AMECEA
3. His Grace Michael Didi, Archbishop of Khartoum, the Sudan
4. His Grace John Baptist Odama, Archbishop of Gulu, Uganda
5. His Excellency Joseph Anthony Zziwa, Bishop of Kiyinda-Mitiyana, Uganda, and
6. Rt. Rev. Ferdinand Lugonzo, Secretary General of AMECEA Secretariat, Kenya

The delegates visited the Catholic Eparchy of Keren from 1st – 2nd November 2017. They appreciated the warm welcome got from the community and very much touched by the spirituality of the faithful and rich liturgical ceremony. The unity of the Clergy, Religious Congregations and Laity is exemplary and they stressed to be united, firm and to work with courage against all odds you are facing. Don't be despaired and don't give-up is the central message of their visit.

The team met with the Religious Leaders (Muslims, Orthodox and Evangelical) at Regional level. They had long and mutual discussion and recommended to have Inter-Religious Cooperation and not to give space for egoism and selfishness. Cooperation and Unity is the best instrument of love and respect!

The delegates highly appreciated the social services (education & health) of the Eparchy of Keren. We see that your schools and health institutions are open for all beneficiaries without any ethnic or creed discrimination and they will carry this message





back to AMECEA and their homeland.

AMECEA recommends all Government officials to foster the working relationship with the Church and to create good atmosphere of mutual dialogue. The Church is advocating for the poor and the marginalized. The Church is the 'voice of the voiceless' and recommended not to be despaired as the truth will prevail.

The team paid courtesy visit to the Minor Seminary, St. Agnes Orphanage, St. Ann Sisters and their school, De La Salle Brothers community and St. Joseph school Secondary school, met with Religious

Leaders and finally with Diocesan Priests and Religious personnel working in the Eparchy. Finally prayed at the Shrine of Mariam Deari.



Abba Uqbagaber Woldeghiorghis