



His Excellency Bishop Kidane Yebio Bishop of the Eparchy of Keren Visits Sweden!



His Excellency Bishop Kidane Yebio has been visiting Sweden from 12/10-2017 to 23/10-2017. On his arrival, he was met by the Eritrean Catholic Community at the Arlanda International Airport. From the airport Bishop Kidane and the faithful headed to St. Eugenia Catholic church in the city of Stockholm, where he was received by members of the St. Eugenia Church. Bishop Kidane addressed the community by lauding their spiritual and social activities in Sweden.

On 13/10-2107 Bishop Kidane met Caritas Sweden in Stockholm and discusses spiritual and social life issues.

On 14/10-2017, Bishop Kidane, joined by members of the council of the Geez rite mission, travelled to Gothenburg, Sweden, where he was received by the catholic community living in Gothenburg and environs. In the evening of Friday the 14th he met the council members and discussed their situation and the religious service they need in the future. On Saturday the 15th of October, most Geez rite community members residing in Gothenburg and environs, gathered at Medhanie Alem church. Before holy mass we had a lecture on catholic thoughts by the parish priest of the church and later at



noon we started our Geez holy mass led by his Excellency Bishop Kidane Yebio. In his travel to Gothenburg he was accompanied by Abba Uqbamariam Ekub; council members: Amanuel Woldegiorgis, Eyay Dmkel

and church Music group from Stockholm. After holy mass, a meeting with Bishop Kidane was held in the hall of the church. Bishop Kidane's presentation was based on catholic thoughts and learning and its practices on earthly life and thereafter. After the presentation he thanked the community for their charity and for their continued connection with their people at home in Eritrea. The meeting was attended by about 250 persons, and was very successful both in its spiritual and social aspects.

On 15th October 2017, Bishop Kidane Yebio celebrated holy mass in Stockholm at St. Eugenia Church at 13:00 p.m. local time. At this occasion, the Geez rite Mission in Sweden has been celebrating its 25th anniversary since its foundation in Sweden. After celebrating holy mass, the community; from Stockholm and environs, gathered in the hall of the church. A meeting was held first remembering the past 25 years, by participants who expressed their feelings and experiences. Abba Asfaha Kidanemariam thanked the community and shared past challenges and future opportunities. Abba Uqbamariam in his turn applauded the community and recommended to continue the good work in the future. Then his Excellency Bishop Kidane Yebio addressed the community. In his address Bishop Kidane addressed both spiritual temporal advice our communities who are in the Diaspora and at home. Bishop Kidane also presented the purpose of his visit to Sweden is to invite everyone to participate and help in the construction process of St. Michel's Cathedral in Keren, the administration offices of Eparchy and its social development activities in the whole Anseba region in Eritrea. Finally, the leadership of the Support Group for the Eparchy Keren, headed by Mrs. Hiwet Hagos, presented the organization's objectives and activities in Sweden. During the discussion session, poems of thanksgiving were read by individuals both in Blin and Tigrinya. The meeting in Stockholm was attended by about 800 people.

On Tuesday, 17th October 2017 His Excellency Bishop Kidane Yebio was invited to lunch and round table discussion by His Eminence Cardinal Bishop Anders Arborelius. Bishop Kidane shared the Catholic Eparchy of Keren's spiritual and social activities and the construction of St. Michel's Cathedral construction. The meeting with Cardinal Anders was very friendly and constructive.

On Wednesday 18th October 2017, his Excellency Bishop Kidane held a seminar with the natives of Eparchy of Keren in Stockholm. The seminar, opened by Mrs. Hiwet Hagos, head of the Keren Eparchy Support Association in Sweden, welcomed his Excellency and left the podium for Bishop Kidane. Bishop Kidane in his turn welcomed the seminar participants and presented his topic, using power point and explanations. Bishop Kidane's presentation, delivered both in Tigrinya and English, was very pedagogical, instructive, and illustrated by pictures and text.

Discussion session

The successful presentation was followed by a discussion session. The discussion period was constructive and all questions regarding the construction of the St. Michel's Cathedral and social activities were responded by bishop Kidane in detail. Sponsoring and donations were registered by individuals and organizations from Keren natives. The support Association for Eparchy of Keren representatives; Mrs. Hiwet Hagos and Ms. Semhar Petros praised the past and present by all, and in particular, the good-will actions support provided by the then Good-will Ambassadors of the church; Mrs. Muza Amd and the then Memhir Kurban Neguse. In conclusion, His Excellency Abune Kidane Yebio thanked the audience and concluded the meeting by prayers.

On Thursday 19th October 2017 a meeting was held with youth in St. Eugenia: The meeting was opened by Abba Uqbamariam, followed by his Excellency Bishop Kidane Yebio. Abune Kidane addressed the youth

by presenting the historical and cultural origins of Christian catholic thoughts, the oriental and occidental liturgies and their differences in worshipping God the Almighty. He stressed the organization and order of the Geez rite both the catholic and orthodox churches are from the Alexandrian tradition. He further stressed that the structure and organization of the church is based on Christian beliefs and is hierarchical and not a democracy, but this does not mean the church is dictator or one man organization it is an organization of the believers.

On Friday 20th October 2017, His Excellency Bishop Kidane held a meeting with the Geez rite council in St. Eugenia. In the meeting, he presented his paper first on the historical origin of the church of Christ in the world and later how it developed from the past up to the present and later he discussed on the management of each pastoral hierarchy in different sections and departments both of the spiritual and social levels. The presentation was very academic and pedagogical.

On Saturday 21st October 2017, His Excellency Bishop Kidane joined by Abba Uqbamariam, rector of the Eritrean catholic communities in Sweden, council members, and travelled to the city of Gävle which the capital city of Gävleborg in Sweden. On his arrival to Gävle, he was received by warm hearted welcome by the Eritrean catholic community living in this region of Sweden. He celebrated holy mass for the community; and after holy mass he held a meeting. He has presented his paper by power-point, text and explanations how his Eparchy functions both spiritual and social activities. In his presentation he used the biblical citation, “Go, teach, heal and support the needy” we the church of Christ don't need permission to teach the people on the earth. In this convergence gathered about 300 people. All questions from the audience were responded by the bishop.

On Sunday 22nd October 2017, His Excellency Bishop Kidane was joined by Abba Uqbamariam, rector of the Eritrean catholic communities in Sweden, and council members and travelled to a city called Örebro; which is the capital city of Eastern region of Sweden. On his arrival to Örebro city, he was received by warm hearted welcome by the Eritrean catholic community living in this region of Sweden. He celebrated holy mass with the community and after holy mass he has held a meeting for the community. He has presented his paper using power-point, text and explanations on how the Eparchy functions both spiritual and social activities. In his presentation he used the biblical citation, “Go, teach, heal and support the needy” We the church of Christ don't need permission to teach the people on the earth. In this gathering there were about 80 people. All questions from the audience were responded by the bishop.

His Excellency's visit from 12/10-23/10 2017 in Sweden was very successful in all its contents of presentation and it was awakening and engaging the catholic communities in Sweden. His Excellency Bishop Kidane left Sweden on Monday 23rd of October 2017. In these four cities of Sweden, a total of about 1500 people participated both in the celebration of holy mass and meeting with of His Excellency Bishop Kidane Yebio- Eparchy of Keren, Eritrea.

End of the Report from Sweden!!!