

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

**THE ROLE OF THE LAITY IN THE FORMATION OF PRIESTS IN IBANDA
PARISH – MBARARA ARCHDIOCES IN LIGHT OF *PASTORES DABO VOBIS* OF
POPE JOHN PAUL II.**

BY

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REG. NO. 2012/HD03/4660U

**A DESERTATION SUBMITTED AS A PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF A MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN
RELIGIOUS AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES OF MAKERERE UNIVERSITY
KAMPALA**

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SEPTEMBER 2014

DECLARATION

I, Hillary Katusiime hereby declare that this research paper is from my own effort, arrived at through reading and research. This paper has never been submitted to any university or higher institution of learning for any academic award.

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to all people of good Will who have supported priests in their formation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This research has been accomplished due to a lot of support rendered to me by various people. It is therefore important to give special tribute to them.

In the first place I am very grateful to God the source of my life and vocation. It has been out of his favour that I have accomplished this project.

I thank my beloved parents (Mr. BarigyeExpedito and Mrs.Kemiceera Judith) who have done all they could to nurture and cultivate in me the desire for education. I am equally indebted to the Arch Bishop of Mbarara his Grace Paul K. Bakyenga for his immense support towards my vocation to priesthood.

A vote of thanks also goes to Mr. Rubanju George William, Fathers. RutaremwaPoltase, TwesigyeomweDeusdedit and TumwineDesideriusfor their moral and financial support towards my studies in the seminary.Many thanks go to Ibanda hospital for having supported me right away from the *philosophicum* up to the completion of my studies in the*theologicum*. St. Helens primary School – Nyamitanga has also contributed a lot to my studies and thus I thank the administrators Sr. Tuhairwe Jacinta and her successor Sr. Nakityo Felicity. I also extend my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to all my brothers and sisters and friends whose love and support has always encouraged me in all the noble projects that I have always undertaken.

Great appreciation to my supervisors Rev. Fr. Dr. Ssonko John Baptist and Rev. Fr. Lwegaba Denis for being so tolerant concerned and for their helpful remarks and guidance that have made this research work possible.

I am also indebted to my friends especially Sr. Kamahoro Rosemary, Joseph Tuhame, Cecilia Bamuhigyire and Nighty Acheng for their encouragement and support throughout the time I was working on this research paper. Finally to all mentioned and unmentioned who contributed to this piece of work. May the Almighty God Lord you generously.

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ABBREVIATIONS

Heb	Hebrews
PDV.....	Pastores DaboVobis
Jer.....	Jeremiah
OT.....	Optatum Totius
Can.....	Canon Law
Mk.....	Mark
Mt.....	Mathew
Cf.....	Confer
BECS.....	Basic Ecclesial Communities
Jn.....	John
CL.....	Christifideles Laici
LG.....	LumenGentium
USCCB.....	United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
UECSC.....	Uganda Episcopal Conference Seminary Charter
GS.....	Gaudium etSpes

EWTN.....Eternal Word Telecommunication Network

CCC.....Catechism of the Catholic Church

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ABSTRACT

The formation of future priests is a vocation and responsibility of the laity according to John Paul II (*PDV*, no. 41). Since the laity are part of the Christian community, the duty of fostering vocations rests upon them in a special way, (*OT*, no. 2). In light of the above, the laity of Ibanda Parish understand how valuable priests are. But some have not responded well towards this formation since many seem not to be aware of that role, vocation and duty. That is why the researcher was prompted to establish their role, attitude and extent to which they are aware and willing to embrace participation in the formation of priests. The study was guided by the general objective: To establish the role of the laity in promoting Priestly vocations in Ibanda Parish, Mbarara Archdiocese. The study was undertaken therefore, in order to create awareness about priestly formation, to empower and help the laity in Ibanda Parish appreciate this role and act more positively in fostering vocations for the good of the Church.

A variety of literature has been consulted and considered for this study. In a special way, the Church (Magisterial teachings) and other individual writers as well indicated in chapter 2 regarding the topic were very helpful. Consulted literature agree that among the lay faithful and in particular catechists, teachers, educators, parents, movements and associations of the lay faithful have an importance in the growth and promotion of vocations (*PDV*, nos. 3, 41 & 68).

To obtain views from the field of study on the topic, two research instruments were employed and these are the questionnaire and oral interviews. They aided the researcher to obtain significant views and answers to the research questions. The researcher majorly found out that: many of the laity are not aware of what priestly formation is and their role as regards priestly formation. And hence their attitude towards priestly formation has become generally poor but

the Will to support those training priests is there. 70 % of the respondents were positive to the fact of being supportive towards the formation of priests though needing empowerment. 30% were aware and they have been supportive. Basing on the above major findings, the researcher called upon the priests, diocesan authorities, and the candidates to the priesthood themselves to do whatever that is in their means to empower the laity to support priestly formation since they have the Will.

The study concluded that lay people want not only priests, but priests who are committed to their formation so that they, the laity, could be suitably helped to fulfil their role in the ecclesial mission of forming priests for the Church. Secondly, the study concluded that the major role of the laity in supporting priestly vocations is integral in nature. This role involves material (financial), spiritual (prayer), moral. In order to do this effectively, the laity need the support of priests, Diocesan authorities and candidates to the priesthood themselves through laity Associations, workshops, and seminars.