

## **Pope Francis celebrates Holy Mass at UoN**

**Thursday, November 26, 2015, saw all roads lead to the University of Nairobi as His Holiness Pope Francis celebrated Holy Mass at the University grounds.**

The President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, led Kenyans during the historic mass that brought together over 1 million Catholic faithful.

In his message to the people of Kenya, Pope Francis said that the Kenyan society has long been blessed with strong family life, a deep respect for the wisdom of the elderly and love for children. He said that the health of any society depends on the health of its families.

“For their sake, and for the good of society, our faith in God’s word calls us to support families in their mission in society, to accept children as a blessing for our world, and to defend the dignity of each man and woman, for all of us are brothers and sisters in the one human family.”

His Holiness Pope Francis also had a message for the Kenyan youth. “Here, in the heart of this University, where the minds and hearts of new generations are being shaped, I appeal in a special way to the young people of the nation. Let the great values of Africa’s traditions, the wisdom and truth of God’s word, and the generous idealism of your youth guide you in working to shape a society which is ever more just, inclusive and respectful of human dignity,” he said. “May you always be concerned for the needs of the poor, and reject everything that leads to prejudice and discrimination, for these things, we know, are not of God.” The Pontiff quoting the parables of Jesus, urged Kenyans to build their ‘house’ on a solid rock, the rock Jesus Christ. God is the rock upon which we are called. Jesus wishes to draw men to Himself, so that He can bring them to the Father.

In his reconciliatory message to Kenyans, the Pope noted that we are all part of the great Christian Family. He urged Kenyans to embrace family values as family makes an important aspect of the society. The Head of the Vatican urged Christians, to be people who radiate the truth; People who channel God's mercy and truth. He urged Kenyans to create great families, to create homes where brothers and sisters live together in harmony. The Pontiff who is famous for speaking for the rights of the downtrodden, noted that leaders must rise up and defend the dignity of all humans. In doing so, they should be bold and very courageous. "Do not be afraid, for you belong to the Lord.”

In his blessings to the Kenyan people, the Pope blessed Kenyans and the leaders and their families, saying, "May Jesus, the Good Shepherd, guide you and your families. May God bless your lives and your families with peace."

As he concluded the homily, the Pope blessed Kenyan and Kenya. Speaking in Kiswahili, the Pontiff said, "Mungu awabariki. Mungu abariki Kenya! (God bless you. God bless Kenya).

