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CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rumbek, 7th July 2024

Leiku Nhialic

A puoth ke Kuoth

I write this brief message to express my gratitude to the Holy Father Pope Francis for the erection of the Diocese of Bentiu, embracing Lakes State and Rueng Administrative Area. It is a great blessing from God not only for the people of Bentiu but for the all Church.

I am grateful for so many people that witnessed the faith: missionaries, catechists and lay pastoral agents and priests who worked in this pastoral area and are now working there. I also commend the commitment of Rt. Rev. Stephen Nyodho, Bishop of Malakal, that opened and accomplished the process for the erection of this new Diocese. Among the priest Fr. William Bol as the episcopal vicar. Mabruk!

I encourage the local community to praise the Lord, to listen to his word and live an authentic Christian life. May the elders inspire the younger generations with their wisdom and uprightness. May the adult form truly Christian families and build a peaceful society. May the youth answer generously to the Lord's call and live their vocation at the service of the entire community.

I am in debt with the Lord for all his goodness to me. I am in debt with all the people of South Sudan, and now most of all with you among whom God has called me to serve as a Shepherd. He picked me from Rumbek – May God bless the people of Rumbek Diocese as they cry – and brought me to you. I am happy to join your faith journey and your commitment to build a Church that may be witness of reconciliation, peace and unity.

My episcopal motto is *You are all One in Christ*.

Week ëbën wek aa tök, wek cī mat kek Jethu. Yen diaal lapε kel rey Kritho Yethu.

Let's all be One in Christ. Let's overcome every division. Let's build a peaceful and fraternal society in Greater Bentiu and in South Sudan.

You please keep me in your prayers and your brothers and sisters of Rumbek as well. May the Lord, for the intercession of St Daniel Comboni and St Josephine Bakhita, continue to bestow his blessings upon the newly erected Diocese of Bentiu. See you soon in Bentiu.

Sincerely Yours in Christ Jesus,

+ Christian Carlassare, mccj