

Uganda Trip – Part 6

August 2017

On our final day in Uganda, we toured the Ugandan Martyr's Basilica in Naugongo on the spot where there were 22 Catholic Uganda Martyrs killed between 1885 and 1887 by being burnt alive by the King of Buganda.

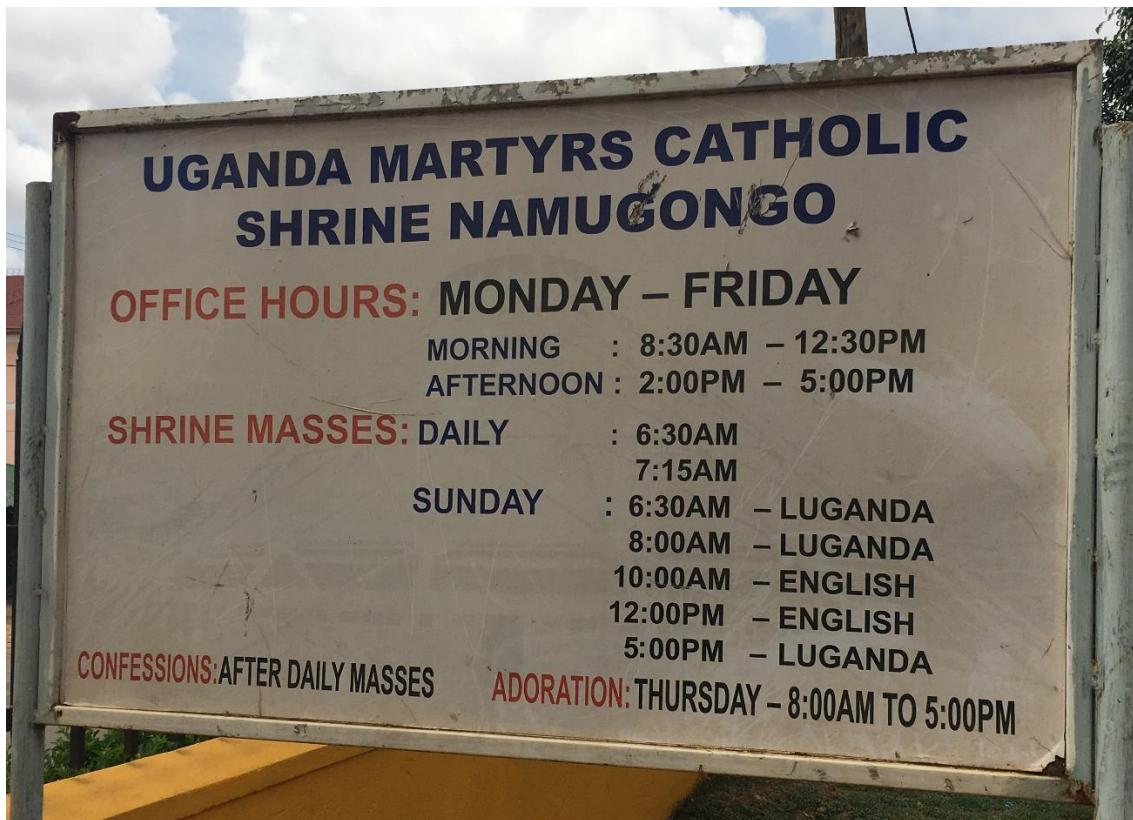
The young royal pages were canonized in 1964 by Pope Paul VI. These martyrs are honored every year on June 3rd. The 22 copper pillars, which are over 100 feet long, represent each martyr and are built in a circular form like an African hut. Later, while in exile, the King of Buganda became a Christian and was baptized.





This is the only place in Africa, and probably among few in the world that has been visited by 3 Popes:

Pope Paul VI in 1969 (1st Ever Papal Visit to Africa), St. Pope John Paul II in 1993 and Pope Francis in 2015.



St. Charles Lwanga was the head of the King's Pages who displayed unshakable faith and bravery. When St. Kizito was martyred he was under 15 years old.



Life-size statues depict workers building a pyre of how the martyrs were burned to death.



The wooden doors of the Basilica depict the story of the martyrs.



Inside the Basilica, the altar is located above the spot where the 22 Martyrs were burned alive.



On June 3 every year for Martyrs Day, there are many thousands of pilgrims who walk miles and miles from their home to visit the Shrine to honor the martyrs. The attendance estimates from 500,000 to two million.

Due to a recent restoration, the gazebo in the middle of the lake is where the Popes celebrate mass. The crowds surround the lake on terraced grandstands on all sides.



The water in the lake is considered holy water and many pilgrims dip their jugs, body parts, and even babies into the murky water of the lake or drink from the water faucet. This is the place where the martyrs' executioners washed the blood off their hands. They say the blood of the martyrs sanctified the lake.







At this amazing Shrine, there were children picking up empty plastic bottles to sell for money for their families.



Before leaving for the airport, we had lunch with many members of Fr. Simon Peter's family.







We celebrated Fr. Simon Peter's Birthday with cake.



Fr. Simon Peter's family generously gave us each gifts of African drums.





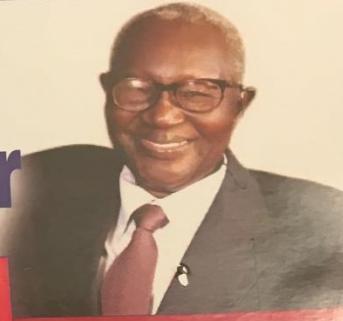
Mama Cat and Father Mark tried to balance the drums on their heads like the Traditional African Dancers.



In Loving Memory of Papa 2018



Calendar



1st Jan - New year's Day
26th Jan - Liberation Day
8th March - Women's Day
25th March - Good Friday
25th March - Easter - 26th March - Easter Monday
1st May - Labour Day

5th May - International day of the Midwife
3rd June - Martyrs' Day
9th June - Heroes' Day

9th Oct - Independence Day
1st Nov - All Saints' Day
25th Dec - Christmas Day
26th Dec - Boxing Day

SEPTEMBER 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
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28	29	30	31			

OCTOBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
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FEBRUARY 2018

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NOVEMBER 2017

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DECEMBER 2017

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MAY 2018

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SEPTEMBER

2018

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OCTOBER

2018

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DECEMBER

2018

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30	31					

On the way to the airport, we stopped to visit another Convent as a possible place to stay for the next trip!

