

Fr. Nicholas, The representative of the Archdiocese of Juba and also the Catholic Bishops' Conference

Sr. Wamuyu Wachira, Co-President of Pax Christi International

Fr. Dr. Mathew Pagan, Vice Chancellor of the Catholic University of South Sudan

Country Directors and Representatives of the CRN Partners

On behalf of the Board of Governors, the CRN member radio stations Managers and Directors, the staff, and on my own behalf

I'm honored to receive this peace award. It's extra-special for us!

We appreciate PAX CHRISTI INTERNATIONAL, for recognizing our years of resilience and dedication in serving the people of South Sudan and the Nuba Mountains for more than a decade, now.

I dedicate this award to our founding Family the Comboni Congregation of Sudan and South Sudan, the Catholic Bishops' Conference, who without them we will not have CRN and its member radio stations today.

To our staff who accepted to work in most remote areas, we are receiving this award today because of some of our staff who went extra-miles in their work, and in Particular I want to recognize Sr. Elena the former Director of Saut Al Mahabba in Malakal. When war rage in that town in 2014, Sr. Elena didn't only run for her safety, she took along most of the essentials equipment with her, she knew that if the guns goes silence, the people of Malakal will need information to recover from the violence.

We don't have luxuries to offer to our staff to motivate them, instead we operate in a difficult environment where our staff walk for 10 miles or more to gather news, where heat is not friendly to our equipment and always put them on sick bed and force us to go off-air, were thunder is stronger than the lightning arrestors, where Press freedom and freedom of expression is new to our people. But above all we pass through this challenges and still deliver the information to our people.

Hence, this award will encourage the staff to double their efforts in delivering more services to our people. We recognize the CRN radio listeners for their trust in us, even when we go off-air, the over 6 million listeners patiently wait for us to resume broadcast without switching to any other channel.

My deep gratitude to our partners, well-wishers, donors, partners and all the supporters of CRN in South Sudan and globally, who have been with us during good and bad times: Let me quote Philipians 1: verses 3-6 which **says I thank my God every time I remember you. 4In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 6being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.**

Therefore, I would like to assure you that, we will continue to go extra-miles to fulfil the vision of this noble Organization.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year full of Peace and Stability.

May God bless you, May God bless the Catholic Church and South Sudan in general!

