



ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

ECS – Catholic Bishops' Retreat and Convention
Yei, South Sudan
May 2012

My dear brothers in Christ,

Greetings to you all in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ.

I send you warmest greetings and hold you in special prayer as you meet together in Yei. Your coming together as ECS and Catholic bishops is a great sign of hope for the people of Sudan and South Sudan and for all God's people.

When I visited in 2006, there were so many hopes after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). We have journeyed with you through times of great celebration and severe stress and we will continue to walk with you, grateful as your brother and sisters in Christ for your steadfast witness both in sorrow and in joy.

We are keenly aware of the great suffering caused by the non-implementation of several key parts of the CPA. The cry of pain continues to be heard from South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Abyei, as well as from those affected by the escalation of conflict in the border region between Sudan and South Sudan. I pray that the UN Security Council Resolution and the AU Roadmap will result in real progress in settling the outstanding issues.

The church's dedicated efforts in peace-building and advocacy continue to represent a powerful witness to the gospel. We are inspired by the untiring efforts to bring peace in Jonglei. We also stand in special solidarity with the church's situation in the Republic of Sudan and will continue to press for freedom of religion and worship and the safety of the Christian community.

It is a great tribute to the Sudanese Church that it continues to set before the world the vision of a just and peaceful Sudan and South Sudan and to work for its transformation through holistic and equitable development for all. I hope that this joint meeting will be a time of refreshment and encouragement for you. May the risen Christ come among you as he did among his disciples and give you his peace. May his Spirit come upon you and empower you mightily in this calling.

With every blessing,

+ Rowan Cantuar: