

Dear Members of the UCE Family,

I commend UCE for the good work in Mbale Diocese. We live in a world which pays a great deal of attention to human sexuality. But with so many voices and opinions about sex, it is often confusing to know how we are to use this precious gift. Young people in Mbale have been getting wrong information from the media! Fortunately, UCE is enlightening the youth with the correct message.

The UCE message is in line with Scripture, and guides the youth on how to live their sexuality with delight and respect for God's loving plan. The Bible lays the groundwork by telling us how to live our sexuality in light of our human dignity, rooted in God's creating us in his image and likeness (Gen 1:27).

Today, chastity is often mistakenly associated with being old fashioned, having a fear of passion, or with sexual inhibition. But the UCE message and outreaches in Mbale have shown youths that chastity is much more than simply the absence of sexual relations. Chastity calls for purity of mind as well as body. If we are not working to develop a pure heart or a pure mind, then our bodily actions will reflect this. If we have no control over our desires or passions, then we cannot be trusted in either the big or the small things. We will remain slaves of our own passions and weak in spirit. If we cannot say "no," then our "yes" will mean nothing. The more we accept chastity and make it our lifestyle, the more people around us will sense that the Holy Spirit dwells within us.

If all of us embraced and supported the UCE program, and message, there would be no more HIV/AIDS on the surface of the earth. Thank you very much UCE and thank you very much UCE partners.

Rt. Rev. Patrick Gidudu Maondo  
Bishop Mbale Diocese, Church of Uganda