

Priest dies after giving sermon

KABALE

By Job Namanya

December 3 will always bring sad memories to the Christians of Kamuganguzi archdeaconry in Kabale district, following the passing on of their archdeacon, the Rev. Justus Twinomujuni.

Twinomujuni collapsed after delivering his sermon and died on the way to Rugarama Hospital.

Patience Tusiime, the chief warden of the church, recalls how she escorted the priest to the pulpit to give a life-touching sermon.

"Christians paid keen attention as he preached about the word of God and its essence in their lives. His sermon was centered on a scripture from Psalms 119:105-124. He encouraged us to increasingly read the Bible if we are to succeed in life," Tusiime said.

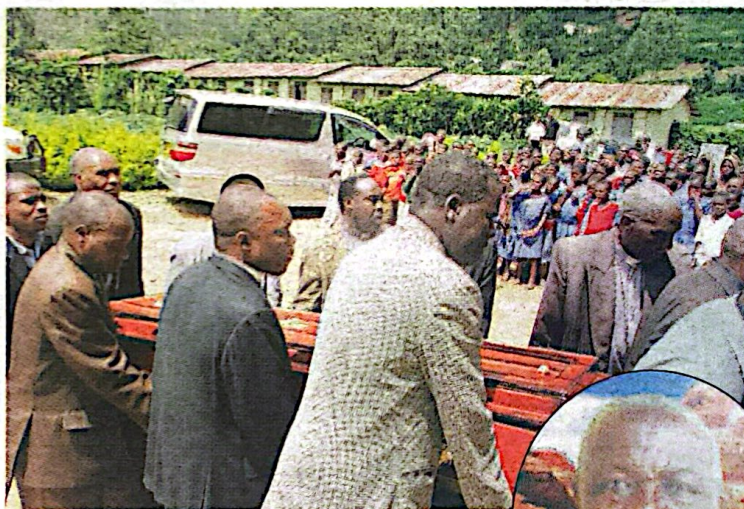
His last message was his call for the congregation to always speak responsibly in public.

After the sermon, Twinomujuni stepped from the pulpit as the congregation sang the famous "tukutendereze" hymn.

"A few minutes later, he stood still and we wondered what had gone wrong. Then, he fell down, prompting us to rush to rescue the situation," Tusiime said.

The Christians rushed him to his house, located a few metres away.

While at home, Twinomujuni asked for drinking water, but his condition did not improve," Tusiime added.



Christians carrying the casket containing Twinomujuni's body after the funeral service. Inset is Twinomujuni, the fallen priest



BETWEEN THE LINES:

■ Twinomujuni succumbed to high blood pressure and is survived by a wife and six children.

Moments later, Twinomujuni was rushed to Rugarama Hospital, where he was confirmed dead upon arrival.

The deceased had only served at the archdeaconry for a month and 27 days.

He had been serving as a reverend since his ordination in 1987.

Twinomujuni had previously served as the parish priest in Bucundura, Kamwezi, Kacere and Muko.

He replaced the Rev. David Rurihona in the October transfer of priests by Bishop George Bagamuhunda of Kigezi Diocese.

His deeds

The Bishop of Kigezi Diocese, Eng. George Bagamuhunda, on Monday asked mourners to reflect on the good deeds of the fallen priest by preparing

their life journeys through promoting good Christian values.

The Kabale deputy resident commissioner, Dennis Nzeirwe said Twinomujuni promoted peace and harmony in the diocese.

"I had not interacted with him for long, but all I can remember was when he helped in settling a dispute that had erupted in one of the churches in this archdeaconry. He asked us to help him in sorting it out and through his peace-making skills, the fire was ceased," Nzeirwe said.

Mauda Twinomujuni, hailed her husband for his strong love for his family.

"He truly loved us. There is a time I got deeply sick and went into a coma; he was always assuring me of how he deeply loved me. He loved our children, too and death has met him while all of them have acquired a decent education," she said.

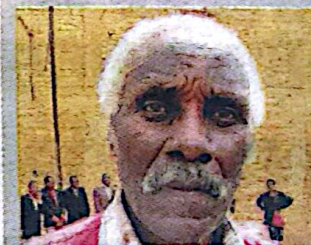
The Rev. Edward Mwesigwa, a friend of Twinomujuni, hailed the deceased for what he called being entrepreneurial and open-minded.

"He never had time for keeping anger at heart. If something annoyed him, he would immediately move to reveal it to the concerned parties. He was also a good planner who invested in land," Mwesigwa said.

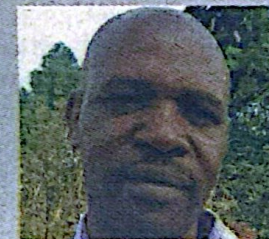
The deceased succumbed to high blood pressure and is survived by a wife and six children.

He will be laid to rest today at his ancestral home in Mparo, Rukiiga district.

WHAT OTHERS SAY



Bernard Kwatiraho, Christian: He had started renovating the archdeacon's house. We shall miss him.



Can. Enock Kazooba, Church leader: He was an inspirational mentor to us and we highly cherish his advice.



Edson Turyahabwa, Resident: His death shocked us, but we believe his destiny is the most needed one since he had served God diligently.