



THE CENTER FOR THE
SECRET of PEACE
MINISTRIES

Update from the Board

Growing and Expanding Fr. Ubald's Legacy with New Leadership

Katsey Long, President of the Board

When Fr. Ubald Rugirangoga passed away in 2021, the future plans for his growing ministry and message of forgiveness, healing, and peace were unclear. After a period of prayerful discernment and planning, the board of Directors for the Center for the Secret of Peace Ministries recommitted to continuing and enhancing the transformative work begun by Fr. Ubald. Our vision is to establish the Center for the Secret of Peace Ministries as the world's leading organization in promoting forgiveness, healing, and peace.

In August the Board welcomed Dr. Betsy Ackerson as the inaugural Executive Director of our international foundation. In this newly created role, Betsy will oversee all aspects of the foundation's work including planning, fundraising, program development, communications, and coordinating Fr. Ubald's cause for canonization in the Catholic Church. Reporting to her is our Executive Director of the Center for Secret of Peace in Rwanda, Mireille Umwali.

Betsy will be working to strengthen and grow the work begun by Fr. Ubald in Rwanda, the U.S. and Europe. We will continue to work closely with the Rwandan Catholic Church, other Catholic dioceses and parishes, Christian organizations and ministries, and civic organizations. *(continued)*



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Betsy brings the leadership, passion for mission, and vision we need to head up this new phase of work as we pick up where Fr. Ubald left off and continue his work of forgiveness, healing, and peace. She most recently served as president of a Catholic college-preparatory school, and has more than 25 years of experience in senior university administration, international non-profit trade associations, and Christian ministry. She has developed professional cross-cultural programs for leading universities and trade associations in Europe, Central and South America, and Turkey, and served as a youth minister. Betsy holds degrees from Duke University, William & Mary Mason School of Business, and University of Virginia, and leadership certification from Harvard University.

The entire Board is delighted to have Betsy join us and we look forward to all that the future holds. I am personally very excited that Betsy felt called by God and said yes to the call to take on this mantle of Executive Director for the foundation to continue Fr. Ubald's work and legacy. As you will read in this newsletter, since Betsy's arrival, we have had a very busy and fruitful few months. Thank you for all your prayers and your continued support of our work as together we carry out Fr. Ubald's mission and message to our fellow brothers and sisters around the world. Blessings to you.

**“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do because I go to the Father”
John 14:12.**

Meet Us

Betsy Ackerson, Executive Director, Center for the Secret of Peace Foundation



Advent Greetings! I am both honored and humbled to be asked to lead the Center for the Secret of Peace Foundation. What an immense privilege and responsibility to continue the incredible work begun by Fr. Ubald—the saint who walked among us. It was a great personal blessing to meet Fr. Ubald several years ago, learn from him, and be healed through his prayers.

We now have a tremendous opportunity to share his increasingly needed message and ministry of forgiveness, healing, and peace throughout the world. *(continued)*

Fr. Ubald showed us forgiveness is the secret of healing and peace. We now must share that message with others and walk with them on the path just as Fr. Ubald walked with us. As Jesus reminds us in the Gospel of Luke, “From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded. And from the one trusted with much, much more will be expected” (Luke 12:48).

Our work has begun! And, what better way to begin than returning to Rwanda and ministering directly to the Rwandan people—Fr. Ubald’s own. Prior to his illness and death, Fr. Ubald asked a few friends who each have their own ministries of healing and evangelization to come and minister to the Rwandan people. Wanting to honor their promise to their dear friend Fr. Ubald, these three brought a team of 14 and we hosted two conferences in August; one in Cyangugu at the Center for the Secret of Peace, and one in the capital city of Kigali. Leif Hetland, one of the main speakers, writes about his experience ministering to the Rwandan people.

**"Healing Begins with forgiveness.
Forgiveness makes you free.
Freedom is joy.
Joy is Jesus.
This is the Secret of Peace."**

Fr. Ubald Rugirangoga

In October, we were honored to welcome Bishop Edouard Sinayobye of the Diocese of Cyangugu to the U.S. This was Bishop Edouard’s first trip to the U.S. and he came to meet and thank those who cared for Fr. Ubald, particularly in his final months of life. He also took time to learn firsthand about Fr. Ubald’s ministry in the U.S. and its impact on those whose who received healing from Fr. Ubald’s prayers. During his 2-week whirlwind tour, Bishop spent time in Denver, CO, Jackson, WY, Chicago, IL, and the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in Champion, WI outside Green Bay. Ellen Nolan, who knew Fr. Ubald and whose extended family was greatly impacted by Fr. Ubald, shares her impressions of his visit.

We now are preparing to celebrate Christmas and welcome the Prince of Peace again into our hearts, lives, families, and world. This is a perfect time of year to give thanks for Fr. Ubald, an Apostle of Peace, and reaffirm our commitment to sharing his message with others. Please see the many ways we hope you will support the ongoing work of fulfilling the vision and mission of Fr. Ubald in Rwanda and beyond.

Blessings and peace to each of you.

The Power of Forgiveness (First published on his blog)

Leif Hetland, Founder & President Global Mission Awareness

A dawn of rejoicing: two weeks in Rwanda

“At dusk weeping comes for the night; but at dawn there is rejoicing.” Psalm 30:6

Recently, I had the honor of visiting the beautiful country of Rwanda for the first time in my life. This country has a unique history that I was able to experience being there physically. As you may know, Rwanda experienced a genocide in 1994 against the Tutsi people. More powerful than the genocide was the power of forgiveness that bulldozed the way for peace and unity like I have never seen before. When I think of Rwanda, I think of a country that is a prototype for a type of unity that is divine in nature.



One of the most memorable things for me was having the honor of visiting a mass grave to leave flowers and pay respect to the lives lost. It was a very sobering experience that left me speechless. So many like you and I had their lives taken prematurely and unjustly and their families destroyed. A spirit of division and death had turned loose in this place so much so that neighbors had turned against neighbors and priests against parishioners.



This country has experienced tremendous loss and yet it is such a peaceful place. I've been to different parts of Africa and one of the most striking things about Rwanda, specifically in Kigali, is how clean it is. I asked our driver about this, and she said something so remarkable, “When we got peace, our hearts became clean. So, we started to clean.” They have cultivated a culture that cleans and cares for their cities as a result of the peacemaking that has taken place. It flowed from the inside out.

(The Power of Forgiveness, continued)

How did peace invade a country? How were the eyes of enemies healed? How did they receive heaven's eyes?

I propose that we are witnesses to the testimony that forgiveness can heal an entire nation by shifting the perspective of the hearts of its citizens. Forgiveness will clear your eyes and lift the heaviness of your soul. This is the inheritance of every nation on earth.



I had the privilege of meeting Father Ubald of Cyangugu at a conference in 2020 in the USA. Fr. Ubald was a modern-day hero that paved a way for peace by walking in the ways of Jesus in Rwanda. At the conference, he asked several of the speakers to come to His country to impart God's love to his people. Sadly, he passed away last year but I wanted to keep my word to this precious brother in Christ and decided to travel to Rwanda with a small group of people. I didn't know that honoring his request would impact my life so significantly.

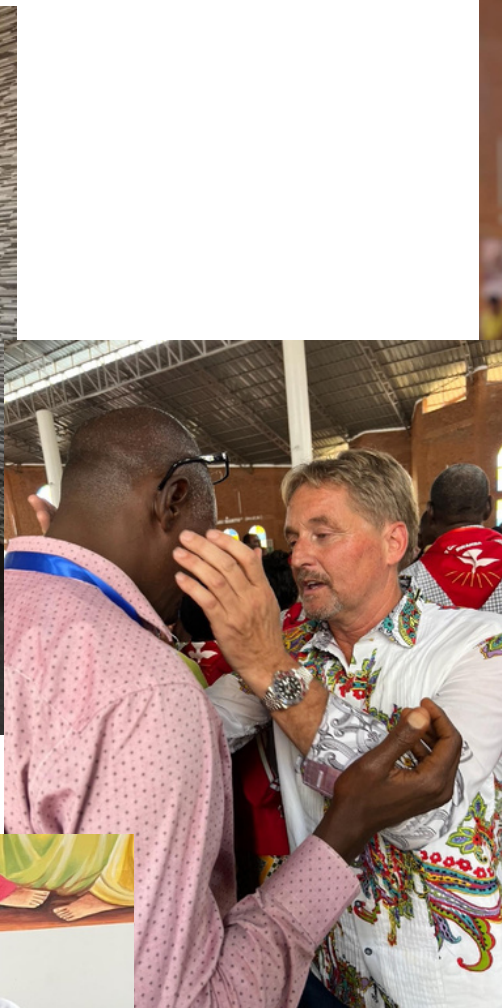
Fr. Ubald was a Catholic Priest for 36 ½ years in the Cyangugu Diocese of Southeastern Rwanda. He was truly a man of honor. During the 1994 genocide, he lost 80 family members and over 45,000 parishioners. He fled the country and ended up in Belgium for 3 months where he mourned for his country crying every day. When he fled, he made a promise to his Bishop to return to bring healing to his people.

Jesus spoke to Fr. Ubald releasing him from his grieving with the words "Ubald, take up your cross." The fruit of his obedience resulted in many physical healings wherever he went. He preached forgiveness and reconciliation to his beloved people. He was called on by the government of Rwanda to influence the rebuilding process on a national level. Fr. Ubald even made arrangements to take care of the children of the man that murdered his mother. He did not just preach the message of reconciliation; he lived it and his actions had a ripple effect throughout the nation.

(The Power of Forgiveness, continued)

The people of Rwanda are no longer the Hutus and the Tutsis; a divided people. They view themselves as one, united people. They teach us what can happen when we set aside our differences and forgive those who have offended us even to the point of trauma – on the deepest level.

This trip will forever leave a mark on my heart. It reinforced in me a desire to learn from history and to challenge people to do the same. A polarized people can lead to destruction, but a forgiving people can lead to healing and restoration. May we learn the effects of love and forgiveness and honor the lives of those lost by choosing the way of love today. May the Body of Christ walk as ambassadors of love and peace to the nations.



A Good Shepherd; Meeting Bishop Edouard
by Ellen Nolan

In late 2020 while still in the ICU in Salt Lake City, UT, Fr. Ubald prayed for the upcoming appointment of a new Bishop for the Diocese of Cyangugu, Rwanda, in which the Center for the Secret of Peace is located. He had someone in mind—a priest named Fr. Edouard Sinayobye. Just two weeks after Fr. Ubald’s death in January 2021, Bishop Edouard Sinayobye was named bishop of the Diocese of Cyangugu! To those closest to Fr. Ubald in those last weeks, it seemed the first public example of Fr. Ubald’s heavenly intercession. It was cause for jubilation and new hope for the future of the Center for the Secret of Peace (CSoP).



Ellen Nolan with Fr. Ubald

Over the years of his U.S. ministry, small communities of faithful Catholic Christians who had been touched by Fr. Ubald’s ministry sprang up in several cities. In October, His Excellency Bishop Edouard traveled to the U.S., along with CSOP Executive Director for Rwanda, Mireille Umwali, to visit several of these communities including Denver, CO, Jackson, WY, Chicago, IL and culminating in Green Bay, WI, where he met with His Excellency Bishop David Ricken of the Diocese of Green Bay, who knew Fr. Ubald personally and supported Fr. Ubald’s U.S. healing ministry. *(continued on next page)*





In Chicago, Al and Monique Miralles provided a family setting for Fr. Ubald during his many visits to the Chicago area over the years. Once again, they opened their beautiful and spacious home to the Bishop and friends of Fr. Ubald from around the U.S. who traveled to testify to the impact of Fr. Ubald's healing ministry on their lives. Betsy Ackerson, (Executive Director CSoP Foundation) and Katsey Long (President of the Board), both of Jackson, WY, accompanied the Bishop on his tour.

Each evening began with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Edouard. There was a sense that these celebrations were similar to the early Christian house churches. Dinner followed Mass, and joyful stories of Fr. Ubald were exchanged with laughter and a few tears. Friends from around Chicago, including priests and Rwandan seminarians, joined in what was part reunion, part celebration of Jesus' healings. Each day, the CSoP representatives met with the Bishop, and he also met with persons who wanted to share their healing stories.

Bishop Edouard has an air of quiet grace and refinement about him. His expression is kind and intelligent, and he listens carefully. There is a sparkle in his eyes and it is clear he is thoughtfully considering the future of the CSoP. As with a watchful shepherd, it seems we are in good hands.

Fr. Ubald+, pray for us!

Double the Impact; Double the Blessing!

A very generous friend of Fr. Ubald will match every gift made to the Center for the Secret of Peace Foundation up to \$100,000!

Mail checks to:
Center of Peace
P.O. Box 3534
Jackson, WY 83001

a \$50 gift turns into \$100.
a \$500 gift becomes \$1000.
a \$5000 gift becomes \$10,000.



Give online

www.secretofpeace.com

This is a tremendous opportunity to keep doing what we are doing and expand our efforts. The Center for Secret of Peace Foundation is a 501(c)(3). All gifts received are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Fr. Ubald's Christmas Wish List

Help us spread the message of forgiveness, healing, and peace. Here are some of our most pressing needs to maintain our 75-acre property at the Center for the Secret of Peace in Rwanda, and enable the expansion of programming in Rwanda and the U.S.

\$200/month or \$50/wk. — lunch for our dedicated staff of 14 at the Center for the Secret of Peace. The Center is in a rural area with no commercial establishment.

\$9,600 or \$800/month — keep the water running and the lights on at the Center.

\$75,000 — Master Site Plan to build out Fr. Ubald's vision for the 75-acre campus.

\$10,000 — Translate & Print Fr. Ubald's autobiography into the Rwandan language.

\$1000 — Translate Fr. Ubald's reconciliation curriculum into English.

\$2500 — Cement bench for visitors to sit, pray, and reflect. We need 20 benches.

\$4000 or \$333/month — Masses for one month— more than 10,000 attend Mass each month.

\$400/month or \$100/wk. — Fuel & transportation for priests to visit and minister to the sick

\$15,000 — Promote awareness of Fr. Ubald to support his cause for canonization

\$3000 or \$250/month — Upkeep of the outdoor Mass site (terraced grass) and walkways

\$3000 — Installation of outdoor solar lighting to reduce our electrical expenses

Any amount of your choice! Every gift counts and we are most grateful!

SAVE THE DATE! MAY 2023 PILGRIMAGE



Rwanda & The Center for the Secret of Peace

Join us on a 10-day Pilgrimage to Rwanda. Visit the Center for the Secret of Peace; Pray at Fr. Ubald's gravesite; See Fr .Ubald's private rooms.

Attend the Dedication of the Official 8-foot Bronze Statue of Fr. Ubald with Bishop Edouard Sinayobye.

Visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Kibeho, the only approved Marian apparition in Africa; the Genocide Memorial in Kigali, and more.

Additional details coming soon.

