

**'Traditions for the Future',
Ise, June 2014**



**Closing address by
Bishop Nathan Kyamanywa
(Bunyoro Kitara Diocese, of the Church of Uganda)**

Genesis 1: 26-27

'Then God said: "Let us make Man in our own image, according to our own likeness, let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air and over the cattle, over all the Earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the Earth."

'So God created Man in his own image; in the image of God he created him: male and female he created them.'

Genesis 2: 15

'Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.'

When God decided to create man in his own image it was an invitation from God to man, so that man may participate in perpetuating that which God had created from nothing (*ex nihilo*). God invites each one of us to be co-workers with him (*2 Corinthians 6:1*)

The image of God in man is the mark of the divine creative ability bestowed on us. God's creative nature brings life, not death; brings peace and harmony, and not chaos and conflict; brings agreement and not fighting.

Being made in God's image means we were created to lead all creatures like God himself would have led them. When we do not do that we make ourselves less than God intended us. We demote ourselves and equate ourselves with all the other creatures which we are meant to "tend and keep".

Let us measure up to God's expectations of us.

Let us pray:

Almighty God we thank you for the honour you bestowed on us by calling us to join you in your work of creation. Help us to know that we are co-workers with you by

preserving, conserving and reserving the resources of this Earth so that innumerable generations to come will be blessed by your provision.

Help us to cut down on greed, selfishness and insensitivity to the needs of future generations. O Lord God help us to always be mindful that what you created is enough for all of our needs but not enough for our greed. Lord there is enough to meet the needs of everyone but nothing can satisfy the greed of the greedy – hence we have exploited your resources without consideration of their sustainability.

Forgive us, Father.

Thank you for the last couple of days during which we have reminded and challenged one another to become more effective and better stewards of your resources. As we come to the end of our time together, Lord, take us back safely and fulfil your purposes through us.

We pray for journey mercies and help us to remain in you.

Now and for ever,

Amen