

## HISTORIC MASS BY POPE FRANCIS AT UON GROUNDS

Thousands of pilgrims gathered at the University of Nairobi grounds for a historic mass led by His Holiness Pope Francis. The Pope celebrated the holy mass on his second day of his historic tour to Africa.

The mass was attended by the President of the Republic of Kenya, President Uhuru Kenyatta and First Lady Margaret Kenyatta, DP William Ruto and his spouse, Rachel Ruto, among others

The Pope's message clearly highlighted two issues close to his heart: humility and service to the less fortunate

In his message to the more than three hundred thousand pilgrims gathered at the grounds, Pope Francis made a plea for traditional values, saying "the health of any society depends on the health of its families" the pontiff was greeted by thousands at the university.

The Pope also called on citizens to reach out to the downtrodden. "I appeal in a special way to the young people of the nation, ' May you always be concerned for the needs of the poor and reject everything that leads to prejudice and discrimination, for these things, we know, are not of God."

The Pope urged Kenyan leaders to be transparent and ensure equal wealth distribution to stop youth from radicalizing. Experience shows that violence, conflict and terrorism feed on fear, mistrust, and the despair born of poverty and frustration," he said

He also called for the protection of traditional family values and children, whom he called a blessing.

The Pope also spoke a blessing to the entire nation and its leaders, saying, "May Jesus, the Good Shepherd, guide you and your families. May God bless your lives and your families with peace."

The Pontiff's final words were well spoken in Swahili " "Mungu awabariki. Mungu abariki Kenya!