MONDAY, AUGUST 29 1994

Tears as church hears Aids stories

By JOHN OYWA

Members of a church congregation sobbed yesterday as two Aids

victims recounted how they contracted the disease from passing

partners and have lived with it

since.

One man has had Aids since

1986 and a woman of 26 said she

contracted the disease in 1990.

They appealed for care and protection of Aids victims.

Mr Moses Mabwa, 39, a businessman from Siaya, and Ms

Jane Njeri, 26, from Nyeri recounted how they were contaminated by infected partners.

Said Mr Mabwa “I contracted

the disease in 1986. My wife has

tested HIV positive. But thank

God, our two children have tested

HIV negative.”

He said it was wrong to image that only frail-looking people

were Aids sufferers. “Some are

healthy-looking and drive sleek

cars,” be said.

Ms Njeri said she became infected in 1990 in Nairobi while

looking for a suitor.

Some members of the congress week-long Aids seminar

organised by AMREF in Homa Bay.

Catholic Bishop Linus Okok ol

Homa Bay questioned the safety

of condoms which he said were

insecure and unhygienic.

He cautioned against trusting

condoms as a shield against sexually transmitted diseases, including Aids, and claimed their use

was actually worsening its

spread.

Bishop Okok said morality was

the only true weapon against

Aids. “Only self-discipline will

save our people from this killer,”

he said.

The cleric said in his sermon

that condoms gave people false

assurance that they were safe,

Luring them into irresponsible

sex.

The Congregation sobbed with her as she

gave her story.

“I tried to commit suicide after

I tested WV positive but was

counselled against it by a priest. I

bave now learnt how to live with

Aids,” she 85141

Mr Mabwa and Ms Njeri were brought to St Paul’s Catholic

Church by a nurse from the African Medical Research Foundation (AMREF), Mrs Rose

Ageng’o. They also visited the local CPK church.

The two last week featured at a