



The Catholic Reporter

Catholic Bishops' Conference of PNG & SI - Commission on Social Communications, P.O. Box 398, Waigani, NCD Tel.: 325 9577 - Fax: 323 2551

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- Courtesy Vatican News

Pope at Angelus: 'Let yourselves feel the full force of God's Word'

Pope Francis on Sunday encouraged believers to read the Gospel with an open heart, to listen to Him and follow Him, to experience the signs of His salvation in their lives.

Jesus preaches with the authority of God

He added that preaching is emphasised the most, while "exorcism" is presented as a confirmation of the singular "authority" of Jesus and His teaching.

Jesus, he explained, preaches with His own authority, "as one who possesses a doctrine derived from himself, and not like the scribes who repeated previous traditions and laws," it has the same authority as God who speaks, "for with a single command He easily frees the possessed man from the evil one, and heals him."

He defeats the evil present in the world

The second aspect, healing, Pope Francis continued, shows that Christ's preaching is intended to defeat the evil present in humankind and the world.

"His word points directly at the kingdom of Satan: it puts him in crisis and makes him recoil, obliging him to leave the world," he said, noting that the possessed man in the synagogue, "reached by the Lord's command, is freed and transformed into a new person."

Jesus' preaching, the Pope continued, "conforms to a logic contrary to that of the world and of the evil

one: His words appear to be the upheaval of a mistaken order of things."

The demon cries out as Jesus approaches: "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?"

These words, Pope Francis explained, indicated the total extraneousness between Jesus and Satan: "they are on completely different planes; there is nothing in common between them; they are the opposite of each other."

Carry the Gospel with you every day

The Pope said that this Sunday's Gospel should inspire in us too some of the admiration and wonder that the people of Capernaum felt as they listened to Jesus, that Sabbath day, in the synagogue.

And he invited believers to always carry a copy of the Gospel with them and to delve into it with an open heart, allowing themselves to be touched and healed by God's Word and promise of salvation.

"May the Virgin Mary, who always kept Jesus' words and gestures in her heart, and followed Him with total willingness and faithfulness," he concluded, "help us to listen to Him and follow Him, to experience the signs of His salvation in our life."



Pope Francis addressing the people from the Apostolic Palace

Rome: Addressing the faithful on the fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time from the Library of the Apostolic Palace, the Pope reflected on the reading from the Gospel of Mark (Mk 1: 21-28), that he explained, tells of a typical day in Jesus' ministry: The Sabbath, a day dedicated to repose and prayer.

He described the reaction of those present in the synagogue of Capernaum where Jesus was reading and commenting on the Scriptures. They were attracted by His manner of speaking, the Pope said, and they were astonished because Jesus demonstrates an authority different to that of the scribes.

The Pope said the reading highlights two characteristic elements of Jesus' work: "preaching, and the thaumaturgical work of the healer."

Former Bishop of Kimbe passes on

Bishop William Regis Fey, O.F.M. Cap., who recently retired as the second bishop of the Diocese of Kimbe, Papua New Guinea, died on Tuesday, 19th from COVID-19 related illness.

Bp Bill Fey was involved in the work of ecumenism while in Papua New Guinea, serving as Secretary for Ecumenism for the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNG-SI.

He passed on at the age of 78, his years full of wisdom and grace, serving 57 years as a Capuchin friar, 42 as a priest and 10 as a bishop. He is survived by two brothers, Robert (Paula) of Mars PA and Joseph (Carol) of Valencia PA, and two sisters, Carol (Daniel) Mioduszewski of Rio Communities NM and Patricia (Terry) Rings of Lake Charles LA. His Funeral Mass was held on Monday, 25th January on the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, at Our Lady of the Angels Church. He was laid to rest at the St Mary of the Assumption cemetery, Herman, PA.

Brief history

Bishop Fey was born in Pittsburgh on November 6, 1942 to Regis Fey and Dorothy (Clair) Fey, attending Middlesex Township Elementary School in Pittsburgh and St. Paul Grade School in Butler before enrolling at Saint Fidelis Seminary, Herman, for his high school and college education. Upon completing his second year of college studies, Bishop Bill was invested with the

Capuchin habit in Annapolis, MD on July 13, 1962, receiving the religious name Elroy. He made his profession of vows one year later on July 14, 1963. He relinquished his religious name in favour of retaining his baptismal name, William, when that option became possible in 1968. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1968. He completed his theological studies at Capuchin College in Washington, DC in 1969 and received a Master of Arts degree from the Catholic University of America in 1970 before enrolling for doctoral studies at Oxford University in England, where he was awarded a Ph.D in Philosophy in 1974.

Prior to his consecration as Bishop in 2010, Father Bill served the Capuchin Order and the Church as a passionate educator of friars and seminarians for more than thirty years, holding teaching positions at St. Fidelis College in Herman, PA (1974-1979), Borromeo College of Ohio in Wickliffe (1979-1986), St. Fidelis College in Madang, Papua New Guinea (1988), and Holy Spirit Seminary/Catholic Theological Institute, Bomana, Papua New Guinea (1988-2010), serving also as the Dean of Studies there from 2000-2010. He was especially fond of the three terms he spent as Visiting Lecturer in Philosophy at St. Bonaventure College in Lusaka, Zambia.

It was during his sabbatical year in 1986-87 that he began to seriously consider the previously latent idea of missionary service. He sought and was granted assignment to the Capuchin mission in Papua New Guinea upon the completion of his sabbatical, arriving

there in the Spring of 1987. After a year of orientation in the Southern Highlands of the country, Fr Bill took up residence at the national seminary in the National Capitol District and began the next chapter of his life in earnest.

It was his compassionate heart, though, that most likely led to his being named the second Bishop of Kimbe in 2010. He was a true missionary, and his love for the people of Papua New Guinea was evident from the beginning of his time there. He went to a diocese that had not had a bishop in over two years and spent himself as a true shepherd there, one who – in the words of Pope Francis – had "the smell of the sheep" about him. He had few priests, no funds, and poor prospects but he threw himself into his work. His labors wore away at his health over time. He suffered two strokes, the first in 2016 and the second in 2018, but recovered from both to a large extent. He was past the mandated age for a bishop's retirement when he finally returned to Pittsburgh in 2020.

Bishop Fey was a brilliant and very active man, yet he had a gentle spirit, strong but never harsh or unduly stern. He was known for his wry sense of humour, seemingly able to find a bit of comedy even in very difficult situations.



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SVD celebrates 125 years in PNG

colourful processional dances were put up during the mass. After the mass Br. Victor Kanarski, SVD Council Member of the Society of Divine Word in PNG Province read out the message of their superior Fr. Jose Orathinkal, SVD who

Christians, and eventually the entire nation as God wanted. We have the duty to be always thankful to God for sending us missionaries, the SVDs and many others. It was through their sacrifice that we have become members of the Universal Catholic Church.

Today the SVD Missionaries are serving in seven dioceses across PNG. These are Madang, Wewak Diocese, Wabag, Mt. Hagen, Kundiawa, Goroka and Port Moresby. There are two active bishops; Archbishop Douglas Young of Mt. Hagen and Bishop Jozef Roszynski of Wewak. Archbishop William Kurtz has retired in Madang. There are 68 priests, 12 religious brothers and 22 seminarians preparing for priesthood in various stages of formation in the country.

The SVDs in PNG have sent 18 PNG national priests and brothers on mission to 12 different countries. Of those some came back to work in PNG and 9 are still in their mission countries. There are 3 deacons on pastoral ministry in the parishes and preparing for priesthood ordination. The SVDs are fully involved in the service of our Spiritual and Social needs; specifically in education and health.

Divine Word Missionaries preach the Gospel and share the Word of God by living, working, teaching, and sharing with others in many areas of global ministry. They are the largest international missionary congregation in the Catholic Church. Their mission is "a giving of ourselves to others."



Abp Douglas Young svd, Archbishop of Mt Hagen with priests from the Society of Divine Word

Mt Hagen: Religious priests, brothers and sisters from across Papua New Guinea gathered to celebrate the 125 years' Anniversary of the SVD Congregation in the country with a thanksgiving mass.

The celebration was held at St. Paul's Parish in the Archdiocese of Mt. Hagen on Friday, January 15 on the feast of Blessed Arnold Janssen their founder. The actual anniversary date falls on August 13th, historical date on which the first SVD missionaries set foot on PNG soil (Madang) in 1896.

Archbishop Douglas Young, SVD, Fr. Bogdan Swierczewski, CSMA Vicar General of Mt. Hagen Archdiocese, and other invited guests, both religious and professionals, were there for the celebration. The thanksgiving Mass began at 10am led by Archbishop Douglas Young, SVD. Music and songs, Bible reading and prayers were taken care of by the group 'SVD Lay Partners of Mt. Hagen. Well prepared and

was not able to be with the rest of his fellow missionaries.

Among the speeches made, the bishop gave a brief historical account of SVDs arrival and establishment in PNG. Fr. Vincent Agbeyome-Akpah, SVD said they chose to make the anniversary celebration small and simple following the charism of their founder.

The SVDs are the very first Mission Congregation to arrive in PNG on 13th August 1896 at Madang and later moved to Tumleo Island, Aitape in West Sepik, where they started their mission. They arrived when our ancestors were still uncivilised, though few expatriates were already here. They brought the Word, and with the Word they tore open the cloud of Spiritual, Social and Cultural blindness. With the help of the other religious congregations that eventually joined them with the same mission, they tamed us of our wild and aggressive natures, and formed us as



Focus on the Year ahead

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb
Secretary for Social Communication

The Academic Year 2021 has commenced and school students, teachers and parents in fact everyone looks forward to a year that will be better than the one gone by. Among the many items on our agenda is the roll out of a COVID vaccine that will enable us to enjoy the freedom to move around, to interact with friends and family and to a year of spontaneity without a mask, social distancing and sanitizers. We do hope that Papua New Guinea will not be at the end of the queue and that we will receive the required doses for all people in a short time.

Here are a few pointers for students that should keep us focused in 2021 and help us achieve our best.

- **Routine Study Habits:** Students need to build up a daily routine in their learning habits. Through this regular pattern of instruction, they will be able to achieve academic success. It will benefit their academic, social and emotional health.
- **Provide Learning environments:** Parents need consistency to keep their kids focused, keep an organized schedule for the weekdays and a slightly relaxed one on weekends with a variety of activities that will intellectually stimulate their minds and hearts. This will ultimately benefit one's personal growth, affect one's decisions and build on the livelihood of families.
- **Offer clear expectations:** Teachers need to offer clear expectations of a schedule and a pace for working with students. Students must be able to see themselves advance through the weeks and the months ahead. This will enable them to maximize the support received in right direction.
- **Physical and mental health:** All students, teachers, staff and families need to commit themselves personally through a balanced diet and exercise.
- **Social-emotional and trauma-informed support for all students:** The present COVID-19 situation demands that there be counsellors to deal with those who are struggling through the different aspects of stress that the present situation has brought upon us.
- **Community building:** Management and principals could organize group building exercises for both the students and the staff.
- **Priority support:** There will be students and families who have difficulties and trouble accessing and engaging in learning. Health, budgetary and environmental conditions need to be dealt with at the level of the educational institute.

The Lord invites us to bear a hundred-fold (Mk: 4:8). May we bear, not just thirty or sixty but a hundred-fold.

History of Evangelisation in PNG

Fr. Victor Roche SVD, Secretary for New Evangelization

The European Explorers had Chaplains and missionaries in their ships during their explorations in the countries of the Pacific from 1520-1800. The missionaries baptized some local people during their short stay in the islands but without much follow up. In 1844 Pope Gregory XVI erected the Vicariate Apostolic of Melanesia and Micronesia and gave the responsibility for evangelization to the Marist Congregation. On 1 December 1845 Bishop Jean Baptiste Epalle, 7 priests and 7 Brothers arrived in San Cristobel in the South Solomons to begin the Evangelization of Melanesia. They landed after two weeks in Santa Isabel to establish their mission station. The local people were not very happy about their visitors. They beat up the team and Bp. Epalle died after three days because of wounds. Bishop Jean Georges Collomb took Bp. Epalle's place and started the mission with his new team on 15 September 1847 in Woodlark Island and in Rooke (Umboi) Island. Many of them died of Malaria. So, the Marists were forced to withdraw the mission endeavour. Another group, Foreign Missionaries of Milan (PIME) reestablished the mission on 8 October 1852 in Woodlark Island. They also encountered sickness and resistance from local people. Fr. Giovanni Mazzuconi was killed by the local people in August 1855. The Catholic Vicariate of Melanesia remained without missionaries until 1880. In 1880, a French Diocesan Priest, Fr. Rene Marie Lannuzel arrived in New Ireland as a Chaplain to the French. In July 1881 he baptized 176 children at Matunakuna, near Rabaul. Three Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) under the leadership of Fr. Andre Navarra started the mission in Matupit Island, near Rabaul, East New Britain on 29th September 1882. On 4th July 1885 MSCs under the leadership

of Fr. Henry Verius started the mission in Yule Island, near present Bereina, Central Province. The Divine Word Missionaries (SVDs) under the leadership of Fr. Eberhard Limbrock arrived in Alexishafen, Madang on 13 August 1896. The Missionaries of the Society of Mary (SM) resumed their interrupted mission in Melanesia in 1897 in British Solomons Protectorate, which today, the Solomon Islands. In the following years they established themselves in Kieta, North Solomons. By 1901, the Catholic Church in Papua New Guinea had established 4 centres for its missionary activity: 1. Vunapope (near Rabaul), 2. Yule Island (Near Bereina); 3. Alexishafen (near Madang) and Kieta (in Bougainville). The Mission work in these territories were going well by the missionaries with the help of Catechists. The missionaries were the first to go into the interior places of the difficult terrain and evangelized the people in Papua New Guinea. In many places the missionaries set up Churches, roads, bridges, airstrips, schools, hospitals, and other infrastructure. They learnt the languages and the customary life of the people. They taught the people of the Christian faith and baptized them. They trained catechists and teachers. They set up schools and health facilities. Most of the communities of the local people welcomed the missionaries and the work of evangelization. Some communities put up opposition to their missionary efforts. On 13 August 1904 at St. Paul Mission, in the Baining mountains of New Britain 10 missionaries were killed (priests, brothers and sisters) along with seven Christians in Bainings. They became known as the 'Baining Martyrs.'

To be continued in the next issue

- Fr. Tomás Ravaioli IVE



The Creed: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit

The Christian must not only believe in the Son of God, but also in his Incarnation.

St. John points out the Incarnation to us when he says: "And the Word was made flesh." (Jn 1:14) Without leaving his divinity, he assumed our human nature, and for this reason Jesus is true God and true man. St. Paul says: "Though he was in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be seized. Instead, he emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men, and accepting the state of a man." (Phil 2:6-7) According to St. Tomas Aquinas, we can learn something from all this:

1. Our faith is strengthened, because many mysteries of our faith which before the coming of Christ were

hidden from us, are now made clear. He himself said: "No one has ever seen God; the only-begotten Son who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him." (Jn 1:18).

2. Our hope is raised up, because Jesus made as it were a trade with us, assuming a living body and deigning to be born of the Virgin, in order to grant us His divinity. And thus He became man that He might make man divine.
3. Our charity is enkindled, because there is no proof of divine love so clear as that God, the Creator of all things, became one of us. Therefore, upon consideration of this our love for God ought to be re-ignited and burst into flame.
4. Finally, by consideration of all this, our desire to come to Christ is intensified. Christ is our brother, and we should desire to be with Him and to be united to Him. The Apostle desired "to be dissolved and be with Christ" (Phil 1:23). And it is this desire which grows in us as we meditate upon the Incarnation of Christ.



Spend in education not alcohol

Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME, CBC General Secretary

Our children are going back to school these days hoping that the coronavirus pandemic will not once again affect their learning and the regular classes this year. There are in fact already enough obstacles on the quest for education for most of the students and their families.

The geography of Papua New Guinea is challenging especially for elementary and primary school students: long walks, mountains to climb, rivers to cross, only a canoe to travel from small islands to the school on the mainland. Hot sun, rain, hunger, and fatigue. It can be disheartening if parents do not support and encourage their children every day.

Add to that social complications such as poverty, high number of siblings, poor perception by parents and elders of the importance of education; and the reason for too many children out of school is clear. But the harder the challenges, the stronger the need

for planning and working to equip the new generations with the needed skills and competence.

It is in fact heartbreaking when the main obstacles to education are the parents themselves, the elders, the adults in general. In some area is still persistent the idea that teenagers should be forced into marriage, make garden, and raise pigs for feasting and social prestige. Nothing wrong with a healthy traditional village lifestyle, but it is time to let young people decide on their own and support them for what they see as giving meaning and fulfilment to their lives.

Still, this is not the gravest sin against education. What is noticeably growing is the diversion of resources towards self-destruction rather than building of a future for children. Several new alcohol producing entrepreneurs have seen the business opportunity in our society. Now the increase in offer and the reduction of costs are causing households and settlements to be flooded by alcoholic beverages, which empty the wallets and obnubilate the brains. The result is further social unrest, health

hazards, and diminished family resources for critical investments such as education of children.

The legislator should indeed intervene to correct this new negative trend. But everybody knows that "money talks"; and cannot expect much from the Parliament when lobbies and financial interests easily have their way. Once again, the ball is in the court of the personal responsibility. It is for young people first to find strength in Church groups, community activities, sports, friends with a positive outlook and a purpose in life. It is for them to explore all the ways possible to stay in school as many years as they can; and not only acquire knowledge in academic subjects, but grow in confidence, self-esteem, respect, and all positive values. It is for the adults to fight the plague of alcoholism for themselves and the younger ones, reject the arrogance and ignorance that comes with it, uphold their personal integrity, and acknowledge that the care of children is their primary duty: from birth to the time, they can walk by themselves into society well educated and fully responsible.

SOCOM SEMINAR 2021

'Hope amidst COVID-19'

Date: **22nd to 26th February**

Venue: **Catholic Bishops Conference, Port Moresby**

Participants: **Members of the SOCOM diocesan team**

Registration fee: **K300**



SEMINAR FOCUS

1. Importance of Print Media
2. 5W's and 1H
3. News writing elements
4. Feature articles
5. Feature article elements
6. Inspiring photographs
7. Photography: Elements and Rules

REGISTRATION DETAILS

1. Fill out your registration form.
2. Ensure that your Bishop approves and signs it
3. Please send the form together with your registration fee

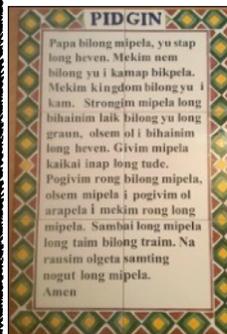
Due date: **10 February, 2021**

Encouraging creative minds to communicate hope and solidarity through media



Contact the SOCOM Team on:
Phone: **325 9577**
Email: **socom@catholic.org.pg**

Lord's Prayer in Tok Pisin to be on plaque in the Holy Land



On the walls of the Church of Pater Noster on the Mount of Olives where Christ taught the Lord's Prayer to his disciples are translations of the prayer in 140 languages of the world.

The Lord's Prayer is inscribed on colourful ceramic plaques and soon the *Tok Pisin* version will be on the walls of the

Church.

According to Fr Martín Prado IVE from the Diocese of Vanimo, just before Christmas Eve 2020, the ceramics of the Pater in *Tok Pisin* were received.

"In 2019, when we travelled to the Holy Land, we were looking for the prayer in *Tok Pisin* and we couldn't find it so after we came back, we followed up with persons in-charge to have the prayer done," he stated.

The 20-member group led by Fr Martín were made up of Members of the Incarnate Word also known as "IVE Fathers" from the Diocese of Vanimo.

The Church of the Pater Noster is a Roman Catholic church located on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. It is part of a Carmelite monastery, also known as the Sanctuary of the Eleona.

The Church of the Pater Noster stands right next to the ruins of the 4th-century Byzantine Church of Eleona.

Beatification for Bl Peter ToRot

Many faithful from across the Archdiocese of Rabaul travelled to pay homage for the 26th anniversary of the beatification of Blessed Peter ToRot at Rakunai Parish, East New Britain Province.

The anniversary was celebrated on Sunday 17th January, at the Chapel of Blessed Peter ToRot, and had the dedicated participation of all fourteen communities of the parish.

According to Archbishop of Rabaul, His Excellency Rochus Tatamai, the occasion and the enthusiastic participation of faithful in the solemn liturgy was a spectacular demonstration of faith.

Sunday 17th January remains an important date for the collaboration and involvement of the laity in PNGSI as personified and realised in and through the life of Blessed Peter ToRot.

It is a remembrance of his pastoral ministry, persecution, eventual trial and imprisonment, martyrdom during WWII in 1945, and the



memorable beatification of Blessed Peter ToRot in 1995.

WORLD COMMUNICATION DAY

"Come and see" (Jn 1,46)

Communicating, encountering people as and where they are.

Lord, teach us to move beyond ourselves, and to set out in search of truth.

Teach us to go out and see, teach us to listen, not to entertain prejudices or draw hasty conclusions.

Teach us to go where no one else will go, to take the time needed to understand, to pay attention to the

essentials, not to be distracted by the superfluous, to distinguish deceptive appearances from the truth.

Grant us the grace to recognize your dwelling places in our world and the honesty needed to tell others what we have seen.

WCD21 Prayer

WCD | Sunday, 16 May 2021



Port Moresby: The congregation of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate reiterated their works of mercy to empower women and caring for children, on a high note and clear focus for 2021.

On January 3, 2021, Sr Catherine DMI conducted a formal meeting for Catholic Women from Boregaina village in Central Province, which saw many women who agreed to be empowered, by joining the Self-Help Group. 23 dropouts were successfully admitted to the

DMI sisters start the year with works of mercy

students would later be admitted in regular school with school uniforms provided by the sisters.

The sisters are currently operating Tuition Centres in five settlements and two villages that enrol and educate children from ages 8 to 15 years old in Kogeva, Pari, Sabama and Orokoru.

They are also preparing to open a new Vocational Skills centre and to start their Catering and Sewing Training for women and girls in the settlement.

According to the sisters, women and children are important and equal to men and that working together will help towards empowering women and providing educational opportunities for children. The sisters' main focus is on helping the poor, the needy and marginalised.

Missionary disciples for a new world Cluny Sisters mark Gold Jubilee

Sir John Ribat MSC, Archbishop of Port Moresby as the main celebrant with concelebrants Abp. Mathew Vayalunkal, Apostolic Nuncio to PNG-SI, Bp Pedro Baquero sdb, Bishop of Kerema and 26 priests from different congregations in the country.

In his homily, the Cardinal spoke of the Cluny sisters' mission as teachers in the field and their commitment to their missionary call despite the many challenges in the remote areas of the Gulf Province.

"The areas you are sent to as missionaries are challenging and difficult places. Although the mission was not easy, you continued to live and commit yourself to your missionary work. And as we celebrate this day, we are here to thank God for his blessings, his love and his care over the past 50 years," said the Cardinal. Quoting Saint Paul's letter to the Colossians, the Cardinal encouraged the sisters to 'let the peace of Christ rule in their hearts and that whatever they do, whether in word or deed, they do in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.'

Speeches and a luncheon then followed the eucharist that had the Apostolic Nuncio, Abp. Mathew Vayalunkal, challenge the sisters to be witnesses of Christ and not just teachers. He said

that sharing the good news with commitment has been the mission of the sisters and urged them to reflect, celebrate and give thanks by expressing gratitude to God.

He also thanked the sisters for their generous service in the country.

Also sharing in his speech, Bp Pedro encouraged the Sisters to let themselves be held by Jesus as he will never let go.

Bema High School teacher and Cluny associate, Cecilia Sembo, spoke of the sisters' service in the Diocese while Oscar Maina, a former student of the literacy school program run by the sisters gave an account of his experience.

Following the speeches, a video documentary on the history of the Cluny Sisters in PNG was shown. This then saw the official launching of the jubilee magazine of the sisters by the Cardinal through the cutting of the ribbon and unwrapping of the magazines. The celebrations concluded with luncheon and entertainment.

The congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Cluny has approximately 2600 sisters in 57 countries, 30 provinces, 418 communities across 5 continents, working in education, health, evangelisation and social action.

- Nigel Akuani



Apostolic Nuncio, Cardinal Ribat, Bp Pedro and the Cluny Sisters

Boroko, Port Moresby: The Catholic congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny (SJC) marked 50 years of faithful service in Papua New Guinea with a thanksgiving mass on Saturday, 23rd January.

The small group of Sisters who started their work in 1971 come from Australia, India, Philippines and PNG have served and continue to serve the people of Kamina, Kotidanga and Kaintiba Local Level Government in the mountains of the Gulf Province.

With the theme 'Missionary disciples for a new world,' the Golden Jubilee celebration was held at the St Joseph's Parish in Boroko and had Cardinal

World Religion Day focuses on unity, respect and reverence

Port Moresby: Unity, respect and reverence was the key focus behind the commemoration of the 2021 World Religion Day.

It was an interfaith devotional gathering held on 18th January 2021, at the Nature Park in Port Moresby intended to bring together leaders and representatives of world religions all with the focus of observing the theme "The Golden Rule."

The commemoration, facilitated by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'i in Port Moresby, had the participation of Sir John Cardinal Ribat KBE MSC, Archbishop of the Catholic Diocese of Port Moresby, and leaders from the mainline churches in Papua New Guinea. Also present were representatives from the PNG Council of Churches; Ps Tau Kove, President of the Seven Day Adventist Central Papua Conference; Bishop Gundu Kagl of the Lutheran Church; Bishop Jacob Harry of the United Church Mrs Emma Ilau-Sebea, PNG Christian Women's President; Mr Confucius Ikoirere, Secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of PNG; Mr. Kini Kila of the Evangelical Alliance; Head Imam Busaeri of Islamic Society of

Papua New Guinea; Fr Giorgio Licini PIME, General Secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI; Fr Joseph Vnuk, President of the Catholic Theological Institute; Brandon Zimmerman, Secretary for Ecumenical and Inter-Faith Dialogue of CBCPNGSI; Fr Ambrose Pereira SDB, Social Communications Secretary; media personnel, family and friends.

Facilitating and ensuring the smooth run of the day's program was Mr Lahui Lovai, Communication Representative of the Papua New Guinea Council of Churches. Throughout the morning's program representatives from the respective religious organisations were allotted time to read a selected passage from the sacred scriptures of their faith relating to the theme of the Golden Rule. Readings were taken from the sacred scriptures of Christianity, Baha'i Faith, Hinduism, Judaism, and Islam.

"The golden rule is a universal moral principle of treating others as we ourselves would wish to be treated. We hope this gathering will give each of us



Cardinal Ribat with representatives from the different churches

the opportunity to forge new friendships and understandings so that together we can contribute toward peace, unity and prosperity for our respective communities," Mr Lovai said.

World Religion Day is celebrated around the globe in over 80 countries to foster inter-faith understanding and harmony amongst diverse people and beliefs, focusing on the common moral principles underlying all religious teachings and exploring the role of religion in society.



Mount Hagen: The Right Relationship in Ministry (RRM) Commission of the Catholic Bishops Conference (CBC) conducted a week-long workshop on contact persons for the Highlands region.

Held from 11th to 15th January at Rebihamul, in the Archdiocese of Mount Hagen, the program had 9 participants from the five catholic dioceses in the region.

The purpose of the workshop was to update and increase the number of adequately trained contact

Highlands region workshop for contact persons

persons in each diocese so that there are enough contact persons on the ground should any case of sexual abuse by any clerics, religious or church workers occur.

The Objective of the workshop was to:

- familiarise with the Protocols of the RRM
- understand well their role and responsibilities as contact persons
- prepare, conduct and interview, and make a first-hand comprehensive report
- create awareness to build a safe environment and church for our children and vulnerable people
- Understand the cultural mind-sets and behaviours of region, its implications and impacts
- Be aware of an overall view of the state law

The sessions were based on the Right Relationship protocols, processes and best practices. The interactions and role play of possible complaints and interviews as well as the child protection policy of the church. The

Care, Well-being and Protection of children was also highlighted in the sessions.

In his address Archbishop of Mt Hagen, Abp Douglas Young said: "The importance of Protocols, the protection of children and vulnerable, and the church. The Church is the body of Christ and as members we are also sinners. We therefore have to be a church of forgiveness. We must be compassionate, responsible and accountable. Empathy for everyone, the victims and alleged. To get the whole story, once only, with all details from the victim-survivor."

The contact persons are seen as agents of purification, of healing and reconciliation, which consists in justice, forgiveness, peace and truth for both parties.

Picture: Abp. Douglas Young and contact persons from the Highlands Region with their certificates

Catholic Reporter

Invites you to send in your articles, photograph and reflections on events and happenings in your parish, community, institution and diocese.

Editor: **Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb**

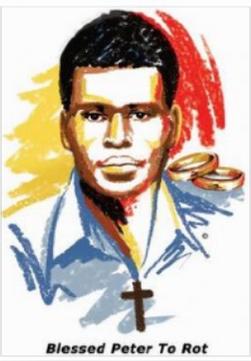
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Matthew 6:17-18

"When you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

