



# 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

## Advent: A call to hope

Following Mass with new Cardinals in St Peter's Basilica on the First Sunday of Advent, Pope Francis during the Angelus told the faithful that this season is one of expectation and hope.

### Expectation of hope

Turning his thoughts to Sunday's liturgy, Pope Francis commented that it "invites us to live the first 'important season' of the liturgical year, Advent, which prepares us for Christmas, as a time of expectation and hope."

precise moment in history and became man to take our sins upon Himself." "The Lord knocks at the doors of our hearts," he said.

Pope Francis emphasized that at a time when people are worried by the COVID-19 pandemic, "we run the risk of falling into pessimism, closure and apathy."

The antidote to this, he said, was to await the Lord because he "is our help and our shield."

### God with us

"Advent is a continuous call to hope," the Pope underlined. "It reminds us that God is present in history to lead it to its ultimate goal and to its fullness, which is the Lord Jesus Christ. God is present in the history of humanity, He is the 'God-with-us', He walks beside us to support us."

Pope Francis concluded by saying, "The Lord never abandons us; In the midst of life's storms, God always extends His hand to us and frees us from threats."

The Pope said that Saint Paul indicates the object of expectation in the "manifestation of the Lord."

"The Apostle invites the Christians of Corinth, and us too, to focus our attention on the encounter with Jesus, who will come at the end of the world and who comes every day, so that, with His grace, we might accomplish good in our own lives and in the lives of others," said Pope Francis.

### Calling on the Lord in times of trial

"Our God is the God who comes:" He never disappoints us, stressed the Pope. "He came at a



**Rome:** During his Angelus from St Peter's Square, the Pope pointed out that this first Sunday of Advent also marks the beginning of a new liturgical year.

He noted that in it, "the Church marks the passage of time with the celebration of the main events in the life of Jesus and in the history of salvation."

In so doing, as Mother, "she illuminates the path of our existence, supports us in our daily occupations and guides us towards the final encounter with Christ."

## Yumi mas sanap long Tok Tru na Laikpasin

- Abigail Seta

### 6th Bishop of Bougainville officially installed

**Hahela, Bougainville:** 'Yumi mas sanap antap long tupela lek wanpela em tok tru na narapela laikpasin,' Bp Dariusz Kaluza emphasized on the occasion of his Episcopal installation as the 6th Bishop of the Diocese of Bougainville.

The installation was held on Sunday, 15th November, a significant date that marked the 54th anniversary of Bougainville becoming a Catholic Diocese of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands (PNG-SI). The event consisted of two parts, the first began with the installation where the Eucharist celebration took place inside the parish of Our Lady of Assumption Pro Cathedral. The second part of the event had speeches, a luncheon and item presentations.

Present to witness this momentous occasion were Abp. Mathew Kurian Vayalunkal, Apostolic Nuncio to PNGSI; Cardinal Sir John Ribat MSC; Emeritus Abp. Francesco Panfilo sdb, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Bougainville; Abp. Douglas Young svd, Archbishop of Mt Hagen; Bp. Donald Lippert, Bishop of Mendi; Bp. John Bosco Auram, Bishop of Kimbe and Bp. Rozario Menezes, Bishop of Lae; priests and religious sisters. Also present was the President of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, His Excellency Ishmael Toroama and members of the 4th House of Representatives. Also present were representatives from the different Christian Churches of Bougainville.

The occasion began with an entrance procession where Emeritus Abp. Panfilo presided over the

introductory liturgical rite and proceeded to take the new bishop to the cathedral. Before entering the cathedral, a handover ceremony by the priests of the Diocese of Goroka took place to officially present Bp Dariusz to the Representatives of the Diocese of Bougainville led by caretaker, Fr Polycarp Kaviak. Bp. Dariusz was then presented with a crucifix to kiss followed by the sprinkling of holy water on himself and all those present. At the beginning of the installation, the Nuncio read out the Apostolic Bull, the decree with which Bp Dariusz was authorized to take charge of the diocese of Bougainville. Following this, Fr. Billjohn Arienza, Diocesan chancellor, displayed the Apostolic Bull to the Cardinal, Archbishops, Bishops, College of Consultors and the congregation. To signify his installation, Abp. Douglas and Emeritus Abp. Panfilo invited Bp. Dariusz to his chair called 'Cathedra' where he received the crozier and was seated as the Bishop of Bougainville. Bp Dariusz, in his homily, spoke of Bougainville being the kingdom of God and urged the people of Bougainville to stand together for truth and love. He expressed his gratitude to the members of the government, diocese, leaders in the villages and urged them to work together and share the talents God has given to them to build up the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.



Bp Dariusz Kaluza with priests. Picture: CBC SOCOM

Ishmael Toroama, President of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville congratulated the new bishop and spoke on peace. "The installation of a new bishop is one stepping-stone to proceeding our walk to reconciliation, peace and stability in Bougainville. Today marks a special day for us and the Catholic Church in Bougainville. All the work that is done to bring peace in Bougainville has been done mostly with the help of the Catholic Church and the different denominations. My deepest congratulations to the new bishop of the diocese. God has chosen you to lead the people in the region of Bougainville," he said.

Bp. Dariusz served as Bishop of the Diocese of Goroka for four years until his appointment by Pope Francis to the Diocese of Bougainville on 12th September 2020.

### In this Issue:

1. Pope at Angelus: 'Advent is a continuous call to hope; Yumi mas sanap long tok tru na laik pasin
2. Children form orchestra in Vanimo; A time of peace and hope; History of evangelisation; The Creed: I believe in one God
3. Christmas of pandemic and hope; Tribes surrender to God; CTI graduates 49 students; SIARC on Fratelli Tutti
4. Symposium highlights Pope's encyclical 'Fratelli Tutti'; Third Year of Laity officially launched; PNGCC airs concern on political impasse; Vangeke



## Children form orchestra in Vanimo

- Fr Miguel de la Calle, IVE

Like Beethoven, many of our students have difficulties in their life, and music helps solve them! The Queen of Paradise Orchestra is a project run by the religious family of the Incarnate Word (IVE). It was at the end of 2018 that the religious family of the Incarnate Word (IVE) along with Master Jesus Briceño, an instrument teacher and conductor of the choir, from EL SISTEMA Venezuela, began the first academic music classes.

At present we can only cater for 100 children. Without the help of Government it will be very hard to keep growing numbers. Now, the orchestra has begun preparing for their Christmas Concert, in which they will play both Christmas songs and a universal repertoire of music. 2021 is expected to be a successful year full of novelties and surprises.

The first concert was put together to raise funds for classrooms for a musical school, they are currently building a duplex and need to raise K200,000 more.

Sixty-one students of the Queen of Paradise Orchestra in Vanimo had their first concert on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and was viewed live around the world.

There were various pieces of music performed, including solos of violin, viola, cello, and double bass. In addition, all the students performed on the recorders. The Grand Finale, in honour of Beethoven, was "Ode to Joy" sung by the choir and played by a 19 person orchestra.

Although there was a limited time of practices this year, the orchestra students were dedicated and persevering in the established repertoire. This year is very important for all those in the music world as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Beethoven, one of the greatest composers of history.

With the help of Sister Cielos, SSVM, they teach music theory and language, and Sister teaches the recorder. Some local adults are also involved in caring for the students and make them study at their own villages. These classes are not only to teach the beautiful art of music but also to prepare future leaders by implementing virtues such as responsibility, discipline and team work.

We wish to create citizens that are elevated both socially and spiritually. We desire to see this project QUEEN OF PARADISE grow and expand throughout PNG, so that more children have the opportunity to receive such an integral formation and allow music to change lives for the better.



Pictures: Queen of Paradise Orchestra in Vanimo



## A time of Peace, a time of HOPE

Fr Ambrose Pereira Sdb,  
Secretary for Social Communication

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" – Lk 2:14

The Season of Advent is a time of waiting, preparation and above all Hope. At Christmas we welcome baby Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem and look forward to His second coming as the shepherd-king, to restore harmony and right relationship to all creation. As we await the Christ child who comes with his message of Peace and Hope. We prepare our hearts and our homes to welcome our Lord and Saviour. It is a time when we wait for God to come and in His presence, we make our peace with our family and our friends.

2020, has been for many of us the worst year of our lifetime. For the elderly, it has reminded us of World War II, the return to basics, the shutdown of all movement, development and progress. COVID-19 has affected every part of our world. The pandemic has caused death and destruction and has left its mark on the lives of each one of us. In Papua New Guinea, it has ruined many enterprises, closed businesses and affected education even in the remote parts of our country. In the midst of the pandemic and as we approach Christmas, we ask ourselves, "Is peace a part of our lives, our homes, our families and our society? Can the Christ Child bring us Hope?"

The lock-down during the pandemic has enabled us reflect on the reality of our lives in our families. Our families have kept us together. We have been able spend quality time with the members of our family in the comfort of our homes. The distractions of social life and entertainment have been kept at bay. Families connected with each other have reached out, assisted and helped one another. However, some families have seen an increase of domestic violence. Safe houses in Papua New Guinea have reported a spike in the abuse of women in our country.

This year, Christmas must take on a new dimension of Peace and Hope. As we bow down in adoration before the Christ Child may we humble ourselves and implore that he grants us the grace to be humble and at peace with every member of our family. May the new born Child fill us with hope and may each of us do our part to renew our families and our country. Happy Christmas to you and your families!



For unto us a child is born - Is 9:6

May the new born Child  
Bring joy to you and your families!  
May the New Year  
be filled with Peace!

**Happy Christmas**  
**Joyful New Year 2021**

## History of Evangelisation: 20th century into the 21st

Fr. Victor Roche SVD, Secretary for New Evangelization

There were two great world wars in the first half of the twentieth century. There were new understandings of theology, new understandings of culture, the beginning of decolonization era and the subsequent rise of nationalism and the renaissance of local religions. By the time of Vatican II (1962-65), there was change in the air, ushering in what Robert J.Schreiter has called the "age of ferment" in mission.

Vatican II presented a different image of the church. Mission was part and parcel of the church's very identity and mission was not understood as much as a territorial reality as one that focused on particular people in particular circumstances. This perspective was one of the major contributions of *Ad Gentes* (AG), the Council's document on mission. Culture too, as presented in AG and the document on the Church in the Modern World, (*Gaudium et Spes* [GS]) was looked upon positively as missionaries were urged to "learn by sincere and patient dialogue what treasures a generous God has distributed among the nations of the earth." The Council also acknowledged in its Declaration on Non-Christian Religions (*Nostra Aetate* [NA]) that in these religions is found "a ray of that Truth which enlightens all peoples." The Council clearly taught the possibility of salvation outside explicit faith in Christ (see LG 16).

This age of ferment that ushered in very new ideas of mission soon brought the church's understanding of mission to a crisis in the Catholic

Church and in the Protestant churches. As Anglican bishop Stephen Neil put it famously, if everything is mission, then nothing is mission. If the entire church is missionary, in other words, there is no need for foreign missionaries. If cultures are holy and good, why should Christians disturb them with a western religion? And, perhaps most distressing of all, if women and men can be saved without explicit knowledge of Christ and without the church, why should people leave their home and cultures to preach the gospel? In the wake of Vatican II, missionary vocations began to fall off and many missionaries left the mission field to work in their own countries.

Around the year 1975, however, after the Synod of Bishops on evangelization, with the publication of Pope Paul VI's apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi* (EN), mission has undergone a "new birth." What EN did was to broaden the very idea of mission to include activities like inculturation and working for justice and liberation. Such broadening of mission continued in John Paul II's encyclical *Redemptoris Missio*, when he spoke of mission (echoing EN) as a "single but complex reality." Pope John Paul spoke of mission as including not only inculturation and work for justice, interreligious dialogue, communications, urban ministry, youth, and science.

To be continued in the next issue



## The Creed: I believe in one God

- Fr. Tomás Ravaoli IVE

During the next months, we will talk about the Creed that we profess every Sunday during the Holy Mass. It is divided into 12 articles. For the month of December, we will focus on the first Creed: **I believe in One God.**

Among all the truths which the faithful must believe, this is the first: that there is one God. We must see that God means the ruler and provider of all things. He, therefore, believes in God who believes that everything in this world is governed and provided for by Him. Hence, as is spoken of in the Psalm, he is indeed foolish who does not believe in God: "The fool said in his heart: There is no God" (Ps 13:1).

We must, therefore, firmly believe that God governs and regulates not only all nature, but also the actions of men. God sees all things, both our thoughts and the hidden desires of our will. Thus, the necessity of doing good is especially imposed on man since all his thoughts, words and actions are known in the sight of God: "All things are naked and open to His eyes" (Heb 4:13).

According to Saint Thomas Aquinas, from a consideration of all this, one is led to a fivefold benefit:

- 1) We are led to a knowledge of the divine majesty, because now, if a maker is greater than the things he makes, then God is greater than all things which He has made.
- 2) We are led to give thanks to God. Because God is the Creator of all things, it is certain that what we are and what we have is from God: "What do you have that you did not receive?" (1 Cor 4:7).
- 3) We are led to bear our troubles in patience. Although every created thing is from God and is good according to its nature, yet, if something harms us or brings us pain, we believe that such comes from God, not as a fault in Him, but because God permits no evil that is not for good.
- 4) We are led to a right use of created things. Thus, we ought to use created things as having been made by God for two purposes: for His glory, "since all things are made for Himself" (Prov 16:4), that is, for the glory of God, and finally for our profit.
- 5) We are led also to acknowledge the great dignity of man. God made all things for man: "You subjected all things under his feet" (Ps 8:8), and man is more like to God than all other creatures save the Angels: "Let us make man to Our image and likeness" (Gen 1:26).

## Christmas of pandemic and hope

Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME, CBC General Secretary

We end the year 2020 different than the way we entered it. Nobody could foresee a pandemic to break out and change our way of living and thinking. Though Papua New Guinea and the countries of the Pacific have been least affected in terms of infections compared to other parts of the world, still the disruption has been significant. Travels have been reduced. People got stuck overseas. Projects came to a halt waiting for clarity. Jobs have been lost.

The government and civil society had to move fast to organize a response to the health crisis capable of limiting the damage in terms of spreading of the virus and loss of lives. We commend the PNG government for the realistic and effective approach, open to the suggestions of science and international cooperation. The weak health care system of the country was not overwhelmed. People did not die in their homes or in the streets. There was no chance for absurd accusations of sorcery and witchcraft. Needless, to say, however, that the risk is not over yet. The virus still prospers in many other countries of the world, especially the most developed in

Europe and America. It can still catch up with the Pacific.

The first victims are those infected, who got sick and even died. But not less unfortunate are those who lost their income and job due to the contraction of the economy and business. Without a salary life becomes particularly hard for families with children and school fees to bear. Personal health care is neglected in favour of food on the table and other basic needs. The weakness of the human condition has become once again evident and so the need for brotherhood and universal friendship.

It was such a consolation, therefore, the gift of the encyclical letter "Fratelli Tutti" (*All Brothers*) by Pope Francis on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October, Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. The post-coronavirus world will have to look different. Some of what the pandemic has forced on us, such as a reduced attack on the environment or a lower quantity on emission of greenhouse gases, will have to become a choice and a decision. The pandemic has been a warning that nature is still in control and is unpredictable. We have been told to pause and to think; not to proceed with business as usual. Universal brotherhood is the key to fighting misfortune and to averting it.

It was a disappointment to see Papua New Guinea descend into a political play during such a health crisis and an economic crisis. The public could not understand and justify it. There is nothing wrong with political ambition and politically motivated moves by the people's representatives. But the motivations should be strong and evident, not pretentious, debated in Parliament and not in remote and isolated locations with occasional and precarious political allies. Wealthy members of Parliament holding at ransom international cooperation and aid, investments, and the regular activity of government is an insult to the hardships people face and the daily sacrifices of honest public servants especially in the education and health sectors.

It is not going to be a very happy Christmas this year. Still the baby laid in a manger is a ray of hope. The smile we share can be more contagious than the virus still haunting us. The new year 2021 will be more desired than ever. May it bring an end to our sufferings and a renewed sense of unity and service. Happy festive season to all from the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands!

- Fr Newman Kingi

## Tribes surrender to God

Immakapos outstation was a historical ground before the Gospel reached Pumakos Parish as it was were first missionary, Fr. Gerry Bush SVD came and settled at Immakapos. The aftermath of the implementation of Gospel by missionary resulted in many areas. Besides the growth of faith in the lives of the people of Immakapos outstation, school and church buildings were some of the physical development that were established.

However, the services were all burnt down by the Yambaran and Taskin tribes. More than 1500 people both Catholics and Protestants gathered at Immakapos Outstation to witness the reconciliation mass between Taskin tribe and God.

The main celebrant was Most Revered Bishop Arnold Orowae, the bishop of Wabag Diocese and con-celebrated with 13 priests, 11 Diocesan and 2 SVDs priests.



**Wabag:** Taskin tribe of Immakapos outstation in Tsak Pumakos Parish in the Diocese of Wabag surrendered before God with great sorrow for the destruction of Church's properties and land on 20<sup>th</sup> November.

In 1988 there was a huge tribal fight between Taskin and Yambaran over the death of a Yambran man who was killed and thrown into Topak river and after 32 years, the Taskin tribe came to sense the need to apologize to God for all the harm that were done to the heart of Immakapos outstation.

- Rosemary Yambune

## CTI graduates 49 students

**Bomana, Port Moresby:** Forty-nine students graduated from the Catholic Theological Institute (CTI) in theology and philosophy in a heart-warming ceremony on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> November in Bomana.

The graduation had as its theme "Put out into the Deep" and had as special guests, Bp Otto Separy, Bishop of Bereina and Dr Maxon Mani, representative from the Christian Leaders Training College (CLTC).

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and limited spacing, the graduation ceremony was divided into two separate sessions. The first ceremony saw ten students graduate with a Diploma in Philosophical Studies and eighteen students merited with a Diploma in Philosophy. In the second ceremony, two students graduated with an Associated Degree in Theology while fourteen students graduated with a



Bachelor of Theology and five students graduated with a Bachelor's in Theology Research.

Fr Joseph Vnuk OP, President of CTI congratulated the graduates and specified to the audience the struggles that these students had throughout their journey of education at CTI especially during the time of COVID-19.

More than a hundred people made up of family and friends gathered to witness this occasion where they all adhered to COVID-19 protocols throughout the ceremony.

## SIARC on Fratelli Tutti

- Bp Luciano Capelli

and 2 Servants of charity (from the Noro Parish). The first part of the morning was dedicated to better understanding the document and on a group discussion and sharing on the 'clouds' affecting us at World and National levels and how we could live the values of solidary and universal brotherhood in our settings and how we join our resources and plan something good here in our country and in the local Church. The Eucharistic celebration and renewal of commitment of the various congregation in fidelity to the charism of the Spirit was given to each of them.

It was indeed revealing to realize that in this group all five continent and six major religious groups in the catholic church were represented: 2 from Europe, one from America, 7 from Oceania, 3 from Asia 2 from Africa. Indeed, the catholic Church in Gizo is breathing the spring wind of the Holy Spirit calling to fraternal solidarity and universal brotherhood.



**Gizo:** The Solomon Island Association of Religious Congregations (SIARC) Gizo Diocese Chapter gathered on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> November for a day of reflection and sharing on Pope Francis Encyclical 'Fratelli Tutti.'

The one-day program was held at the newly completed Betania Formation Center and had the participation of 15 members from six congregations in the diocese. There were 2 Dominican priests, one brother and 3 Dominican sisters (From Loga and Gizo, 4 Visitation sisters (Nusabaruku's social center and school), 2 Salesian (Don Bosco) sisters and one Salesian bishop (from Gizo St Peter Training Center)



Social Communications Commission  
Catholic Bishops Conference  
Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands

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## Symposium highlights Pope's encyclical 'Fratelli Tutti'

The symposium was graced by the presence of Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal, Apostolic Nuncio to PNGSI; Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC, Archbishop of Port Moresby; Fr Giorgio Licini PIME, General Secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI; and Fr Joseph Vnuk, President of the Catholic Theological Institute. It also had the presence of more than a hundred people that included Priests, Religious, laity, staff of CTI and media personnel.

The program had different speakers present the various aspects of the Encyclical that ranged from its overall background; the document's eight chapters and its Franciscan history. The importance of dialogue in the modern world and among the different religions; implementation and effectiveness of its principals in regard to Papua New Guinea's

impeding social circumstances; responses and working together with non-Catholics and protestants were dealt with. The 'Question and Answer' sessions and group discussions held in-between gave the audience an opportunity to share their reflections on the presentations given in the Encyclical.

A Closing Mass was held in the evening at the Holy Spirit Seminary Chapel celebrated by Cardinal Ribat, that was concelebrated by fellow priests from the seminary and lay faithful.

Fratelli tutti is Italian for 'All Brothers' and is Pope Francis' third encyclical that was signed on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2020.

It focuses on "Fraternity and Social Friendship", and according to the document the COVID-19 pandemic has proven the world's failure in uniting together during this crisis.



Cardinal with Muslim and Protestant representatives at CTI

**Bomana, Port Moresby:** An enriching symposium providing a detailed insight into Pope Francis' Encyclical entitled 'Fratelli Tutti' was held on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November, at the Catholic Theological Institute Bomana.

## Third Year of Laity officially launched

- Rosemary Yambune

**Port Moresby:** An official launching ceremony to welcome the Third Year of Laity, was held at the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI, on November 27<sup>th</sup> in Gordons, Port Moresby.

With the theme: "Our Catholic Laity: Holy, Formed and Sent for Service," Bp Otto Separy, Bp Deputy for Laity Commission unveiled the banner before laity coordinators, CBCPNGSI staff, religious and Radio Maria PNG. The Third year of the Laity (2021) will be the year of Missions, which means that all good Catholics must be missionaries and evangelizers in their families, parishes, dioceses and the society.

Eva Wangihama, Secretary for Laity commission clarified that the launching was held at the beginning of the new liturgical Year. Bp Otto Separy, Bishop Deputy of the Laity commission celebrated the Holy mass that was dedicated to close off the second year of Laity and welcome the Third year of Laity. In

his homily, Bp Otto Separy reminded those present about the beauty of the vocation of every lay person and repeated the words of the Lord in the gospel of Luke: 'Do not be afraid, I will be with you until the end of times'. He urged all to reflect once more on the life of Blessed Peter ToRot as a lay person who died defending his faith. "The church is now calling lay people to radiate the Good News by your life", he said.

Fr Giorgio Licini, General Secretary for CBCPNGSI said that the pastoral commissions of the church exist with a common aim to evangelize lay people and ensure good news reaches them.

The three years of Laity were 2019, 2020 and 2021 summed up in the theme: "Our Catholic Laity, Holy, formed and sent for service".

Each year had a special focus. The focus for 2019 was on the vocation of all Christians with a call to Holiness. The second year of Laity dwelt on



Bp Otto, Fr Giorgio and laity coordinators with candles

Formation, in which every lay person should be aware of the Catechesis of the Catholic church and become familiar with the fundamental teachings of the faith of the church. The Third year of Laity (2021) will be a year of Missions.



L-R: Rev. Roger Joseph and Cardinal John Ribat

**Port Moresby:** The Papua New Guinea Council of Churches have expressed disapproval of the government's current political impasse at the expense of service and infrastructure delivery to the people.

Their concern was made in a formal statement during a Press Conference held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November, at the Catholic Bishops Conference

## PNGCC airs concern on political impasse

- Nigel Akuani

PNGSI, Waigani. It had in its panel of speakers Reverend Roger Joseph, General Secretary for PNGCC; and Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC, Archbishop of Port Moresby. Also present for the briefing was Fr Giorgio Licini PIME, General Secretary of CBCPNGSI, and representatives from various media organizations.

Rev. Joseph emphasized the importance of celebrating the festive spirit of Christmas and warned of the detrimental consequences if individual greed and pride came in the way. "Consider as paramount the peace and good tidings that the ordinary citizen of this country, the women and children deserve, and that greed and power struggle only brings instability and affects the social and economic growth of our young growing nation," he said.

He called on leaders to reflect on their Christian standing and to take a noble and responsible stand for the good of all the people and the country. "The rise and fall of this nation depend on the decisions

you make. We ask you to create a space for God's grace to work through you, and thus you become agents of God's good tidings," he said.

Cardinal Ribat described how the management of the country did not seem to focus on the welfare and prosperity of its people and urged for members of parliament to always respect the Constitution and have the country's interests at heart. "It is no longer about the nation's wellbeing because every individual has their own perception of what a leader should be," he said. He added, "But the Constitution should always be respected because it is there as a conscience to remind leaders that they are there for the common good of the people."

A clause in the statement also appealed to disciplinary forces and the general public not to take sides with the opposing factions but to maintain neutrality and to ensure peace and harmony in society amongst the fear and intimidation already caused by the impasse.

## Proclaiming the Gospel through the media

- Rosemary Yambune

**Kefamo, Goroka:** Twelve priests were enlightened to aesthetically communicate the gospel using media during a Social Communication workshop held from November 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> for the Vangeke Institute participants, held at Kefamo Conference Centre, Goroka.

The workshop was facilitated by Fr Ambrose Pereira, Social Communications Commission Secretary for CBCPNGSI and Rosemary Yambune,

SOCOM Media Personnel. The participants were priests from the dioceses of Alotau, Goroka, Kerema, Mendi, Mt Hagen, Vanimo and Wabag.

Fr Ambrose Pereira, connected with the participants in a special way as he dwelt on the Theology of Social Communication, the significance of having a strong theory for good practice and the processes to connect with audiences via social media.

Sessions within those three days were accompanied by prayer, reflection and moments of sharing. The World Communication Day, News Writing Format, Inspiring Photographs and Layout of a Newspaper were held on the first day. The Parish Newsletter, an opportunity to video record their one-minute reflections were covered on the second day while the third day had sessions for Social Media, viewing of their reflections and comments from their brother priests to help them improve their



Participants in prayer with Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb

presentation and content in the delivery of their homilies at their liturgical celebrations. Discussions were also held on different ways to communicate with their congregations at the level of the parishes and dioceses.

The Social Communication workshop was part of the ninth ongoing formation and renewal program for priests in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands that started on 15<sup>th</sup> October and concluded on 24<sup>th</sup> November. The six weeks' program had as its theme: "Priests - Called to holiness in today's world".

### Catholic Reporter

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

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Please send in your material to:

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