



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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Catholic Bishops Conference - Annual General Meeting - 2017

Care, Protection and Catechizing of our Children

- Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb

The 58th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands (CBC-PNGSI) began on Tuesday 25th April 2017 at Emmaus Conference Centre, Port Moresby, the capital city of Papua New Guinea.

17 bishops and one Administrator attended the AGM meeting. The President of the CBC-PNGSI, Bishop Arnold Orowae of Wabag declared the 58th AGM open at the end of his inaugural address. Sr. Kumari Pappu, FIHM organised the prayer services, Fr. Ambrose Pereira SDB was the Minutes Secretary and Fr. Victor Roche, SVD the General Secretary saw to the arrangements for the meeting.

The theme, 'Care, Protection and Catechizing of our Children' was reflected upon with the help of Psychiatrist Dr. Uma Ambi. A practical presentation was coordinated by Sr Imelda Mission OND. Archbishop Mark Coldridge, Archbishop of Brisbane, shared his experience of handling the delicate issue of 'sexual abuse' in the

Catholic Church in Australia. The lessons learnt in Australia are relevant for the church in Papua New Guinea. "The sharing of Archbishop Mark Coleridge has left us points for concern, reflection, discussion and action", said Bp. Rochus Tatamai, Bishop of Berenia.

Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal, Apostolic Nuncio to PNGSI celebrated the morning Eucharist on April 27, and addressed the bishops. He thanked the bishops for their pastoral commitment and zeal and assured them of his closeness to them as representative of the Holy Father.

He challenged the bishops to 'go out' and be 'ambassadors of mercy'. He spoke of the upcoming Synod in October 2018, with its theme: *Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment*. "The church needs to give young people a voice, to encourage young people to make a personal commitment to their life, and to encourage them to develop their leadership skills", said the Apostolic Nuncio. In dwelling on the theme: 'Caring, protecting and



evangelizing our children', he stressed the need to care for families and ensure an integral formation of priests.

The Committee for Christian Formation, Committee for Mission and Committee for Integral Human Development held meetings with the secretaries of the different commissions. Resolutions and recommendations presented were discussed and voted upon.

On May 29, the bishops were present for the ground breaking ceremony of the new headquarters of the Catholic Bishops Conference. It will house offices and accommodation for bishops and guests.

The staff and seminarians at the Catholic Theological College, Bomana had the opportunity to join the bishops at the Eucharistic celebration. Earlier they visited the grave of Bp Patrick Taval, MSC and prayed for the deceased.

At the end of the AGM proceedings, a Pastoral Letter entitled: Care, Protection and Catechesis of Children, together with discussion questions has been released. Statements on the Election and Deep Sea Mining have also been discussed.

Present during the AGM was Lutheran Bishop Jack Urame. The Lutherans and Catholics celebrate 500 years of the reformation.

The reigns has now been handed over to Bp. Rochus Tatamai MSC, who will be the CBC PNGSI President for the next term. CBC looks forward to hosting the Federation of the Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania (FCBCO) in Port Moresby in April, 2018.

The bishops carry with them days of spiritual reflection, brotherly togetherness and personal enrichment as they journey back to their own dioceses.



JUNE

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Care, Protection and Catechesis of Children

The Catholic bishops are concerned about the behaviour of children and young people. Children and young people are searching for their place in society, in a world that is increasingly confusing. Together with parents and grandparents, the bishops are worried about the children and young people. The following points are discussed in the Pastoral Letter:

1. Concern for the Welfare of Children

At every stage of life, toddlers, children, youth and adults need special attention from their parents and other family members, if they are to mature into healthy, happy, responsible adults. The unborn should not be forgotten. The terrible practice of abortion is a hidden reality in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. It is illegal. Children do not receive the love and protection they need for a healthy and happy childhood in their Catholic and Christian family. Thus young people grow up without religious beliefs and Christian beliefs to guide their lives.

2. High Rate of Domestic Violence and Child Abuse

Researchers tell us that there is an unusually high rate of domestic violence and child abuse in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. It is not

uncommon to witness violence of one sort or another in our own families and in our communities. A drunken husband beats his wife and terrifies his children; a frustrated mother swears at her naughty child and slaps her. At school a bully dominates and frightens children smaller than himself; a teacher, regularly absent from the classroom, neglects his/her students at a time when they most need good instruction, loving attention, friendly guidance and a healthy environment in which to learn.

Family violence and abuse, parental neglect and a failure to instruct children in Christian faith, as well as basic morality, are passed from one generation to the next. The chain of abusive and poor parenting has to be broken. This is a task which must be accomplished primarily by the laity, the parents and the families.

3. Learning about the Appropriate Care of Children

Parents want to learn more about the appropriate care of children, how to teach them effectively and how to guide and discipline them with love and understanding as things are rapidly changing in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. Several dioceses have 'Positive parenting' programs to help people learn techniques for raising children that foster a child's physical, emotional, intellectual and social integration. Fathers and mothers who have an active faith and good Christian values should share these spiritual treasures with their children, thus giving them a better chance to form good relationships for happy married life in the future. Such families often are also the seedbed from which grow vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

- to be continued in the next issue.



Election Matters

with

Fr. Roger Purcell MSC

Discernment

At the time of Nomination for

election I listened one day to the speeches of a candidate, which went on all day, with endless words, talk and shouting, all loud and insistent. It was mostly in language which I did not understand. On the other hand I remember often sitting on a platform, or elsewhere, discussing with the people about an issue, or problem or proposal. Here too, the words seemed endless, but they were words spoken clearly and quietly, shared, listened to and responded to. It was a process of together reaching a decision; it was discernment in order to reach consensus. At the end when consensus was reached, all were satisfied and accepted the decision; tok i dai!

Campaigning has started and there will be many, many words, mostly one way with the majority of people meant only to listen. There will be very little dialogue. There will be a lot of noise, music, shouting, dancing and performance. All this to capture our attention and imagination, to make an impression. However, as we listen, we need to listen carefully, to hear what is really being said, to choose what is worth hearing, and what is just noise in the wind. This is discernment; to sort out what is right and good from the rest.

In this process, we need to discuss with one another, clearly and quietly, to sort out the words of the candidates. To listen to each other with attention, so to decide who to vote for; we reach a consensus, we decide together, in unity, who is the best person to vote for.

The danger is that we do not listen carefully, that we get fooled by the noise and show, and the bribes, to cast our vote for someone who cannot deliver on the promises. Our vote is just one vote, but it is a precious right in our young democracy; it is not to be thrown away for a short-term gain, or empty promises. It is a vote that lasts for the next 5 years. So think well, discuss quietly, listen with attention, discern the best and decide.



People of Sol show Spirit!

- Bp Donald Lippert OFM Cap

The people of Sol, the most remote out-station of the Tente Pastoral Area in the Diocese of Mendi showed that they are alive in the Risen Lord!

Sol is the last outstation of the Tente Pastoral Area. The culmination of a week-long celebration was the blessing of the newly reconstructed church building and the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Over fifty, mainly young people received the outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, enacting another Pentecost. In his homily, Bp Donald spoke of how the Apostles were frightened and unsure after the death and resurrection of the Lord, yet they became strong and valiant after they received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Br Jonathan William, OFM Cap., Custos - of the Capuchin Friars of Papua New Guinea / Solomon Islands, Br Peter Warea, OFM Cap., who had served for 9 years in this pastoral area and was instrumental in bringing peace after a devastating tribal conflict several years ago; Br Alfred Turik, OFM Cap., serving as pastoral assistance at St Felix Parish, Pangia and who served as the photographer for the day; Steven Kongop, diocesan seminarian and Bp Donald Lippert OFM Cap formed the mission team. At the invitation of Fr Robert Gigmai, parish priest, Bp Don cut the ribbon of the newly rebuilt church which was placed under the patronage of Saint John Vianney - patron saint of all priests.

Silver Jubilee - Bomai D Witne



Br. Martin Trines, SVD and Fr. Joseph Orathinkal, SVD celebrated their Silver Jubilee on 7th May, 2017 at St. Mary's Parish, North Goroka.

Bishop Dariusz Eki Kaluza MSF, praised Br. Martin and Fr. Joseph for living a Priestly, Prophetic and Kingly life for twenty-five years. He then challenged the people to reflect and pray about vocations as the Diocese of Goroka did not have young people in the seminary.

The Momase students led Bp Darius, Emeritus Bishop Henk, Fr. Sam, Fr. Joseph and Br Martin to the altar. The New Guinea Islands students took part in the offertory procession, the highlands students led the bible procession and the Southern region students danced at the concluding procession.

Representing the students, Mr. Brian Kuglame said, "Through God's mercy and grace, he took Br. Martin out of Indonesia and Fr. Joseph from India and looked after them for 25 years. The North Goroka Parish has been humbled to be part of their life's journey". They were also acknowledged for the ministry they do.

The congregation came from different walks of life and religions to witness the jubilee celebrations which concluded with gift presentation and lunch.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
for **Social Communications and Youth**
Enthusiastic, young and dedicated
to write articles, do layouts and conduct Media
Awareness and youth programs.
For further information write to:
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Church rise against seabed mining

- Aileen Baretta
Freelance journalist



Papua New Guinea first heard of seabed mining in 2009.

An Environmental Permit was awarded to Nautilus Minerals, a Canadian Mining company, in December of that year for the Solwara 1 project. Nautilus used the term 'Solwara' meaning "the sea" in Tok Pisin to describe its PNG exploration projects.

Although Papua New Guinea did not have a specific law governing seabed mining, the government went ahead to grant mining lease of 59 square kilometres of the Bismarck Sea to Nautilus Minerals in 2011 for the Solwara 1 project.

But back in 2009, Karkar Islanders of Madang Province noticed Nautilus Mineral's presence in

their waters, it wasn't until 2012 that Lutheran Church youths on the island mobilised and drove Nautilus Minerals off their waters

Nautilus Minerals then moved on into the New Ireland Province to set up a head office in Kavieng close to its project site proposed to be 30 kilometres off the West Coast of New Ireland and 50 kilometres off of East New Britain.

While Nautilus claimed it had consultations with over 20,000 people in 46 locations within PNG, people of the west coast of New Ireland complained that Nautilus had never gained their Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC).

Solwara 1 project was a threat to their shark calling tradition and their fishing livelihood.

On June the 5th of 2014, one point two million members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in PNG (ELCPNG) showed

Youth from the Mugaer Lutheran Church, Kavailo village, Karkar Island prepare for a campaign.



frustrations in a statement to the Prime Minister Peter O'Neil for allowing seabed mining to go ahead.

Parts of the statement read "We, members of the Lutheran Church feel that we have been betrayed and sold out by the Prime Minister... We believe the Lutheran population contributed to making Mr Peter O'Neil a Prime Minister trusting he will uphold the church doctrines and stand to protect God's environment... We are all against this destructive mining that doesn't have any result to prove its safe..." ELCPNG's Director of Inter Church Relation and Ecumenism, Reverend Kinim Siloi signed it.

It wasn't just the Lutheran Church. In March of this year 2017, Caritas Coordinators of 19 Catholic Dioceses of PNG at the annual Caritas PNG Forum in Madang called for an immediate ban on seabed mining.

In April, the Pacific Council of Churches with interdenominational representatives from Solomon

Islands, Fiji, Vanuatu and Kiribati including PNG's Catholic Cardinal John Ribat stood together to ban seabed mining in PNG and the Pacific.

It was during this same week that dredges belonging to Nautilus arrived in Port Moresby's Motukea Island and would be tested in PNG waters.

Cardinal John Ribat responded promptly calling on the Government of PNG and other Pacific countries to put a stop to testing seabed technology in PNG's land and sea.

At the recently concluded CBC AGM 2017, the catholic bishops unanimously reiterated their ban against Sea Bed Mining in PNG and the Pacific waters.

In all these, when the church has become vocal, the government of Papua New Guinea is still silent. Even still after United Nations representative Roy Trivedy spoke against seabed mining thereafter.

Parish Youth Leaders Formation

- Sr Rebecca Fernandez OND, ACYC Youth Coordinator

30 parish youth leaders from the different parishes in the Archdiocese Port Moresby gathered at Sivarai Namona Pastoral Centre in Bomana from the 12th to 14th of May 2017 for ongoing youth formation. Sr. Rebecca facilitated the first session and evaluated the reports and updates from the parish youth ministry program done during the first quarter of the year.

On Saturday morning, Fr. Ambrose Pereira, SDB presented, Social Media and its right use' and the Dos and Don'ts of interaction online. There was a lot of interaction, sharing, discussion and activity during the session.

In the afternoon, Sr. Rebecca dealt with the highlights on leadership skills and group dynamics. The importance of leadership, accountability, responsibility and time management were also dealt with. The session concluded with group dynamic activities. The afternoon concluded by praying the Holy Rosary led by Mary Help of Christians youth leaders. The evening session focused on Youth Discipleship. After the session, the youth leaders watched the movie FATIMA, commemorating the apparition of the centenary of Our Lady of Fatima. The program concluded with the Eucharistic Celebration, presided over by Fr. Dong Saladaga, PIME, Youth Chaplain of the Archdiocese of Port Moresby.



Youth Encounter Retreat –

a preparation for Shine Silver Sabama - Eugene Mantanepoa

On the 20th to 22nd April, 32 young people of the Mary Help of Christians Parish, Sabama, Port Moresby, had the opportunity of experiencing the 'Youth Encounter' (Y.E.) – a formation program especially designed for the youth and those who are journeying with them. This was held at Don Bosco Technical School, Gabutu.

The participants were led deeper into sharing and praying. Several young people shed tears as they realized their strengths and weaknesses. The majority of the participants made their peace with God through the Sacrament of Confession. The best session was the 'Circles of Love'. It gave the participants the opportunity to support each other through prayer. The Eucharists were celebrated by the parish priest, Fr. Sonny Fajardo.

The Youth Encounter is a spiritual program which helps strengthen the faith of the young people and shapes them to be better examples in their school, workplace and community. "It is my hope that every young person in the parish between the ages of 15 – 25 will have the opportunity to undergo this spiritual experience thus prepare themselves spiritually for the Silver Jubilee of the parish. We can then truly say 'Shine, Silver Sabama' of our young people", said Fr. Fajardo.



- Sr. Anna Damas, SSpS

16 kg Luggage and a Ton of Memories

Vocation Story



Sr Jane Frances Millane, SSpS, arrived in Papua New Guinea in 1961. Her focus was to foster

formal education in the country. She was born on April, 23, 1931 in Iowa, in the United States and comes from a family of nine and has a twin brother. As a child she heard about Papua New Guinea through the education superintendent. She has worked in St Therese Teaching College, Alexishafen, Madang; St.

Below: Malala ex-saff and students gave Sr. Jane a touching farewell in Port Moresby



Michael's Demonstration School, Alexishafen; Megiar Training School, Malala Secondary school and several others.

After five decades of service in the Catholic education sector in Papua New Guinea, Sister Jane Frances Millane, Holy Spirit Sister, returned to her country of birth, the United States of America. What she takes home is just one suitcase of personal belongings, and a wealth of love and memories.

"Teaching has always been my passion", Sr. Jane confesses. Her contribution to the development of this country through education is immense. She developed curricula and course materials. Sr. Jane is probably best known as principal of Malala Secondary School. She introduced coeducation and pioneered the secondary school reform in 1993. Under her three decades of leadership Malala Secondary staff and students excelled in performance.

However, it is not only her accomplishments as teacher and professor that Sr. Jane is remembered for. "I just loved my students", she says, "and we had a great time together." Indeed, Sr. Jane is loved and respected by colleagues and students as Sister and educator who inspired and brought out the best in others.

Now, at the age of 87, Sr. Jane feels that it is time to return to her roots and reconnect with her family. Her home is now the convent of the Holy Spirit Sisters near Chicago – the place where she began her religious life seven decades ago. Her working life as teacher is over, but her life as religious missionary goes on. Sr. Jane enjoys taking time for prayer.

The Sisters privileged to live

with her testify that Sr. Jane is an exceptionally gentle and peaceful person. She does not easily judge others, and holds her peace when confronted with aggression. And thus she continues teaching those she meets...

Sr. Jane Frances SSpS pictured with Archbishop Stephen Reichert OFM Cap, Apostolic Nuncio Kurian Matthew, Cardinal John Ribat MSC, and Bishop Rochus



Share your Faith

Send in your articles, photograph and reflections on events and happenings in your parish, community and diocese. All articles and photographs are to be sent to: ambrose.pereirasdb@gmail.com on or before 20th June, 2017

Yumi Sios

- Bp Rochus Tatamai MSC



Long namba 9 de bilong mun May 2017, Asbishop Brian Barnes ofm idai long Sydney Australia. Mi go mekim Funeral Misa bilong em long Mary Immaculate Church, Waverley em ples bilong ol Franciscans. I tok tengk yu tru long planti Asbishop bilong asdaisis bilong Sydney Anthony Fisher OP wantaim tripela emeritus Bishop bilong CBCPNG SI ibin stap tu long dispel misa. Emeritus asbishop Karl Hesse MSC bilong Rabaul, Emeritus Bishop Desmond Moore MSC bilong Alotau- Sideia na Emeritus Bishop Bernard O'Grady OP bilong Gizo. Planti ol pater ibin kamap long dispel misa wantaim planti ol Religious man na meri wantaim tu ol lay pipol na ol missionari husat ibin wok long PNG na nau oli malolo long Australia. President bilong Autonomous Region bilong Bougainville John Momis wantaim meri bilong em Elisabeth tupela ibin stap tu.

Yumi tingim asbisop Brian Barnes long bikpela wok imekim hia long Daisis bilong Aitape, bihain tupela ten krismas em chaplain bilong ol Polis Fors, bihain Pop imakkm em Bishop bilong Aitape. Bihain Ig dai bilong Asbishop Peter Kurongku, Pop imakim em asbishop bilong asdaisis bilong Port Moresby. Long dispela taim namel long 1997 - 2008 em isave raitim ol gutpela pastoral leta long makim ol Krismas na Ista taim wantaim ol strongpela toktok long kirapim ol gutpela wok namel long gavamen na ol pipel. Planti taim tru Asbishop Brian itoktok pait long lusim pasin korapsen o ol paul wok isave bagarapim laip bilong ol pipel. Emi save singaut strong long olgeta lida manmeri insait long politik na gavamen, insait long ol pablik servis long mekim gutpela na stretpela wok na servim tru ol pipel bilong yumi.

Yumi pre Ig sol bilong Asbisop Brian na tu yumi pre na tingim bikpela wok bilong ol pipel bilong yumi imas makim ol gutpela lida insait long taim bilong National General Election bilong kantri bilong yumi.

Heroic sister helps her fellowmen

- Bp. Rolando Santos, CM, Diocese of Alotau-Sideia



Sr. Trinh, with the Vietnamese fishermen

Srinagar. Ma Theresa Trinh Vu Phuong, FMA, has been helping Vietnamese fishermen to be freed and repatriated to their home country. Over 130 of these Vietnamese fishermen have been detained in the prisons of Alotau, Giligili and Bomana in Papua New Guinea for illegally fishing and harvesting berche-de-mere in Milne Bay Province.

Sr. Trinh looks after the needs of these Vietnamese detainees and serves as interpreter and mediator for them at court hearings. She also communicates with their families back home, and arranges for payment of penalties and getting all the necessary documents and tickets for them to fly back home to Vietnam. Sr. Trinh is a Vietnamese Salesian Sister working in a girls' skills training Institute in Sideia Island, diocese of Alotau.

"It is very disturbing that these young Vietnamese fishermen might be victims of human trafficking. They are used by whoever employs them to fish illegally without a proper license or any guarantee of protection or security from their employers. There is an urgent humanitarian need to put a stop to this. It is a serious abuse on the rights and dignity of these young men to be sent out by their recruiters to fish in illegal waters without a proper license and without any guarantee of protection or security. Once caught, they are almost totally forgotten and abandoned. The rights of these young men need to be respected, and a better employment worthy of their dignity be afforded to them, said Bp. Rolando Santos, CM.

Sr. Trinh was already able to successfully process the repatriation of 87 Vietnamese fishermen. About 18 more will soon follow. All will soon be able to re-join their families back home, thanks to the courage of this small sister and the support given by her Salesian community.

The Governor of Milne Bay Province has expressed his deep gratitude to Sr. Trinh for the help she has given in facilitating the case of the Vietnamese detainees. The diocese is proud of her. Her charity is truly heroic and worthy of emulation.

Reaching out in Service