



'Bearing Witness to the Light' - Jn 1:7

# 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

January 2022

Issue No: 193



Article: Vatican News  
Picture courtesy: Tiziana Fabi/AFP/Getty Images

## Pope Francis: May Mary inspire harmony in our hearts

**At the New Year's Day Angelus, Pope Francis encourages us to "roll up our sleeves to build peace" praying that Mary, Queen of Peace, may obtain harmony in our hearts and in the entire world. After presiding over the morning celebration of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Pope Francis greeted pilgrims in St. Peter's Square, offering his New Year's good wishes and reflecting on the day's liturgy. In the Church, the first day of the civil New Year is also observed as the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, as well as the World Day of Peace.**

**Rome:** In the Gospel, we hear about the wonder of the crib when the shepherds hasten to see the Christ Child announced to them by the angel. The Pope said we can imagine Mary, "like a tender and caring mother," placing Jesus in the manger, not only holding Him in her arms, but inviting us to look at Him in adoration and with welcome. "Behold Mary's maternity," he said. "She offers the Son who is born to all of us."

**God is near, within our reach**  
Mary's presentation of Jesus gives us "a wonderful message" that "God is near, within our reach," the Pope said, not in order to be feared but with the "frailness of someone who asks to be loved." He added that God shared in our human condition to be with us as one of us, "born little and in need so that no one would ever again be ashamed," and to draw ever nearer to us, excluding no one, making us all brothers and sisters.

**God gives us courage with tenderness**

"God with us" in the Christ Child gives us "courage with tenderness," the Pope pointed out, and this needed encouragement is light in these uncertain and difficult times caused by the pandemic.

The resulting economic and social problems cause fear for the future, the Pope acknowledged, recalling modern-day young mothers and their children fleeing conflicts and famine, or waiting in refugee camps.

Like Mary, we too can make ourselves available to others to bring positive change in our world. "If we become craftsmen of fraternity, we will be able to mend the threads of a world torn apart by war and violence."

**Peace is a gift and shared commitment**

Recalling the World Day of Peace, the Pope pointed out that

peace comes from God and is the fruit of a shared commitment.

We need to implore the gift of peace from on high, the Pope stressed, since we are not capable of preserving it without His help. We need to have peace in our hearts from the Prince of peace, he reiterated, saying we must also be committed to peace, by taking concrete actions.

This means being attentive to the poor, working for justice, and having the courage to forgive others in order to put out the fire of hatred.

We also need a positive outlook, he said, both in the Church and in society, that is fostered by seeing the "good that unites us." The Pope added that "getting depressed or complaining is useless," saying we need to "roll up our sleeves" and work for peace, praying that Mary, the Queen of Peace, may "obtain harmony in our hearts and in the entire world."

## World Day of Peace

The **55th World Day of Peace**, held on 1 January 2022, had as its theme: "Education, work and dialogue between generations: tools for building lasting peace".

### Three contexts

In its communiqué the Dicastery writes that "Pope Francis thus identifies three vast contexts today in full mutation, to propose an innovative reading that responds to the needs of current and future times, inviting everyone 'to read the signs of the times with the eyes of faith', so that the direction of this change awakens new and old questions with which it is right and necessary to be confronted".

### Questions

From the three identified contexts, the communiqué adds, the following questions arise:

- Does work in the world respond, more or less, to the vital need of humans for justice and freedom?
- Are the generations truly in solidarity with each other?
- Do they believe in the future?
- Do governments succeed in setting a horizon of peace in this context?

### World Peace Day

World Peace Day was established by Pope Paul VI in his December 1967 message and celebrated for the first time in January 1968.



Catholic Professionals Society PNG

A Light and a Voice of Catholic Faith

## CPS on 2022 Elections

Catholic Professional Society is calling on the people to elect leaders of good standing

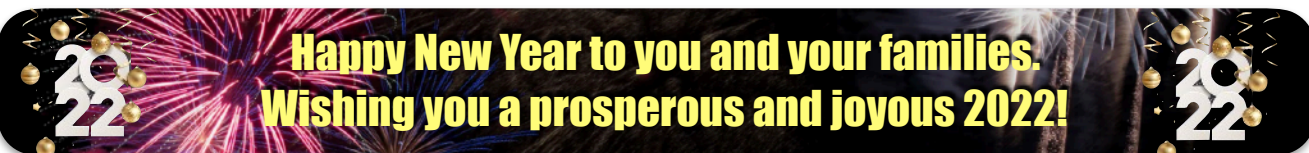
[See Page 2](#)



## SARV must STOP!

CBC intends to resolutely intensify its fight against sorcery accusation related violence.

[See Page 3](#)



### IN THIS ISSUE:

1. Pope Francis: May Mary inspire harmony in our hearts
2. CPS on 2022 elections; CBC addresses issues of importance; Chat Room; News in Brief
3. Sorcery Accusation Related Violence must stop; Celebrations of the Holy Family of Nazareth; WYD Celebrations in SI
4. Follow the star, share your gifts; Revival is needed in the Catholic Church; First Marian Dogma: Divine Motherhood in the Bible



## CPS on 2022 elections

national Parliament and this can only happen if elections are truly free and fair," he stated.

"Leaders of good standing with respect to godly values and principles of good governance are required to come out of the 2022 elections. With the passing of the Father of the Nation GGC Sir Michael Somare on 26 February 2021 and few other founding fathers, statesmen and civil servants in the likes of Sir Pita Lus, Sir Mekere and GC Sir Paulias Matane it is important that the people elect political leaders of integrity and sound character to take this country forward."

He highlighted the fact that people are not usually free to elect candidates of their choice and how election officials and security personnel commit election fraud by tempering with the ballot papers once the votes are casted or even before that.

"Not many election petition cases have been successful as

many cases are dismissed on technical grounds for want of compliance with the strict election rules in favour of the elected candidates," said Mr Harricknen.

He said that ensuring all eligible voters names are on the common roll is another major challenge for the Government and said that many young people have become eligible to vote in the coming elections and it is only fair that they are enrolled to vote for candidates of their choice. Young people must be given the change to vote to decide the destiny of their country.

CPS has also called for the campaign period to be further reduced from 6 weeks to 4 due to COVID-19 and to avoid any room for corruption and organized vote rigging, and to cut down on costs. Candidates should focus their campaigns on development and unifying issues than divisive tactics to win by hook or crook. If candidates can run clean campaigns the voters will be allowed a level playing field for a free and fair election.



- Nigel Akuani

## Bigger & Better

Based on the experiences of 2021, Chat Room promises to be more interactive aiming to bring together youth and students from different walks of life to have their say on social matters that affect them.

Chat Room of 2021, was guided by the theme 'HOPE amidst Covid-19' that specifically sought to raise the brave voices of young individuals as a beacon of light and inspiration despite the pandemic's turmoil.

Building up from then, for the year 2022, Chat Room will continue to strive in giving a voice for the younger generation, pushing to become a voice of truth, morality and sound judgement beckoning the immediate response of leaders and individuals holding positions of authority and influence that could be in many ways be used to usher in the dawn of a new era; One that will foster into place a solid partnership between two different generations, young and old, that will most importantly need guidance by the divine word and will of God.

To provide a solid basis for their discussions backed by facts, and to prevent their discussion from being seen as one based on opinions, students will entail reflective scriptures from the Gospel of Jesus Christ, inspirational quotes from historical figures, mention of the harsh reality in society as opposed to what is being promoted in mainstream media, and an insight of their own personal experiences.

Over the past three-years, since December 2019, we have seen the C-19 pandemic worsen with the virus mutating from the beta-variant, delta-variant, to the recent omicron-variant. Accompanying each new variant were state-imposed policies and lockdowns that undoubtedly hindered the commencement and normal operation of a wide array of sectors in the country, and this included the Chat Room as well.

However, the program's outlook for 2022, seems more promising and fulfilling. We intend for the year to be more engaging by encouraging interdenominational participation and taking onboard youth from the different existent churches to be part of this show.

SOCOM in collaboration with Tribe FM at NBC, Port Moresby, is happy to invite your institution to Chat Room. Choose a topic that is relevant to your students and youths. The outline needs to be ready a week to 10 days in advance. At 2pm every Wednesday on Tribe FM, you get to share your thoughts and reflections. Contact the SOCOM team to book your slots for the year.

CPS President, Paul Harricknen. Picture supplied

While the call is on the people to elect leaders of good standing, Catholic Professionals Society President, Paul Harricknen, is calling on the Government to ensure that the election is allowed to be free from corruption and election fraud committed by election officials in favour of those in power and those with money.

The statement issued on Monday, January 3, 2022, was in response to Prime Minister James Marape's New Year message on the elections this year.

"It is true that the electors hold the power to elect good leaders and representatives at all levels of government especially to the

- Isabella Saleu

## CBC addresses issues of importance

The Catholic Bishops Conference in a press conference on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021, addressed a few issues of importance by calling for Dialogue in West Papua, appealing for the Elderly and Sick Ex-Manus Refugees and spoke on the 2022 General Elections.

Speaking at the conference were the General Secretary of CBCPNGSI, Reverend Fr Giorgio Licini PIME, Mr Jason Siwat, Director of Migration and Refugees Desk and Director of Caritas PNG, Ms Mavis Tito.

Beginning with a condolence message on the passing of the late Sir Paulus Matane and expressing sympathy and solidarity to the victims of the recent cyclone in the Philippines, Fr. Giorgio also highlighted the ongoing issues that the two countries, PNG and Solomon Islands have been facing such as the recent political unrest in Honiara; the women and children been tortured due to senseless sorcery accusations in the highlands of PNG; the Pandemic and young people left to fend for themselves, amongst others.

Mr. Siwat supported the call by the West Papuan Church Leaders earlier this year for humanity, justice, truth and for the safety of their people and strongly recommended a dialogue be made with all concerned parties in the



General Secretary, Fr Giorgio Licini PIME and CPNG Director, Mavis Tito. Picture: SOCOM

hopes of bringing about peace and stability.

He also spoke on the refugees on Manus Island in Manus Province saying that although there may be talks of support put in place by the PNG government to assist the refugees that will be left behind, there is still uncertainty on how sustainable the support is particularly to the vulnerable.

"We as the Bishops Conference call on the government for a more considerate approach towards aiding these groups of people and that they should not be victims of government decisions. They are human beings and should be given a chance as is our Christian duty", he stressed.

Ms. Tito said they have been partnering with the PNG Electoral Commission in rolling out

educational election-related programs that seek to empower eligible citizens on how to properly exercise their rights wisely and responsibly. She highlighted the 3 objectives they plan to work with for the upcoming elections: Educating eligible citizens on enrolment process and the Limited Preferential Voting System; Promoting the rights and responsibilities of citizens particularly women and children engaged in political affairs without fear or favour and working with law enforcement agencies and local leaders to ensure a violent free election. She also emphasized on the very low statistics of young people participating in the elections and made a call to the youths to exercise their rights and let their voices be heard.

NEWS IN BRIEF

### MSI welcomes new religious sister

**Boregaina:** Members of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate (MSI) glorified God on December 4<sup>th</sup> 2021 as Sr Anges Gesina made her perpetual profession in her Parish, Holy Trinity Parish Boregaina.

During the homily Cardinal highlighted on the theme, "Take me Jesus among your chosen ones" and invited the young people to follow the path of discipleship trodden by Jesus himself.

Sr Agnes made her first profession in 2015 at Vanimo and is currently working as a staff nurse at Bl. John Mazzuconni hospital at Watuluma Goodenough Island, Alotau.

### Lae youth gather for Christmas

**Lae:** The youths of the Diocese of Lae gathered on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at St. Mary's Parish hall, Eriku to celebrate Christmas. The theme for the celebration was "Be the Light unto the World".

In his Christmas message to the youths, Bp. Rozario spoke on Jesus being the Light of the world and encouraged the youths to strive to be the same.

He said that darkness was the absence of light and when we do things to hurt others, we make the illusion of darkness possible but when things are done to bring joy we bring light.

He continued that each of us were called to be joyful this Christmas.

### 70th Anniversary for Rosary Sisters

**Wewak:** The Rosary Sisters of the Diocese of Wewak, recently celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their order's existence in Papua New Guinea since 1951.

His Eminence Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC, was the main celebrant during the eucharist held at the diocese's saunsel on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December. Also present were Bishop of Wewak, Joseph Rozynski SVD; Secretary for Evangelization, Fr Victor Roche SVD; Religious, Priest, Lay men and women. About 2000 Catholic faithful from various dioceses in the country attended the celebration. Fr Victor, a member of the Society of the Divine Word who worked with the Rosary Sisters for 10-years gave the homily.



## Sorcery accusation related violence must stop

Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME, CBC General Secretary

At the end of December, we were shocked at the images of an incident that had taken place in the Usa village of Sumi, Kagua district of Southern Highlands a few weeks earlier. Five women were accused of causing the death of a young man with absurd sorcery allegations. They were all tortured, five of them killed and two badly injured.

Either real or presumed, the evil of sorcery has a long history. St. Paul in the letter to the Galatians states: "Now the works of the flesh are plain: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, **sorcery**, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, selfishness, dissension, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things shall not inherit the Kingdom of God." (Gal 5:19-21). St. Paul gave stern warnings but never recommended torturing or killing anybody for any of those evils. He also hated false accusations.

The contribution the Church can offer to society is clear. There is nothing in the world of sorcery that

can be justified or supported. Claiming real or alleged sorcery powers or summarily accusing others of sorcery practices or threatening real or alleged sorcerers with arbitrary and violent means, all is negative, repugnant, and reprehensible.

Studies, education, and awareness around sorcery certainly help in understanding and addressing the issue and mitigating its consequences. However, the incident captured on video in the Southern Highlands in November has clearly told everybody that time has come for an all-out war against the evil of sorcery accusation related violence, which can only be defeated and eradicated.

It will not happen only by routinely assisting the victims and working against a few self-declared sorcerers and many self-appointed accusers and torturers. The law must harshly deal with both classes of offenders to create a sufficient environment of deterrence. People must face the courts (and only the courts) if they actively claim or uphold sorcery powers and practices; as well as individuals must be properly protected against false, baseless, or absurd accusations such as blood sucking or heart eating.

"Something more has to be done to stop these heinous atrocities. The first and foremost goal is to immediately end the torture of women. A society that kills its mothers cannot stand!", says Bishop Donald Lippert of Mendi, a diocese at the forefront of the battle against sorcery related accusation violence. The opportunist and handsomely paid *glasman* or *mambuman* are the persons to be targeted by an improved legislation and by law-enforcers. Their vulnerable victims have nothing to do with real or alleged sorcery practices.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, in cooperation with the local parishes and dioceses and all others already active on this front, intends to resolutely intensify its fight against sorcery accusation related violence. One more victim of ignorance and torture will just be too much!



## 99 baptisms in the Calvados Chain Communities



**Alotau:** The Christmas Masses around the Calvados Chain Communities saw ninety-nine baptisms in the Diocese of Alotau-Sideia.

The Calvados Chain made up of a group of islands within the Louisiade Archipelago had Maho village with 32 baptisms, Nigaho island and Hesesai

had 12 baptisms, on Grass Island – 22 baptisms and Bomalou had 21 baptisms.

Bp Rolando Santos said any Sunday but especially during the Christmas season is a good day for Baptism, the first and foundational sacrament for all other sacraments.

He urged all priests to remind parents to have their children baptized as soon as possible one month after birth to wash away the stain of original sin and make him a child of God. Bp Rolando also reminded parents of their duty to teach the faith to their child by word and example.

- Br. Attisso Joel

## Celebrations of the Holy Family of Nazareth

**ENB:** The Sunday of the Holy Family of Nazareth: Jesus Mary and Joseph, was celebrated by parishioners of the Mary Help of Christians in Rapolo on 26<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

Present to celebrate the occasion were families in the community. The goal was to bring joy and smiles to families in need during this Christmas season and the end of the year celebrations. The day began with a Eucharistic celebration, celebrated by Fr. Juna, and animated by the young people of the community of Palnukar. In his homily, Fr. Juna reminded the Christian faithful of the importance of the family in the development of a society and also of the Church.

"The family is the basic unit of society, the place where every human being learns to grow; it is also the first place of catechesis for children, the domestic Church where the child begins his Christian initiation," he said.

The celebrations continued with various games in an atmosphere of brotherhood and joy. At the end of the day more than 100 families received donations of



food and toiletry items such as rice, noodles, vegetable oil, soaps, clothes and more.

The recipients of these gifts showed their joy and their gratitude through songs and dances to the benefactors, but also by promising to pray for them so that God would bless them and support them in their various activities. The celebration is a reminder of the importance of family, but also an invitation and encouragement for Christians to love and pray for all families.

- Junneith Vavau

## WYD Celebrations in Tetere

Parish, Red Beach and the Salesian Parish of Christ the King, Tetere. The youth program had as its theme "Holy, Formed and Sent for Service."

The four days program concluded on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> of December with a Eucharistic Mass presided by Fr. Robinson and accompanied by a wonderful liturgy animated the youths of Tetere.

In his sermon Fr. Robinson gave an inspiring challenge to the young people. He said, "If the youth of this generation falls, humanity falls but if the youth arise then humanity arises; you as young people are the backbone of the church."

The program ended with farewell songs being sung as the youths departed. The organizing committee were pleased to have spent the four days being inspired by the young people and extended their gratitude also to the ADMA parents who animated and prepared their meals for the four days.



**Tetere, Solomon Islands:** Following the exhortation of Pope Francis to celebrate World Youth Day 2021 in local churches and dioceses, Catholic youths from the Deanery came together for the WYD celebrations from 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at the Don Bosco Rural Technical Centre Tetere, Solomon Islands.

Despite the political unrest and extensive damages that just happened in the country, present for the four day program were 450 Catholic youths from the Assumption of Mary Parish, Ruavatu; Good Shepherd

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

**'We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him' (Mt 2:2)**

At least once a year, Christians are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe" (John 17.21).

Hearts are touched and Christians come together to pray for their unity. Congregations and parishes all over the world exchange preachers or arrange special ecumenical celebrations and prayer services.

Traditionally the week of prayer is celebrated between 18-25 January, between the feasts of St Peter and St Paul. In the southern hemisphere, where January is a vacation time, churches often find other days to celebrate it, for example around Pentecost, which is also a symbolic date for unity.



Church Alive Magazine is a Catholic Family magazine for Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. The theme for the 1st Issue of 2022 is 'Salt and Light: The Culture of Life.'

Volume 4, Issue 1, January to March 2022  
Price: K2 per copy

Place your orders by contacting the SOCOM Team on email: [socom@catholic.org.pg](mailto:socom@catholic.org.pg)



## DMI Sisters focus on the vulnerable during Christmas

The Daughters of Mary Immaculate Sisters (DMI) have been focusing on the vulnerable, especially women and children in the different settlements of Port Moresby.

Over the past years, the sisters have been conducting programs to upskill the women in various trades by creating self-help groups. This has impacted the women to play a better role in their

families in the Korobosea, Kaugere, Kogeva, Sabama, Pari and Joyce Bay areas.

During the advent season, the Sisters conducted some of those programs such as teaching women how to save money and deposit into an account, making garden and internal lending and bookkeeping.

The sisters are interested in opening a skill centre this year and visited the OLSH Sisters ASAC Centre to get some ideas. They spoke with Sr Liza.

On 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021, the sisters with the support of the Apostolic Nuncio, Abp Fermin Sosa Rodriguez, distributed and visited some of the settlements. 125 parcels of food items were

distributed to the mothers and children and consisted of rice, oil, noodles, biscuits and tin food.

The results of their program have been very effective. According to Sr Catherine, they have been able to:

- bring positive changes in the minds of the people through the trainings
- The women are happy about their savings habits and their hope for development that ensues food security and employment.

DMI sisters have gained the acceptance of the people among the Christians and others and thus touched and transformed thousands of lives by their valuable activities.



## Follow the star, Share your gifts

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, Secretary for Social Communication

*"We saw his star rising, and have come to pay him homage" – Mt 2:2.*

The Epiphany story is dramatic, colourful and filled with mystery. Gaspar, Melchior and Baltazar are the three wise men from the East who have seen the star and set out in search of the newborn King. Guided by the star these three strangers came to pay their homage to Mary, Joseph and Jesus and lay their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh at the side of Jesus. We are part of that story. But what does this story mean for us today? We are invited to journey with the wise men and share in the manifestation that they experienced in Bethlehem. I dwell on two aspects: the star and the gifts.

The star shone brightly and led the wise men to where the Christ Child lay. The New Year 2022 offers us great possibilities. There are a million stars shining out there. Some are bright, some are attractive, some are radiant. Perhaps there are some that are distracting and dull and may be others that are there only for show. A child when held up to the sky on a moonless night chooses the biggest, brightest star. That should be our choice too.

The journey of the three kings involved a wise dream calling them forward (star) and the deception of worldly values by a cruel king (Herod). Our lives too are similar to that of the wise men. It involves highs and lows, times of insecurity, fear and doubt, a wise dream calling us forward and the cruel deception of worldly values of greed, selfishness and power.

The wise men offered their unique gifts to the Lord. Their gifts represented: kingship (gold), worship (frankincense), and death (myrrh).

The wise men were able to perceive the future. What will this child grow up to be, asked Simeon? "This child is destined for the rise and fall of many in Israel. The Christ Child stood up for truth, justice, forgiveness and love. For this he was abused, mocked, beaten and nailed to a cross to die.

Today we are going through similar throes of pain and agony. Amidst all that is going on around us, we are called to be wise men and women. Men and women who are ready to stand up for truth, justice, forgiveness and love. Boys and girls who are ready to commit themselves and stand up for what is right, for value, attitudes and a commitment that radiates the presence of the Christ child in our lives.

Every person is invited to pick out our brightest star. Every bright star we choose will bring us enduring joy and lasting happiness. Every gift that we share with our friends, families and community reveals that we have with us the values of the Christ Child.

Wishes for a Happy and Holy 2022! May we be blessed abundantly!



**Epiphany**



## Revival is needed in the Catholic Church

Fr. Victor Roche SVD, Secretary for New Evangelization

We have been discussing the challenges and the possible solutions in 2021. We are in the new year 2022. I invite you to reflect on the positive aspects of the Catholic Church; enjoy the flavour and the beauty of the Catholic Church. Most of our people do not know the treasures of the Catholic Church. Let us walk in the corridors of the riches of the Catholic Church:

### 1. Jesus is the founder of the Catholic Church:

There are almost 40,000 Christian denominations all over the world. It is said that there are 1,200 denominations in Papua New Guinea. Every week there is a new Sect born somewhere in the world. Which one of them is the true Church; the Church founded by Christ Himself?

The one true Church founded by Christ is the Church founded on Peter the Rock. That Church will never go astray; will never be deceived by Satan; will never teach any error. Christ Himself has promised this in the words spoken to Peter: "And I tell you, you are Peter and on this Rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it" (Mt 16:18).

*"Christ is the head and the Church is His body" as Paul says in his letter to the Colossians (Col 1:18). Christ and His Church are inseparable; they are always one. He has promised to be always with His Church: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Mt 28:20).*

The Church Christ founded is very much visible. The Church has a visible leader (the Pope). Jesus spoke to Peter (the first Pope): "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven" (Mt 16:19). Christ spoke again to Peter: "Tend my sheep ... Feed my sheep..." (Jn 21:15-17). Christ commissioned the Apostles, the visible leaders to "go all over the world to preach the Good News" (Mt 28:19-20).

They were secured by Christ's words: "Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me..." (Lk 10:16). "Truly I tell to you, whatever you bind on earth, will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven" (Mt 18:18).

To be continued in the next issue

- Fr. Tomás Ravaioli IVE

## First Marian Dogma: The Divine Motherhood in the Bible



The first dogma of Mary is that the Virgin Mary is the Mother of God, which is the source of all Our Lady's prerogatives and privileges. We solemnly affirm that Mary is the Mother of God, not only the mother of Jesus as man, as many say. But, does the Bible say anything about this? The Bible does not employ the formal term "Mother of God," but refers to the Blessed Virgin merely as "the mother of Jesus" (Jn 2:1) or at most as "mother of the Lord." (Lk 1:43) However, since Jesus Christ is true God, all the texts that refer to Mary as His mother are proofs of her divine maternity. Such texts are abundant throughout the Bible. Thus, while Sacred Scripture represents Saint Joseph merely as the foster-father of our Lord, it attributes to Mary all the ordinary functions of motherhood: conception, gestation,

and child-birth. The motherhood of the Virgin had been foretold by Isaias, "Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel." (Is 7:14) The fulfilment of this prophecy was announced in almost identical terms by the Archangel Gabriel. In Luke 1:31 the Archangel says, "Behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and shalt bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus." And the heavenly messenger expressly added, "Therefore the Holy One which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." (Luke 1:35) Since Mary gave birth to the Son of God, she is really and truly the Mother of God. Also, St. Paul says in his Epistle to the Galatians (4:4), "When the fulness of time had come, God sent his son, born of a woman."

If the man Jesus, born of a woman, is the Son of God, then that woman must be the mother of a Divine Son, and, consequently, the real Mother of God. The Dogma was solemnly declared in the Council of Ephesus on 431, but we will talk about this in detail in a further article.

## The Catholic Reporter Team

You are invited to send in your articles, photograph and reflections on events and happenings in your parish, community, institution and diocese. Please send in your material to: [socom@catholic.org.pg](mailto:socom@catholic.org.pg) on or before 20th of the month, 2022.

EDITOR  
Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb  
Phone: 325 9577  
Email: [secretary\\_socom@catholic.org.pg](mailto:secretary_socom@catholic.org.pg)

SUB-EDITOR  
Abigail Seta  
Phone: 325 9577  
Email: [socom@catholic.org.pg](mailto:socom@catholic.org.pg)

LAYOUT AND DESIGN,  
EDITING &  
PROOFREADING:  
CBC SOCOM

PUBLISHED BY: CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE  
PRINTED & DISTRIBUTED BY: WANTOK NIUSPEPA