



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 Zenit

Holy Father: Welcome Jesus as the bread of life

Pope Francis calls on us to be not only concerned about our material needs, but above all to seek and deepen our relationship with God.

requires us to ask, "why do we seek the Lord?", he said, and to think about what are our true motivations, to consider if our faith concerns seeking God primarily when we need him and forgetting about Him when we are satisfied.

The Pope said it is right to present our needs before God, but we need to understand that the Lord first of all "wishes to live with us...in a relationship of love", and to know that in response to our prayers He "acts far beyond our expectations".

True love is all gift, not expecting a favour in return, the Pope observed, and the relationship with God "goes beyond the logic of interest and calculation."

In the Gospel reading, the crowds then ask Jesus what they can do then to accomplish the works of God. The Pope said it was as if they were asking how we go from a faith that is only concerned about

our immediate needs to one that pleases God. Jesus' answer, the Pope said, is "that the work of God is to welcome the One whom the Father has sent, that is, Himself, Jesus."

The key here is "welcoming Jesus into our lives, living a *story of love with Him*", the Pope pointed out, saying only Jesus can purify our faith and strengthen our "loving relationship" with Him. He summed it up: "before the things we receive and do, there is Him to love".

This same thinking applies also to our human and social relationships, the Pope added, saying we need to be aware when we risk using others for our own interests. In society we need to keep people at the centre of our concern rather than simply interests, he stressed.

In conclusion, he said, "let us welcome Jesus as the bread of life and, starting out from our friendship with Him, learn to love each other" freely and abundantly, looking to the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary "who lived the most beautiful story of love with God" and can help us receive this grace.



Rome: Greeting the faithful in Saint Peter's Square on a sunny and sultry Roman Sunday, Pope Francis offered reflections on the Gospel reading (Mt 14:13-21) which speaks about the crowds following Jesus, after they had witnessed the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves. However, the crowds did not grasp the meaning of what Jesus had done and appeared to be more concerned about having their fill of material bread.

The Pope said we too risk from this same narrow mentality, what might be called an "idolatrous temptation" he described as one where we seek God only for our own use and needs of the moment. This

Open letter on asylum seekers and refugees with no resettlement options

The Catholic Bishops Conference (CBC) of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands released an open letter to the Australian Parliament regarding their inability to resettle Manus/Nauru Asylum seekers and refugees. The letter was presented by General Secretary of CBCPNGSI, Fr Giorgio Licini PIME, during a press conference held at 11am on Monday 19th July 2021, at the CBC headquarters in Gordons. Panellists for the conference also included Migrants & Refugee Desk Director, Mr Jason Siwat, and Sr Mary McCarthy, Voluntary worker and Chaplain of POM General Hospital. Here are extracts of the letter.

Port Moresby, 19th July 2021: Dear Hon. Senator Ryan and Hon. Mr. Smith, today (Monday, 19th July) is eight years since the Australian parliament has legislated on the mandatory offshore detention for asylum seekers arriving by boat after 19 July 2013 and the prohibition on them of ever settling in Australia.

The people transferred in 2013 - 14 to Manus and Nauru, and some detained offshore or onshore till now, have served a crucial Australian interest. Their detention has effectively achieved the purpose of stopping the boats, thus allowing Australia to cordon off its maritime borders.

In truth, the Australian policy of indefinite detention of asylum seekers and refugees (or anybody else not convicted by the courts) sounds totally unjustifiable and unacceptable to us.

In any case, we firmly believe it should not apply to those who have served a paramount Australian national interest at the price of great personal sacrifice.

It is on this basis that, on this 19th of July 2021, we strongly urge the Australian parliament to legislate for the freedom and a home in Australia at least for those who have been

detained in Manus and Nauru at any stage after 19 July 2013 and have no way, now and in the future, to be resettled to a third country.

We know that the remaining asylum seekers and refugees still in Papua New Guinea (127 of them according to the UNHCR) enjoy better freedom of movement than those transferred to detention facilities and "alternative places of detention" in Australia.

But you cannot think of keeping any of them here forever.

Under the current legislation, they have no right to be resettled in Australia. But they have no duty to live in Papua New Guinea either, unless that is their free choice. Australia forcing them to stay indefinitely on PNG soil against the wish of anybody here, contradicts the spirit of PNG self-determination. We believe it is time for Australia to erase any trace of past colonial demand and fully implement a new style of compassionate and participative leadership in the Pacific.

I can assure you that here in Port Moresby, not only us, but all those more involved in assisting the men affected by the current policy (particularly the PNG Immigration and the Australian High



Commission) are all exhausted by the prolonged effort.

Please, close the Manus and Nauru chapter as soon as possible by allowing people who have sacrificed so much for your country, and whose acute suffering we see every day, to access a reasonable and acceptable level of freedom and dignity in Australia; specifically, those who have been in Manus and Nauru after 19 July 2013 and have no option for a third country of resettlement and, as we all well know, can't return to their home country.

REV. FR. GIORGIO LICINI, PIME
General Secretary, CBC PNG SI

In this Issue:

1. Holy Father: Welcome Jesus as the bread of life; Open letter on asylum seekers and refugees with no resettlement options
2. Nature of St Christopher Alive Association; Mary, model of beauty and dignity; Revival is needed in the Catholic Church; The Creed
3. The risk of disinformation; Mendi celebrates world day of grandparents and elderly; Workshop on safeguarding policy; seminar for mothers
4. FMA: Dream big for the ladies; Supporting women and girls in remote areas; CTI receives gift from Somare family



Bp Paul Sundu with other delegates at the Launching of the St Christopher Alive Association. Picture supplied

Kundiawa, Simbu Province: In the plight of change throughout the development of the nation, human beings especially drug users are no exception to the amount of pressure put on the nature of change in a person. Fr. Christopher Yer Onguglo in his efforts to try to restore the integrity, dignity, rights, and value of the addicts in their communities, has started the St. Christopher Alive Association and call the boys the "Bratas". It is however, a very demanding and dangerous work to be dealing with addicts.

The gospel of John says: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (Jn 1:1). He is changing the boys through the wisdom of the Word of God. Thus, his Words have this light of the Word which becomes the agent of change in the lives of the youth. Even though governments, NGOs and churches talk about changing the habits of drug addicts by funding millions of Kina, these funds are sadly misused and their words have no value to push for youth sustainability. The community then refer to them as "drug bodies", pretend to support them and they are

Nature of St Christopher Alive Association

at most times cut-off from the rest of their families and communities.

This obsession has resulted in bigger problems for the wellbeing of both sides: community experiences violence, increase of social issues while the boys becoming mentally handicapped, cannot cope with the status quo. Fr. Christopher sees in their heart the tabernacle of Christ in the heart of God and with that faith he initiated the organization.

Duration of its function (initial stage).

The origin of the Saint Christopher Alive Association was started in a humble Parish called *Maria No Mano Parish, Mai*. Fr. Christopher was their Parish priest doing his pastoral duties for three (3) years and was later posted to the Three Kings Parish, Kerowagi. Started three years ago, the youths began to contribute voluntarily to their families, communities and the district. They assisted in cleaning roads, building new elementary classrooms, repairing ruined water supply, cleaning up public market places, building public toilets and setting up stools for small markets near road sides which in turn had a positive impact on their attitude. Thus, Fr. Christopher has an optimistic mind of looking forward to ministering to the Bratas as a priest doing his pastoral duties.

Report of the launching.

The purpose of the launching was to make known to the general public the Association and seek the support of the Church, government and NGOs in a partnership. The Chairman of the Association Fr.

Christopher said at the launching that leaders have always feared to associate with these group of young people but now they can because the boys have changed.

"We want to give them hope by involving them in volunteer work, giving them counselling, rehabilitation programs and involve them in church activities and all these have made them recognize their dignity, value and integrity as human persons, thus the change", he stressed.

The Simbu Provincial Administrator and guest of honour Mr. Sabastian Kee, who was also present for the launching during the launching ceremony told the youths not to damage the public properties of the government, such as schools, roads, water supply, hospitals and claim compensation because these infrastructures were there for their own good.

"We want to change the face of Simbu and the association is one part of how we will bring about this change", he said.

Most Rev. Bishop Paul Sundu, Bishop of the Kundiawa Diocese also pledged the support of the Diocese and said he was happy to be working with the youths.

The new way of life for these once drug addicts of getting involved in volunteer work will give them a sense of belonging in the society pushing them to take care of the place they live in. They follow the charisma of their Director Fr. Christopher YerOngugloby saying, "Serving You is Our Noble Duty."



Mary, model of beauty and dignity

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb,
Secretary for Social Communication

Mary holds a special place in the history of the church and her feast days highlight the important part in the work of redemption. Her divine motherhood is celebrated at Christmas and then a week later we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. The Immaculate Conception, celebrated on 8th December, marks the preparation for motherhood. She was filled with grace and untouched by sin, right from the moment of her existence.

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, celebrated on 15th August 2021, highlights the completion of Gods work in Mary. It was fitting that the flesh that gave life to God should never undergo corruption. The Assumption is Gods crowning of His work as Mary ends her earthly life and enters eternity. This year the Solemnity falls on the third Sunday of August.

In 1950, in the Apostolic Constitution *Munificentissimus Deus*, Pope Pius XII proclaimed the Assumption of Mary a dogma of the Catholic Church with these words: "The Immaculate Mother of God, the ever-virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heaven." (ref: *Catholic Heritage*).

"The Most Blessed Virgin Mary was taken up body and soul into the glory of heaven", states the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Where she anticipates in the glory of her Son's Resurrection, anticipating the resurrection of all members of His Body". Where she has gone all of us hope to follow in the fullness of time.

In our world of sensuality and materialism and in Papua New Guinea where the woman is abused, humiliated, and dominated, Our Blessed Mother stands out as a model of the beauty, dignity and the ultimate destiny of every woman.

As we prepare to celebrate her feast may we rise from our selfishness and our sins. May the grace of Mary enable us to raise our minds to the things that are above our position and power, and may we aspire to be continually united with her and finally be brought to the glory of the Resurrection.



Revival is needed in the Catholic Church - Part 3

Fr. Victor Roche SVD, Secretary for New Evangelization

In the last two issues we reflected on the 8 challenges of the Catholic Church in PNG and possible solutions. In this issue I invite you to reflect on the next 3 challenges.

9. After the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) many Catholics have an increased interest in the Bible. Some lay Catholics have diplomas and degrees in the Sacred Scripture (Bible). Many Catholics would say that they do not know the Bible very well. The Catholic Church would like to see more lay Catholics interested in the Study of the Bible in order to teach other Catholics. It is highly recommended that there are Bible courses conducted in the in the parish, diocese and national levels.

10. Lay people are reluctant to take up leadership roles in the church. It is true that many responsibilities in the parish and dioceses are ministered by the priests and to a lesser extent by the catechists and lay leaders. More lay people should take up leadership roles and be partners in the journey. When there are problems regarding the parish church or the properties of the parish, the lay people normally do not take ownership. It is left to the parish priest and the bishop. This situation has to change for the growth of the Church.

One lay leader lamented that "the priests and bishops do not give responsibilities to us". It is unfortunate. But the situation has to change for the better; it has to be a two-way conversion and convergence.

11. Some Catholics join other churches for various reasons. It is a general phenomenon that Christians of mainline churches such as Catholic, Lutheran, United and Anglican join Pentecostal churches. The reasons usually given are: Good music and good preaching; members are cared-for personally; stress on faith-healing; health and wealth gospel; men often stop drinking, gambling or womanizing etc.

A Good example: A woman looked after some pigs within a fence near her house. They were fed very well and they stayed inside the fence. When the woman could not feed the pigs well, they broke the fence and went elsewhere to find food.

The "food" the Catholics are looking for is the spiritual nourishment. It comes from good preaching of homilies and good teaching of the Bible and Catholic teachings. Besides, the priests should create a caring and healing community in the parish.

It is also necessary that the priests or pastoral workers give courses on "Apologetics" in their parishes. They should explain why Catholics go to Church service on Sundays; the real meaning of the Eucharist; why we have the seven sacraments; why we honour Mother Mary and saints; what is 666 and so on. When a Catholic asks a priest for explanation for one of these questions, the priest should take it as a great duty to explain to that "truth-seeking-Catholic". It is a question of "life and death" of his spiritual life.

- To be continued in the next issue

- Fr. Tomás Ravaioli IVE

The Creed: I believe in the Holy Catholic Church



The word "church" is the same as assembly. So, the Holy Church is the same as the assembly of the faithful, and every Catholic is a member of this Church. She has four essential conditions: one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic.

1) The Church is One. The unity of the Church arises from three sources: a. *The unity of faith:* all Christians who are of the body of the Church believe the same doctrine. b. *The unity of hope:* all are strengthened in one hope of arriving at eternal life. c. *The unity of charity:* all are joined together in the love of God, and to each other in mutual love.

2) The Church is Holy. We affirm this because of four reasons:

- Holy is Jesus, the founder and head of the Church.
- Holy is the goal of the Church, which is the salvation of men.
- Holy are the means that the Church uses, namely the sacraments, deeds of charity, prayer, etc.

d. Holy are also many members of the Church, some of them already in heaven (the saints) and some of them still among us.

3) The Church is Catholic. Catholic means "universal." The Church is a congregation of the faithful; and since the faithful are in every part of the world, so also is the Church. Jesus said: "Go into the whole world and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mk 16:15). Long ago, indeed, God was known only in Judea; now, however, he is known throughout the entire world.

4) The Church is Apostolic. The principal foundation of the Church is Christ: "For other foundation no men can lay but that which is laid, which is Christ Jesus." (1 Cor 3:11). The secondary foundation, however, is the Apostles and their teaching. It is said in the Apocalypse that the city has "twelve foundations," and therein were "written the names of the twelve Apostles." (Rev 21:14).

The Church can never be destroyed, neither by persecution, nor by error nor by the deeds of Satan. Indeed the Lord himself promised: "the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." (Mt 16:18).



The risk of Disinformation

Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME, CBC General Secretary

We are left wondering at times about the front-page headlines and stories of our daily newspapers.

In a recent case involving sorcery accusation related violence in Southern Highlands, a quite improbable connection and support by priests and pastors to witch hunters was implied. To make things worse, the reporter stated that a confirmation from the Catholic Church and the police had been sought without success. A quick check revealed that no Church leader, at the local or national level, had ever received any call on the matter. The newspaper in fact couldn't prove it in any way.

This small incident is part of the dynamics of media and their need to stay afloat and possibly gain further commercial advantages. Papers must be sold. Publishing an inaccurate or incomplete story will cause reactions, stir debate, in some cases a real uproar, attract statements of clarification, thus further enhancing the

confrontation and possibly the advocacy. It is not all bad. There are issues which need a strong public shakeup for any process of change to begin.

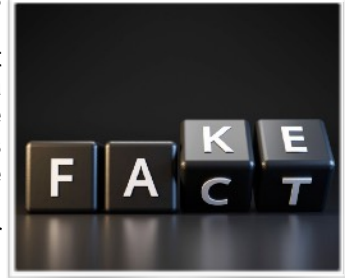
There are limits, however, to be considered. The first is respect. This is due first and foremost to the individual. The media should never become an alternative to the courts. True! The justice system is slow in Papua New Guinea and elsewhere. The public opinion wants answers. The media are in the best and privileged position to provide it. But they cannot ensure full accuracy and fairness due to the need for them to report in real time. Therefore, just tell that the guy has been charged. Do not imply that he or she is guilty. You will drag into the mud innocent people, families, and associates of a person that only the courts can properly pronounce innocent or guilty.

The second remedy to indiscriminate reporting is professional honesty and correctness. Never say that you tried to check information when you didn't for fear that your front-page story would not stand. There is no real obligation for you to check things with higher authorities if you are certain of your

sources and your facts. Those called into question will just be left with admitting things or denying them on similarly compelling evidence.

Inaccurate information is disinformation. It presents the public with a distorted point of view. It generates a psychological reaction of disdain and anger or, in the opposite case, of enthusiasm and optimism not justified and supported by the facts.

That's unrealistic and running against social progress and human development. The bottom line for media nowadays is the fight between truth and money, service and wealth. Nobody denies the fact that a paper's front page must be attractive and interesting. The readers and the advertising business hold at ransom the media industry and the salaries of journalists and other staff. But be careful of professional boundaries and your personal integrity.



- Moses Ben

107th World Day of Migrants & Refugees

Theme: Towards an ever wider "we"

Prayer

Holy, beloved Father,
 your Son Jesus taught us
 that there is great rejoicing in heaven
 whenever someone lost is found,
 whenever someone excluded, rejected or discarded
 is gathered into our "we",
 which thus becomes ever wider.
 We ask you to grant the followers of Jesus,
 and all people of good will,
 the grace to do your will on earth.
 Bless each act of welcome and outreach
 that draws those in exile
 into the "we" of community and of the Church,
 so that our earth may truly become
 what you yourself created it to be:
 the common home of all our brothers and sisters.
 Amen.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 3 May 2021
 Feast of Saints Philip and James, Apostles

Sunday, September 26 | WDMR 2021

CONDOLENCE MESSAGE



Late High Commissioner, H.E. Barnabas Anga

The Catholic Bishops Conference PNG and Solomon Islands community is saddened to learn of the passing of our colleague and friend, High Commissioner H.E. Barnabas Anga.

Anga took up office as the High Commissioner to PNG in October 2015 as Solomon Islands 10th Commissioner to PNG. Prior to his PNG appointment, he had served as a permanent secretary serving in a number of ministries, including the ministry of foreign affairs and the office of the Prime Minister and cabinet in the Solomon Islands.

Our thoughts and sympathy are with the people of Solomon Islands, his family, wife Joycelyn Kelani Anga and three children, colleagues and friends during this difficult time, and our CBCPNGSI community joins in mourning his loss. May his soul rest in peace.

Rev. Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME
 General Secretary
 Catholic Bishops Conference PNG/SI

Mendi celebrates World day of Grandparents and Elderly



Mendi: As a tribute to commemorate 'World Day for Grandparents and Elderly', a eucharistic mass was celebrated by the diocese of Mendi.

The mass was held on Sunday 25th July with the Bishop of Mendi, Donald Lippert OFM Cap, as the main celebrant.

In his homily Bp Don said he was worried about how an individual society treated its elderly

and urged young people to give them love and attention.

He noted how for many of us, "Our grandparents cared for us, ever since we were children, they held us in their arms and sat us on their knees, that love helped us to grow into adulthood."

He urged young adults to visit their grandparents and elder relatives, and the older people in their neighbourhood. "They protected us as we grew, and now it is up to us to protect their lives, alleviate their difficulties, to attend to their needs and to ensure that they are helped in daily life and not feel alone" he said.

It was during mass that the Bishop gave his blessing to elderly who were sick so that they may be healed from their illnesses. Present were also elderly peoples and the Catholic Faithfuls and Seminarians.

Workshop on safeguarding policy

Honiara: A two-week workshop that had the participation of the Archdiocese of Honiara together with Solomon Islands Christians Association (SICA/SIFGA) was held from 14th to 22nd July.

It was based on creating a Safeguarding policy to protect all vulnerable people in churches of Solomon Islands. This safeguarding policy focuses on the concept of our culture, biblical theology, the countries law, the human rights and moral theology to protect every human being.

According to the Child Protection Officer for Catholic Church in SI, the safeguarding policy is important for all institutions.

"The uprising issues of our children facing abuses, rape, neglect and so on is increasing but the perpetrators only served minimal amount of time in prison. Therefore, this workshop is to equip



all churches to come up with solutions to protect those vulnerable from harm".

The Catholic Bishops Conference PNG/SI in 2014 had passed a Child Protection policy. His Grace Archbishop Christopher Cardone OP with all religious priests and Sisters are working on ways to create a child safe Catholic Institution to decrease the Issues affecting all children.

- Rellysdom A Malakana

Seminars for media and mothers

The Hey Mum seminar was facilitated by Sr. Rita Pitavavine OP and Mr. Jerome Kuibatu from the pastoral office. For the Media seminar, it was facilitated by Rellysdom A Malakana from the media diocese of Gizo.

The purpose of the media seminar was to train youths to be part of the media activities of the diocese while the Hey Mum program focused on mothers and difficult issues they face with their children.

A Thanksgiving Mass was held to conclude the two programs with the presentation of certificates for the participants. These seminars have been ongoing programs of the diocese for the past 10 years.



Gizo: The Diocese of Gizo have scheduled seminars for Media and Hey Mum and Dad programs for the year.

From 16th to 18th July in St. Peters parish, the Media and Hey Mum seminar was conducted and had a total of 37 participants made up of youths and mothers from Gizo, Noro and Wagina parish. There were 9 participants for media and 28 for the Hey Mum program.



Picture 1: FMA sisters with Hon. Justin Tkatchenko and Governor of NCD Powes Parkop
Picture 2: FMA sisters giving a tour of the venue at DBTI

FMA: Dream big for the ladies

Present to witness this occasion were Fr Gregorio Bicomong SDB, Provincial Superior, the FMA Congregation and female residents studying at Don Bosco Technological

Fr. Gregorio Bicomong, SDB, Provincial Superior rendered commendation to very positive FMA efforts to begin the institution next year 2022 for the young women who are marginalized and those who are at risk.

"I am happy that the Mary Help of Christians Technical Institute will be a real milestone in the history to educate young women in their spiritual, human, intellectual or wholistic development of the young of PNG."

Over the years, the Sisters have gone through a lot of processes to plan for a technical school. Sr. Alem Coching began the process of research, writing proposals, contacting benefactors and seeking collaborators.

However, Sr. Alem was sent for the mission ad gentes in Egypt and this year Sr. Alice Fulgencio was tasked to be the Project Directress.

She worked in collaboration together with Sr. Juliet De Leon, Sr. Cristina Villasanta, Sr. Carmencita Rodriguez and Sr. Eleanor Samson, (POM Community) and with continued liaising with Steffen Marziniak, the Don Bosco Mondo consultant.

Port Moresby: 'Dream Big for the ladies' was the encouragement of Sr. Mabel Pilar, FMA and Sr. Teresita Padron, FMA, the Provincial, to the sisters in Papua New Guinea who have been dreaming and planning to put up their own technical school.

On Monday 26th July, Mary our Help paved the way that on the Feast of Her parents, Sts. Anne & Joachim, the new Mary Help of Christians Technical Institute (MHCTI) received the financial support for it.

Hon. Justin Tkatchenko, Member of Parliament for Moresby South and Hon. Powes Parkop, Member of Parliament and Governor of the National Capital District willingly agreed to help with K270,000 (Euro 65,355). The rest of the local contribution will be sought from other willing benefactors.

Institute.

Sr. Juliet De Leon in her opening speech, thanked the Hon. Justin Tkatchenko and Governor Hon. Powes Parkop for their support to this dream of a new TVET & FODE CENTER.

She said, "We are deeply honoured to be visited today by Honourable Powes Parkop and Honourable Justin Tkatchenko; both of your presences and support speak of your steadfast dedication to education, to giving more chances to the young people of Papua New Guinea, particularly in NCD and Moresby South to be productive members of their families and communities, and this also underlines your dedication to empowering the women sector in our society."

- Abigail Seta

Supporting women and girls in remote areas

Hohola, Port Moresby: A breakfast talk fundraiser to support girls, vulnerable women and communities in remote areas of Papua New Guinea was hosted by the Lasallian Women of Hope (LWOH) group on Saturday, 10th July 2021.

Held at the La Salle Technical College, the theme was 'Healthy Women building Strong Communities.' The event also celebrated the Lasallian's 75 years of Mission and existence in PNG and gave a platform to speak on community issues especially on health and hygiene for women and girls.

Present for the breakfast talk as invited guests were Erin Elizabeth McKee, United States Ambassador to Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and the Republic of Vanuatu; Serena Sumanop, CEO of Digicel Foundation and Founder of the Voice Inc; Dr Gabriel Yohang, Head of Department of Rural and Generalist Medicine and Health Science; Sr Helen Hukula, Founder and SIC – Well Women Clinic and Fr Giorgio Licini, General Secretary of Catholic Bishops Conference.

In her keynote speech, the US Ambassador highlighted the opportunities that connects the US and PNG. "I am heartened to see this nation increasingly committed to creating a national identity

that includes women and girls. The US government and American people believe strongly that women's development is instrumental for peace, prosperity and development," she said. "As we all know, efforts for gender equality are not about one group versus another but it is about all of us together for our daughters, sons, for future generations in PNG and around the world. This matters to all of us. Inclusion and full participation matters," she said.

Following this, Mrs Sumanop shared on the work of Digicel Foundation and her experiences with working in rural health.

Dr Gabriel also shared his experiences and spoke of women being a priority in PNG as most of them are in rural areas.

A panel discussion then followed were Mrs Sumanop, Dr Gabriel Yohang, Sr Helen Hukula and Fr Giorgio Licini brought about discussions on the importance of women's health and wellbeing in terms of menstrual hygiene and cervical cancer and accessing health and education services. The event had entertainment by Port Moresby Circus with



breakfast prepared and catered by the hospitality students of La Salle Technical College.

According to Rose Polume, Chairperson for LWOH, the LWOH subsidiary is a group of women teachers in PNG that work in partnership with the De La Salle Brothers with the mission to reach out to schools, institutions and especially those in rural areas.

The group is currently running a project on sanitary pads for young girls who are unable to purchase monthly pads and health packages for young boys.

Picture 1: US Ambassador giving her keynote speech
Picture 2: Panel of speakers discussing women's wellbeing
Pictures courtesy: Murray Misha, La Salle Media Animator

- Matthew Timbalu

CTI receives gift from Somare family



Port Moresby: On 7th July 2021, the Catholic Church in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands commemorated the martyrdom of Blessed Peter ToRot.

Catholic Theological Institute in Bomana came alive with the reception of a Blessed Peter ToRot

statue, which was donated as a token of an appreciation from Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare's family for CTI's participation during the State Funeral Mass.

The ceremony was simple but solemn and well-integrated. The statue processed with a white and blue choir and statue bearers who were rhythmically accompanied by the reddish eye-catching Tolai dancers who put up a moving atmosphere of prayerful melodies in the presence of the entire faculty, staff, students, families and friends.

Indeed, we were deeply moved in humble veneration while the Blessed Peter ToRot statue was erected adjacent to the entrance of the Catholic Theological Institute library and hall.

Fr. Gregory Ruamana MSC, the Rector of the MSC College led the prayers and rituals which were well-integrated with the scriptural readings and

intercessory prayers centred around the occasion itself.

Fr. Gregory further stressed that Blessed Peter To Rot's courageous martyrdom reminds us of three key faith-enriching elements: **Faith, Family and Martyrdom**. These three things gave him sufficient strength to stand fearlessly and faithfully even when given the choice of death or denying the faith.

He found much strength in the Eucharist and the Word from the Sacred Scripture.

We are also being encouraged to imitate the exemplary role model of our own Melanesian Saint who has demonstrated the baptismal vow and authentic Christian faith even in the most difficult circumstances.

Through his intercession we can also share the same Eucharistic zeal and inspiration so that we can courageously embrace our priestly and lay vocation until our last breath, Amen.

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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CHURCH ALIVE MAGAZINE



Church Alive Magazine a Catholic Family magazine for Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. Volume 3, Issue 3, July to September.

Price: **K2/**

Copies are available at the **Catholic Bishops Conference and the Catholic Bookshops**

Youth Alive!

Spiritual insights by and for young people

Youth Alive is a one-minute video reflection where young people share their **personal experiences** and refer to the **Sunday Gospel** with an **invitation or call for change**.



AN INITIATIVE BY: **CBC Social Communication and PGS Communications**

