



The Catholic Reporter

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

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- Courtesy Vatican News

Pope at Angelus: the living sign of God the Trinity is love for all

Pope Francis during the Sunday Angelus recalled the feast of the Most Holy Trinity of which he said, "it makes us contemplate this wonderful mystery of love and light from which we come and to which our earthly journey is guided."



Rome: Pope Francis, during the Angelus from St Peter's Square recalled the feast of the Most Holy Trinity on Sunday, describing it as an immense mystery which "exceeds the capacity of our mind, but which speaks to our heart, because we find it enclosed in that expression of Saint John which sums up all of Revelation: "God is love."

He went on to say that, insofar as God is love, and the one and only one, there is also communion between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Bond of unity
Addressing the faithful, the Pope explained that "it is the Father who gives himself by generating the Son, who in turn gives himself to the Father, and their mutual love is the Holy Spirit, the bond of their unity."

"This mystery of the Trinity has been revealed to us by Jesus himself," emphasized Pope Francis. "He showed us the face of God as the merciful Father; He presented Himself, the true man, as the Son of God and the Word of the Father." The Pope continued by saying that

Mystery of love and light

The feast of the Holy Trinity, said Pope Francis, "makes us contemplate this wonderful mystery of love and light from which we come and toward which our earthly journey is guided."

"In the proclamation of the Gospel and in every form of the Christian mission," Pope Francis underlined.

We cannot disregard this unity invoked by Jesus; the beauty of the Gospel demands to be lived and witnessed in harmony among us, who are so different."

He continued by saying that this unity, "is essential to the Christian: it is not an attitude, an expression: no. It is essential, because unity is born of love, of God's mercy, of the justification of Jesus Christ and of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our hearts."

Pope concludes month of Prayer with Rosary

At the end of April, Pope Francis asked all Catholics throughout the world to pray throughout the month of May – traditionally dedicated to devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary – for an end to the Covid-19 pandemic and for a resumption of everyday work and social activities. Each day of the month, a different Marian shrine led the faithful in a Rosary that was broadcast around the world.

On Monday, 31 May, the Holy Father chose the Vatican Gardens for the prayer, where an open-air Shrine was prepared for the image of Our Lady Untier of Knots, to whom the Pope has a special devotion.

For the ceremony, a new copy of the image was brought from Augsburg, Germany, the home of the original painting.

After the Holy Father began the prayer, the various decades of the Rosary were led by young people from Catholic Action, some families composed of newlyweds or expecting parents, and a family of deaf people who recently welcomed a religious vocation.

Each of the decades was introduced with a special intention: that Mary might "untie the knots" of wounded relationships; of unemployment; of violence; of sickness and uncertainty; and of all that stands in the way of regular pastoral ministry.

To represent the worldwide character of Monday's prayer, shrines from around the world were connected live to the Rosary in the Vatican.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Holy Father crowned the image of the Virgin Mary, praying that, like Mary, "we too might consecrate ourselves" to God's service, "and make ourselves available to one another in charity."

- Nigel Akuani

Declaration of PNG as a Christian Country 'UNNECESSARY'

Port Moresby: The Catholic Bishops Conference (CBC) of PNGSI has come out strongly to express its dissatisfaction at the Government's lack of consultation with local Churches in formulating the Inquiry on the Declaration of Papua New Guinea as a Christian Country.

The emphasis was made at a Press Conference on Thursday 20th May, at the CBC headquarters in Gordons, that also had its media release highlighted in bold with the statement "...all considered, we do not deem it necessary to introduce amendments to the current PNG Constitution..."

Speaking at the conference were His Excellency Archbishop Anton Bal, President of CBCPNGSI and Archbishop of Madang; His Eminence Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC, Archbishop of Port Moresby; Bishop of Bereina, His Excellency Otto Separy; and Mr Paul Harricknen, President of Catholic Professional Society (CPS) PNG.

Moderating the session was Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, Social Communications Secretary.

According to the statement contained in the submission, CBC disapproved all four questions contained in the inquiry and deemed it as not necessary especially in amending the current PNG Constitution.

Abp Bal described how the amendment of the Constitution to declare PNG a Christian country only seemed to make a mockery of the nation's existing laws in place, and urged for the government not to use it as a means of promoting political ideologies.

Cardinal Ribat highlighted the important pastoral duties that churches have in upholding Christian values and expressed his disappointment at the government's lack of consideration to at least consult with churches or the different religious bodies.

Bp Separy described the inquiry as a 'misleading statement' that should not be used as a means to push through political agenda.



Mr Paul Harricknen cautioned that any changes to the Constitution, will violate Sections 45 and 46 on 'Freedom of Conscience, Thought and Religion, and Freedom of Expression' which embody Article 18 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Member of CPSPNG, Mr Michael Varpik, questioned how the country failed as a Christian nation that warranted the Inquiry for the Declaration.

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Revival is needed in the Catholic Church

Fr. Victor Roche SVD, Secretary for New Evangelization

A revival or New Evangelization is needed in the Catholic Church in Papua New Guinea and the world. Evangelization is a word that the Catholics normally do not use nor understand. We usually connect 'Evangelism' or 'Evangelization' with the Protestants or the 'Evangelicals'. In simple terms, 'Revival' is necessary in the Catholic Church. We need to renew the interest and efforts in strengthening the faith of the Catholics. There needs to be an awakening of religious fervor among the Catholics. Yes, there are faithful Catholics in Papua New Guinea. But a fire is needed in the faith; they need to be alive in Christ.

In PNG, in 1976 there were 619,814 Catholics in a total population of 2,078,560 with a percentage of 29.8%. There is a census every 10 years and so we will have a census in 2021. Experts give a projected percentage of 25.7% Catholics in PNG in 2021.

There is a 4.1 % decrease in the Catholic Population in PNG. We need a revival, a New Evangelization in the Catholic Church in PNG.

Pope St. John Paul II said to the Bishops of Latin America in Haiti on 9 March 1983, "there needs a **commitment to a New Evangelization, new in ardor, methods and expression**".

Pope Francis says about New Evangelization: "I would like to say very simply: the joy of the Gospel springs from the **encounter with Jesus**..... We need a **free and simple Church**, which does not think of looking good, of convenience but **outward looking**.....the need to proclaim the Gospel arises **spontaneously and becomes irrepressible**.....we must not hold back our **fear of making mistakes** and our fear of **following new paths**."

Many Catholics and leaders live in the false security of being the number one among the churches in Papua New Guinea. In the seminars

conducted in the last 15 months (Feb 2020-May 2021), around 450 Catholic priests, Religious and Lay people were asked the question, "What are the positive aspects and the Challenges of the Catholic Church in PNG? And what are the possible solutions?"

The Top 4 answers are:

1. Catholics do not know their Catholic Faith well: because Catholic faith is not taught systematically in families, schools and parishes. There is a need for faith-formation in the families, schools and parishes.
2. Some Catholics, especially the young people leave the Catholic Church and join other churches. We need to have well organized youth programs with the teaching of the Catholic faith and the Bible.
3. Many Catholics do not have a personal relationship with Jesus. Catholics need to experience Jesus through personal prayer, Family prayer, Community Prayer meetings and Parish retreats.
4. Catholics normally do not share their faith or Evangelize others. Catholics have to be taught how to evangelize others and some Catholics should preach in the streets.

- Fr. Tomás Ravaioli IVE



Earth gRACE 2021

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb
Secretary for Social Communication

Laudato Si', which roughly translates to "Praise Be to You," is the second encyclical of Pope Francis, released in mid-June 2015, and calls for the thoughtful stewardship of the planet in an era of human indifference and environmental recklessness. We have celebrated the 5th Anniversary and celebrations with a variety of activities were held in the different dioceses and parishes to celebrate this event. It is a reminder and a challenge for all people to care and preserve our common home.

Earth gRACE 2021, organized by the Don Bosco Green Alliance gave young people an opportunity to experience grace all throughout the race, learn and do things that will benefit Mother Earth. It had the following goals:

1. To spread awareness to young people of collaborative efforts.
2. Engage and connect with young people across the East Asia Oceania Region during the celebration of Laudato Si week.
3. To mark the identity of young people as eco-warriors and commit to a sustainable future together.



Five aspects were outlined in Earth gRACE 2021. They are: Share, Care, Think,

Create and Commit.

Sharing is an act by which we open ourselves to give what is given to us. We share the graces we have received with others. As brothers and sisters, we share a common home and a common goal.

Caring stressed the fact that the environment takes care of us by being our source of food, shelter, and everything. Through *Nature Snap* participants were invited to capture the incredible wonder around us. Capturing the beauty of nature enables us to reflect on the wonder of the beauty within each of us.

As intellectual beings, we must **think** not only for ourselves, but also for others, and including our environment. The *Crossword Puzzle* and the *Eco Quiz* enabled one think critically and test one's knowledge about nature.

We have the capacity to **create** and we use of our crafting ability to bring about something good. Our talents and skills are gifts bestowed to us and we must use them well.

Finally, a **Commitment** is a challenging thing to do but with the grace of God, we are guided to commit ourselves with love and joy in our hearts. As we live life, we must also commit to love the environment.

I am a Green Warrior and Commitment to Life ensure that we are good stewards of God's creations.



The Creed: Christ will come to judge

Since Christ ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God as Lord of all, to him belongs the office of Judge. For this reason we say: "He shall come to judge the living and the dead."

We shall consider two facts about the judgement:

1) Concerning the form of the judgement there is a threefold question. **Who is the judge?** Christ is the judge: *It is He who is appointed by God to judge of the living and the dead.* (Acts 10:42). Christ of a certain is Judge, not only in that he is God, but also in that he is man: "And he has given him power to do judgement, because he is the Son of man." (Jn 5:27)

Who are to be judged? All are to be judged -those who are, who were, and who will be: *"We must all be manifested before the judgment seat of Christ, that every one may receive the proper things of the body, according as he hath done, whether it be good or evil."* (2 Cor 5:10)

Rabaul establishes Diocesan Media Team

- Sr Maria-Dominica Muten FMI

Vunapope, Kokopo: The Information and Communications Office of the Catholic Archdiocese of Rabaul hosted a three-day media seminar from 10th-12th May, as an induction for its Diocesan Media Personnel and to commemorate World Communication Day.

The media seminar facilitated by Information and Communications Office Team Leader Trevor Pasman covered basics in News Article writing, photography and techniques of audio recording for 10 participants from the Kokopo and Rabaul Deaneries of the Archdiocese of Rabaul.

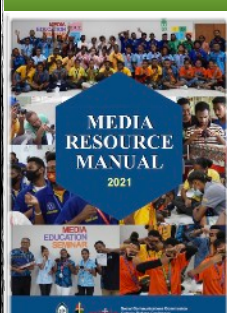
The seminar had as its theme "Hope in the midst of COVID-19," and provided an opportunity for the Information and Communications Office to establish its Media Team to help cover newsworthy church events and stories that are happening in the parishes that would otherwise go unnoticed.

"We thank you all for participating in this seminar and we hope that this seminar has equipped you with what you need to go back to your parishes or institutions and report newsworthy Church events to the Information and Communications Office to feed our Radio Station, Newsletter and Social Media platforms. As the Diocesan Media Team, let this be our way of evangelization," said Mr Pasman in a



closing address to the participants. The Media Seminar was held partly to commemorate World Communication Day 2021 which was celebrated on Sunday May 16th, 2021 – Ascension Sunday

Media Resource Manual



The Media Resource Manual is available at CBC SOCOM. It can be used as a guide for you to contribute news and other productions from your dioceses and institutions.

Price:

Single - **K5.00**

50 copies - **K225.00**

100 copies - **K450.00**

To purchase, contact SOCOM on:

Email: socom@catholic.org.pg

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CHAT ROOM 2021

Are you a young person with a passion to express your opinion on a social issue affecting young people today?

Be a part of the **Chat Room** program! Every **Wednesday** at **2:30pm** on **NBC's Tribe FM**, young people have the opportunity to share their thoughts and reflections on issues in PNG with a call to action.

Preparation: Choose a topic that is relevant to your students and youths. The outline needs to be ready a week to 10 days in advance.

For more information, contact the SOCOM Team today



Christian Country, Yes! Christian State, No!

Fr. Giorgio Licini, PME, CBC General Secretary

A consultation is being promoted by the government through the Papua New Guinea Constitutional & Law Reform Commission (CLRC) to possibly amend the 1975 Constitution and officially declare and make PNG a

Christian State. The police and the courts would be tasked with running after those who practice and say things deemed to be "unchristian".

The issue is very complex. It is not only a matter of giving honour to God and acknowledging the unifying factor of Christianity for Papua New Guinea since the arrival of the colonizers and the missionaries. That is already in the Constitution. The State Religion, and possibly the State Church would mean a huge constitutional shift. PNG would not only be a Christian Country, as it is now, but a Confessional State, with the clergy or the leadership of some of the current or future Christian

denominations dictating at least part of the legislative agenda.

The promoters of the confessional State seem to have two major worries at heart: the coming into PNG of same-sex marriages by law and the Islamization of the country. It is not totally clear if these are the real concerns or just being used to hide a broader and more ambitious agenda, perhaps the plan to be selected in the future as the State Church with attached benefits and privileges.

Now, honestly speaking, same-sex marriages seem to be the most unlikely thing to be legalized in PNG. And that Islam or other religions take over the country is in nobody's wildest fear. The purpose of the initiative, therefore, is only that of bending the constitution to the interests and the likes of a few, without the huge and widespread national consultation that such a monumental shift would require. At first glance the change could appear commendable. To declare we are Christians and to so be is not bad at all. But when applied to the

State, the consequences are deep and far-reaching. Entire sections of the *Mama Lo*, if the initiative is serious, would have to be re-written. But the Constitution is never to be changed, unless a vast and documented consensus on the specific and well-crafted proposed amendments is reached in the country. It is the ordinary legislation that caters for the needs and regulates the conflicts arising in society.

Embarking on such a delicate exercise one year before the national elections is both dangerous and suspicious. Of course, the process is still in the consultative stage. The Constitutional & Law Reform Commission is expected to only submit recommendations to the government and the Parliament by the 11th of February 2022. But what most matters is a widespread information for all citizens of Papua New Guinea to understand what is at stake and the far-reaching consequences of transforming a Christian country into a Christian State.

Beacons of Hope, Peace & Love

- Isabella Saleu



With the recent spark in violence right across the country, one would reflect and come to ponder, "How can we encourage our young people to be bearers of hope, peace and love in our society, instead of them becoming a part of what is happening?"

During World Youth Day, 2020 in Panama, in the second section of his message to thousands of young people, "to have compassion", Pope Francis counsels young people not to be robbed off this sensitivity. "If you can learn to weep with those who are weeping, you will find true happiness. So many of your contemporaries are disadvantaged and victims of violence and persecution. Let their wounds become your own, and you will be bearers of hope in this world", Pope Francis tells them.

Society truly lacks humanity today, which happens to be the sad truth. As young people, we should strive to be emblems of a society where respect for human lives and dignity of a human person prevails above all. Violence may be a channel of negativity but it should serve as an opportunity to be beacons of HOPE; where we keep dreaming and continue to work towards a much safer and happier society, infecting others also, with our *dream of hope*.

Be Beacons of PEACE; where we put our effort into aiming to solve our conflicts in an orderly manner taking into consideration the feelings of those around us promoting communion with each other. Be Beacons of LOVE; where we demonstrate kindness with pure intentions for one another understanding that each person has his defects, as we help each other find purpose and meaning in life so we can all be able to share our gifts and talents and contribute to the positive growth of our societies.

Philippians 2:4 reads, "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." Tomorrow doesn't belong to our grandparents or our parents, it belongs to us. Let's be leaders for our people, leaders who are sensitive to their people. What we do today in our societies will determine how we will live tomorrow. Every young person, including you, has a hidden potential of overflowing goodness, to make tomorrow a future filled with HOPE, PEACE and LOVE.

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



SI sisters join St Vincent Charity Sisters Congregation

- Tina Akwai



Buma, Malaita: Two Solomon Islands novices from the Diocese of Auki made history as they professed to join the Croatian Sisters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul congregation.

It was held on May 9, 2021 at the Holy Spirit Catholic Parish in Buma, West Kwaito, Malaita Province. The two novices professed their vows during a Eucharistic Celebration that had his

Grace Archbishop Christopher M Cardone OP as the main celebrant and his Lordship Bishop Peter Houhou of Auki Diocese with the diocesan and religious priests as the concelebrants. The Eucharistic Celebration was very well animated by the Fote, Dala Parish, Kwa'a community and Buma Parish.

The sisters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul rejoiced as they received the two newly professed sisters.

Mother General of Croatia and Solomon Islands Sr Martha accepted the two sisters into the congregation on behalf of the sisters

During his inspiring homily, the Archbishop stated that it was not just a great blessing for Sister Silvester Aefa and Sister Jeaner Nauta but it was also a great blessing for the Universal Church as well.

DWU Wewak launches Faculty of Business & Informatics

- DWU Correspondent

Wewak: The Faculty of Business and Informatics was officially launched in the St Benedict's campus of Divine Word University on Thursday May 20, 2021.

Vice President of the campus, Dr Fr. Lawrence Arockiaraj during his speech stated that the launching of the faculty was one that encourages the students to not be information givers but to be a transformation maker of the education of PNG.

In his keynote address Governor of East Sepik Province Allan Bird supported the Vice President's remarks by stating that the St Benedict's campus in a span of 3 years has accomplished tremendously towards its efforts in establishing a campus that supports the education of the young people of our nation.



The inclusion of the new faculty would not only present a wider lane in the students' approach to making choices but would also cease the burden of those who would have to travel to the campuses in Madang and Port Moresby to study related courses.

CCHS launches Official Website

- Isabella Saleu & Jessica Oata



Port Moresby: Catholic Church Health Services (CCHS) staff and invited guests commemorated the International Nurses Day and officially launched their website on Wednesday 12th May, at the CCHS National Office in Boroko.

The largest faith-based health provider launched the website, on the day to dedicate the achievement of the organization and most significant assets of the organization, its nurses.

Attending the event was the keynote speaker, Dr Lucy John, Executive Manager Public Health representing National Department of Health Secretary, Chairman and Bishop Deputy for Health Most Reverend Bishop Francis Meli, General Secretary for Catholic Bishops Conference, Australian High Commissioners Representative, Departmental Representatives and Key Stakeholders.

The International Nurses Day theme "A voice to lead, a vision for health" was embraced as it reflected what the website represented to CCHS staff across the country.

National CCHS Secretary, Sr Jadwiga Faliszek said "Today CCHS shares its joy in celebrating another achievement, the official launch of our website to connect us digitally with the rest of the world."

Most Reverend Bishop Francis Meli had the privilege to officially launch the website and described it as a historical event for the Health Commission.

Caritas PNG conference ends on high note

on Disaster Management was identified by the officers in the last annual conference.

In the course of the two-week event, the first week was spent on training on Disaster Management which involved facilitators from the University of Papua New Guinea and the National Disaster Centre while the second week was the annual Caritas Conference.

"This year's annual conference was special because three manuals were put forth by the respective working groups for review and there was a lot of positive feedback," said Caritas Australia representative Ms Charlotte Vada.

The three manuals were the Disaster Management Manual, the Integral Human Development (IHD) Manual and the Diocesan Caritas Officers Induction Manual.

The Disaster Management Manual provides simple, practical guidance on how to use the CPNG emergency response tools that is needs assessment, situation reports, proposal templates, reporting, evaluation and audit.

The Integral Human Development (IHD) Manual is Caritas PNG's flagship program and the first National Goal and Directive Principle of the Preamble of the Constitution of Papua New Guinea. This manual is the first of its kind, written by Caritas officers as a guide and a resource material for a Community Development worker with basic minimum education of grade 10 or 12. It aims to empower grassroots human development and development workers, and social justice workers in the village settings of PNG.

Diocesan Caritas Officers Induction Manual - this manual aims to provide a guide for new officers recruited, introduce working structures that exist both locally and internationally and enhance the awareness of the officers' background knowledge on the vision and mission of CPNG.

Ms Tito said that she is blessed with a wonderful team that is committed and dedicated to the work of Caritas in the dioceses, despite the challenges.

Participants of the two-week event shared similar sentiments of feeling empowered with new skills and knowledge to help them in their line of work.

- Jelliah Kum, CCHS Communications & Advocacy Officer



Bp Joe Rozynski with Caritas PNG officers from the different dioceses

Port Moresby: A two-week event for Diocesan Caritas Officers from various provinces within the country conducted by Caritas PNG in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's church partnership program ended on a high note on Friday May 28.

The workshop was held at the Catholic Bishops Conference from May 17th to May 28th and was attended by participants from sixteen dioceses except Bereina, Lae and Rabaul.

According to the Director for Caritas PNG, Mavis Tito, the need to train the Diocesan Caritas Officers

The Holy Father donates PPE to Catholic Church Health Service

Port Moresby: His Holiness, Pope Francis has made another donation of Personal Protective Equipment and other essential equipment to the Catholic Church Health Services of Papua New Guinea.

The presentation of the gifts took place on Friday, 21st May at the National office of CCHS in Port Moresby by Father Jacek Pawel Pinocy, Secretary of the Apostolic Nuncio of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, in Port Moresby.

Through his communications with the Holy See in Rome, this donation of PPE, battery operated forehead thermometer and finger pulse oximeters were made possible.

"The Holy Father is thinking of everyone all over the world, though Rome is far, they immediately put together these gifts and sent them," Fr Jacek said.

Present at the mini ceremony was Bishop Deputy of Catholic Health Commission – Bishop Francis Meli, CCHS National Secretary Sr Jadwiga Faliszek and staff of NCCHS.

This donation will be distributed to the 19 Dioceses in the country, where they will be further

distributed to the CCHS health facilities in need of these equipment.

Bishop Francis thanked Fr Jacek on behalf of the Board of NCCHS and to conveying their deepest gratitude to His Holy Father, Pope Francis for his worthy cause and concern for the people of Papua New Guinea in delivering these gifts."

"He is a great shepherd in terms of Catholic Church but also we see how important he saw the need to assist developing nations during this global pandemic," Bishop Francis said.

Sr Jadwiga also acknowledged the Holy Father's kind gesture saying, the PPE and battery-operated equipment will be of great help to the CCHS staff, especially those serving in the rural and remote areas of the country.

Most of the CCHS facilities do not have power supply due to their geographical location. The battery-operated equipment is currently on high demand at all the rural facilities.

The CCHS National Secretary is grateful that the Church is showing unity with CCHS PNG in this global pandemic. Though PNG is all the way across



Picture (L-R): Fr Jacek Pawel Pinocy, Secretary of Apostolic Nuncio of PNG-SI, Sr Jadwiga Faliszek, CCHS Secretary, CCHS staff and Bp Francis Meli with PPE's and equipment

the world, we see and appreciate that the Pope did not forget about us. The first donation of PPE's from the Pope was received last year in November, in which the items were distributed to all the Dioceses.

- Isabella Saleu

Catholic Education conducts Monitoring Program in Highlands



Highlands Region: A monitoring program carried out by the National Catholic Education Commission was conducted from 17th – 21st May 2021, at the Dioceses of Goroka, Kundiawa, Jiwaka, Ht. Hagen, Wabag and Mendi.

Facilitating the program were Mr. Michael Ova Secretary for Catholic Education and Chairman of

National Churches Education Council, and Assistant Secretary, Ms. Fiona Wenama.

The monitoring program came a week after the Catholic Education Secretaries and Christian Religious Education Coordinators Annual Conference in Port Moresby and served as an assessment into the implementation of what was received during the Conference. The Highlands region was the first to have its Monitoring visits conducted.

The main focus of the trip was to follow up on the Education Secretaries and Coordinators and observe the strategies they had in place on how best the Catholic Identity was promoted in schools in the region and how each school was implementing the Religious Education Lessons at their respective level.

Mr. Ova said the trip gave them the opportunity to experience first-hand what the situation was really like on the ground where Catholic schools were concerned.

"We spoke to the CES and CEC of the different dioceses, and even came into contact with a few headmasters, teachers and students so we were able to collect information from different angles to see how much effort we were putting into promoting our Catholic Identity in our agency schools as well as the implementation of Religious Education lessons for students," he said.

He mentioned that it was quite an experience to really go out and encounter different playmakers of the Catholic Education system, especially meeting and speaking with students and teachers who were the receivers of the decisions being made at the top.

Mr Ova also had the privilege of visiting staff and students of Kumin Primary School in Mendi, the biggest Catholic Agency School and spoke at their Assembly, attended a school Mass at Sari Primary School in Wabag followed by a visit to Pompabus Primary School in Wapenamanda on the way to the Archdiocese of Mt Hagen.

Some of the important aspects that were highlighted and raised questions during the follow up was the frequency of parish priests visiting the schools in their parish or diocese; how often Masses were celebrated and if Feast Days of the schools were observed as organized activity for all teachers especially those teachers under Church Code 1, 2 and 3.

"We are also keen to know if the schools conduct spiritual retreats for their students according to their grades so as to promote the Catholic Identity as well as provide formation for the youngsters," he added.

He stated that even though judging by the information collected that more work needed to be done.

"The Education Commission has developed a revised school census form to distribute to all our schools. The data collected will be critical information that they could use to update their database."

Mr. Ova went on to say that regardless, those who were interviewed were very pleased with their presence as they shared that it was first of its kind for someone from CBC and especially from Education Commission to come down to their level and ask them what was truly the issues of the agency schools.

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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