



# 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: Be vigilant and pray always

At the Angelus on the First Sunday of Advent, Pope Francis calls on us to "be vigilant" and to persevere in prayer, which "reawakens the soul from sleep" and helps us focus on what is most important in life.

and pray". This vigilance is a key aspect of Christian life, he noted, and it requires that we remain alert and avoid distraction from what is really important in life. Vigilance means keeping our hearts on

will help us avoid falling into apathy, something he described as a negative spirit that "traps the soul" and takes away its joy. As the Book of Proverbs says, "With all vigilance guard your heart, for in it are the sources of life".

### Come, Lord Jesus

"The secret to being vigilant is prayer," the Pope stressed, saying that prayer always keeps the lamp of our heart lit, bringing us back to God, reawakening the soul from slumber and focusing it "on what matters, on the purpose of existence". We must never neglect prayer, he underscored, and to avoid that we can consider prayer of the heart, repeating brief invocations. The Pope suggested that during Advent we make a habit of saying "Come, Lord Jesus" through the day. He invited everyone in St. Peter's Square to repeat this invocation three times.

In conclusion, he prayed that the Blessed Mother, who "awaited the Lord with a vigilant heart", may accompany us in a special way throughout Advent.

guard from becoming lazy or "sleepy Christians" lacking spiritual dynamism and intensity in prayer. We can fall into apathy, he warned, and become indifferent to all except what is comfortable for us.

### "With all vigilance guard your heart"

Vigilance means not letting our daily life become just a routine, or becoming preoccupied only with worldly concerns, the Pope went on to say, encouraging us to reflect on what weighs on our own spirit causing us to fall into the "lazy chair", mediocrity and succumb to vices. He also suggested we look at the burdens that weigh on the shoulders of those around us and ask ourselves if we are aware of them and doing something about it. This all



**Rome:** The Gospel reading of the First Sunday of Advent, which spoke to us about the Lord's coming at the end of time. Pope Francis invited us to be hopeful as the Lord comes to save us and "we await Him with joy", even in the midst of life's trials and tribulations. The Lord invites us to "stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand".

### Be vigilant at all times and pray

At the same time, the Pope recognized the challenge of remaining focused on our redemption when day-to-day challenges and suffering can overwhelm us. He recalled the words of Jesus that we must not fall asleep and "be vigilant at all times

## Pope donates medical equipment to Catholic Church Health Services

- Jelilah Kum, CCHS Communication and Advocacy officer

**Port Moresby:** The Apostolic Nuncio to PNG, His Excellency Fermín Emilio Sosa Rodríguez, on behalf of His Holiness Pope Francis presented a third-round of COVID-19 Medical Equipment to the Catholic Church Health Services on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> November in Port Moresby.

Packages containing respirators, masks, battery operated oximeters, and other important items were handed over by the Nuncio during a brief blessing ceremony at the CCHS national office in Boroko. Apart from the donation in kind, the Nuncio gave a check worth K10,000.

"I have the honour and pleasure as the representative of His Holiness Pope Francis, on his behalf, to convey to the people of Papua New Guinea a gift consisting of medical equipment which the Holy Father wishes to assist in the face of the pandemic," the Nuncio said.

"This gesture highlights the continuous solicitude of Pope Francis for PNG and expresses his concern for the people and for the Church in Oceania".

The Archbishop was appointed as the Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. This was His Excellency's first official public engagement after he had presented his Credential Letter to Governor General Sir Bob Dadae. As ambassador of the Holy Father he will be reporting

directly to the Holy See on diplomatic and church matters of the country.

Extending the Holy Father's invite in staying united, and helping each other, he quoted the address of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Members of the Diplomatic Corps Accredited to the Holy See, on 8 February 2021. "2021 is a time that must not be wasted. And it will not be wasted if we can work together with generosity and commitment. In this regard, I am convinced that fraternity is the true cure for the pandemic and the many evils that have affected us. Along with vaccines, fraternity and hope are, as it were, the medicine we need in today's world."

The Nuncio expressed his gratitude to the staff of CCHS for their hard work in which has been and will be the source of hope for many people.

"I encourage you to continue your generous service in the spirit of fraternity as the Holy Father is inviting us. I am sure that this donation will be of help in treating patients infected with the coronavirus and will make it a little bit easier to be a brother or a sister to those afflicted."

National Catholic Health Secretary Sr Jadwiga Faliszek accepted the donations saying, "We are blessed and humbled to receive continuous support from the Holy Father. I assure you that everything



we get we treasure and look after well, remembering that through this support and care the people will receive healing."

St Mary's Hospital in East New Britain and Raihu Hospital in West Sepik will be receiving this round of donations as it contains respiratory machines that rural doctors working there will need.

Sr Jadwiga stressed that it is important for the staff to not charge patients as these are donations from the Pope which is a blessing and must be given or used freely to help those who cannot afford.

The first donation was made last year and the second mid this year. Both were successfully distributed to the dioceses.

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## Nuncio on the pandemic

"If we do not play our part the pandemic will never finish. That is why we have to put all efforts in order to find solutions to mitigate its effects," said the Nuncio.

"We have to put in our efforts, our charism and our hearts in everything that we're doing in finding that unity to fight against the disease", he added.

"There have been a lot of speculations about the vaccination, but the statistics show us that those who are vaccinated have less chance to finish intubated or in the morgue".

He invited those who are not vaccinated to think better their decision and appeal to their conscience in finding out a real reason why they chose not to be vaccinated.

"This is a very difficult time not only for Papua New Guinea but for the whole world. This is a real

disease but taking the vaccine and following all the protocols is the way to take care", says the Reverend.

According to the Nuncio, it is true that the government has its responsibility in taking care of the health of the population, but it is also true that each citizen has to assume his or her own responsibility as well to take care of themselves, their family, friends, and other people. A radical decision taken by some governments may come from the frustration provoked by the lack of response of the people.

He acknowledged the health care workers for their efforts. Without them, it would have been worse. The front liners are the ones to help those who are sick.



**Port Moresby:** Following the donation of medical equipment to Catholic Church Health Services, His Excellency Most Reverend Fermín Emilio Sosa Rodríguez, encouraged health care workers and Catholic faithful to play their part and be responsible to break transmission and end the pandemic.



## The LIGHT is coming

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb,  
Secretary for Social Communication

Every Advent we are called to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Saviour, Christ the Lord. John the Baptist invites us to 'Prepare a way for the Lord' (Mk 1:3). Christ will be born on Christmas day. We have four weeks to prepare for Christmas. Each week we dwell on a different virtue: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. During these weeks we prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas.

What often makes this season difficult? The difficult challenge is the ever-expanding season of sales – the pressure to make the Christmas season more about consumer goods, food, clothes and celebrations. It is more about the gifts we give and receive rather than the gift of the Good News on which we need to ponder and practice in our lives. The gift of Christ this Christmas is the gift of Hope, Joy, Peace and Love. It is the gift of Light that dispels the darkness of violence, suffering, pain, and stress. It is the Light of Christ that comes to brighten our darkened world.

The question we need to ask today is: Will this Christmas be different? The COVID-19 pandemic has ravaged our world for the past two years. Papua New Guinea is in the midst of pain and suffering, trying to understand how we are to respond to the situation. We are confused about basic protocols, lockdowns and vaccines. For some of us we will be forced to be away from family and friends. We recognize that family connections are most valuable. We long for the human connection.

God recognized the importance of human connection and he entered our world as one of us. This Advent, may the Lord help us recognize the profound spiritual connection and fraternal bond we share with our brothers and sisters around the world – particularly the poor, the elderly and the sick. We pray that, despite the uncertainty we are experiencing, we will keep our hearts focused on the certainty of God's love for us, and offer that incredible gift of LIGHT to all we encounter. Happy Christmas & a COVID FREE 2022!



## Revival is needed in the Catholic Church - Part 6

Fr. Victor Roche SVD, Secretary for New Evangelization

*This issue is a continuation from the previous one. I invite you to reflect on efforts for the next 5 years on the Children and Students.*

### 4. Let us focus our efforts in the next 5 years on the Children and Students:

Let us put our time, money and efforts in our families, communities and schools to teach the Catholic faith to our children and students.

4.1 Sunday school for Children: Let us have well-trained teachers and volunteers to give Sunday school for our children with systematically organized Sunday-school program.

4.2 Altar boys and girls: Every parish or Small Catholic Community can have a group of Altar boys and girls with proper training and uniforms. Vocations to priesthood and religious life grow from this group.

4.3 Holy Missionary Childhood: Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) encourage each parish to have Holy Missionary Childhood groups.

4.4 Saturday Morning for Children: We can have Saturday morning (9 am till 12 noon) for the teaching of the Catholic Faith to the Children. This can be divided into four parts: 1. Clean-up around the parish 2. Teaching of the Catholic Faith 3. Fostering Music, Sports and Talents (MST) 4. Sharing of refreshments (each one brings simple snacks and shares with others; or a family sponsors a Saturday; or the parish sponsors.

4.5 Students to learn the Catholic Faith: Catholic Religious Education (CRE) for the Catholic Students must be given priority in the Catholic and Non-Catholic Schools.

4.6 Diocesan and National CRE coordinators are to supervise CRE faithfully.

4.7 Teachers of CRE, Headmasters/Headmistresses, Principals can have in-service in the beginning of each academic year. The Teachers can have an annual retreat.

4.8 Catholic Students Union (CSA): Every Tertiary institution should have CSA with a dedicated Catholic Teacher and CSA student leaders.

4.9 Activities for the Students: Each Catholic institution can have some of the following activities during the year.

4.9.1 Retreats for students and teachers.

4.9.2 Bible Camps: bible lessons, Bible dramas, Bible Songs with other activities.

4.9.3 Music, Dance and Talent (MST) competitions

4.9.4 Out-reach to other schools

4.9.5 Month of January is a free month for Children and Students. They are hungry for activities during their annual holiday time. Parish priests, Religious and Lay leaders can have planned activities for them.

**We can and we will change the trends.**

- Fr. Tomás Ravaioli IVE



## The four Marian Dogmas

What is a dogma? A dogma of the Catholic Church is defined as a truth revealed by God, which the Magisterium of the Church declared as binding. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "The Church's Magisterium asserts that it

exercises the authority it holds from Christ to the fullest extent when it defines dogmas, that is, when it proposes, in a form obliging Catholics to an irrevocable adherence of faith, truths contained in divine Revelation or also when it proposes, in a definitive way, truths having a necessary connection with these." (CCC, 88)

**Did you know that in almost 2,000 years of history, the Catholic Church had declared only four dogmas of Our Lady?** Yes, no more than four in almost 2,000 years. But do we know them? They are:

1) **Divine Motherhood.** Proclaimed in the Council of Efesus in 431, it states that Mary is the Mother of God.

2) **Perpetual Virginity.** Proclaimed in the Council of Lateran in 649, it states that Mary

was a virgin before, during and after Christ's birth.

3) **Immaculate Conception.** Proclaimed by Pope Pius IX in 1854 in his Apostolic Constitution "Ineffabilis Deus," it states that Mary, "from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege from Almighty God and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, was kept free of every stain of original sin."

4) **Assumption into heaven.** Proclaimed by Pope Pius XII in 1950 in his Encyclical "Munificentissimus Deus," it states that "Mary, Immaculate Mother of God ever Virgin, after finishing the course of her life on earth, was taken up in body and soul to heavenly glory."

All these four dogmas are "contained in divine Revelation," as the Catechism teaches. The problem is that many times we, Catholics, don't know where. We also know that, in order to know better our faith, we should make use of three sources: Sacred Scripture, Tradition and Magisterium. For this reason, during 2022 we will explain each one of these dogmas, and we will see what the Bible, the Tradition and the Magisterium teach us about them.

## Christmas Greetings!

Wishing you and your families a

**Joyful Christmas.**

May the Light of Christ Child shine on you and your families

Have a **Prosperous New Year 2022**



Season of Advent

A Season of

## HOPE, PEACE, JOY & LOVE

First Sunday of Advent - November 28th

Second Sunday of Advent - December 5th

Third Sunday of Advent - December 12th

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 19th



## Christmas of tears and hope

Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME, CBC General Secretary



The last week of November the capital of city of Solomon Islands, Honiara, descended into chaos as a peaceful protest against the government turned violent and people resorted to arson and looting. It was a stark reminder of how easily the peace-loving people of the Pacific can suddenly be overwhelmed by political passion, recrimination, and revenge.

In their Pastoral Letter for the year 2022 the Bishops of our two countries wrote: "Since its beginnings in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands the Catholic Church has contributed to the betterment of society by shedding the light of the Good News of Jesus Christ on destructive cultural practices (sorcery, polygamy, warfare, and the suppression of women), by promoting positive cultural practices, and by providing social, educational and health services to all without discrimination.

"The Catholic Church has also taken a clear and public stand on more modern destructive trends, all belonging to what Pope Saint John Paul II once termed the "culture of death": corruption, bribery, the

death penalty, abortion, and Sorcery Accusation Related Violence (SARV).

"In recent times we have attempted to provide the best possible advice on what the Gospel has to say about the refugee crisis, the current pandemic, SARV, the move to changing the Constitution to declare PNG a confessional state, and how the Christian should respond to these challenges using these principles."

The Pastoral Letter bears the title, *Salt and Light: The Catholic Church and Society*. It follows three years of reflection and promotion of the vocation of the Laity to encourage now all the people to bring about real change in daily lives and daily practices. While it is true that violence is always a source of suffering rather than relief, political leaders should never exasperate people by pursuing vested interests and never listen to what people have to say. The common good is the good of all, including the minorities and the disadvantaged groups and individuals.

As Christmas approaches, some acutely suffering human beings are in our thoughts and in our prayers, particularly those who have lost everything in the Honiara fires, the women and children tortured in the PNG Highlands and

elsewhere due to senseless sorcery accusations, the victims of COVID-19 and their families, the young people left to fend for themselves.

A sad celebration of Christmas also again awaits about one hundred asylum seekers and refugees in Port Moresby. They are the remnants of the more than one thousand men housed first in Manus Island since 2013 by the Australian government. By 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 they will be under the full responsibility of the cashless PNG government until a solution is found at least for some of them. Expect the others to be in the streets of Port Moresby rather soon, including the fifteen or so in a special list by humanitarian organizations as being too mentally ill now to ever be able to fend for themselves.

With all these pockets of suffering in our midst and the unabating pandemic, a Christmas of joy and happiness is hard to wish. Still, we do so on behalf of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands since the weak child in the manger turned out to be the most powerful source of hope, encouragement, and strength. He is our saviour and redeemer.

As far as we decide to listen, to stop damaging people and convert. Merry Christmas to all! And a Happier New Year 2022!



## LAUDATO SI' Action Platform

The Laudato Si' Action Platform is a unique collaboration between the Vatican, an international coalition of Catholic organizations, and "all men and women of good will." (LS 3) Taking a truly ground-up approach, it is rooted in the strengths and realities of communities around the world, empowering all to take "decisive action, here and now" as we journey towards a better future together. (LS 161)

Action is urgently needed. Our Creator called the human family to be the steward of creation. We cannot neglect the call. Remember that the vulnerable suffer the most.

The Laudato Si Action Platform has: Plans, Practical Guides and resources to develop your community.

**Laudato Si Plans:** The effects of encounter with Jesus become evident in our relationship with the world around us. It supports the community's journey to integral ecology.

The platform offers: Planning guides together with a process-oriented approach for the institution, community or a family.

**Practical Guidance:** The Creator of all calls us to practice a new way of living, one that is 'good, true and beautiful' (LS 205). We commit to act together because it is 'urgent and necessary' (LS 57).

The platform offers: A library of resources, together with webinars on actions and events.

**Community:** As a community we are supported by the ideas of our sisters and brothers in Christ. Our relationships are guided by the Holy Spirit (LS 58)

The platform offers: Resources to strengthen your community and ways to connect directly with other participants, together with inspiring stories of people taking action.

At this kairós moment, we are responding to the call for healing in our relationships with God, our neighbors, and the Earth itself. Through the Laudato Si' Action Platform, we are walking the "path to renewal" together (LS 202).

Courtesy: <https://laudatosi-actionplatform.org/about/>

## World Youth Day celebrations in PNG



The 36<sup>th</sup> World Youth Day for 2021 had as its theme 'Stand up. I appoint you as a witness of what you have seen.' (cf. Acts 26:16).

The WYD was held on 21<sup>st</sup> November together with the Solemnity of Christ the King which saw dioceses in PNG marking the events with special celebrations.

In the Archdiocese of Rabaul, a three-day celebration was held from the 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> November that marked both celebrations.

The celebrations focused on a recollection of Pope Francis 36<sup>th</sup> WYD Message, the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; Penitential Rites; Confession and the Eucharistic Celebration. The Catholic Youth Office

in consultation with the AOR Authorities, Deanery Youth Leaders, Parish Priests, Parents and stakeholders were the organizers of the program.

In the Archdiocese of Port Moresby, the celebration was held on 21<sup>st</sup> November with the theme: 'Youth Arise! Bear witness to Jesus with your lives.' According to Sr Rebecca Fernandez, there was limited number due to restrictions from the COVID-19 controller however, the celebration was a success for the young.

## Dioceses of Mendi marks Solemnity of Christ the King

- Moses Ben

**Mendi:** 200 Catholics from the Eastern Deanery in the Diocese of Mendi celebrated the Solemnity of the Christ the King at the summit of Mount Keresi.

It was a two-day celebration held from 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> November and had the participation of mothers, youths, parents, students and the religious sisters from eight 8 parishes in the Eastern Deanery.

During the Eucharistic celebration, Fr Robert Ablewicz MSF, spoke about Jesus Christ being King of us and universe.

"Christ himself is the King and he lowered himself to love us. His love alone overcomes and continues to overcome our worst enemies such as sin, death, fear and his rule of love transforms sin



into grace and the death into resurrection," he stated.

It was a colourful celebration with harmonious liturgy led by Youths from Christ the King parish, Kuare.



**Port Moresby:** The month of November saw the Daughters of Mary Immaculate (DMI) focus on a series of programs for women and children in the settlements of Port Moresby.

According to the November report by the congregation, there were programs such as SME,

## Programs for women and children

catering, simple chemical and sewing trainings that had the participation of women from the Joyce Bay, Kaugere, Sabama and Pari areas.

Universal Children's Day which fell on the 20<sup>th</sup> November was celebrated by a total of 50 children who were excited to have received gifts from the sisters.

"With this ongoing pandemic and it has come to the end of the year, we still achieved some of our activities and are more than happy that despite these challenges we have come this far," stated Sr Catherine.

She thanked the mothers in the settlements, children and the community as a whole for their participation.

- Jessica Oata

## Advent recollection for women religious



**Gordons, Port Moresby:** The Conference of Women Religious had a day of advent recollection at the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

The day of recollection focused on reconciliation and preparation during the season of advent,

evaluating the Conference Pastoral Plan of PNGSI, identifying the cultural barriers to evangelization and discussing a way forward.

The program began with a communal reconciliation and confession followed by a group discussion, evaluation and presentations of the Conference Pastoral Plan.

The presentations highlighted some issues that hinder ministries in their evangelization programs.

Sr. Thecla Kakata MSC on behalf of her group during the presentations stressed on the issue of cultural barriers and the effect it has on the people.

“Despite PNG being a Christian nation, cultural barriers distract people from fully living out their Catholic faith as we are still deeply rooted in our culture and unfortunately, our people still hold onto

some cultural practices that go against Christian Moral Principles,” she said.

Secretary of the Conference of Women Religious in Port Moresby Sr. Mary McCarthy pbvm thanked the participants on behalf of their congregations for the work that they have done by working together and helping people in the marginalized communities.

“A lot has been done by CWR and I thank everyone for their contribution in helping those living in our marginalized communities but a lot more still needs to be done so we still need to work together,” she said.

A final presentation giving an insight of the services provided by Callan Services and the recent renovations done to the facilities ended the presentations.

The program concluded with the planning of the next executive that will take over CWR responsibilities and duties from the current executive next year.

## Moved by Hope

- Isabella Saleu

The Don Bosco Global Youth Film Festival is a Salesian festival for young people to share short films at a global level. This year 2021, a total of 1686 short films were sent into the festival. 110 short films were shortlisted for screening online from November 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>. In PNG, a two-hour film festival was held and saw the screening of 15 short films that had moments of reflection and discussion by the Don Bosco community and friends.

**Port Moresby:** Fifteen films from the shortlisted 110 short films of the Don Bosco Global Youth Film Festival were screened at the Paradise Cinema, Vision City that focused on the theme ‘Moved by Hope’.

It was held on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and had as special guests, the Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea, His Excellency Fermin Emilio Sosa Rodriguez, his Secretary, Fr. Jacek Pinocy and Provincial Superior, Fr. Gregorio Bicomong Jnr sdb.

The two-hour program was a time of reflection and discussion that gave the opportunity to those present to truly understand the situations faced by young people in different societies of the world and relate it to a more local context.

The audience were reminded of how fortunate they were to be part of the screening and were challenged to take up the invitation of being beacons of hope to those around them, especially to those affected by the situation of the pandemic.

They were also encouraged to be persons who promote positive growth in their homes and communities.

“The theme is Moved by Hope but who gives us hope? It is God. Hope is one of the theological gifts in our hearts that we cannot keep; we have to share it. Giving hope is part of human nature. Hope is the most important thing that God is always asking of us. We are part of a community, we are part of the Church and we will build them with this hope,” the Apostolic Nuncio encouraged.

He added that he was very happy to be part of the audience and discover the imagination and creativity of those that created the films as they were touching and relatable to our lives. He also said apart from living in the pandemic for almost two years, as young people we also have problems at home and with studies and, but we must know that we have solutions of hope in our hearts.

Quoting Pope Francis, “A smile is a very contagious virus”, Fr. Gregorio said he believed a smile was the best instrument of hope that could also be used to evangelize people.

Many of the participants present expressed gratitude for the program and shared what they had learnt.



A participant from Catholic Church Health Services, Severina Nangile, said: “What I liked was seeing young people come together to share their thoughts after the films that showed real life situations.”

Picture 1: Apostolic Nuncio and guests cutting the cake  
Picture 2: A DBTI student shares her reflection on a film

- Jessica Oata

## Special visit to Links of Hope Orphanage



Caritas and Youth Commission team with the Links of Hope Orphanage staff and children with food items.

**Gerehu, Port Moresby:** Caritas PNG and the Youth Commission of Catholic Bishops Conference paid a

special visit and donated food items to the Links of Hope Respite Centre on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

The visit was an initiative of Caritas PNG and the Youth Commission to commemorate the World Day of the Poor and was aimed at giving back to the disadvantaged and marginalized children in society.

The group was welcomed by the Links of Hope Project Officer, Shalom Jacob and Social Worker, Elizabeth Loko, followed by an opening prayer and a brief discussion to better understand the challenges faced by the respite centre and their plans for the future.

Ms Jacob mentioned that financial constraints are the main challenge they face and acknowledged individuals, business houses and groups who assist them in their operations in cash or kind.

“It is through God’s grace that Links of Hope is still open to provide a shelter for these children given the circumstances of the pandemic and the financial constraints,” she said.

Shalom also thanked the individuals and groups that continue to assist Links of Hope in kind or through their ‘Sponsor a Child Commitment’ where individuals or groups sponsor children by donating K60 a month where proceedings are given to the child’s caregiver in the form of monthly care

packages that consist of essential food and personal hygiene items.

The need for more voluntary social workers in Non-Government Organizations that provide care for vulnerable children was highlighted by Ms Loko. She also stressed that more awareness needs to be done in the communities to encourage community support and provision for vulnerable children.

“I’ve come across so many of these special children and each of them has touched my heart and I would like to see more social workers volunteer with faith-based NGOs to make a difference in these children’s lives,” said Elizabeth.

The Links of Hope Project Officer also clarified that school-aged children receive school fees, uniforms, shoes and a bag each and pre-school-aged children attend weekly pre-school literacy programs.

Caritas PNG National Director Mavis Tito in her remarks thanked the Links of Hope team for the warm welcome and said that she is looking forward to more visits to the orphanage.

The Links of Hope respite centre is currently accommodating six children affected by HIV/Aids whilst providing care and support to more than 200 children in the Central and Gulf Provinces in the form of food rations, vitamin supplies and supplies.

### 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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**GRATITUDE**

With heartfelt gratitude to all of you for sharing the ‘Good News’.  
Thanks to our Bishops and Diocesan Social Communication coordinations for your articles and photographs.  
May the Light of the New Born Saviour bless you and your families. Happy Christmas and a peace filled New Year 2022.

Pastoral Letter of the Catholic Bishops of Papua New Guinea & Solomon Islands 2022

**Salt and Light:**  
**The Catholic Church and Society**