



# 'To Bear Witness to the Light' - Jn 1:7 The Catholic Reporter

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

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- Andrea Torielli

## Let the light of Christ shine, not one's own light

At the heart of the late Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's magisterium is the face of a Church that does not seek power, success and large numbers, which is a teaching that forms the key to the "new evangelisation".

weight sinks me down, the hand of your merit will raise me up. It is the awareness of the Shepherd," commented Pope Francis, "that he cannot carry alone what, in reality, he could never carry alone and, therefore, he knows how to abandon himself to prayer and to the care of the people entrusted to him. Because without Him, without the Lord, we can do nothing.

### Deed of Pope

The coffin of the late Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI was sealed in a ritual in St. Peter's Basilica on the evening of Wednesday, 4th January after around 200,000 pilgrims had finished paying their respects to the German-born Pope.

As per tradition, the Pope Emeritus' pallium, coins and medals minted during his pontificate, as well as a "Rogito" or Deed summarizing the highlights of his papacy, were also placed inside the casket.

Following the Requiem Mass on Thursday, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's coffin was transported through the Basilica and to the Vatican crypt for burial, in the first tomb of John Paul II. He was buried in the traditional triple coffin, with caskets made of cypress wood, zinc, and oak.

Ahead of the Requiem Mass, the Holy See Press Office published the full text of the Deed, written in Latin and sealed inside a metal cylinder.

### Lord Jesus, I love You

The last words of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI were heard in the middle of the night by a nurse. It was around 3 in the morning of 31 December, several hours before he died. Joseph Ratzinger had not yet entered his final moments, and at that time his collaborators and assistants were alternating in his care. With him at that precise moment there was only one nurse who does not speak German. "Benedict XVI," his secretary, Archbishop Georg Gänswein, recounts emotionally, "with just a whisper of a voice, but in a clearly distinguishable manner, said in Italian: 'Lord, I love you!' I was not there at the moment, but the nurse told me about it shortly afterwards. These were his last comprehensible words, because afterwards he was no longer able to express himself."

"Lord, I love you!", are words that are like a synthesis of the life of Joseph Ratzinger, who for years now had been preparing for his final, face-to-face encounter with his creator.



**Rome:** Benedict XVI died emeritus but was buried as pontiff. An ocean of prayers accompanied the funeral rite presided over by Pope Francis on the parvis of St. Peter's Basilica.

Prayers of gratitude rose up from all over the world, in the certainty that Joseph Ratzinger can finally enjoy the face of the Lord he loved and followed all his life, and to whom he addressed his last words before his final hours: "Lord, I love you!" There is a distinctive trait that unites Benedict XVI to his successor, and we can find it in the words that the Pope Emeritus spoke in his first Urbi et Orbi message, on the morning the day after his election: "In undertaking his ministry, the new Pope knows that his task is to bring the light of Christ to shine before the men and women of today: not his own light but that of Christ".

Not his own light, his own protagonism, his own ideas, his own tastes, but the light of Christ. Because, as Benedict XVI said, the Church is not our Church but His Church, the Church of God. The servant must account for how he has managed the good that has been entrusted to him. We do not bind people to us; we do not seek power, prestige or esteem for ourselves. It is interesting to note that already as a cardinal, for years, Joseph Ratzinger had warned the Church against a pathology that afflicted it and still afflicts it: that of relying on structures, on the organisation. That of wanting to 'count' on the world stage in order to be 'relevant'.

It is this awareness that has accompanied the Christian, theologian, bishop and Pope Benedict XVI throughout his long existence. An awareness echoed in a quotation that his successor - to whom he always guaranteed "reverence and obedience" - wished to include in his funeral homily. It is taken from the "Pastoral Rule" of St Gregory the Great: "Amid the shipwreck of the present life, sustain me, I beseech you, by the plank of your prayer, that, since my own

## Late Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

The Church in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands join the rest of the world in mourning the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI who passed away last 31<sup>st</sup> of December at the age of 95. He was laid to rest last 5 January. He was Roman Pontiff for 8 years until he resigned on 28 February 2013. He was the first pope to resign from office in nearly 600 years. As he said earlier, "If a pope were ever to consider that his physical or psychological or spiritual capacities were no longer adequate for the task, he not only could resign, he must resign."

Benedict XVI, whose original name was Jozef Ratzinger, was one of the leading theologians of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He was chosen by John Paul II to oversee the Catechism of the Catholic Church. He was definitely a master of catechesis. He countered the dictatorship of relativism. He was a fine scholar, a bishop, a cardinal and a pope.

He was a victim of slander from critics who wanted in vain to cast shadows on the magisterium and the actions of this German pontiff. They painted him as "God's Rottweiler", a harsh person abusive of power. However, those who knew him describe him as "a quiet, gentle, pious man, absolute gentleman."

He was definitely a conservative, in the sense that he was faithful to the teachings of Christ and the Church. What was important to him is the truth

which is revealed through an encounter with Christ. He spoke the truth boldly and faithfully but always with love. As he wrote in his 2009 encyclical letter, Caritas in Veritate, "Charity in truth, to which Jesus Christ bore witness by his earthly life and especially by his death and resurrection, is the principal driving force behind the authentic development of every person and of all humanity."

And in one of his homilies, "If we allow the love of Christ to change our heart, then we can change the world."

With the passing of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, the world has lost a great spiritual leader and theologian. However, he will definitely continue to live on in the hearts of many and the memory of the Church. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.

+ Rolando Santos, CM  
Bishop of Alotau

Chairman of the Commission for Doctrine, Law and Marriage



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- Abigail Seta

## Journeying together as a Church



Making this statement in a press conference on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> December were members of the Commission Bp Dariusz Kaluza, Bishop Deputy; Bp Otto Separy, Assistant Bishop; Fr Victor Roche, Secretary and Mr Paul Harricknen.

calls for speaking and listening to one another and the Holy Spirit in order to find a path forward in addressing issues faced by the church as we work to carry out our mission of making known the Good News of salvation in Jesus.”

He also stated that the catholic church is open to dialogue with other churches and other religions as well.

The conference covered the third general assembly held from 21<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and the workshop on synodality held from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

Top left (L-R): Mr Paul Harricknen, Fr Victor Roche svd, Bp Dariusz Kaluza and Bp Otto Separy during the Press Conference on Synodality.

**Port Moresby:** The New Evangelisation Commission of the Catholic Bishops Conference is focused on journeying together and being inclusive of all sections of society in the church in communion, participation and mission.

The commission emphasized that no one is excluded. Rich, poor, disabled, divorced, remarried, single mothers and fathers, LGBTQ people, people who thought they have been put out of the church, all are welcome to journey together.

Speaking on Synod on Synodality, a three-year process that Pope Francis began in 2021, Bp Dariusz highlighted working together to live out our faith and put it into practice.

“For a synodal church, it is a process that allows bishops to consult with all catholic parishioners, lay people and leaders, catechists, priests, religious and brothers in a spirit of collaboration and openness,” he explained.

“This calls for us at every level of the Church to renew our way of being and working together. It also

## Workshop on Synodality

- Abigail Seta

**Port Moresby:** A reflective-writing workshop on Synodality hosted by the New Evangelization Commission was held from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> December 2022 and had the participation of ten religious and lay persons.

Among the participants were Bp Dariusz Kaluza of Bougainville, Bp Justin Ain Soongie of Wabag and Bp Otto Separy of Bereina dioceses.

Held at the Catholic Bishops Conference, the three-day workshop was a time of prayer, reflection and discernment and to reflect on “Journeying together as Church” as invited by Pope Francis.

Secretary of the New Evangelisation Commission, Fr Victor Roche svd, said that the

participants wrote down their reflections which were then put into a report and sent to Melbourne, Australia for a Discernment and Writing Group meeting that is set to be held from 8<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

“This report will be sent to a group called ‘Continental Taskforce’ which includes representatives from Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Tonga and 17 other smaller countries of the pacific,” he said.

“The reports will then be shared and discussed at the Federation of the Catholic Bishops Conferences



Eight out of ten participants of the reflective-writing Workshop on Synodality

of Oceania (FCBCO) to be held in Fiji in February where almost 85 bishops of Oceania will be present.”

The program concluded with a press conference and eucharistic celebration.



Cardinal Ribat with the MSI Sisters marking the occasion with the cutting of a cake

**Boroko, Port Moresby:** The Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate (MSI) renewed their vows and commitment to their mission and the Church during a special celebration of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Held on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at the MSI Provincial House, Boroko, the celebration consisted of a Eucharistic celebration presided by Cardinal Sir John Ribat MSC and a luncheon.

## Religious Sisters renew commitment to mission

- Abigail Seta

With a lighted candle, the 20 MSI Sisters that were present recited a prayer together to signify their recommitment. This was followed by the five MSI Lay Associates also renewing their commitment. There were other sisters who could not attend the celebration as they were engaged in various activities across the country.

During his homily, the Cardinal reflected on the Gospel of Luke specifically on Mary’s three responses to God. He shared that she pondered on the Words of God, she entered into dialogue with God in prayer and her willingness to do God’s work.

“I believe that the life of all Christians should be like this. Mary was a Christian, a believer and this is how she had been living her life and she found favour with God,” stated the Cardinal.

Joining the MSI to celebrate were priests and religious sisters from different congregations, staff

from Catholic Bishops Conference and seminarians from the Catholic Theological Institute.

According to Sr Shanty Joseph, the community leader of the MSI, there are 30 sisters in the congregation from India, Brazil, Bangladesh, Italy and PNG. They are present in the Archdioceses of Port Moresby and Hagen and in the dioceses of Vanimo, Alotau and Kerema.

“The sisters are engaged in various apostolate like healing, education, family apostolate, women empowerment, human promotion and pastoral care. We have 15 National PNG sisters out of whom 7 are sent to the missions in Brazil, Algeria, Bangladesh, Italy and Guinea Bissau,” she stated

The exclusively missionary congregation started on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 1936 in Italy with Mary Immaculate as their patroness.

The MSI’s are present in 5 continents with the charism, living passion to proclaim the good news to the peoples.

## First PNG Sisters join Franciscan Clarist Congregation

- Sr Daisy Anne Lisania Augustine MSC

**Mendi:** The Catholic Church in Mendi witnessed a historical event on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022 where the first four young PNG girls consecrated their lives as nuns in the Franciscan Clarist Congregation (FCC).

It was held at the Mother of the Good Shepherd Cathedral, Kumin Station, Southern Highlands Province. The four young girls were Sr Martha from Mendi and Srs Sarah, Emily and Rachael from Hela.

“It takes a long time to make a nun...at least nine years, but no more than twelve, for a Franciscan Clarist,” stated Sr. Litty the Superior General. In that time, the candidate is tested in many ways as to the authenticity of her calling and her ability to live the communal, religious life.

For the four sisters, it was the peak of their intense formation that began in 2017. Seven years of learning of the history and living the charism of the congregation and additionally the deepening of their prayer life had instilled in them the love of God and people.

In his homily, Bishop Donald Lippert OFM Cap, the local ordinary and the principal celebrant challenged those present through the gospel of Luke. “Many young girls desire religious life and want to follow the Lord; however, the parents and

uncles want bride price and stop them from pursuing their vocation to religious life, the gospel challenges us that following the Lord, our lives bear fruits in hundreds and thousands for the kingdom, our preparation for eternity,” he stated.

Following the homily, the ritual of blessing of the habits and veils took place. These included the constitution of the congregation, the bible, the rosary and the knotted cincture depicting the vows of obedience, Chastity and Poverty.

The pronouncing of the vows was a sacred moment for the sisters and the community gathered. The signing of their first vows on the paper sealed their yes. It was signed on the floor while the sisters were prostrated, a sign of the total consecration in poverty in the footsteps of the saints they imitate, Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi in following the Lord.

It was indeed a joyful celebration with the community singing to their hearts content and the colourful Huli dancers gracing the moment with their entrance procession.

The sisters came to Papua New Guinea in 1997 and have laboured in the diocese of Mendi. They



work in the Diocesan Pastoral Centre in Kumin, Magarima, Tari Secondary School, Erave and Komo. They are involved in teaching, formation and pastoral work. The Franciscan Clarist Congregation was established on 14 December 1888 at Changanacherry, Kerala India. It was guided under Bishop Charles Lavigne as Founding Bishop and eight pious women as Founding Mothers. The characteristics of the spirit of prayer, life and hard work, care of the destitute and service to the poor mark their pastoral zeal.

Top Right: The four PNG sisters dressed in bridal gowns before the first profession pose with leadership team.





## Our Bishops to Rome for the “Visit ad limina”

Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME, CBC General Secretary

The twenty-two Catholic Bishops of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands will be travelling to Rome in May this year for their *Ad limina* visit. *Ad limina Apostolorum* literally means “to the thresholds (or the tombs) of the Apostles” Peter and Paul, who suffered martyrdom in Rome. It is a few centuries now that the bishops of different countries or regions in the world take turn in making this pilgrimage not individually but as a group. Not only they visit and celebrate the Holy Eucharist at St. Peter’s Basilica and St. Paul Outside the Walls, where the two apostles are buried, but also at St John Lateran and St Mary Major. During their one week stay our bishops will also meet the Holy Father, Pope Francis, and the Heads of Dicasteries of the Roman Curia.

Not long ago the ad limina visits could take place every five years. With the number of dioceses and bishops now in the world, however, this is only possible every eight to ten years. Our last ad limina was in 2012. A new one had already been called for September 2020 but had to be postponed to May 2023 due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The announcement of the new schedule came in July 2022 and the bishops hastened to finalize what is commonly called their “quinquennial report”, now actually including ten years of pastoral work

(2012-2022), issues and concerns. The reports from the twenty-two dioceses of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands will be summarized in Rome in view of the audience and conversation of the bishops with Pope Francis scheduled for Friday, 12 May 2023 and the meeting with the Heads of Dicasteries between 8-13 May. The Dicasteries are like departments dealing with different aspects of Christian faith and Church organization. To name a few, Evangelization, Doctrine of the Faith, Charity, Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, Causes of Saints, Clergy, Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, Christian Unity, Culture and Education, Integral Human Development, Communication, Laity-Family and Life, etc.; a total of sixteen in addition to the so-called Secretariat of State, the body that more directly supports with the Pope, and other smaller entities such as the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, which the bishops will also visit.

The ad limina therefore is at the same time a spiritual journey, a pilgrimage to the sources of Christianity, and a sharing of pastoral concerns, plans and initiatives with the successor of Peter and his most immediate aides.

A Dicastery is led by a Prefect, normally a Cardinal or in any case a person of vast expertise and deep faith in Christ and dedication to the

Church. The Dicastery for Communication is the first to be led by a lay person, Mr. Paolo Ruffini, while Pope Francis already said that by the year 2025 a female Prefect will also be leading a Dicastery for the first time.

I personally visited most of the Dicasteries in December to make initial arrangements for the visit of the bishops in May. I found an incredible amount of sympathy for Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and the Pacific. For some Dicasteries the Prefect made himself available for our conversation. In other cases, they were officials directly responsible for the preparation of the ad limina visits (they practically have one every week). All told me that the bishops, when they come, after a brief introduction, must be the first to start the conversation.

Pope Francis wants the Prefects of Dicasteries to first listen to what the bishops have to say and only afterwards make comments, give suggestions, and issue directives if needed. The world is vast and complex. Under Pope Francis, Rome wanted to listen first.

Everybody’s prayers and support are needed and welcome for the success of this rare experience and journey of faith and pastoral sharing. Thank you from the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands!

## Youths on Kerygma Lessons

- Aaron Gunbi

**Jiwaka:** In the Archdiocese of Mt Hagen in the South Waghi Deanery, fifty-six youth took lessons in ‘Kerygma Course’ for four days during the Season of Advent.

The youths from the five parishes in Jiwaka: Minj, Tupa, Kindeng, Kuli, and Wurup mostly from the outstations, gathered on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December and concluded on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

They had sessions with facilitators, Mr. Mark Pokil from Wurup, Peter Umar from Minj and Steven Gawi from Tupa. The lessons were on Integral Human Development; Apologetics; and Church History. Everyday there was Eucharistic celebration. These facilitators were well-versed with the sessions as they attended a course in ‘Kerygma’ – a new evangelization approach to revitalize the Catechism, Social Teachings of the Church, and many apostolic approaches to address challenging pastoral, moral, and ethical issues in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, which is not only experienced in the Catholic Church, but also the society as a whole.

According to the young people, they had enjoyed the lessons and appreciate very much for the information they got. Most of them said, the information was new and wanted to hear more of these in the future.



Most of the youths were secondary school students, who are on holidays; some were school leavers, while few others were college and university students.

Youth chaplain for the South Waghi Deanery, Fr. Paul Gunbi said a similar gathering would be hosted in the near future to inform the Catholic youths in Anglimp South Waghi of Jiwaka on Catechism, Social Teachings of the Church, Church History, Apologetics, Liturgy, and many more information on good living more than merely charismatic prayers and loud sentimental music.

“This has been our pastoral approach for youth formation in the Anglimp South Waghi Deanery and we will continue it,” said Fr. Paul.



## CCHS commemorates 34th World AIDS Day

- Jelilah Kum

Catholic Church Health Services (CCHS)

commemorated the 34th World AIDS Day on Dec 1st throughout the country with the theme, “PNG for Equality, Leaving No One Behind”, derived from the Global theme, “Equalize”.

The staff at the CCHS National office held a short devotion with invited guests from the Catholic Bishops Conference (CBC) and the General Secretary for CBC Fr. Giorgio Licini, to celebrate the work that CCHS’s continuing efforts to combat HIV & AIDS in the country. The theme used was “Achieving Equity to End HIV Through Care and Compassion” to show how much the agency’s motto has affected the work that the staff carries out in the facilities on the

ground. Around the country, CCHS health workers in the provinces took time out of their busy schedules to also commemorate the day. Prayer services were held in the morning to dedicate the PLWHIV and commemorate those that have lost their battle with AIDS, followed by road shows, awareness, dramas and so much more. CCHS continues in its efforts to help stop the spread of HIV/AIDS and provide care, treatment, and counseling to those infected with the virus. According to the National AIDS Council of PNG, the number of new HIV infections has increased to 3,800 in 2021. Approximately 10 people are infected every day. AIDS-related deaths have reduced indicating that PLWHIVs are responding to treatment. Comparing our CCHS data with the NAC data, CCHS facilities are providing treatment to 17% (7873) of the 38376 PLWHIV on ART in PNG. Although there are many challenges in terms of delivering health services, many good staff on the ground do the best with what they have to continue the healing ministry. CCHS thanks the National Department of Health, the Australian Government, and the other partners and stakeholders for their partnership and support.

### World Youth Day 2023 | Global Tree Planting Challenge



- 1
Go to the **GLOBAL TREE INITIATIVE** website  
<https://plantgrowsave.org>
- 2
Follow the **“REPORT”** menu  
<https://plantgrowsave.org/report>
- 3
**FILL IN THE FORM** with the requested information. Don't forget to select the option **“JMJ Lisboa 2023”** in field 5
- 4
Don't forget to **SUBMIT** your registration at the end!
- 5
Access the global map and see your dedication – **CONGRATULATIONS!**  
<https://plantgrowsave.org/impact>
- 6
**SHARE** your action on social media. Tag us so we can share it too.  
[@plantgrowsave](https://plantgrowsave.org) | [@lisboa2023\\_en](https://plantgrowsave.org)



- Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb



## Family evangelization and Community transformation

"We, the Catholic Church in PNGSI, are alive in Christ witnessing the love of God in Synodality as the Salt and Light of the world (Mt 5: 13-16)". This is the vision of the Conference Pastoral Plan for 2022-2027. By the end of this five year plan we pray and hope that the Catholics of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands will have lived in 'communion, participation and mission', as salt and light of the world, as stated by the Bishops in their Pastoral Letter for 2023.

In most of the parishes and dioceses of PNGSI, we are journeying together in decision-making and governance. But there is more to be achieved. While the discussions continue until the Synod of Bishops in October 2024, the life of our parishioners needs to be lived out radically in faith. In 2023, I think that it is

important to dwell on Family Evangelization and Community Transformation.

Pope St. John Paul II, reminds us that the parish is "the Church is living in the homes of her sons and daughters." It is the family that is the 'domestic church' in the midst of the 'universal church'. It is therefore important that every family lives out their faith and that families come together to celebrate the sacraments and proclaim the Word of God in the Liturgical and sacramental celebrations every Sunday. Strengthened and renewed, the parish then goes out to the community in service.

Often the parish can provide for many of our needs, spiritually, socially, and otherwise. However, the reality of our parishes and of our families has to be understood as we come across different cultures, traditions, expectations and personalities. Yet, amidst this difference and diversity, we need to recognize the abundance of gifts that the Holy Spirit gives us to

build up the Body of Christ. People who are interested will invest in their parish while others will be on the fringes. For many parishioners, the parish has become a home that forms the pattern of their life. Many have taken on commitments of a daily or weekly nature. I admire the many who have been following their commitments for several years. It is now up to the pastor to look at possibilities for evangelisation that will ultimately assist in community transformation.



- Sr Esther Pizarra

## Pastoral Care for Communicators



Sr Daisy Anne Lisania Augustine MSC, Secretary for Social Communication

In his message to the Members of the Catholic Press Association, Pope Francis reiterated the importance of a genuine communicator. "A true communicator dedicates himself or herself completely to the welfare of others, at every level, from the life of each individual to the life of the entire human family". He continued; "We cannot truly communicate unless we become personally involved, unless we can personally attest to the truth of the message we convey. (Vatican, 30 June 2020). A Catholic communicator identifies with a mission, not just with a faith, it is a way of life, a value. Catholic journalists are bound to cross over towards activism in their work and have a missionary mandate to create change for the better.

To do their work effectively, Catholic communicators need care and support. This holds true especially for those communicators, who live or work within the boundaries of a given parish. There is no harm for the parish priest or other members of the parish to visit secular media outlets or publication centres and establish personal relationships with the people there. The pastoral care for media practitioners living in a parish should be a challenge for any parish priest. Adapting 'Aetatis Novae' (No.19) to the parish level: Parish priests should be "specifically responsive to the peculiar working conditions and moral challenges facing communications professionals.

In some dioceses, the bishops themselves see this as a special challenge. They would, for example on World Communication Day, invite journalists and their families for mass, and an exchange of ideas, experiences and also for recreation. This kind of affirmation for Catholic Communicators assists in every act of teaching or communication, as Saint Augustine addresses in his *De catechizandis rudibus*, must be attentive to the desires of the listener. These desires are shaped in a certain social context, and if we are not attentive to this milieu, our proclamation of the Gospel will fall on deaf ears. Therefore, when the communicator is shown care, he or she can understand the people better and respond to the call of the Church. For instance, to go down to the grassroots and get different voices about Synodality. Thus the voice of the Christians in the Small Christian Communities and that of the bishops can balance.

Every year on January 24, the Church celebrates the feast of Saint Francis de Sales. Born in 1567, Francis de Sales came from a privileged family, earned his doctorate in law and theology, evangelized to Protestants, escaped assassins and was friends with King Henry IV.

Pope Pius XI proclaimed St. Francis de Sales as the patron saint of writers and journalists in 1923, because he used flyers and books to help guide people spiritually and convert Calvinists.

This feast day would be a perfect day to show your care and appreciation for a journalist.

May Saint Francis de Sales pray for us!

## Teachers and educators congress



**Alotau:** 75 teachers from elementary, primary, secondary, vocational schools and Special Education Centers in the Diocese of Alotau gathered for a Teachers and Educators' Congress from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

The three-day event had Bp Pedro Baquero sdb, Bishop of Kerema as the main speaker and Sr Roshni Kachuwa SJC the National Catholic Religious Education Coordinator as a facilitator. Other facilitators included Bp Rolando Santos, Bishop of Alotau, Henry Kita, the Diocesan Catholic Education Secretary, the provincial education advisor etc

Day one of the event had Sr Roshni give a talk on 'Attitudes of the Teachers'. It was very much appreciated by the teachers since it reminded them on how really to behave as teachers and educators especially in a Catholic Agency school. She also facilitated sessions together with the Diocesan CRE Coordinator on the methodology of teaching CRE.

The sessions highlighted the Synodal Church shown through videos followed by a talk given by the provincial education advisor.

In his speech, Bp Baquero emphasized that the Education Ministry is a journey, an encounter, to accompany and empower the young. He also added that it is a process of animation, recognizing the spirit in the young, accompanying them and setting the Spirit to burn within them. He went on to speak on the identity statement of the Catholic Church and the philosophy of education.

There was also a gathering of all the head teachers with Bishop Baquero and the Catholic Education Secretary where they discussed on the primary roles and responsibilities as teachers in the Catholic agency schools.

On the second day, there was election of the new set of members of the 'Diocesan Catholic Teachers Association' followed by a session on Leadership Management and Human Resource Management where he emphasized the significant role of a leader in an organization.

On the final day of the congress, Bp Rolando gave the talk on teaching the Catholic faith in an Ecumenical Setting since the Agency schools have been serving students from multi - denominational backgrounds. It was followed by the testimonies of two prominent teachers at the agency schools who were previous Catholic Education Secretaries of the diocese.

- Anthony Telo, Parish Media Volunteer, Moli

## Mothers reminded to be close to the Church

**Gizo:** About 60 women from the St. Joseph Moli Parish, Sacred Heart of Jesus Wagina Parish and Nusabaruku of St. Peters Gizo parish successfully concluded a rally that was held from 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

With the theme "To live and experience good Christian and cultural values like Mary as our model," the program focused on Catechism, liturgy, trauma and stress. Also highlighted were some motivating activities like singing competitions, queen shows, custom dancing to keep alive their spirit. The facilitators of the sessions were Fr. Humberto, Fr. Qelo and Martha Horiwapu.



A very peaceful and successful outcome of this rally reminded the mothers of their roles in bringing up their children close to the church, being good teachers in the family and were challenged to increase their personal strength, spiritual enhancement, and a deeper appreciation for life.

## The Catholic Reporter Team

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

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**EDITORS NOTE:**

A special welcome to the newly appointed Social Communications Secretary, Sr Daisy Anne Lisania Augustine MSC. Appreciation and gratitude to Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb. We wish him all the best in his future endeavours.