



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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Third Catholic Bishop for Lae diocese ordained

- Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb



Bp Christian Blouin handing over the light to Bp Rozario signifying the light of Christ

Lae, Papua New Guinea:

The Catholic Diocese of Lae was blessed with its third bishop on Saturday, 15th December, 2018.

Bp Rozario Menezes SMM, was ordained Bishop of Lae at the solemn Eucharistic celebration held at the St Mary's Primary School compound, Eriku, Lae.

The Eucharistic celebration commenced at St. Michael's parish. Traditional dancers from the parish of St. Finbar Parish and Mandok/Siassi Islands led the 21 bishops in their resplendent gold vestments. Present for this

religious," he instructed the new bishop. "Your call to be the shepherd of this diocese is a call to love the poor, the marginalised, those abandoned and all strangers," said the Archbishop. He reminded the new bishop of his responsibilities: *to teach, to sanctify, and to govern the People of God*. "Be a pastor with the 'smell of the sheep', who is in the midst of your people, ready to walk with the flock and stay with the flock in good times and bad", he said.

The Examination of the candidate, invocation of the Holy Spirit and the anointing then followed. Cardinal Ribat anointed Bp Rozario with oil. He was then presented with the ring, the mitre and the crosier, signifying his total commitment to God and his responsibility to care for the sheep. There was thunderous applause as His Eminence John Cardinal Ribat placed the mitre on the head of Bishop Rozario. A unique moment at the end of the celebration was the handing over of the flame to the new bishop. Bp Christian Blouin joyfully handed over the light to Bp Rozario which signified the light of Christ. A delicious lunch with a variety of dishes was served for all the guests, while the different parishes catered to their parishioners. There was entertainment that consisted of dances and presentations.

Offertory procession at the celebration



Coat of Arms of Bp Rozario

The colours: red, black and yellow – are the colours of the flag of Papua New Guinea.

The Bible: symbolises the Word of God, which reveals to us the mystery of Christ. The two letters – Alpha and Omega – are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. They signify that Christ is the beginning and the end of all things: through Him, both our personal and collective history find their meaning (cf *Revelation 1:8, 21:6, 22:13*).



The Cross and Rosary: represent prayer, Bishop Rozario being a Montfort Missionary has special significance of praying with Mary.

The chalice and host: symbolises the Eucharist, which is source and summit of our Christian life. Bp Rozario's desire is to put the Eucharist at the centre of his ministry as well as gather the people around the Eucharistic table.

The Kundu: the drum that resounds for joy or sorrow, feasts or funerals, expresses Bishop's Menezes' desire that the Christian faith must be deeply rooted in the local culture and life of his people.

The motto « **To Jesus through Mary** » is taken from the writings of the founder of the Montfort missionaries, saint Louis-Marie de Montfort (Cf *Secret of Mary, 34 and True Devotion, 1*). His spirituality, taken up by saint John-Paul II and many other saints, reveals that the Virgin Mary is the perfect way or spiritual environment that allows us to welcome Christ in our lives and become, through Him, beloved children of God our Father.

occasion were 55 priests, the family members of Bp Rozario who traveled from India and invited guests. Nearly 2000 members of the congregation from the different parishes of the Diocese of Lae also gathered on the school grounds for the event with guests from India, Indonesia, Italy, United States, Philippines, Madagascar, Haiti, South Africa, Kiunga, Port Moresby and other places.

His Eminence John Cardinal Ribat, MSC, DD, Archbishop of Port Moresby; His Grace Stephen Reichert, DD, Archbishop of Madang, His Excellency Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal, DD, Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands and His Lordship Christian Blouin, CMM, DD, GCL, Bishop of Lae were Co-consecrators at the celebration.

In his homily, the Apostolic Nuncio reminded the new bishop of his call to be merciful and reach out in service. "Be an agent of mercy. Listen to the voice of the Lord and spend time with him every night, offering your pains and sufferings and every one of your priests, faithful, catechists and

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Good politics is at the service of PEACE

- Courtesy Zenith.
Part 2 will be continued in the next issue



1. "Peace be to this house!" is our New Year greeting. Jesus told his disciples: "Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' And if a son of peace is there, your peace shall rest upon him; but if not, it shall return to you" (Lk 10:5-6). The "house" of which Jesus speaks is every family, community, country and continent. It is also our "common home": which we need to care for and cultivate.

2. The challenge of good politics: Politics is an essential means of building a human

community, but when political life is not seen as a form of service to society, it can become a means of oppression, marginalization and even destruction. Political office and political responsibility constantly challenge the politicians to make every effort to protect life, respect life, freedom and dignity of all persons.

3. Charity and human virtues

Politics is at the service of human rights and peace. When animated by charity, commitment to the common good and building of the universal city of God, is the goal of the human family".

The human virtues that sustain all sound political activity are: justice, equality, mutual respect, sincerity, honesty, fidelity.

"Beatitudes of the Politician", by Vietnamese Cardinal François-Xavier Nguyễn Văn Thuận, a faithful witness to the Gospel who died in 2002:

- **Blessed be the politician with a lofty sense and deep understanding of his role.**

- **Blessed be the politician who personally exemplifies credibility.**
- **Blessed be the politician who works for the common good and not his or her own interest.**
- **Blessed be the politician who remains consistent.**
- **Blessed be the politician who works for unity.**
- **Blessed be the politician who works to accomplish radical change.**
- **Blessed be the politician who is capable of listening.**
- **Blessed be the politician who is without fear.**

4. Political vices

Sadly, politics has its share of vices. These vices detract from the credibility of political life, as well as the authority, decisions and actions of those engaged in it. The vices, undermine the authentic democracy, bring disgrace to public life and threaten social harmony. Corruption in its varied forms: the misappropriation of public resources, the exploitation of individuals, the denial of rights, the flouting of community rules, dishonest gain and the refusal to relinquish power are some of the vices present today.

Year of Youth 2018

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb
CBC SOCOM and Youth Secretary

The Year of Youth 2018 offered several possibilities for young people to grow in faith and interact with one another.

Youth programs, Youth rallies, seminars and conventions have been organized in parishes, dioceses and at the National Level.

The climax was at the National Youth Convention hosted by the Archdiocese of Rabaul. It brought together 250 young people from the different dioceses in a joyous celebration of life and love.

The inspiring sessions by the Bishops and other speakers, sharing of experiences, celebration of the Sacraments, Pilgrimage to Rakunai, outreach and the campfire were highlights that every participant will remember. A powerful moment of the National Youth Convention was the commitment to 'Live Pure.' It is a pledge taken by the young people to remain pure until marriage and chaste after marriage.

The 'Live Pure' commitment commenced in March 2018, at the National Youth Animators Seminar with one young participant stating boldly that she would live pure till she committed herself in the Sacrament of Marriage. It is not easy in a male dominated and top-heavy society. One needs grace, courage and commitment to say a firm 'NO', and refuse to give in to peer pressure.

With candles burning brightly, the majority of young ladies and gentlemen approached the altar and committed themselves to a life of purity. They need our guidance, example and support.

May our lives, amidst the sexual abuse scandals of the Church today, radiate as our young people turn to us to find in us persons of joy, happiness and commitment.



Empowering girls through sports

Sports plays a huge role in the lives of many Papua New Guineans. Women and young girls in the country have been given the chance to fulfil their dreams through the sport, rugby league.

Australia's female referee, Belinda Sleeman is assisting the women and girls in PNG who aspire to become referees in the future, that anything is possible.

She is a member of the Queensland Referees High Performance Unit and made history as the first female match official to be involved in the Intrust Super Cup game between the PNG Hunters and Ipswich Jets in 2017 in front of rugby league fans in PNG.

According to a press release, the game, in turn with some work at the grassroots level, has paid dividends with a number of girls signing up to be part of the match officials pathway in PNG. The Australian-based match officials attended a Beyond the Goal Posts clinic, which is part of a program run by NRL Development staff on the ground in PNG.

The referee education program is aimed at girls and boys in upper primary and high school and will provide participants (Junior Referee) with NRL Level 1 accreditation to officiate in PNGRFL Mini Mod Competition. The course is made up of 10 units and upon completion, participants will receive accreditation equivalent to Australian NRL Level 1 accreditation.

While attending the clinic, Sleeman encouraged the girls to remain committed to their training, stating that as challenging as officiating may be, it was a



Belinda (centre) with girls

rewarding pursuit as it helps build character and allows those involved to learn a lot about themselves.

She also helped educate the students on the laws of the game and led participants through signal and whistle techniques before taking part in a Q and A session.



- Abigail Seta



Tok Tok bilong Bisop Emeritus Christian

Gutpela welkam long Bisop Rozario!

Mi amamas Bisop Rozario Menezes SMM i bin tok yessa long Pop Francis taim em i askim em bai em i kamap bisop bilong Lae Diosis.

Dispela i soim Bisop Rozario em bihainim singaut bilong Holi Spirit long servim Sios na ol pipol bilong Lae. Bikpela senis bai em i kamap long laip bilong em, tasol em i no poret long wanem samting bai i kamap bihain. Wok bishop em igat tripela wok mak: nambawan, em i mas skulim ol pipol long trupela bilip olsem tisa, namba tu, em i mas i helpim ol pipol i kamap holi, na namba tri, em i mas lukautim gut ol samting, haus na graun, bilong Diosis. Ol pris ol i mas helpim em long mekim dispela wok. Narapela samting em i impoten o bikpela

samting tru em Bisop i mas i stap olsem gutpela papa bilong ol pris na religious na gutpela wasman bilong ol sipsip. Taim em i mekim olsem, em bai em i soim bikpela laikim bilong God. Mi yet nau, mi mas, mi mas go, na givim stik bilong bisop long Bisop Rozario. Mi laik tok tenkyu long ol diocesan husait i bin helpim mi long dispela 12-pela yia mi bin stap wantaim yupela pipol bilong God na pris na religious. Yupela i ken pre long mi na mi yet bai mi no save lusim tingting long yupela.
God bless!

DEEP SEA MINING CAMPAIGN

Nautilus Minerals has been struggling for some time as it seeks to force through the first experimental deep-sea mining project, Solwara 1, off the coast of Papua New Guinea, despite concerted opposition.

Nautilus has been receiving bridging loans from its main shareholders, Russian mining company and Omani conglomerate MB Holding.

According to a press release from the Deep-Sea Mining Campaign on 4th January 2019, these loans are due for repayment on Tuesday 8th January 2019 and the company has no resources to pay the money back.

“The looming deadline follows a string of bad news stories for the company, which means they are unable to estimate when any mining may start, and therefore when they may ever make money. The most recent blow has been the loss of their crucial production support vessel after payments stopped to the shipyard building the ship,” Andy Whitmore of the Deep-Sea Mining Campaign said.

Nautilus's share price has been hovering around the historical low of CAN \$0.05.

What happens when Nautilus defaults on the loans is not clear.

Jonathan Mesulam from the Alliance of Solwara Warriors stated: “For those who have campaigned hard to stop the project, the end of Nautilus is a step in the right direction. However, local communities opposing the Solwara 1 project, their legal team, and

international partners will not rest until the PNG Government cancels the operating licence and associated permits for Solwara 1. This is the logical next step given the level of local opposition, growing international awareness of the risks associated with deep sea mining and the clear financial risks involved in such an enterprise – particularly for a nation as debt-ridden as Papua New Guinea.”

Andy Whitmore added: “We have been raising the financial, ecological, and social risks associated with the Solwara 1 project for some time.”

“Seeing the end of Nautilus will be a huge relief for those who would be impacted, but the struggles of this flagship company also calls into question the whole deep sea mining industry.”

Searching for the lost, caring for the least

- Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb

Fr Bogdan Cofalik, a parish priest of the Mary Help of Christians parish in Kefamo, Goroka is focused on his priestly mission with a difference.

His weekly visits to the correctional facility are hailed as a joyous time for the inmates. His visits to the homes around Goroka for the evening rosary is welcomed by the *liklik pikininis* well as all the *lapun manmeri*.

He arrived in Papua New Guinea in 1989 and with his background in soccer and weightlifting, he realized that competing in the soccer games and being part of the team was a good way of being part of the life of the young people in the Eastern Highlands.

Coming from a family that has three brothers who are weightlifting champions, Fr. Bogdan set about using his talent, energy and skills for pastoral work. As early as 1991, he opened a gymnasium for young people in the Youth Centre and at Kefamo and for the last 10 years, there has been a gymnasium at North Goroka as well.

Weightlifting, Powerlifting, bodybuilding and fitness are now organized and conducted under his supervision and with the help of trainers who he has trained over the years. The centre is open to young men and women who wish to train and put their energy to good use.

“The majority of those who come to train are from the settlements and have led difficult lives with high



L-R: Andrew, Helen, Fr Bogdan, Linda and Toksy

intake of drugs, little adherence to respect for persons and a lax moral life. It is wonderful that these ‘*raskols*’ now realize that there is another side. By self-control and discipline, they can develop both their body and their soul”, says Fr Bogdan.

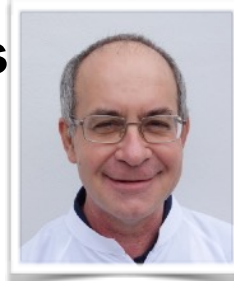
The walls of the gymnasium have posters of the Lord’s prayer and the catechism of the Catholic Church. The 10 commandments of sports persons include clean and respectful behavior to all.

The majority of those who train are not catholic and come from different faith backgrounds. They gradually realize that their lives are taking on a new dimension. They in turn are encouraging other men and women to spend their time and energy usefully.

“There are many ways of working with young people. And the very first step is to be open, make the first move, come up with an initiative or proposal. That is what Fr. Bogdan did. He started to bring young people and train them in weightlifting and bodybuilding. I am very happy that we have a priest who gives young people space to train,” said Bp. Dariusz Piotr Kaluza, MSF, Bishop of Goroka.

Choosing Servant Leaders

Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME, CBC General Secretary



On the 15th of December 2018, the diocese of Lae rejoiced at the ordination of its third Catholic Bishop. Fr. Rozario Menezes, SMM was designated by Pope Francis to replace retiring Bishop Christian Blouin, CMM. Bishop Rozario, an Indian, came as a missionary to Papua New Guinea in the year 2000 to the diocese of Daru-Kiunga. In 2011 he moved to the parish of St. Martin de’ Porres at Morata in Port Moresby. In 2017 he was elected General Councilor of his Congregation, the Montfort Society of Mary and moved to Rome. He was in Papua New Guinea for a few days last October when he was notified of the decision of Pope Francis, who had accepted the resignation of Bishop Chris in Lae.

At their 75th birthday, the Catholic Bishops, in fact, are invited to tender their courtesy resignation to the Pope; that way triggering the process for the appointment of a successor. There are currently few dioceses in Papua New Guinea at that stage, namely Kimbe, Rabaul and Madang. Bereina also is in need of a new Bishop after the transfer of Bishop Rochus Tatamai, MSC to Kavieng in 2018.

One may wonder how the Pope may be able to select and provide successors to so many bishops around the world, in so many different countries and social and religious contexts. The process is actually handled primarily by the local Apostolic Nunciature, which is the Pope’s representation to a given State and local Church and Bishops Conference. The Apostolic Nuncio in Papua New Guinea, currently His Excellency Mathew Kurian Vayalunkal, also serves in the same position for the Solomon Islands. He holds the rank of Ambassador. When an Episcopal See becomes vacant, the Apostolic Nuncio begins consultation with the other bishops in the country, with priests, religious, prominent lay people and anybody who may be able to give relevant suggestions for that specific diocese. The first step is normally that of asking for names of priests or bishops, who may be fit for that specific See. Normally an experienced bishop is appointed to an archdiocese (in our case Port Moresby, Honiara, Rabaul, Mt. Hagen, and Madang) and a priest, who then is ordained a bishop to a diocese.

The shortlisting of names proceeds till three worthy and capable candidates, fit for that specific diocese are identified and submitted to the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples in Rome for final scrutiny and approval. It is at that point that the process is brought to the attention of the Pope for the final appointment of one of the three candidates in the list or, still, any other priest or bishop of his choice. The process is covered by the “Pontifical Secret”, meaning that nobody is allowed to share information he or she may have been requested for or may have been able to provide. Campaigning for specific candidates, in fact, is alien to the logic of servant leadership surrounding the episcopal ministry. Only prayer, good advice, and humility are what the Apostolic Nuncio needs to facilitate the service of the Pope in providing good shepherds to his flock.

Youths called to the fullness of 'Life and Love'

- Abigail Seta

The Year of Youth 2018 concluded with a National Youth Convention for the Catholic youths from the different dioceses in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands from 8th to 12th December 2018.

Hosted by the Archdiocese of Rabaul in partnership with the Catholic Bishops Conference (CBC), it had as its theme "Called to the fullness of life and love."

The program had important dignitaries present for this event, they were the Apostolic Nuncio to PNG and SI, Archbishop Matthew Kurian Vayalunkal; Cardinal John Ribat MSC; President of CBC, Bp. Rochus Tatamai MSC; Bishop of the Diocese of Kerema, Bp. Pedro Baquero and Bishop of the Diocese of Alotau, Bp. Rolando Santos.

The 5-day program saw 250 young men and women from the dioceses across PNG gather in Vunapope, East New Britain Province.

The highlights of the program included: the celebration of Life; celebrating the Eucharist and a visit to the St Mary's Hospital, Vunapope. It also focused on the Sacrament of Reconciliation and preparing young people for the Sacrament of

Marriage, Pilgrimage to visit the important sites of the birth, martyrdom and death of Bl. Peter ToRot and a session to help the young people to understand the need to take on the pledge to 'live pure' until marriage.

Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb, CBC Secretary for the Social Communication and Youth office and the coordinator of the NYC encouraged the participants saying: "I trust you will take to heart what has been shared at this convention, put it into your lives and practice it for yourselves.

The National Youth Convention concluded on Thursday, 12th December with a Thanksgiving mass celebrated by the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Matthew Kurian Vayalunkal.

"I invite you to look to Christ who is the fullness of humanity," the Nuncio stated.



Male participants taking the pledge to 'live pure' until marriage

"Young people as well as the rest of us are supposed to look for Christ for the fullness of life and love. That is why we are here to look and search for Christ."

A special part of the Eucharist saw the youths pledge to live pure. The participants with lit candles, committed themselves to live pure lives until marriage.

Following the Eucharistic celebration, the youths from each diocese preceded to a procession from the cathedral to the Archdiocesan hall where they commenced the closing ceremony with speeches, presentation of gifts and lunch.



Bp Donald Lippert with participants at the closing of the retreat

Southern Highlands Province: Over 500 youth gathered for a retreat in Southern Highlands

Youth retreat focuses on basic Catholic values

province from the 27th of December 2018 to 5th January 2019.

Facilitated by the Jesus Youth Australia group, the members led retreats for the youths at the St Joseph Parish, Margarima in Hela and Nativity of Mary Parish in Muli. The topics focused on basic values of the Catholic life for young people with time for prayer, praise and worship, adoration, confession and Eucharist.

"Rallies and retreats are good and necessary, and they can make a lasting impression.

However, they are not enough," Bishop of Mendi, Bp Donald Lippert said.

"The Jesus Youth Australia will now assist with the next step and that is providing leadership training and formation to core groups of youth who can then come and share that with their parish youth groups."

The youth retreat was sponsored by the Diocesan Youth Ministry and it was also a time dedicated for recreation and fellowship. The retreat concluded on Saturday, 5th January 2019 with a Eucharistic celebration.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2019



Days in the Diocese (DID), is a five- to six-day event that precedes the week of WYD. Pilgrims are hosted by parish communities with whom they eat meals, celebrate Masses, pray, and experience the culture of local parishioners.

Youth for the Common House – Ecological Conversion in Action

The theme of safeguarding creation is particularly close to the heart of Pope Francis, and he invites all persons of good will, especially the youth, to become aware of the challenges that he himself highlighted in his encyclical, "Laudato Si", and to look for ways to promote a culture of the protection of creation. "Youth for the Common House. Ecological Conversion in Action" will take place in Panama on January 19,

2019, at USMA (Catholic University Santa Maria la Antigua of Panama).

Youth festival program

Music, dance, plastic arts, cinema, and theatre, as well as paint and photography will be instruments of cultural connection for the pilgrims of World Youth Day Panama. Hosted in 33 locations around Panama City, the Youth Festival will engage young people from all over the globe in various expressions of art and culture.

One of the novelties of the Youth Festival program is the "WYD 2019 Cup," a friendly soccer tournament that will be held Wednesday, January 23rd in Town Centre, Costa del Este. The purpose of this soccer encounter is to unite young pilgrims of the world through a sports activity that will be more about

cooperating than competing. It is an opportunity to develop good values: teamwork, sportsmanship, effort, respect, honesty, and collaboration.

Vocation Fair

The Vocation Fair is aimed at strengthening the particular way in which your life will serve God, and is usually broadly divided into *marriage/family life* and *religious life*.

A vocation consists of two main parts: finding your vocation and living it. Vocational discernment is the process in which men or women in the Catholic Church *discern*, or recognise, their vocation in the Church. During the Vocation Fair, WYD pilgrims can explore many of the different ways to live out their vocations in the Catholic Church.

Share your Stories

Send in your articles, photograph and reflections on events and happenings in your parish, community and diocese. All articles and photographs are to be sent to: ambrose.pereirasdb@gmail.com and socom@catholic.org.pg on or before **20th January, 2019**
Produced by: **CBC SOCOM**

Catholic website for youth

LectioYouth.Net is a Catholic website for the youth in Africa and Madagascar. The website is coordinated by the Catholic Bible Federation in Africa, and thus it is also fitting for the PNG cultural context.



The primary goal of LectioYouth.Net is to facilitate

the encounter with the word of God through Bible study groups, especially for the young. It is devoted to systematic and regular study and reflection on the Word of God, in order to be guided and transformed on both the personal and local community level. A great Website with weekly updated lectio divina materials for young Christians and you can access it at: LectioYouth.net