



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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Bring the Gospel to Contemporaries

In his homily Sunday, June 2, in Romania, Pope Francis beatified seven Romanian bishops, including a cardinal, martyred, between 1950 and 1970, tortured for their faith. Pope Francis called on faithful to be “witnesses of freedom” and mercy, remembering the persecution people of faith suffered during the regimes of the past. Here is an extract of his sermon.



Dear Brothers and Sisters, today, too, we witness the appearance of new ideologies. Forms of ideological colonization that devalue the person, life, marriage and the family (cf. *Amoris Laetitia*, 40), young people and children, leaving them without roots from which they can grow (cf. *Christus Vivit*, 78).

Everything then becomes irrelevant unless it serves our immediate interests; people are led to take advantage of others and treat them as mere objects (cf. *Laudato Si'*, 123-124). Those voices, by sowing fear and division, bury the best of these lands. I think, for example, of the Edict of Torda in 1568, which forbade all forms of radicalism and one of the first in Europe to promote an act of religious tolerance.

I would like to encourage you to bring the Gospel to our contemporaries and to continue, like these Blessed, to resist these new ideologies now springing up. May you be witnesses of *freedom* and *mercy*, allowing fraternity and dialogue to prevail over divisions, and fostering the fraternity of blood that arose in the period of suffering, when Christians, historically divided, closer and closer to one another. May the maternal protection of the Virgin Mary and the intercession of the new Blessed accompanying you on your journey.

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like these Blessed, to resist new ideologies now springing up.”

“May you be witnesses of freedom and mercy, allowing fraternity and dialogue to prevail over divisions, and fostering the fraternity of blood that arose in the period of suffering, when Christians, historically divided, closer and closer to one another.” Pope Francis concluded: “May the maternal protection of the Virgin Mary and the intercession of the new Blessed accompanying you on your journey.”

An appeal to the New Government of Papua New Guinea

The Catholic Bishops of Papua New Guinea appreciates the peaceful development of the political debate on the floor of Parliament and hopes that it immediately turns to the benefit of the vulnerable people, of our society, and our environment:

1. The rural poor and the urban poor: expect improved public services, better education for children, medicines in the health centers, farm to market roads, jobs, entertainment and sport facilities to reduce the impact of alcohol and negative behavior among the youth. Resources and assets must now benefit the marginalized and the peripheries rather than the wealthier and the centers.

2. The illegal detention of asylum seekers and refugees in Manus and Port Moresby since 2013, at the request of the government of Australia, is a cause of shame and embarrassment that the new PNG government

must denounce in its first day in office. The Regional Resettlement Arrangement has proven to be unsustainable with people getting sick, depressed, suffering mental illness, and dying. Their transfer to properly equipped Australian on-shore processing facilities has to be effected immediately.

3. The protection of the environment and the country's natural resources needs a legislative review, particularly of the Special Agriculture Business Lease (SABL) and agreements with foreign companies in the mining, logging and extractive sectors. People and communities come first; capital and business follow!

4. The legislation to establish an Independent Commission against Corruption should not be further delayed. The perception of systemic and systematic corruption in PNG is very damaging to the image of the nation and to the morale of

its citizens. We renew our appeal for the restoration of the separation of powers so that our MPs can focus on making good laws and the public servants on the provision of services.

The Catholic Bishops of Papua New Guinea also ask from the new government an effective partnership in the planning and managing of the Education and Health sectors in the country. Other Churches share the same expectation. It is with the contribution of everybody and the acceptance of public scrutiny that true wellbeing and prosperity is promoted and corruption defeated!

May God bless the new executives of Papua New Guinea and give them wisdom and steadfastness!

Fr Giorgio Licini, CBC General Secretary and the Catholic Bishops Conference Central Committee.

In this Issue:

1. Bring the Gospel to contemporaries; An appeal to the new government of Papua New Guinea
2. Seminarian a role model of the community; The 'Net' of our time; Media students speak up on GBV
3. PNG and ABG reconciliation program; Chat Room; MES 4 on Safe family, Happy family; First formation program for priests
4. Caritas Internationalis; Media and Youth training in Wewak; A joyful response to God

Seminarian a role model of the community



Japhet Kemali, is aspiring to become a Catholic Priest. He is a young and energetic man from the St. Michael Catholic Community

of Mataita on Goodenough Island in the Milne Bay Province, aspiring to become a Catholic Priest.

The announcement was made on 8th May by the St. Michael' Catholic Community in Mataita.

The community has witnessed, through hearing and seeing, how this young man played a great role in the life of children, youths, family life,

interreligious dialogue and the church; in his community and the places he visited during his pastoral year. We hope others will follow in his administration.

Japhet Kemali has inspired many people through his humor and advice. With the help of his parish priest, Fr Nicky O'omu, he was able to advance in his seminary studies.

Though Japhet had difficulties in his life while in the seminary, he kept everything in his heart. He listened to corrections and quickly readjusted himself.

Born on May 1st 1990 to Sylvester Kemali and Agnes Mary, Japhet was raised in a Christian upbringing with his brothers and only sister. He is the fourth of six siblings.

Since his father was a teacher that time, his study areas' varied during his primary school life, as he was transferred from community schools in Kelologeia, Momoawa, Fagululu, Faiava and St. Michael's Eloelolona community. He completed his

Grade 12 at Cameron Secondary School in 2008. Japhet was a bright lad with a strong determination to become a doctor, but due to severe illness, his dream did not eventuate.

After grade 12, Japhet felt a calling from the Lord requiring him to serve him in the priestly life. In 2010, he approached Bishop Francisco Panfilo and was sent to Sideia Formation centre to be formed. In 2011, he did his 1st Year in Philosophical studies at the Ulapia Mission, East New Britian Province.

Japhet was transferred to Holy Spirit Seminary-Bomana in 2012, and by 2013 he completed his philosophical studies. In 2014, he was sent to St. Fidelis Seminary in Madang, where he completed his Spirituality Year. By 2015, Japhet had returned back to Holy Spirit Seminary to commence his Theological Studies.

The Mataita community are all looking forward to his ordination in 3 years' time after he completes his studies in the Philippines.

The 'Net' of our time

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb
CBC SOCOM and Youth Secretary



'From Social Networking communities to the Human Community' is our World Communications Day theme that will be celebrated on Ascension Sunday, 2nd June, 2019.

The 'net' immediately takes our minds to connections and social networking. The 'internet' is a powerful resource of our time that has transformed our lives and enhanced our relationships.

However, it has also proved to be one of the areas most exposed to disinformation and distortion of facts. It has also destroyed many relationships.

A net is formed by the intersection of lines, an absence of a centre, a hierarchical structure, a form of vertical organization. The 'net' also conjures up a variety of images. We are constantly in touch with the fishing net, the mosquito net and the spiders net. Each of these serve a different purpose.

One brings in, the other keeps out and the third invites prey to feed on. The 'fishing net', widely by our people is used to collect and bring in a variety of fish. They are useful to us. All that is collected nourishes and sustains us. On the other hand, 'the mosquito net' by its very nature is meant to keep out the mosquitoes. Our third net is an interesting one. A spider spins its net, its web to ensure its supply of prey.

Perhaps our social net is a combination of our three images. It brings people together when we connect and network with persons. It keeps persons out when we fail to look into the faces of each other, behold the innocence, purity and smile on the faces of our family and friends, as we meet them on our daily encounters.

It stifles, poisons and even kills when we are engaged in cyber bullying and circulate misinformation. These not only break a connection, but above all destroy a relationship.

World Communications Day thus gives us an occasion to reflect on the way we use this powerful means of technology, and ensures that it always builds relationships and builds community.

Media students speak up on GBV



Gender-based violence (GBV) is an issue that concerns everyone on a national and global level, and when it comes to advocating on the issue, it is a challenging task.

For the student representatives of the 4th Media Education Seminar, speaking up about GBV is important.

- Abigail Seta

These sentiments followed a session on Friday, 24th May 2019 where Social Communication and Youth Secretary, Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb, highlighted with a short film, the abuse of women.

He raised a few questions that invoked a discussion among the students. These were the questions raised:

1. What has struck you about the issue?
2. Is it present in your home?
3. What can you do about it?

The students then spoke mainly on ways to combat the issue of violence in Papua New Guinea from breaking the cycle to speaking up about the issue and personally doing something about it.

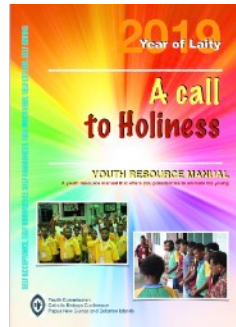
"The violence against women cycle continues because men are not stepping up to break the cycle. We already have a negative image of our country regarding men being the perpetrators so the possible solution to reduce the statistics of violence is for them to step up and break the cycle," said Philip Anave, a Jubilee Catholic Secondary School student.

"Instead of women advocating for their rights and children speaking about it, more men need to start advocating on this issue too," he said.

Another student from the Limana Vocational School, Anita Bruce also spoke on what to do about GBV. "It is good to speak up about the issue. When you see that it is happening in your family or around you, speak up and let your voice be heard," Anita shared to her fellow students.

A teacher present at the seminar encouraged the male students to be respectful and to be a support system for women.

The media seminar was a weekend seminar that focused on creating short films on raising awareness on issues in the country with the theme: 'Safe Family, Happy Family.'



2019 - Year of Laity
A Call to Holiness
Youth Resource Manual

The youth resource manual offers a variety of sessions on self. Each session can be used by the parish youth group.

Price: K 5/-



International SHORT FILM FESTIVAL ISFF19
Papua New Guinea & Solomon Islands 2019

Safe FAMILY Happy FAMILY

Date: 3rd August 2019
Venue: Vision City

Send in your films in HD Video format on or before **5th June, 2019**
Entry Fee: **K 50/-**
Contact SOCOM Desk (office no): **71209422**

PNG and ABG Reconciliation program

Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME, CBC General Secretary



A reconciliation program between Papua New Guinea and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville will take place some time this year at Panguna with the presence of the main personalities and forces that confronted each other during the crisis of the eighties and nineties.

It will be the highlight of numerous initiatives promoted this year by the Autonomous Government, the Churches, the United Nations and others to prepare for the referendum of 12 October on greater autonomy or independence. What really matters for Bougainville in fact is reconciliation and peace, whatever the result of the consultation may be.

Greater autonomy would mean indeed for Bougainville a larger decisional power in internal matters, but still as part of the historical PNG family of lands and tribes. Independence, instead, would set off a process of State

building prior to the ratification of the vote on independence by the PNG parliament. It may take years. It is accepted in fact that self-government is not going to be introduced the day after the referendum. A new country needs a Constitution, a viable fiscal system, armed forces, foreign representation, an upgraded justice system, and many more things. It also needs financial resources and sustainability.

Bishop Bernard Unabali of Bougainville gave an encouraging report on the referendum preparation at the Annual General Assembly of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands last month in Port Moresby. All Churches are working hard for reconciliation among themselves first and in society at large. Projects are ongoing for the remains of those who lost their lives during the conflict to be recovered and returned to the families. The United Nations and the NGOs are also engaging the youth with leadership skill promotion, livelihood trainings and projects.

The Catholic Church in Bougainville on this referendum year is blessed with four new priestly ordinations. Bishop Bernard is planning to schedule them between September and December. It will be the time of the immediate preparation to the vote, to the polls on 12th October, the counting and the proclamation of the results. A pilgrimage of the statue of the Virgin of Fatima is also being planned at that time. Meaningful social and religious activities will certainly create an atmosphere conducive to a peaceful consultation, and a deeply felt duty to contribute to the future of the land by every individual's vote.

It will also help everybody to understand that the hard work begins after the vote. Either the results are according to your expectation or suggest otherwise, Bougainville still will need everybody's good will and contribution for a just and prosperous society.

Chat Room: A platform for young people to speak

- Nigel Akuani

The Chat Room Program has so far proven to be very successful due to constant engagement of students in discussing over live-radio issues affecting many Papua New Guinean societies.

The program also provides the opportunity for audiences to ask questions or raise queries regarding the issue in discussion. Throughout the month of May, the show has had 3 sessions thus far, making them the 8th, 9th and 10th.

The eighth session hosted on Wednesday 1st May, at the NBC Station, had four students all in Grade Ten from St. Charles Lwanga Secondary speak about 'Healthy Living'.

The students discussed the different aspects of youth life, benefits of a healthy lifestyle, issues affecting youth today, and recommendations to improve the lives of youths. On Wednesday 8th May, the program had three professionals and

one student, sharing their views on the 'Importance of remaining Pure'. The panel started with defining the topic, highlighted the importance of Individual and Integral worth, the link between living pure and marriage, made suggestions on more effective actions to help youths, and ended off providing a word of encouragement to the young youths of today.

The program's ninth session went live on air on 15th May and had six Grade Twelve students from St Joseph's International Catholic School, chatting on the topic of 'Addictions'. Their discussion revolved around addiction and how it affected the lives of people, especially young people.



St Joseph's International Catholic School students on the Chat Room

Leadership was the topic discussed on May 22nd by the La Salle Technical School students at the 10th session. The 11th session on 29th May, celebrated World Communications Day with a larger panel and a bigger audience at the Catholic Bishops Conference, Waigani with the topic from 'Social Networking Communities to the Human Community.'

- Abigail Seta

MES 4 on Safe family, happy family

Sivarai Namona, Bomana: The 4th Media Education Seminar focused on creating short films on the theme 'Safe family, Happy family' from the 24th to 26th May 2019.

Held at the Sivarai Namona Pastoral Centre, the weekend program had fifty student representatives gather for the program including their teachers and the Catholic Bishops Conference Social Communications (CBC SOCOM).



De La Salle students ready to shoot their film

Conference Social Communications (CBC SOCOM).

The program highlighted the problem tree, Creating Storyboards and Advanced Shots. Apart from the sessions, the seminar had prayer and reflective moments, games and interactive sessions. A highlight of the program was the 'Live Pure' commitment where both male and female students pledged to live pure and chaste lives on Sunday 26th May at closing Mass.

The student representatives were from the De La Salle Secondary School, Marianville Secondary School, Jubilee Catholic Secondary School, Limana Vocational School, Don Bosco Technical School and Don Bosco Technological Institute.

The final media seminar entitled 'International Short Film Festival 2019' (ISFF19) will be held on August 3rd at the at Vision City.

Formation program for priests

Rabaul: The Archdiocese of Rabaul opened its doors to the Laity and media during the first formation program of Archbishop and priests on May 22nd and 23rd, at the Vunapope conference room, East New Britain Province. The event had over ninety participants, with its main celebrant present Archbishop of Rabaul Archdiocese, Francesco Panfilo SDB. According to Christian Mangvue, Youth Coordinator of Archdiocese Rabaul, the ongoing formation program of all parish priests in East New Britain Province is a historical event, as it was a first of its kind, for the church to open its doors to the media and Laity to attend the formation program which was usually done behind closed doors.

Mr. Mangvue said it was an eye-opener especially for the Laities, when the Archbishop of Rabaul, His Grace Francesco Panfilo SDB had given them the opportunity to attend the ongoing formation program. He said that the church is trying to create an avenue where bishops, priests and youths can come together to formulate new ideas to address youths of this millennium facing many challenges due to technological advancement within the Church.

The focus of the two-day open conference was to make known the



Apostolic Exhortation Christus Vivit, discuss plans and develop strategies to help youths living in the Archdiocese of Rabaul.

Caritas Internationalis: One Human Family, One Common Home

- Nigel Akuani



Caritas Oceania representation at the General Assembly Caritas Internationalis in Rome.

Caritas Internationalis launched its 21st General Assembly at the Vatican with the theme "One Human Family, One Common Home" on May 23rd, 2019, with a strong call to work together to face the unprecedented scale of difficulties facing humanity.

"We are driven by our collective belief that we are part of one human family, sharing one common home," said Caritas' President, Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle.

"The sheer number of displaced people, the spread of conflict and the environmental disaster which is becoming more and more evident, together threaten to overwhelm us – unless we urgently act together against these problems as one family with one home," he said.

Representing Caritas Papua New Guinea was Bishop of the Diocese of Wewak and Chairperson of Caritas PNG, Bp Jozef Roszynski and the Catholic Bishops Conference Development Secretary, Ms Marie Mondu.

Ms Mondu said that she felt honoured to be attending such a prestigious event on behalf of

the Catholic Church of PNG, but wished she could do more during the assembly to address the sufferings of refugees in PNG.

"I am privileged and pressured to represent the Catholic Church in this high profile meeting, because during this meeting, I can only tell a story as an outsider to the refugee life. I don't think I will ever understand and experience the emotions and journey of a refugee in full," she said.

Caritas Internationalis is the international arm of the Catholic Church for community development, relief and social services, with Headquarters in the Vatican.

It is a confederation of 165 Catholic relief, development and social service organisations operating in over 200 countries and territories worldwide. Collectively and individually their claimed mission is to work to build a better world, especially for the poor and oppressed.

Media and Youth training in Wewak

Wewak: A media and youth training for youth leaders of the Diocese of Wewak was held from 13th to 17th May 2019.

Held at the Tangugo Pastoral Centre in Wewak, over 80 youth leaders from the Wewak, Maprik and Sepik Deaneries attended the training.

It had as its theme: 'Called to Holiness.' Social Communication and Youth Secretary, Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb and SOCOM Media Personnel, Abigail Seta were facilitators of youth sessions, reflections and basic inputs on the media. For the youth training, the sessions dwelt on issues affecting the young people and finding solutions to those issues. The media sessions dwelt on writing articles, basic photography, posters with a message and social media. Issues in society, abuse in relationships and social media were the highlights of the three days.

"The purpose of the training is to empower young people to communicate well and return to

their deaneries and parishes and use what they have learnt to help others," said James Taku, Diocesan Youth Coordinator.

According to James Taku, communication is an issue in the diocese for young people and with the media sessions taught at the training, the young people will be able to report, address and raise awareness on issues at the parish level and diocesan level.

The training also had a guest visit from the team at LifeFM PNG radio station where they recorded dramas, discussions and interviews of the participants. Following the conclusion of the training, many of the participants shared their reflections and their commitment to using what they have learnt to help others.



Bp Jozef Roszynski with the facilitators and participants of the training

Speaking on behalf of his deanery, Youth Animator of the Sepik Deanery, Albert Topan said, "My commitment is to go out to the parish level and conduct social communication fellowship and formation of young people."

The training was facilitated by the Catholic Bishops Conference Social Communication (SOCOM) and Youth Commission in collaboration with the Wewak Diocesan Youth team.



Sr. Sylvian Aua SJC made her First Profession on 18th May 2019 at St Joseph's Parish, Boroko. She is the second sister from Papua New Guinea in the congregation. The theme was 'I have called you by name and you are mine' (Is.43:1).

The eucharist celebration was celebrated by Bp Peter Baquero sdb, Bishop of Kerema together with six priests. Present at the celebration were religious, relatives and friends.

At the start of the celebration, Sr Tresa Jose welcomed the congregation and thanked them for their presence and support.

A joyful response to God

- Bathsheba Sanau

Sr. Sylvian Aua makes her first profession as a Cluny sister

"We are all united in faith and spirit with our sisters in Australia and West Africa where Sylvian spent three years of her formation. Today's gathering reminds us that 'God is alive', and he continues to invite people to do His mission in this present world. We pray that Sylvian Aua joyfully responds to the Lord through our congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny", said Sr Tresa.

Sr. Sylvian, dressed in her traditional cultural *bilas*, accompanied by the members of her family made her way to the altar. There she handed over her grass skirt and necklaces, signifying a complete surrender and a total commitment to God in her beloved Cluny congregation.

Holding aloft a lighted candle she took the three vows and made her profession to live chaste, poor and obedient as a religious sister.

Sr Rachel Arputham SJC, Regional Superior of the congregation received her vows and welcomed her to the

congregation. Sr. Josephine O'Kelly, one of the pioneer sisters in Kanabea, Gulf Province in 1971 was delighted to be present for the celebration.

"Today I am very happy", said Sr Sylvian. "The day I have been looking forward to has arrived. I owe my thanks to God, the Cluny sisters, my family, relatives and all who have supported me", she said.

Present in the congregation are two PNG sisters. The Cluny Sisters look forward to many more young women joining their congregation.

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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Sub Editor: **Abigail Seta** Layout: **CBC SOCOM**

Please send in your material to:

socom@catholic.org.pg

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