



# 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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## Catholic Bishops urge care for the sea and support the indigenous people of West Papua.

The Executive Committee of the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania (Australia, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, New Zealand, CEPAC – the rest of the Pacific) met in Auckland, New Zealand, and released a Media Statement on 14th August, 2017.

The Executive Committee of the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania (Australia, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, New Zealand, CEPAC - the rest of the Pacific) is currently meeting in Auckland, New Zealand. We come from a multitude of island nation States spread throughout the Pacific Ocean.

We are delighted to be here in Aotearoa New Zealand and have enjoyed greatly the beauty of its nature and the hospitality of the people. We thoroughly enjoyed our visit to De La Salle College in South Auckland, the highlight of which was Mass for the entire school community. The boys' enthusiastic participation in the liturgy uplifted our hearts. A further highlight was our presence at the City Mission on Friday evening where we served meals to the homeless, the mentally unwell and those suffering economic deprivation. This was a humbling experience during which we felt deeply Christ's call to sit and walk alongside those who struggle or find themselves on the margins of society.

As Bishops of the Pacific, the place of the sea in the lives of the peoples we serve was a central focus of our meeting. Our common ocean is teeming with life and goodness. For many of our peoples the sea is their treasured source of nutrition, sustenance and livelihood. In solidarity with them, Psalm 107 resonates in our hearts: "those that do business in the great waters, they behold the world of the Lord and his wonders in the deep."

We are acutely aware of the impact of climate change on island nations and

some of our number have been visiting communities and recording the destruction of shorelines affecting them. On a happier note, we are heartened to learn of the systematic and coordinated opposition to seabed mining which turns the ocean floor into a stage of exploitative destruction of ocean habitats.

Our interest in the "Blue Economy" is to uphold a model of development that respects the fundamental importance of sustainability that looks way beyond any perceived short term economic windfall. Members of Parliament and local Governors and other civic authorities have a particular duty to promote long term economic and social development and to be vigilant in guarding against any attempts by international businesses to exploit our common resource. We applaud government, community and private initiatives to develop water ecotourism and sustainable sea fishing. We are not "anti-development". We look to the common good and thus advocate for an integrated approach to development where local customary practices are respected and communities are assisted to grow employment opportunities.

A further focus has been the livelihood and cultural integrity of the people of West Papua. We do not promote a view in regard to independence. Indeed we believe that where this question becomes



Cardinal John Ribat MSC, presider at the concelebration

a single focus, care to uphold and strengthen local institutions of democracy may be overlooked. We echo the call for quality education in Papua, for fair and transparent access to jobs, training programmes and employment, for respect of land titles, and for clear boundaries between the role of defence and police forces and the role of commerce. The large majority of indigenous people of Papua seek peace and the various dialogue groups, advocating and witnessing to peaceful co-existence, are a source of hope for all. Let us conclude with reference to Pope Francis's inspiring encyclical *Laudato Si* which he opens with the beautiful canticle of Saint Francis of Assisi who also reminds our generation that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.

We look forward to our Plenary Assembly in Port Moresby in April next year to which is invited all the bishops of Oceania. Our theme will be - 'Care of our Common Home of Oceania: A sea of possibilities'.

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Media Statement

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# 'Computer geek'

## takes one more step towards sainthood

Carlo Acutis, who died at 15 years old, cataloged all of the Eucharistic miracles in the world. Website: [www.carloacutis.com/en/association/biografia](http://www.carloacutis.com/en/association/biografia)

On Thursday, November 24, 2016, Cardinal Angelo Scola closed the diocesan phase in the canonization process for Carlo Acutis, a 15-year-old Italian boy who died in 2006 of leukemia. He was a well-loved teenager who devoted himself to prayer and daily Mass as well as computer programming, film editing, website creation, editing and layout of comics.

According to the website for his canonization process, "Carlo was gifted at anything related to computers so that his friends, and the adults with computer engineering degrees, considered him a genius. Everyone was amazed by his ability to understand the computer secrets that are normally accessible only to those who have completed university."

### Who says you can't be a saint?

One of his most significant computer ventures was cataloguing all the Eucharistic

miracles of the world. He started the project when he was 11 years old and wrote at the time, "The more Eucharist we receive, the more we will become like Jesus, so that on this earth we will have a foretaste of Heaven." He then asked his parents to start taking him to all the places of the Eucharistic miracles, and two and half years later the project was completed.

Acutis researched over "136 Eucharistic miracles that occurred over the centuries in different countries around the world, and have been acknowledged by the Church" and collected them into a virtual museum. Besides creating a website to house this virtual museum, he helped create panel presentations that have traveled around the world.

According to the introductory panel, "In the United States alone, thanks to assistance from the *Knights of Columbus*, *The Cardinal Newman Society* and *The Real*



*Presence Association and Education*, with the support of Cardinal Edmond Burke[\*], it has been hosted in thousands of parishes and more than 100 universities." The panels have traveled to all five continents and have inspired many by their amazing photographs and beautiful stories.

Acutis once said, "To always be close to Jesus, that's my life plan." In his brief life on earth he achieved that goal and remained close to Jesus in whatever he did, whether it was praying in front of the Blessed Sacrament for hours, creating websites, or going to school like every other teenager.



# Election Matters

with  
Fr. Roger Purcell MSC

The Elections are over and our values trampled on. **Hope** has been betrayed as we face more of the same. Made in the **image and likeness of God**, sons and daughters of God, sisters and brothers, yet the Elections displayed cheating, corruption, lawlessness, violence, and killing, violating our human dignity and equality as persons.

**Dialogue** is a skill that requires a willingness to listen carefully and to speak the truth. Campaigns full of speeches, lies and half-truths, with little or no listening to the mind and hearts of the people gave no place to dialogue. **Reconciliation** with others was replaced with selfish ambition, greed and lust for power, leading to ongoing fighting, killing and violence, needing greater reconciliation.

Democratic **participation** of all through discussion, **discernment** and voting was ignored, with many not on the roll, denied free and secret ballot, threatened and manipulated in an undemocratic way. This unlawful manipulation led to a lack of **discernment or consensus**. Many simply walked away from the polling station, discouraged and intimidated.

**Leadership of Service** was replaced with domination, manipulation, selfishness and power. We saw demonstrated the complete lack of awareness or concern for the **Common Good** of the nation and the people.

However, let us go forward in HOPE to take our role in building a better nation.

# Baptism at Lake Kutubu

**Mendi:** Lake Kutubu located in the Southern Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea and part of the Diocese of Mendi.

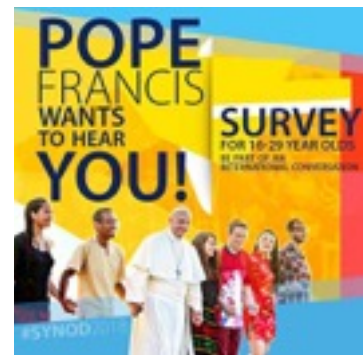
The joyful liturgy took place at an outdoor Holy Mass celebrated on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi on the shores of scenic Lake Kutubu. The decision to celebrate the baptisms by immersion was discussed by the Parish Pastoral Council. Father Peter decided to use this approved form of administering the Sacrament of Baptism as a way of drawing attention to the importance of this first of the Sacraments of the Church by which people are cleansed of their sins, become adopted reborn children of God our Father and members of the Church. Seventeen people of various ages received the Sacrament of Baptism and twenty one, mainly your people received Jesus for the first time in Holy Communion.

Parish priest of Holy Family, Fr Peo Seo belongs to the Korean Missionary Society. The Korean Missionary Society has been serving in the Catholic Diocese of Mendi for decades. As the Church continues to grow in the Southern Highland Province, Hela Province and throughout PNG, we pray that the peace and justice willed by God will also grow in this beautiful land.



# Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment

In preparation for the Incoming Synod 2018, Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment, all Youth Groups are to send the results of their survey to the Diocesan Youth Coordinator by **15th September, 2017**. The Diocesan coordinator will then send the tabulated results to reach the CBC Youth Office by **24th September, 2017**. **We have received one so far**. The survey will form the basis for a Pastoral Letter on Youth. A synthesis of the questionnaire will then be made for our reflection and action. Bp. Peter Baquero sdb and Bp Rolando Santos, the Bishops responsible for Youth look forward to receiving your survey results. Thanks in anticipation.



Youth Survey



**International Short Film Festival 2017**  
9 short films from across the world dealing with a variety of Youth issues and values. It is organised by the CBC Social Communications Department in collaboration with the Education and Youth departments.  
Copies @ K 100/- only. Pay to the following Account:  
**CBC SOCOM, ANZ Waigani, 14438507, BSB 018902**  
Contact: Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb for details.



# Duke of York Protest Seabed Mining

- Aileen Baretta, Freelance journalist



agreed to stand together with hands crossed to BAN Deep Sea Mining in their waters.

Duke of York Islanders have created sculptures as a sign of protest against seabed mining in July this year. Two sculptures were made using cloth and lines, which were then placed in two strategic locations in view of passing boats to drive the awareness of the protest.

Duke of York Islands and West coast New Ireland are two very grave areas chosen as the sight of the proposed Solwara 1 Project world's first deep-sea mining yet showing a very rich cultural and spiritual tradition to the sea. Duke of York Islands, is a group of islands located in East New Britain Province. They are found in St George Channel between New Britain and New Ireland and forms part of the Bismarck Archipelago. The largest island is Duke of York while two smaller islands are Mioko Palpal to the south and Makada in the north.

The islands remains the transit point for local seafarers and people travelling by boat from west coast of New Ireland to the nearest town of Kokopo in East New Britain. This is because of lack of basic government services and infrastructure on mainland New Ireland and provincial capital Kavieng being further. These isles in the impact vicinity of the proposed Solwara 1 project

continuously strengthen their cultural and spiritual connection to the sea and are working together to ban Seabed Mining.

The Kinavai ceremony (Duke of York) a traditional parade of the tolai sacred society the Dukduks, traditional mask dancers on the sea and the traditional shark callers from Messi village west coast New Ireland are living paradigms of people who are culturally alive and intimately connected to the sea. These practices are inherent thus making it hard for science to separate the local cultures from its spirituality that is tied to the sea.

Locals including men, women, young people, children and elders in Duke of York Island with the help of volunteers did an illustration of their fishing grounds and mapped out a natural ecosystem that has consistently provided for their livelihood for thousands of years. They also constructed sculptures as a signpost to protest, educate and tell people about the risks of seabed mining; a very westernized fashion yet very informative and effective.

Duke of York Islanders and New Irelanders from the west coast have now

Participatory mapping by women and children



Kinavai sea parade



Deep Sea Mining

## Diaconate Ordinations

### Goroka, Papua New Guinea:

Mary Help of Christian's parish, Kefamo hosted the Diaconate ordination of Thomas Piopo on St. John Mary Vianney's feast day, 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2017. Bp Dariusz Eki Kaluza MSF commenced the mass with a smile. It was his first ordination mass after he took over from Bishop Francesco Sarego in August, 2016. The church was filled to capacity as all came to pray and celebrate together with their priests.

Bp Dariusz reminded Thomas to be a 'Good Servant' and not serve two masters. "A Priest must show God to people, be prayerful, believe and protect the integrity of the church", he said. He challenged Thomas not to be scared and ashamed. Be like St Thomas and come closer to God and ask him for guidance always.

Thomas Piopo was born and raised in Pangia, Southern Highlands Province. Thomas joined Goroka Diocese in 2009 during his formation years at the seminary and was ordained deacon 8 years later.

**Noro, Solomon Islands:** The Diaconate ordination of Br. Dominic Soloko was held on the 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2017 feast of St Eusebius, patron of the parish at Noro Township. It was witnessed by his own family, relatives and friends from Waghina Island, Canaan and hundreds from Noro.

Bp Luciano Capelli sdb, encouraged the deacon to be like Jesus, fully human, close to the people he will serve and fully divine, close to the God he wants to bring the people to by his service. He is therefore called to live as Christ lived. The parishioners from Noro Catholic

Church prepared a large celebration and lunch for everyone. Groups from Canaan, Wagina, Goldie College, Biulah PSS and friends from Malaita entertained the audience. Earlier, 40 candidates were confirmed at Cannan at a well prepared ceremony on 5<sup>th</sup> August.

## Commentary - by Fr. Victor Roche, SVD 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament of PNG

We are celebrating the 42<sup>nd</sup> Independence Anniversary in September this year. We have also elected the representatives for the 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament for the term of 2017-2022. There are 111 parliamentarians but shockingly all of them are men! There are no women. Our House of Parliament is a 'Hausman' (house of men)!

Prime Minister Peter O'Neil has revived the proposed bill for reserving 22 seats for women parliamentarians. It is a very good proposal. We will have 133 members of parliament and there will be at least 22 women representatives. I call upon the government MPs and the opposition leaders to vote for this proposal.

There are only 5 or 6 nations in the world where there are no women representatives in the parliament. PNG is one of them. Is it an achievement or a failure?

There are 8 million people in PNG and about 48% are female. Are there no worthy and capable women leaders in Papua New Guinea? Are only men capable of leading the country in PNG? In the traditions of the past-PNG, mostly men were the leaders in the villages and communities. People also trusted the leadership of men. Those men possessed wealth, usually land, pigs, money and wives. They also had leadership qualities to take the communities forward economically, socially and in times of war with the enemy clan.

The situation has not changed much in PNG. Old customs die hard. People of PNG still believe that only men can be good leaders. Where are the women? Why did they not elect the women leaders? When it comes to leadership in the village communities of PNG, the worst enemy of women are women! Of course, the situation is changing positively. Women of PNG: Believe in yourselves and in the leadership qualities of other women.

Men of PNG: trust the leadership of women. Men lead with the head and the women lead with the heart. We need both.





## Yumi Yet Sios

- Bp Rochus Tatamai MSC



Mi hamamas tru long tokaut olsem yumi gat nupela National Sekretari bilong Laiti Commission insait long Katolik Bishop's Konferens long PNG na Solomon Islands. Nem bilong em Mista **Joseph ToBung** nau yet emi pinisim skul lo bilong em long Universiti tasol emi mekim pinis planti wok redi wantaim ol memba bilong ol laiti grup na association wantaim ol spiritual movement insait long ol peris na sampela diosis.

Long wokabout bilong mi long mum August 2017 go long diosis bilong Bougainville long AROB mi bin bungim Bisop Bernard Unabali na mi tupela itoktok na glasim ol kainkain hevi na wari bilong ol pipol bilong yumi insait long Katolik Sios yet na tu insait long kauntri bilong yumi PNG na Solomon Islands. Mi tupela strongim ol wok bilong ol laiti manmeri insait long ol diosis bilong yumi bai mas kamap bikpela na moamoa yet imas kisim bikpela luksave namel long ai bilong ol Bisop, Pris na ol Religious manmeri na tu long ai na laip bilong olgeta pipol bilong yumi.

Nau emi taim bilong ol laiti olsem olgeta husat ikisim pinis sakramen bilong Baptais na Konfirmasio wantaim ol sakramen bilong konfesio o rekonsiliation na Santu Komunio, oli mas kisim ol wok insait long laip bilong sios insait long olgeta diosis bilong yumi. Ol laiti oli noken stap hait o sem long soim bilip bilong ol, nogat. Oli mas kisim strong long dispela ol sakramen na oli mas soim tru wok na spirituality bilong laiti insait long laip bilong ol. Ol laiti em olgeta manmeri ol Katolik Kristian manmeri husat ikisim pinis ol sakramen bilong kamap tru memba bilong bodi bilong Kraist husait em Sios yet.

Olgeta laiti oli mas kamap ol lait bilong Kraist insait long ol family, ples na wok ples bilong ol wantaim ol pasin bilong witness long tok tru, tok stret na pasin jastis na kamapim gutpela sindaun na pasin wanbel wantaim laik pasin olsem Kraist yet isoim yumi.

Olgeta laiti wantaim olgeta Bisop, Pris na Religious manmeri yumi olgeta mas kamap tru sol bilong givim gutpela teist na feiva insait long kainkain laip yumi gat. Wokabout bilong yumi insait long laip bilong bilip imas karim ol gutpela pikinini kaikai bilong Holi Spirit bilong God wantaim pasin bilong laikim tru ol bratasusa bilong yumi, pasin sekhan na belsori long ol narapela, laik pasin tru long halivim ol tarangu bratasusa bilong yumi. Yumi prei na wok wantaim bai spirit tru bilong ol laiti olsem Blessed Pita ToRot ibin soim long laip bilong em iken karim ol gutpela pikinini kaikai insait long sios na tu kauntri bilong yumi.

## Celebrating 40 years of fidelity

- Article - Arlene Abital; Photograph - Karl David Valmonte

"You in me and I in you," has been the religious motto chosen by Sr. Aniceta Saligumba, FMA, when she made her profession 40 years ago.

Sr. Annie, as she is affectionately called by her students, was born on August 12, 1946 in Tagbilaran City, Bohol, Philippines. She is the 4<sup>th</sup> born in a family of seven siblings and grew up in a prayerful and pious family. At the age of five, she started schooling and completed both her primary and secondary studies at Holy Spirit, Bohol. She then completed her BSE, Maths & Science majors from the National University in Manila. For the next six years she taught at the Holy Trinity Academy, a school managed by the Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco, in the most populated area of Manila. Here she experienced the joy of self-giving and was inspired by the apostolate of eight Religious missionaries from other countries including that of four Filipinos who worked with the people in the squatter settlements. At the annual retreat, this young teacher realized her call to serve God as a consecrated Salesian religious. After several months of discernment, she entered religious life in October 1973.

For the past 40 years, she has responded to several assignments with obedience. Her tasks included: class adviser, teacher, Coordinator for Catechetical Ministry, Directress, Provincial Treasurer and Vicar in Mary Help of Christians schools in the Philippines. She said that the Mary Help of Christians school for indigenous people in Mindoro, Philippines was the most challenging. She followed up projects for the FMA congregation for the indigenous people, coordinated with local schools which lack catechists and prepared financial reports for some international funding agencies that support the indigenous. She has been able to achieve much through God's blessings and the support of her sisters.

### Vision-mission for the young in PNG

"Don Bosco loves the young. My life for 40 years as a Religious has been fulfilling. I enjoy coordinating activities like camps and in the oratory for the young. I wish that the lives of the religious missionaries and animating presence of lay people in the country may encourage more local vocations. At the end of the years of studies in DBTI, I pray that our young people may continue with their sense of responsibility, initiative and commitment in whatever they do and be agents of moral and social change in the country," said the happy Jubilarian.



## Nine films at the ISFF17

Article - Arlene Abital; Photographs - Karl David Valmonte

**Port Moresby:** Nine films were screened at the International Short Film Festival held at Emmaus Conference Centre, Boroko East on 2<sup>nd</sup> of September, 2017. The audience numbering 150 persons sat enthralled in the hall as they experienced sight and sound and more importantly the opportunity to ponder, reflect and share powerful messages of determination, commitment and success of our young people in Papua New Guinea.

The film festival organized by SOCOM and coordinated by Fr. Ambrose Pereira, SDB CBC Social Communications and Youth Secretary, together with the Education and Youth department had as its theme: '**Spirit of Youth**'. Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal, Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands opened the event with the lighting of the candle and a blessing. Bishop Rochus Tatamai, MSC, Bishop of Berenia, priests, religious, Mr. & Mrs. Hidayat and Lina Hanafi, CEO of SVS Mart and the sponsor for the event, the seven participating schools of the Media Education Seminar, school media coordinators, the secular media personnel and other invited guests were among those present.

International short films from the United Kingdom, India, Indonesia, Ethiopia, USA & Syria, Ethiopia have been procured from Tej-prasarni, Don Bosco Communications, India. The films of Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea are a product of Film Seminars in the two countries. Themes expressing the struggles and hopes of youth dealt with true love, patience, kindness and compassion, selfless love, the mission of the Church to proclaim God's love, violence, generosity, the power of words, rejection and appreciating each other's talents as sons or daughters of God. Between each film, the audience had the chance to share their thoughts.

The festival coincided with the conclusion of the Media Education Seminar which commenced in March. The seven participating schools received certificates, gifts and T-shirts. It also acknowledged the outstanding productions in print, radio and the visual media.



## 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](mailto:ambrose.pereirasdb@gmail.com) on or before **20th September, 2017**

**Produced by: CBC SOCOM**