

# The Catholic Reporter

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**World Youth Day, 2019**  
**You are Now of God**  
© AFP/Getty Images



- Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb



At the conclusion of Mass, the Holy Father thanked all who made the celebrations of World Youth Day an enriching and empowering experience. His last words for the young people were: "We are on a journey. Keep walking, keep living the faith and sharing it". And do not forget, said Pope Francis, that "you are not the tomorrow, you are not the 'meantime', you are the Now of God".

Earlier on the 26<sup>th</sup> January, at a prayerful vigil where 600,000 pilgrims were present, the Pope called on young people to reject the temptation to live their lives online. He urged them to get involved in their families and communities. Life is not "in the cloud, waiting to be downloaded, a new app to be discovered, or a technique of mental self-improvement," the pontiff said during his grandfatherly discourse. As he spoke to the young people he mentioned the saints of the young. He referred to Don Bosco and spoke of his love for the young and care for those who are marginalized. He spoke of Archbishop Romero and his stand for justice. The Holy Father used his encounter with young people in Central America to speak out repeatedly in defense of migrants, and address other problems affecting the region such as poverty, drug trafficking, violence and the domination of women. He also touched on the sex abuse scandals that have plagued the Church. At the close of the final Eucharistic celebration, he announced that the next World Youth Day will be held in Lisbon, Portugal in 2022.

**27<sup>th</sup> January, Panama:** Pope Francis arrived in his Pope mobile to an electrifying atmosphere at the Saint John Paul II, Metro Park, during the World Youth Day final celebrations on the outskirts of Panama City. Despite the blazing sun, an estimated number of 700,000 people joined in the final Eucharistic celebration on the 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2019.

Pope Francis highlighted the role of Mary and her 'yes' to the dream of God. Reflecting on the passage from the Gospel of Luke, the Pope reminded the congregation that 'today' is 'now'. Referring to the Synod of Youth and the need to listen to each other, he said that we need to dream of working for tomorrow, but start today. "Not tomorrow, but now", emphasised the Holy Father.

## A tribute to Bishop Emeritus Christian Blouin CMM - Fr Brian Nonde

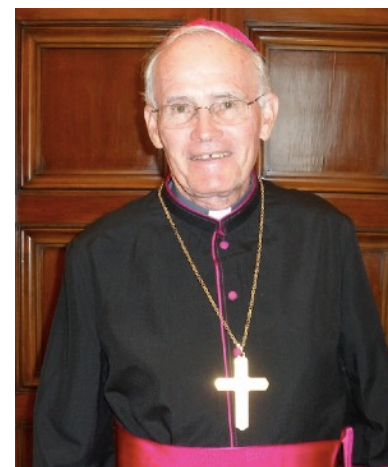
The Diocese of Lae was blessed with its third Bishop on 15th December, 2018. Less than a month later, on 12th January they were saddened by the sudden death of Bp Christian Blouin CMM. Here is a brief tribute to him.

Bishop Emeritus Christian Blouin CMM was born on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1941 in St. Sebastien, Quebec, Canada. He did his Secondary Education at College de Levi in Levi Quebec in 1955. Prompted by his desire to become a missionary and a priest, Christian Blouin went to Mariannahill Mont-Ste-Anne College in Sherbrooke in 1957 to complete his secondary school training. He entered the Novitiate of the Missionaries of Mariannahill in Rock Forest Quebec in 1962, and then studied Philosophy and Theology at the University of Sherbrooke from 1963-1969. He was ordained a priest on 3rd May 1969 by the Archbishop of Sherbrooke, Jean-Marie Fortier. For many years he was a staff member of the Mont-Ste-Anne College in Sherbrooke, where he worked as Dean of Students. Then he made a request to come to Papua New Guinea for mission experience.

In 1985-86 he was in the Lae Diocese for a year. The experience in Papua New Guinea made a deep impression on him, he felt the call to work in the mission, but he had to return to Canada where he continued his work in formation as novice master for two years. In 1989, the late, then Fr. Christian Blouin was transferred to New Guinea. He was parish priest of the All Saints Parish in the

Bumbu settlement then was assigned to the St. Patrick's Parish in the Tent City settlement.

As a priest in the diocese, he was also chaplain of the Charismatic Renewal Movement and was provincial superior of his congregation from 1993-99. In 2002 he was entrusted with the formation of Mariannahill priest candidates at Bomana and was engaged in the setting up of a house of formation at Bomana, of which he was Rector from 2002-2005. He was then assigned to Lae again where he oversaw formation of candidates for Mariannahill and at the same time looked after the St. Martin's Parish as parish priest. In 2007, he was appointed by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI as Bishop of Lae succeeding Bishop Henery van Lieshout. The Emeritus Bishop Christian Blouin CMM was the Bishop of Lae Diocese for 12 years. His task included relief efforts as he was part of the Caritas board.



May the Lord grant Emeritus Bishop Christian Blouin eternal rest in his kingdom. May he reward him for his service to the Diocese and other places where he ministered as a missionary, religious and clergy.

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# Good politics is at the service of PEACE

- Courtesy Zenit.

Message of the Holy Father for the World Day of Peace continued:

**5. Good politics promotes the participation of the young** - When the exercise of political power aims only at protecting the interests of a few privileged individuals, the future is compromised and young people can be tempted to lose confidence, as they are on the margins of society. When politics fosters the talents of young people, peace grows. Everyone can contribute to building the common home. Together, our heart, our hands can become a means of dialogue. Today, we need “artisans of peace” who can be messengers and authentic witnesses of God the Father, who wills the good and the happiness of the entire human family.

**6. No to war and to the strategy of fear**  
It has been over a hundred years after the First World War. The destruction of people killed in battle, the civilian populations torn apart and the lives of the young that have been destroyed have made us conscious of the terrible lessons of war. Blaming every evil on migrants is depriving them of hope. In particular, the witness given by those who work to protect and defend the dignity and rights of children in areas of conflict is most precious for the future of humanity. Peace is based on respecting the law and the common good, respecting the environment entrusted to our care and the richness inherited from past generations.

**7. A great project of peace**  
We celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in the wake of the Second World War. Pope John XXIII reminds us that ‘The possession of rights involves implementing those rights, as they are the expression of a man’s personal dignity’. Peace, is the fruit of a great political project grounded in mutual responsibility and interdependence of all human beings. But it is

also a challenge that demands a conversion of heart and soul.

It has three inseparable aspects:  
1. *peace with oneself* - showing “a bit of sweetness towards oneself” in order to offer “a bit of sweetness to others” – St Francis de Sales;  
2. *peace with others* - family members, friends, strangers, the poor and the suffering, being unafraid to encounter them and listen to what they have to say;  
3. *peace with all creation* - rediscovering the grandeur of God’s gift and our individual and shared responsibility as inhabitants of this world, citizens and builders of the future.

The politics of peace, draws inspiration from the Magnificat, that Mary, the Mother of Christ the Saviour and Queen of Peace, sang in the name of all mankind: “He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly; ...for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever” (Lk 1:50-55).

## A challenge for young people

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb  
CBC SOCOM and Youth Secretary

The XXXIV World Youth Day 2019, with its theme: ‘I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word’ (Lk 1:38) has been an inspiring event that calls every young person to action.



I have been struck by the willingness and the openness of the young people to take on the challenge of the Holy Father, to act upon it and be witnesses of Christ in their lives. The variety of colours, flags from countries across the world and people dressed up in their traditional costumes interacting peacefully with one another displayed a richness and diversity. One feels a sense of pride to belong to the universal Catholic Church where the Catholic faith is alive and vibrant and celebrated in different counties, cultures and communities. Inspired and uplifted by catechesis with the Bishops, celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and sharing testimonies has evoked a deeper commitment to faith. The highlight of the event was the dynamic presence of Pope Francis and his challenging message of hope to young people. ‘You are the ‘Now of God’ said the Holy Father as he encouraged them to live their faith and challenge the issues that exist in the world today.

The following have had a deep impression on me. They are:

- Climate change** - Care for our environment with the looming threat of Sea Bed Mining, deforestation and the abuse of the environment due to the use of disposable plastics.
- The care and protection of migrants and refugees** - The need to reach out to our brothers who have now reached breaking point. Abandoned for six years on Manus Island, and uncertain about their future, has caused mental trauma and major health issues in the majority of the refugees. A humanitarian crisis can be avoided if we have the courage to stand up for their cause.
- The need to be a witness of Christ in our world today** - Young people are ready to take up the challenge to bear witness to Christ by a committed way of life. Our Catholic commitment to ‘live pure’; celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage and the commitment to build good Catholic families and homes.

Pope Francis believes in our young people and has challenged them. Together with Mary our Mother we say ‘Yes’ to these challenges. Young people of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, are you ready to prove yourself?

## Local women want peace

- Abigail Seta



Frequent tribal fights in many parts of the Highlands region dislodges families and robs them of their livelihoods leaving women and children seriously affected.

Recently, the women in Hela province decided they want change and peace and they want to do something about it. Following a successful women’s leadership summit in Goroka in 2017, Hela women requested Oil Search Foundation (OSF) to support a forum where they can lead the dialogue around addressing violence.

According to a press release from the OSF, the Hela women requested the OSF to support a forum where they can lead the dialogue around addressing violence.

It was a two-day workshop, attended by 24 women leaders from Hela’s Tari-Pori, Koroba-Lake Kopyago and Komo-Magarima districts and representatives of the Hela administration in mid-January. The leaders agreed that a community approach is needed for collective action to tackle violence, education and economic empowerment.

Participant and leader Janet Koriama said their fear is that there will be ongoing killings and violence because most deaths resulting out of tribal fights have not been compensated.

“Women and children are mostly and will be affected by tribal warfare. There aren’t any proper court hearings, Correctional Institutional Services (CIS) camps are not functioning, police are not arresting any perpetrators of rape or family and sexual violence. We would like by-laws developed to address these practices and have it passed as a Provincial Hela law to influence the attitude and behaviours that provoke tribal war fares.”

OSF has agreed to work with women in Hela to further develop and implement a plan of action.

### TURANGU Appeal

Caritas PNG’s Lenten **Turangu Appeal 2019** is based on the great call to **Live in “Holiness”** amidst the challenges of modern day lives.

This Holy action during the 7-weeks of Lent is based on the gospel message in Mt. 25:31-46. The Gospel dictates that as Christians we have a holy duty and a moral obligation to give unconditionally: **‘give without counting, give without expecting, and give for the sake of Christ.’** It is part of the Catholic Church’s age old holy tradition which calls for all Catholic faithful to “*prayer, fasting & works of mercy.*”

The use of these funds is dictated by **CBC PNG/SI AGM** policy resolution. It strictly responds to natural disaster incidents only. Lenten Appeal Campaign is only one of the functions while justice, peace & integral human development remain the core functions of Caritas PNG.

## SOCOM Seminar

«We are members one of another» (Eph 4,25).

### From network community to human communities

Venue: **Catholic Bishops Conference, Port Moresby**  
Dates: **11th February, evening to 15th February, noon.**  
Participants: **2 participants from each diocese**  
Registration Fee: **K200 per participant**

The seminar is for those who are involved in the Media at the level of the diocese, parish, institution or congregation.

For more information, contact the **CBC SOCOM office.**

# 'Laudato Si' Generation

*Youth for the Common Home, Ecological Conversion in Action*



Around 200 young people and animators, representatives of youth ministry in their own countries, dioceses and parishes participated at a very enlightening day at the Congress. At the start of the congress, the participants were warmly welcomed by Mons. Jose Domingo Ulloa Mendieta, Archbishop of Panama; Mons. Miroslaw Adamczyk, Apostolic Nuncio in Panama; Mrs Raisa Banfield, Vice Mayor of Panama; Fr. Alexandre Awi Mello, Secretary of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life and several others. Mrs Raisa Banfield expressed her gratitude at the start of the Congress and the celebration of World Youth Day as they commemorate 500 years of Christianity. All the speakers stressed the need for an Ecological Conversion that will result from a change of life style. Prof. Milton Garcia in his session, 'Yes. It does concern me', encouraged the participants to take on simple personally choices that will result in a change. The use of water, collective clubs, voting for socially conscious candidates, using

the media to communicate a message of change will help change the world", he said. The talks, while dwelling on the general situation of the world, reflected the situation of Papua New Guinea.

"Deforestation resulting in climate change; extraction of minerals with no concern for the environment; the looming rape of the sea bed and above all the disposal of rubbish and trash, especially that of plastic bags and bottles are destroying our naturally rich environment. All this leads to worsening the effect of poverty of our people," said Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb, the only representative from Papua New Guinea. The session after lunch were dedicated to discussions in language groups and were a search for answers. The young people then proposed the "Laudato Si" Generation. It is a network of Catholic youth, committed to remaining faithful to the teachings of our Holy Father.

The official launch of this new network was done in the presence of the Holy Father on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2019.

"Deforestation, water crisis, forest fires, dramatic climate changes were unheard of in Panama. Today, it is a regular occurrence", shared a young Panamanian representative. "We are guilty of the sin of silence, omission, indifference and negligence," said another.

Similar sentiments were expressed by other young people at the third International Congress on the Care of Creation. The young people then committed themselves to a 'Laudato Si' generation. "Youth for the Common House" Ecological Conversion in Action was the theme of the congress. It was held at the Universidad Católica Santa María La Antigua, Panama City, Panama on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

## Diocese of Kavieng ordains priest



**Kavieng:** The harmonious Litany of the Saints. As the Solemnity of the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist at the Jordon was a suitable occasion for the ordination of Dn Venancius Peni Pambali, who was ordained on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 in the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, in the Diocese of Kavieng.

His Lordship Bishop Rochus Tatamai MSC, DD was joined by the sixteen priests from the three Deaneries of Manus, Namatanai and Kavieng joined in the celebration.

Dancers and singers from Saint Martin de Porres Parish, Lamasong led the Solemn Entrance procession.

The Sacred Heart Primary School students led the parish choir with a

Bp Rochus Josef Tatamai MSC exhorted the newly ordained saying, "Now you begin your reality as a priest. The daily, monthly and yearly routine of practical living as a priest is much tougher yet rewarding when one fully lives out the with joy the ministerial Priesthood of Christ".

The newly ordained Priest's parents are from New Ireland and East New Britain Province.

"We are all happy that he has chosen to be a priest, even though he is our only brother and son in the family," said Beverly Pambali, the sister of the newly ordained.

## The Plight of the Manus Refugees

Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME, CBC General Secretary

*From the Open Letter to PM Hon. Peter O'Neil*



It is with heavy heart and an intense sense of sadness that I report to you on my recent visits to Lorengau town in Manus Island and to the Pacific International Hospital (PIH) in Port Moresby.

At the two locations, I had the heartbreaking experience of making contact with an appalling level of desperation in which refugees and asylum seekers live. I warmly invite you to make a quick visit to the ICU ward of PIH at 3 Mile. You will come across about twenty refugees and asylum seekers in a deplorable state of mental health compounded with other ailments affecting their cardiac and respiratory system, kidney failure, fractured bones, etc. PIH and the PNG health system in general cannot cope with these types of diseases and the men are prevented by their status from seeking independent and autonomous medical attention elsewhere.

The people of Manus expected the offshore processing of those more than one thousand men taken to their island at Lombrum naval base to last two or three years at the most. Now half of the initial number of those men are still there after six years.

The uncertainty about their future, the rejection of claims and applications for resettlement, the length of the review process has brought a significant breakdown in their mental health conditions.

I am therefore appealing, Hon. Prime Minister, to your sense of humanity and the responsibility of your high office. As you accepted in 2013 to offer help to the Kevin Rudd government of Australia and the refugees themselves to have their status processed in Papua New Guinea and begin a new life elsewhere, I am now humbly asking you to give a very close deadline to the authorities in Canberra for the removal of all refugees and asylum seekers from our country on the basis of strongly compelling medical and humanitarian reasons. Having achieved the objective of "stopping the boats" their detention now amounts to mere cruelty and plain mental and physical torture.

I am sure that everybody will appreciate you demanding from the Prime Minister of Australia that any offshore processing in Papua New Guinea is ended within sixty days at the most, and these men immediately receive proper medical treatment in Australia while waiting for the final decision on their future in any safe country.

## Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

**The Catholic Bishops Conference of PNG & SI** Invites Catholics (with PNG passport) to join this once in a lifetime experience – walking in the land of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dates: **20th to 28th August, 2019**  
 Target Number: **A group of 25 people**  
 Price: **PGK 10,000 (Total Cost)**  
 Pilgrimage Chaplain: **Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME, CBC General Secretary**



Let the Bible come alive as you reflect and visit these places:  
**TEL AVIV, CAESAREA, HAIFA, NAZARETH CANA, MT OF BEATITUDES, TABGHA, CAPERNAUM, SEA OF GALILEE, MT TABOR, JERICHO, RIVER JORDAN, QUMRAN, DEAD SEA, BETHLEHEM AND JERUSALEM.**

For further details, contact: **Ms. Nyleptha Kenny**  
 Tel: 71209422 or 78233125 Email: [cbcea@catholic.org.pg](mailto:cbcea@catholic.org.pg)

**First come, first served basis**

# Yumi Yet Sios

Long yia 2018, yumi bin lukluk na wokabaut wantaim ol yangpela wantaim astingting Pope Francis i bung wantaim sampela bisop na toktok long painim rot bilong helpim ol yangpela long gro long bilip na painim vokesen God i singautim ol long en.

Tru tumas God i oltaim singautim yumi olgeta long bihainim lekmak bilong em. Yumi mas strongim ol yangpela bilong yumi bai ol i ken painim dispela taim na spes long harim gut dispela invitation na Singaut bilong God insait long laip bilong ol.

Long namba 15 de bilong mun Desemba 2018 yumi olgeta i bin bung long hamamas na prei wantaim ol bilipmanmeri bilong Katolik Daisis bilong Lae. Ol i bin kisim nupela Bisop Rozario Menezes S.M.M husat i bin kisim ples bilong lapun Bisop Christian Blouin cmm. Tru tumas dispela dei em i bungim olgeta Bisop bilong olgeta daosis bilong PNG. Bisop Bernard Unabali bilong Bougainville em tasol wanpela ino bin inap long kamap.

Sori tru olsem ino wanpela mun i pinis yet na Katolik Daisis bilong Lae i bung gen insait long

spirit bilong krai na sori, wari na prei bikos God i singautim pinis wokman bilong em Bisop Christian Blouin cmm igo long ples malolo bilong oltaim long heven.

Na tu insait long dispela taim bilong Krismas na nupela yia planti Daisis i selebreitim ol ordination bilong ol nupela pris. Yumi hamamas long dispela na yumi mas strongim wokabaut bilong yumi wantaim ol yangpela insait long dispela nupela yia. Mi kisim sampela astingting bilong Asbisop Douglas Young svd bilong asdaisis bilong Mt Hagen i givim long wanpela pas em i bin salim raun insait long yia bilong ol yangpela.

Dispela singaut emi mekim strongpela Singaut tru long:

1. Strongim Kristen Famili
2. Bringim Pikinini long God taim ol i yangpela yet
3. Strongim pasin bilong pre insait long famili
4. Askim God long blesim ol yangpela na strongim bilip olsem ol yangpela inap long mekim ol bikpela wok
5. Tingim tu ol bikpela lain bilong ol komuniti i stap longwe long bus na tu ol drop-aut o ol husat ino bin pinisim gut skul bilong ol

- Bp Rochus Tatamai MSC



6. Givim ol Pikinini igo long God na sambai wantaim ol long painim plen bilong God insait long laip bilong ol yangpela
7. Putim ol yangpela i go long han na hart bilong Maria
8. Helpim ol yangpela long tek pat long program na ektiviti bilong Sios
9. Pre bai God i ken singautim planti yangpela insait long ol famili na komuniti bilong yumi long tok yesa long plen bilong God
10. Salensim na strongim ol yangpela long kamap na stap holi" Yumi olgeta igat ol bikpela wok long mekim long strongim na helpim olgeta yangpela insait long famili na komuniti long harim singaut bilong God na bihainim insait long laip bilong ol olsem long stap long single laip na ino marit, marit laip, relijus laip o kamap na holim wok pris.

Yumi yet Sios i kamap ples klia sapos yumi olgeta i ken painim aut gut singaut bilong God long yumi olgeta na wanwan tu na mekim inapim olgeta long laip bilong yumi.



## Ecclesiastical Heraldry in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands

- Marek Sobola

At the end of 2015, Marek Sobola addressed a number of Archbishops and Bishops mostly from missionary countries with the offer to design their coats of arms, at no cost. Here is his story:

His Excellency Abp. Stephen allowed me to redraw his coat of arms into a heraldic criteria. Then came an opportunity to create a coat of arms for the Archdiocese of Madang. Later, a new Bp. Dariusz Kaluza MSF approached me and in my heraldic beginnings I also co-operated with Abp. Francesco Panfilo SDB and Abp. Christopher Cardone OP. As my work grew, my desire to create coats of arms of every Diocese and Archdiocese on Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Solomon Islands (SI) grew as well. By the end of 2018, I worked on 27 institutional and personal ecclesiastical coats of arms in PNG and SI. I had a valuable help from Associated Professor Miroslav Glejtek, Ph.D. who is a Heraldic consultant of the Episcopal Conference of Slovakia. I also designed seals and flags for

each institution and for some dioceses and bishops also letterhead papers. I have authored the following coats of arms: Archdiocese of Rabaul, Archdiocese of Madang, Archdiocese of Honiara in Solomon Islands, Diocese of Alotau-Sideia, Diocese of Goroka, Diocese of Kimbe, Diocese of Bereina, Diocese of Vanimo and Diocese of Kavieng.

In conclusion, I am glad I have been able to work on so many coats of arms in PNG and SI, as well as in many other missionary countries. My heraldic work for missions is and will always be free of charge. It is my way to thank God for the talent He blessed me with".

"I have chosen to share my Catholic faith and gifts that I have received from God. I wish to assist in a small way, Bishops in their administration and pastoral work through the creation of ecclesiastical symbols and their coats of arms. One of the first responses came at the beginning of 2016 from the Archdiocese of Madang, from His Excellency Stephen Reichert OFMCap., Archbishop of Madang.

## Dare to make a difference

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny, a Roman Catholic religious institute founded in 1807, by Bl. Anne Marie Javouhey live up to their motto: 'Holy Will of God.'

The members devote themselves especially to missionary work and providing education for the poor. The Congregation is 212-years-old and have been in Papua New Guinea for 48 years where they are available for pastoral, education and health work.

On 26<sup>th</sup> January 2019, Sr Fatima Mafu sjc, made her perpetual profession as a member of

the religious institute. She is the first native sister to do so. The solemn Eucharistic celebration was held at the Holy Spirit Cathedral, Kerema. Bp Peter Baquero sdb, congratulated Sr Fatima as he appreciated the presence and ministry of the sisters over the past 48 years. Filled with gratitude for the many wonders God has worked in her life, Sr Fatima challenges young people to take on the sacrifice of following the path God opens out for them.

"Life is never easy, when we go against the current," said Sr Fatima. "Little by little, God sheds His light on our path. We only have to



have patience and trust in His Divine Providence," she said.

## Catholic Reporter

Send in your articles, photograph and reflections on events and happenings in your parish, community, institution and diocese.

Editor: **Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb**

Sub Editor: **Abigail Seta**

Layout: **CBC SOCOM**

Please send in your articles and photographs to: [socom@catholic.org.pg](mailto:socom@catholic.org.pg)

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Focus on the Pastoral Letter  
Year of Laity 2019

# A Call to Holiness in Today's World

"We need to give thanks to God for lay people who take risks; who are not afraid and give hope to the poorest, to the excluded and to the marginalized." - Pope Francis

