



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

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Pope at Angelus: Seek, find and welcome God's precious love

- Thaddeus Jones

At the Sunday Angelus, Pope Francis speaks about the importance of seeking the Lord, discovering the treasure of His boundless love, and always welcoming Him into our lives.

The Pope then described three actions of the merchant that we also can put into practice in our own lives: he first *seeks*, then he *finds*, and finally he *buys* the precious pearl.

Seek with curiosity: The first action of the "enterprising merchant" to go out and seek precious pearls demonstrates his desire to "cultivate dreams of good" and search for something new, the Pope explained, as the merchant was not simply satisfied with what he already had, but knew there were even greater possibilities.

Keep sharp eyes: While searching for the precious pearl, the merchant then finds what he is looking for, as he has a sharp eye and knows how to recognize a pearl of great value, the Pope went on to say. He likened it to the person who goes through a fascinating oriental market full of a variety goods, carefully examining and discerning everything on display.

The Pope said this methodic process of careful discernment offers a teaching for us in that we also must discern what is good and precious.

He said we need to seek what matters and is of value for our lives, to train ourselves to see the "precious gems" of life from what is of no use or benefit.

Embrace the discovery: The Pope then described the merchant's last action when he buys the pearl, selling and sacrificing everything he has, as he realizes its immense value has to be "his only wealth, the meaning of his present and his future."




The ultimate Good of life: Summarizing the three actions of the wise merchant, the Pope said we should ask ourselves what we really seek in life and whether we are making an effort to search for God and do good.

World Youth Day prayers: After leading the recitation of the Angelus, the Pope asked everyone to accompany him with their prayers for his journey to Portugal starting on Wednesday, 2 August, where he will preside over World Youth Day celebrations in Lisbon.

Meet your Bishop: Bp Francis Henry Meli (Bishop of Vanimo Diocese)

- Jessica Oata



He calls himself the 'International Patient' after he was hospitalized in the Vatican during the recent Ad Limina Visit but is always jolly and has a lot of tales to tell if you have the time to listen.

In this edition, we will be featuring Bishop Francis Henry Meli, the shepherd of the Diocese of Vanimo.

Situated on the west coast of West New Britain in the Bismark Sea is the peaceful Island of Poi, which Bishop Francis calls home and has many fond memories.

"My people lived a subsistence way of life. They had gardens on the mainland where they harvested food and they fished the sea for protein".

Bishop Francis was born on July 21st, 1962. He recently turned 61, yet he still diligently does his pastoral work with efforts in being united with his sheep, even if it means walking long distances, climbing mountains or traveling by dinghy.

His education background goes back to the 1970s. From 1972-1977, he did his grades 1-6 and then he went to stay with his aunty in Rabaul and stayed out of school for two years. When he returned to Kimbe in 1979, he applied to the Kimbe Provincial High School and was accepted. When he was in grade 10, he applied to the minor seminary and he was accepted.

"I didn't want to be in a government school because there were so many bad influences and I already had strong intentions on becoming a priest."

From 1980-1983, he completed grades 10-12 and his leadership skills landed him the title of 'SRC President'.

"In 1984, I was among the 8 lucky candidates out of 24 who got accepted to go and study in the Diocesan College in the Minor Seminary in Erave, Southern Highlands for a year. I later went back to Rabaul for an interview with the predecessor of the late Bishop Karl Hesse and after I was accepted to continue my studies to become a priest, I went home for holidays"

Upon finishing his 6th year of studies in Bomana in 1989, Bp Meli went to Rabaul and was ordained deacon by the late Abp Karl Hesse MSC along with 4 other candidates who were ordained priests.

"It was on December 1st 1990 and it was a joyous occasion because it was the late Abp Karl Hesse's first official duty since he took up post in the Archdiocese of Rabaul after being transferred from Kavieng".

After being ordained deacon, Bishop Meli went to do his pastoral work for 6 months in the south coast of New Britain at Our Lady of Assumption Valanguo and St Thomas Moore Turuk.

"I was ordained priest on November 24th 1991 in Kimbe Town in the church grounds. The next day I was saying masses in Kimbe Town, Mosa, Valoka, Vavua and I even had the privilege to say mass at my home parish", he recalled with a smile.

Bishop Meli's first three years as a priest were spent in the Archdiocese of Rabaul under the

guidance of a German priest whom he describes as one of the best administrators of Rabaul.

"Archbishop Karl saw the potential in me therefore, he wanted me to be with people who were well organized so I can learn from them".

What Bishop Meli describes as his biggest test was between October 1994 and May 1995 before he went abroad for further studies when he was sent to Pililo - St Therese of the Child of Jesus and Sara - St Mary Parish in the Kandrian Deanery.

"Imagine a young priest used to living life in town under the guidance of the Archbishop and senior priests now alone in the middle of nowhere in a rundown house by himself. It was really hard but of course, I accepted the challenge and stayed on and before I left, I did some renovation and left it for my successor to enjoy".

In 1995, Bishop Meli left for studies at the St Paul's University in Ottawa, Canada where he was conferred with two degrees. He got a Masters Degree from the Civil University in Ottawa and also received a licentiate from the Ecclesiastical University, the Pontifical University.

Upon returning, he went back to the Archdiocese of Rabaul and looked after the Marriage Tribunal for 20 years until he was appointed Bishop of Vanimo.

Bishop Meli finds joy in reaching out to the priests and religious in his diocese as well as investing in the education and formation of seminarians.

"Although it's a very costly exercise, I have managed to send 14 seminarians to Bomana, Banz and Rapolo within the last 2 years."

He believes that in order to have a sustainable church, we invest in young people.

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A Synod for a welcoming Church

- Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME, CBC General Secretary



They must be in Rome by the 29th of September. On Saturday 30th an ecumenical vigil will take place in St. Peter's Square to pray for the success of the Synod on Synodality. Then the delegates will go for a retreat before the formal opening on the 4th of October, Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

since the Synod will have two sessions twelve months apart.

If Synod literally means, in the original Greek language, a gathering of people in a journey of faith and pastoral discernment, what is Synodality? It is the attitude of journeying. It is the pilgrimage of the people of God seeking salvation in the Lord. It means walking not alone but together, with all others (συν- ὁδεύω/sun-odeuo: with-walk).

The Synod on Synodality will therefore gather about four hundred Catholic leaders from all over the world to pray and reflect on making the Church more welcoming, inclusive, merciful, motherly and caring. The discussion and the sharing will not focus on a theme or a problem but an attitude, a concern, fully aware of the fact that the Church is not the club of the just and the perfect but a crowd of sinners crying for conversion as pilgrims of hope and repentance.

There are different ministries in the Church but a common human and spiritual condition calling for a common effort at perfection and holiness which is shared the same way by the clergy, the religious and the laity. Nobody is on a pedestal. Everybody is walking in the dust of history and society. This may be challenging for Churches who have developed

over the centuries a solid and inflexible structure modelled on the social or political organization. It may also be a problem for those who concentrate on documents, statements, plans, meetings and bureaucracy ignoring the daily life of the poor, the youth on the streets, the patients in the hospitals, the students and the workers. Or for those who sing in the church and add novena to novena but fall on the same trap of isolation and complacency.

In Papua New Guinea we are lucky enough to have a Church of the villages, the small communities and the schools. Our bishops, clergy, religious and laity have always been one in the task of evangelization, catechesis, education, justice, reconciliation and peace. But the changing world is just calling for additional efforts with the cultural fragmentation, the dissolution of the family, the pressure over the resources, the neglect of young people and the persistence of ancestral issues such as tribal fights and sorcery related violence.

The dust is just increasing, and the pilgrim Church can only strengthen the resolve, grow in humility and address the issues head-on by walking and working together in a genuine synodal spirit.

There will be two delegates from Papua New Guinea also representing Solomon Islands: Bishop Dariusz Kaluza of Bougainville and Ms. Grace Wrakia, Lasallian Family Coordinator in Papua New Guinea. Grace will be the first ever Papua New Guinean lay person to participate in a Synod.

A Synod is basically a gathering of Bishops representatives from all over the world tasked with advising the Pope on relevant pastoral matters. It is called every four or five years. For the first time this year there will be also seventy non-bishop members (ten from each continent) with voting rights. Grace will be one of them with nine others from the Pacific. And not only this year, but again in October 2024

The Gospels: Historial Books or Books of Devotion

- Fr. Tomás Ravaioli IVE
Liturgical Catechetical Institute Director



In the previous months we already discussed about the authenticity and historicity of the Gospels. But... is it not possible to conclude that in the Gospels we meet the Christ of faith, and not the Christ in history? This objection does have some foundation in fact. Anyone familiar with hagiographical literature, the lives of the saints, written simply for reasons of edification, knows how easy it is for authors to pass over personal defects and to exaggerate virtues. This objection, however, does not detract from the historicity of the Gospels. It is certainly quite possible to contribute to the piety and devotion and still remain perfectly faithful to fact. The evangelists themselves assure us that this was their objective.

Luke, in his prologue, says that he examined all his sources most thoroughly: "So it seemed good to me also, having diligently followed everything from the beginning, to write..." (Lk 1:3)

John says that he wrote what he had seen and that his witness is true: "And he who saw this has offered testimony, and his testimony is true. And he knows that he speaks the truth, so that you also may believe." (Jn 19:35) This attention to exact detail is found in the writings of the other Apostles as well.

Paul bids Timothy to be attentive "against those who have been paying attention to fables and endless genealogies" because these are not idle stories that are being taught (1 Tim 1:4).

Peter is no less explicit: "For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but

we were eyewitnesses of his majesty." (2 Pet. 1:16). These references make it clear that critical sense was not unknown to the preachers of the Gospel.

Unlike ordinary biographers, who attempt to contribute to the reader's edification by exaggeration, the evangelists are dealing with a person whom they recognize as the Son of God. This conviction makes them see Jesus as the perfect man. His acts and words take on a divine worth and meaning. The evangelists' task is to describe Jesus' words and deeds as exactly as they can. There is no difference between the historical Christ that lived in Palestine 2,000 years ago and the Christ Son of God in which we believe and whom we love.

Renewal is needed in the Catholic Church (Pastoral Visits to the families and communities)

- Fr. Victor Roche SVD
Secretary for New Evangelization



Dear Friends,

1. A parish priest told me a few days ago, "in the recent years, my duties as the parish priest has been reduced to saying mass in the parish and the substations; administration of the parish from the parish office where parishioners come to meet me if they want to. I am not able to make pastoral visits to the families and village communities".

2. Some priests do make pastoral visits regularly. But many are not able to visit the towns and villages for different reasons.

3. The reasons for not making pastoral visits are:

3.1. One priest is in-charge of two or three parishes and so he has time to say mass only on Sundays and on some week-days. He has no time to meet the parishioners in the communities.

3.2. A parish priest is in charge a parish but has many other responsibilities in the diocese. So has no time for other sacraments (baptisms, confessions, marriages); or either to make

pastoral visits to the communities nor give Catechesis.

3.3. Present situation of law and order in the country does not allow priests to visit the parish communities in the nights when the people can gather for mass. He is not able to visit the villages for security reasons.

4. Effects of not being able to make pastoral visits to the parish communities:

4.1 Parish priest does not know the parishioners personally.

4.2 Many parishioners leave the Catholic church and join other churches. Because the pastors are able to meet the people personally. They are able to listen to the problems of the families.

4.3 There is no time for Catechesis and Faith-formation among such parish communities. The faith of the such Catholics are shallow.

5. Jesus' Pastoral Method:

5.1 The summary of Jesus' Ministry: Teaching, preaching the Good News and Healing (Mt 4:23).

5.2 Jesus visited the towns and villages: "The Lord appointed 72 others whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit" (Lk 10:1)

5.3 People want to listen to the Good News and be cared for: "At the sight of the crowds, Jesus' heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like a sheep without a shepherd" (Mt 9:36).

5.4 The present reality is that there are very few priests: "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few" (Mt 9: 37).

6. Let us optimize our pastoral strategy:

6.1 Pastoral visits are highly recommended as Jesus commanded us to do.

6.2 Faithfulness from the priests for the Word of God and the Sacraments is needed.

6.3 Let us utilize the gifts and talents of Catechists and Lay leaders from the parishes for Pastoral visits, Catechesis and faith-formation.

Hail to the Champions!

Picture and story courtesy: Bp Donald Lippert OFM Cap Facebook Page

Mendi, Southern Highlands: Primary Schools from five parishes of the Central Deanery competed in the first Sports Carnival at Mother of the Good Shepherd Primary School. Boys and girls competed for trophies in basketball and rugby touch.

Bishop Donald Lippert OFM Cap congratulated the winners and also commended Fr. Sunny Matthew

OFM Cap and those who organised the sports carniva.

Mr. Julius Kane congratulated Bishop Donald Lippert OFM Cap, Fr. Sunny Matthew OFM Cap and others for uniting the students and enhancing both their physical and spiritual Development.





The Pastoral Obligation of a Bishop as Communicator

Sr. Daisy Anne Lisania Augustine MSC, Secretary for Social Communication

The Second Pastoral Instruction *Aetatis Novae* (1992), following 'Communio et Progressio' after 20 years is especially concerned about *pastoral planning*. Here, the following is said about the bishops:

"Recognize the validity, and indeed the urgency, of the claims advanced by communications work, *bishops* and others responsible for decisions about allocating the Church's limited human and material resources should assign it an appropriate, high priority, taking into account the circumstance of their particular nations, regions and dioceses." (No.20)

Along the same lines, it is "strongly" recommended "that dioceses and Episcopal conferences or assemblies include a communication component in every pastoral plan":

"In doing so, *bishops* should seek the collaboration of professionals in secular media and of the Church's own media – related organizations, including especially the international and national organizations for film, radio, television, and the press" (No. 21)

Beside this, the *instruction on some aspects of the use of the instruments of Social Communication in promoting the doctrine of Faith* of the Vatican

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (1992) has a lengthy section on the "responsibilities of bishops" referring especially to Canon Law.

According to the Vatican II document on the liturgy *Sacrosanctum Concilium* (No. 20) the person responsible for radio and TV transmissions should be "appointed by the *bishops*."

The "Directory for the Pastoral Ministry of Bishops" of the Vatican Congregation for Bishops "Apostolorum Successores" from February 22, 2004 deals with the responsibility of Bishops for social communication in a special section (Nos. 138-142) Besides the importance of social communication for the transmission of the faith, the role and responsibilities of bishops for publications are underlined as well as the need for pastoral formation in the field of social communication for seminarians. The document reflects the respective Canon Law provisions but seems not to refer to any of the existing other Church documents on social communication, even not the Vatican II document *Inter Mirifica*.

Diocesan structures for pastoral communication are reflected in the activities and responsibilities of the bishop and the diocese for this ministry. They are to serve the pastoral ministry of the Church on the

diocesan level under the guidance and final responsibility of the bishop himself.

According to the Church documents *Inter Mirifica* (NO. 21) and *Communio et Progressio* (Nos. 162 ff.) there must be a diocesan office or at least one person assigned for social communication in a similar way as it is required on the national level: "Trained and experienced persons must be found for this work. The proper pastoral structures, with all the necessary funding, rights and resources should be set up."

For the activities for such an office the following are proposed, which are in a similar way also the obligations of the respective national offices.

The first step in the activities and for the further development of a respective structure is a "careful appraisal of the entire range of the communications media, a prudent and well-informed planning for pastoral work and in every apostolic enterprise. "Here, the bishops "should depend upon the advice of experts in the different branches of communication. According to the ground rules laid down in *Inter Mirifica*, this duty devolves upon every bishop in every diocese..." (C+P, No. 165). In the September Edition we continue with the Diocesan Structures for Communication.

St Charles Lwanga Celebrates World Day for Grandparents and the elderly

- Sr. Daisy Anne Lisania Augustine MSC

Gerehu, Port Moresby: Students of St Charles Lwanga celebrated the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly on Saturday July 29, in the Parish.

The day began with a beautiful liturgy. The main celebrant Father Robert Spania emphasized in his homily, the care and love for the elderly.

He said that in many occasions, they are forgotten and become lonely.

"We have a duty towards the forgotten and lonely of our communities," he added.

After the mass, the students served food for the grandparents and elderly.

Mrs Lucy Lavu of the Family Life Office of the Archdiocese of Port Moresby thanked the Principal of the school for such an occasion that enables the young to show care for their elderly.

"Thank you to Br. Joymon Mathew, for the students to put into practise what the Church has called us to do."

She encouraged the students to continue the same in different occasions adding that this was a great formation for their lives.

In his message for the third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, Pope Francis writes: "The Lord trusts that young people, through their relationships with the elderly, will realize that they are called to cultivate memory and recognize the beauty of being part of a much larger history..."

On July 23, the Church celebrated the third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. Established by Pope Francis in January 2021, the observance is celebrated each year on the fourth Sunday of July, coinciding with the feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary's parents and Jesus' grandparents, Sts. Joachim and Anne.

The theme for this year's World Day is "His mercy is from age to age" (Lk 1:50) According to Vatican News, the theme was chosen to be in tune with that of World Youth Day in Lisbon: *Mary arose and went with haste*, taken from Luke's Gospel.

The Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life promotes two ways for Catholics to celebrate. The first is by celebrating Mass for the grandparents and the elderly. The second is to visit those who are alone.

A plenary indulgence is granted for those who participate in either of these activities.



Grade 9C student of St Charles Lwanga Secondary School Emily Emelio serving one of the elderly after the mass.

World Renown Catholic Evangelist visits Papua New Guinea for Re-Awakening Rally

- Ahisha Mangot

Port Moresby: The Catholic Professional Society hosted a three-day Re-Awakening rally on July 11 to July 14 at the Sir John Guise stadium with over 5000 people in attendance.

Many were graced by the World Renown Catholic Evangelist and Preacher Dynamic Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers and also Charbel Raish from Parousia media who accompanied this great man of God.

On July 11 the first day, Deacon Harold had the time to share light on the topic leadership in action, basically Principled Leadership. He addressed politicians, church leaders and any one in authority to have a covenant relationship with the people they lead and serve. Deacon Harold also spoke and preached about the importance of the clergy and Religious in the church, he also encouraged young people who want to join the clergy to be courageous if God is calling them to do so.

On the second day was the youth rally where he shared on the sacrament of marriage and he also stressed on why Catholic Church is One Holy and Apostolic.

His second talk is inspiring and encouraging for youths. The program was moderated by Fr Ambrose Pereira, who started off the youth rally with a eucharistic adoration, where Deacon Harold said the Eucharistic Adoration is very important and it must also be a priority.

Deacon also encouraged and reminded the youths of the importance of the sacrament of

marriage, and why young people should understand the value as such and make the right decisions and choices without compromising their catholic Faith.

It was evident that all the youths and people who attended the youth rally, were very attentive and challenged by the Dynamic Deacon to be strong, Catholic faithful in this time of bad societal norms that encourage negative impacts like Teenage Pregnancy, Abortion, Contraception and many more.

He also encouraged youths to make right choices with regard to the teachings of the Catholic Church for guidance, so that when they are ready to make a commitment in marriage, they are guided by their faith.

"I was blessed to attend the Youth Rally because it opened my eyes to a lot of things that I was not aware of and it also reawakened my faith as a young person to look at the sacrament of marriage from a different perspective", said St John the Apostle, Tokarara Youth William Kassman.

The Re-Awakening Rally also helped others to find closure and forgive those who had wronged them in the sacrament of marriage.

One elderly widow from Kuriva Parish in the Central Province shared her testimony of how she came to the hospital to visit a relative but when she heard of the program, she immediately made her way to the Sir John Guise Stadium.

"I was a happily married Catholic until my husband left me to start a new family with another

woman. I used to take part in church activities but I have never forgiven him, even after he died. I'm finally at peace after hearing the talk by the Dynamic Deacon about marriage and I have forgiven my husband. I will go home tomorrow a renewed woman", said Monica Dick.

And on the final day, the rally concluded with the final talk on Re-Awakening the Faith as well as a Eucharistic mass presided by Cardinal Ribat MSC as the main celebrant with CBC President Bishop Otto Separy and 18 other priests as con-celebrants followed by acknowledgements from the Catholic Professional Society President Mr Paul Harricknen and gift presentation by Police Chaplaincy to the Dynamic Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers with the soft-spoken Charbel Raish from the Parousia Media.



Group photo of Dynamic Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers and Charbel Raish of Parousia Media (seated 4th and 5th from right) with members of the Catholic Professionals Society.

Corporate Bosco launched in DBTI

-Jessica Oata

Boroko: Past Pupils from Don Bosco Technological Institute, Don Bosco Technical School, Don Bosco Simbu Tehcnical College, Don Bosco Araimiri Secondary School and Vunabosco living in Port Moresby together with their families, friends and the Salesian Priests' representatives gathered at Don Bosco Technological Institute on Sunday July 2 to witness the historical moment of the launching of Corporate Bosco.

The program began with a lively thanksgiving Eucharistic Celebration that also saw the executives of Corporate Bosco take their oath before the congregation and the Salesian Provincial Superior.

In his homily, Salesian Provincial Superior Fr. Gregorio Bicomong highlighted the law of sacrifice and the love of Jesus in every Christian person's lives.

Fr. Gregorio stressed that in order to go up, we must give up something, even if it means totally giving up things that we love most.

"If you want to pass your exams, you have to give up your time for entertainment and leisure, likewise, if you want to resurrect with Christ, you must make a sacrifice and give up materialistic things that hinder you from fully living your faith as a Christian", he said.

A post-mass celebration was held at the gym with speeches, fun games and group picture sessions to commemorate the occasion and had a guest performance by one of PNG's artists, Mereani Masani.

Addressing the past pupils, Fr. Edwin said Corporate Bosco was a longtime dream the Salesians in PNG had to establish an organization for past pupils of Don Bosco.

He said the name Corporate Bosco was chosen to signify that past pupils are now in a position to help their fellow Bosconians in the country.

"Don Bosco has produced people who hold high positions in companies, organizations and even in the government departments who are able to network and help others who are still looking for employment or mentor others who are still making their way up the corporate ladder"

Corporate Bosco is an association comprising of past pupils from the different Don Bosco schools in the country to network with each other to keep the Bosconian spirit alive both inside and outside of their respective professions.

The office bearers of Corporate Bosco include:

- Leslie Brown - National President
- Basil Pumpara - National Vice President
- Hubert Tulungenaram - National Treasurer
- Patrina Kaboanga - National Secretary
- Delsie Maulangi - Gen Y Executive Councillor
- Shaun Ilias - Gen X Executive Councilor
- Dr. Catherine Nongkas - Friends Executive Councilor
- Joe Hae Junior - Don Bosco Araimiri Executive Councillor
- Jack Kiapin - Don Bosco Gabutu Executive Councilor
- Winter Robert - Don Bosco ENB Executive Councilor
- Isabella Saleu - Don Bosco Simbu Executive Councilor
- Bonzak Nomsing - DBTI Executive Councilor
- Raphael Apisai - Information Technology Executive Councilor
- Francis Gemo - Technical Support and Logistics Executive Councilor
- Jeremiah Kihanges - Executive Councilor: Legal Councilor



Corporate Bosco Executives with the Salesians after the thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration.

Most Reverend Bishop Francis Meli commends Diocesan Pastoral Staff

- Newton Dante

Vanimo: Bishop of the Diocese of Vanimo Most Reverend Francis Meli in a meeting with the Diocesan Pastoral staff on July 20, has expressed deep appreciation for the dedicated service rendered by the Pastoral staff to the people in the diocese.

In his address, Bishop Meli lauded the commitment and unwavering dedication exhibited by the Pastoral staff in their calling to serve the community. He acknowledged their relentless efforts in spreading the teachings of the Church and supporting the spiritual growth of the faithful. He also emphasized on the importance of remaining faithful in their vocation and encouraged them to continue their noble work with renewed enthusiasm.

While addressing the challenges faced by the Diocese, one of the major concerns highlighted by Bishop Meli was the shortage of local clergy. He expressed his hope that more individuals within the community would come forward to answer the call of priesthood and serve their fellow parishioners.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to appoint new members to the Diocesan Pastoral Staffs. Bishop Meli took this opportunity to announce the appointment of two accomplished individuals to key positions in the diocese.

Sr. Evangeline Orpilla MCST, was appointed as the new Coordinator of Religious Education. Known for her extensive knowledge and experience in the diocese and her dedication to imparting religious teachings, Sr. Evangeline's appointment is expected to have a positive impact on the spiritual growth and education of the faithful in the diocese.

Additionally, Sr. Jane, MSI, was appointed as the assistant to the Vicar General. Her wealth of experience and administrative skills are anticipated to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Diocesan operations under the leadership of the Vicar General.

The entire Diocesan community expressed their joy and gratitude for the appointment of the new Pastoral staff and offered their prayers for their successful and fruitful tenure.

As the meeting concluded, Bishop Meli urged the entire Diocesan community to continue supporting and praying for the Pastoral staff and the new appointees. He emphasized that their collective efforts and cooperation would play a vital role in

addressing the challenges and furthering the mission of the Church in Vanimo Diocese.

Meanwhile, Youths in the Diocese of Vanimo organized a two days seminar at Don Bosco Secondary School as a way of commemorating the feast of St. Maria Goretti.

More than 300 youths from different parishes in the Diocese of Vanimo gathered at Don Bosco Secondary School to pray and reflect upon the life of their patron saint Maria Goretti and be inspired to live the life of purity and holiness that she lived.

Speaking on Radio Maria in Vanimo addressing the youths, Fr. Donatus Arokiaraj HGN, the youth chaplain encouraged the youths to learn from the life of St. Maria Goretti.

"Maria Goretti's life of purity and holiness must be an inspiration to the young people to imitate and in doing so, you are spreading the good news with their lives just like Maria Goretti did", he said.

Youth President of the Vanimo Diocese Joel Tapi added that the spiritual input received from the talks given by the priests and facilitators during this seminar have impacted the youths in a great way and he expressed his gratitude to the organizers, the facilitators, priests and the youths for making this feast day a success.

Mr. Tapi called on the youths present as well as those who were not present for the event to always be ready to attend more youth programs because God works in ways that no man can comprehend.

"Blessings will follow you when you prioritize God in your life", he concluded.



Holy Cross Youth representatives. (Picture courtesy: Newton Dante)

Youths in Lorengau Deanery attend Mini Youth Rally

- Pius Alik

Papitalai, Manus: Youths from Papitalai Parish hosted a mini rally within its Local Catholic Christian Community (LCCC) from July 4-7.

Joining them were 43 participants (21 boys, 9 girls and 13 adults) from the Charismatic group and youths from St Raphael Rambutso Island in collaboration who organised an outreach for all youths within the parish.

Activities of the first day included the visitation to St John local church Mokoreng where they had an open air outreach praise and worship, along with dramas, creative dances, bible sharing and preaching to strengthen faith.

The youths visited St Thomas local church Salamei Block on the second day. Despite the heavy rains and the long walking distance, the youths with the help of the locals made it to the church compound with their generator for lighting, the PA system and the musical instruments for the evening session. The youths returned to Papitalai later in the night after a lively praise and worship.

The last day of the program ended at St John the Evangelist Momote Compound with a closing mass that had Dean of Manus Fr. Clement Taulam as the

main celebrant to commemorate the Feast of St Maria Goretti, the patroness Saint of the Youths.

In his homily, he encouraged everyone to look at the life of Maria Goretti and share their passion for love to everyone.

Following the mass were friendly soccer games and creative dances to wind down the program.

The Youth Rally is a Diocesan Biannual event for all the youths to come together to celebrate their Catholic Faith, however, this year's youth rally has been postponed till next year, thus, Papitalai Parish came up with a small program for their youths.



Youths take a group picture after mass. (Picture courtesy: Manus SOCOM Personnel)

The Catholic Reporter Team

You are invited to send in your articles, photograph and reflections on events and happenings in your parish, community, institution and diocese. Please send in your material to: socom@catholic.org.pg on or before **20th of the Month, 2023**.

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