



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

June 2024

Issue No: 222

Pope at Corpus Christi Mass: 'War-torn world needs aroma of bread of Love'

-Devin Watkins

Pope Francis presides at Mass on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, and reflects on the importance of the Eucharist in bringing peace to our hearts and our war-torn world.

Pope Francis offered that certainty in his homily at Mass in the Basilica of St. John Lateran, as the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, known as Corpus Christi Sunday.

The Mass concluded with a Eucharistic procession to the Basilica of St. Mary Major.

Eucharistic attitude teaches appreciation: In his homily at Mass, the Holy Father focused on the Eucharistic bread and spoke about the three themes of "thanksgiving, remembrance, and presence."

Bread, he noted, is a food of daily life, through which brought Himself intimately close to us.

The Eucharist, added Pope Francis, teaches us to be thankful for God's many gifts in our lives, by properly using our talents and skills.

"This is our mission to give thanks" asked the Pope. "While we could add even many more ways to give thanks, these are important 'Eucharistic' attitudes since they teach us to appreciate the value of what we do and offer."

True freedom in service: Pope Francis turned to the importance of remembering Christ's passion, death, and resurrection.

In giving us His Body and Blood, Jesus taught us to give ourselves as an offering to people in need and those around us.

"There are some who say that true freedom means thinking only about ourselves, enjoying life doing whatever we want without regard for others," said the Pope. "This is not freedom but a hidden slavery."

Streets filled with bread of love: Reflecting on the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, the Pope pointed out that God never abandons us but rather waits for us to accept Him in the form of Bread.

Our world, he added, desperately needs the Bread of the Eucharist, so that streets filled with rubble and the destruction of war may return to peaceful places filled with the smell of freshly baked bread.

"We urgently need to bring back to our world the good, fresh aroma of the bread of love, to continue tirelessly to hope and rebuild what hatred destroys," he said.

Inviting others to follow Christ: In conclusion, Pope Francis said the Eucharistic Procession St. John Lateran to St. Mary Major is not a flashy expression of faith.

"We are not doing this to show off," he concluded, "or to flaunt our faith, but to invite everyone to participate, in the Bread of the Eucharist, in the new life that Jesus has given us."



Pope Francis at Corpus Christi Mass (Picture Courtesy: ©Vatican Media/Dicastery for Communication)

Meet your Bishop: Bp Pedro Baquero SDB (Kerema Diocese)

- Jessica Oata



Hailing from the Philippines is the Shepherd of the Kerema Diocese, His Lordship Pedro Baquero SDB. He was born on September 15, 1970 in Manila, Philippines to parents Sofia and Pedro Baquero Snr.

Bishop Pedro first set foot in Papua New Guinea in 1993 and stayed until the end of 1995.

"I first came here for my practical as a newly professed Brother, the first two years were spent in Don Bosco - Gabutu and in my final year, I was assigned to Don Bosco -Araimiri before going back to the Philippines".

In 1998, he made his perpetual vows and the following year, he was ordained a priest on December 8, 1999.

When asked what made him choose to return to PNG, this is what he had to say: "I chose to come back because I gave my life to serve as a missionary".

Upon his return to PNG, Bishop Pedro spent 10 years in the Gulf Province serving as a priest and as an educator in Araimiri and in 2011, he was assigned to Don Bosco Gabutu to take up the role of Principal and then he became the Rector.

In 2014, he was appointed as the Superior Delegate (PNG-SI) and later on became the first Superior of the newly established Vice-province of PNG-SI (PGS) of Blessed Philip Rinaldi.

When asked about his family, Bishop Pedro unleashed a bit of humour and said: "I come from a very small family. There are 11 of us siblings and I am the 6th child".

He recently lost his father in 2021 but his mother and siblings are all doing well back in the Philippines.

"There is a diverse age range in our family. Our first born was around 20 years old when our parents welcomed our last born into the world. But we are all very close as adults despite where we are working or

living and we even have a sibling Messenger Group where we chat and check in on each other".

He added with a smile: "The group is only for us siblings, no husbands, wives or even children".

When he was appointed Bishop of Kerema, he was not really keen on the idea of becoming a Bishop.

"I initially declined but the Apostolic Nuncio at that time (Abp Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal) told me that the Salesian congregation is at the service of the mission of the church and the church is asking me for this particular service. I eventually accepted the post and here I am now".

Bishop Pedro is thankful that his earlier years in the Gulf province had prepared him for this challenging, yet, fulfilling role as the Shepherd of the Diocese.

With his background as an educationist, Bishop Pedro is happy to be working alongside some of the intellectuals that he played a role in their education in the Diocese and Gulf Province as a whole.

"I have former students who are now doctors, teachers, pastoral workers and some are even working in the government that I work alongside with."

He expressed that one of the challenges he faced when he became Bishop was re-entering into a relationship with the people and even the priests.

"The challenge is not so much the isolation or the work that needs to be done but it is the relationship you now have with your flock and your priests. You have to know and accept them and they have to love and accept you as their Shepherd".

He shared that when he was the Superior, the Superior General at that time told them that as superiors, God had given them Salesians to love.

"Translate that now in my current role and it is 'God has given me these priests to love'. You have to love the people of God starting with the Priests and sometimes when you already have prejudice, you have to let it go and accept and care for them."

When asked about the plans for his Diocese, Bishop revealed that they recently had the launching of their Diocesan Pastoral Plan and that is what his Diocese will now be working hard towards.

"I was telling our people that the first step is always hard. But once you put your mind to it and you are focused on your goals, you will achieve them despite the challenges you may face along the way and that same principle should be applied to achieving our Diocesan Pastoral Plan as well".

His advice to the young people of PNGSI is to have the basic consciousness that God loves and accepts them for who they are.

"No matter how sinful they are, God loves and accepts them. When the young people are loved, they feel trusted and they grow. When they start growing, that is when their faith journey also begins and they also feel empowered to work hard towards their dreams".

Bishop also highlighted that the localisation of the church is now teaching people to be resilient and self reliant.

"Nowadays, you will find few missionaries in PNG. The Church has localised and we now have local priests, therefore, we the people must feel that we are 'the church' and so we must become self-reliant."

"The missionaries provided services like education and health to us. They established the schools and aid posts when they were evangelising. They have now gone back and we are now challenged to sustain these services. These facilities should now be run by us - the educated locals.

To conclude our interview, when Bishop Pedro reflected on his mission life in PNG, he said it is indeed an irony.

"I was born and raised in the city but I have spent about 30 years in PNG and that is more than half of my life. I love my people and the beautiful Diocese of Kerema"

IN THIS ISSUE:

1. Pope at Corpus Christi Mass: War-torn world needs aroma of bread of love
2. The Christian bill is gone, the quest for national identity remains
3. A great example of the Holy Eucharist - Blessed Carlo Acutis
4. CBC PNGSI SOCOM celebrates World Communications Day

The Christian bill is gone, the quest for national identity remains

- Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME | CBC General Secretary



The Parliament of Papua New Guinea rejected on 29 May 2024 the government proposal to amend the Constitution and change the nature of the State from secular, as established at Independence in 1975, to confessional by renaming it the "Independent and Christian State of Papua New Guinea".

"The PNG Constitution is not a theological document, but a political document. In its current form, the Constitution already honours Christian principles in two ways: First, they are mentioned as such in the opening lines of the Preamble, where they are paired with the "noble traditions" of the Melanesian peoples as what we pledge ourselves to guard and pass on... Second, Christian principles thoroughly animate the rest of the Constitution, where they are expressed using proper political language – language, which is available to everyone, regardless of creed, simply as a human being. This is evident especially in the National Goals and Directive Principles, as well as in the existing Basic Rights and Basic Social Obligations, which together form the balance of the Preamble".

distribution of artificial contraceptives does not solve population increase, or the institution of an Independent Commission Against Corruption will only address a few high-profile cases every year but not change the toxic culture in government departments.

Good that the so-called "Christian bill" is gone. The idea of a confessional State is obsolete and even dangerous when offered on a silver plate to fundamentalist, shortsighted and poorly educated ministers and preachers such as those frequently pestering and festering the ears of Papua New Guineans. A problem of national identity, however, remains following the decline of the traditional Melanesian culture and values. In that sense a mature, intelligent and independent Christian approach can indeed help and save the social fabric and the cohesion of the State. A government, however, needs no appeasement but checks and balances, kicks in the shins if needed. Democracy only develops from below, is not granted from above. The State and the Churches work together for the good of the same people. But maintain the respective independence and do not pursue anachronistic perspectives such as that of a confessional State and the alliance of throne and altar.

(#4.1.1)

Now we are left with what is really needed and sensible: prove our Christian faith not by means of a Constitutional declaration but by our way of life and works of charity and justice. This will include, among others, respect for people and the environment, end of tribal fights, sorcery related violence and domestic mistreatment, strict marital fidelity and a monogamous Christian marriage, end of cheating and vote buying in elections, no more political camps in expensive hotels when common people can't afford biscuits and tinned fish, teachers less absent in schools, pastors and priests more mindful of their people, more crowded churches on Saturdays and Sundays, a life of prayer, etc.

Those who have already witnessed their country develop will tell you that a sound religious perspective indeed plays a role, but then it's mainly a matter of dedication by the leadership and hard work and discipline by the citizens. Slogans such as "Take back PNG" or "Make PNG the Richest Black Christian Nation in the World" are only words if not accompanied by sacrifices and improved social behavior. Exactly like death penalty does not eliminate criminality and its causes, or mass

The Letters of St Paul: 2 Corinthians

- Fr. Tomás Ravaioli IVE
Liturgical Catechetical Institute Director



Date: 2 Corinthians is one of the most personal and autobiographical of the apostle's writings. Paul wrote 2 Corinthians on his third missionary tour (Acts 18:23-21:16), not long after writing and sending 1 Corinthians. It is likely that Paul penned this letter in the fall of A.D.

constant threat to their Christian commitment. Internal strife and divided loyalties were also tearing the community apart from within. By the time Paul wrote 2 Corinthians, the community was further threatened by outside intruders claiming to be legitimate apostles. These troublemakers moved in during Paul's absence and turned a number of the Corinthians against him, claiming that Paul was fickle, inarticulate, and plainly unqualified to be a messenger of Christ.

12:11-12). (3) He sought to resume his collection efforts for the poor Christians in Jerusalem and so appealed to the generosity of his readers in this regard (chaps. 8-9). (4) The second section of the letter (chaps. 10-13) was written to confront the "false apostles" (11:13) and their Corinthian followers. Paul warns that he will "not spare" (13:2) these detractors if they persist in their opposition to his ministry. (5) Paul also wrote to inform the Corinthians of his plan to visit them for a third time (12:14; 13:1). 2 Corinthians is a deeply personal and emotional letter. This makes it sometimes difficult to follow, but it gives us a rare glimpse of both the tenderness and the tenacity of Paul. He was a spiritual father going through the painful experience of his own children rising up against him and going their own way.

56, having written 1 Corinthians earlier that same year.

Destination: The Church in NT Corinth was young and unstable when Paul wrote this letter. The apostle had established a small community of Christians there about A.D. 51 (Acts 18:1-18). Soon after Paul's departure, however, the Church was bombarded with temptations. Pressures from the surrounding pagan culture, especially the idolatry and immorality so rampant in ancient Corinth, posed a

Purpose and Themes: Paul wrote 2 Corinthians for several reasons. (1) He hoped to strengthen his relationship with loyal supporters in Corinth and prevent them from falling prey to the groundless claims of the "false apostles" (11:13) who were infiltrating the Church and attacking his integrity. (2) He wrote to assert and defend his apostolic authority against those who doubted or denied it (10:10;

We need a renewal in the Catholic Church

- Fr. Victor Roche SVD
Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies



Dear Reader,
As you are aware, Pope Francis is scheduled to visit Papua New Guinea from 6-9 September this year. It is indeed a great privilege for the Catholics and the people of PNG. Why does the Pope come to visit a

the country as the head of the Catholic Church to strengthen the faith of the Catholics (Evangelistic).

principles that Pope Francis upholds in the Church and the World.

There is an organizing committee set up for the Papal visit consisting of government and church authorities.

2. Pope Francis visits Port Moresby and Vanimo. Not all the Catholics can go to these cities to see the Pope. There can be seminars and Eucharistic Celebrations in the respective dioceses around the same time when the Pope is in PNG.

This is a great opportunity for the Catholic Church to Catechize and to strengthen the faith of the Catholics. A few suggestions:

3. There can be live telecast for groups of families or Catholic Communities.

1. The people in the Communities, Parishes and Deaneries can have seminars on the 'Catholic Faith' (Strongim Bilip Semina) with the topics: **a.** History of the Catholic Church in the world and in PNG; **b.** Bible and the Catholic Church; **c.** Jesus is the founder of the Catholic Church and the Pope is the Vicar of Christ (Biblical Background); **d.** The

There are a few churches with the programs of evangelization with the indirect intent for 'Sheep-Stealing'. They target the weak Christians of the mainline churches.

The Papal visit is a great opportunity for strengthening the faith of the Catholics and for a renewal in the church.

country?

The Pope comes to visit a country as the Head of the Country of Vatican to strengthen the relationship between the two countries (Diplomatic). He is also a renowned leader in the world. The leaders of the world recognize him as the spokesperson for ecology, the poor and the marginalized (Prophetic). He visits

Pacific Churches for Ecological Stewardship and Climate Justice

-Sr Daisy Anne Lisania Augustine MSC

The World Council of Churches Office in the Pacific hosted a Pacific Churches Consultation on Climate Change 20 years ago that brought together church and youth leaders of member churches, representatives from World Council of Churches, technical advisers from South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) including the local leaders, government representatives and teachers, congregational members of the Kiribati Uniting Church to discuss the devastating impacts of climate change and the call for collaborations to slow-down the climate change impacts.

Christian churches that enabled their recommitment to climate action through a regional and ecumenical reconvening of Pacific church leaders and partners from the 5th – 10th of May 2024 in Suva, Fiji.

reflecting the values of God in our commitment to Climate Justice and Ecological Conversion.

Sessions on themes included; *Unveiling the Legacy of Otin Taai - Looking Back to Look Forward, Multi Stakeholder Collaboration for Climate Justice, Faith, Climate Change and Indigenous Theology, Pastoral and Practical Climate Leadership, Prophetic Voice for Creation: Climate Advocacy for Pacific Churches.*



Participants of the Conference

The highlight of the conference was the Keynote Speaker of the week, Honourable Dr. Maina Talia, Tuvalu Minister of Home Affairs, Climate Change and Environment.

His keynote address on the "Good Samaritan" "good tuakoi" (neighbour) gave the Conference a foundation to publish a concrete declaration "The Tuakoi Declaration", Towards an Oceanian Tuakoi Lei- Neighbourly Love, Compassion and Hope in the Context of Climate Change.

This significant occasion led to the Otin Taai Declaration that has shaped the prophetic position of the Pacific churches to navigate resources to support local communities and advocate at the national, regional and global platforms. (Otin Taai is the i-Kiribati word for "sunrise" - a symbol of hope, sunrise - bring day light.)

This convening allowed for churches to take stock of existing efforts, commitments and programmes on climate change. This was also an opportunity to remind our Pacific brothers and sisters how we are

The challenge is, "what will happen to my neighbour if I don't do something to help with the climate crisis?"

A great example of the Holy Eucharist - Blessed Carlo Acutis

- Sr Daisy Anne Lisania Augustine MSC
Secretary for Social Communication



The first National Eucharistic Congress in Papua New Guinea will take place from 12 - 15 December, 2024 in Rebiambul Mission in the Archdiocese of Mt Hagen.

It will be a time of prayer, formation on the holy eucharist, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and an expression of our faith in Jesus's real presence and our love for Him.

Throughout history, many beautiful miracles of the Holy Eucharist are found in the Catholic Church. For instance, ancient Anxanum, the city of Frentanese, has contained for over twelve centuries the first and greatest Eucharistic Miracle of the Catholic Church. This wondrous Event took place in the 8th century A.D. in the little Church of St Legontian, as a divine response to a Basilian monk's doubt about Jesus's Real Presence in the Eucharist. (Also known as the Miracle of Lanciano)

This miracle and many others are a great heritage for us in loving Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament.

Last week, the Church celebrated the Feast of Corpus Christi, the Body and Blood of Christ. On August 11, 1264, Pope Urban IV promulgated the bull *Transiturus de Hoc Mundo* which declared Corpus Christi a new feast for the entire Church.

Reflecting on the great feast, and the modern example for us, Blessed Carlo Acutis insisted that holiness was impossible without the Mass, the Rosary and time before the Blessed Sacrament, saying, "the Eucharist is the highway to heaven" and "by standing before the Eucharistic Christ, we become holy."

What is inspiring for this age in Carlo Acutis and the Holy Eucharist is that for Carlo, the internet was a means of evangelization. It was another space in which he was also able to transmit God. Using his computer skills, Carlo designed an online Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition that is now translated into 17 languages.

Carlo Acutis died in 2006, after being diagnosed with acute leukemia. Pope Francis declared him blessed after a healing miracle was attributed to him in 2020. In May, 2024, Pope Francis recognized a

second miracle that was attributed to Acutis's intercession, paving the way for his likely canonization in 2025

Acutis reminds us that we are all called to become saints by living our ordinary lives with the extraordinary love of Christ at the center. We can become more generous, more holy, and more like Christ by spending time with him at Mass, in the sacraments, and through prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

He was born to an Italian family in London, England, in 1991. At the age of fifteen, Acutis already hungered for heaven, telling his mother, "I can die happy, because I haven't wasted even a minute on things that aren't pleasing to God"

As preparations are under way for the first Eucharistic Congress, let us ask Blessed Carlo Acutis to intercede for us all.

Blessed Carlo Acutis, Pray for us

CBC PNGSI launches Papal Visit Logo and Website

Port Moresby: The Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands has finally launched the official Logo and Website for the Papal Visit in a press conference on Tuesday 14th of May.

Speaking during the press conference was the General Coordinator of the Papal Visit Committee Fr Lawrence Arockiaraj, Chairperson of the Papal Visit Committee Bishop Rozario Menesez SMM and the Bishop of Lae Diocese, His Eminence Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC from the host archdiocese and Finance Committee Bishop Donald Lippert OFM Cap who is also the Bishop of Mendi diocese.

The logo was designed by the Director of the Liturgical Catechetical Institute Fr Tomás Ravaioli IVE and the Website was created by CBC PNGSI IT officer, Mr Emmanuel Natera.

With the Pope's visit set for September 6 – 9, the committee of the Papal visit saw that it is fitting to launch the official logo to promote the upcoming spiritual experience and a website to register the number of people wishing to part take in this spiritual experience.

Fr Lawrence Arockiaraj gave an opening remark welcoming the media houses and everyone who attended the press conference. He also stated that the main goal of the launching of the official Logo and website is to allow everyone to experience the message of the Pope to our land."

Bishop Rozario Menesez SMM also added that that the Logo itself is purposely to promote the spiritual experience that the Catholic faithfuls and people will experience during the visit of the Holy Father.

"The logo must not be used for commercial purpose or for personal gain, however it can be used by the Catholic church and its agencies so that the proceedings will go towards Papal visit," he said.

He further explained that the website created is to have catholic faithful in the Archdiocese of Port Moresby and other Archdioceses/Dioceses to be able to register so the Logistics Committee headed by the Catholic Professional Society can get an overview of the figure expected to flood into Port Moresby for accommodation purposes. He also elaborated that for the people in the peripheries who cannot access the website there will be a coordinator placed in the respective archdioceses and dioceses to cater for that so everyone can meet the person who has a big heart for charity.

"Pope Francis is always supportive to the church of PNGSI, he sends funding to the Catholic Church to obtain medicines for health facilities when he sees the news of medicine shortages, even during the time of COVID he assisted us. He is passionate about the sick and therefore our preparation of his coming is a priority", expressed Bishop Rozario.

In addition, his Eminence Sir John Cardinal Ribat the host Archbishop commended the committee for their efforts and mentioned that the Archdiocese will expect youth from the different dioceses to be in Port Moresby to be a part of the preparation and the actual event as they will be the focus including children.

His Lordship Bishop Donald Lippert has extended his appreciation to the PNG government who are liaising with the Church for the Papal Visit. He commended the government for the support and said that people must know that the visit is not just Apostolic Visit but a state visit as well because the Pope is the head of Catholic Church and the Vatican.



From left to right: His Eminence John Cardinal Ribat MSC, Fr Lawrence Arockiaraj, His Lordship Bishop Rozario Menezes SMM and His Lordship Bishop Donald Lippert OFM Cap showcasing the newly launched website.

Cause for Canonization: A call for collaboration

Rabaul: With the cause and the process of the canonization of Rabaul's own Blessed Peter Torot been taking a significant progress over the last couple of years, Archbishop Rochus Tatamai MSC is now putting a call for a collaborative work by all for the process.

The Archbishop aired out in his Pastoral Letter dated May 26, 2024 on the Feast of the Blessed Holy Trinity that despite facing hardship in proving miracles that are attributed to Blessed Peter Torot scientifically, the Holy

Father has opened the cause for Canonizing Blessed Peter Torot. Leaving us now with just one last important task to do; prepare a series of encounters that sees the intercession of Blessed Peter Torot.

"To complete the entire process, it is necessary to prepare a series of documents to present to the dicastery. Once the dicastery has approved them, they will be sent to the Holy Father for the final approval".

Being the best-case scenario on hand, the

Archbishop is now pleading for all dioceses to help contribute with written/ recorded testimonies that can be compiled and sent.

"All you have to do is, write down the grace you have received, indicating your name, address and the date of which it has occurred. For example, if you have been cured of an illness, thanks to Peter Torot, you should write down what your illness was and how you were helped by Peter Torot.

These written testimonies will then be collected by various

parish priests and then sent to the Archbishop, who will then send to a Priest who is in Rome to be presented to the dicastery.

Other than that, the Archbishop also mentioned that there are two other important things that we as Christians can do to help the process of the canonization of Blessed Peter Torot.

And that is, to pray, so that God the Father can help make things possible, and secondly is to help organize fundraisers as entire process towards the

canonisation involves significant administrative expenses.



His Grace Archbishop Rochus Tatamai MSC.

Celebrating 50 years of Faith and Community at St Charles Lwanga Parish, Gerehu

In a joyous and momentous occasion, St Charles Lwanga Parish will be celebrating its Golden Jubilee, commemorating 50 years of faith, community and service to the local congregation at Gerehu in Port Moresby on the 8th of June 2024.

The milestone event will bring together parishioners, clergy, and members of the community to reflect on the rich history and legacy of the parish since 1974.

The Golden Jubilee celebration will begin with a special Mass presided over by Cardinal John Ribat MSC and his brother priests of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Congregation.

Since its inception, the first priest was Fr Kevin Murphy MSC, celebrating first mass in February 1974 at Gerehu Community School as it was known that time. There were five families who were initial members that started.

Since then, a total of about 60 priests have passed through the parish, serving in various capacities as Parish Priests, assisting priests and visiting priests. Currently, the total number of parishioners is estimated at 2000. A total of 4880 parishioners have been baptized since 1974.

The celebration coincides with the feast of our patron saint, Saint Charles Lwanga of Uganda, celebrated on 3rd June. Charles, was part of a catholic youth group who were martyred in the year 1886 for their Christian faith.

On Saturday 8th June, 2024 parishioners will participate in various traditional song and dance, choir and drama, showcasing the parish journey over the past five decades.

Looking towards the future, the Parish remains committed to serving its community, spreading the message of love and compassion, and nurturing the

faith of its members for generations to come. The Golden Jubilee celebration is not only a time for reflection and gratitude but also a celebration of the bright future that lies ahead for the church and Christian faith.



An aerial view of the St Charles Lwanga Church and Parish grounds.

-Ahisha Mangot

-Donovan Pintol

CBC PNGSI SOCOM Commission celebrates 58th World Communication Day

- Ahisha Mangot

Gerehu, Port Moresby: The Social Communications Commission of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea & Solomon Islands (CBC PNGSI) celebrated the World Communication Day on Sunday May 12 (Ascension Sunday) at St Charles Lwanga parish, Gerehu, stage 2.

Sr Daisy Anne Lisania MSC, Secretary for Social Communications gave an introductory insight to the Popes message on 58th WCD including the theme.

The program started with a Eucharistic celebration that was presided by the Archbishop of Rabaul, his Grace Archbishop Rochus Tatamai MSC with the assistance of the two con-celebrants, the UPNG Catholic Chaplain Fr. Henry Natowosi OP and St. Charles Lwanga Parish Priest Fr Robert Spania MSC.

The Liturgy was led beautifully by the UPNG Catholic Students Association with their angelic choir.

With the WCD coinciding with not only the Ascension Sunday Celebration, but the Mother's Day celebration as well, Archbishop Tatamai gave a



His Grace Archbishop Rochus Tatamai MSC with the concelebrants Fr Henry Natowosi OP, Fr Robert Spania MSC, Communion Minister Mr John Lavu and altar servers.

touching homily reflecting on each of the events and highlighting their importance in our lives as Christians.

"Jesus ascended into heaven and now the faith is spread throughout the world and so let us not lose hope and sight of our One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Faith" shared Abp. Tatamai.

For the Mother's Day reflection, this is what Archbishop Tatamai had to say: Let us take this time

to appreciate our mothers for being the backbone of our families and we continue to pray for God's mercy and blessings upon them.

Archbishop Tatamai highlighted in his reflection on WCD that it is important and one must not let AI take over the wisdom of the heart that God has given and instead, use it for a greater purpose.

Following the mass was an enriching program that had speeches and then a demonstration of Heatpress Printing with the use of AI to spread positive messages.

Schools/groups that took part in the activities include: Sacred Heart Teachers College, Limana Vocational Training Centre, Don Bosco Technical School, Don Bosco Technological Institute, De La Salle Secondary School, La Salle Technical Secondary School, UPNG Catholic Students Association and the Parish Youth of St Charles Lwanga.

The program was co-sponsored by Lae Biscuit Company.

Aitape Catholic women campaign on Gender Based Violence

- Sr Maria Tongop pbvm

Aitape: The Catholic women of St. Ignatius Cathedral Parish and St. Joachim Parish in Aitape town with the support of the menfolk and children dressed in black had a peaceful walk in their campaign against Gender Based Violence on Thursday May 9, 2024.

The walk began in Raihu District Hospital and ended in downtown and had the theme: "Tok nogat long olgeta kain birua i save bagarapim laip sindaun bilong yumi olgeta".

Leading the walk was Mrs Freda Tabokom from the Women's Office. The purpose of their silent march was to express their concerns so that the District Administration and leaders of all levels can address.

"We need laws established for men, women and children for everyone to respect and follow while conducting their business. This includes laws on

carrying fancy weapons, consumption of home-brew and alcohol, littering and swearing in public places.

The women also made an appeal to the Administration to monitor law enforcers posted to the Aitape/Lumi District so that they do their job diligently and requested that those not performing their duties to be transferred elsewhere.

Mrs Cecilia Mave from the Family Life office stressed on the safety of people living in communities and condemned GBV and all forms of violence.

"Thursday in black stands against violence of all forms. Don't tell a woman she's not capable of something because she is capable of everything".

The mothers concluded the awareness campaign with a significant Eucharistic celebration on Sunday May 12 on the Feast of the Lord which also coincided

with Mother's Day and the 58th World Communication Day.

Presiding over the mass was Fr Philip Pagolu OFM as the main celebrant assisted by Br Michael OFM.



Picture: Mothers during the Eucharistic celebration on Sunday May 12 after their campaign on Gender Based Violence.

His Lordship Bishop Pedro Baquero administers Sacrament of Confirmation to Kerema Youth

- James Miri

Kerema: His Lordship Bishop Pedro Baquero SDB in his recent visit to Theresa Moveave in Terapo Parish administered the sacrament of Confirmation to 50 candidates.

The candidates were from St. Theresa-Moveave Primary School, St. Anthony-Malalaua and St. Vincent de Paul Terapo Primary School.

The Holy Eucharist commenced with the beautiful sound of the *singsing* and spectacular entrance as candidates, Bishop Pedro and Parish Priest Fr Eugene Karava processed to open the Holy mass, as the voices of hymns filled the place.

The Parishioners and family members of the candidates came to witness the Sacrament of Confirmation celebration with silent admiration for the courage shown by the candidates. The peak of the moment of joyfulness was when Bishop Pedro confirmed the candidates.

Reflecting on the Gospel in his homily Bishop Pedro encouraged the Parishioners of Theresa and visitors to forgive one another when they encounter unfortunate situations.

In terms of temptation Bishop said that, "If you are weak inside, small in size, and have special needs, know that your will power is strong, stronger is the one who is able to control oneself and that is the real Mercy and Love of God."

He added that the candidates have to give vitality and vigor to the church and they need to arise and repent from old mistakes and receive Jesus in their hearts and become great witnesses of the gospel."

The entire liturgical celebration was well organized by youth of St Theresa - Moveave with joyful voices packed with emotional feeling that brought liveliness in the presence of the people who were present including the families of the candidates.



Confirmation candidates with His Lordship Bishop Pedro Baquero SDB.

85 receive Sacrament of Confirmation on Feast of Holy Trinity in Boregaina

- Ahisha Mangot

Holy Trinity Parish, Boregaina: The Parish saw a lively gathering and celebration as religious, clergy, parishioners, families, and friends from outside and around the parish came in great numbers to celebrate the Holy Trinity Feast Day on Sunday 26th of May.

Presiding over the joyous occasion was Reverend Fr Bruce Kupi, the Pastoral Vicar of the Archdiocese of Port Moresby. Assisting with the Eucharistic celebration were con celebrants, parish priest Fr Alex Balasamy MMI, assistant parish priest Fr Arockia Samy Novil Alex MMI and parish priest of St. Stephen, Cape Rodney Fr Cleetus Vargheese MMI.

It was a joyful occasion for the parish, as they witnessed a total of 85 candidates receiving the sacrament of confirmation during the holistic celebration of the feast day of the Parish as-well. An indication that shows that the church is still growing.

Adding a special holy touch to the celebration was the beautiful choir and the energetic processions led by the Catholic Theological Institute Seminarians with the assistance of the parishioners and the young people from Tubulamo, Taboro, Kubui and Dorom Koki areas.

During Fr. Bruce's homily, the Reverend reflected on the gospel of Mt 28:16-20. The scripture that talks about Holy Trinity; God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit as one.

As encouragement to the 85 participants, the priest told them that the Holy Trinity is a mystery, and it is through the sacrament of confirmation that one receives the Holy Spirit.

The Reverend also told the participants that: "To receive the sacrament of confirmation is a big

responsibility. For it means one must defend, and stand firm on his/ her Catholic faith no matter what".

Fr Bruce also highlighted in his homily that Jesus gave the authority to make disciples of all nations baptizing his children in the name of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

"We the Catholics have been practising this from the very beginning of our church... dear candidates stand firm on your Catholic Faith and do not be moved and discouraged by the stones being thrown at our faith."

He then further expressed that, to make disciples of nation, one must first stand firm in his/her faith and beliefs. For the Holy Trinity is a mystery to everyone but is lived by one's faith.

He said to everyone to be proud of the Catholic faith, it is founded by Jesus Christ and as stated in the bible no evil shall prevail against it.

The mass concluded with acknowledgements from the Parish Priest Fr Alex Balasamy MMI, and a group photo with the main celebrant Fr Bruce Kupi, Fr Alex Balasamy, Fr Cleetus Vargheese and Fr Arockia Samy Novil Alex and the 85 confirmed candidates.



Confirmation candidates of Holy Trinity Parish, Boregaina with the priests.

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, 2024.**

EDITOR
SR DAISY ANNE LISANIA AUGUSTINE MSC
Phone: 325 9577
Email: secretary_socom@catholic.org.pg

SUB-EDITOR
CBC SOCOM
Phone: 325 9577
Email: socom@catholic.org.pg

LAYOUT AND DESIGN,
EDITING &
PROOFREADING:
CBC SOCOM