



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

April 2019

Issue 160

Our Daily Bread

At his General Audience in St. Peter's Square, Rome, Pope Francis reflected on 'Our daily bread' the second part of the 'Our Father'. His reflections remind us that we are not self-sufficient creatures. He invited us to remember to share, to look beyond ourselves and our egoism and share the bread we receive with those of our brothers and sisters in need.

Jesus teaches us to ask the Father for daily bread. He teaches us to do so united with men and women for whom this prayer is a silent cry that accompanies everyday anxiety. So many mothers and fathers today go to sleep with the torment of not having enough bread the next day for their children.

"Today we analyse the second part of the 'Our Father,' in which we present our needs to God. This second part begins with a word that we eat daily: bread. Jesus' prayer begins with a pressing demand, which is very similar to the request of a beggar: 'Give us our daily bread!'

"This prayer reminds us that we often forget we are not self-sufficient creatures, and that every day we need to eat," the Pope said. The Holy Father explained, the prayer reminds us of our need for God each day in our lives. But he

continued by urging the faithful to be reminded by the prayer for the needs of others.

"And now a moment of silence to think of starving children. Let us think of children that are in countries at war: the starving children of Yemen, Syria, South Sudan, and in so many countries where there isn't bread. Let us think of these children and, thinking of them, let us say together in a loud voice the prayer: 'Father, give us this day our daily bread'," Pope Francis said.

The Holy Father also reminded his audience to remember that the bread we ask of the Lord in prayer and is given to us, is given for humanity.



Sadly, we are sometimes the only ones enjoying it. We need to reach out in love. It is the love of God in our hearts that will help us go beyond our egoism and share bread with people who are in need.

The Holy Father concluded by referring to the miracle of the loaves and fishes, noting that it was a true miracle, and a lesson about the importance of sharing.



CBC, Gordons: The Caritas Papua New Guinea (CPNG) Commission under the Catholic Bishops Conference hosted a panel discussion that focused on climate change on Friday, 22nd March.

The Panel Discussion had as its theme: 'There is Enough.' The panelists were Peter Mariambe, Manam Care Centre; Henry Konaka, Manam Association Leader, Port Moresby; Jacob Ekinye, Director Adaptation and Projects, Climate Change and Development Authority; Joseph Tobung and

There is ENOUGH

- Abigail Seta

Peter Salei from the Diocese of Bougainville and Matthew McGarry, Caritas Relief Services.

The discussion highlighted issues related to our common home and focused specifically on the issue of the Manam Islands in Madang Province and Cartaret Islands in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. Speaking for the people of Manam was Manam Association Leader in Port Moresby, Henry Konaka who spoke on the issues faced

and what needs to be done.

"There has been a lot of advocacy to seek government attention but there have been poor results," stated Henry Konaka. "It is time for us, partners in humanity to work hand in hand with the people of Manam, the authorities in Bogia and Madang and the national government to bring tangible change for the welfare of our people." Representing the Climate Change and Development Authority was the Director of Adaptation and Projects,

Jacob Ekinye. He spoke on the tasks that they do and how they address the issue of climate change.

The discussion also saw representatives from the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Joseph Tobung and Peter Salei where they spoke on Cartaret Island and the many problems faced over the past decades.

Also speaking of climate change on a global scale was Matthew McGarry, a Sub-Regional Country Representative for Caritas Relief Services based in the Philippines. "As part of the social arm of the Church, our mission is to serve the poor and vulnerable around the world supporting individuals and communities to work to reach their full human potential. We see climate change as one of the greatest contributors to the misery and desperation that our work is supposed to alleviate. As the theme of our panel discussion says 'There is enough' and indeed there is enough but only if we are the ones to make room in the end," he said.

The program concluded with a personal commitment by each person in the audience who pledged to care for our common home.

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Solidarity with Carteret and Manam Islanders

We the Caritas Diocesan Development Secretaries of the Commission Caritas Papua New Guinea of the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNG and Solomon Islands, stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters of the Carteret Islands from the Diocese of Bougainville and Manam Care Centre of the Archdiocese of Madang. We would like to voice our concerns on a number of life-threatening issues affecting more than 2000 people on the atolls of Carteret Island.

Firstly, the lack of support from the Autonomous Region of Bougainville Government and Papua New Guinea to fund the relocation plans negotiated since 2006. We cannot continue to ignore the risks families face daily. Food is scarce as tides frequent the shores and the inland of the island, destroying staple food crops such as banana, swamp taro, fruit trees and vegetables. Since the 1970s families have been surviving mainly on coconut and fish. With the small support of 8 families who had relocated to Tinputz District in 2006, rations of garden food have been transported to feed the remaining families on the island. However, this is not practical with the high cost of fuel and irregular harvests. Although the administration of AROB promised to do quarter food relief this has not been a reliable promise kept. More than 200 students on the islands are not attending

regular classes due to food concerns and inability of the community to retain quality teachers to serve the island communities. The Diocese of Bougainville responded and allocated 300 hectares of Land to settle Carteret Islanders. With support from the international community, 8 semi-permanent houses were built and accommodated 8 families whilst two houses remain incomplete. No one is following up on this issue to ensure the relocation plan is successful. Hence, we call upon the Government of Bougainville to remain true to its promise and support Carteret Islanders with the following;

- Classrooms for more than 200 students to be built in Tinputz
- Shelter – building materials for families who will relocate
- Transport support to ensure families are relocated
- Food ration and clean water start up ration in the months leading to relocation
- Partnership with Church to provide Socio – Psycho Support for loss of cultural identity, land etc.

Our second concern is for the Manam people who remain displaced and unaccompanied since 1996. There are now an estimated population of 22,000 people from both the Care Centre at Manam and Manam Island migrants. The proposed relocation sites for Manam

people has not been supported with easy access of road, transport, accommodation and initial food support since 1996 when negotiations between the National Government and Provincial Government of Madang took effect. The Manam people were temporarily relocated to Bogia District however, this remains a very big challenge for families to adapt to a normal life. Land shortage leading to ethnic clashes, high school dropout, lack of income and food shortage remains a daily struggle. We would like to know and now call upon the State to investigate the Manam Development Authority set to speed up the process of resettlement. It is long overdue and can no longer wait. We plea with the Government of PNG not to exploit the situation and ensure the budgets allocated for Manam Development Authority is managed well with key development partners in the Province of Madang to ensure the following relocation needs are met:

1. Road access to the proposed sites
2. Housing material build up
3. Repatriation – transport, food relief
4. Socio – Psycho support for grief and coping to loss of identity etc.
5. Upgrade of medical and school facilities nearby that will cater for the new population in the District concerned.



Using the 'net' for unity

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb
CBC SOCOM and Youth Secretary

The internet forms an important landscape of our media environment today. Young and old people are connected via the net. It is the source of our knowledge and information. It has given persons the possibility to connect with each other and build relationships that were once unthinkable. It offers immense possibilities for production, distribution and use of content. However, if we are not careful, this resource can have negative effects.

People seem to be entangled in this resource and spend time drifting on endlessly rather than focus on what they are really after. This has also been an avenue where images are posted and egos are inflated, promises made and commitments broken, truth is distorted, and disinformation circulated, and events of a personal and private nature are brought out into a public space. The image of a 'net' highlights 'unity and togetherness'. It is a symbol of collecting and bringing together a variety of different materials of different shapes and forms. Out of this variety emerges a unity. The 'net' brings together a variety of persons from different communities, cultures and continents. It is in this public space in which we interact with persons we have not met, learn about a variety of happenings and share our experiences of life and living. This should bring about unity, togetherness and progress. The task we have at hand is to use the resource to learn, develop and grow as we interact, comment and share. Sadly, we notice that this wonderful public space has had a negative effect on the lives of people, it has resulted in the breakdown of committed relationships and been used to control, dominate and manipulate persons. In Papua New Guinea, the net has given us great possibilities to connect and network, but it has also brought in selfishness, egoism, domination and abuse. Cyber bullying has been surfacing amongst young vulnerable people. Social media has been used to promote cult groups inviting young boys and girls to activities that are morally inappropriate and dangerous to themselves and their future.

As persons today, we need to recognize how social networks can connect and bring about unity. We need to make sure that every person is treated with dignity and that the human rights of every person is respected. Perhaps our Lenten resolution could be to ensure that all our posts on social media enhance unity.



Empowering women through Education

We want to empower women to get an education, so that they are able to understand the laws of the country and their rights and that they can speak up for themselves and others.



- Abigail Seta

These were the sentiments shared by Caritas Diocesan Development Secretary from the Diocese of Daru-Kiunga, Rose Canisius in an interview with *The Catholic Reporter*.

There are a lot of problems faced by women in the Diocese of Daru-Kiunga and literacy is one of the biggest issues. Unfortunately, it is present in the rural areas of Papua New Guinea as well.

"The majority of women are not educated, resulting in a lot of issues. We have a women's desk in the diocese that conducts Adult Literacy Programs for both men and women. However, a lot needs to be done," said Rose.

She also highlighted the role of the Church and the need for counselling to help women. "There is the need to counsel women in the rural areas so that they can cope with these issues and find a positive way out of the situation," she said.

National Catholic Education Assistant, Fiona Wenama spoke on the need of formal and informal education to assist with educating teachers from remote areas.

"One of the ways we think should solve this problem in the country is educating teachers from very remote areas who are able to meet the requirement of our selection criteria. So, we bring them in, train them and send them back to the remote areas," Fiona stated.

She added that not many teachers like to go to the remote parts of the country and that the Catholic Church is doing its best to send teachers to these areas.

"During the training we highlight the importance of education in the remote areas and also promote gender equality in education. It is the joint efforts by churches, government and development partners who together, will make changes and bring education to the remote areas," she said.

Collection for the Holy Land

The Middle East continues to experience destruction to churches, homes, hospitals and schools with killing of thousands of victims in Lebanon and Jordan. You are invited to join in solidarity with the Christians in the Holy Land and donate generously on Good Friday to rebuilding of homes, hospitals, schools and churches.

Leonardo Cardinal Sandri,
Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches



Animators Training Seminar Call to Holiness and Mission

Dates: 3rd to 7th June, 2019 | Venue: CBC, Port Moresby

Participants: Youth Animators from each diocese
Registration: K 200/- per participant

Content: Spirituality for the young, Evangelising Today, Faith and Life, Self-Appreciation, Living Pure
Organised by: CBC Youth Secretary

Limited spaces available



The Season of Lent

The Lenten season is prayer and conversion, listening and fasting, solidarity and care. It ends with the celebration of Easter, which is peace, reconciliation and life. These can't be mere words.

Everything must be seen as routed in daily life. Raise your eyes and see how the world looks around you. You will realize that a lot of people "fast" every day, not only during the Lenten season. Food and resources for them are scarce or out of reach. No job or poor salary. Others are sick and medicines are not available. Health centres are miles and hours away in rural areas. Child birth is a considerable risk. Our schools are unable to accommodate all the young people or when desks are available, money is not there for school fees and bus fare. At times study courses and job opportunities are denied to the most deserving due to nepotism and bribery. The only material thing we should really fast from – alcohol – is rather produced, distributed and consumed without restraint. Other social evils also catch

our attention almost on a daily basis. Media have recently reported on numerous cases of domestic child abuse. Fortunately, some have reached the courts and the culprits are behind bars. Neglect of children and youth by irresponsible parents is alarming and compounds with poverty and precarious living conditions.

Paradoxically some may partially abstain from food during the Lenten season in order to just drop a few pounds. Nothing wrong. But make sure your fasting is coupled with works of solidarity, justice and charity. See the poor in the streets. Help some students who find it hard to stay in school. Visit the sick at the hospital. If you leave in Manus or Port Moresby befriend those foreigners we call refugees or asylum seekers. They have been sent to our country and detained in order to discourage others from irregularly reaching Australia by boat. After six years they are still waiting to know their future. In the process a number of them have lost their mental stability. The physical and psychological scars will be hard to heal. They all come from

troubled countries such as Sudan, Somalia, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Sri Lanka. They have suffered back home, then on the long trip to Indonesia and Australia, now in Papua New Guinea where they have been deported in 2013. There will be no real Easter of joy and victory if evil thoughts and behaviour keeps controlling us, if we do not respect the weak, if we ignore the stranger and the foreigner and if we do not share what we have. We also expect change in government attitude towards the refugees an asylum seekers. Detention without a chargeable offence cannot be indefinite. People are not animals, whatever the circumstances leading them away from their families and countries may have been. A genuine sense of humanity is what preserves us from the abyss of death. Much more if we happen to be Christians and celebrate resurrection and life at Easter.



Promoting Healthy Living

The Catholic Church Health Services held its first annual conference from 18th to 22nd March, at the Emmaus Conference in Don Bosco Technological Institute (DBTI), Boroko.

The theme of the conference: 'Promoting Healthy Living through Care and Compassion' was attended by its main speakers, Minister for Health, Hon. Dr Puka Temu; Deputy Secretary - Corporate Services, Ms Elva Lionel who represented Secretary of Health, Pascoe Kase. Also present at the conference was Archbishop Steve Reichart, Archbishop of Madang and chairman of the CCHS board; Bp. Francis Meli, Bishop of Vanimo and a member of the CCHS board. All the dioceses of PNG were represented at the Conference.

At the launch of the conference Dr Temu highlighted the valued partnership between the National Department of Health and National Catholic Church Health Services. Minister Temu

- Abp Stephen Reichart

said that both would continue in working together to provide for PNG quality healthcare.

In his address, Archbishop Reichart said that CCHS operation was vital in the provision of health equipment and personnel as it provided to people in many remote parts of the country and hoped for NDoH to recognize this. "We hope we are also recognised by NDoH as an indispensable healthcare contractor with a large and well-trained force of committed healthcare



professionals, spread throughout the country in a network of health facilities that reach people in many remote areas, who otherwise would have no healthcare at all."

Students urged to be united

- Sr. Daisy Lisania



Archbishop Panfilo addressing the students

Addressing the students at the gathering, the Archbishop urged the students to not be afraid of where they are studying and to be proud.

"Be faithful to the motto of your schools and be proud of the colours of your school," said Archbishop Francisco Panfilo sdb, Archbishop of Rabaul as he addressed the students.

Quoting the Lenten message of His Holiness Pope Francis, when we fail to live as children of God, we often behave in a destructive way towards our neighbours, other creatures and even towards ourselves. He then reminded the students of the motto of the Archdiocese of Rabaul: 'Ut Unum Sint' 'That They May Be One'.

"This was the prayer Jesus made during the last supper. Jesus knew his disciples were imperfect people, but he prayed for unity amongst them", he said.

Rabaul, Papua New Guinea: Nine Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Rabaul attended the Eucharistic Celebration at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Vunapope on Friday 22nd March 2019.

Chat Room - A program to stimulate student reflection

A new initiative of CBC SOCOM in collaboration with the youth radio station TribeFM 92.0 entitled **Chat Room** went live on air for the first time on NBC Tribe FM, Port Moresby on 13th March, 2019.

Chat Room is a program that strives to share the thoughts and reflections of young people as they reflect on social issues that affect themselves and in turn have an impact on the fabric of our people.

The first program on 13th March saw Don Bosco Technical School, Gabutu (DBTS) student representatives speak on 'Climate Change and its effect on our lives'. Marianville Secondary School spoke on 'Refugees and Migrants' for the second program on the 20th of March. The third program on March 27th saw Limana Vocational School speak on 'Gender Equality and Abuse.'

This weekly event, broadcast live on NBC Tribe FM every Wednesday at 2.30pm, invites young people from schools, parishes and youth



groups who wish to be part of the program to contact SOCOM as soon as possible. You will need to deal with a social issue and offer your views on how you can contribute to change.

Yumi Yet Sios

- Bp Rochus Tatamai MSC



Insait long nupela yia 2019, igat planti samtin i wok long kamap we i mekim yumi olgeta i mas painim taim long stap isi na lukluk bihainim olgeta dispela lukluk bilong inapim laip na singaut bilong God insait long laip bilong yumi.

Insait long Konferens bilong ol Katolik Bisop bilong PNG na Solomon Ailans, yumi givim dispela bikpela lukluk na wokabout wantaim ol lain leiti bilong yumi wantaim "Singautim olgeta Lei manmeri long stap holi na givim witnes wantaim ol pasim holi insait long ol ples bilong yumi wantaim wol olgeta. Mi save planti famili, komuniti, institution olsem ol skul na haus sik ol i mekim promotion long luksave olsem yumi olgeta istap insait long skel na lukluk bilong Bikpela long stap holi na stretpela long ai bilong God Triwan.

Yumi ken inapim dispela kain lukluk wantaim ol pasin bilong harim tok, pasin bilong marimari long ol manmeri i tarangu o ino gat namba,

husat ol sik manmeri, o ol lapun na kainkain turangu olsem ol husat igat hevi na ino gat lain long helpim ol.

Yumi olgeta olsem ol memba bilong bodi bilong Kraist na Sios bilong God yumi olgeta i mas wok sambai na lukautim gut olgeta liklik pikinini husait krismas bilong ol i stap insait na aninit long 18pela krismas.

Dispela lain ol pikinini yumi save kolim ol olsem ol maina (Minors) na ol i gat planti hevi tru i painim ol taim ol (adults) o ol bikpela manmeri husait oli sapos long lukautim gut ol minors tasol nogat ol adalsts gen oli bagarapim tras na bilip bilong ol minors na save abiusim ol.

Dispela hevi tu i karamapim sampela Bisop na Pris insait long Sios olsem yumi gat bikpela bagarap. Long dispela hevi tasol na Papa Santu Pop Francis i bin singautim olgeta

President bilong ol Conference bilong ol Bisop insait long wol olgeta long kam bungim em long Rome na toktok long olgeta bikpela bagarap na hevi nau Sios i stap insait long em.

Nau yumi olgeta igat bikpela wok long mekim insait long sios wantaim olgeta bikpela wok sambai bilong mekim ol ples insait long Sios, Skul na komuniti na long famili we yumi olgeta i ken gat gutpela awareness, ol gutpela wok sambai na lukautim gut ol pikinini bilong yumi oltaim.

Wanwan long yumi i mas mekim dispela wok wantaim bikpela komitment tru. God wantaim Yumi na em i ken inapim olgeta dispela ol gutpela wok sambai bilong yumi olgeta.



The crowd at the festival grounds in Alotau

Alotau, Milne Bay: A march was organized by the Ministers Fraternal, an ecumenical group of different churches in Alotau, on 16th March at the Festival grounds.

The aim of the march was to proclaim the desire for peace in Alotau after all the killings and burning of houses that Alotau has been experiencing due to the violence created by Tommy Baker and his group of rascals and the

Catholic faithful march for peace in Alotau

special police force sent by the national government.

In his speech, Bp Rolando Santos of the Diocese of Alotau said that the "Jesus March for Peace" was made by members of the Catholic Church in an effort to create a much-needed peace, adding this would lessen the recent spike in lawlessness in Alotau and its

effects that rocked the entire province of Milne Bay.

"Members of the Catholic Church have come here at the Alotau Festival grounds for the Jesus March for Peace to show our solidarity with all the peace-loving people of Alotau and Milne Bay Province, and to pray for true and lasting peace in this beautiful town of Alotau and Province of Milne Bay," Bishop Rolando told the crowd at the festival grounds.

"We are here as well to show our deep sorrow and sympathy to the families and victims of the past atrocities here in Alotau and outlying districts, for those who have died from violence committed by both the police force and so called "rascals", those who have lost homes, properties and lives from the uncalled for shooting and burning of houses especially in the New Kitava settlement."

Bishop Rolando emphasized that everyone had an obligation to respect and abide by the law, and that respect of human life should be the most respected of all. The Bishop said the people of Alotau longed for peace and were ready to join in the march of restoring peace and the reputation of Alotau.

In spite of the rain, about 600 people showed up. There were speeches from representatives of the different churches.

CARITAS hosts forum for Diocesan Development Secretaries

- Jenny Mek, Diocesan Caritas Coordinator, Archdiocese of Mt Hagen

A forum for Catholic Diocesan Development Secretaries (DDS) was held from the 17th to 23rd March at the Catholic Bishops Conference (CBC) in Port Moresby.

Held annually, this year's forum was organised by Caritas Papua New Guinea (CPNG) where Development Secretaries from the nineteen Catholic dioceses attended including the Caritas partners from Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, Catholic Relief Service known as Caritas United States, Caritas Australia and Misereor from Germany participated and contributed their inputs to the forum.

The Caritas partners and Misereor Germany who attended the training as observers and to

give their inputs, had an impact during the training. They emphasised on maintaining partnership with the Church. The input session was from Catholic Social Teachings, Laudato Si – Care for our common Home, tools on building new developments based on strengths and capacities, project proposal writing, financial policy, child protection policy and emergency plans were developed as



part of the actions transpired from the forum. Local partners from Right Relations, Social Communication (SOCOM) and Development Desk at CBC assisted in making the forum a success. The forum concluded with a Panel Discussion on Climate Change with the theme 'There is Enough' on 22nd March.

Catholic Reporter

Invites you to send in your articles, photograph and reflections on events and happenings in your parish, community, institution and diocese.

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on or before **20th March, 2019**

Published by: **Catholic Bishops Conference PNGSI**



Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples Pontifical Mission Societies
EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH October 2019

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST ON MISSION IN THE WORLD

The theme for the Extraordinary Missionary Month: "Baptized and sent: The Church of Christ on mission in the world".

It is a reawakening and an awareness of the missio ad gentes, and reinvigorating the responsibility of proclaiming the Gospel with new enthusiasm, are themes that combine the pastoral concern of Pope Benedict XV in Maximum Illud with the missionary vitality expressed by Pope Francis in Evangelii Gaudium: «missionary outreach is paradigmatic for all the Church's activity» (EG 15).