



The Catholic Reporter

Catholic Bishops' Conference of PNG & SI - Commission on Social Communications, P.O. Box 398, Waigani, NCD Tel.: 325 9577 - Fax: 323 2551

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Issue 191

Pope Francis: Time to develop a new form of universal solidarity

- Courtesy Vatican News



Below is the Pope's preface to the e-book "Laudato si' Reader. An Alliance of Care for Our Common Home" published by Libreria Editrice Vaticana (LEV) in conjunction with COP26. The text will be available free for download from 12 November from the website of the Dicastery for Integral Human Development, promoting the publication. The e-book features a collection of global reflections and writings inspired by the encyclical with a special commentary by UN Secretary General António Guterres.

Preface by Pope Francis:

Six years ago, I published the encyclical letter *Laudato si'*, on *Care for our Common Home*, appealing for a new shared dialogue about our common home – about how we are negatively shaping the future of our planet with our irresponsible behaviour. I rejoice to see that the encyclical has had a positive impact on our efforts to care for our common home in the Church, in our ecumenical and interreligious communities, in political and economic circles, in educational and cultural spheres, and beyond. After *Laudato si'* was published, I invited the Catholics to join my beloved brother, His Holiness Bartholomew, the Ecumenical Patriarch, and our Orthodox brethren, in celebrating together the World Day of Prayer for Creation Care on 1 September. I am filled with gratitude that the urgent message of *Laudato si'* has been echoed in important statements and more importantly actions from other religious traditions on our vocation to be custodians of God's creation. I remember with joy the *Rabbinic Letter on the Climate Crisis*, the *Islamic Declaration on Global Climate Change*, the *Buddhist Climate Change Statement to World Leaders*, and *Bhumi Devi Ki Jai! A Hindu Declaration on Climate Change*.

Laudato si' is a global call to be caretakers of our common home, and so it is wonderful to see that the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human

Development has taken the initiative to gather together reflections of persons and communities from around the world on the message(s) of *Laudato si'*. The '*Laudato si' Reader*', the title under which these reflections are gathered, is indeed a fitting conclusion to the '*Laudato si'* Special Anniversary Year' that was celebrated from 24 May 2020 to 24 May 2021.

The '*Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor*' that I present in *Laudato si'* as the emblematic consequence of our failure to care for our common home has been amplified lately by the Covid-19 emergency that humanity is still struggling to control. Thus, an ecological crisis, represented by the "*cry of the earth*", and a social crisis, represented by "*the cry of the poor*", have been made deadly by a *healthcare crisis: the Covid-19 pandemic*. So true are the words of my predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI, that "*the way humanity treats the environment influences the way it treats itself, and vice versa.*" (*Caritas in veritate*, n. 51).

Nevertheless, let us not forget that crises are also windows of opportunity: they are a chance to recognise and to learn from past mistakes. The present crisis should make us "*turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it*" (*LS*, 19). They are also a time for us to change gear, to change bad habits in order to be

able to dream, co-create, and act together to realise just and equitable futures. It is time to develop a new form of universal solidarity that is grounded in fraternity, love, and mutual understanding: one that values people over profit, one that seeks new ways to understand development and progress. And so, it is my hope and prayer that we do not come out of this crisis the same way we entered it!

The recent past has shown us that it is primarily our children who understand the scale and enormity of the challenges society faces, especially the climate crisis. We must listen to them with open hearts. We must follow their lead for they are wise beyond their years.

This is a moment to dream big, to rethink our priorities – what we value, what we want, what we seek – and re-plan our future, committing to act in our daily life on what we have dreamed of. The time to act, and to act *together*, is now!

Cardinal Parolin: COP26 must affirm centrality of multilateralism and action



The 26th UN Conference on Climate Change, or COP26, will be the biggest international summit the United Kingdom has ever hosted. More than 30,000 delegates, almost 200 world leaders as well as climate experts and activists are coming together to update plans for reducing emissions in order to combat global warming. It will be held from October 30th to November 12th 2021.

Cardinal Pietro Parolin who is heading the Holy See's delegation to Glasgow, spoke to Vatican Media on the eve of the crucial summit, here are excerpts of that interview:

Your Eminence, COP26, the United Nations Conference on Climate Change, is about to take place. What are the concerns motivating the presence of the Holy See?

COP26 is the first Conference of the United Nations Framework Convention on climate change to take place after the spread of Covid-19. It is also the Conference charged with ratifying the concrete means for implementing the commitments undertaken by the 2015 Paris Agreement. We know how complex and uncertain the process of its effective implementation has proved to be, not least as a result of the pandemic. True, we have seen the beginning of a process of transition to a model of development free of technologies and behaviours that affect greenhouse gas emissions. But the main question is how swift this process of transition will be, and whether it can respect the timetable dictated by science. It is the Holy See's hope that COP26 will reaffirm the centrality

of *multilateralism* and of *action*, also with regard to the so-called non-state actors. Given the slow progress made so far, the Glasgow Conference will prove quite important, for it will measure and motivate the collective will and the level of ambition of individual states.

In the Encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis supports an integral ecology, in which care for creation, concern for the poor, social commitment and peace efforts are inseparable. What are the most urgent needs?

By now, it is evident that environmental decay and social decay are deeply interrelated. This is a key concept of integral ecology: "peace, justice and the preservation of creation are three absolutely interconnected themes, which cannot be separated and treated individually without once again falling into reductionism". So it is important that COP26 provide a clear collective response, not only in promoting efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change on the part of all countries but also in helping the most vulnerable countries to confront the loss and damage that climate change caused. Tragically, these are already a reality in many contexts.

To see the full interview, visit the Vatican News website

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Understanding Synodality

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, Secretary for Social Communication

A Synod is a meeting of church leaders. (Acts 15). For centuries Synods have gathered Bishops and lay people to reach a consensus on important issues. The Synod does not have the power to make binding decisions, it is purely a consultative body for the Holy Father, who makes the final decision.

Pope Francis has held extraordinary synods on the family, young people, and the Amazon. Before each of them he has encouraged the bishops to hold local listening sessions in their dioceses and has invited more laypeople to participate together with the bishops in Rome.

The different dioceses, in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands have had representatives of the diocese gather together to discuss this theme on Synodality. The people have held Eucharistic celebrations and prayer meetings, reflections, and discussions on several topics and issues that have affected them.

In the Diocese of Daru Kiunga, the Diocesan Assembly was held on the 3rd and 4th September 2021. It was held at the Blessed Peter ToRot Formation Centre and had as its theme: 'Go deeper into the heart of Jesus'. The program was facilitated by Fr Andrew Moses, Vicar General of Daru-Kiunga and Pastoral Vicar of the Diocesan Team of Pastoral Animation (DTPA). Present for the entire duration were Bishop-Emeritus, Gilles Cote' SMM, and Bishop of Daru-Kiunga Joseph Durero SVD.

The Diocese of Alotau held its synod from 19 to 21 October at the Saint Paul's Pastoral Centre, Hagita Milne Bay Province. Bp Rolando Santos, priests, religious, Diocese Ministerial Heads and participants from diocese's different parishes attend the diocesan synod.

An opening Eucharistic celebration of the synod was held at Hagita Secondary School by His Lordship, Bishop Rolando Santos and con-celebrated by priests of the Diocese. An evaluation, the Five-Year Pastoral Plan for the Diocese and the Family Life Congress followed the synodal process. Bishop Rolando Santos together with the organizing committee, Sr. Betty and Father Joe Ensing urged the participants to carry on the Pastoral planning to as far as the Parishes, Catholic Christian Communities (CCC) and Small Christian Communities (SCC) of the Diocese.

Understanding synodality?

"Synodality" refers to the way decisions are made. It includes listening to people and discussing issues together paying careful attention to where the Holy Spirit is calling the church. The Holy Father Pope Francis reminds us to be ready to listen humbly and be open to the ideas of others. Thus, no topic is off-limits and disagreement is always welcome.

After the discussions, the bishops of the synod draft a document and vote, paragraph by paragraph, to approve it. The pope then uses that document to inform his decisions following the synod. It must be kept in mind that a synod is more than a parliament. While there will be rich and well-founded discussions, a true consensus is reached not through majority discernment but only through prayerful discernment.

Making decisions "synodally" is a top priority for Pope Francis. He would like to see this type of decision-making not only among the bishops meeting in Rome but "at every level of the Church's life," beginning with the laity (the "people of God"), then the pastors, the bishops and finally, the pope.

Why a 'synod on synodality'?

Pope Francis thinks that there is a long way to go before the church makes decisions "synodally" at every level. In only means that we need to go beyond the accustomed attitude to a command-and-control. This two year 'synodal process' gives the church an occasion to try it out. The process: "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission" begins with a diocesan listening phase from October 2021 to April 2022, followed by a continental phase from September 2022 to March 2023 and a final "universal church phase" that will look more like past synodal meetings in the Vatican in October 2023. The process will be different from what most Catholics are used to, and by its nature involve disagreement. But it also involves mutual listening, courage, humility and respect that the church could stand to grow in.



WELCOME!



On Wednesday, 31st March 2021, His Holiness Pope Francis appointed His Excellency Most Reverend Fermín Emilio Sosa Rodríguez as the Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea. He arrived in PNG on 27th July and is currently serving as the Apostolic Nuncio – Designate.

Brief History:

His Excellency was born on 12th April 1968 in Izamal in Mexico and was ordained a priest on 12th July 1998. He was incardinated in the Archdiocese of Yucatán and earned a doctorate in Canon (Church) Law. He entered the Diplomatic Service of the Holy See on 1st January 2003

He Served in the Apostolic Nunciature in PNG (2003-2007), Côte d'Ivoire (2007), Burkina Faso (2007-2012), United States of America (2012 – 2016), Canada (2016-2019), Serbia (2019 - 2021).

We welcome him and wish him all success in his task as Representative of the Holy Father, Pope Francis.



Revival is needed in the Catholic Church - Part 6

Fr. Victor Roche SVD, Secretary for New Evangelization

In the last issue we reflected on the 'Honesty and Transparency' in the Finance from the part of the Parish priests and 'Generosity in Giving' from the part of the parishioners. In this issue I invite you to reflect on some of the general trends that are prevalent in the Catholic Church in PNG and to a privileged challenge to all of us.

1. General Trends in the Catholic Church in PNG (from the survey done in the Commission for New Evangelization):

- 1.1 Many Catholics don't know the Catholic Faith or Catholic Teaching well.
- 1.2 Catholic Parents don't teach or share the Catholic faith with their children.
- 1.3 Many Catholic Students are ashamed of receiving communion during the mass in their schools or in their communities.
- 1.4 There are less Catholic Students in the Catholic and Government institutions: Primary, Higher Secondary, Vocational Schools and Universities. Some 50 years ago, there were 70% Catholic Students in some of our well-known Catholic Schools and now there are 30% and less. It is a worrying trend.
- 1.5 There is a decreasing number of Catholic population in PNG every year: In 1966 the Catholics were 29.8% and in 1980, 31.5%. But now in 2021, they are 25.1% in a projected figure. In the same period, the Evangelicals and Pentecostals have increased from 11% in 1966 to 25 % in 2021, while the Seventh Day Adventists have increased from 3.1% to 15.2%. On the whole, the mainline Churches lose their members to the Evangelicals and SDAs.

2. Possible Reasons:

2.1 Catholic Missionaries who came to PNG almost 130 years ago evangelized and taught the Catholics how to pray; how to receive the sacraments; how to read the Word of God and how to live a Christian life. Parents were proud of their faith and taught their children too. Many young people of the present generation have lost

the connection to the faith of their parents. Because some parents fail to share their faith with their children.

2.2 Modern media plays an important distracting or destructive role in the faith of the people of today. Young people of today spend lots of time and are being influenced by TV, internet, Cell phone and Social media.

2.3 The Catholics, especially the younger generation leave the Catholic Church and join other churches because:

2.3.1 Catholic Liturgy is not attractive or participatory for them.

2.3.2 They look for lively singing and good homilies.

2.3.3 They want to have a better pastoral care by their priests.

3. Possible Solutions:

3.1 We can be united together in our efforts of New Evangelization with "new ardor, new methods and new expression" (St. Pope John Paul II). We can infuse new energy and new enthusiasm with new methods of being Catholics, Priests and Religious.

3.2 Catholic parents should be alive in Christ: They should have a personal experience of the Risen Christ in the Catholic Church and share their faith with their children and others.

3.3 Catholic Laity is formed and sent for service: Catholic lay people should take ownership of the church in PNG and take active roles in the church. They can play their Priestly (offer personal sacrifices for sanctification), Prophetic (speak up in the church) and Kingly (take up administrative) roles.

To be continued in the next issue

- Fr. Tomás Ravaoli IVE



The Creed: The Life Everlasting

The end of all our desires, eternal life, is fittingly placed last among those things to be believed; and the Creed says: "life everlasting. Amen." to stand against those who believe that the soul perishes with the body.

In everlasting life man is united to God. God Himself is the reward and the end of all our labours: "I am your protector, and your reward exceeding great." (Gen 15:1) This union with God consists, **firstly, in a perfect vision of God:** "We see now through a glass in a dark manner; but then face to face." (1 Cor 13:12) **Secondly, in a most fervent love:** for the better one is known, the more perfectly is one loved. **Thirdly, in the highest praise:** "We shall see, we shall love, and we shall praise," as says St. Augustine.

St Thomas Aquinas teaches: "In everlasting life is the full and perfect satisfying of every desire; for there every blessed soul will have to overflowing what he hoped for and desired. God only satisfies and infinitely exceeds man's

desires; and, therefore, perfect satiety is found in God alone. Because the blessed in the Fatherland will possess God perfectly, it is evident that their desires will be abundantly filled, and their glory will exceed their hopes".

Whatever is delightful will be there in abundant fullness. Thus, if pleasures are desired, there will be the highest and most perfect pleasure, for it derives from the highest good, namely, God. Likewise, if honours are desired, there too will be all honour. If knowledge is desired, it will be there most perfectly, because we shall possess in the life everlasting knowledge of all the natures of things and all truth, and whatever we desire we shall know. And whatever we desire to possess, that we shall have, even life eternal: "To the just their desire shall be given." (Prov 10:24)

Finally, in heaven there will be the happy society of all the saints, and this society will be especially delightful.

To live for ever with Mary, the angels and saints will increase the pleasure and enjoyment of life everlasting.



Sorcery and Witchcraft? We shouldn't need it!

Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME, CBC General Secretary

It is often said that sorcery is "real". At a closer observation, it rather appears that it is "needed". Our heart harbours mixed feelings towards other living creatures. There are people who wish good to fellow humans, and people who hate and inflict misery in any possible way. We mostly hear of sorcery accusations related violence as a retaliation in connection with illness, death, and a variety of misfortunes.

Sorcery is needed to explain almost whatever bad happens in life. It is believed that the cause of the tragedy is not to be found in something but in somebody. It needs to be so, since a person can be identified, detained, accused, and executed; thus, satisfying the thirst for retribution and compensation; first at the psychological level, second possibly at the financial level as well.

Sorcery, therefore, is "needed", on one hand, to express hatred and envy; on the other to explain misfortune and to identify a culprit (or a scapegoat) and exact revenge. It is therefore a cultural trait, but

not a noble one and not something to be treasured. Hatred, envy, and jealousy are in fact negative values; while misfortune may result from a variety of reasons and causes frequently not depending on people. Claiming supernatural powers for humans is a lie or an illusion. There may be people with evil intentions, who cause death through poisonous substances or other harmful ways, but not by means of words or spells or the way they look at others.

Sorcery accusations related violence was rife in Europe less than three hundred years ago. It was a mixture of irrational fears, ignorance, personal interests, social and religious conflicts, craving for torture and human suffering, hatred for women and sexual frustration, looking for scapegoats among the weakest and defenceless. It probably cost about one hundred thousand victims in three hundred years, very few of which were guilty, not of sorcery or witchcraft, but of common criminal activities. All others were simply innocent; no evidence whatsoever, except false admissions extracted under torture. A shameful page in European history in the name of sorcery as "real". Sorcery is perceived as "real" until it is "needed".

Violence is never justifiable. For real crimes people may have committed, there are the courts and the judicial process. For baseless accusations and torture there can be no space. For sorcery beliefs to disappear and not be "needed" anymore, some progress must take place at least in three areas. The first is the removal and the conversion from bad feelings of hatred, jealousy and envy for the progress and the success of other human beings. The second is study and understanding of the causes of sickness and death in line with the basic acquisitions of modern medicine, totally unknown to traditional and isolated communities. The third is a general advancement in education, exposure to new places and new ideas, tolerance, breaking of thousands of years of isolation and circular mentality which privileges repetition over change, communal stability over personal emancipation.

Only when sorcery and witchcraft won't be "needed" anymore, will our poor village women again have peace and serenity, without the constant fear of irrational actions by uneducated, bloodthirsty, and primitive men. Europe has made it only for a couple of centuries.

Hope that Papua New Guinea and others will follow suit.

- Fr Robinson Parapilly sdb

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

**We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.**

**With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.**

**We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partially influence our actions.**

**Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.**

**All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever.**

Amen.



Tetere, Solomon Islands: Over a hundred fathers of Christ the King Parish Tetere, came together from 23rd to 24th October 2021, for a faith formation and re-evangelisation in the rural Catholic community of Suaghi.

The program for the World Mission Day had as its theme: "We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard" taken from (Acts 4:20), and was an initiative of the Catholic Papas to go to villages and build up ecclesial families and bring back the lost sheep to the fold.

Formation for men

Vice Chairman of the Papas group, Mr. John Manangelea, highlighted the importance of Family Life and the Christian family. He said married life has its foundation in Christ and the Word of God and a family that prays together stays together.

Speaking to the mothers who were present was Mrs. Manangelea. She stressed the need to be a true companion and to support their husbands.

A well planned and executed program helped and inspired the 'Papas' to create new initiatives and to shape and transform communities of men and women who, by learning to accept their own frailty and that of others, promote fraternity and social friendship (Fratelli Tutti, 67).

The ecclesial community of Suaghi felt the loving predilection of the Lord, the fraternity of belongingness and brotherhood to be in a state of mission.

Buka women association visits remote parish

Bougainville: A special visit was made by the Catholic Women Association of the Buka Deanery to the St. Therese Lemmananu Parish, of Haku in AROB.

The visit on Saturday 23rd October 2021, to the parish in the northern tip of Buka Island was guided by the theme 'To Jesus through Mary', and had the participation of more than a hundred women.

It began with a Eucharistic Celebration that focused on Reconciliation "Tanim Bel" from today's reading. First Session was about the Catholic Church, its structure, historical background, and the four Marian Dogmas of the Catholic Church.

Participants were able to deeply appreciate their Catholic Faith and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The second Session was given by



the President of Buka Deanery Catholic Women's, Mrs. Helen Hakena. She elaborated the structure of the Catholic Women's' Association, and its history.

The final session dwelt on 'Women of Today' that highlighted the issues, roles, duties and responsibilities of Women in modern society.

- Japhet Kemali



**SIGNIS ASIA
3 MINUTE
VIDEO CONTEST**

*Theme:
Partnering with People-
centered Development
Initiatives*

Who can participate?

Members, Associates and collaborators of SIGNIS ASIA

Duration of Video: 180 Seconds

Suggested content (Asian context):

- The definition of people-centred development
- Issues of marginalised section of the society
- Plights of women and children
- Activities focused on people's development
- Testimonies of beneficiaries of people-centred initiatives
- SIGNIS members' collaboration with people-centred activities
- The impact of people-centred actions

All entries must be:

a. sent via WeTransfer

b. Emailed along with name, address, phone

number, email ID of yours and a LOCAL SIGNIS

Members

Send your entries to: *The Chair of SA Cinema Desk:*

T Mac Mahchida - hummingbird-mc2@nifty.com

Secretary of SIGNIS Asia:

Bernedatta Widiandayani - widiandayani@yahoo.com

Due Date:
14th
November
2021

Two videos will
receive
certificate with
prize money of
USD 300/- each



Alotau: The Diocese of Alotau held its synod from 19 to 21 October at Saint Paul Pastoral Centre, Hagita, Milne Bay Province.

This was attended by the Bishop of Alotau, Rolando Santos, and 87 delegates consisting of priests, religious, commission secretaries and ministry coordinators, and representatives of parish councils, family life apostolate and youth in the 20 parishes of the diocese.

Alotau holds two-day Synod

An opening Eucharistic celebration was held at Hagita Secondary School by His Lordship, Bishop Rolando Santos and concelebrated by priests of the Diocese. The synod participants evaluated how the former diocesan pastoral plan was implemented, and then formulated a new 5-year pastoral plan for 2022-2026.

A Family Festival and Congress followed the diocesan synod on 22-23 October at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Alotau. Bp Rolando urged the participants to implement the action plans of the synod and hold similar smaller synods on various levels taking into consideration the new 5-year pastoral plan of the diocese.



Forward March with Hope

- Br. Joel Attiso sdb

The Salesian family was fortunate to have Fr. Greg visit. Prior to the graduation day, he took the opportunity to greet the parishioners, giving the good night talk to the community members of Malagunan, Gelegele and also spoke to the catechists.

On the occasion of the graduation, during his homily, he challenged the 188 graduands to see the past and the future in line with the graduation theme: **“Forward March with Hope”** and the Mission Sunday Celebration. He invited them to go forward as missionaries into the world today. The beautiful liturgy that accompanied the Eucharistic celebration was animated by residents of the boarding house.

Member for Kokopo, Honourable Emil Tamur, Minister for Planning and Development was also present and joined in the Holy Mass. During the

graduation proper he addressed the graduands and the parents. He reminded the youth of a sense of creativity, especially after being equipped with technical and spiritual skills in a valuable school like Don Bosco.

The presence of parents of the graduates, families and friends at the event was an enrichment. The Salesian Sisters, the Salesian cooperators and other friends of Don Bosco, such as Dame Sandra Lau, business lady in Kokopo, took part in the event as well.

The graduates were from the four trades of Electrical, Machine Fitting and Maintenance, Motor Vehicle Mechanic and Carpentry Building and Construction. They concluded the event by making the pledge as Don Bosco Past Pupils now and the singing of the Alma Mater.

Kokopo, East New Britain: Don Bosco Technical Secondary School held its 28th Commencement Ceremony on Sunday 24th October, 2021 at the Mary Help of Christians Parish, Kokopo, East New Britain Province. Fr. Gregorio Bicomong Jnr sdb, Salesian Provincial of PNG and SI, presided at the Holy Mass.

Women Religious commemorate opening of Synodal Process

- Jessica Oata

Gordons, Port Moresby: The Conference of Women Religious in Port Moresby gathered on Saturday 23rd October to commemorate the opening of the Synodal Process by Pope Francis on October 9th.

It was held at the Catholic Bishops Conference and had 10 representatives from the different religious congregations present.

The meeting was chaired by Sr. Mary McCarthy and aimed at preparing for the Synod of Bishops that will be held in October 2023 and to evaluate the Conference Pastoral Plan and draft the plan for the next five years. Sr. Mary acknowledged the presence of those who participated stating that their role as Religious Women are very important as they were capable of going out to the margins to empower the marginalized people in our society, especially women and children to participate in the synodal process of the church.

“As religious women, we have a mission, and that is to go out to the margins and empower the women and marginalized”, She said. Sr. Mary stressed that their role as Religious Women were to empower and not to speak on behalf of the people.



The program also included a discussion session that had the Religious Women discuss how each congregation was going to carry out their outreach ministries in the marginalized communities to encourage the participation of the Catholic faithful in those communities in the society.

There were also prayer and reflection moments where the sisters meditated upon the Holy Father’s homily at the Mass for the Opening of the Synod 2021-2023 where he spoke about the importance of ‘Listening’.



Two insightful reports about Covid-19 were also presented by Sr. Susan Imperio from the Hohola Clinic and Sr Grace SCSA from the Gerehu Clinic at stage six. They highlighted the challenges and dedication they have witnessed in the recent weeks in the clinic.

Picture 1: Group picture of the Religious sisters in Port Moresby at the gathering at CBC

Picture 2: Religious sisters in discussion during the session on the opening of the synodal process

Picture: CBC SOCOM

Students share hope through images and short films

- Isabella Saleu



was brought about by the pandemic and challenged the participants to strive to promote positivity in their productions.

“Our people are filled with fear and uncertainty at this time and so we have the responsibility as journalists to reach out to them. Whether we go out to encounter them or produce materials for their consumption, the message of hope must be dominant. We really need that now”, he stressed.

On the first part of the second day, the sessions were based on Still Photography where the students were tasked to capture images and later create a photo story. Basic Shots and Story Board was the next session. As a build-up from the previous session, this session aimed at getting the participants to play around with the different basic shots and plan and create a story board to use for their films. The students started off with filming 30-second videos.

A talk on how to ‘Pitch your Product’ was also shared by the facilitators so as to equip the students with skills and knowledge on how to promote and sell their films to a potential audience.

The final day of the program saw the participants get engaged in practical and team work as they continued to shoot longer two-minutes films that were presented in the evening at DWU, together with other productions of the seminar.

Archbishop of Madang, Anton Bal, SVD Provincial, Fr Jose Orathinkal and President of DWU, Fr Philip Gibbs, were special guests at the event. Friends and family members were part of the audience.

“It is wonderful to see productions centred around Hope being brought to you by the students. With so much miscommunication and fake news circulating, as young journalists you need to present the truth. Our people are in fear and we need to have productions of positivity and hope. I am very grateful that you got to attend this seminar”, Fr. Phil stated.

Apart from the media sessions, there were also moments of interaction, sharing, prayer, morning meditations and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist to deepen their love and appreciation for God, who gives us hope.

Picture above: Communication Arts students of DWU at the MES in Alexishafen, Madang Province. Picture: CBC SOCOM

Madang Province: ‘Hope amidst Covid-19’, was the theme of a three-day Media Education Seminar held on 6th-8th October at the Alexishafen Pastoral Centre for participants from the Divine Word University.

The program was facilitated by the Social Communications Commission (SOCOM) of the Catholic Bishops Conference PNGSI and focused on Photography and Short Films.

The program began on the evening of 6th October with a talk entitled ‘Moved by Hope’ animated by SOCOM Secretary Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb. In his talk Fr. Ambrose highlighted the struggles in work, education, travel, health, spirituality and family that

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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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Please send in your material to:
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Price: **K2/**

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FILM SCREENING: 19th November 2021
Port Moresby, PNG