



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

The Catholic Reporter

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Pope at Angelus: A Church and a society that excludes no one

- Christopher Wells

At the Sunday Angelus, Pope Francis reflects on the Gospel account of the miraculous healing of a woman with a haemorrhage and the raising of Jairus's daughter from the dead.

"God does not discriminate against anyone because He loves everyone," Pope Francis said at the Angelus on Sunday morning.

The Holy Father based his reflection on the two "intertwined" miracles in the day's Gospel: the healing of a woman with a haemorrhage when she touched Jesus' cloak, and Jesus taking the hand of Jairus' daughter as He raised her from the dead.

God's touch: Pope Francis emphasized the significance of physical touch in the two stories, both of which involved people who were considered ritually unclean. "Even before the physical healing," the Pope said, Jesus "challenges a religious misconception, according to which God separates the pure on one side and the impure on the other."

And he invited the faithful to fix this image in their hearts: "God is one Who takes you by the hand and lifts you up, one Who lets Himself be touched by your pain and touches you in order to heal you and give you life again."

A Church and a society that excludes no one: Despite all the sufferings of this life, the Pope said, and "even in the face of sin, God does not keep us at a distance." Instead, "He draws near to let Himself be touched and to touch us, and He always raises us from death."

Pope Francis invited the faithful to "look to the heart of God" precisely because "we need a Church and a society that does not exclude anyone, that does not

treat anyone as 'impure,' so that everyone, with their own story, is welcomed and loved without labels or prejudices."



Pope Francis waves to the crowd after the Angelus (Picture Courtesy: ©Vatican Media/Dicastery for Communication)

Meet your Bishop: John Bosco Auram (Kimbe Diocese)

- Jessica Oata with excerpts from Fr John Balele in SOCOM file



In this issue, we feature His Lordship Bishop John Bosco Auram, the Shepherd of the beautiful Diocese of Kimbe.

He is one of the Diocese's *homegrown* Bishop. He is known to be the first local

Bishop of Kimbe Diocese and the second local priest from the Diocese to become Bishop with His Lordship Bishop Francis Meli being the first.

He is currently the third Bishop of the Diocese of Kimbe since the Diocese was established on July 4 2003. Prior to that, the Diocese was part of the Archdiocese of Rabaul since November 15, 1966.

His predecessors include Bishop Emeritus Alphonse Liguori Chaupa from East New Britain who was appointed as administrator from July 4, 2003 until his resignation on January 19, 2008 and Bishop Emeritus William Regis Fey OFM Cap from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, USA who was appointed administrator on June 8, 2010 and later ordained on October 9, 2010 until his retirement on October 18, 2010

Bishop John Bosco Auram comes from a strong Catholic family background. His paternal grandfather from Kaliai was a firm Lengionnaire of Mary and was the first person that brought this highly respected devotional practice into the Parish of Kaliai while his father, apart from being a teacher, was also a Catechist. He has a brother (Fr John Auram) who belongs to the congregation of Passionist Holy Spirit Province which includes Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam and is the assistant Parish Priest at St Joseph's Parish - Boroko, Port Moresby.

Born to Francis Auram and Jacinta Seleime on October 19, 1972, Bishop John Bosco is the second son of 6 siblings. His devoted parents who have been influential in his journey and vocation have sadly passed on. His father, from Kandoka village in the parish of Kaliai passed away in 2014 when he was a formator and lecturer at the Holy Spirit Seminary in Bomana while his mother, hailing from Wasum village

in the Parish of Sara passed away in 1985 when he was doing his grade seven at Kandrian High School.

Bishop Auram revealed that the initial inspiration and call for him to join the consecrated religious life came to him in Turuk Parish where his father was teaching at Magien Community School.

"As a small boy, I would find solace and consolation in a classroom where Sr Mary Rose, a Sister belonging to the congregation of the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart was martyred. It was as if the blood of martyred Sr Mary Rose was mystically calling out to me to become a priest", he recalled.

He later on realised that that God wanted him to become a priest upon the death of his mother when he was given the charge to take care of his younger siblings from 1989-1992.

"For me, this was a moment of discernment and it confirmed my call from God".

Bishop Auram was appointed as Bishop of Kimbe on October 18, 2019 and later was ordained and installed on January 25, 2020.

He began his formation at the Saint Peter Chanel Minor Seminary in Ulapia and then went on to complete his philosophical and theological studies at the Sacred Heart Major Seminar in Rapolo.

He also went for studies at the Institute of Priestly Formation in Omaha (USA) and then to the Regina Apostolorum Pontifical University in Rome.

Since his ordination to priesthood, he has held various positions including:

- Parish Vicar of Kimbe Cathedral (2004-2005)
- Vice Rector of the Minor Seminary of Saint John Vianney of Vanimo (2005-2007)
- Vice Rector of the Major Seminary of Vanimo (2007-2008)
- 6 months pastoral work in the Parish of St Therese - Kaliai (2008-2009)
- Formator and Professor at St Peter Chanel Minor Seminary in Ulapia and at the Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Rapolo (2009-2011)
- Parish Priest of St Mary - Silanga (2011-2012).
- Pastoral ministry work in St Thomas Moore Parish - Turuk (2012-2013).

• Formator at the Holy Spirit Major Seminary - Bomana (2013-2015).

• Pastoral ministry work in St Mary Parish - Sara (2015-2016).

• Spiritual Director in the Seminary of Manila while studying for his Licentiate in Pastoral theology at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, Philippines (2016-2019).

• Acting Rector of the Sacred Heart Seminary (currently propaedeutic) - Rapolo in the Archdiocese of Rabaul until his appointment as Bishop of Kimbe Diocese of October 18, 2019.

Bishop Auram's plan for his beautiful Diocese is to build the diocese to fully reflect the Body of Christ and to achieve this, he firmly believes that there must firstly be a good collaboration with all his brother priests who will collaborate and help him achieve this plan.

To achieve this, Bishop has made pastoral visits to the parishes in his Diocese and also to bestow the Sacrament of Confirmation.

"The body of Christ is Spiritual and Sacred and with my Motto: *Veritas in Caritate* or "*Truth in Charity*", in order to reflect the Body of Christ, my focus is on the Spiritual Integral Human Development of a person".

He also briefly shared that the Catholic faithful of his Diocese as part of the Spiritual Integral Human Development have been on a prayerful journey in preparation for Blessed Peter ToRot's Feast Day on July 7 with the visit of a relic of Blessed Peter ToRot visiting all parishes.

When asked how he took on the appointment of becoming Bishop, he said: "I felt like I was thrown into the ocean to learn how to swim but with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I have been trying my best to be a good Shepherd of the Diocese and I am always thankful to the Lord for his continued guidance".

His advice to the youth of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands is to always be humble.

"Humility is the mother of all virtues. Through humility, there was Salvation and we should learn from that and try to practise it in our daily activities".

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The health and wealth of a priest

- Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME | CBC General Secretary



The Catholic Theological Institute in Bomana (CTI) commemorated its 25th anniversary on the 28th of June. It was in fact in 1999 that the institution was formally tasked with the academic formation of the future diocesan and religious priests of Papua New Guinea. The Holy Spirit Seminary for the dioceses and the different Colleges for the religious congregations would continue to take care of the human, social and spiritual components of the future ministers of the Church.

There are many factors at stake for the success or unsuccess of a priestly life. Not everything can be captured in the formation policies and addressed in the formation years. But one aspect was highlighted in the sharing on the 28th of June at CTI that probably changes the whole perspective. While everything is important, from spirituality to intellectual formation, from financial stability to good relationships with the fellow clerics and the bishop, what keeps a priest in high spirit is the relationship and the attitude towards his people.

intentions will still violate the highest and strongest concrete or steel defense, tame or poison your dogs and get you and your possessions. Better feed and keep not pets but people with you: orphans, poor students from remote areas, a helpful catechist. It's money well spent and enhanced security. Those street boys and gangs will see you are helping. They will not touch you.

A priest who acts as the "big man" creates expectations. Expectations have to be met. But, besides that not being evangelical, the PNG priests and dioceses have no means. Inevitable failure means drop in respect from outside and self-esteem from inside. The false remedies may be alcohol and addictions of different kinds, just aggravating the crisis and the isolation. Better choose from the outset the alternative path. Live as a servant, a friend, a poor, one who depends on the people rather than the other way around. Keep your house open. It means you have no valuables to protect; no point, therefore, for anybody to break in. Only erect a light fence in your yard to keep stray animals at bay. Men with bad

It's nothing new. To the lame man at the threshold of the temple expecting something from the apostles Andrew and Peter, the latter said: "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." (Acts 3:5). It is good to be able to help people also in their material needs, especially in case of emergency. But it is not essential for a priest. It doesn't define its identity and purpose. In the long term, the general and sustainable welfare of a community depends on their values, oneness, cooperation, solidarity and friendship. That's what a priest journeying with his people promotes and achieves when unclothed of any sense of superiority and distance. For a priest perhaps that's his health and wealth.

With a lecture by Fr. Jozef Maciolek SVD, the celebration offered the opportunity to recall the important steps of the past and to reflect on the challenges of priesthood today. It is not a mystery that, despite all efforts and good intentions, the localization of the Church in Papua New Guinea and the emergence of a local clergy has not been as successful as in other so-called mission territories. Fr. Maciolek admitted that only 10% of the young people who went through the Divine Word College in Bomana between 1980 and 2005 for philosophical and theological studies became religious and priests.

The Letters of St Paul: Galatians

- Fr. Tomás Ravaioli IV
Liturgical Catechetical Institute Director



Date: If Paul addresses churches in North Galatia that he seems to have founded on his second missionary journey (Acts 16:6), then he could not have written the letter before A.D. 50. Galatians, therefore, was probably written in the early or mid 50s, around 54 or 55.

Purpose: Paul wrote this letter to defend his gospel against opponents and to dissuade the Galatians from receiving circumcision. Apparently rival missionaries, known as Judaizers, infiltrated the ranks of the Galatian churches during Paul's absence and stirred up trouble among his Gentile converts. Although they professed to be Christians, they felt that Paul's gospel of "faith working through love" (5:6) was incomplete without the ritual observances of the Mosaic Law. The success that these Judaizers enjoyed in Galatia forced Paul to respond with a vigorous defense of the gospel (1:11-2:10).

important for Paul to resolve it quickly and decisively? For the most part, Galatians is Paul's attempt to define the essence of the New Covenant in Christ over against the Old Covenant that gave birth to it. As Paul shows from the Scriptures, the New Covenant ratified by Christ fulfills the Abrahamic covenant of blessing for all nations even as it terminates the Mosaic covenant that was confined to the one nation of Israel in the centuries between Abraham and Christ. Now, whoever embraces Christ in faith (3:7) and receives Baptism (3:27) becomes a spiritual descendant of Abraham and an adopted child of God (4:1-7). Galatians still stands as a thunderous defense of the good news, reaffirming for all time that salvation comes only by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Destination: Galatia was an inland region of Asia Minor, occupying the central part of the plateau of Turkey. The Galatians were of Celtic stock and were descended from people who had migrated therein the third century B.C.; many of them were shepherds, honest, upright people, warm and affectionate. St Paul had made contact with them on his very first missionary journey, when he evangelized the south of the province.

Themes and Characteristics: Galatians is clearly the most polemical of Paul's letters. There can be no question that Paul perceived the Galatian crisis as a great spiritual threat to everyone involved. What was the essence of this controversy, and why was it so

We need a renewal in the Catholic Church

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



Dear Reader,
The purpose of writing this article is to strengthen your faith. I do not intend to hurt the feelings of any other church.

I like to give my reflections on the SDA evangelism-program: "PNG for Christ":

has been already evangelized. It is proselytization; it is unchristian.

Recently the Seventh Day Adventists (SDA) had a fortnight of (24 April to 11 May) evangelism-program called "PNG for Christ". Their International Leader was leading the program with many of the local pastors. Their target was to 'convert' and baptize 600,000 people throughout PNG. We saw in the media how thousands of people were baptized in the rivers and seas. Some of those people whom I baptized 40 years ago have been re-baptized in the SDA church. It is heart-breaking. Many other priests and pastors also would be feeling the way I feel now.

1. 'PNG for Christ?': According to the Census of 2011, Papua New Guinea's 98% of the population are Christians. People already are believers of different churches: Catholic, Lutheran, United, Baptist, Anglican, Salvation Army, Pentecostals and many local Christian Churches. So if they really want to get new believers for SDA Church they should go to the remote areas of the Highlands and Islands and not to the towns and cities where the people are already Christians.

Bible tells all the Christians: "Obey your leaders and follow their orders. They watch over your souls without resting. Since they must give God an account of their service" (Heb 13:17). This is a warning to our 'loose-Christians' who may be enticed by other shepherds or false shepherds. They are to give up the notion of following false shepherds.

I like to strengthen the faith of the Catholics and other Christians who may be in a dilemma. Some of them may be thinking of leaving their churches and joining the SDA Church. My sincere advice to you is: Remain faithful to the church you were baptized in. SDA evangelism is only a wave. It will pass away.

2. 'Sheep-stealing?': Jesus says: "I am the Good Shepherd. The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy" (John 10:10). No shepherd has the right to break into the flock of another shepherd. If you preach your religion for a fortnight and baptize thousands of people, it is nothing but "Sheep-stealing".

4. Tireless Missionaries planted the Seeds of Faith: The Word of God was first brought to Papua New Guinea by the London Missionary Society, Anglicans, Lutherans and Catholics in the 1800s. The Missionaries of these churches preached the Word of God tirelessly and spread the faith in Christ in the most remote areas of PNG. They went through many challenges: language barriers; cross-cultural difficulties; hazardous travelling; difficult food and living conditions; some tortured and killed. Those first missionaries sowed the seeds of faith; the priests, pastors and lay leaders who followed them watered the plants of faith; at the time of harvest, some one else comes to 'steal the fruits'.

3. St.Paul writes: " My ambition has always been to proclaim the Good News in places where Christ has not been heard of, so as not to build on foundation laid by someone else" (Rom 15:20). What is Paul telling us?: In your zeal to evangelize the whole world, do not evangelize some one else who

5. Christians: Remain 'faithful' to your Church which gave you the light of faith.

Vatican Advance team conclude second visit to PNG for preparations toward the Papal Visit

- Donovan Pintol

Port Moresby: Following the Pope's planned visit to Papua New Guinea in September. The Papal Advanced team from the Holy See of Rome has made a second and final preparatory travel to PNG's capital, Port Moresby earlier this month.

and PNG Foreign Affairs Minister, Hon. Justin Tkatchenko.

Catholic Church and The Government Team) who are working tirelessly behind scenes to make the visit a success.

The advance team visit was led by Monsignor George Koovakad following the team's first official visit in February.

After a day and a half meeting with the country's governmental officials, the team also did visits to the APEC Terminal, St. John Guise Stadium, Caritas Technical Secondary School, Don Bosco Technological Institute, Hilton Hotel, APEC Haus, and the Governor General's residence before making a second trip to Vanimo for another meeting with the provincial authorities and Diocesan personnels regarding Pope's utmost desire and interest to visit the province.

It is believed that the Pope's visit to the Nation will also help greatly in bringing peace, joy, and unity to the people.

The visit has seen further discussions with the country's governmental officials and ministers following preliminary discussions that were left hanging prior to the previous visit. Putting on the table key points such dates of the visit and other prerequisites that follows as-well.

Accompanying the Papal Advance Team to these various places for inspection, discussions and negotiations were different appointed personnels within the country's organizing bodies (*both the*



Vatican Advance Team in Vanimo

“A martir ure ra Lotu”

- Sr Daisy Anne Lisania Augustine MSC
Secretary for Social Communication



“A martir ure ra Lotu”, in the Tolai language Peter ToRot is called “A martyr for the faith.

In 1942, the world was at war, and Japan occupied the island of Peter Torot. The missionary priests were imprisoned. Peter, a layman, remained free. Peter worked even harder then. He and his catechists baptized babies and converts, visited the sick, assisted with charity, conducted Sunday services, and distributed the Eucharist to priests in prison.

Then the military police cracked down. They banned Christian worship and religious gatherings. They decided the islanders should return to polygamy, and Peter objected to this. Peter was arrested in the spring of 1945 and was confined to a cave. When his wife and mother came to visit, he informed them that a Japanese doctor was coming to visit, but he was not sick. He suspected a trick. He asked Paula to bring his good clothes—he wanted to be ready to meet God.

The doctor arrived and gave Peter an injection and something to drink, and plugged his nose and ears. When Peter began to convulse, the doctor covered

his mouth, and the soldiers held him down until he suffocated. Soon the rest of the prison camp found out what happened to Peter.

The next morning, the Japanese guards acted surprised to find Peter dead. They said he had died of an infection, but the crowd that attended Peter’s funeral knew the truth. They knew Peter was a martyr for the faith.

Preparations are under way for the Apostolic Visit of Pope Francis to Papua New Guinea from 6- 9 September 2024. And many Catholics are praying and hoping for a positive news on a possible canonization of the blessed martyr.

In the diocese of Kimbe, a first class relic of Blessed Peter Torot started its spiritual journey throughout the entire diocese.

Many miracles attributed to the intercession of the martyr were experienced and recorded. The documentation is vital for the progress of the canonization.

The spiritual journey of the relic of Blessed Peter Torot will culminate on 7 July with a high mass for all catechists who will be given special recognition for the marvelous mission they do in all parts of the diocese.

Peter ToRot was born in 1912 in Rakunai, a village on the Melanesian island of New Britain, today an eastern province of the independent nation of Papua New Guinea. Due to the lack of documentation, destroyed by the Japanese during the war, it is impossible to determine his date of birth. This also the case for his martyrdom and for almost all the events in his life. In the culture of Papua New Guinea it was not customary to keep public records.

His parents, Angelo ToPuia and Maria la Tamul, baptised as adults, belong to the region’s first generation of Catholics. On 29th September 1882 the first group of Missionaries of the Sacred Heart arrived in Matupit, New Britain, 10 years after the Methodists had begun preaching and had established the Malaguna Mission. In 1898 Peter ToRot’s father, together with other powerful tribal chieftains, was solemnly baptised, forming the nucleus of the first generation of Catholics in the region. It was Angelo ToPuia himself who opened the village of Rakunai to the faith and to collaboration with the missionaries. He promoted the Christian life in his village, where he was chief for 40 years.

CBC PNGSI celebrates World Refugee Day

- Ahisha Mngot

Port Moresby: The Migrants and Refugees desk of the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI commemorated the World Refugee Day on Thursday June 20, 2024 and had an exhibition to showcase 5 West Papuan Small Medium Enterprises which were sponsored by the CBC PNGSI Migrants and Refugees Desk.

This SME program is part of a project funded by the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC). The ICMC is an international Catholic inspired organization that provides assistance and protection to the vulnerable people on the move and advocates for sustainable solutions for refugees and migrants.

This is the first time ICMC is funding a project in PNG, and there is prospect of similar assistance from ICMC to support the work of the Migrants and Refugees Desk of CBC PNGSI in the future.

The five Businesses are: Fokos Computer Services, Makomo Firewood

Services, Cyclop Farming, Wespa Laundry Services and Sisters Catering Services.

The theme for 2024 World Refugee Day commemoration was “Our Home”.

Present as guest speakers was the Deputy Chief Migration Officer for the PNG Immigration Citizenship Services Authority (ICSA) Mr Winis Map, and the Senior Protection Officer for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) Mr Steven Paniu who gave talks regarding their involvement with refugees.

Speaking at the program and representing the CBCs’ Director for Migrants and Refugee Desk Mr Jason Siwat was Migrants Officer Mr. Ephraim Bavi.

“In commemoration of the struggles that refugees around the world go through, we empathize with them and share the sentiments of one having the right to have a peaceful life free from oppression, despite of their race, religion, political opinion, nationality,

and membership to a particular social group.” Expressed Bavi.



CBC Staff enquiring at the West Papuan SME exhibition during World Refugee Day

Sharing the same sentiments was the ICSA representative Mr. Map where he shared his personal experience saying that most of the refugees are in search for better lives and they are here with us now.

“This will take years but doing something is better than nothing” he said.

He also commended CBC for giving the refugees an opportunity by investing

in their SMEs as well as the Refugees for taking the step to do something that will benefit them.

UNHCR Mr Steven Paniu in his talk also shared that no action is too small.

“Committing to include refugees in our communities, workplaces and schools is the most effective way to support them. While most refugees often leave their possessions behind, their skills, qualifications and knowledge stay with them and in this way, they can contribute to the development of our country.”

Mr Paniu also said that the launching of the business is an indication of refugees being included and expressed gratitude to CBC and PaciFund for this wonderful effort.

“Being a refugee is a circumstance and it does not define a person. Refugees must work together with the stake holders like CBC, ICSA UNHCR and others to make PNG a safer home for all” expressed Paniu.

Five West Papuan Entrepreneurs Graduate from 30-days Business Launch Challenge

- Donovan Pintol

Port Moresby: Five West Papuan refugees sponsored by the Migrants and Refugees (M&R) Desk of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands were among nine successful graduands from the 30 Day BIZ launch challenge on June 12 2024, at Gate Way Hotel.

With only a maximum of five-hundred thousand (500,000) job opportunities in the formal sector in Papua New Guinea, the program was launched to enable entrepreneurs to venture into the informal sector to start up small scale businesses to help society.

During the opening speech, the Pacific Fund Chief Executive Officer,

Mr. Des Yaninen guaranteed the new SME Directors that they have made the right choice to be part of his platform as it has the interest of foreign Business Investors in its grasp who are willing to help grow business ideas in the country.

He concluded by encouraging the graduating entrepreneurs to work hard and grow their businesses as he explained that respect in the society today is given only to a person with regards his/her financial status.

Supporting his statement was Keynote speaker of the event and Director of Zimcare Ltd, Mr Anton Denis who shared similar sentiments.

“In order for such reality to come to pass, there are three stages. The first

one being the *thinking stage*, followed by putting the ideas into *action*, in order to achieve the final stage which is the *product(s) or result*” he said.

Mr Denis also highlighted that the business world has three spheres. The first one is where people are working for someone else, followed by the one who creates employment for others (entrepreneurs), and the third one is where one lets his/her money work for him/ her.

On the other hand, CBC Migrants & Refugees Desk Director Mr. Jason Siwat revealed that his Desk is planning to send more participants to be part of the program in the near future. And this time it would not only be West Papuan

Communities within Port Moresby, but also in other camps in the country.

Mr Siwat believes that in doing so, it will help greatly to empower and create opportunities for these underprivileged or disadvantaged people in the country.



West Papuan SME graduate Mr Paul Pluto Kosnan receiving his certificate from Migrants and Refugees Desk Director Mr Jason Siwat.

Partnership forged to strengthen Western Province Healthcare

- Bp Joseph Durero SVD via CCHS LinkedIn Page

Kiunga: The Catholic Church Health Services(CCHS) of the Daru-Kiunga Diocese (DKD) recently officially signed a partnership agreement with the Western Province Health Authority (WPHA) at the Diocesan Administration Building in Kiunga. This significant event marks a new era of collaboration to enhance healthcare services in Western Province.

The ceremony was attended by several notable figures including acting Chief Executive Officer for WPHA Dr William Boga and Health Secretary of Kiunga General Hospital Mr Kekela Sekela. Other dignitaries included Evangelical Church of Papua New Guinea /Runginae School of Nursing and Hospital Mr Amono Asipali, District Environmental Officer Mr Fredrick Edward from North Fly District Health and Western Program Director of Australian

International Doctors Mr Aaron Bale. Representing DKD CCHS Board were Mr Rey Villaray Fermantez, Br Mathias Minj SB, Mrs Belisha Okori of the Montfort Catholic Mission (MCM) and GSC Integrated Clinic, Health Manager for CCHS of DKD Sr Philomene Sanduku and Bishop Joseph Durero SVD.

Dr Boga reminded the attendees of their collective responsibility towards the community.

“It’s important to provide services with dedication and love, as it will be reflected in your duties as stewards of God’s love”.

The signing ceremony featured five identical documents ensuring each party would have a copy after finalisation by the National Health Secretary of CCHS PNG Sr Jadwiga Faliszek SSpS.

The historic agreement between WPHA and CCHS

of DKD marks a new start for healthcare in Western Province. Through collaborative efforts and a shared vision, this partnership promises to deliver exceptional healthcare services, improved access to medical care and a healthier future for the people in their province.



Stakeholders pose for a group picture with the signed documents. Picture Courtesy: CCHS LinkedIn Page

Caritas PNG launches Blessed Carlo Acutis Youth Media Competition

- Jessica Oata

Port Moresby: Caritas PNG (CPNG) in partnership with the Catholic Bishops Conference Social Communications, Education and Youth Commissions launched the Blessed Carlo Acutis Youth Media Competition on June 3, 2024.

The competition has as the theme: 'Preparing our Youth for a Sustainable Future' and aims to promote safe and positive use of technology and the media amongst young people to share the future they envision and to harness their skills and talents in the Catholic Schools and Parishes, not only to use Social Media for social change but to also reinforce their Catholic Identity.

Speakers at the launch were CPNG Communications Officer Isabella Saleu and Social Communications Officer Ahisha Mangot.

Giving an introduction to the work of Caritas locally, regionally and globally, Miss Saleu said Caritas PNG is the national arm of Caritas in Papua New Guinea which serves as the Peace, Justice, Relief and Development Agency of the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNG and Solomon Islands.

"Caritas Internationalis is a global confederation of 162 Catholic organizations working in humanitarian aid, development, and social services. Caritas Oceania operates within the broader Caritas Internationalis network, focusing on the unique challenges faced by countries in the Oceania region. One of those challenges would be Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability which are issues of concern in the Pacific".

Making reference to the Caritas Internationalis Youth Report for 2023 that was recently published,

Saleu shared key findings of the report stating that the survey which saw 110 Member Organizations out of the 162 shows young people making up a considerably large and important demographic of Caritas' staff and volunteers around the world.



His Grace Archbishop Rochus Tatamai MSC giving his remarks while Ahisha Mangot (in blue uniform) and Isabella Saleu (in maroon uniform) are seated.

Saleu concluded her talk by saying that CPNG aligning with their Advocacy Pillar have now given a name and face to this section by calling it their Youth Advocacy campaign and the youth media competition is a fruit of this campaign and a small portion of the wider Caritas Oceania and Caritas Internationalis Youth Advocacy and Youth Empowerment.

Sharing her reflections on how Communications and Artificial Intelligence contribute toward a sustainable future, SOCOM Officer Miss Mangot said communication is a powerful tool that can be used by individuals, organizations and entities to bring about change and with the rise of Artificial Intelligence in the recent years, one can only imagine the endless possibilities technology and communications has to

offer young people to equip them for a sustainable future.

Referring to the United Nations Development Programme 2023, the global leaders including the Holy Father Pope Francis agreed that AI has the potential to accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals of Zero Hunger, No Poverty, Good Health and Well Being, Quality Education, Climate Action etc through responsible application in our fields of expertise.

Miss Mangot concluded her talk by making an open call to the general public to be involved in the lives of young people to prepare them for a sustainable future whether it is through funding projects that they will benefit from, imparting knowledge and skills to them or simply, giving them guidance and advice.

Speaking on behalf of CPNG National Director, Programmes Manager Charlotte Vada acknowledged the presence of everyone who were present before officially declaring the competition open.

"Young people are very creative members of the society and this competition offers a platform for them to showcase their talents. We look forward to receiving entrees from the parishes and schools to see the type of sustainable future they envision".

The Blessed Carlo Acutis Youth Media Competition is open for entrees to young people in all Catholic Schools and Parishes across the country until August 15 and has three categories: Short Form Vertical Videos (1-3 mins), Original song (1-3 mins) and Comic Strip (2-5 panels).

Evangelist touches hearts in Aitape during rally

- Sr Maria Tongop bpvmm

Aitape: The Diocese of Aitape concluded a 9-week rally focusing on Missionary Evangelization that took place from April 28th – June 2nd.

The rally attracted more than three thousand people from different denominations from east and west, inland, coastal and islands actively take part and was led by Mr Emmanuel Morop

With the theme: *Tok bilong God i strongim bilip bilong yumi ol man meri long kamap Sol na Lait bilong Krai*, the rally had two intentions;

1. The need for priests and religious vocation in the Diocese.
2. To promote values of self-sustaining, self-supporting and self-administering

Three parishes in far west Aitape under the supervision of Fr Patrick Possani that were congratulated for their outstanding demonstration of self-reliance were Holy Cross Parish Sacred Heart Parish and Blessed John Mazzucconi Parish.



The crowd attending the rally. Picture Courtesy: Sr Maria Tongop bpvmm

The rally covered the following topics on apologetics in the Catholic Church:

1. The history of the Church
2. Baptism and Confession
3. Idle Worship
4. Mariology

Many who attended the rallies shared similar sentiments of being inspired and spoke of how great and influential he was.

Mr Emmanuel Marop, his wife and the Mystical Ministry went around preaching in various places of the diocese accompanied by priests for the Catholic faithful to receive the sacrament of reconciliation before taking part in the Holy Eucharist.

The rallies concluded with a huge celebration of the Holy Eucharist led by Fr Nobert Anzac OFM (Dean of Aitape Deanery) and his assistant Fr Anicet Herifetra CSSP with Br Michael.

Mr Marop is a devout Catholic from the Diocese of Wewak who has been visiting other Dioceses in his evangelizing ministry to encourage the Catholic faithful to hold onto their Catholic faith and identity.

Joint Statement for Inter-Religious Dialogue presented by CBC and PNG Muslim Community

- Jessica Oata

Port Moresby: The Catholic Bishops Conference together with the Imam of the PNG Muslim Community and the other representatives presented a joint statement for Inter-Religious Dialogue and Cooperation against Religiously - Motivated Violence on Friday June 28, 2024.

Present to witness the significant occasion were His Eminence John Cardinal Ribat MSC, Bishop Deputy for the Commission for Ecumenism and Interfaith Dialogue, Imam Busaeri Ismaeel, leader of the PNG Muslim Community, the Bahai Faith representative, Reverend Roger Joseph from PNG Council of Churches and the CBC staff.

Ecumenism and Interfaith Dialogue Secretary Fr Angelo Sanchez SDB introducing the statement made reference to the declaration of the Second Vatican Council stating that "the human person has a right to religious freedom", exhorted Catholics "to take an active and intelligent part in the work of ecumenism" and urged Catholics to "enter with prudence and charity into discussion and collaboration with members of other religions".

He also mentioned that the Catholic Church in acting out the directions of the Council is in dialogue with ecumenical groups like the World Council of Churches and the World Evangelical Alliance and also holds one-on-one inter-religious and ecumenical dialogues with individual faith groups on the international level.

"Similarly, the local Catholic Church is supposed to maintain one-on-one dialogues and fellowships with individual faith communities as well to support ecumenical and interfaith communities".

The dialogue between the Catholic Church in Papua New Guinea has maintained an official dialogue with the Muslim Community, centred in Port Moresby since 2002 and has been ongoing.

"Pope Francis and the Grand Imam of al-Azhar, Ahmad Al-Tayyeb, issued a Document on Human Fraternity which strongly condemned religiously-motivated violence, promoted tolerance and freedom of religion and rejected forcing anyone to adhere to a certain religion or culture and under this inspiration,

the PNG Muslim-Catholic dialogue group in October 2020 signed a "Statement for Inter-Religious Dialogue and Cooperation and against Religiously-Motivated Violence".

However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic as well as change in personnel, the statement was not properly publicised, thus, the Press Conference was held to present and explain the statement, to present Biblical support for the statement and to present support from the Quran for the statement.

As a way forward, both parties now hope to demonstrate that religious freedom is both a Christian and Muslim value.

Presenting the statements were Muslim Representative Murtada Sauye and Catholic Representative Fr Albert Carver OFM Cap while Muslim Representative Shaeed Kopan presented Religious Freedom as a Muslim Value while Catholic Representative and former Secretary for Ecumenism and Interfaith Dialogue Brandon Zimmerman presented on Religious Freedom as a Christian Value.

In his reflections, Cardinal Ribat expressed his joy saying that this has been a long but fruitful journey in dialoguing with the Muslim Community.

Imam Busaeri Ismaeel shared similar sentiments saying that one cannot truly understand his brother's way of life unless he himself has dialogued with his brother to understand and respect his brother's way of life.

Mr Willy Huanduo who was part of the dialogue committee clarified that this document was approved years prior and did not just eventuate because of the Bill to make PNG a Christian Country.



Imam Busaeri Ismaeel and His Eminence John Cardinal Ribat MSC

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.**

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