



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

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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Pope marks Feast of the Ascension of Jesus

promises to send the Holy Spirit, who "will accompany them, guide them, support them in their mission, defend them in spiritual battles."

"In this too, we see Jesus' love for us: His is a presence that does not seek to limit our freedom. On the contrary, He leaves space for us, because true love always generates a

closeness that does not stifle, but which makes us agents."

to intercede on our behalf, to present our humanity to Him. Thus, before the eyes of the Father, with the humanity of Jesus, there are and always will be our lives, our hopes, our wounds."

Pope Francis added that Jesus also goes to prepare a place for us with God the Father in Heaven.

Loving others and praying for them

Our response to Jesus' blessing, said the Pope, should be to be witnesses of the Gospel and to love others with the same kind of love we receive from God.

"Let us ask ourselves if we really are witnesses of the Gospel; and also, if we are capable of loving others, leaving them free and making room for them."

Pope Francis concluded by inviting all Christians to pray for one another and serve them instead of our own interests.

"Let us learn intercessory prayer, by interceding for the hopes and sufferings of the world, for peace," he said. "And let us bless with our eyes and our words those we meet every day!"

Article: Vatican News

Picture: Pope Francis praying the Regina Coeli on Ascension Sunday



Rome: Though traditionally celebrated on Thursday, many nations mark the Feast of the Ascension of Jesus Christ on the Sunday before Pentecost, including in Italy.

On Ascension Sunday, Pope Francis prayed the Eastertide Marian prayer of the Regina Coeli, and **reflected on the day's Gospel** (Lk 24:46-53).

He noted that Jesus, in His final apparition to the disciples, did two things before ascending to God the Father: "He announces the gift of the Spirit, and then He blesses the disciples."

Gift of the Spirit

Pope Francis said Jesus was not abandoning humanity as He goes to the Father. Rather, He

The Pope said Jesus' ascension allows Him to become close to all humanity in the Holy Spirit, instead of remaining beside only a few people.

"The Holy Spirit makes Jesus present in us, beyond the barriers of time and space, to make us His witnesses in the world," he said.

Blessing of God

The second action Jesus does before His ascension is to "bless the apostles," which the Pope said is a "priestly gesture".

"The Gospel wants to tell us that Jesus is the great priest of our life. Jesus ascends to the Father

Diocese of Goroka welcomes new Bishop

- Nigel Akuani

Kefamo, Eastern Highlands Province: The Diocese of Goroka rejoiced as they welcomed the seventh Bishop of Goroka, Valentine Gryk SVD, on Saturday, 7th May 2022 at the Episcopal Ordination that was held at Kefamo Parish.

A jubilant vibe filled the atmosphere and grounds around the Kefamo Parish, as thousands gathered to witness the ordination of their new Bishop. Key consecrators to the ceremony included His Eminence, Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC; and Archbishop Douglas Young SVD of Mt Hagen.

The consecration was graced by the presence of the Apostolic Nuncio to PNGSI, Fermin Emilio Rodriguez, thirteen Bishops, Priests, Religious, Seminarians, delegates from Rome, Poland and the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) Congregation, parishioners from surrounding communities, families, friends from far and near, media personnel. Bp Gryk in sharing his sentiments as the new Bishop, thanked both clergy and lay who had gathered to celebrate the Diocese's prestigious milestone and reminded all of their important roles as Christians.

"Jises em laikim yumi olgeta long kamap wanpela aninit long em. Bipo long em ibin dai em bin pre na tok olsem husait laik bihainim em bai kamap wan wantaim em," he said.

In his speech, the Nuncio urged for all people to stand firm as Christians and to walk with their new Bishop on the path of righteousness. "I invite all



people of Goroka to walk together with your new Bishop on the path of holiness. Altogether, we build the sanctification of love. My dear Bishop Valentine, may Mother Mary guide your steps toward his son and bring you peace in your heart so you can guide with wisdom the diocese you have been entrusted," he stated.

Cardinal Ribat congratulated the Catholic communities of Goroka and described Bp Gryk's ordination as being an achievement for all Christians throughout the country.

Hailing from Poland, Bp Gryk, spent more than 30-years serving in Goroka before being appointed by Pope Francis as the diocese's new Bishop.

World Environment Day 2022 Campaign
June 5th - July 31st

#OnlyOneEarth

Don Bosco GREEN ALLIANCE

DON BOSCO YOUTH-NET

ONLY ONE EARTH | WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2022 | UN 50th anniversary programme | Sweden Sverige

Questions for reflection:
1. What are we doing to care for our common home?
2. Is one-day of activism and raising awareness on environmental issues enough to educate each person?

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CCHS Inc launches 10-year Strategic Health Plan 2021 - 2030



CCHS National Secretary, Apostolic Nuncio, Bishop Francis Meli, and Cardinal Ribat showing the signed official launch document
Picture courtesy: CCHS

Port Moresby: The Catholic Church Health Services officially launched its Strategic Health Plan for the next ten years (2021-2030). The plan is aligned with the new National Health Plan 2021-2030 and other relevant national documents such as Vision 2050.

As a major partner in health service delivery, CCHS has been a strong implementing partner of the previous National Health Plan, working very closely with the National Department of Health and Provincial Health Authorities. The CCHS Strategic

Plan was developed to reflect the commitment of the Church to the new National Health Plan for 2021-2030. It uses similar Key Result Areas, intentions, and commitments to improve health for all the people of PNG.

CCHS National Secretary, Sr Jadwiga Faliszek says, "We aim to progress towards achieving Universal Health Coverage and health care provision, focusing on quality health care, stakeholder engagement, partnership, and strengthening the health system. This will enable us to progress towards our vision of good health and well-being shared by all".

Catholic Church Health Services (CCHS) separated from Christian Health Services (CHS) 6 years ago and established its own National Office in Boroko, as a separate entity. In October of 2016, CCHS signed a National Level Health Sector Partnership Agreement with the National Department of Health (NDoH). Since then, CCHS has established good communications and a productive working relationship with NDoH for the benefit of the people we both serve through healthcare delivery.

Sr Jadwiga Faliszek stated that CCHS has in the last 6 years managed to achieve milestones that signify the organization's ability to manage the health service as the largest faith-based organization providing up to 50% of all faith base agencies combined.

"The focus of the strategy will be supporting the dioceses, health facilities, communities, and the disadvantaged populations that are more vulnerable than others", said Sr Jadwiga.

The National CCHS Board Chairman, Bishop Francis Meli, commended CCHS Secretariat and staff for the high ideals captured in the Strategic Plan and assured the team and those they serve, of his continuing prayers for a positive outcome.

This Strategic Plan will provide the reference framework for operational planning and implementation for the Catholic Church Health Service National Office, Provincial Dioceses, Provincial Health Authorities, National Department of Health, and other stakeholders.

The implementation of this strategy will include clear monitoring, evaluation, and learning plan with an implementational plan and, key performance indicators to enable timely concrete reporting.

CBC Statement on PNG National General Elections

The Catholic Church maintains its neutrality. We do not support any candidate or political party in this election and any other election. We want the process to be free, honest and without fear or favour.

The Catholic Bishops Conference respects the rights and freedom of all citizens to support and elect candidates at their own choice using their own prudent judgment and conscience. They have the democratic right to choose trustworthy and God-fearing people. We ask you to vote wisely because your vote is your power, and it determines you and your children's future.

The Catholic Bishops Conference wish to advise that all Priests, Deacons, Catechists Pastoral workers, Communion Ministers, and Group Leaders do not accept gifts and materials from any candidate and do not use Church time and facilities for campaign. Parishes are not to allow political campaigns conducted in Church facilities like schools and health centres.

The bishops would like to request that politics are kept away from service delivery facilities. Politics come and go. They are seasonal events, but those services are there to still support our people after elections. Other public utilities, such as roads, bridges, public vehicles, and transportation are to be respected at all costs. They are there to help us make our life go on smoothly. We know from previous elections and after elections, that there were social disorders and destruction. We had a time of hunger, increase of people with HIV/AIDS, children without proper parents, family breakdown, school fee problems etc. We shouldn't forget that we have to keep our human dignity in high esteem and practice proper moral conduct. We still have COVID-19 surge in different places around the globe. The virus is around, changing forms and continuing to spread. We have to be careful not become victims during the campaign and elections.

Politics is part of every human person's life, but it should always be guided by the principles of honesty, transparency and good moral conduct. Thus, lay Church workers have the right to stand for elections



as candidates, support and vote for candidates they believe are in good standing in the society, and who could contribute positively to the development of the people and the country as a whole. However, to maintain the independence and integrity of the Church, we advise that active and full-time Church workers voluntarily step aside from their active ministry during the time of the campaign and election period. This separation is not because politics is bad and evil but rather because the practice of politics in PNG naturally divides people, which is against the Church's principle of unity.

The bishops would like to encourage citizens to use this opportunity and privilege to support parties and candidates who have good moral conduct, good family life and good political platforms, not because they are your family member, tribal group or belong to your associations.

The Catholic Bishops Conference would like to stress that: *a. Vote in national elections is the right of each individual citizen, therefore follow the law of the electoral commission. b. It is morally wrong to sell your vote for money and other material goods. c. Every vote represents you and your citizenship. Respect it and cast your vote in your own name and follow the preference given. d. All citizens cooperate with the electoral commission for a good, free, and fair election result.*

The Catholic Bishops of Papua New Guinea would like to ask all citizens of goodwill to put our efforts together and join hands in prayer that this coming national election be one of the best and a starting point for future elections.

+ ANTON BAL

Archbishop of Madang | President of CBC PNGSI

63rd AGM of CBC PNG-SI

- Nyleptha Maino

Rondon Ridge, Hagen: The 63rd Annual General Meeting of the CBC PNG & SI took place from the 26th April to the 5th May 2022 at Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen.

18 PNG Bishops along with the General Secretary Fr. Giorgio Licini PIME attended the AGM. Unfortunately, the Solomon Island Bishops were unable to join due to Covid-19 border restrictions.

The Apostolic Nuncio His Excellency Abp. Fermin Sosa Rodriguez addressed the Bishops Conference and shared communications from the Holy See.

The Bishops also visited the missionaries cemetery at Rebiambul and spent a prayerful time at the grave of the first Abp. of Mt Hagen Late Abp. George Bernading SVD.

They also took time out to visit the National Shrine of Divine Mercy at Ruquist, Jiwaka Province and joined with the parishioners for the prayer of the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

One of the highlights of the AGM was the welcome dinner hosted by the Governor of Western Highlands Province Hon. Paias Wingti in town. A good number of religious, laity, former provincial statesmen and other Christian Church leaders were present for this occasion.

The President of the CBC, Abp. Anton Bal in his address spoke about the importance of continuous collaboration between the Churches and the Government for services and spiritual enrichment for the people.

Following the conclusion of the AGM, the Bishops travelled to Goroka to witness the ordination of Bp Walentine Gryk.



Catholic principals conference

Port Moresby: An intense but insightful weeklong conference with the theme: *Formation, Information and Transformation* had the participation of 29 Principals from Catholic Agency Secondary Schools around the country. The conference was held at the Emmaus Conference Centre in Don Bosco Technological Institute from May 23rd-27th with the aim of training the Principals to be effective Managers and Administrators back in their dioceses. Facilitators of the conference were from Divine Word University, Inspections Division from the Department of Education, Principals from the top performing schools and assistant Bishop Deputy Bp Pedro Baquero SDB.

UPNG CSA students visit CBC

Port Moresby: Catholic Students Association (CSA) from the University of Papua New Guinea for the first time visited and attended a brief seminar at the Catholic Bishop's Conference the National Headquarters of the Catholic Church in PNG and Solomon Islands.

The 22 students visited on Wednesday 18 May and toured the facilities, visit the Liturgical Catechetical Institute Bookshop and had the opportunity to meet with the General Secretary, Fr Giorgio Licini PIME and the Commission Heads of CBC.

The staff explained to the students about the general structure and functions of CBC and the functions of each commission. The aim of the visit was to expose the catholic students to CBC.

Launching of synodal church

Lae, Morobe Province: The Catholic faithful of the Diocese of Lae gathered on Sunday 8th May 2022 at the St. Mary's Primary School, Eriku, to celebrate the launching of the Synodal Church.

It had as its theme 'Yumi wokabout wantaim' – "Journeying together as one Church." The celebrations began with a Eucharistic Mass that was presided over by Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC, Archbishop of Port Moresby.

During the homily, Bishop of Lae Diocese, Bp. Rozario Menezes SMM stressed on 3 important factors that contributed to faith building: Daily prayer and Bible reading and honouring the Sacraments administered by the Catholic Church.



Election is selection

Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME, CBC General Secretary

There is no easy choice on election day. Certain electorates have more than a dozen nominated candidates. How do we select the best? There are at least some good suggestions considering that political elections are meant for the modern States not for an assembly of chiefs or elders, a Church or a club. The Parliament is supposed to express the best possible government for the country, to support it or to take it down and replace it if it doesn't perform to expectations. The government works on three basic areas: foreign policies and national security, economy and resources, social services and internal law and ordered. The power belongs to the people (one head one vote) who exercise it by means of legally elected representatives. Do not call the members of Parliament "leaders". They only represent the people of a particular electorate. They are no different than other citizens except that they are sanctioned by the vote to speak and act on

behalf of their constituency on the floor of Parliament and perhaps participate in forming the government. From that position they will contribute to the national interest and goals and at the same time advance and support services and development for their area of responsibility.

It is very easy to decide to retain or to dump an incumbent politician. Five years are enough to reveal selfishness or generosity, complacency or dedication. Facts are not seen in words but in deeds. Shame on those who again support individuals who have done nothing or have stolen the previous election. People know who the corrupt are. Still, it remains evident how cunning and unscrupulous politicians can manipulate and take advantage of remote, poor, and destitute communities. The call, therefore, goes out to any individual hopeful MP. That seat in Parliament belongs to your people, not to you. The same applies to those who, after many years in Waigani, have already become ineffective, but their people keep on voting them out of respect and ancestral

devotion or simply in exchange of money. Try to go gracefully. A good, qualified, well intentioned forty years old will have a vision rooted in present times and will be able to do something good. At sixty or seventy instead you are likely to be exhausted.

On election day, we basically say no to many and yes to one alone at the ballot box. How to select him or her is crucial. But the criteria are simple: education, track record, expertise, age, personal attitude, closeness to the people, familiarity with the electorate. There is no reason to select traditional chiefs over common citizens, businesspeople over other professionals, incumbents over newcomers, men over women. What really matters for Parliament is competence and ability to perform at the local and national level.

A successful electoral process is the combined effort of many, from the electoral commission, the security forces and the media, down to the individual citizens. It is actually the people who have eyes to see what happens on the ground and hold the system to account.

- Simon Mokot

Laudato Si Week in Action

Rebiamul, Mt. Hagen: 2022', a very important event dedicated for the week, In observing the May 22 – 29.

'Laudato Si Week 2022', staff of the Archdiocese of Mt Hagen gathered to plant trees at the Sir Michael Somare Garden, just behind the Calvary Hill at Rebiamul on Tuesday, May 24, 2022. More than 100 young trees were planted at the Sir Michael Somare garden, a site dedicated in memory of the nation's founding father late Grand Chief after his passing last year on Friday February 26, 2021. Archbishop Douglas Young SVD dedicated this site for planting trees as part of the Green Campaign counteracting the effects of Global Climate Change.

With the theme, "Listening and Journeying Together", Catholics around the world is working on "bringing the human family together to protect our common home", the guiding Laudato Si' quote for the week's celebration.



A handful of staff members, led by Mrs Barbara Dinbi, Diocesan Caritas Coordinator took the initiative to plant young trees as part of the 'Laudato Si Week

CPS calls for Free, Fair and Safe election 2022

The President of Catholic Professionals, Mr. Paul Harricknen, joins other concerned groups and sections of the society who are advocating and calling for a free, fair and safe elections 2022, as reports and learnings from the past especially 2012 and 2017, has seen great malpractices.

There are already reports of violence, unruly behaviours and intimidation by candidates and their supporters which is not a good start to this election 2022.

Our biggest concerns are on allowing every citizen to vote without harassment, for the election processes to be safeguarded and not rigged, and for the entrusted officers of the electoral commission and the discipline forces to carry out their responsibilities as required by the law of this nation. Particular concerns are on the security of ballot papers which are always tempered with by the people expected to safeguard, namely the election and security officials, entrusted with conducting the elections. There is fear that there may be repeat of this, this time if not taken seriously by the election and security leaders and officials, PNG may be poised for a broken political system. In fact already there are signs of a broken political system, which we need to rectify.

Mr. Harricknen said, while education and awareness is conducted targeting the voters to vote wisely and a free, fair and safe elections, the real danger is with the security of the ballots. Voters usually vote for the candidates of their choices. However, their votes are tempered and altered on transit from locations and at the counting venues. We need commitment from the election officials and the security personnel to turn up for duties to ensure free, fair and safe elections for their people and country.

CPS is also calling on Christians and people of faith to pray and entrust the elections to the grace and love of God. Corruption is evil, which must be fought physically and spiritually.

FREE. FAIR. SAFE.
PNG ELECTIONS 2022

SOCOM Seminar for diocesan media coordinators

- Diocesan Communications Coordinators

Port Moresby: A Social Communications (SOCOM) seminar for the catholic media coordinators from the Dioceses in Papua New Guinea was held from 16th to 20th May 2022 with the focus on print media and photography.

Thirteen participants made up of priests, religious sisters and lay personnel from the dioceses of Aitape, Wewak, Lae, Alotau, Kundiawa, Mount Hagen and Mendi gathered for the week-long training at the Catholic Bishops Conference (CBC) at Gordons in Port Moresby with the theme 'Listen. Do everything with Love.' Joining the participants was Archbishop of Rabaul, Rochus Tatamai MSC.

The participants were trained on Writing News Articles using the 5W's and 1H, following the inverted pyramid style and understanding the difference between current news and stale news. The sessions highlighted creating diocesan newsletters and the tools needed and capturing photographs with a positive message. Spirituality of Communication, Misinformation, disinformation & malinformation and netiquette and online ethics were dwelt upon.



During the week, the participants paid a special visit to one of PNG's daily newspaper *The National*. They also visited the Adventure Park at 14 mile for a practical photography session.

The seminar was hosted by CBC SOCOM with the aim to promote a thriving network of Christian communicators who can regularly report, capture inspiring image and create diocesan newsletters to evangelise and spread the Good News.

Right Relations Formative workshop for CSN Sisters in Bougainville

Boundaries for healthy relationships, Relationships, Healthy and unhealthy relationships and mending broken relationships.

They also touched on Rights and values in relationships, Human Sexuality and celibacy, Ministerial relationships and Appropriate and inappropriate behaviours in ministry and Guidelines for ministerial relationships.

This Formative Program was designed for the young candidates and religious sisters who are still in their religious formation program.

The objective of the workshop was to give them some kind of awareness to prevent themselves from any form of abuses particularly in their ministry as they will be sent out to work with different groups of people.



Bougainville: A weeklong Right Relationships Formative Workshop was conducted for the CSN Sisters from 9th – 13th May 2022 at Nazareth Center for Rehabilitation, Chabai, Buka, Bougainville.

There were 18 participants made up of 15 sisters and 3 young girls who are in their formation program and was facilitated by Sr Ancy John SCSA, the directress of RR Ministry.

The topics covered for the workshop were Boundaries and importance of boundaries in life,

A teacher's passion to help the young

- Narol Sapak

Lae, Morobe Province: Miss Grace Gumbaia, 36, hails from East Sepik Province and is a teacher in Bugandi Secondary School.

A devoted Catholic, church leader, mentor and model for young people, Grace is guided by her personal principle in life: "Do everything with a good heart and expect nothing in return" and Psalms 18:1-2 "I will love You O Lord my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my strength in whom I trust, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."

Miss Gumbaia has been teaching for over 13 years and seizes every opportunity be it during her lessons, break times or even during school organised activities, to share and impart Christian values, morals and ethics to her students. She is also very active amongst the young in St. Michael's Parish and St. Dominic BCC.

"It is fun and interesting to work with the youths in my BCC and the Parish as they are different individuals and each one may have their own

unique ways of doing things. I get to learn new things from them and in turn, they learn from me as they are guided by good morals and values in life," she shared.

From 2017-19, Grace was appointed as Vice-Chairlady and later Chairlady for St. Michael's Parish, a position quite challenging for a young lady which she took with both hands and served well during her tenure.

She believes young people will be more active in Church when additional activities such as sports, picnics or visitations are organised for them to interact and share their faith. Young people also need supportive mentors, working closely with them and guiding them spiritually and mentally as well as in other aspects. "The passion for helping young people, imparting knowledge and good moral values motivated me to become a



teacher. I believe that students or young people learn from what we do, not what we say, therefore being a good role model is important. I help my students and youths in my community by being involved in the activities that they do, give advice when necessary and correct them when they step out of line," she explained.

As a word of encouragement, Miss Gumbaia reminds Catholic Youths and young people of PNG to never lose sight of God. The challenges faced in this world may be too much to handle but having God as our Rock, Stronghold and Shield, we can be rest assured that God will always be there to take care of us. We have to trust in Him!



Peace, a much needed virtue

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb,
Secretary for Social Communication

Our world seems to be in turmoil. The senseless war in Ukraine has been flattening cities and killing civilians. The recent horrific shooting at an elementary school killed 19 young children and two adults. Violence between groups and destruction to property seems to be constantly erupting in our beautiful land. We struggle to deal with these situations around each of us. Amidst the tragedy of life around us, the following anonymous story has a powerful message for us.

There once was a King who offered a prize to the artist who would paint the best picture of peace. Many artists tried. The King looked at all the pictures, but there were only two he really liked and he had to choose between them.

One picture was of a calm lake. The lake was a perfect mirror, for peaceful towering mountains were all around it. Overhead was a blue sky with fluffy white clouds. All who saw this picture thought that it was a perfect picture of peace.

The other picture had mountains, too. But these were rugged and bare. Above was an angry sky from which rain fell and in which lightning played. Down the side of the mountain tumbled a foaming waterfall. This did not look peaceful at all. But when the King looked, he saw behind the waterfall a tiny bush growing in a crack in the rock. In the bush a mother bird had built her nest. There, in the midst of the rush of angry water, sat the mother bird on her nest in perfect peace.

Which picture do you think won the prize? The King chose the second picture. Do you know why?

'Because' explained the King, 'peace does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble, or hard work. Peace means to be in the midst of all those things and still be calm in your heart. That is the real meaning of peace.'

The story reminds us that despite the violence and the tension all around us, we need to keep our peace. We need to stop and think carefully about how we can deal with the tensions all around us.

The coming elections is an opportunity for us to choose leaders that will bring us together in love and peace for our good and the betterment of all our people.

God bless you and your families!



Renewal is necessary in the Catholic Church

- Fr Victor Roche SVD, New Evangelisation Secretary

I write these lines from the Valpre Conference Centre, Lyon, France. This city has produced many great saints in the Catholic Church. Two of them are: St. John Marie Vianney who studied in the seminary here and was sent to the parish of Ars. The second one is Blessed Pauline Jaricot, the Foundress of the Propagation of Faith of the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS).

The reason we have the Annual General Assembly of the PMS in Lyon is because Pauline Jaricot is declared blessed by Cardinal Antonio Tagle on Sunday, 22 May 2022 in Lyon. PMS, which was founded by her, is also celebrating the 200 years of its service in the church (1822-2022).

Brief life history of blessed Pauline Jaricot:

She was born on 22nd July 1799 in Lyon, France in a wealthy and a strong Catholic family. When she was 15 years old she had a serious accident and illness. But she was miraculously healed by the prayers of many people. When she was 17 years old, she took a vow of chastity and committed herself to serve the church. She wanted to help the mission countries like China. So Pauline started Living Rosary in her parish which spread throughout France. She also started groups of ten

people each to collect money and send it to China and other mission countries.

Her efforts were recognized and she founded the Propagation of Faith on 3rd of May 1822. She met Pope Gregory 16 and got his support. She also had strong spiritual support from St. John Vianney of Ars (Cure De Ars). She died when she was 63 years old, on 9 January 1862. She was declared Venerable on 25 February 1963 by Pope John 23. She was declared Blessed on 22nd May 2022 by Cardinal Antonio Tagle.

We need strong Lay people especially women like Pauline Jaricot to serve the Church today.

Lay people need to take spiritual leadership: to share their God-experience; to give retreats and seminars; to write articles and books on spirituality.

Lay people need to take up Administrative leadership: take leadership roles in the parish, diocese and country.

One might say "we are not given space in the church for lay leadership". A lay person need not wait for space or time for leadership.

Pauline Jaricot exercised her leadership when women were not recognized in the Church 200 years ago. She took the opportunity through her spiritual authority. We need more Lay Leaders, especially Women-leaders in the Catholic Church.



Second Marian Dogma: The Perpetual Virginity in the Magisterium

- Fr. Tomás Ravaioli IVE, Director of Liturgical Catechetical Institute

The Perpetual Virginity of Mary (that is, that she was virgin before, during and after Christ's birth) was solemnly and expressly declared for the Church in the following councils: Capua (389), The Fifth Ecumenical Council of Constantinople (553), Lateran (649), Toledo (675) and The Sixth Ecumenical Council of Constantinople (680).

Saint Thomas Aquinas enumerates four principal reasons why it was morally necessary that the Blessed Virgin Mary should preserve perpetual virginity.

1) The unique character of Christ as the Only-begotten Son of God: To affirm that Mary had also other sons or daughters would be derogatory to Christ's perfection, for as He is the Only-Begotten of the Father, being thus His Son in every respect perfect, so it was becoming that He should be the Only-begotten son of His Mother, as being her perfect offspring.

2) Mary's womb was the shrine of the Holy Spirit:

insult to the Holy Spirit, whose "shrine" was the virginal womb, wherein He had formed the flesh of Christ. Wherefore it was unbecoming that it should be desecrated by intercourse with man.

3) The excellency of the title Deipara (Mother of God): To affirm that Mary gave birth to other children is derogatory to the dignity and holiness of God's Mother, for thus she would seem to be most ungrateful, were she not content with such a Son; and were she, of her own accord, by carnal intercourse to forfeit that virginity which had been miraculously preserved in her.

4) The honour and chivalry of saint Joseph, who was commissioned to be the protector and guardian of his chaste spouse. It would be tantamount to an imputation of extreme presumption in Joseph, to assume that he attempted to violate her whom by the angel's revelation he knew to have conceived by the Holy Ghost.

For all this, we Catholics must be proud to honour Our Lady as a pure virgin before, during and after Christ's birth.

LAUDATO SI' GOALS



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, 2022.**

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