



# 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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## First local bishop for Solomon Islands

- Sr. Sesilia Sala FMA



Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, Archbishop Kurian Matthew Vayalunkal puts on the Mitre on Bishop Peter Houhou

**Auki, Solomon Islands:** The Episcopal Consecration of the first Solomon Islands Catholic Bishop, His Lordship Peter Houhou was held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at the St. Augustine Catholic Cathedral, Auki, Malaita Province.

His Excellency Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal, Apostolic Nuncio for Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, was assisted by Archbishop Christopher M. Cardone OP, Archdiocese of Honiara and Archbishop Douglas Young SVD, Archdiocese of Mount Hagen, Papua New Guinea. Concelebrants were Emeritus Archbishop Adrian T. Smith SM, diocesan and religious priests. Fr. Giorgio Licini PIME, Catholic Bishops Conference (CBC) General Secretary and Sr. Marilyn MSC were among the special invited guests.

Addressing the congregation at the homily, Archbishop Kurian reminded the new bishop that his first task is to love God, love his priests and the people of God. He said, "Holy mother Church is entrusting you with three important responsibilities: To teach, to sanctify and to govern the People of God". He thanked the family for the precious gift of their son and invited all to pray and support their bishop.

The presence of the Prime Minister, Honorable Rick Houenipwela and his delegation, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Honorable John Maneniaru and his wife, the Premier of Malaita Province, Honorable Peter C Ramohia and his wife represented the government along with distinguished guests from other provinces as well as overseas.

The ceremony commenced with emotional cultural rituals. The whole family of Bishop Elect Fr. Peter from Marau, East Areare and Ulawa presented him to the church in the presence of His Excellency, Archbishop Kurian M. Vayalunkal, the Apostolic Nuncio.

The Solemn Eucharistic celebration was unique and represented the different deaneries and parishes of the Diocese of Auki. The entire ceremony was explained by the Master of Ceremony, Fr. John Adai.

In expression of their gratitude and appreciation speeches were delivered by the Prime Minister, Honorable Rick Houenipwela, The Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Kurian M Vayalunkal, Honorable Peter Ramohia and the newly consecrated Bishop, His Lordship Peter Houhou. Congratulations were offered and gifts were presented. Bishop Peter paid tribute to his predecessors, Late Bp Gerard Loft, SM and Bp Christopher Cardone, OP. He highlighted the work of the Marist missionaries and Diocesan priests who have built the Church and the Catholic faith of the people. In particular he mentioned the first two local priests, Fr. Michael Aike and Fr Donasiano Hite'e. He invited all in the diocese and the church to work together to strengthen the Catholic faith in Solomon Islands. He also called on the Provincial and National Government to work together to address the many issues and challenges that the community and society face.

A special acknowledgement was expressed to Fr. James Angisia for his role as administrator of the diocese for the past two years. The program concluded with feasting accompanied by a variety of items by different groups.

The Entrance procession by the relatives of Bp Peter Houhou



### 'I came not to be served but to serve'

The newly appointed Bishop of Auki, Bp. Peter has chosen the motto "I came not to be served but to serve." This serves to guide him in his new mission and ministry.

### Coat of Arms

**Cross:** The responsibilities and challenges that Bp. Peter has been carrying since birth, childhood, youth and as a priest for the last 52 years.

**Host and Chalice:** Reflects the feeding of the great multitude of people during the time of Jesus. The pastoral work as a priest to serve the good and beloved people of God in the Diocese of Auki.

**The Sacred Scripture:** Significant in the daily life of Bp. Peter and the Holy Eucharist and the foundation of divine revelation of our Catholic truth.

**Taro, axe and knife:** Significant in Bp. Peter's upbringing and ministry.

**The wedding ring:** Highlights the importance of the sacraments of marriage in the cultural set-up of the people of Ulawa, West Are Are and Marau on Guadalcanal.

### Brief History

The newly appointed Bishop of the Diocese of Auki, Solomon Islands, Bp. Peter Houhou was born on 10<sup>th</sup> of October 1966 in Porokokore, Makina Parish to Mr Iawai and Mrs Salome Sautarei'a. From 1974 to 1979, he did his primary school education at the Makina Primary school and after that, he went on to study at the Nazareth Apostolic centre from 1985 to 1990. He did his seminary studies at the Holy Spirit Seminary in Bomana from 1991 to 1998. On 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1999, Bp. Peter Houhou was ordained priest.

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# Synod on youth highlights listening to the young

- Thomas Reese



**VATICAN CITY:** The Synod on Youth, began October 3 and concluded on October 28. It was made up of

questions, their needs, their concerns. The bishops recognized before the synod started that there was no point in talking to young people about things they were not interested in. Programs had to be crafted to meet young people's needs as they see them, not as the bishops see them. The Synod has recognized that young people are persons with knowledge and ideas and not empty vessels into which content is poured.

just recipients of the church's ministries, they are active participants in their creation.

The third kind of listening is practiced by Brother Alois, prior of the Taizé community in France. Alois explained that at Taizé they listen to young people to discover where the Spirit is alive in their lives. The job of these listeners is not to impose their ideas on the young; it is to help the young see the presence of the Spirit in their lives. This approach to listening is radically different because it teaches the young to listen to hear in it the Spirit. Rather than filling the young with outside content, it turns them inward to listen to the Spirit within them.

With this type of listening comes a relevant response at all levels.

267 prelates and the 72 auditors, of whom about 30 were young people.

The word "listening" was repeated constantly and was used in at least three different ways.

The first listening means attending to what young people say in order to find out their

A second approach to listening is to hear what young people think about the church in order to discover how the church must change. Bishops who have been humbled by the sexual abuse crisis. They admit that the church's traditional programs are not working. Things must change. The church needs reform. Young people are not

## Social Media: its impact

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, CBC SOCOM and Youth Secretary



We are aware that social media has had a tremendous impact on our lives and our culture. It has helped people communicate and socialize. It has brought families, classmates and people together. It has had both positive and negative effects on our lives. My focus here is to comment on the downside to social networking, especially that of cyber bullying, productivity and privacy.

People have become a target of Cyber Bullying and harassment on social sites. Parents and teachers are to pay careful attention to what their children are doing at home or in class. Mood swings or depression can be caused by online bullying. Young girls and women can fall prey to online attacks which can create tension and distress. Social sites are being used to invite young people to a variety of addictions and seduce them into perverted sexual behaviour.

If you are a victim of cyberbullying or are aware of someone who is being cyber bullied, you need to get help or help the victim.

Hours are being spent by young as well as older people on Social Media. Research tells us that if we cross the 2-hour mark, we are already addicted. If this is your experience, then take the necessary steps to do the opposite, so as to avoid the complications that will develop. One of this is the personal achievement of a student. The other is the productivity that a company needs of the employer. Social addiction lowers one's ability to perform.

A third aspect is that of privacy. Despite the privacy settings, know that anything in digital form on the net is never private. Once something is uploaded on the net, be it a word, phrase, image or clip, it is there forever. While you may delete it and not view it personally, multiple copies are made and stored, the moment it was uploaded. If one is not careful, what you post on the Net can at times come back to haunt you. Revealing personal information on social sites can also make users vulnerable to crimes like identity theft, stalking, etc. Many companies perform a background check on the Internet before hiring an employee. If a prospective employee has posted something embarrassing on social media, it can drastically affect their chances of getting the job. The same holds true for our relationships too, as our loved ones and friends may get to know if we post something undesirable on social networks.

Social media has its advantages and drawbacks. It is up to each one to use social sites wisely, and exercise caution to ensure they do not fall victim to online dangers.

## Create avenues for women



- Abigail Seta

Gender-based violence (GBV) and women issues are existent in many communities at a global scale and for the diocese of Western Province, it is no different.

In a recent interview with the Vicar General of the Diocese of Daru-Kiunga, Fr. Andrew Moses, he shared that the way towards addressing these issues with the help of the Church is by creating avenues for women that will be beneficial.

"When it comes to gender-based violence in our communities, we have a silent culture. Many people see it but believe that it is not their business and nobody does anything about it. Very little effort is made to address these issues," Fr. Andrew stated.

GBV is seen as normal in the community and when nothing is being done, women in these situations have no place to go and the cycle of violence continues.

"There is a need for organized community based projects or programs that can really identify and deal with these issues and talk about it," he said.

When asked what he, as a priest can do to address the issue, Fr. Andrew spoke on using the Catholic Church's structure that is in place.

"The Church has programs and in the programs, we have pastoral care specifically for the women. We have bodies in place such as Family Life office, Women's office and Youth office and we have to ensure that, at a parish and Church level, these bodies are functioning well to deal with women issues and to bring a lot of awareness and help the community deal with the problem," said Fr Andrew.

"As a priest, it is my moral and spiritual obligation to ensure that those persons under my care whether it is men, women or children, their pastoral care and need is looked into. When there is a problem, I need to be there to support and to ensure that something is done about it. We must not be passive about these issues."

Fr. Andrew has been open to dealing with these issues by advocating, providing pastoral care by visiting those who are affected and giving spiritual advice. As the Vicar General, he believes that on a community level, we have to organise communities in the dioceses to hold a community conversation to deal with the issues, to identify the problem and create avenues together.

## National Youth Convention 2018

Please Note:

All the youth members must be:

1. **Single** (no live-in relationships, no single parents); between **15-26 years**
2. **No addictions**
3. Are **leaders or members** of the **youth group** in the parish or diocese.
4. Are ready to take on **life commitments** – especially that of **'living pure till they comment themselves in marriage'**.
5. Are accompanied by the **Diocesan Youth Animator** / Coordinator.

Registration Fee: **K 500.00**

Account Name: CBC Youth; Account Number: 15899534; Bank Address: ANZ Waigani.

Please send in your deposit slip to youth@catholic.org.pg.

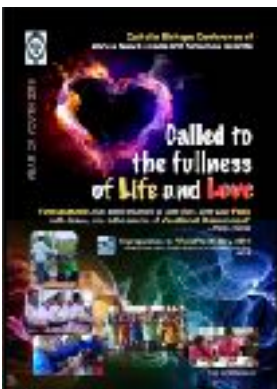
All participants for World Youth Day 2019 are to be present for the National Youth Convention.

Archdiocese of Rabaul  
8th to 12th December, 2018

**Program:**

- 8th December – Solemnity of the **Immaculate Conception** – Opening mass
- 9th December – **Sacrament of the Eucharist**
- 10th December – **Sacrament of Reconciliation; Pilgrimage to Rakunai**
- 11th December – **Sacrament of Marriage; Life Pledge and commitment**
- 12th December – **Closing Eucharistic celebration**

a time of prayer, celebration and commitment







Sir Arnold Amet and Justice and Social Desk Secretary of PNGCC Isu Aluvula in discussion

Over four hundred people converged for the Land and Ocean Conference at the UPNG Main Lecture Theatre on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of October, 2018.

It was hosted by the Papua New Guinea Council of Churches (PNGCC) in partnership with the University of Papua New Guinea Political Science Department supported by Consultative Implementation Monitoring and Committee (CIMC), Center for Environmental Law and Community Rights (CELCOR),

Forest Certification (FORCERT) and the Alliance of Solwara Warriors. The keynote address from General Secretary of PNGCC, Reverend Roger Joseph, highlighted that the first world countries' luxury is at the cost of Pacific Islanders' livelihood.

These triggered discussions on day 1 in regards to land grabbing in forms of Special Agriculture Business Leases (SABLS) and others.

Principal Lawyer of CELCOR, Emily Wohuiningi, highlighted that the PNG government's unfair legislation is costing people's land and sea. She said deprivation of information for Papua New Guineans are a concern in regard to the use of their land and sea for extractive purposes.

Day 2 of the conference focused more on the ocean. Rachel Sapery James - Olsen, spoke on the ocean marine industries sector and

- Aileen Baretta, Freelance journalist

food security that is going to be huge a issue for coastal communities in Papua New Guinea.

Sir Arnold Amet, former Attorney General, was also there to talk about the legal future of seabed mining as well. He challenged the churches to use their moral obligation and authority to call the government out in the issue of experimental seabed mining.

Two representatives from the coastal communities, Alliance of Solwara Warriors were also there to give first hand experiences of their daily resistance against Nautilus Minerals' intention to mine the ocean bed in the Bismarck Sea.

The two were John Momori of Caritas Kavieng, New Ireland Province and Yobeig Umat from Karkar Island, Madang Province.



## 50 years Ordained

**Bishop William Fey, OFM Cap**  
**Hometown: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**  
**Ordained: October 19, 1968**

Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018, marked 50 years of Priestly Ordination for Bp. William Fey, OFM Cap of the Diocese of Kimbe, West New Britain province.

The Capuchin Friars of the Province of Saint Augustine rejoiced to celebrate the Jubilees of their brother Friars and shared snippets of Bishop William Fey, OFM Cap.

'Our brother Bill is one of the finest scholars the Province has known. His education was non-stop for twenty-four years, beginning with his entry into elementary school in 1950, through degrees in Philosophy and Religious education at St. Fidelis and The Catholic University of America, and finally at Oxford in England, where he completed his Ph.D in Philosophy in 1974. His love for God and for the Church was expressed in his love for learning, and in his other great loves: teaching and formation work. Quite surprisingly to many, he sought and received the assignment to the mission in Papua New Guinea in 1987. There he worked to rebuild the academic program of the Capuchin friars and other religious at the major seminary in Bomana and the mission's own formation programs while continuing with his teaching and serving in the administration of the mission. The respect in which his brothers held him was marked by election as a Councillor for two consecutive terms and then as Vice-Provincial Minister in 2007.

The respect in which the Church holds him was demonstrated by his appointment as Bishop of Kimbe in 2010. Having reached the mandatory age for retirement and fighting through serious health concerns, Bp. Fey recently submitted his resignation as Bishop of Kimbe. He is hoping to return to teaching as well as formation work.



## New bishop for Lae

Pope Francis has appointed **Fr. Rozario Menezes SMM** as the third Bishop of the Diocese of Lae. His appointment follows that of Most Rev. Christian Conrad Blouin, CMM, who served in the diocese from 15th January 2007.

Fr. Rozario is an Indian Monfort Missionary who has been serving the Church in PNG since 2000. He was born on 30<sup>th</sup> August, 1969 and hails from the town of Virajpet in Coorg District, Karnataka. He has served the Catholic Church of Papua New Guinea in different capacities, including that of being the Parish priest of St. Brigid's, Kiunga and caretaker of St. Paul's Nomad.

Bishop-elect Rozario Menezes SMM will be consecrated on the 15<sup>th</sup> December in Lae. We pray for him as he takes up this responsibility to shepherd his flock.



## Commentary

**Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME**  
**General Secretary**



*A Call to Holiness in Today's World* is the title of the Pastoral Letter released by the Catholic Bishops of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018. It aims at accompanying the Year of the Laity following the Year of the Youth, which will close with the convention of the young people in Rabaul on 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018. Among other things, the Bishops write recommending that "that there is a laity coordinator in every diocese and every parish to promote adequate formation for an understanding of the specific lay apostolate to the world". The diocesan coordinators will receive their orientation on a week-long workshop at the new hall of the Catholic Bishops Conference in Port Moresby on 3<sup>rd</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> November 2018. There will be one of them from each diocese and two from each archdiocese.

It is necessary to notice the words "lay apostolate to the world". The laity are indeed called to take on themselves more responsibilities in our parishes and outstation and to always keep an active role as prayer leaders, catechists, and administrators, but first and foremost they are witnesses of the Good News to the outsiders and the people of our time. Therefore, they need to join the clergy and the religious in the common goal of making sure that society is imbued with the values of the Gospel: justice, solidarity, honesty, respect for God and for all human beings. Corruption, social exclusion and disrespect for life and family need to be hardly fought against. Declaring Papua New Guinea, a "Christian country", as advocated by some quarters is not indeed a bad idea; but it would be a void exercise, probably just highlighting our shortcomings unless a titanic task is undertaken to reform our personal lives, the way we treat others, the injuries we are inflicting to the environment, the family, and our own bodies and souls at the present time. Claiming to be a Christian country only makes sense in terms of challenges to be taken up. It urges for humility and conversion. The Year of the Laity is expected to be launched in every diocese on the Feast of Christ the King (24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> November 2018) concluding the Liturgical Year of the Church and opening up to Advent. Formation activities are to be held in dioceses and parishes in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands over the following months.

They need to be accompanied by prayer and self-evaluation of faith and action. We can only boast of our Christian faith the day nobody in our communities is left behind, and we have no name to add to the list of the lost.



# Yumi Yet Sios

## Pastoral Visit igo insait long Manus Dineri insait long Daiosis bilong Kavieng

Insait long dispela lukluk bilong “Yumi Yet Sios” mi bai serim wanpela wokabaut insait long Manus Provins em stap olsem wanpela dinari insait long Daiosis bilong Kavieng yet.

Insait long Daiosis bilong Kavieng igat tripela Dineri olsem Namatanai Dineri, Kavieng Dineri na Manus Dineri. Insait long dispela tripela Dineri yumi karamapim foapela (4) Provins olgeta insait long Daisis bilong Kavieng - olsem Is Niu Britain - Duke of York, Niu Ireland Provins - Namatanai na Kavieng, Manus Provins - Manus Dineri na Is Sepik Provins - ol Westen Islands. Dispela kain lukluk tu i mekim Kavieng Daisis olsem wanpela longpela daisis stret we i karamapim na tirip antap long longpela solwara tru.

Dispela kain lukluk i mekim tu wok pastoral ino isi olgeta. I gat planti wari na salens tru long wokim ol wokabaut igo long ol ailan bikos ino gat planti gutpela transport olsem ol gutpela bout na ship. Antap long dispela ol bikpela solwara ol i save solap nogut tru wantaim ol strongpela win na si i save kirap na soim bikpela strong inap winim na kilim ol manmeri

sapos ol ino redi gut long go aut long solwara. Dispela kain wokabaut i bin kamap long mi taim mi lusim Pot Mosbi long de 21 Septemba na kamap long Momote ples balus.

Insait long dispela wanpela wik long de 21 Septemba, inap long namba 2 de bilong Oktoba, mi yet i bin mekim pastoral visit insait long San Josep Peris long Papitalai, bihain mi go wantaim Pater Clement na tupela Diakon Alphonse na Jonah wantaim tupela spiritual papamama bilong mi yet; mipela go wantaim long mekim dispela bikpela wokabaut tru long bungim ol pipol insait long ol peris na selebretim ol sakramen bilong Santu Misa na Konfirmatio. Insait long wanwan peris igat ol kainkain kastam na singsing bilong tok welkam long mipela. Moa yet long dispela wokabaut mipela i bin bungim bikpela pasin bilip katolik tru bilong ol manmeri insait long Papitalai Peris wantaim ol liklik ailan, Peris yet bilong Bundralis wantaim ol liklik ailan bilong en olsem Andra na Ponam, bihain mipela sut stret igo ailan bilong Bipi, raunim dispela hap na tanim long Saut kos kam kamap long Peris Patu orait las long en mipela kam sua long Bris

- Bp Rochus Tatamai MSC



Loni em wanpela bris yet i bungim tupela bikpela ailan bilong Los Negros na Manus.

Dispela wokabaut i bin kamap olsem bikpela pilgrim antap long solwara wantaim olgeta ples na Peris ol stap raunim bikpela ailan bilong Manus na Los Negro. Planti yangpela manmeri na ol pikinini ol Katiket na Tisa wantaim Papamama na komuniti tu i bin redim ol gut tru bilong kisim na strongim dispela tok promis ol i bin kisim long taim ol i liklik yet insait long sakramen bilong Baptais. Insait long Sakramen bilong Konfirmatio em ol yet wanwan kandidat, man na meri ol yet i tokaut long bilip bilong ol long “Tok Yesa” oltaim long God Triwan wantaim olgeta Tok Bilip insait long Wanpela, Holi, Katolik na Apostolik Sios em Sios Kraist yet i bin kirapim na lusim long han bilong Santu Pita na olgeta Apostel long skulim na baptaisim olgeta manmeri bilong graun olgeta olsem Jisas yet em salim Sios igo mekim, na Jisas yet bai stap wantaim Sios bilong em, stap wantaim pipol bilong em inap igo long las de.

## Priests on On-going formation program

- Abigail Seta



The participating priests of the Vangeke Institute Program

Commencing on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September and concluding on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November, 2018, it had taken as its theme: “Priest - Called to the fullness of Life and Love” in line with the Year of Youth.

This year marks its eight year and has 18 priests which include three from Solomon Islands present for the program. Established by the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands in 2008, the Vangeke Institute program commenced in 2010 and has seen 152 priests and 2 deacons participate in the program.

“The program is a time for the priests to reflect on their ministry as they interact and share moments of prayer and reflections with their

brother priests,” said Bp Dariusz of Goroka and organizer of the program. “It is wonderful to have them reflect and renew themselves here at the centre. During these six weeks, the aim is to share, to strengthen and for the priests to enjoy their priesthood, because we are all called to the fullness of life and love.”

The program so far has had sessions on Medical check-up, my health, self-care, diet and hygiene; identity and ministry of priests, following the document: “Spiritual and pastoral guidelines for priests assigned to the dioceses in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Island; Pastoral management and administrative tasks; Called to the fullness of Life and Love – Youth Ministry. It will continue to look at Counselling – what it is and how to do it; a spiritual retreat: New life – first proclamation and the last session on Computer skills and office recording.

**Goroka:** The Vangeke Institute Program is a six-week on-going formation program for Melanesian priests from Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands was held at Kefamo Conference Centre, Goroka

## Youth convention celebrates life and love

- Elizabeth Gavuri

**Vunapope:** The Archdiocese of Rabaul held its Diocesan Youth Convention from the 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> of October 2018, where youths from three deaneries in the Archdiocese of Rabaul, took part in.

for the youth convention which was derived from the Catholic Bishops Conference 2018 theme, Called to the Fullness of Life and Love.

The three deaneries consisted of Kokopo, Rabaul and Pomio and saw 3000 youth gather with all 42 Parishes of the Archdiocese, their leaders, and Christian communities. “Youth Alive, Celebrating Life and Love,” was the theme

Present at the convention was Archbishop Francesco Panfilo SDB of Rabaul and Bishop Rolando Santos CM, Bishop of Alotau. The Apostolic Nuncio, who was invited, was unable to attend but sent a video passing on his best wishes to the youths.



Youth from the Archdiocese of Rabaul at the convention

During his keynote address to the youth, Archbishop Francesco Panfilo said that the youth convention showed the true spirit of unity.

CBC Youth Policy Guidelines; To enable Youths to take pride and ownership in implementing the Diocesan Pastoral Plan of the Archdiocese of Rabaul.

The aim to Celebrate the Year of the Youth 2018 is to Prepare the Youths to participate in the National Youth Convention in December, and celebrate the 34<sup>th</sup> World Youth Day, January, 2019; For Youths to understand the

The Convention was also a historic occasion for the Archdiocese of Rabaul, as it was the very first time that the three deaneries gathered for one activity under the Archdiocese of Rabaul.

### Share your Stories

Send in your articles, photograph and reflections on events and happenings in your parish, community and diocese. All articles and photographs are to be sent to: ambrose.pereirasdb@gmail.com and socom@catholic.org.pg on or before **20th November, 2018**  
Produced by: **CBC SOCOM**