



The Catholic Reporter

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Myanmar: People are the Greatest Resource

"Myanmar has been blessed with great natural beauty and resources, yet its greatest treasure is its people, who have suffered greatly, and continue to suffer, from civil conflict and hostilities that have lasted all too long and created deep divisions," Pope Francis said November 28, 2017.

His remarks came in an address at the *Myanmar International Convention Centre* of Nay Pyi Taw, where he met with the authorities, leaders of civil society and members of the diplomatic corps.

"As the nation now works to restore peace, the healing of those wounds must be a paramount political and spiritual priority," the Holy Father stressed. "I can only express appreciation for the efforts of the Government to take up this challenge, especially through the Panglong Peace Conference, which brings together representatives of the various groups in an attempt to end violence, to build trust and to ensure respect for the rights of all who call this land their home."

The Pope noted that peace building is an "arduous process" and that national reconciliation "can only advance through a commitment to justice and respect for human rights." He pointed out that in this effort "Myanmar's religious communities have a privileged role to play."



Zenith, November 28th, 2017



Blessing and Dedication of the Don Bosco Shrine

Sr. Marivel F. Monteveros SCSA

Don Bosco Simbu Technical College, Simbu

Simbu, 5th November: The Don Bosco Shrine, Simbu was blessed and dedicated on the 5th November, 2017 by His Excellency John Cardinal Ribat MSC, Archbishop of Port Moresby in the presence of Bp. Anton Bal, Bp. Pedro Baquero sdb, Bp. Dariusz Kaluza MSF, Bp. Henk Te Maarsen sdb, Fr. Alfred Maravilla sdb, Mr. Bari Palma, Member for Kerowagi District, Mr. Camillus Dagma, the former member for Kerowagi District, priests, Salesians, parishioners and Bosconians.

The entrance procession, was led by the Simbu local and students group in traditional attire. The workers who toiled to build the shrine for the past three years were next in line. Forty priests then followed the cross bearer and the altar servers to the church.

At the entrance of the shrine, Bp Anton Bal, Bishop of Kundiawa, welcomed the gathering and thanked the ones who have in different ways assisted in the building of the shrine. "The institution caters to young people and serves a need. Over the years, Don Bosco Simbu Technical College has given young people an education, with the right Catholic values and attitudes. This is most needed in society today", said the bishop. The ribbon at the entrance of the shrine was jointly cut by Fr. Alfred Maravilla sdb, Provincial; Bp. Anton Bal, Bishop of Kundiawa and Mr Bari Palma, MP for Kerowagi.

Fr. Robinson Parapilly sdb, Rector outlined the background of the presence of the Don Bosco Institute of Technology, Simbu. He then spoke on the educational system of Don Bosco, the Preventive System, based on Reason, Religion and Rapport. "With a blend of education and religious activities, every Bosconian is formed into 'Good Christians and Honest citizens'".



Don Bosco, the Preventive System, based on Reason, Religion and Rapport. "With a blend of education and religious activities, every Bosconian is formed into 'Good Christians and Honest citizens'".

Congregation

To honour Don Bosco, the great miracle worker and friend of youth, the Salesians decided in 2015, to build a shrine in his honour", said Fr. Robinson. He expressed his gratitude to God and Our Blessed Mother for their guidance and protection and thanked all who contributed to the building of the shrine.

Cardinal Ribat then sprinkled holy water, blessed and later dedicated the shrine. The doors were opened and every available space was filled with the congregation that numbered about 3000 persons.

In his sermon, Cardinal Ribat reflected on Luke's gospel passage. "Zacchaeus", he said, "climbed the tree in search of Jesus". He encouraged the young people to search for Jesus, and praise and thank God for his gifts. Being in the 'Year of Children', he reminded the congregation to care, protect and catechize children. He also invited the congregation and young people to respect women and address the issue of gender based violence. The Cardinal then dedicated the shrine to the Father and Teacher of youth, Don Bosco. He also prayed that the youth and the Catholic faithful of the Diocese of Kundiawa, Simbu Province be guided by Don Bosco.



May the blessings of the New Born Saviour be upon you and your families.
Happy Christmas and a Joyful New Year 2018!

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BLESSING



Year of Youth 2018 - Part 2

In preparation for the Year of Youth 2018, the Bishops have released a Pastoral Letter. Here is Part 2.

Vocation discernment in the footsteps of the beloved disciple. Mary, the Mother of Jesus, is the perfect disciple. We learn from her response to God's call, and promote and discern vocations among the youth of our own time.

1. **Build Christian families.** The vocation to follow Christ is what Christians receive at Baptism. This basic vocation is lived out in different states of life, whether as married, ordained, consecrated or single. The family is the crib of vocation, and parents are called to guide their children on how they will live their Christian faith in the world. The

faith of the parents of Mary, Sts. Joaquim and Anne, helped Mary to say her yes to God. Christian families must make Christ the center of their home, and live according to their Christian faith. They observe the Sacraments and are involved in the life and mission of the Church. Parents who are faithful to their marriage vows and active in their own parish, help their children embrace the priesthood or consecrated life, or live the married or single life as a way to love and serve as a Christian in the world.

2. **Introduce God to your children early in their life.** The vocation of children are prepared early in life by the faith of their parents at home, the teachers in school and the people of their community. Do not wait for our children to be grown up to introduce them to faith and the love of God. Never underestimate the faith of children. They are capable of heroic faith and love.

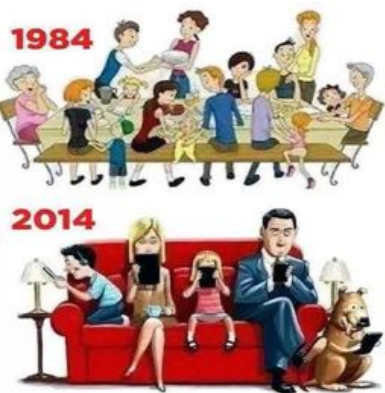
3. **Create families that pray.** Prayer is necessary for a vocation to be born. It was at the home of Nazareth where Mary developed a personal and

intimate relationship with God based on faith and love. She trusted in God and was ready to do whatever God wanted of her. Families and Christian communities should involve the young in prayer and teach them to pray.

4. **Pray for young people and believe in their capacity to make heroic sacrifices.** The simple girl of Nazareth uttered her *fiat*. Many young people are also capable of saying their own *fiats*. Through faith and the power of the Holy Spirit, they are capable of saying Yes to whatever is the will of God, and of making heroic sacrifices for the love and service of God and his people.

5. **Do not overlook the simple and humble.** Do not easily give up on young people who failed to go to grades 9 or 11. Many of them are victims of circumstances and have been unjustly deprived of opportunities to develop their talents. Given the right environment and with the proper motivation, they can still bloom.

To be continued. The full version can be got from the Editor.



Technology is very important in our world today, and whether we are studying, working, resting or relaxing, we are always using technology. The development of technology has touched every aspect of our lives, from food to fashion, homes to travel, education and entertainment. It has changed our lives forever. While this is a reality, we need to constantly reflect and ask ourselves if technology is helping us live our lives as better persons, drawing us closer to each other as members of our family and if we are coming together as citizens of our country.

The term 'social networking' seems ironical as it does not bring families together, instead creates big drifts in relationships with people who matter most to us. Experts believe that cyber technology and social networking has a negative effect on the family, as it has replaced the intimate interactions that used to occur within most families.

Below are a few issues that families today have to deal with. Reflect on them and make the changes that are necessary.

- Family activity time is replaced by endless hours of Internet surfing and chatting with people you may or may not even know.
- Poor communication leads to relationship problems, as you do not speak to each other. Instead prefer talking to people online, with people you do not even know.
- Problems due to social networking arise when the children and young people are exposed to sexual and adult content, which they are not ready for.
- Family problems due to social networking arise between couples leading to problems in their marriage. Either of the spouse maybe staying awake all night, chatting with strangers, and it can lead to cheating and adultery.
- Staying up all night is unhealthy, as you may not be fresh to attend school or college and would spend your time sleeping all day, when you should be working.

As we celebrate Christmas, lets resolve to connect with our families and loved ones in the real world. Have a love-filled Christmas and a family connected New Year 2018.

- Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb
- Editor, Catholic Reporter, SOCOM and Youth Secretary

"My real life is the faith I have in the Son of God" (Ga 2,20)

Jesus Christ frequently asked about the faith of those who followed him, those who asked him for help, for healing or liberation: "Let it be done according to your faith" (Mt 9,29), or "Courage my daughter, your faith has made you well" (Mt 9,22). Faith was the most necessary condition for Jesus to show his power. Sometimes the faith of others was enough, as in the case of the four men who brought the paralytic to Jesus, and he seeing their faith, performed miracles of healing (Mk 2,1-12). Before going to heaven, Jesus instructed disciples to go to the whole world and preach the gospel to all nations and those who believe will be saved (Mk 16:16). Amazing is the promise that all believers will share in the power of Christ, for he himself assures: "They will cast out evil spirits in my name, they will speak in foreign tongues, ... they will lay hands upon sick people, and these will get well" (Mk 16: 17-18).

The Church has obeyed the command of her Master and has been preaching the gospel for over two thousand years. Since the mid-nineteenth century, the gospel is also being proclaimed in Papua New Guinea, contributing to the growth of the faith of those who, with open hearts, receive the good news of salvation. Liturgical Catechetical Institute (LCI), founded more than 40 years ago by Catholic bishops, is also helping to spread the faith in Jesus Christ all over the country. Through the printing and distribution of Holy Scriptures, prayer books and religious books, through the distribution of various religious materials such as statues,

paintings, images, crosses, rosaries, etc., the Institute seeks to meet the needs of the modern Papuan church. Various formation courses, workshops, seminars and retreats, both for priests, brothers and sisters, as well as for lay Catholics, are meant to help all of us to grow in faith and in the knowledge of the person of Jesus.



LCI invites you to the following courses in 2018:

- May:** Biblical seminar for those in pastoral and catechetical centres
- June** (priests, sisters and brothers) and
- September** (young people): "New life in Christ", to help participants deepen their relationship with the Savior, thus strengthening and deepening their faith.

The Institute intends to actively participate in the celebration of the youth year in the church of Papua New Guinea and in preparing and distributing materials for the next biblical month.

Our target is to increase our faith so that together with Saint Paul the Apostle, we can say, "It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me." (Ga 2:19-20).

May the time of Advent be a blessed time for all of us to grow in faith and deepen our personal relationship with Christ.

- Fr. Adam Samsel MSF,
- Liturgical Catechetical Institute, Goroka

Prayer for Youth

A prayer for the Year of Youth 2018, composed by Bp Rolando Santos, CM.

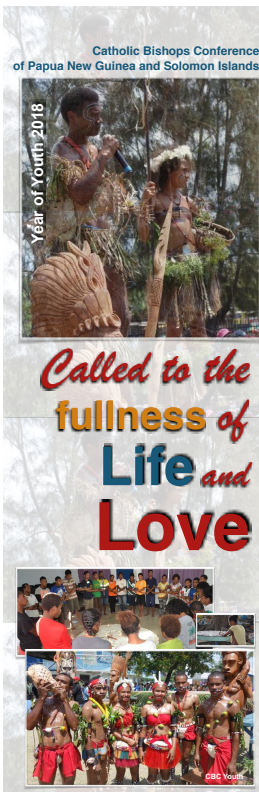
Lord, Jesus Christ,
you chose the beloved disciple to be your apostle.
Send your Holy Spirit upon all young people,
so that they too may know the depth of your love for them.

Grant our youth the faith to follow you as your disciples.
Help them to imitate your virtues and to grow in holiness of life.
Guide them with your Spirit to know their vocation in life,
be it marriage, consecrated life, priesthood or single life.

Empower them to use,
Their God given talents to serve you
and build your Kingdom of justice and peace
solidarity and communion on earth.

Through the intercession of Mary, your Mother,
may they discover in your most Sacred Heart
the fullness of life and love, and the joy of the Gospel.
May they be witnesses of your love to all people.

Amen.



Youths walk against seabed mining

- Aileen Baretta, Freelance journalist



The old have become too comfortable and are not willing to take the stand to challenge decisions that are not in favor of people.

With this discussion in mind over 150 youths of the Lutheran church in the Wards 17 and 18 of Karkar LLG would have walked around the whole island of Karkar way before this story is out in December.

This walkathon starts on the 20th of November and would cover 9 government and mission stations around the island that are Biabi 1, Gaubin, Wagulun, Biabi 2, Kinim, Miak, Kulili, Wadau and Pagani. Although there are 9 stations, villages in between amount up to more than 60 along the coastline excluding the villages which are located inland.

Led by the Alliance of Solwara Warriors, the youths aim to carry out awareness on the negative impact of the experimental seabed mining in the Bismarck Sea.

Kavailo Lutheran Church Evangelist, Jonah Sak said the youths have grouped themselves into three under the themes of Land, Sea and Pastoral. While the pastoral team will share the word of God, the land and sea teams will give out messages on illegal land grabbing in

Madang and Papua New Guinea (PNG) and the negativity surrounding experimental seabed mining.

In October this year, the Alliance of Solwara Warriors of West Coast New Island, Duke of York and Karkar signed and lodged in letters with the Ministry of Mining and the Ministry of Environment and Conservation demanding access to official documents to be fully informed of the proposed solwara project. However, the Government of PNG failed to provide the licensing and environmental impact documents by October 18th 2017 as demanded. The group has proceeded to litigation.

One of the reasons the Lutheran youths took up the walk is to raise funds for legal fees for those representing their communities against the government. As planned, screen-printing materials will also be carried during the walkathon and those willing to have campaign against seabed

mining prints on their shirts will have to pay only one kina towards the legal fees basket.

Karkar Island has an estimated population of over seventy thousand and the mission and government stations are densely populated areas. According to Evangelist Jonah Sak, the islanders will be generous.

Communities in Namatanai and Duke of York Islands in East New Britain Province also plan a similar activity.

Meanwhile, communities in the Baluan and Lou Islands in Manus Province have recently alleged that Nautilus Minerals is now eyeing their waters for another solwara project.

Young people screen printing materials for the walkathon



Deep Sea Mining

Media Statement

MPs PAY AND ALLOWANCE IMMORAL AND DOUBLE STANDARD

The Catholic Professional's Society of PNG has described reports of excessive pay and tax exemption on allowances for Ministers and Members of Parliament akin to Jesus' condemnation of the Scribes and the Pharisees who do not practice what they preach. **"They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them"** (Matt 23: 4).

While everybody else are feeling the pains of hard economic times and are cutting back on costs our political leaders continue to insulate themselves with excessive salaries and tax exempt allowances.

We can describe this as double standard, disparity and inequality of the highest proportion and immoral. There is absence of true servant leadership when leaders are not prepared to share the suffering of their people.

We commend those who expose this moral rot and call on the relevant authorities such as the Ombudsman Commission and the Internal Revenue Commission to investigate and deal with it according to law and the principles of good governance.

- **Paul Harricknen**, President, Catholic Professionals Society PNG

Commentary

- by Fr. Victor Roche, SVD



Violence against women in PNG

In the last few weeks the media has been filled with many stories of domestic violence. Most recent one was that of Post Courier business editor the late Rosalyne Albaniel-Evara whose death was surrounded with allegations of domestic violence. Another one was a woman whose badly bruised face was on the front page of Post Courier. She was ill treated by her police husband. There are many sad stories of Domestic Violence (DV) or Gender Based Violence (GBV) in PNG.

25th of November is International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (IDEVAW). According to statistics, two thirds of women in PNG suffer violence at the hands of their husbands or partners. The women of PNG endure some of the most extreme levels of violence, according to Australia's Lowey Institute for International Policy. It is mostly women who go through sorcery related violence and killings.

Most men and women in PNG consider that domestic violence is accepted as a PNG culture. This has to change. We have to do everything possible to change this attitude and the statistics.

1. Churches have to play an increased role in the awareness on violence against women. God created men and women in His Own image (Genesis 1:27).
2. Government has to bring stricter laws on violence against women.
3. Police have to take action when cases are reported. Police seem to have an attitude of "It is a domestic problem".
4. Husbands and wives should respect one another. When there are problems they should seek help and not violent means.
5. Families and communities have to teach the children about respect for women and girls.
6. Respect for women and girls has to be taught in the schools and families.
7. More and more Non-Governmental Organisations have to be involved actively in the awareness on Violence Against Women.

I am sure we can change the trend.

Notice

Our Father who art in Heaven

At the meeting of Bishops held on 26th September 2017 in Alexishafen, Madang, on 26th September, at which 15 bishops were present. The following decision was made:

"That we in PNGSI, use the Liturgical version of the Our Father as given in the new Missal:

"Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name...."

- Fr. Victor Roche, SVD, General Secretary, CBC-PNGSI

For your parish, community or Diocese 2017 Directory of the Catholic Church in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands

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Yumi Yet Sios

- Bp Rochus Tatamai MSC

Yumi yet Sios: i kamap tru pinis o ino yet?



Dispela bikpela askim i stap wantaim yumi bipo long taim yumi redi long kisim independence long yia 1975. Na tudei 42 yia bihain dispela wankain askim i stap wantaim yumi yet.

Sapos yumi lukluk insait long wok gavman na politiks yumi ken tok olsem kantri i traim hat long sanap em yet. Na mekim olgeta wok bilong soim olsem yumi kamap independence pinis. Insait long dispela lukluk taim gavman i laik inapim wok bilong en long givim olgeta sitisen long gutpela skul na edukesen, ol hausik wantaim inap marasin bilong olgeta sik manmeri na ol pikinini, ol gutpela wara saplai na pawa lait, ol gutpela rot na bris, ples balus, ol komuniti projeck na programs.

Bikpela wari na komplain oltaim i makim olgeta kainkain pasin korapsen i kamap na bagarapim laip bilong ol manmeri na yumi wantaim. Narapela wari yumi lukim i olsem, planti developmen wok i wok long bagarapim ol gutpela bus maunten, ol diwai, ol wara, na ol solwara na polusen i baragapim ol gutpela ples na environmen bilong yumi. Narapela ol mak i bagarapim laip bilong ol manmeri em pasin bilong vailens o ol kainkain pait na baragapim nating nating ol tarangu manmeri na moa yet long bagarapim ol mamasusa bilong yumi na ol liklik meri na ol pikinini bilong yumi. Taim ol laity formation i bin kamap long Port Moresby insait long mun November dispela tripela lukluk oli bin kamap bikpela astingting moa yet na bel wari insait long ol laip bilong ol laity na bilong yumi olgeta ol Kristen manmeri.

Sapos yumi laik kamap tru tru olsem yumi yet i Sios orait yumi wanwan na yumi olgeta wantaim i mas daunim na rausim olgeta pasin korapsen, serim gut olgeta risoses bilong kantri bilong yumi wantaim olgeta manmeri na yumi mas stopim na pinisim ol kainkain hevi na bagarap olsem kainkain pait baragapim ol mama na susa meri bilong yumi. Yumi mas tok nogat tru long Korapsen, noken moa larim vailens insait long famili na komuniti. Yumi mas redi long serim gut namel long yumi olgeta dispela ol risoses na ol gutpela samting insait long ples na kantri bilong yumi.

Sr Marie Turner DW

Celebrating 46 years of Missionary Life



formation in India. During these years I touched God through Wisdom Spirituality, in cultures, in poverty, in apartheid, in relationships. During my stay in Namibia with a diocesan Congregation of Benedictine sisters I felt a strong call to work for the renewal of religious life,

especially in diocesan congregations and this has marked my life since then.

When I chose to be a sister, I was already a nurse and it was inevitable that I would spend the rest of my life in Blackpool in the north of England where the Daughters of Wisdom had a private hospital. However, God had other plans. Even from the beginning, he started to stretch me from my village and family to the nearest city, Manchester, for high school then to the capital, London, for nurse training. Then from England to Scotland for my novitiate, and to Ireland as nurse tutor, from where in 1970, I became conscious of my missionary call. I was first interested in South America and started learning Spanish but my Congregation leader asked me to go to the other side of the world, Papua New Guinea, as nurses were needed. I did a course in midwifery before arriving here in July 1971.



1971-1986 was my first mandate in PNG. I worked as a nurse midwife from 1971-77 in Daru General Hospital, then Matkomnai and Kungim Health sub centres in the bush of Western Province. During these years I came in touch with the Movement for a Better World, (MBW), a small team of priests, religious and lay people promoting renewal in the Church according to the communitarian spirit of the second Vatican Council. I felt God calling me for this renewal work. At the same time many nursing positions were localised and so it was an easy transition into pastoral work. With the MBW team I travelled through most of PNG giving retreats and training courses. After ten years with MBW came a big change.

The period 1987-1997 was a time of greater international missionary experience. I was on the MBW international formation and coordinating team working in 4 countries of Africa and 6 of Asia for seven years. At the same time I was getting involved in DW

In 1998 I was invited to return to PNG as Executive Secretary of the Conference of Women Religious (CWR) which later evolved into the Federation of Religious (FOR) which was a joint male female organisation. I was based at Xavier Institute in Bomana for 7 years and in touch with many religious men and women.

2006 – 2007: I ministered at the Catholic Theological Institute (CTI) as part time lecturer and registrar.

2007 – 2015: I was based in Kiunga as Leader of DW in PNG though traveling a lot and doing occasional work with religious.

2016 – 2017: I worked part time at CBC as archivist and with many religious groups as resource person.

After 46 years as a missionary I feel God is calling me to return to England to see what lies ahead there and to leave PNG in His hands. And, I give thanks for: The continued love of God bringing me to people and places where I never imagined I would go. Gifting me with co-workers, a beautiful country and beautiful people to minister to, as well as giving me the strength to overcome the challenges, the perseverance to work for the empowerment of others and the faith to be a Woman of Wisdom.

When I came to PNG in 1971, it was to a missionary Church where the foreigners were very active in spreading the Word of God. There were many catechist and local men who helped the priest in this work especially in translations and catechesis. Now as I leave PNG after 46 years as a missionary, the Church is very different. There are many PNG Bishops, priests, brothers and sisters. Some even ministering in other countries. There are many lay people involved in all kinds of ministries at national and local level. Yes you can say with meaning "Yumi yet I sios!" Thank you for helping me give thanks to God.

50 YEARS OF SERVICE

IN WEWAK DIOCESE

Bro Jack Swinkels, SVD celebrated 50 years of service in Wewak Diocese, ESP.

On 6th May 1967, he arrived at Boram with four Brother candidates sent by the SVD Dutch Province for three years to see what Mission was all about. Bro

Jack was already ten years with the SVD. On 6th May 2017, he completed 50 years of service in Wewak Diocese. With God's help and blessing, together with PNG workmen, he was able to build what was requested of by Bishops Leo Arkfeld, Raymond Kalisz, Tony Burges and Jozef Roszynski. It all started in 1968, when Bp Loe Arkfeld appointed the young 23-year-old as building advisor and commissioned him to set up the Diocesan Building Department. "It was a hell of a job, but I was happy that we got plenty of lay missionaries to help out. Without these people as well as all the PNG workmen, I would never have been able to do the planning, drawing, permissions and building. I thank everybody for their support and helping in this unbelievable work that people of ESP can see spread over the whole of Wewak Diocese", said a grateful Br Jack. On the day of the celebration he said, "Thank yu olgeta long ol support na helpim insait long displa 50 yia Wewak Diocese. Plenti wok i stap yet. Now ol people bilong Papua Niu Gini i mas mekim displa wok mission."

Bro Jack left for his home province on 29th August, 2017.



Graduation at Nila

The Graduation of the five schools at Nila Mission station was held on 27th October, 2017. Despite the lack of committed teaches and the isolation, the students were able to complete the year. Emotions were high as the graduates received their diploma and were hugged by their parents. Bp. Capelli challenged the candidates with the Olympic motto - Citius, Altius, Fortius (Latin for "Faster, Higher, Stronger"). Victory is not in the final triumph, but in the day to day struggle.

On 29th October, at the Holy Rosary parish, 232 candidates received the Sacrament of Confirmation. The people and youth came from the various communities around the Shortlands, Alu and Fauro Islands and from the villages of Maleai, Pirumeri, Nuhu, Aleang, Gaomai, Komaleai, Harapa, Koleai, Samanago, Tomoa and the villages around the Nila mission station.

Rellysdom Aaron Malakana