



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

May 2021

Issue 185

Pope opens Marathon of Prayer with Rosary in Vatican Basilica

Pope Francis led the faithful in the recitation of the Holy Rosary on Saturday to inaugurate a "Marathon of Prayer" for an end to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mother the whole human race, sorely tried by this period of pandemic." Each day of the coming month, he said, "the many people who have been affected by the virus, and who continue to suffer the consequences of the

people who are poor and the many situations of misery. Encourage firmness in faith, perseverance in service, constancy in prayer." At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Holy Father blessed special Rosaries which will be sent to the thirty-one Marian shrines taking part in the Marathon of Prayer.

Unceasing intercession: "Every Shrine around the world is invited to pray, in the language and manner used locally, asking for the resumption of social life, work, and the many human activities that were suspended during the pandemic," says the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization.

"This common appeal seeks to create an unceasing intercession, dispersed over the meridians of the world, which rises continuously from the entire Church to the Father through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary." The Rosary, led from a different Marian Sanctuary each day during May, will be broadcast by Vatican Media, beginning at 6pm Rome time.

You can follow along with the daily broadcast on our Vatican News web portal, our Facebook and YouTube channels, or via radio or television transmissions by our partner organizations throughout the world.

pandemic," will be entrusted to the Blessed Virgin Mary, "Mother of Mercy." After the introductory prayer by the Pope, the Rosary was led by families from Rome and the surrounding Lazio region, along with young representatives of various New Evangelization Movements. Following the Rosary and the Litany of Loretto, Pope Francis prayed in a special way for all those affected by the pandemic, including those who have lost loved ones; doctors, nurses, and health care workers; those who assist the sick, including priests and pastoral workers; scientists and world leaders.

"Most loving Mother," he prayed, "grant that the sense of belonging to one great family, in the awareness of the bond that unites us all, might grow in the world; so that, with a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we might come to the aid of the many



Rome: For a wounded world: On his arrival in the Vatican Basilica on Saturday evening, Pope Francis was greeted by a group of young people bearing lighted candles.

Accompanied by the young people, the Pope then made his way to the Gregorian Chapel, which houses the ancient image of the *Madonna del Soccorso* (Our Lady of Help). The image, a 16th century copy of an earlier fresco from the original St Peter's Basilica, was newly restored in 2013, the first year of Pope Francis' pontificate.

The Pope's intention for the inaugural event was "for the entire world wounded by this pandemic."

"At the beginning of this month dedicated to Our Lady," the Holy Father said, "We join together in prayer with all the sanctuaries spread throughout the whole world, with the faithful, and with all persons of good will, to entrust into the hands of our Holy

Catholic Professionals Society condemns spike in violence in PNG

On Friday, 30 April 2021, we were made aware of two very terrible situations in Port Moresby and in Alotau.

In Port Moresby, a video circulating on social media has two persons walking up to an unarmed person and started chasing him and chopping him up in brutal premeditated murder scene.

We are appalled at such disrespect for life and dignity of the human person.

Today we see in Port Moresby the capital city of our nation fed to murderers. There is no other way to describe this. We are lost for all senses as a nation.

The other terrible news was out of Alotau in Milne Bay Province. On the night of Thursday, April 29, hooligans and thugs took over police barracks after ransacking the town and its shops. Criminals daring police to a gun battle is a movie story. It is not what we know in Milne Bay Province. About two weeks ago youths broke into Fr John Sinou's house and attacked the priests and stole everything there including kitchen ware.

We have reports of a father raping his step-daughter, the brutal double murder of sons by a father at Morata, not to mention many senseless,

violence and killings that is ravaging this nation with much disbelief, shame, and horror.

These incidences follow heels of siege in Rabaul town where rival youths from Matupit and Malanguna No.1 have clashed and forced shops and markets to close. We hear no leader or leaders at all levels of government had visited and addressed the two factions yet.

We call on our leaders to wake up from slumber, from fear of SARS Cov2, from fear of losing position and power where perks and privileges are drawn, and start serving the nation and her people.

We also call on the Government to relief the Police Commissioner of the Covid-19 Pandemic management duties as Controller and allow him to concentrate on law and order in the country. Recently too much attention has been given to Covid-19 and less or no attention on the daily issues and challenges of the people and the nation. Our leaders must determine our own priorities and take full management and control of the affairs of the nation.

Our forefathers and fathers provided us blueprint for leadership and governance of statecraft in the five



Catholic Professionals Society PNG

A Light and a Voice of Catholic Faith

national goals and directive principles as embedded in our National Constitution, and the present leaders must not stray away from these goals.

Many of the problems we face as a nation are direct reflections of lack of leadership and governance expected of our political leaders and civil servants, and the situations demand our leaders to show leadership.

Paul Harricknen, OL
CPS President

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History of Evangelisation in PNG - Part 4

Fr. Victor Roche SVD, Secretary for New Evangelization

Fr. William Shaefer and Br. Anton Baas left Alexishafen, crossed the Ramu river and climbed the Bismark mountains for expansion. They set up the mission station in 1932 in Bundi at 4,600 feet. After two years both of them walked over the Mondia Pass and discovered the Chimbu Valley. They opened the mission station in Mingende in the Waghi Valley in 1934.

Fr. William Ross and 70 New Guinean carriers reached Wilya, Mt. Hagen after a trek of 38 days. Bp. Wolf authorized them to start the mission station in Mt. Hagen in 1934. A German Organization called MIVA in 1935 donated a two seater plane called *Paulus* and a larger plane called *Petrus for the two vicariates*. World War II started on 7 December 1941 and by December

1942 Japan had invaded Rabaul, Wewak, Lae and Madang. Missionaries from Bp. Wolf's Vicariate were interned at Manam Island and missionaries from Bp. Loerk's Vicariate at Kairiru Island. Bp. Loerks and 38 missionaries on the Japanese ship *Akikaze* and Bp. Wolf and 46 missionaries on ship called *Dorish Maru* were killed.

During the WW II altogether 122 missionaries or 53% lost their lives and 90% of the churches, schools and other buildings were destroyed. Mission work went on with the faithful catechists in the mission stations. The Japanese surrendered on 2 September 1945 and the WW II was over. The missionaries were able to return to the dioceses. Rebuilding of stations and expansion of evangelization went on with full enthusiasm.

As the years passed, mission work flourished and the two vicariates were divided and subdivided into: Vanimo, Aitape, Wewak, Lae and Madang; Goroka, Kundiawa, Mendi, Wabag and Mt. Hagen.

At the time of independence of PNG in 1975, 276 SVDs were involved in the Dioceses and special apostolates. As the years passed, vocations to priesthood and religious life started decreasing. In the year 2021, in the 125th year of their presence in PNG, 91 SVDs are serving in the dioceses of Wabag, Mt. Hagen, Kundiawa, Goroka, Wewak, Madang and Port Moresby.

They are also working in the special apostolates of Divine Word University, Melanesian Institute, Wantok Publishing and other ministries. 10 Papua New Guinea SVDs are serving as Missionaries overseas.



Come and See

Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb
Secretary for Social Communication

On the banks of the Jordan and on the Sea of Galilee, Jesus invited his disciples to a close and intimate encounter. 'Come and See' was his reminder to them. This is the theme for 'World Communication Sunday' to be celebrated on 16th May, 2021.

Inspiration in every message: The message is a reminder to journalists as well each one of us that all our communication, be it political, social or religious be inspirational by their clarity and honesty. We need to, 'Open our eyes to the wonder of what we see, let our hands touch the freshness and vitality of things, so that when others read what is written, they can touch first-hand the miracle of life'. (Message of WCD21)

Newspapers, radio, television and webcasts have to be concerned about investigative reporting. It is therefore essential that we encounter people as we meet them face to face, research stories and verify situations first hand. It is only when we spend time with people that we can listen to their stories and confront reality through their eyes.

Transformation of lives: Encountering people gives us the opportunity to build good and strong relationships. Jesus invites his disciples into a relationship; Philip invites Nathaniel while the Samaritan woman transforms her life when she encounters 'Jesus' who is the 'Truth'. 'Come and See' invites us to encounter a person and let his or her testimony speak to you.

Passionate about 'Truth' many journalists, camera persons and editors have risked their lives to portray the hardships encountered by persons, through violence, war, abuse injustice inflicted on the poor and the destruction to the environment. Our present pandemic reveals to us the truth of the war – war on Covid-19 and war on the Economy. But we are fighting a greater way – that of the Global North and the Global South and sadly within our country Papua New Guinea, the revelation of lack of information while the poor remain at the end of the line to receive any social or economic benefit.

Immense possibilities ahead: Digital technology and social media give us the opportunity to share what unfolds before our eyes, but it also comes with the responsibility to discern critically what we send and what we receive. All of us need to be witnesses of the 'Truth': see things in person, learn things first hand and communicate with our eyes, our gestures, the tone of our voice and our words.

Let's always remember that our invisible God can only be tangible, if the 'Good News' can only be preached by the witness and the commitment of our lived lives. The challenge that awaits us, then is to communicate by encountering people, where they are and as they are.

Lord, grant us the grace to recognize your dwelling place in our world and the honesty needed to tell others what we have seen. God bless us all.



The Creed: He ascended into heaven

- Fr. Tomás Ravaioli IVE

Besides the resurrection of Christ, we must also believe in his ascension. Hence, the Creed says: "He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty." Concerning this we ought

to observe some things:

- 1) He ascended up to the very throne of the Father and sits at his right hand. Inasmuch as Christ is God, he is said to sit at the right hand of the Father, that is, in equality with the Father.
- 2) Heaven was due to Christ by his very nature, since he came from there: "I came forth from the Father and am come into the world; again I leave the world and I go to the Father." (Jn 16:28). And also: "No man ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, the Son of man who is in heaven." (Jn 3:13)
- 3) Heaven is due to Christ because of his victory. For he was sent into the world to combat the devil, and he did overcome him. Therefore, Christ deserved to be exalted above all things: "I also have overcome

and am set down with My Father in His throne." (Rev 3:21).

4) The Ascension is reasonable because of the humility of Christ. There never was humility so great as that of Christ, who, although he was God, yet wished to become man. For this he deserved to be exalted even to heaven and to the throne of God, for humility leads to exaltation: "He who humbles himself shall be exalted." (Lk 14:11)

St Thomas Aquinas teaches: "The Ascension of Christ was very beneficial for us.

Firstly, as our Leader, because he ascended in order to lead us: 'I go to prepare a place for you.' (Jn 14:2)

Secondly, that he might draw our hearts to Himself: 'For where your treasure is, there is your heart so.' (Mt 6:21).

Thirdly, to let us withdraw from worldly things: 'Seek the things that are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. Mind the things that are above, not the things that are upon the earth' (Col 3:1)".

- Nigel Akuani

Seek the Truth and Change Lives

Port Moresby: Never stop seeking the truth because knowing the truth changes our lives and nothing can replace things experienced first-hand.

This was the message of the first Media Education Seminar held on Saturday 1st May 2021, at the Catholic Bishops Conference (CBCPNGSI), Waigani, that had as its theme: 'Hope Amidst COVID-19'.

The seminar also dealt with the 2021 World Communication Day (WCD) Message from His Holiness Pope Francis entitled: 'Come and See' (Jn 1:46) Communicating by Encountering People as They Are. The 55th WCD will be celebrated on Ascension Sunday, 16th May 2021.

Facilitated by the Social Communications Commission of CBCPNGSI that had the participation of 33 students from six Catholic Mission schools that included De La Salle Secondary School, Marianville Secondary School, Don Bosco Technological Institute, La Salle Technical College, Limana Vocational Centre and St Charles Lwanga Secondary School.

It highlighted specific aspects of Print media ranging from Creating Posters with a message, WCD Logo, Photographs of Inspiration, warm-up exercises, interactive game sessions, meditative and prayer moments.

Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb, Secretary of Social Communication, spoke of the pivotal role media played in society and urged the young students gathered to use it as an agent to effect positive social change in their communities.

"You are all digital natives and with this advancement of technology and the development of



social media, use it to share messages that have the presence of God to inspire others and create social change in society," he said.

Media Coordinator of De La Salle Secondary School, Matthew Paofa, thanked the SOCOM Team for the informative sessions and said it was essential for them to be able to grow into critical consumers of the Media.

"With everything that the students have learned from here, I know that we can be able to share this knowledge and push for something positive and tangible for the benefit of our school," he said.

Theresa So-On, Grade Eleven student of Marianville Secondary School, admitted that though the Media Seminar seemed daunting at first, she went on to say that its concepts were made easy to comprehend thanks to the sessions presented.

"For us as students the topic of media and its safety rules in place that ensure its proper use is very new and complex but the presentations were kept simple that made it easier for us to grasp their various concepts," she said.

The 2nd Media Seminar will be held on Saturday 8th May and will focus on the fundamentals of Writing News Articles.



PNG elections 2022, voting representatives

Fr. Giorgio Licini, PME, CBC General Secretary

A team at the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands is already at work for the PNG elections 2022.

Voter awareness and voter education is the main concern. Choose wisely and choose freely is the golden rule in coming to the polls. We are not going to vote leaders, as commonly understood, but representatives. The 111 members of Parliament advocate, debate and vote on our behalf: for their electorate first and for the whole nation. They are not the modern version of the traditional chief or the elder; nor are they elected on prestige but competence.

The guys we are sending to Parliament do not need to be the richest in the district, nor the ones with the best rhetoric, or many years of life abroad and in the international circles. What really matters is their knowledge of the area and the people and how to push forward urgent and valuable pieces of legislation.

The good representatives listen a lot. They will show up back home anytime the Parliament is in recess and no other duty or follow-up engagement keeps them back in the capital city. The voters will only consider a second-choice candidates those who have been away from their place of origin for years and do not understand anymore the struggles of the people.

Unfortunately, a lot of wrong people will try to secure a seat in Parliament next year. Voters may be tempted to go for the most funny and unscrupulous, those who might come with a bag of rice today but soon disappear into Port Moresby or Brisbane or Singapore only to show up again at the next election.

Every five years or at the most every ten years better choose new representatives unless the performance and the services, not the dole outs, of the incumbents have been outstanding.

It is time to go for women candidates, especially when they better understand the needs of the district, they are not in private business, and reveal a higher level of empathy with the people. The ideal

ones, men and women, are people from the health and education sectors, labor unions, the legal system, the international relations, the administration of the State, the community services, and the social welfare. With leadership skills, of course!

What is needed is a Parliament that passes laws and enforces policies and behaviours which benefit and transform the individuals and the community. People with vested interests instead, though with a few exceptions, will tend to secure their own profit and future, to bend the nation to their own objectives and goals.

They will make you happy with a donation today, but they will not transform the country and develop it for the benefit of our children.

Some commentators already anticipate that the 2022 elections will be the hardest fought and the bloodiest in PNG history.

The only way to prevent it is that we prepare to dump all those who register their name for whatever reason other than the service of the people and the good of the country.

- Winniefred Arehu



RADIO MARIA
Papua New Guinea

APPEAL NOTICE

Radio Maria is appealing to all Catholic faithful, Christians, companies, government organizations and departments, private sectors and people of good will in the country to donate generously to support the work of evangelization in Papua New Guinea.

Radio Maria is a non-profit and a non commercial radio station. It heavily relies on volunteers and generous listeners to support it financially for its operations. Radio Maria has 10 transmitters in the country, and they are:

1. Archdiocese of Port Moresby
2. Archdiocese of Rabaul
3. Archdiocese of Mt. Hagen
4. Diocese of Kimbe
5. Diocese of Alotau
6. Diocese of Lae
7. Diocese of Mendi
8. Diocese of Wewak
9. Diocese of Aitape
10. Diocese of Vanimo

Radio Maria is appealing to you all to help and support in running and maintaining the transmitters. Three transmitters are off air; Rabaul, Kimbe and Wewak, and Aitape are running on low power.

Proverbs 3: 9-10 reads "Honor Yahweh, giving him from what you have, the first fruits of all your produce. Then your barns will be filled to overflowing, your vats will brim over with wine."

Please donate one tenth of your earnings to help Radio Maria with your generous heart:

1. Please deposit your donation into these two bank accounts:

BSP: Acc. No. 1001264915.

Kina Bank: Acc. No. 13081963.

Account Name for both is Radio Maria PNG Inc.

2. You can come to the studios at **Gordons 5, Still street** and give your donation or you can live your donation at **Catholic Bishops' Conference office counter.**

3. You can contact **Fr. Martin We-en** on **70382923** to come and see you and collect your donation.

You can also contact **Radio Maria Admin** on **3259178** or **President Mr. John Anuma** on **73764477**

Thank you and God bless you
and reward you for your generous heart.

Youth celebrate Vocation Sunday



Honiara: The Christ the King Parish held its first youth gathering for 2021, to celebrate Vocation Sunday on the 23rd to 25th April.

In attendance were about 200 youths from the 14 Christian communities of the parish under the theme, "Youth Holy, formed and sent for Service". During the 3 days celebration, a different animator was in charge, each giving a different formation to the young.

Easter celebrations in Alotau

Alotau: A very special ceremony for two sisters of the MSI congregation was held at the Sacred Heart Cathedral of Alotau on Thursday 11th April.

The main Celebrant was Bishop Rolando Santos and concelebrated by Fr. Robert and Fr. Francis.

Sisters Cynthia from Kurada and Angela from the Highlands made their First Profession. It was a joyous moment for the MSI Congregation and the family of the two Sisters.

It also marked the Feast of the Divine Mercy where Bishop Rolando invited the Sisters to embrace the Mercy of God in their Missionary lives. Sr Vimala, the provincial superior of the MSI Sisters and the other Sisters congratulated the newly professed sisters with great joy.

The message at the end of the Eucharistic Celebration from the Newly professed Sisters is to



pray for more vocations in the Priesthood and the Religious life. Meanwhile, the Easter Vigil on 10th April had 8 baptism candidates in which 4 received their confirmation and 1st Holy Communion.

- Japhet Kemali

Touch our hearts and awaken us



The Risen Lord touches our hearts and awakens us each time when we receive His Body and Blood, and so, the church has to touch the hearts of the youths and awaken them to follow the Risen Lord, as He is the way, the truth and the life."

These were the scriptures highlighted during a Youth Rally celebrating the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord to Passion, held on 25th

communities and the engagement of more than 200 youths.

Presentations were given by Fr. Giannie and Br. Walter Kalana Ofm, that dwelled on Maria, Youth, Vocation, History of the Cross and Holiness.

Activities were held in between that focused on Rot Kruse, Benediction, Confession, Movie Viewing, Sports, singing and dancing.

- Walter Kalana

to 28th March 2021, at the St. Gabriel Parish in the Diocese of Aitape.

The rally organized by youths with the assistance of Parish Priest, Fr. Giannie Gattei Ofm, had the support of surrounding

Week of prayer for Christian Unity

ASCENSION – PENTECOST: 16 – 23 MAY 2021

“Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit” (cf. John 15:5-16)

Gen 12:1-4 The call of Abraham

John 1:35-51 The call of the first Disciples

Meditation: Like the disciples, and Abraham before them, we are called to leave what is familiar and follow Christ to the place God has prepared for us.

Prayer: Jesus Christ, you seek us, you wish to offer us your friendship and lead us to a life that is ever more complete. Grant us the confidence to answer your call so that we may be transformed and become witnesses of your tenderness for the world.

Day Two: Maturing Internally

“Abide in me as I abide in you” Jn 15:14a

Eph 3:14-21 May Christ dwell in our hearts

Luke 2:41-52 Mary treasured all these things

Meditation: Mary pondered the actions of her son and considered them in her heart. For us, spiritual maturity arises from the silent listening of the heart.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, May we receive in our hearts the presence of Christ, and cherish it as a secret of love. Nourish our prayer, enlighten our reading of Scripture, act through us, so that the fruits of your gifts can patiently grow in us.

Day Three: Forming one Body

“Love one another as I have loved you” Jn 15:12b

Col 3:12-17 Clothe yourself with compassion

John 13:1-15; 34-35 Love one another.

Meditation: Christ gives his disciples a model of Christian life when he washes the Disciples’ feet. We are called to unity: imitating Christ’s humility in mutual compassion for one another.

Prayer: God our Father, you reveal to us your love through Christ and through our brothers and sisters. Open our hearts so that we can welcome each other with our differences and live in forgiveness. Grant us to live united in one body, so that the gift that is each person comes to light. May all of us together be a reflection of the living Christ.

Day Four: Praying Together

“I do not call you servants . . . I call you friends” Jn 15:15

Romans 8:26-27 The Spirit helps us in our weakness

Luke 11:1-4 Lord, teach us to pray

Meditation: When we struggle to pray in private we can say with the Disciples, “Lord, teach us to pray.” Our common prayer together can forge the bonds of communion and friendship.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, your entire life was prayer, perfect harmony with the Father. Through your Spirit, teach us to pray according to your will of love. May the faithful of the whole world unite in intercession and praise, and may your kingdom of love come.

Day Five: Transformed by the Word

“You have already been pruned by the Word” Jn 15:3

Deut 30:11-20 The Word of God is very close to you

Mt 5:1-12 Blessed are you

Meditation: Consistent prayer over the Word of God will change us. Hearing Christ’s words of Beatitude helps us to see the joy and happiness that lies hidden in pain and suffering.

Prayer: Blessed are you, God our Father, for the gift of your word in Holy Scripture. Blessed are you for its transforming power. Help us choose life and guide us by your Spirit, so that we can experience the happiness which you want so much to share with us.

Day Six: Welcoming Others

“Go and bear fruit, fruit that will last” Jn 15:16b

Gen 18:1-5 Abraham hosts the angels at the Oak of Mamre

Mt 6:30-44 Jesus’ compassion for the crowds

Meditation: When Jesus feeds the multitudes, he takes the few loaves his disciples have to offer. Jesus calls us to be coworkers with him, making our meagre offering abundant.

Prayer: Jesus Christ, we desire to welcome fully the brothers and sisters who are with us. You know how often we feel helpless in the face of their suffering, yet you are always there ahead of us and you have already received them in your compassion. Speak to them through our words, support them through our actions, and let your blessing rest on us all.

Day Seven: Growing in Unity

“I am the vine, you are the branches” Jn 15:5a

1 Cor 1:10-13; 3:21-23 Is Christ divided?

John 17:20-23 As you and I are one

Meditation: Christ prayed that all may be one. Each faith tradition seeks communion with God. When our differences become divisive, however, we break the unity Christ prayed for.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, vivifying fire and gentle breath, come and abide in us. Renew in us the passion for unity so that we may live in awareness of the bond that unites us in you. May all who have put on Christ at their Baptism unite and bear witness together to the hope that sustains them.

Day Eight: Reconciling with all of Creation

“. . . so that your joy may be complete” Jn 15: 11b

Col 1:15-20 In Him all things hold together

Mark 4:30-32 As small as a mustard seed

Meditation: Salvation through Jesus Christ extends to all creation. God’s plan is still unfolding in the world and through people of good will. God’s kingdom may still seem small, but it is growing.

Prayer: Thrice-holy God, we thank you for having created and loved us. We thank you for your presence in us and in creation. May we learn to look upon the world as you look upon it, with love. In the hope of this vision, may we be able to work for a world where justice and peace flourish, for the glory of your name.



Christ prayed that “all may be one” as he and the Father are one. Yet we live in a time when we often bring scandal to the name “Christian” by letting our differences become sources of division. With this in mind, we are challenged to pray each day from 16-23 May for the unity of all Christians. The Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, The Commission on Faith, and Order of the World Council of Churches has published prayers for the week from Ascension to Pentecost, from which these prayers are adapted.

The theme for this year’s week of prayer for Christian unity was prepared by the Grandchamp community, a reformed Christian ecumenical community focused on the practice of spiritual retreats drawing on the western monastic tradition. The theme is chosen from Jesus’ farewell to the Apostles at the last supper in the Gospel of John (*John 15:1-17*), and the words of Jesus show the relationship between Christ’s love of the Father and his love for us as the basis for unity among Christians. Cultivating our relationship with the Father, through Christ, in the Holy Spirit is the foundation that makes unity among all peoples possible.

For each day, try to gather together with fellow Christians (Catholics and Protestants). Begin each day by reading John 15:1-17, focusing on the particular verse for that day. Read the other scripture passages chosen for the specific day, pause in silence, then share personal reflections with one another. Finish with the closing prayer of the day.

Day One: Called by God

“You did not choose me, but I chose you” Jn 15:16a

- Nigel Akuani

Raising awareness through COVID-19 talk series

Port Moresby: Esteemed Health Experts came together in an effort to enable Papua New Guineans to understand a bit more about the COVID-19 testing and vaccination situation in the country.

A two-hour COVID-19 talk session was held on Saturday 17th April 2021, at the Catholic Bishops Conference, Waigani. The talk organized by the Catholic Professional Society of PNG, had as its theme: ‘Informed for our well-being’, and focused on testing and vaccines.

It was held online using ‘Zoom’, to connect with participants in the country and abroad. Several more connected via the Facebook page of Radio Maria PNG.

Speakers included Dr Moses Laman, Deputy Director PNG Institute of Medical Research; Dr. Clare Rock MD MS, Associate Professor of Medicine from the John Hopkins School of Medicine, United States of America, and Professor John

Vince, Paediatrician from the UPNG School of Medicine.

Responding to incidences where locals now tended to become more hesitant in going in for testing and receiving the shot of vaccine, Dr Laman reaffirmed that the testing was safe, and that the AstraZeneca vaccine had indeed gone through various stages of clinical trial before its approval by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). He cautioned how viruses had a tendency to mutate, readjust and then strike, and said this was exactly what was being experienced in the world.

The 2nd Talk series was held on Saturday 24th April and based on antibody research focusing on local strengths been urged by Medical Practitioners. The session had a distinguished panel comprised of PNG’s COVID-19 Deputy Controller, Dr Daoni Esorom; Dr Samuel Maima, Medical Director of Stem & Cell Regenerative Medicine; Dr Clement Malau, Administrator of East Sepik and Dr John Tonar MD, Head of Medical Oncology with the Simbu Provincial Authority.

Also, joining the panel from the United States via Zoom was Dr Rebecca Dezube Assistant Professor of Medicine at the John Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Emphasised in the session were the current key methods used in managing the COVID-19 Pandemic here in Papua New Guinea, impact on the local indigenous population, possible antibodies causing immunity against COVID-19, the fundamental role in fully utilizing local doctors’,



scientists’, and institutions’ skills and knowledge to research the cellular structure of antibodies’ defence mechanism, testing and vaccination by method of clusters, impeding issues affecting operations, and a comparison of PNG’s experiences with those of other countries around the world.

The talk series is an initiative of the Catholic Professionals Society that will focus on Pandemic/ COVID-19 Management, Effects and Impact of COVID-19 v/s other Diseases, Impact of COVID-19 on the social and economic conditions.

Catholic Reporter

Invites you to send in your articles, photograph and reflections on events and happenings in your parish, community, institution and diocese.

Editor: **Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb**

Sub Editor: **Abigail Seta** Layout: **CBC SOCOM**

Please send in your material to:

socom@catholic.org.pg

on or before **20th of the month, 2021**

Published by: **Catholic Bishops Conference PNGSI**