



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 2020

Issue 173

Jim Fair, Zenit



Pope urges praying the Rosary in Marian Month of May

Pope Francis is reminding the faithful during the pandemic of a powerful spiritual weapon: the Rosary. In a letter sent to the faithful of the world on April 25, 2020, the Holy Father urges the praying of the Rosary during May, a month where families traditionally turn to the prayer and offer particular devotion to the Mother of God.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
The month of May is a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this "family" aspect, also from a spiritual point of view. For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.

Prayer:

O Mary,
You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus' suffering, and persevered in your faith.
"Protectress of the Roman people",
you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.
We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God; Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.

World Day for Vocations

Rome: Sunday, 3rd May marked the 57th World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The Holy Father has reminded the faithful to have the courage to respond to God's call.

"Christian existence is wholly and always a response to God's call, in any state of life," the Pope said. "This day reminds us of what Jesus said one day, namely, that the field of the Kingdom of God requires much work, and that it's necessary to pray to the Father to send labourers to work in His field (Cf. *Matthew* 9:37-38)."

"Priesthood and consecrate life call for courage and perseverance and, without prayer, one doesn't go forward on this way. I invite all to invoke from the Lord the gift of good labourers for His Kingdom, with heart and hands available to His love."

In his World Vocation Day Message, Pope Francis said that taking the right course is not something we do on our own, nor does it depend solely on the road we choose to travel. How we find fulfilment in life is more than a decision we make as isolated individuals; above all else, it is a response to a call from on high.

The Lord points out our destination on the opposite shore and he grants us the courage to board the boat. In calling us, he becomes our helmsman; he accompanies and guides us; he prevents us from running aground on the shoals of indecision and even enables us to walk on surging waters.

Vocation, more than our own choice, is a response to the Lord's unmerited call" (Letter to Priests, 4 August 2019). We will succeed in discovering and embracing our vocation once we open our hearts in gratitude and perceive the passage of God in our lives. As we live out our specific vocation, those headwinds can wear us down. Here I think of all those who have important responsibilities in civil society, spouses whom I like to refer to – not without reason – as "courageous", and in a particular way those who have embraced the consecrated life or the priesthood. I am conscious of your hard work, the sense of isolation that can at times weigh upon your hearts, the risk of falling into a rut that can gradually make the ardent flame of our vocation die down, the burden of the uncertainty and insecurity of the times, and worry about the future. Take heart, do not be afraid! Jesus is at our side, and if we acknowledge him as the one Lord of our lives, he will stretch out his hand, take hold of us and save us.

Dear friends, I ask the Church to continue to promote vocations. May she touch the hearts of the faithful and enable each of them to discover with gratitude God's call in their lives, to find courage to say "yes" to God, to overcome all weariness through faith in Christ, and to make of their lives a song of praise for God, for their brothers and sisters, and for the whole world. May the Virgin Mary accompany us and intercede for us.

- Rosemary Yambune

CARITAS develops plan to curb COVID-19

The Plan was put in place following the State of Emergency lockdown on March 23rd. The response activity plan will assist through Health, Education, Social Communications Advocacy, and Cross Cutting Issues like Protection, Gender, Food Security and Nutrition, within a nine-month period. It was made effective in the month of April.

The JRAP was developed in consultation with the Catholic Bishops Conference Commissions for Health, Education, SOCOM and CISP, the General Secretary, Fr Giorgio Licini PIME, and the Business Manager, Jimmy Son.

According to the Plan, there are two goals, and these are:

1. to protect frontline workers participating in the identification, isolation and containment of COVID-19 and
2. to improve personal hygiene in individuals contributing to healthier and safer communities.

The plan will be implemented in two phases; the focus of the first three months will be on the most immediate needs while efforts for the next six months will be geared towards recovery.

The JRAP will be targeting 6 border provinces: West Sepik, Western, Autonomous Region of Bougainville, National Capital District, New Ireland and Western Highlands Provinces.



In its role to undertake relief and emergency initiatives in the country, Caritas PNG (CPNG) with Caritas Australia have developed a Joint Response Activity Plan (JRAP) to support the efforts of the PNG Government to curb COVID-19.

In this Issue:

1. Pope urges praying the Rosary in Marian Month of May; World Day for Vocations; Caritas develops plan to curb COVID-19
2. 32 years of service in PNG; The family, our Domestic Church; Support women in life-skill programs; Coronavirus and New Evangelization
3. The Mass, but not only the Mass; Care for our environment equals governing its use; Easter celebrations; Walk the path of Jesus
4. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity; Jingles reinforce 'Stay at Home' message

32 years of service in PNG

on Thursday, 12th March. The new provincial is Sr Vimila Francis and the counsellors are Sr. Shanty Joseph, Sr. Atelina Alem De Oliveira and Sr. Shephali Khalko.

Present to celebrate the event with the sisters as the main celebrant was His Eminence John Cardinal Ribat, Archbishop of Port Moresby, bishops, priest, religious, invited guests. The Superior General, Sr Antonella Tovagliari and the General Counsellor, Sr. Biji Philip were also present for this momentous occasion.

We thank God for the wonders that He has worked in the history of our missionary family here in PNG. Our presence here has grown over the past 32 years and has now become a province. Certainly, this is a blessed day, a day in which we celebrate a great event in the history of our missionary family not only in PNG but also worldwide.

We feel that Matthew 13:31 is a fitting quote for this occasion, a man takes a tiny seed and plants it. It is the tiniest of seeds yet grows into a large shrub spreading its branches far and wide. The MSI

presence started in a remote part of PNG, Watuluma, Milne Bay Province. Our presence has grown and spread to the different parts of the country. The Lord of the harvest has 14 PNG sisters and 5 of them are in far off countries in different parts of the world to spread the Good News.

The Sisters celebrate and recognize their pioneers, Sr. Silvana Lobo and Sr. Elizabeth Joseph, who with faith and courage stepped into the unknown as they began their presence in PNG 32 years ago.

As our Foundress wrote to the first mission in India in 1948, the beginnings are always tough and the PNG mission was not exception to this fact. Cherishing the past memories are inspirational to the generation to come since they are filled with challenges, sacrifices and hardships born joyfully for the Kingdom as well as many joyful experiences, which served to lay a strong foundation.

As we begin the new chapter in the life of our presence in PNG we raise our hearts in praise and thanks to the Lord Almighty for his benevolence and manifold blessings.

We look to our past with gratitude, live the present with passion and embrace the future with hope.

Support women in life-skill programs

With the vision for women to take their rightful place in the family, church and in society, the Catholic Women's Association in the Archdiocese of Rabaul has been working hard to fully involve women in basic life-skill programs.

These programs range from Spiritual Enrichment, Life-Skills and Basic Home Management and has been successfully conducted for the women. According to the Vice President, Mrs Jacinta Lera: "The women grasped many insights on the spiritual programs and are skilled basically. But we still need more support and encouragement from families and parishes to have the women fully participate and be involved in these programs."

With the work that is being done, there have also been challenges faced by the Association. One of the main challenges is maintaining the women's desk and also empowering them in terms of women's involvement in the Churches Structures through the positions in the diocese, boards, committees and so forth.

Formed by women from the three deaneries of Rabaul, Kokopo and Pomio, the Association not only conducts programs but also advocates on issues that are affecting the women in the Archdiocese.

As stated in one of the main aims, educating a woman to speak up for her rights is important as it teaches her to appreciate and value her dignity.



- Abigail Seta



'A family that prays together, stays together,' said Fr. Patrick Peyton. In our struggle to understand and fight the unseen enemy, we can only turn to God in prayer.

Regular prayer as we arise each morning, prayer before meals, the family rosary and above all the Sunday Eucharistic celebration as we gather around the television or the radio. It has now become a regular practice to join in the live-streamed masses telecast weekly and in some dioceses, on a daily basis. It has been wonderful to have parents encourage their children and keep this sacred time of prayer.

Every member of a family has special gifts that are shared within the family. At this time of COVID-19 we realise that there are many who lack the basic needs of food and shelter. It is essential that we proclaim what we believe and practice what we preach. Our words correspond with our deeds. May each family fulfil its calling to be the church in the world.

May we open our heads, our hearts and our hands to reach out in love and service to help our brothers and sisters.



Port Moresby: It was on 8th December 1936 in Milan, Italy during the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary that our Foundresses, Sr Giuseppina Dones and Sr Giuseppina Rodolfi, began the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate (MSI) Congregation.

On 30th August 1948 they left Italy for India. It was the first of an uninterrupted series of departures that continued to take the missionaries to the different parts of the world. And on 8th December 1988, the MSI congregation was established in Papua New Guinea on Goodenough Island in Milne Bay Province. After 32 years of service in the country, the MSI congregation became a Province

The Family, our Domestic Church

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb
Secretary for Social Communication

Rendering glory and thanks is the quest of every human heart. Our present situation of COVID-19 has opened up new opportunities for us to come together as a family. With each passing day we spend as a family we realize the unique gifts of each family member. We give glory and thanks to God for every person.

With restrictions on our celebrations in the parish as the universal church, the domestic church has come alive. The family is that domestic church and, in our family, we render God honour and praise. Saint John Paul II reminds us that 'the family is the Domestic church. It is the Church in miniature'.

As each family grows and builds itself up, it searches for occasions to reach out in love and service to our brothers and sisters. Every family is Sacred as it grows in holiness. As it grows it realizes its ministry of Evangelization. Respect for every member in the home is vital.

Every person contributes to the daily activity, be it cooking a delicious meal, cleaning the dishes and taking out the trash, washing the clothes or sweeping the floor. Spending the past few weeks at home has given us the chance to realize that every action is sacred and special.

Coronavirus and New Evangelization

Fr. Victor Roche SVD, Secretary for New Evangelization

Governments and people all over the world including PNG are fighting against the invisible enemy, the Coronavirus. More than 3.1 million people have been affected and 230,000 people have died from 195

countries of the world. us.' Moses according to the Lord's direction, made a bronze snake and mounted it on a pole, and whenever anyone who had been bitten by a snake looked at the bronze snake, he recovered". After the death of many people by the poisonous snakes, the people realized **their sins**. The lockdown is a God-given time to reflect on our 'sins':

•**Israelites were complaining about food and water and material things:** Today, people throughout the world are more worried about money with which they can buy material things and gather wealth for themselves. In PNG too, we are worried about money and material things and we like to make easy money.

•**People were complaining about God and Moses:** Many developed countries have lost their Christian roots; some people do not even believe in God (Atheists). PNG is a Christian Country (96% Christians). Most of them faithfully belong to one church or another. But still money, materialism, corruption, sorcery, witchcraft etc. pervade every sphere of life.

•**God was not happy with Moses and Aron because of their lack of faith:** "Because you were not faithful to me in showing forth my sanctity before the Israelites, you shall not lead this community into the land I

will give them" (Numbers 20:12). The **Priests and Prophets** of today have not been faithful to God and their people. The **Leaders** of nations and communities have failed in their responsibilities.

•**Repentance and reconciliation:** We need to reflect and go back to God, the Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier. The lockdown throughout the world is a God-given time to repent and reconcile with the merciful God.

•**For the Catholics:** We need to pray for the faithfulness of the priests; we need to pray for the faithfulness of the Catholics; we need to pray that all the Christians throughout the world may look at the cross and live ("Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life" (John 3:14,15).

We need to pray the Corona (Rosary) for the Virus to cease. Pope Francis has asked ALL the Catholics to pray the Rosary for this intention. The Coronavirus is sweeping the world with its fiery effect. It is the time for the people to realize that there is a crown after the cross. There is no life without its pain and suffering. There is a Good Friday before Easter. Jesus died on the cross and rose again. He is the King of kings.





The Mass, but not only the Mass!

Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME, CBC General Secretary

The lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic has taken away some of our Sunday Eucharistic celebrations last month, including the Easter Triduum, and kept us at home. It has been worse than taking away food and water since the hunger of the spirit is more acute than the hunger of the body. Many lessons, however, were learned:

1. We were forced to think at the fact that, what we experienced in the cities and big towns for a few weeks is just ordinary practice in remote areas. The regular Sunday Mass simply does not exist there. Our brothers and sisters in far flung villages will see a priest once a month, or every three months, or six months, or perhaps more than one year.

2. In April we prayed more with the family, together we stood in front of the TV screen or around the radio on Sunday; it was not like being at the parish, but it has strengthened family bonds.

3. Forcibly kept away from the Body and Blood of Christ, we probably valued more the nourishment of the Word; on Sunday at Mass we do not pay much attention to the readings; frequently they are not properly proclaimed; we even attribute more importance to the homily, which is a commentary, than to the Word of God from the Old Testament and the New Testament; it is a bit overshadowed by the ensuing Liturgy of the Eucharist.

4. During the lockdown we may have given a thought at the meaning and the components of Sunday. In Latin it is the "Dies Dominica" (the Day of the Lord); in English the Day of the Sun, which again for us is the Lord. Sunday is not only the day for the Mass. It is a day of larger and more creative community service. It is also a day of rest from the ordinary occupation of life and away from the workplace. I wonder how carefully we normally balance the Day of the Lord between church (for the Eucharist), service of community and family, and rest for ourselves.

5. We tend to complain when there is no Mass on Sunday at the parish or at the chapel. But the priest standing and looking from the altar, can also tell us how many times we are absent or late, just sneaking in and sitting on the remotest chair at the back.

There are at least three resolutions we can take at the end of the lockdown and the State of Emergency.

The scarcity of priests for Sunday Mass and the Sacraments in remote areas in ordinary times makes us **pray and work harder for more vocations** and for the priests to faithfully remain in ministry.

Furthermore, our limited familiarity with the Scriptures is a constant reminder of the need to often open the Bible, **read and proclaim the Word of God well beyond the readings and the homily at the Sunday Mass.** The practice of reading,

reflecting, contemplating, and praying the Scripture is called *Lectio Divina*. It can be practiced individually or in group. It can be made up of several steps, but it basically consists of trying to understand the text, confront it with our life, pray over it. It can be done on the readings of the following Sunday, and then at church better appreciate the comments given in the homily.

Yes, the Sunday Mass cannot stand alone. Theologians say that the Eucharist is *culmen et fons*, meaning "summit and source" of what precedes and follows it, especially in terms of prayer, charity and works of justice. I was recently told that a "strong Catholic" businessman in Port Moresby would under any circumstances afford employment to a refugee. That is an example of the Eucharist being totally sterile and disconnected from daily life.

The lockdown of the spirit is much worse than the temporary lockdown of the parish church due to a pandemic! That of the Port Moresby businessman may be an extreme case, but by contrast it reminds us of the fact that the Works of Charity and Justice, the Word of God, and the Body and Blood of Christ cannot stand alone.

The Catholic identity and faith are made up of the three of them. Together and always.



Care for our environment equals governing its use

- Marie Mondu, CBC Development Secretary

Papua New Guinea's principal forestry legislation is the Forestry Act of 1991. This law provides for the conservation, development, and management of its

forest resources.

The Act also allocates forest rights and responsibilities through the required Forest Management Agreements between customary landowners and the government. Landholders sell cutting rights to the PNG Forest Authority in exchange for timber royalties. The Forest Authority may then grant the cutting rights to third parties within the private sector. The majority of PNG's forests are held by communities and individual PNG clans, and there are still many large inaccessible areas of forests that fall outside of formal forest management.

There is a general agreement that the forestry legislation in PNG consists of policies, laws, regulations and guidelines that are sufficient to ensure sustainable forest management. However, there are serious implementation and enforcement issues, which allow illegal and unsustainable logging to go unchecked. It is important that all Papua New Guineans who are customary land owners must understand and have access to legal advice on the different laws governing the use and management of forest. The lack of these has resulted in ill informed decisions costing the environment's health. The broader impact is experienced in high carbon emissions when large volume of forests are logged annually.

In a typical rural village, we need trees for shelter, fuel (fire), fencing, canoe, artefacts (kundu drums, carvings, paint sap, bark for string bags,) medicine, food (fruits, vegetable), land boundaries etc. How many times do we pause to think, if I cut this tree now, how long will it take to grow another exact tree that will continue to supply my clan with those necessities? The practice of Forest Farming, seed harvesting and replant has been a part of customary practice but in small scale and not a core value. However, regardless of whether you are a forestry company or individual land owner, the constitution of PNG governs us all and must be upheld by all Papua New Guineans. PNG's Constitution provides that its natural resources and the environment will be conserved for the benefit of all and repaired for the future. Further, the constitution also requires that parties:

- (1) apply wise use toward natural resources;
- (2) conserve and replenish the environment for the benefit of all, and
- (3) take all necessary steps to protect wildlife.

-PNG Constitution Article 4

Easter celebration from the Red Zone

Daru-Kiunga: The Diocese of Daru-Kiunga celebrated Easter with less participation of the Catholic community after Western Province was declared a Red Zone of COVID-19 in the country.

Following the directives of the provincial government to protect the people from the pandemic, the Bishop of Daru-Kiunga, Bp Gilles Cote SMM issued a letter to the religious and Catholic faithful encouraging everyone to pray from home with their families and use the guideline prayers

for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday.

In Kiunga, the Easter Vigil Mass was held at the St Gerard Cathedral where twenty-one people, mostly religious men and women attended.

"This is the first time in my life to celebrate the Easter vigil when the door of the Church has to be closed not only here but also around the world," said Bp Gilles at the start of the celebration. The Bishop highlighted that the



Easter candle was a symbol of light of Christ. He asked everyone to become the light of Christ, bring joy, hope and peace for the people who are confused and fear the COVID-19 pandemic.



Port Moresby: The Way of the Cross was celebrated by Caritas Technical Secondary teachers and their families according to the directives of the COVID-19 Controller.

Walking the path of Jesus

- Sr Mary McCarthy

Held on Good Friday, 10th April, the event signified the prayer of the pilgrims who walked the path of Jesus along the Via Dolorosa (the Road of Sorrows) from the Garden of Gethsemane to the hill of Golgotha along the steep, narrow streets of Jerusalem. The pilgrims remember the events of the final hours of Jesus' life and they pray.

The school community was much smaller than the usual parish congregation and as we set out, the leader encouraged us to follow along the road and stop where Jesus stopped as he wearily and painfully walked to this death.

Most importantly, as we actively participated in the Way of the Cross we listened to the small, quiet voice within - seeking to hear what God is saying to each of us at this time of COVID 19.

Diocese of Wabag on COVID-19 awareness

- Fr Newman Kingi

Wabag: With the assistance of Caritas New Zealand, the Diocese of Wabag conducted a successful awareness on COVID-19 within the town.

The awareness was held on Sunday, 26th of April at Sangurup Parish and its outstation, Keias, where thousands of men, women and children attended.

Led by Sr John Mary FIHM, Project Manageress and Office Secretary, Sr. Amutha Nagalingam FIHM, Finance Administrator and the Diocesan team, the program had two groups, one for children and

the other for the adults.

The attendants were instructed on the preventive measures on Covid-19 and on the health and hygiene that they need to practice every day to prevent themselves from Covid-19 and other diseases.

Following the awareness, the adults and children were given soap, posters on hand wash and pamphlets in Tok Pisin with instructions on the preventive measures. They



were urged to maintain social distancing and avoid touching their faces and shaking hands.

The awareness program is set to continue, and the team will cover many more parishes, outstations and communities.



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Ascension - Pentecost: 24th to 31st May 2020

'They showed us unusual kindness' (Acts 28:2)

In John 17:22, Jesus prays that the believers may be united, in the same way that the Son and Father

Mark 4:35-41 (Jesus awoke and calmed the wind and the sea)

Question: What questions and doubts do you have about God and his plan for you?

Prayer: O God, your word is a light to our steps. Without you we are lost. Help us to walk in your path. May our churches welcome your presence to guide, console and transform us. We ask this in the name of your Son who calls us to be a light to the world. Amen.

DAY 3 (26 May)

Hope: Responding to Paul's Message

Acts 27:22 and 34 (Take courage for not one of you will be lost)

Psalm 27 (Hold me in your hands and set me high on a rock)

Matthew 11:28-30 (Come to me and I will refresh you)

Question: What are the times when you felt despair? What gave you hope?

Prayer: God of mercy, we turn to you when we are discouraged by a lack of progress toward visible unity. Some see unity as impossible; others see it as unnecessary. May our churches seek the unity for which Jesus prayed in his passion. We ask this through Jesus who lives with you and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

DAY 4 (27 May)

Trust: Believing and Not Being Afraid

Acts 27:23-26 (God will keep all of you safe so trust in him)

Psalm 56 (In God I trust without fear)

Luke 12:22-34 (Where your treasure is, there your heart will be)

Question: When you are afraid to whom do you turn for comfort?

Prayer: Almighty God, we are afraid when we suffer and are sick. We are anxious when someone we love dies. Teach us to trust in you. May our churches be signs of your care. In confidence we ask this in the name of your Son and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DAY 5 (28 May)

Strength: Breaking Bread for the Journey

Acts 27:33-36 (Take some food which will give you strength to survive)

Psalm 77 (Lord be with us now as you led your people in the past)

Mark 6:30-44 (Jesus fed thousands with a little bread and fish)

Question: How is the sharing of food important to you and your culture?

Prayer: Loving God, your Son Jesus broke bread and shared the cup with his apostles at the Last

Supper. In our celebration of the Eucharist we are given food for the journey that makes us strong. Give us strength to build bridges of compassion and harmony. We ask this in the name of your Son who gave his life that we might live. Amen.

DAY 6 (29 May)

Hospitality: Showing an Unusual kindness

Acts 28:1-2 and 7 (When we landed at Malta the people showed us great kindness)

Psalm 46 (God is our strength in times of distress)

Luke 14:12-24 (Bring in the poor for not one of those invited will enjoy my dinner)

Question: Who has shown you unusual kindness? Whom have you been kind to?

Prayer: Almighty God of the orphan and the widow, open our eyes and hearts when you ask us to feed you, to clothe you and to visit you. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus, who is present in the least of our sisters and brothers. Amen.

DAY 7 (30 May)

Conversion: Changing Our Hearts and Minds

Acts 28:3-6 (A poisonous snake attacked Paul but he shook it off and was unharmed)

Psalm 119:137-144 (Although distress comes on me, your commands are my delight)

Matthew 18:1-6 (Unless you become like a little child, you will not enter the Kingdom)

Question: What are some things in your life that hurt your ability to be a good Christian?

Prayer: Almighty God, as we seek your truth, purify us from our unjust opinions of others and lead the churches to grow closer together. Help us to let go of our fears and so better understand each other. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Day 8 (31 May)

Generosity: Receiving and Giving

Acts 28:8-10 (Paul received kindness from the people and gave healing to the sick)

Psalm 103:1-5 (Bless the Lord and do not forget his gifts)

Matthew 10:7-8 (The gift you have received, give as a gift)

Question: What can you do to bless other people, including strangers?

Prayer: Lord, we thank you for the gift of your love that strengthens us. Help our churches to be always open to receive your gifts from one another and to share them with each other. In order to give, we must first learn to receive from you and from others. We ask this in the name of your Son who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever. Amen.

are united, so that the world may believe in Jesus. The disagreements among Jesus's followers are an obstacle to the spread of the Gospel. During the week of prayer for Christian unity, we are challenged to read and discuss scriptures and pray with our Protestant brothers.

We challenge you to make an agreement with your Protestant co-workers or neighbours to meet together to pray for Christianity unity during 24-31 May. This year the Week of Prayer has been prepared by Christians on the islands of Malta and Gozo in the Mediterranean Sea. The reading for the 2020 Week of Prayer is Acts 27:18 – 28:10, about the shipwreck of St. Paul on Malta, which was the beginning of Christianity in that region. Today many migrants take dangerous journeys by land and sea to escape warfare and poverty. The reading from Acts challenges us not to be indifferent to foreigners who are in need and to trust God in times of danger.

For each day, begin by reading Acts 27:18 – 28:10 and focus on the chosen verses. Then read the other two passages. Discuss with each other how God is speaking to you through the Scripture. Close with prayer.

DAY 1 (24 May)

Reconciliation: Throwing Cargo Overboard

Acts 27:18-19 and 21 (The storm made them throw the cargo overboard)

Psalm 85 (Show us O Lord your kindness and grant us salvation)

Luke 18:9-14 (O God, be merciful to me a sinner)

Question: What do you need to get rid of in order to better love God and others?

Prayer: Forgiving God, set us free us from past memories that wound our shared Christian life. Help us to overcome hatred with love, anger with gentleness and suspicion with trust. We ask this in the name of your Son and our brother Jesus. Amen.

DAY 2 (25 May)

Enlightenment: Seeking Christ's Light

Acts 27:20 (The storm was so large that we lost our hope of being saved)

Psalm 119:105-110 (You Lord are a lamp to my feet and a light to my path)

Jingles reinforce 'stay at home' message

- Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb

Amidst the tense situation brought about by COVID-19, young people were engaged in spreading 'stay at home' and 'social distancing' messages through jingles.

The young people consisted of residents of Don Bosco Technological Institute, Boroko, Savio Haus, Bomana and Mary Our Help, Boroko were part of a session to reflect on what they hear, reinforce it for themselves and share it through the jingles they produced.

The aspirants of Savio Haus, Bomana had a session on 14th April while a session was held on the 18th April for the residents of Mary Our Help Hostel, Boroko.

These sessions were facilitated by Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, Social Communications Secretary of CBC.

"Putting rhyme and rhythm together for short jingles is an interesting way to get young people reflect on the presence situation, ponder on the messages received and communicate the same to others," stated Fr Ambrose.

While the groups reinforced the 'Stay at home' and 'social distancing' messages, others shared their thoughts of what they understood of the coronavirus. The jingles also highlighted the care for the planet and the need to keep our environment clean.



Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb with the aspirants of Savio Haus.

The recorded tracks have been sent to Radio Maria and NBC to be broadcast if found suitable.

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**

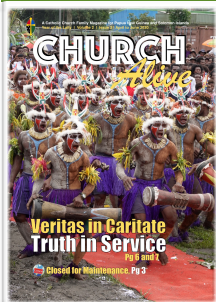
Please send in your material to:

socom@catholic.org.pg

on or before **20th of the month, 2020**

Published by: **Catholic Bishops Conference PNGSI**

CHURCH ALIVE MAGAZINE



Church Alive Magazine is now available. Catholic Family magazine for Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. Volume 2, Issue 2, April to June.

Price: **K2/**

Bulk purchase of 50 copies and more are priced at K1.50 a copy

54th WORLD COMMUNICATION DAY

"That you may tell your children and grandchildren" (Ex 10:2) - Life becomes history

Pope Francis devoted this year's Message to the theme of storytelling. He is encouraging us to:

- share stories that build up, not tear down
- help us rediscover our roots and the strength we need to move forward together

WCD20 | Message of the Holy Father | 24th May 2020