



The Catholic Reporter

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Pope: Look at life starting from the heart

At the Sunday Angelus in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis invites us to look at life and the world starting from the heart. The day's Gospel reading reminds us that "from within, out of the heart" is where problems can originate causing us to blame others for everything, when instead we need to ask God to purify our own hearts to progress in faith.

formality. This can become a religious practice where outward devotion and appearances matter most and we overlook the worship which Jesus desires with "a faith that touches the heart".

outside ourselves is a waste of time, the Pope stressed, and can cause us to become angry and bitter, keeping God far from our hearts. He added, one cannot be truly religious when these problems creep into your heart, since anger, resentment and sadness close the door to God.

The Gospel shows a few scribes and Pharisees amazed by Jesus' attitude. They are scandalized because his disciples pick up food without first performing the traditional ritual ablutions. They think among themselves "This way of doing things is contrary to the religious practice" (cf. Mk 7:2-5).

Pope Francis recalled the reading, which recounts when a few scribes and Pharisees were scandalized because Jesus' disciples did not perform the traditional ablutions before eating. The Pope asked why they did not conform to these traditions, especially since they offer good ritual habits, such as simple washing before eating. The answer, he said, was more about making sure we keep faith at the centre of our focus in all matters and avoiding being focused solely on outward

In the Gospel reading, Jesus says, "There is nothing outside a man which by going into him can defile him; but the things which come out of a man are what defile him" (v. 15). The Pope explained that it is "from within, out of the heart" (v. 21) that evil things are born." Jesus' teaching was a novelty for His time, changing the traditional perspective which saw externals as the cause of evil.

This truth concerns us today as well, the Pope said, especially since we tend to think that all problems arise due to other people's actions and behaviour. We put the blame on everyone else, on society or on the world, for what happens to us. It is as if all problems come from the outside; and so we blame others, saying it is their fault or the fault of those who govern. Blaming everything and everyone

To remedy this we need to ask the Lord to free us from these temptations, the Pope said. We need to pray for the grace not to waste time "polluting" our world with complaints, since this is not Christian. "Jesus instead invites us to look at life and the world starting from our heart", he said, and by sincerely asking God to purify our hearts. "Then we will start making the world cleaner," since a winning way to defeat evil is "by starting to conquer it within yourself."

In conclusion, the Pope encouraged us to look to Mary, "who changed history through the purity of her heart," in order to help us to purify our hearts and so overcome the vices of blaming and complaining, and keep faith at the centre of our lives.

Gutpla Wasman bilong ol Sipsip

- Nigel Akuani

Episcopal ordination of the 3rd Bishop of Daru-Kiunga

Kiunga, Western Province: Thousands rejoiced and celebrated their faith of 62 years, as they witnessed the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop-Elect, Joseph Durero SVD, the third Bishop of the Diocese of Daru-Kiunga.

Held on Sunday 29th August at the St Gerard Cathedral, the Eucharistic Celebration had as its theme: 'With You I am a Christian, For You I am a Bishop. Yes Lord I Love You'.

His Eminence, Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC, Archbishop of Port Moresby was the main celebrant at the Episcopal Ordination. His Grace Mons. Archbishop Fermin Emilio Sosa Rodriguez, Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea and His Excellency Most Rev. Gilles Côté SMM were the co-consecrators. They were joined by nine other Bishops from different dioceses across PNG, Priests, clergy, Religious, laymen and women, youths and children, parishioners and Catholics from the entire diocese.

In his homily, Bp Gilles Côté noted that the position of the 'Bishop' was one intended to be that of service and not of power. He exhorted the new Bishop to become a Servant-Leader prepared to journey with his people.

"Jesus Christ chose and sent his apostles to preach the gospel and sanctify all people, a Bishop's

duty is to take care of his flock by preaching the Gospel and helping his people live the gospel," he stated.

"Be very close to Jesus so that our people will see Jesus alive in you. Uphold the values of humility, integrity and authenticity and draw inspiration and strength from the Lord himself," he continued.

The Apostolic Nuncio Mons Rodriguez described the occasion as 'God's goodness'. He encouraged the new Bishop to 'smell like his sheep', have a 'compassionate' heart for his people and be a 'Servant of Hope'.

"Guided by faith, trust and hope may God guide you to journey with your people and be a true and faithful pastor," he said.

Bp Joseph Durero SVD, is the Third Bishop of Daru-Kiunga Diocese. He was born on 13th April 1968, ordained a Priest on 12th December 1995, and appointed Bishop on Pentecost Sunday 23rd May 2021.

Dressed in traditional *bilas*, the Awin-Aekyom, Yougom, Boazi, Kiwai (Bamu, Gogodala), Min, Madang people, the teachers and students



Bp Joseph Durero with Bp Gilles Côté and traditional dancers from the diocese

accompanied the Eucharistic processions giving it a unique and a distinctive indigenous flavour.

Following mass, cultural celebrations ensued on the sports field of St Gerard. The lively traditional dance performances, witnessed by a huge crowd, were from the different parishes of the Diocese of Daru-Kiunga. It was an expression of welcome and gratitude.

Due to recent detection of cases of Delta-Variant COVID-19, safety measures were adhered to right throughout the ceremony.

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- Fr Gianni Gattei ofm

50 years of presence in Aitape for Poor Clare Sisters

In July 1971, the first group of religious sisters from the congregation of Poor Clares arrived 4 years before PNG gained Independence. They were appointed to Aitape and had 4 Australians and 4 Irish sisters at that time.

On 25th July this year marked 50 years of their presence in the Diocese of Aitape. They have 11 sisters – 2 Australians, 2 Irish and 7 Papua New Guineans serving the people.

Brief History

Their arrival was supported by the Franciscan Brothers of the Province of Australia (1st Order) who arrived in PNG in 1946. The Poor Clares are the 2nd Order of the Franciscan family and were founded by St. Clare of Assisi. The young Clare, touched by the preaching of St. Francis of Assisi, decided to leave her healthy family to follow the footsteps of St. Francis. But, being a woman, in the 13th Century, was not safe, so after praying and talking with Francis, she started a new way of life, living inside the cloister, in union with God, praying day and night for the brothers and for the whole world, trusting in the Providence of God and working with their hands. Francis placed them in a church that he himself had repaired and where the Cross spoke to him while he was praying asking for the will of God.

Like real sisters of St. Clare, they work with their hands for their living. The first project started was a poultry and they supplied eggs for the people of Aitape for all those years. Now, for many reasons, their project is switching towards the production of Altar Bread, a much noble work and in theme with the Eucharistic devotion that Clare and the Poor Clares have for this Sacrament. Their silent prayer for all Aitape people and not only, is a blessing for all of us. Many people go to them asking for prayers and seeking for counseling. Their Convent is situated next to St. Ignatius Secondary School and the relationship between students, teachers and sisters persist until today through mutual support. The sisters pray for them during exams, the students help them in cleaning the surroundings; every year the sisters prepare cakes for the Graduation meal and the students feel strengthened by their kindness. During their study time they can hear them praying and they know that their prayer helps them in many ways.

The Poor Clares don't go out for pastoral work, but the whole world enters into their Convent and their little Cloister become their world, and through the power of the Spirit, they can reach many more people that you can reach if you walk around the world by foot.

This is Clare, patron saint of Television, that during Christmas Night, while sick in bed, desired so



much to participate to the Holy Mass, that God gave her the grace to see what was happening in the church at Christmas Night on the wall of her little room, giving her an immense joy. Their sisters today continue to place themselves in silence in front of the Tabernacle and there they can see, feel and care for what is happening around the Diocese of Aitape and around the world.

They are the heart of our Diocese and of the all Church in PNG, I should say; they strengthen our missionary work, they are always there, ready to listen to you with the heart of Jesus.



Renewing the Oikos of God

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb,
Secretary for Social Communication

September 1 was proclaimed as a day of prayer for creation for the

Eastern Orthodox Church by Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I in 1989. It was embraced by other major Christian European churches in 2001, and by Pope Francis for the Roman Catholic Church in 2015. The 'Season of Creation' also known as 'Creation Time' is celebrated between September 1 and October 4, the Feast of St. Francis, the saint who promoted ecology.

This year 2021, the theme is: **A home for all? Renewing the Oikos of God.** The *Oikos*, is a home for all, is now in danger because of greed, exploitation, disrespect, disconnection, and systematic degradation. Creation is crying out. We have forgotten that we live in the household of God. We need to recognize God's creative power and do our part to heal and restore the earth.

Papua New Guinea is fortunate to be one of the world's diverse countries. The natural environment, our flora and fauna are a great blessing to our people. Unfortunately, our biodiversity is under great stress from climate change, but more so from selfishness and a power-hungry attitude. Several realize that the economic development has destroyed land and sea and not been beneficial to the people. Young people are raising their voices against the destruction of our beautiful country. But the ones in power fail to listen to their cry.

The country has recently released its 30 by 30 Climate Change Response Roadmap. It points out 30 actions that the country must take by 2030 to respond to Climate Change. Highlighted are themes that matter most: climate governance, energy, forestry, agriculture, infrastructure, fisheries, tourism, biodiversity, minerals, and health. We look forward to becoming a healthy, smart, and prosperous nation.

Celebrating the Season of Creation is an occasion to remind ourselves that ecology is a relationship that sustains the wellbeing of the earth. It's a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment. This can be achieved through prayer, action, and advocacy. It is an opportunity for schools, parishes, youth groups, institutions, and homes to thank God for creation, realize that they are responsible stewards and involve themselves in a practical manner by caring for creation.

Every creature is important and sustains the biodiverse ecosystem in which we work. Understanding and sustaining ecology requires faith, reason, and wisdom. We join the psalmist in thanking God for creation and acknowledging that we are but stewards and caretakers of our dynamic creation.



Revival is needed in the Catholic Church - Part 3

Fr. Victor Roche SVD, Secretary for New Evangelization

In the last issue we reflected on three more challenges of the Catholic Church and possible solutions. In this issue I invite you to reflect on two more important

challenges.

12. Some Priests' homilies are not prepared or presented well. Some homilies are not based on Sunday Bible readings. Priests are trained very well in 'homiletics' and are able to give good Bible-based homilies. Some priests may not give good homilies because of some pastoral reasons.

Suggestions to the priests and catechists: Go through the next Sunday readings by Tuesday or Wednesday. You will get ideas and points for the homily as you walk, drive or as you talk to the people. You should have written the homily points by Friday night. Give one Bible verse and one story, if possible. Be precise and to the point.

The difference between a sermon and a homily: A sermon is an oration or a lecture of reprove, often despairingly on religious and morals. A homily is a commentary that follows a Bible reading, giving the public explanation of a sacred doctrine or text. The English word homily is derived from the Ancient Greek word 'homilia' which means interaction with people.

13. Sunday Liturgy, sometimes is not prepared well: Readings, hymns and liturgical dances are not practiced or coordinated well. It is highly recommended that the Parish Priest goes

through the readings, hymns and dances with relevant persons during the week, so that they are prepared well.

For most of the Catholics, Sunday mass is the only contact with the Church and God. So, it is the duty of the Parish Priest to make the liturgy a meaningful participation of all the faithful. Catholics gather together as a community of faith to offer spiritual support to one another to hear God's Word, to receive the Lord Jesus' Body and Blood and to renew their sacramental commitment to live the Christian life. The Holy Eucharist is its source and summit.

"The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice...Participation in the communal celebration of the Sunday Eucharist is a testimony of belonging and of being faithful to Christ and to his Church. The faithful give witness by this to their communion in faith and charity. Together they testify to God's holiness and their hope of salvation. They strengthen one another under the guidance of the Holy Spirit (CCC 2181-82).



- To be continued in the next issue

- Fr. Tomás Ravaioli IVE

The Creed: The Communion of Saints



After confessing "the Holy Catholic Church," the Apostles' Creed adds "the communion of saints." The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches: "We must therefore believe that there exists a communion of goods in the Church. But the most important member is Christ, since he is the head...

Therefore, the riches of Christ are communicated to all the members." (947)

And St Thomas Aquinas explains: "Among the various members of the Church, the principal member is Christ, because he is the Head: 'He made him head over all the Church, which is his body' (Eph 1:22). Christ communicates his good, just as the power of the head is communicated to all the members."

As in our natural body the operation of one member works for the good of the entire body, so also is it with a spiritual body, such as is the Church. Because all the faithful are one body, the good of one member is communicated to another: "So also we,

being many, are one body in Christ, and each one is a part, the one of the other." (Rm 12:5)

The term "communion of saints" therefore has two closely linked meanings:

1) Communion in holy things: among Catholics, exists a communion in spiritual goods, such as: communion in faith (we share the same faith), communion of the sacraments (they belong to us all), communion of charisms (special graces given to particular people for the building of the entire Church), communion in charity (love and solidarity with all men).

2) Communion among holy persons: The Church has three states: those who are on earth, those who have died and are being purified, and lastly those who are already in heaven, contemplating God as he is. Among the three states there is a communion invisible to the eyes, but real and efficient. We, who are on earth, can pray and help those who are being purified in purgatory. At the same time, the saints which are already in heaven, can pray and intercede for us. Those on earth, purgatory and heaven can help each other with prayers and intercessions.



The many duties of a Catholic bishop

Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME, CBC General Secretary

Over the last three years (Oct 2018 - Sept 2021) ten Catholic dioceses in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands welcomed a new bishop. Six of them are national bishops (Auki, Bereina, Kimbe, Kundiawa, Madang, Wabag), while four are expatriate missionaries (Aitape, Bougainville, Daru-Kiunga, Lae).

The numbers never tell everything. But we are getting close to having half of our dioceses led by local bishops: nine out of twenty now, with Goroka and Kavieng expected to have their new shepherds appointed in the next few months. Right now, Wabag has a Bishop and an Auxiliary Bishop, both natives of the Enga province.

Achieving at least a 50-50 share in our Church leadership is a significant step, which signals increased maturity and confidence by the local clergy. The old missionaries worked for the purpose of the 'plantatio ecclesiae' (founding of the church). They never thought of making a place for themselves. They had their shortcomings, but they

loved the local people with all their heart. They were not around to impose, but to share. They brought the good news of reconciliation and peace that was already theirs. The Christian message had reached their place centuries earlier; and it was for them now to carry it to the remote islands of the Pacific.

Some may think that a bishop is only concerned of his diocese and his flock. But that's not the case. A bishop is ordained for the universal Church. He is normally in charge of one or more pastoral areas of the local Bishops Conference (Family Life, Youth, Caritas, Ecumenism, New Evangelization, etc.). Two of our bishops are members of the executive group of the Federation of the Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania. Several of them, if not all, are called to participate into consultations, gatherings, commissions or working groups at the level of the Holy See, which means the global governance and pastoral care of the Catholic Church. The Archbishop of Port Moresby is a Cardinal, therefore a close cooperator of the Pope.

With such a load of work and responsibilities, our bishops get easily worn out. Not all of them reach the retirement age of 75. Visits to remote areas are

never easy with the typical PNG terrain, by boat along the coasts and the long rivers, frequently on foot to the remote villages of the interior.

A huge responsibility falls on the priests to support and encourage their bishops. There is nothing they can do alone. The priests need to be generous, understanding, willing to take up new postings as the need arises.

The clergy inevitably team up for their mission with the religious and the laity, since the catechetical work and the service to the poor, the sick, the lost and the least is overwhelming and everybody's responsibility. Financial resources must be generated to sustain the diocesan services and the pastoral work.

The bishops lead the way. But a new and stronger sense of Synodality (journeying together) is now being proposed to the Church. We will hear more about it in the next few months. Being a follower of Jesus is a personal call, which materializes in a community, the Church. Our shepherds guide us. But to be faithful, active, and responsible for the gifts we share is everyone's duty and privilege.

Don Bosco Global Film Festival

Don Bosco Global Youth Film Festival
18, 19 Nov 2021
Theme: **Moved by Hope**

3 Categories: Short Film, Animation Film, Music Video

SCAN HERE for more info: ct.dbgyff.com

LAST DATE for submission: **30 Sept** Who can submit? Anyone under 30

Prizes & Awards

15 Global Best Award, 6 Category Best Award, 6 Young Best Award, 6 Continental Best Award, 3 Jury's Choice Awards

A Unique platform and a World Class Festival:

The Don Bosco Global Film Festival (DBGYFF) is indeed a world class festival platform that offers young filmmakers a chance to express their talents and contribute to the common good. This on-line digital two-day festival will take place on 18th, 19th November in 134 countries in multiple locations with forums, meetups and will feature new and established voices. The last date to submit entries is **30th September 2021**.

Mission: Empower the Young:

The festival strives to unite educate and empower young people from all over the world on the theme of hope that concerns the whole of humanity in the post COVID society empowering young people to become catalysts of change and transformation.

Vision: setting aflame the hearts of the young

DBGYFF is passionate about igniting that positive spark in the heart of every young person who in turn is empowered positively to become an ambassador of solidarity love and peace. Its objective is to unite the hearts of the young and offer an entertaining and acceptable meeting point for all like-minded young people to come together to get informed, learn, share, and have fun.

Motto: Moved by Hope

DBGYFF has adopted the motto 'Moved by Hope' to invite the young, dream big and emerge as protagonists of hope in creating a safe and just world for everyone. This festival aims to unite and ignite the hearts of the young people with a motivational spark of hope that they must defend, infuse, and create in this our post-COVID society.

DBGYFF Awards				
15 Global Best Award				
THE BEST ACTION SHORTS (under 10 min)	ANIMATED SHORTS (under 10 min)	ANIMATED SHORTS (10-15 min)	MUSIC VIDEO (under 5 min)	MUSIC VIDEO (5-10 min)
1st - \$2000, 2nd - \$1500, 3rd - \$1000, 4th - \$500, 5th - \$300	1st - \$2000, 2nd - \$1500, 3rd - \$1000, 4th - \$500, 5th - \$300	1st - \$2000, 2nd - \$1500, 3rd - \$1000, 4th - \$500, 5th - \$300	1st - \$2000, 2nd - \$1500, 3rd - \$1000, 4th - \$500, 5th - \$300	1st - \$2000, 2nd - \$1500, 3rd - \$1000, 4th - \$500, 5th - \$300
6 Category Best Award				
BEST NARRATIVE SHORT (under 10 min)	BEST DOCUMENTARY (under 10 min)	BEST CHERMAY/TOURISM (under 10 min)	BEST ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK (under 10 min)	BEST EDITING (under 10 min)
1st - \$2000, 2nd - \$1500, 3rd - \$1000, 4th - \$500, 5th - \$300	1st - \$2000, 2nd - \$1500, 3rd - \$1000, 4th - \$500, 5th - \$300	1st - \$2000, 2nd - \$1500, 3rd - \$1000, 4th - \$500, 5th - \$300	1st - \$2000, 2nd - \$1500, 3rd - \$1000, 4th - \$500, 5th - \$300	1st - \$2000, 2nd - \$1500, 3rd - \$1000, 4th - \$500, 5th - \$300
6 Young Best Award				
BEST YOUNG NARRATIVE SHORT (under 10 min)	BEST YOUNG DOCUMENTARY (under 10 min)	BEST YOUNG CHERMAY/TOURISM (under 10 min)	BEST YOUNG ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK (under 10 min)	BEST YOUNG EDITING (under 10 min)
1st - \$1500, 2nd - \$1000, 3rd - \$500, 4th - \$300, 5th - \$200	1st - \$1500, 2nd - \$1000, 3rd - \$500, 4th - \$300, 5th - \$200	1st - \$1500, 2nd - \$1000, 3rd - \$500, 4th - \$300, 5th - \$200	1st - \$1500, 2nd - \$1000, 3rd - \$500, 4th - \$300, 5th - \$200	1st - \$1500, 2nd - \$1000, 3rd - \$500, 4th - \$300, 5th - \$200
6 Continental Best				
AFRICAN BEST	ASIAN BEST	OCEANIAN BEST	EUROPEAN BEST	AMERICAN SOUTH OCEANIC BEST
1st - \$1500, 2nd - \$1000, 3rd - \$500, 4th - \$300, 5th - \$200	1st - \$1500, 2nd - \$1000, 3rd - \$500, 4th - \$300, 5th - \$200	1st - \$1500, 2nd - \$1000, 3rd - \$500, 4th - \$300, 5th - \$200	1st - \$1500, 2nd - \$1000, 3rd - \$500, 4th - \$300, 5th - \$200	1st - \$1500, 2nd - \$1000, 3rd - \$500, 4th - \$300, 5th - \$200
3 Jury's Choice Awards				
JURY'S FAVOURITE SHORTS (under 10 min)	JURY'S FAVOURITE MUSIC VIDEO (under 10 min)	JURY'S FAVOURITE MUSIC VIDEO (under 10 min)	JURY'S FAVOURITE MUSIC VIDEO (under 10 min)	JURY'S FAVOURITE MUSIC VIDEO (under 10 min)
1st - \$2000, 2nd - \$1500, 3rd - \$1000	1st - \$2000, 2nd - \$1500, 3rd - \$1000	1st - \$2000, 2nd - \$1500, 3rd - \$1000	1st - \$2000, 2nd - \$1500, 3rd - \$1000	1st - \$2000, 2nd - \$1500, 3rd - \$1000

Details of the DBGYFF can be got from: dbgyff.com



CPS President on faith and hope

Port Moresby: Father of the nation, GGC Sir Michael Thomas Re-elected Somare

President of the Catholic Professionals Society of PNG re-elected Mr. Paul Harricknen unopposed as President for another term at its 2021 Annual General Meeting on Sunday 15 August 2021. Other members of the Central Executive Committee are Dr. Patricia Paraide (vice President), Mr. Michael Varapik (re-elected, honorary treasurer), Mr. Collin Yaum (secretary), and Ambassador Gabriel Dusava, Mr. Kila Ai (both re-elected) and Ms. Florence Sariman (members).

The meeting was also attended and witnessed by the General Secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference, Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME, and the CPS Spiritual Director Fr. Ambrose Pereira, SDB.

hopeful in these times of great difficulties and uncertainties and to focus on the preparation for the 2022 National General Elections as critical especially following the passing of the Founding

Priest senate concludes on a high note

- Bp Dariusz Kaluza and Fr Floyd Gatana

Hahela, Bougainville: Thirty-four priests from the six deaneries in the Diocese of Bougainville came together for a weeklong Priest's Senate Meeting.

It was held at the Hahela Conference Centre from August 3rd to 6th with the purpose to discuss pastoral issues and programs of the diocese.

The program had spiritual input and reflections based on the model and example of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, discussion on the pastoral planning and challenges that priests face in their ministry, discussion on pastoral concerns to find the best possible pastoral approach to make the Church Alive in Christ

The priests also planned ahead for Bougainville's 125-years anniversary in 2026 to celebrate Foundation Day on August 7th to commemorate the first mission station that was established in Pokpok Island on August 7th, 1901.



The program also saw the ordination of two Seminarians: Charles Panau and Wilbert Apunu which coincided with the Feast Day of Saint John Maria Bianney who is the patron saint of priests.

Apart from time discussions, listening and planning, the Priests' Senate was a great opportunity for the priests to support each other and become one family again after doing their pastoral missions in their respective parishes.

Opening of St Joseph Chapel in Kwikila

- Jessica Oata



Kwikila, Central Province: The Christian community of Kwikila in the Rigo District of Central Province joined the Catholic Community to celebrate the opening of the Saint Joseph's Chapel on Thursday, August 5.

Present at the opening of the new church were high dignitaries in the likes of his Eminence Cardinal Sir John Ribat, the member for Rigo honourable Lekwa Gure, Kwikila District Administrator Koru Abe, Provincial Administrator

for Central Province, Francis Koaba and others.

The opening of the Chapel was marked with the cutting of the ribbon followed by the procession of St Paul's youths who led the dignitaries and priests for the blessing and thanksgiving mass.

The second part of the program had the dignitaries urging the catholic faithfuls to look after the newly opened chapel.

Cardinal Sir John Ribat, in his speech, said that it is the people who make up the church and make the church come alive when they gather together and worship the Lord.

Giving the keynote address, Honourable Lekwa Gure thanked the Catholic Church for assisting the government in providing the much needed social services such as health and education in the rural areas.

A call for solidarity and resettlement

"These refugees need our support, both in kind and in prayers as they think about the lives and freedoms of those they left back in Afghanistan. Nations in the Asia Pacific region ought to be alert to this humanitarian crisis. Regional leaders, such as Australia and New Zealand, must help with the refugee influx by creating a special humanitarian program to provide a safe passage out of Afghanistan for those at risk of serious harm."

"We also echo the call by the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network for all parties responsible for this situation, to comply with international humanitarian law and human rights, to endeavour for immediate and peaceful resolution to end the ongoing conflict and restore peace and safety."

"We call on everyone to join the efforts of restoration of peace through prayer. Let us pray for God's help and sanctuary upon those who are suffering and afflicted."

"We also call on governments, civil and corporate organizations, and individual families to extend a helping hand wherever in the world you find Afghan refugees among your midst, including in Papua New Guinea."

"In this difficult time, we stand with Afghan refugees and prepare to support them the best way we could. Irrespective of any differences, we are all called to love one another and show compassion."

Sharing his sentiments on a refugee's dilemma, life on the run and an appeal to pray for Afghanistan was Zabihullah, an Afghan refugee who has been in PNG for 8 years.

"It has been 8 years in PNG, and we have a lot of good and bad memories. We face a lot of problems and right now most of us are mentally and physically sick, especially with Afghanistan being controlled by Taliban. Most of us have lost contact with family in the last 3 weeks and we don't know how they are," Zabihullah said.

"We are hoping that the PNG and US government can help us to resettle and I also want to say please pray for Afghanistan."

Mr Hulahu spoke on PNG Immigration perspective on refugees in PNG specifically on Afghanistan under the Regional Resettlement Arrangements (RRA) and the 20 Afghan refugees in the country.

"They are going through a challenging time because of the situation in their own country and not being able to communicate with their families is distressful. The organization that I represent is committed to look at how we can work together with this particular group of people to see how we can find durable solutions for them," he stated.

Following the panel was a question-and-answer session open to the media and those in the audience to ask.

Present for the occasion were refugees in Port Moresby, media organisations and staff of CBC

- SI Catholic Media



Gordons, Port Moresby: The Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, has made a call for solidarity and resettlement of all Afghan refugees who still remain in PNG, Nauru, Australia and the general Asia Pacific region.

This call was made on Wednesday, 25th August in light of the unfolding situation in Afghanistan that is causing major displacement within the country, as well as compelling many Afghans, to seek refuge across the region.

Speaking at the press conference were Mr Jason Siwat, Migrants & Refugees Desk, CBC PNGSI; Zabihullah Hussaini, Afghan Refugee in Port Moresby and Mr Stanis Hulahu, Chief Migration Officer, PNG Immigration and Citizenship Authority.

According to the media statement presented by Mr Siwat, there are about 20 Afghan refugees in Port Moresby, most of whom left behind family members when they departed in 2013.

Mothers celebrate solemnity of the Assumption

Solomon Islands: Catholic Mothers around Solomon Islands celebrated the Solemnity of the Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary the Mother of Jesus.

On Thursday, 12th August, more than 2000 Catholic mothers from Tangarare Parish, Russle, Savo and Visale Parish camped at Visale Catholic Parish to start their weekend celebration that ended on Sunday 15th August 2021, the actual day of the feast day of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

During an interview with the archdiocese women desk officer Ms. Sarah on Sunday 15th, said that the event was a celebration for the Catholic woman and mothers from around the Globe.

However, the 3 Catholic dioceses of Solomon Islands decided to hold the Women's gathering at a deanery level.

She said that this year was supposed to be a huge gathering which would include all other 13 parishes under the Archdiocese of Honiara to gather for this celebration, however, due to COVID19

pandemic, the program has been postponed and allowed only gathering under deanery level.

According to one of the mothers from Visale Parish during an interview, said there were spiritual recollections given by priests and talks from the priests based on what Assumption is and also on patience and humility.

Fr. Mark Misiwasi touched on Humility and patience where being a mother is challenging but it takes a woman with great patience and a prayerful heart to be humble like the Blessed Mother herself.

The Holy Mass was led by Fr. Julian, Parish Priest of Tangarare Parish with beautiful singing from the mothers gathered.

"Assumption refers to a mystery of the blessed Virgin Mary being assumed both body and soul into heaven when she died because her body was not found at the end of her earthly life, therefore, the assumption is a Holy Day of Obligation, and that is all Catholics are obligated to attend Mass on that day", said Fr Julian in his homily.



To be like Mother Mary, who had accepted her Son Jesus Christ to die for our sin is strength, courage and acceptance, therefore, Catholic mothers who gather here to show our love and affection for Our Blessed Mother and by doing so we bring glory to her Son.

The program which began with a parade on Thursday, continued with talks from priests, Fr. Luvans, Fr. Ben and Fr. Mark Misiwasi and ended with closing Mass, parade, feasting and entertainment.

- Moses Ben, CDM Communications

Mendi marks International World Sorcery Day

The peaceful and awareness march was led by Kumin Community Health Workers Training School (CHWS), Christians from the other churches, youths, Clergyman, (old and young), religious Sisters and the Seminarians joined the group.

As they walked, they chanted with placards not to kill innocent mothers, sister, crying for justice for young girls and Respect our mothers, sisters.

"The doctors or so-called glassman and bamboo man make business out of these false accusations by pointing fingers to destroy the dignity and identify of our poor mothers and girls, (old and young) in society,"

stated Bishop Donald Lippert OFM Cap, Bishop of Mendi Diocese and Hela.

"This is totally the act of Satan, this must be stopped, we are Christians, and we must follow the way Jesus taught us in scripture."

"It is not the way Christ has taught us to follow. Papua New Guinea is a Christian country and why we are believing in these Sanguma accusations, causing violence and abuse to our innocent mothers and girls in our country."

The peaceful march ended on a high note with dramas and songs performed by Kumin Community Health Workers Training School students.



Picture 1: Bp Donald Lippert marching with the people
Picture 2: Mothers and young women standing with their banner

Mendi: Catholics in the Diocese of Mendi and members of other churches joined in a peaceful march to mark the 2nd International World Sorcery and Witchcraft Accusations Violence Day on 10th August 2021, at Momei Oval.

Catholic Reporter

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SEASON OF CREATION

Theme: **A home for all? Renewing the oikos of God.**



The **Season of Creation** renews in our hearts the call to **ecological conversion** so that we may also renew the Oikos of God, knowing that the Earth and all that is in it belongs to the Lord. (*Psalm 24:1*)
Renewing the Oikos of God is returning to the initial desire of the Creator, a home for all.

1st September to 4th October