



Pope urges Consecrated men and women to make room for God's action

- Linda Bordoni

Pope Francis celebrates Mass on the World Day for Consecrated Life highlighting the importance of perseverance and asking for the courage to make room for God's action.

As the Church marks the 28th World Day for Consecrated Life on Friday, Pope Francis has encouraged the world's religious men and women to always be open to be moved by the Spirit, and in conformity with the Gospel to nourish the reawakening of a longing for God.

The annual observance was instituted in 1997 by Pope Saint John Paul II and is celebrated on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, 2 February. The theme chosen this year is: "Pilgrims of Hope on the Path of Peace".

In his homily during Holy Mass in St. Peter's Basilica with members of Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life as well as participants in an International Meeting in preparation for the Jubilee 2025, Pope Francis invited those present to "await patiently, vigilant in spirit and persevering in prayer" as by "safeguarding our interior life and in conformity with the Gospel, we will embrace Jesus, the light and hope of life."

Vigilance and perseverance: Reflecting on the prophetic anticipation of the Lord's arrival as foretold by the prophet Malachi – "the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple"- the Pope upheld the figures of Simeon and Anna, who are enlightened by the Holy Spirit and recognize the Lord as the child whom Mary carries in her arms as he enters the temple.

Simeon and Anna's ability to preserve the flame of hope is an indication to Christians, in a world filled with distractions, to remain with their eyes fixed on God in expectation.

Expressing concern for today's Christians who may have become too absorbed in themselves and in the busyness of everyday life to recognize God's continuous presence, the Holy Father warned against the possibility of letting "our spirit doze off", of letting "the heart fall to sleep, to anaesthetize the soul, to lock hope away in the dark corners of disappointment and resignation."

And directly addressing his Consecrated sisters and brothers, he suggested they ask themselves whether the intense rhythm of life may have led them to forget the importance of waiting for God with open hearts for His revelations and presence.

Obstacles to waiting: The Pope then identified two obstacles that hinder the ability to wait. The first, he said, is the neglect of the interior life, where weariness replaces amazement, and bitterness overshadows gratitude.

The second obstacle is adapting to a worldly lifestyle, characterized by speed, activism, and the pursuit of immediate gratification.

In such a context - in pagan times, he explained, waiting becomes a challenge that demands a willingness to slow down.

To do so, the Holy Father continued it is necessary "to recover the lost grace: to return, through an intense interior life, to the spirit of joyful humility, of silent gratitude," that is nourished by adoration, by prayer and by the reawakening of a longing for God.

The Pope continued with a call to cultivate a spirit of waiting, careful that "the spirit of the world does not enter our religious communities, ecclesial life and our individual journey, otherwise we will not bear fruit."

Pope Francis concluded his homily reminding those present that "these questions are for us, for our communities and for the Church."



Holy Mass on the World Day for Consecrated Life
(Picture Courtesy: ©Vatican Media/Dicastery for Communication)

Meet your Bishop: Bp Rozario Menezes SMM (Bishop of Lae Diocese)

- Ahisha Mangot



Most Rev. Bishop Rozario Menezes is 55 years of age and he was Born in Virajpet, Karnataka, India on the 30th of August 1960. He comes from a family of 8 and he is the 7th born in the family with only two sisters.

He is the current Bishop of Lae Diocese and has been the shepherd for six years.

Being greatly influenced by Mother Mary at a very young age he was called to be a member of the Company of Mary, (Society of Montfort Missionaries (SMM).

He expressed that one of his greatest influence is also his mother. He describes her as someone that never gives up and very hardworking.

"Early in the mornings she is already in the garden picking vegetables and then she goes to the market. She always keeps the family intact. My siblings and I always thank the Lord for giving us great parents, they did a great job keeping us together from childhood to being adults now" said Bishop Rozario.

Recalling when he started school, Bishop Rozario shared that it was a challenge. Despite his mother taking him to school on two occasions, he returned with her to the house, crying. The next time, his father told his mother that he will take him to school the third time. When they got to the entrance of the school he pointed to the Grotto and told me that I was at home with my mother.

My father told me: "When you are at home, your mother looks after you and when you are at school or anywhere, Mama Mary will look after you so don't be scared to go to school"

Bishop Rozario recalled a typical day in their family outside of school as a busy one, before school and after school.

"My father would wake us at 5am, we had many cows, chickens, gardens etc and we would go clean their sheds and feed them and go to the paddy fields to work, we would work until 7.30 am and rush back to the house to get ready and go to the school. In the afternoon before coming to the house the sisters would take us to the convent so that we could finish our school homework and then allow us to go home. Once we reach home, we would go to either to the paddy fields during the rainy season or the coffee plantation to assist our parents. After working, we have prayer moments, especially rosary, have dinner and then sleep." Bishop Rozario recounted.

"My father is someone that loves our family, we were all expected to do everything together from house chores to eating and he made sure that we always prayed before we eat and sleep so that's why nobody came late because we knew that others were waiting." Bishop recalled joyfully.

At the age of 22 in 1992, Bishop Rozario made his profession as the member of the Company of Mary and was ordained priest in 1999. He came to Papua New Guinea in the year 2000, and worked in Daru Kiunga Diocese, as the parish priest at St. Brigid's parish Kiunga at the same time looking after St. Pauls' parish Nomad and serving as the youth Chaplain for the diocese. He was appointed as Bishop of Lae diocese on October 10, 2018 and was consecrated as the third Bishop of Lae on December 15, 2018.

Bishop Rozario was the parish priest for Morata in the Archdiocese of Port Moresby for 7 and half years

before he was appointed to be the Bishop of Lae diocese.

"In 2017 I was elected to be the Assistant General in our congregation and I was a parish priest for Morata for 7 and half years and at that time since I was just starting to build the church and I had to tell my parishioners that after 6 or 7 months I will be leaving PNG for good."

In 2018, he was in Rome then he went to Vietnam to see the possibilities of starting a new mission for the Montfort Missionaries and was also heading to PNG for a meeting.

"When I came to PNG I was going to Daru, I got a call from the Nunciature before my flight left for Daru, I went to the nunciature thinking that I will be bringing a package only to be told by the Nuncio that the Pope had appointed me to be the bishop of Lae. "

Upon hearing the news, Bishop prayed long and hard about it and agreed to the appointment, trusting in the providence of God and maternal care of Mother Mary.

When asked about his diocese, he said even though living among 80% of Lutherans, the diocese is seeing progress. In the beginning there were only 10 priests and there will soon be 21 priests coming to serve the church.

"There was one lady making host, she used to make the host twice a week but now she's making the host every day. This means that the number of people going to the church has increased. It's amazing to see that the churches are full now." Our priests are working so hard among the people, he added.

When asked about his plans for the diocese in the future, he said that his only dream is to build a church where God is in the centre.

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Looting the city, looting the country

- Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME | CBC General Secretary



It took everybody a few days to make sense of the sudden riots of Black Wednesday 10th January in Port Moresby. In the meantime, the blame game started as if there was somebody more responsible than others. But we need to take collective responsibility. The common citizens, the Churches, the State, and the government are equally responsible.

Several citizens are opportunists. Not only they flock in excessive numbers to the nation's capital without good reasons of studies or work, but also throw rubbish in the streets, organize in gangs, bring to the city the conflicts of the Highlands, impose their ways on the more peaceful and remissive coastal people.

The Churches are too fragmented now. The mainline traditional Churches have lost a lot of their moral hold on the communities. They are said to be still providing consistent social services in education and health but there is not much left of the evangelization afflatus and transformative Gospel values of the times of the missions before

independence. The new Evangelical and Pentecostal communities largely confuse faith, politics and money pursuing the Prosperity Gospel rather than the conversion of hearts and righteousness of life. The drop in general education and critical thinking is driving the country into the abyss of religious fundamentalism and the anachronistic idea of Christianity as the religion of the Constitution.

That would further compromise the already deteriorating independence of the constitutional bodies and weaken the idea that the State is larger than the government of the day and does not coincide with it. The State is functioning less now than at the time of independence. Fifty years ago, the concern was about the limited number of citizens in possession of the required level of studies and experience to run the State, its departments and agencies. Now that the enthusiastic pioneer administrators are gone, their successors are plagued with issues of corruption, self-interest, *wantokism* and favoritism, poor ministerial performance and outcome.

Eventually the buck stops with the government which reflects the poor state of affairs at the general level. With the least credible Parliament in the history of the country, where majority of the members are

likely to have won in the counting rather than the voting, Papua New Guinea has seen too little in the past five years or so in terms of political clean up, fight to corruption, local and foreign investments, development in health and education, urban and rural electrification, air and sea transport, control of prizes of basic goods; only the rhetoric and the unachievable goal of the "richest black Christian nation on earth".

The Prime Minister tried to patch up things after the 10th of January, and rightly so. The government reshuffle, however, raises more questions than the answers it provides. The appointment, re-appointment, or retention of ministers the people had already rejected tells more than enough of the lack of democratic sensitivity and respect by the political leadership. Those who failed to control and discipline the police are still in charge of the police. Those who just a few months ago astonishingly told the Parliament that there is no employment emergency in the country are still sitting somewhere in Waigani making or helping make decisions. Some are looting the city, but perhaps because others are looting the country. Financially and morally.

The Letters of St Paul: Introduction

- Fr. Tomás Ravaioli IVE
Liturgical Catechetical Institute Director



The order in which St Paul's epistles are given in most Bibles is quite artificial. Usually the letters addressed to the various communities are given first and then those to particular individuals. Within these groups the order tends to follow the length of the document and the frequency of its use in Christian writings, with the exception of the Epistle to the Hebrews, which is usually put at the very end.

The Epistles to the Thesalonians: All scholars, ancient and modern, are agreed that St Paul's first two letters were **1 and 2 Thesalonians**, written in Corinth in the years 50-52. These letters were written some twenty years after the death of our Lord.

The "Great" Epistles: This is the general description given to **Galatians, 1 and 2 Corinthians, and Romans**, all written during the third missionary journey (spring 53 to spring 58). **Galatians:** is usually dated 54 or 55, during the Apostle's long sojourn in

Ephesus. **Corinthians:** St Paul wrote his first epistle to the Corinthians in Ephesus in the spring of 56, and the second one in the fall of 56. **Romans:** To prepare the ground for his stay in Rome, Paul now wrote his great Epistle to the Romans, from Corinth, in the early months of 58.

The Captivity Epistles: Shipwrecked en route to Rome, he eventually arrived there and was held under house arrest for probably two years, from 61 to the spring of 63. During this first Roman captivity he wrote the letter to **Philemon, Colossians, Ephesians** and, most likely, **Philippians**; for this reason these are usually referred to as "the captivity letters."

The Pastoral Epistles: Since the eighteenth century the three letters, addressed to **Timothy** (two letters) and **Titus**, prominent disciples and helpers of St Paul, have been given the general title of "pastoral letters". The first letter to Timothy must have been written towards the end of the year 65, possibly from Macedonia. And the letter to Titus also would have a

date and place close to it, possibly also the end of 65 and from Macedonia. St Paul was enjoying freedom at the time of writing these letters, whereas the second letter to Timothy was written during his last imprisonment, certainly from Rome and shortly before his martyrdom — which means it should be dated 66 or 67.

Epistle to the Hebrews: From the beginning of the fourth century onwards all the churches attributed it to St Paul. Prior to that, it was generally accepted in the East as being by St Paul, but in the West there was much less unanimity. These doubts were based on its obvious difference in style, syntax and vocabulary from the other letters attributed to St Paul. The epistle was clearly written from Italy, probably from Rome, around the year 65. On the website of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, under the section "Documents issued by the Commission," there is an article called "On the Letter to the Hebrews" which deals with the Pauline authorship and many other objections.

We need a renewal in the Catholic Church: Why do Catholics leave the Catholic Church? - Possible solutions

- Fr. Victor Roche SVD
Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies



Dear Reader,
In the last two issues of the Catholic Reporter, we discussed the reasons for "Why do Catholics leave the Catholic Church?". Let us reflect on the possible solutions.

1. One of the main solutions come from Pope St. John Paul II. "WE need a New Evangelization: **new in its ardor, methods, and expression**". He gave this very powerful message to the

Bishops of Latin America (CELAM) in Port au-Prince on 9th March 1983. It is relevant for us today.

2. New Ardor (enthusiasm): As the main evangelizers in the Catholic Church, the Bishops, Priests, Religious and the Catechists have to infuse 'NEW ENTHUSIASM', and 'NEW ZEAL' in our mission of evangelization, pastoral

methods, Catechesis and witness. It is said, we spend only 18% of our energy in direct evangelization. Put in more synergy (concerted efforts).

3. New Methods: We have to reflect on the **new pastoral methods**. Some of our methods are becoming 'old' and 'monotonous' for the young and the old. The modern generation is growing with Wi-Fi and AI (artificial intelligence). We are forced to be ever creative in our pastoral methods which include the lay people who form 98% of the Catholic Church.

4. New Expression: The very structures of the Catholic Church is a good witness: Celibate Priesthood, Vowed life of the Religious in communities etc. We need to find new ways of being a 'witness'; new way of 'communicating' our message; new way of 'living' our message; not only by the priests and religious but at all levels of the Catholic Communities in the church.

Five Sisters of St Therese Congregation profess vows - Fr Jose Orathinkal SVD

Alexishafen, Madang: January 6, 2024 witnessed three final vows and two first vows of St Therese Sisters at Alexishafen Holy Spirit Parish.

Sr Mary Anap from Bougainville Diocese, Sr Elizabeth Ava from Madang Archdiocese and Sr Pauline Yandasing from Wabag Diocese pronounced their final vows while Sr Catherine Sul from Bulolo, Lae Diocese and Sr Sofina Mathias from Madang Archdiocese took their first vows.

Most Reverend Archbishop Anton Bal, many priests, religious and relatives of the Sisters pronouncing the vows took part in a beautiful liturgy organised by the Sisters. May they be blessed with many more vocations!



Picture: The five Sisters taking on their vows.

Wewak SVD District holds First Meeting - Fr Gabriel Akhir SVD

Wewak: Wewak District held its first the text of John 1:35-42.

District Meeting on January 8 - 9, 2024. This was the first of a series of it was only the first gathering of the meetings to be held throughout the year 2024 yet the district members still had the time to listen to the previous meeting minutes, to discuss on some district matters and to notice some announcements from Br Szymon Porwol SVD as the District Superior.

Present were most of the district members with only two members being away. Br Hermann Specht was not in the meeting due to health issues and Fr Francis Hungan was still on his home leave.

During the sermon at the opening mass, Fr Samuel Kokut reminded the district members the importance of spiritual life as SVDs. This was deeply connected to the following program, the Bible Sharing, where all the district members could enrich each other by sharing their spiritual views based on



Picture: Wewak District Members in the meeting

28th World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life

- Sr Daisy Anne Lisania Augustine MSC
Secretary for Social Communication



On February 2, the Catholic Church will hold its annual celebration of World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life. Parishes are asked to commemorate the event. This event is a special time for individual parishes to celebrate the gift of consecrated life and pray for men and women discerning a consecrated vocation with the global Catholic Church.

Instituted by Saint John Paul II in 1997, World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life is celebrated in conjunction with the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas Day, which commemorates through the blessing and lighting of candles that Christ is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples.

In his message for the first World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life, Pope St John Paul II wrote; the celebration of the World Day for Consecrated Life, is intended to help the entire Church to esteem ever more greatly the witness of those persons who have chosen to follow Christ by means of the practice of

the evangelical counsels and, at the same time, is intended to be a suitable occasion for consecrated persons to renew their commitment and rekindle the fervor which should inspire their offering of themselves to the Lord.

Reflecting on the mission of the consecrated life in the present and in the future of the Church, Pope St John Paul II continued; The mission of the consecrated life in the present and in the future of the Church, now at the threshold of the third millenium, concerns not merely those who have received this special charism, but the entire Christian community.

He emphasizes the mission of consecrated life in his post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Vita Consecrata* issued in 1996, he wrote: "In effect, *the consecrated life is at the very heart of the Church* as a decisive element for her mission, since it 'manifests the inner nature of the Christian calling' and the striving of the whole Church as Bride towards union with her one Spouse" (VC 3). Thus, I would like to renew the invitation to consecrated persons to look to the future with confidence, relying on the fidelity of God and the power of his grace, who is always able to accomplish new wonders: "You have not only a

glorious history to remember and to recount, but also a *great history still to be accomplished!* Look to the future, where the Spirit is sending you in order to do even greater things" (VC 110)

The Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and the Societies of Apostolic Life announced on its website that the Holy Father Francis will preside the Eucharistic Celebration on February 2, at 5:30 p.m. as part of the solemn celebrations for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. St Peter's Basilica will be the gathering point for all members.

This year's Celebration of Holy Mass will be enriched by the presence of participants in the International Meeting of Consecrated Women and Men in Preparation for Jubilee 2025. From Feb. 1 to 4, in fact, about three hundred representatives of the different forms of consecrated life will gather in Rome to reflect on the theme "Pilgrims of Hope on the path of peace."

In Port Moresby, the members of both Consecrated men and women will gather in St Joseph Parish, Boroko for the Eucharistic Celebration at 9 a.m. on 3 February. The celebration will include vocation stories of a religious man and woman.

CBC PNGSI SOCOM Commission Celebrates Feast of St Francis de Sales

- Ahisha Mangot

Port Moresby: January 24 marks the feast of St. Francis de Sales, the patron saint of journalists and writers whose role as a priest and bishop helped bring thousands of Protestants back to the Catholic Church.

To commemorate the occasion, the Social Communications Commission of the Catholic Bishops Conference had a panel discussion. The St. Francis de Sales Feast Day celebration was guided by the theme "Bringing the Children to Jesus for a fully human communication" and the main topic of discussion "Bringing the voice of children and their issues to the society".

The theme and topic of discussion for the day's program were centred around children to go in line with the Bishop's Pastoral Letter for 2024 focusing on Children.

Activities in the program included a panel discussion with the first segment covering the voice of the church and the second segment focusing on the voice of the laity.

Presenting during the first segment was SOCOM Secretary Sr Daisy Anne Lisania Augustine MSC, CBC General Secretary Fr Giorgio Licini PIME and CBC President Bishop Otto Separy giving the

keynote address. Sr Daisy presented the brief history of St. Francis de Sales and the World Communication theme, Fr Giorgio spoke about the pastoral letter and reflected on the issues of Children today and CBCPNGSI President and Bishop of Bereina Most Reverend Otto Separy reflected on the Conference Pastoral Plan and the Pastoral Letter and how it can help to avoid troubles like the black Wednesday stating that children must not be seen as a problem but a blessing and should be formed at an early age.

Topics presented during the second segment included the importance of formation within families by the Archdiocese of Port Moresby Family Life Coordinator Mrs Lucy Lavu and Radio Talkback Host and Director for Radio Programs at the National Broadcasting Cooperation Mr Peter Sindra shared his experience as a broadcasting personnel and the challenges he has encountered throughout his career on covering stories related to children without putting their lives at risk.

Following the in-depth presentations was an open discussion where the media personnel shared their views on the topic of discussion.

The event was held as a way to appreciate and challenge the work of journalists in the secular media

and church media to be like St. Francis de Sales and had media personnel from the different media organizations like Post Courier, The National, NBC, Tribe FM, TV WAN Loop PNG, Wantok Niuspepa being acknowledged for their tremendous contributions to the Media Industry.

To end the activities for the day, the SOCOM team made a visit to the West Papuan Refugee Camp at Rainbow organized by the Migrants and Refugees Desk with some clothing items for donations that were well received by the community leaders.

The program was sponsored by SVS, Lae Biscuit Company and the Catholic Professionals Society.



Panelists from the first segment representing the voice of the Church.

- Jonathan M.S Anro, Caritas Enga

Warring Tribes in Kandep sign Memorandum of Understanding to stop conflict

Wabag, Enga Province: It was a historic moment as four warring tribes in the Kandep District of Enga Province, came together to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) court order. This was held on the 23rd of January 2024.

The four tribes were Tamu, Ipain, Mago and Yanian. This significant step aims to put an end to the prolonged tribal conflicts that have plagued the region for several years.

The ceremony was witnessed by esteemed individuals including the Auxiliary Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Wabag and Bishop Deputy of Caritas PNG, Rev. Bp. Justin Ain Soongie;

Kandep District Administrator, Mr. Henry Apakali; Provincial Law and Order Director, Mr. Nelson Leia; and other notable guests including government officials and members of the disciplinary forces.

Representatives of Caritas in the Catholic Diocese of Wabag who initiated the peace mediation through various trainings and awareness were also present to witness the occasion.

During the event, Bishop Justin delivered a heartfelt appeal to the warring tribes urging them to abandon their tribalistic tendencies and work towards building a peaceful and harmonious community.

Recognizing the efforts and commitment of Caritas Enga, Mr. Apakali extended his gratitude for their unwavering dedication and valuable time invested in resolving these long-standing tribal conflicts.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Nelson Leia, emphasized the importance of adhering to the MoU. He warned both parties about the potential consequences of the terms stipulated if the MoU were violated.

The momentous event marked a significant turning point in the Upper Wage constituency of the Kandep District, instilling optimism and paving the way for a brighter future. As the

community embarks on this path of unity and reconciliation, it is hoped that the scars of past conflicts will heal, fostering mutual understanding and collaboration among the once-divided tribes.



Picture: Warring tribe members during Peace Talks.

- Ahisha Mangot

Archbishop Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC calls for Peace and Unity

Port Moresby: Archbishop of Port Moresby His Eminence Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC in his Pastoral Letter dated January 19, 2024 is calling on people of goodwill to unite as one people of God, live in the spirit of respect and love to make the country safe and peaceful for everyone.

The call came after the unfortunate events of Black Wednesday on January 10, 2024.

Cardinal Ribat said the acts of looting, destruction, burning of shops and buildings with the Police presence was not a good example and is sinful and morally wrong.

"The people failed to uphold their Christian values, respect and promote

good behaviours and support towards the owners of the properties as they provide goods and services to our people and communities in the country"

Cardinal Ribat also shared that he was approached by the media before Christmas to respond to a collective statement made by the people that they cannot celebrate like they used to. To which he replied and said the prices of goods and services increases with time while wages and salaries remain the same resulting in people finding it difficult to sustain themselves and appealed to the government to subsidize basic store goods such as rice, sugar, tea, tinned food etc.

"What we have built with our leaders over 49 years of Independence was destroyed within a day and has painted a gloomy image of our nation."

His Eminence said there has to be a collective effort by the Prime Minister, Members of Parliament, Public Servants, Law Enforcers, Church Leaders and the citizens of the country to correct what has happened and to ensure it does not happen again in the future.

He added that blaming one another will not correct the problem that had caused the mess and unlawful destruction in our nation.

He concluded by calling on the leaders in the Government to listen to

the people's cry and suffering, especially with the current state of our failing economy and cut down on the cost of their travels and additional ministries. He also encouraged the public servants to do their work diligently for the good of the people.



His Eminence Archbishop John Cardinal Ribat MSC during a recent press conference.

Launching and journeying with the Youth through Education - Formation

- Sr Sharon Palencia OND
Youth Commission Secretary

Mount Hagen: To respond to the call of the Conference Pastoral Plan II (CPP 2), the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands (CBC PNGSI) Youth Commission in partnership and collaboration with the local Churches and the new evangelization commission journeys the Youth through the education-formation program.

The Archdiocese of Mt. Hagen has successfully launched the Year of the Youth and Children last January 13-14 and 20-21, 2024 with the theme, "Yumi wokabaut wantaim Jisas na strongim bilip bilong ol yut na pikinini". The youth and Children participants were divided into two groups by deanery because of their huge number. Upon their arrival, they walked together from the town to the Cathedral for orientation, Divine Mercy prayer, input on the theme given by Sr. Sharon Palencia, OND – CBC PNGSI Youth Commission Secretary, adoration and confession, and Eucharistic celebration to highlight the launching program. Archbishop Douglas Young, SVD shared a very inspiring message to the participants in his homily and encouraging them to be witnesses of God's love. The launching was organized by the Archdiocesan Diocesan Team of Pastoral Animation and Youth Ministry with the guidance of the archbishop. Furthermore, Fr. Simon Paglau, youth chaplain said that there is an outlined program for the youth ministry intended for the young

people to offer education -formation, capacity building and other related youth activities.

On the other hand, the Diocese of Kundiawa fruitfully hosted the five-day Diocesan Tertiary Students' Formation Convention last January 15-19, 2024 held at Don Bosco Simbu Technical College with more than 100 student participants who are on holiday. The convention was initiated by Bishop Paul Sundu, diocesan DTPA and youth ministry in partnership with the Commission on the New Evangelization and the Youth. The theme for the said convention focused on "Forming students to encounter Jesus and his church, journeying in synodality to be salt and light". The sessions and activities were given by Fr. Victor Roche, SVD, Sr. Sharon Palencia, OND, Fr. Richard Wadja, Kerygma Disciples team, Fr. Joseph Sen and Mr. Jack Maima. Bishop Sundu in his welcome speech said, "We value you because you are the Church of today and the future generation. We take pride of your achievements as you reach the tertiary level. We want you to encounter Jesus and become his disciples, to be grounded in your Catholic faith and grow as a committed member of the Catholic Church. When you are educated and formed with the Church teachings, you can be agents of change in our Church and in the world. Then, we can truly say that you are the salt and light journeying in synodality.

Indeed, this opportunity to reach-out with the youth in the dioceses inflame my soul and delight my heart to move forward and see the beauty of ministering the young in the spirit of synodality. There is hope in our youth! Let us continue to re-awaken their youthful disposition to encounter Jesus, to develop their gifts, and to encourage them to share in the mission – to proclaim the reign of God. Pope Francis has his words to the young people and I quote, "Please don't be observers of life, but get involved. Jesus did not remain an observer, but he immersed himself. Don't be observers, but immerse yourself in the reality of life, as Jesus did."



Group picture of the participants with Bishop Paul Sundu, priests and Youth Commission Secretary Sr Sharon Palencia OND at Don Bosco Technical College

CBC PNGSI raise concerns on the state of the Nation

- Ahisha Mangot

Port Moresby: Archbishop of Port Moresby His Eminence Sir John Cardinal Ribat and Most Reverend Bishop Otto Separy the president of Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands (CBC PNGSI) in a press conference on February 1st, is calling on the government to do away with corruption.

This call came after the saddening events of black Wednesday, January 10, 2024. The black Wednesday was a result of government tax cuts following the amendments to the tax laws by the parliament in November 2023.

The looting has caused a lot of negative impacts as a result of poor decision making by the government. Cardinal expressed that many of the citizens rely on these stores for the sale of their local produces are affected and so are the SME's and those who order and buy in bulk for retail sales, where many citizens depend on for their employment to sustain their lives in this tough time.

In a press statement made by the president of CBC PNGSI, he stated "We are equally concerned with the general deteriorating breakdown in the

governance of the already broken systems and institutions of the state. Corruption continues to be a major challenge, we are concerned with the unstable political climate and the steady appetite among our political leadership."

Him eminence Sir John Cardinal Ribat expressed the same sentiment stating that the cost of sustaining a budget to keep with the increase in number of ministers, ministerial staff and public service along with the bureaucratic access of expensive travels with and abroad already placed a lot of strain on the economy.

Cardinal Ribat and Bishop Otto both expressed that while the government should accept some responsibility to help with the recovery for the business which suffered loss, they also proposed that the government should take steps to cushion the economic stress felt by the citizens, not only with tax relief but tangible subsidy to help with the cost of common goods and services, and measures to help stabilize the impact on the economy.

"We remain prayerful and hopeful that our political leaders can improve for the better. That our

politicians can hear the cry of the people. That our politicians commit their efforts and time to their mandated responsibility for the people and the nation, by making sacrifices, cut costs, cushion the rising costs of basic goods and services, and allow good governance in the systems, processes and institutions of Government and the state, "urged Most Reverend Bishop Otto Separy.



His Eminence Archbishop John Cardinal Ribat MSC and Most Reverend Bp Otto Separy during the Press Conference.

Empowering Education: DBTI joins Catholic Schools in Teachers' Commissioning Mass

- Patrina Kaboanga

Boroko, Port Moresby: Don Bosco Technological Institute (DBTI), Boroko, joined fifty-two (52) other Catholic agency schools belonging to the Archdiocese of Port Moresby at St. Joseph Parish church, Boroko, for the Teacher's Commissioning Mass on Friday, the 26th of January, 2024.

"The powerful word of God created the world and all sources of life," was the theme of the Commissioning Mass.

The staff of St. Joseph's International Catholic College led the beautiful liturgy and the procession, joined by Jubilee Catholic Secondary School.

During his homily, the main celebrant, the Archbishop of Port Moresby, His Eminence Sir John Cardinal Ribat, while referring to the recent events that occurred on January 10, encouraged everyone that challenges are given to make them grow.

"It is your job as teachers to help and remind students of who they are so that they can be better citizens."

The Archbishop ended his sermon with a kind reminder, "As we step into the challenges of the academic year, let us collectively donate to the noble cause of education."



Educationists from DBTI with Cardinal Ribat MSC

Year of the Holy Eucharist launched in Mendi

- Ignatius Paul Junior

Kumin: The Catholic Diocese of Mendi officially launched the year of Eucharist with a solemn procession around mission station with the theme: "I am the bread of life, come let us adore him."

The main celebrant was Most Rev Bp Donald Francis Lippert OFM Cap assisted by vicar general Fr. Pius Hal and Fr. Nelson Matthew.

Present were all 34 priests in the diocese, together with the religious brothers, sisters and the lay faithful.

More than a hundred people gathered for the launching mass that had a beautiful setting with the Holy Eucharist procession that had people adore Jesus.

In shepherd's homily, his Lordship shared that we adore Jesus during the holy mass celebrated everyday and in the weekly adoration and encouraged us to radiate Christ's love to our brothers and sisters through our deeds.

"Feel free to go to church and spend an hour with Jesus in the blessed tabernacle, make Jesus your first friend, then others. Set your mind and heart

to Jesus and he will control your life".

Those who attended the celebration shared similar sentiments of feeling blessed and enjoying the celebration.

Meanwhile, parishioners in the diocese had a day of adoration at the main parishes.



Procession during the launching of the Year of the Holy Eucharist.

The Catholic Reporter Team

You are invited to send in your articles, photograph and reflections on events and happenings in your parish, community, institution and diocese. Please send in your material to: socom@catholic.org.pg on or before **20th of the Month, 2024.**

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