



# 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

October 2024

Issue No: 226

## Pope at Angelus: Children are God's greatest blessing

- Deborah Castellano Lubov

During his Sunday Angelus, Pope Francis encourages Christian couples to persevere in love, marriage, and welcoming the beautiful gift of life, which he acknowledges is demanding, but well worth it.

Addressing the thousands of faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square, the Holy Father recounted the day's Gospel according to St. Mark in which Jesus speaks to us about marital love.

**Back in Jesus' time:** In today's Gospel reading, the Pope remembered that some Pharisees ask the Lord "a provocative question about a controversial issue," namely a husband's divorce from his wife.

Here, the Holy Father pointed out, they were intent on dragging Jesus into a quarrel, "but he does not let them." Instead, the Pope observes the Lord uses the opportunity to draw their attention to a more important discussion on the value of love between a man and a woman in God's plan.

In Jesus' time, Pope Francis recalled, the condition of the woman in marriage was greatly disadvantaged compared to that of the man: "the husband could send his wife away, *divorce* her, even for trivial reasons, and this would be justified by legalistic interpretations of Scripture. For this reason, the Lord brings his interlocutors back to the demands of love."

Jesus, the Holy Father remembered, reminds them that woman and man were willed by the Creator as equal in dignity and complementary in diversity, enabling one another to be "the other's helper" and companion.

**Love is demanding but worth it:** For this to happen, he emphasizes the need for their mutual gift to be full, engaging, without "half measures," or ideas that it is destined for "as long as I feel like it," rather than forever.

This, the Pope stressed, requires "fidelity, even in difficulties, respect, sincerity, and simplicity," as well as "being open to confrontation, sometimes even to discussion when it is necessary, but also to be always ready to forgive and to be reconciled to the other."

**Always make peace before bedtime:** As in the past, he told husbands and wives that whenever they may quarrel or have a disagreement to never let the day end without making peace.

Also as the Church in the United States observes today, being the first Sunday of October, Respect Life Sunday, the Holy Father marveled at children as God's "greatest blessing."

"For spouses, it is essential to be open to the gift of life, to children," he said, as he called them the "most beautiful fruit of love," "the greatest blessing from God," and a "source of joy and hope for every home and for all of society."

In this context, he urged Christian spouses to be open to having children.

While acknowledging that love is demanding, he said it is beautiful, "and the more we allow ourselves to be involved by it," he said, "the more we discover true happiness in it."

**Questions to ponder:** With this in mind, he asked faithful to ask themselves some questions.

"How is our love? Is it faithful? Is it generous? How are our families: are they open to life, to the gift of children?"

Pope Francis concluded by praying to the Virgin Mary help Christian spouses.

"Let us turn to her in spiritual union with the faithful gathered at the Shrine of Pompeii," he incited, "for the traditional Supplication to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary."



The Holy Father greeting the crowd (Picture Courtesy: ©Vatican Media/Dicastery for Communication)

## Holy Father visits Vanimo on the Nativity of the Virgin Mary

- Fr Miguel de la Calle IVE

Precisely on the day of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary (September 8) Vanimo dressed up to receive the Vicar of Christ, His Holiness, Pope Francis.

Sunday morning dawned sunny and with a pleasant breeze. With the celebration of the holy mass, presided over by Francis Meli, Bishop of Vanimo, a historic day began, which would remain deeply engraved in the soul of little Vanimo.

Nearly 20,000 people, including locals and visitors arriving from neighboring provinces and even from Jayapura, once the holy mass was over, were surprised with the pleasant news that Pope Francis would arrive earlier than expected, sacrificing his rest. This is a sign of his special affection for distant Vanimo.

Great joy was caused by seeing the papal plane fly over, the people exploded with joy and songs of praise. At the beginning of the event, Bishop Francis Meli addressed the Supreme Pontiff, and then it was the turn of a girl from the shelter home, a catechist, a nun and a family to do the same. After which Pope Francis addressed his speech to all the faithful of Vanimo and visitors present there.

At the end of the speeches, Bishop Francis Meli read the consecration to Jesus through Mary, all of us present joined, and the Pope solemnly presented the Golden Rose to the Virgin of Lujan. This present is unique; it is given only by the Supreme Pontiffs to the Virgin Mary in the national Marian shrines. On this occasion, making an exception to the rule, Pope Francis wanted to present the Golden Rose to the image of Our Lady of Lujan, on the occasion of celebrating the Silver Jubilee (25 years) of her arrival in Vanimo with the first missionaries of the Institute of

the Incarnate Word (IVE) on the eve of 7th of September 1999.

Then, His Holiness left the stage to be driven around the field and greet the people. From there he went by vehicle to Baro (13 km), the missionary center of the Holy Trinity parish, where the IVE missionaries and the SSVM sisters work. It was beautiful to see how people received him on the sides of the road, all decorated with flowers and signs with phrases of warm welcome.

Upon arriving in Baro he was greeted by Holy Trinity Primary & Secondary School together with Callan Services and the Queen of Paradise Choir and Orchestra that performed for him a 5 minutes concert. Next, he greeted those present and blessed 25 images of the Virgin of Lujan. The parishioners offered him gifts, and Pope Francis entered the parish house to share a private moment with the IVE missionaries and the SSVM sisters. At the end of this talk he returned to Vanimo to depart by flight to Port Moresby.

Great blessings fell on Vanimo that day. Only God knows. The little that we can list begins with the preparation of the visit:

1 month before the visit, the evangelist Emmanuel Morop has gathered large numbers of faithful in the rallies that have been held in different parishes. These faithful have approached the sacrament of confession, some after many years. The Catholic faith has been lived in intensity, with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and prayer of the Rosary.

The Catholic papas have organized themselves with the help of our priests, and built a beautiful welcome in the sea, with mambo reeds and orange painted cloth, they wrote "welcome Pope Francis" and drew a large heart, the measurements were between

20 x 30 meters each letter, so that the Pope could read it clearly from the plane.

Another great work carried out by the papa group and young people is the large Eucharistic cross (10 meters high) raised in front of the Vanimo cathedral, which shows a chalice and a host at the top. This cross will remain as a memorial of the visit of the Supreme Pontiff, and at the same time will serve as a place to hold rallies and celebrate the Eucharist. In this year that will see the first National Eucharistic Congress, this Eucharistic cross will teach us to pray in harmony with Jesus, the Lamb of God sacrificed on Calvary for our salvation.

Finally, all of us present felt great comfort and joy that lasted throughout that day and into Monday. It was everyone's comment that Monday passed in an atmosphere of peace and general happiness, full of the blessing that the Vicar of Christ brought us so abundantly!

May Our Most Holy Mother Mary, together with her Son, truly present in the Eucharist, guard and make these blessings grow in our hearts and in all the people of Vanimo and PNG.



### IN THIS ISSUE:

1. Pope at Angelus: Children are God's greatest blessing
2. Nation building after the visit of Pope Francis
3. The legacy of Pope Francis in Papua New Guinea - the power of communication
4. CBC PNGSI SOCOM hosts Radio Formation for Catholic Radio Personnel

### Nation building after the visit of Pope Francis

- Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME | CBC General Secretary



Pope Francis opened his visit to Papua New Guinea on 7th September with an Address to the Authorities, Representatives of Civil Society and the Diplomatic Corps at the Apec House in Port Moresby.

He first acknowledged the diversity of our country in terms of ethnicity and languages. National unity is never to be taken for granted. It can collapse at any time with competing interests and ambitions emerging outside a general plan supported by "stability of institutions" and a "long-term vision and a climate of cooperation among all".

The handling of natural resources "destined by God for the entire community" is crucial. It is the sharing of wealth that makes the national consensus stand or fall. Unless people feel part of the benefits and are treated fairly, they will rebel against the authorities and the entire national community. The tragic events in Bougainville about three decades ago are proof of that need for recognition which lives in everyone's heart.

Defeating greed and self-interest (corruption) is the prerequisite for national development. What must follow is stability and strengthening of institutions, upgrading of infrastructures, education. Otherwise, economic stagnation, persistent poverty and people's mistrust in the national leadership will continue to plague Papua New Guinea.

All the above should be taken up at the same time. But it is certainly education the key factor. And not only in view of better skills and employment opportunities. But to develop a personal and independent understanding and judgement of facts, responsible political choices, more fruitful social relationships and exchanges. True that at the end one may not move anywhere, but an educated farmer and village resident will always be preferable to an uneducated one.

Human development builds the person and society. Spiritual values "infuse a soul - according to Pope Francis - and inspire and strengthen every project". "A people that prays has a future - he also said - drawing strength and hope from above". A genuine life of faith is not a palliative cure or a numbing remedy for problems, failure and impotence. It is rather a challenge to personal commitment, the

voice of conscience that calls out for the most honest and active life of service, creativity and sacrifice.

From that point of view, Papua New Guinea is privileged, thanks to its rich ancestral heritage and the subsequent gift of Christianity. It needs to be a mature and intelligent Christianity, however, to effectively contribute to nation building. Education and knowledge develop the mind, increase and foster critical thinking, help people of faith avoid the risks and excesses of fundamentalism or pure devotionism. Both are wrong human attitudes which alienate the person from reality, breeding in their way sectarianism and division.

After fifty years of independence things do not look too good for Papua New Guinea. The elites are larger in size but less educated. The positive influence of the clergy has almost entirely vanished. The population grows in number but enjoys lower quality and quantity of services. Communications by sea and air to remote areas have contracted and at times disappeared. A vision and a strategy for the country are badly needed before the military and bureaucracy of our friends down under are again in the streets of Port Moresby to understandably prevent the danger and the nightmare of a failed State at their doorsteps.

- Fr. Tomás Ravaioli IVE  
Liturgical Catechetical Institute Director

### The Letters of St Paul: Philippians



**Date:** Attempts to date Philippians generally begin with Paul's stated imprisonment (1:7, 13-14, 17). Though Paul was jailed a number of times in different places (2 Cor 11:23), this likely refers to his first imprisonment in Rome. The year 62 is a likely date for its composition.

**Destination:** Philippi was the leading city of eastern Macedonia (northern Greece) in the first century. Paul and his companions founded the Church here on his second missionary journey about A.D. 50 (Acts 16:11-40) and made one or more return visits on his third missionary journey (Acts 20:1-6). The Philippian Church was the first to be established by Paul on the mainland of Europe.

**Purpose:** Philippians does not address any doctrinal or disciplinary crisis; rather, it is a letter of

thanks and encouragement to a congregation of dear friends. The gratitude that Paul expresses throughout the letter is a response to their generosity. The Philippians supported the imprisoned apostle through their constant prayers (1:19), as well as by sending him financial assistance (4:18). The only real concerns that Paul addresses in the letter have to do with resolving a personal conflict between two Philippian women (4:2-3) and with putting the congregation on guard against Judaizing missionaries (3:2-3).

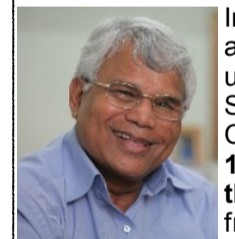
**Themes and Characteristics:** Paul gives most of his attention to exhortation and encouragement. Much of this letter challenges the Philippians to grow in spiritual maturity by imitating both their Savior and their founding apostle. For this reason, Paul holds up Jesus Christ as the model of humility and selfless love and himself as a model of patient endurance.

**(1) Jesus the Servant.** The example of Christ comes in 2:1-11, where Paul admonishes readers to serve one another in the Lord. He summons them to live like Jesus by putting their neighbors' interests above their own (2:4). Although divine and infinitely glorious, Christ freely "emptied himself" to become a man (2:7). He lived entirely at the service of others, and his heroic obedience to the Father carried him all the way to the Cross.

**(2) Paul the Servant.** Paul is likewise a worthy model for imitation (3:17; 4:9). Though in prison, his apostolic zeal emboldens others to witness to the faith as he did (1:14). Though persecuted, his joy and optimism go forth to encourage readers undergoing their own struggles (4:4-7). The secret of Paul's serenity is in the Lord, who sustains his spirit even in the most trying circumstances of life.

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

### Sunday is our Sabbath (contd)



In the August issue, we discussed about "Sunday is our Sabbath". Let us continue our discussion about the Sabbath in the early Christian Community.

**1. Resurrection of Christ is the Life-changing experience:** The frightened Apostles and Mother Mary are gathered in the upper room. But the message of Jesus' resurrection is the life-changing experience for them. Jesus' resurrection is recorded by all the four evangelists (Mt 28:1; Mk 16:1; Lk 24:1; Jn 20:1).

The Resurrection took place on a **Sunday** (First Day of the Week)- "On the **first day of the week**, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb..." (Jn 20:1). It is an important event in history of the world.

**2. Sunday becomes the day of worship for the Christian Community:** Sunday is referred to as

the "Lord's Day" in the book of Revelation: "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day" (Rev 1:10). The Lord's Day is the day of Jesus' Resurrection. Jesus' rising from the dead forever separated Christianity from any other religion. Since that time, Christians gathered together on the first day of the week to celebrate His victory over sin and death. "On the **first day of the week** when we gathered together to break bread, Paul spoke to them because he was going to leave on the next morning" (Acts 20:7).

"On the **first day of the week**, each of you should set aside and save whatever one can afford, so that collections will not be going on when I come." (1 Cor 16:2)

**3. God poured his spirit on the first day:** Jesus gives the Holy Spirit to the Apostles: "On the evening of the **first day of the week**, when the doors were locked...he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit'"(John 20:19-22).

**4. Paul and the new Sabbath which is Sunday:** Even though Sabbath was designated by

God as a holy day, Jesus demonstrated that he was Lord over the Sabbath (Mt 12:8). Although some of the Jews who became Christians still observed Saturday as their Sabbath. But eventually Sunday became the "New Sabbath" for the Christians. Paul did not want any one to change it: "Let no one, then, pass judgement on you in matters of food and drink or with regard to a festival or new moon or sabbath" (Col 2:16).

**5. Did the Catholic Church change the Sabbath into Sunday?:** The Catholic Church did not move the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. Instead, "The Sabbath, which represented the completion of the first creation, has been replaced by Sunday, which recalls the new creation inaugurated by the resurrection of Christ. Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath decided to rise from the dead on the first day of the week, Sunday. Sunday is the day Catholics are bound to keep, not Saturday.

Continued in the next issue

- Catholic Communications

### 140+ receive first Holy Communion at Holy Cross Cathedral

On Sunday September 29, 2024, over 140 Sunday School children joyfully received their First Holy Communion during the 11 AM Mass at Holy Cross Cathedral in the Archdiocese of Honiara.

The Mass was led by Fr. Clement Wane, with Fr. Peter Kevin, Assistant Secretary to the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNG/SI.

The lively liturgy was enriched by the participation of the First Holy Communion children.

During Homily, Fr. Peter Kevin reflected on the Gospel of Matthew 18:6: "If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea."

He underscored the importance of nurturing the

faith of young children and safeguarding their spiritual journey. Fr. Peter emphasized that Holy Communion is one of the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church, a vital source of grace and spiritual nourishment that deepens the children's relationship with Christ.

He encouraged the children to cherish this special gift and always approach the Eucharist with reverence and love.

Fr. Peter also thanked the parents for their commitment to guiding their children in their faith journey and expressed gratitude to the Sunday school teachers for their dedication in preparing the candidates for this significant milestone.

The celebration concluded with the presentation of certificates, followed by a joyful feast shared by families and the parish community.



A group photo featuring Fr. Peter Kevin and Fr. Clement Wane alongside the 2024 Holy Cross Parish Sunday School First Holy Communion candidates at Holy Cross Cathedral, capturing the joy of this special celebration.

## The legacy of Pope Francis in Papua New Guinea - the power of communication

- Sr Daisy Anne Lisania Augustine MSC  
Secretary for Social Communication



The theological concept of communication is grounded on the fundamental idea of Christian Theology: The Trinitarian God - Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. In expounding on the notion of the Trinitarian God as the basis of communication theology, German theologian Gisbert Greshake states that Communication is a decisive theological idea that grounds in the Christian revelation, from its origin, which addresses the centers of the Christian perception of God and the World. (*Vu Ta & Eilers, 2015*). He explains the expression "communication" in the everyday use of the word and from a philosophical perspective. The regular use of communication, according to Greshake, is derived from the root word *mun*, which means something like that of a threshold or circumscription. **This root meaning can be applied to a standard room or place for living where everyone depends on everyone else.**

It is the literal sense of the root word *mun* of helping when a neighbour falls was the indelible impression and the call to evangelization that Pope Francis left on the morning of September 9. It was the gesture of lifting up that the Pontiff was repeating that caught the attention of everyone.

In several World Communications Messages (1976, 1977, 1978), Pope Paul VI pointed out the good of every human person as the Church's primary concern. As her mission entails, the Church should care for the faithful as inspired by the very teachings of the Gospel. Like his predecessors, Pope Francis comes with a humble call influenced by his growing up in a simple home in Argentina.

The Gospel values of forgiveness, kindness and compassion were reiterated continuously on the day of the encounter with the Young. It was the call of a Father communicating with his whole person saying "I am here urging you, love your brother and sister, above all love them in their lowest"

At the conclusion of Pope Francis' pilgrimage to Asia and Oceania, Vatican News Editorial Director Andrea Tornielli offered his thoughts on the images and experiences that are destined to remain in the heart and mind of everyone involved ...

On speaking of Papua New Guinea, Tornielli writes;

[The] image of Pope Francis boarding the Australian Air Force C-130 to travel to Vanimo, in the northwest of Papua New Guinea, to visit three Argentine missionaries and their people, bringing with him a ton of aid and gifts.

The Pope, who as a young man had dreamed of becoming a missionary to Japan, had long wanted to

make this visit to the most remote periphery of the world, where he was embraced by men and women in their colorful traditional attire. Being a missionary means, first of all, sharing the lives, the many problems, and the hopes of these people living in precarious conditions, immersed in exuberant nature. It means witnessing to the face of a God who is tenderness and compassion.

Finally, the last image is that of the Pope himself. Some had doubted whether he could withstand the strain of such a long journey, in countries with tropical climates.

On the contrary, it was an upward journey. Instead of tiring day by day, covering kilometers, transfers, and flights, he gained energy. He met the young people of various countries, abandoning his written texts and exchanging in dialogue with his interlocutors, refreshing his spirit and body. He became young among the young, despite his approaching 88th birthday, which he will celebrate on the eve of the 2025 Jubilee.

It is the person of Pope Francis sending a powerful communication of love, kindness and compassion that must teach us to do the same.

## West Papuan SMEs receive resources from CBC Migrants and Refugees Desk to boost business

- Jessica Oata

**Port Moresby:** Five West Papuan Small medium Enterprises (SMEs) from the different camps around Port Moresby were proud recipients of resources that will aid them in their business operations from the Migrants and Refugees Desk of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

Held on Wednesday September 18, 2024 with the theme: **Creating Sustainable Economic programs for West Papuans in Port Moresby**, the program was attended by the representatives of the West Papuan Communities within Port Moresby, the SME owners, staff of CBC and media personnel.

The purpose of the program was for the signing of the Deed of Agreement and presentation of resources to west Papuan SMEs under the International Catholic Migration Commission funded project titled: **Recognizing the Dignity of Refugees and the Displaced in PNG.**

Following the opening prayer led by Ms Stephanie Gerep, the opening remarks were given by Migrants and Refugees Desk Coordinator Mr Jason Siwat.

Siwat gave a background on the work done by the Catholic Church to support and empower migrants and refugees, especially the local church here in Papua New Guinea.

"Despite the challenges, it is the moral duty of the church and our commitment and responsibility to ensure that every person is seen with dignity. Today marks a historic occasion for the Migrants and Refugees Desk and all of you present here to witness this SME presentation are part of this history. This is the first time we (Migrants and Refugees Desk) have assisted our West Papuan SMEs with resources".

Siwat also reminded the recipients of the resources to not take the items as gifts but as tools to use for the betterment of their livelihood.

"These resources are like seeds that we are giving you to nurture and grow. Use them wisely so that your businesses can flourish and thrive".

He also encouraged the community leaders and members of each camp to work alongside the SME owners. With which, he also reminded them that the businesses will go a long way to help them become self-reliant.

Siwat concluded by sharing sentiments of joy that despite many challenges faced along the way, all five SMEs are now registered under Investment Promotional Authority and are recognized by the Internal Revenue Commission once they reach a certain threshold.

Sharing the same joyful sentiments as Mr Siwat was Migrants and Refugees officer Mr Ephraim Bavi who said the SME presentation was the result of hardwork, persistence and the willingness to learn by all parties.

The signing of the Deed of Agreement took place after the welcome remarks and had each of the SME owners co-signing the deed with a witness from the respective West Papuan communities.

CBC General Secretary Reverend Fr. Giorgio Licini PIME led the prayer for the blessing of items and congratulated the recipients before the presentation.

Each of the five businesses received funding of around K7600 each and had to go through various trainings sponsored by the Migrants and Refugees Desk and they are:

1. Fokos Computer Services - 9 mile

2. Makomo Firewood Services - Waigani
3. Cyclop Farming - Gereka
4. WestPa Laundromat Services - Rainbow
5. Sisters Catering - Hohola

West Papuan SME Representative from Cyclop Farming Mr Philip Yembe thanked the International Catholic Migration Commission through the CBC PNGSI Migrants and Refugees Desk for the initiative taken to support the West Papuan communities within Port Moresby saying that the resources they receive will go a long way in helping them make a living.

"We are blessed to be receiving these resources that will help us and we are grateful to the Catholic Church for always assisting us in their initiatives"

Mr Yembe concluded by urging fellow recipients of the resources to look after them and use them wisely.

"When we look after something, it lasts, therefore that is the same principle that we should apply to the resources we receive today and we should use them for their intended purpose".

The program ended with a group picture of the recipients to mark the significant occasion.



SME Owners with Migrants and Refugees Officer Mr Ephraim Bavi

## Ambai Tribe in Laiagam District surrenders M16 rifle for Peace

- Caritas Enga

**Wabag, Enga Province:** The Ambai tribe is the host of Wanepap parish in the Catholic Diocese of Wabag located in Laiagam District, Enga Province.

St. Mary's Inclusive High School and a new health facility are currently being constructed through the initiative and support of Chief Ombudsman Commissioner, Mr. Richard Pangen. These two new Catholic institutions aim to deliver vital services to the people of Laiagam District, one of the most volatile districts in Enga Province.

On September 29th, 2024, the Ambai tribe made history by surrendering an M16 rifle in the presence of Mr. Pangen, the Parish Priest of Wanepap, Fr. Newman Kingi, the PSC of Laiagam Police, and witnessed by the Laipyen and Kaimul tribes of Pilikami LLG. The Ambai tribe pledged to abandon tribal conflict, embrace peace and benefit from the social and spiritual services being brought to their doorstep by the Catholic Church and the government.

Christine Dominic who had been in possession of the firearm and had caused issues in the area for the past years, not only surrendered the weapon, but also committed to living a changed life.

Three weeks ago, the Ambai tribe had killed a man from the Tamagal tribe, who died instantly. The Tamagal tribe, long known for engaging in many tribal warfare in the Laiagam District chose to refrain from retaliating against the Ambai tribe to avoid further destruction and to protect the new services being established at Wanepap Catholic Parish.

Acknowledging their restraint, the Chief Ombudsman Commissioner praised the Tamagal tribe's efforts and initiated a peace ceremony that resulted in the surrender of the automatic weapon.

Both the Commissioner and the Parish Priest commended the Ambai tribe for their actions and encouraged other communities to follow their example as firearms only bring death and destruction.

This event is one of the many successes of the Peace Advocacy campaign being carried out in Enga Province by Caritas Enga. All tribes and individuals in possession of firearms are challenged to surrender these deadly weapons so that peace can be restored and maintained in the province.



Key stakeholders in a group picture with the surrendered M16 rifle... (Picture supplied)

### CBC PNGSI SOCOM hosts Radio Formation Program for Catholic Radio Personnel

- Donovan Pintol

**Lae:** The Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands Social Communications Commission (CBC PNGSI SOCOM) held a SOCOM Formation Workshop for Catholic Radio Personnel from September 18 - 20, 2024.

The three-day workshop was rooted around the idea of putting into full use the Radio Medium as a way for 'Evangelizing' and also help to put into perspective how important radio broadcasting is when it comes to evangelizing, given the fact that not everyone has access to internet nor a television set.

The workshop/ formation saw participants from the few Catholic Radio Stations within Papua New Guinea, such as Trinity FM (Mt. Hagen), The Voice of Peter Torot (Rabaul), Lae's own Catholic FM, Radio Maria PNG (Vanimo) and three other Media Personnel from the Diocese of Kimbe, Alotau-Sidea and the Archdiocese of Port Moresby.

The first day of the workshop had participants being brought into 'Broadcasting Structures', 'Radio', and 'Radio Script Writing'. The sessions were centered around how a radio station should be organized, to why a radio station is important, and why a radio-script is of relevance and how to write one. Concluding the day and its sessions was the activity in which participants put into effect what they know with what they have learnt to actually write a radio-script of their own.

Moving up a knot, the second day sessions were about the 'Journalistic Practices' and 'Studio Set-Up'.

The sessions had everyone interacting and sharing their personal experiences working in the radio, techniques, and ideas on key elements of radio broadcasting like how to do programming, jingles, and editing.

Adding more practical to the theories that were presented during the sessions, the participants were given an 'On-Set' taste of studio tour around the Catholic FM Studio. With even an unplanned jingle recording from the group along with an on-air interview that gave the extra flavor and it was all thanks to the managing body of the radio station, Fr. Brian Nonde and the team.

The workshop ended on Friday with the CBCPNGSI SOCOM Secretary, Sr. Daisy Anne Lisania Augustine MSC addressing the participants telling them that it is always important to remember that one must try to be an honest evangelizer/communicator and that is the first and foremost quality of a good broadcaster/ journalist.

"You must be a good communicator...a good communicator like Christ, and that means you'll have to please God only, and not man. And sometimes you become unpopular in your community".

Adding final highlight to her talks, the Secretary pointed out that, being communicators it is our sole duty to "link memories, link facts, and most importantly, linking people". She also urged the participants to go forth and "be witnesses to the

gospel, and build bridges to overcome conflicts, corruption, and injustice in all communities".

In the closing program along with presentations of the certificates to the participants, Fr. Jose Roque Arreza RCJ as the appointed participant to give a speech on their behalf told everyone that, despite being a short stay, it was fruitful.

"I can now bring HOME, back to my home Sidea". "Few of the things which I have come to learn apart from radio broadcasting sessions. H which stands for humility; the second one being O for openness; third being M for Meraki, Greek term that means to doing something with passion and love; and the fourth one being E, is of course, Evangelization".



Participants of the workshop with CBC SOCOM Personnel pose for a group picture after the closing ceremony.

### Archbishop Christopher Cardone OP ordains Deacon Nicholas Ramoga at the Holy Cross Cathedral

- Catholic Communications

**Honiara:** On Saturday, 21st September 2024, Archbishop Christopher Cardone OP ordained Nicholas Ramoga as a deacon at a solemn and spirit-filled ceremony held at Holy Cross Cathedral in Honiara. The event was attended by priests, deacons from the Diocese of Honiara, Dominican friars, seminarians from Holy Name of Mary Seminary, and religious sisters from various congregations, including the Daughters of Mary Immaculate (DMI) Sisters, Missionaries of the Assumption Sisters, St. Vincent de Paul Charity Sisters, Dominican Sisters, and Marist Sisters.

The liturgy was led by the family and relatives of the newly ordained Deacon Nicholas, adding a personal touch to the celebration. During his homily, Archbishop Cardone reflected on the Gospel and urged Deacon Nicholas to embrace his role as a servant leader within the Church. His Grace emphasized the importance of the diaconate, which calls for service in both the liturgy and the community. He reminded Deacon Nicholas of the deacon's role in assisting bishops and priests, proclaiming the Gospel, ministering to the needs of the faithful, and being a witness of charity through service to the poor and marginalized.

A significant moment in the ordination was when Deacon Nicholas was handed over to the Church by his mother, brother, and sister, symbolizing the family's support for his new role. This touching act, witnessed by the congregation, highlighted the deep connection between family and faith in Deacon Nicholas' journey.

Following the ordination, the celebration moved to the Dominican Friars' compound in Henderson, where guests enjoyed a festive meal and entertainment, marking the beginning of Deacon Nicholas Ramoga's service in the Catholic Church with joy and fellowship.



Deacon Nicholas Ramoga with his family...Picture supplied by Catholic Communications.

### Papal Visit Logistics Committee celebrates Thanksgiving with Eucharist

- Jessica Oata

**Waigani:** Mary Queen of the Pacific was the hosting Parish for the Thanksgiving Eucharist of the Logistics Committee of the Papal Visit 2024 on Saturday September 2024.

Presiding over the Eucharistic celebration was the Charge d'Affaires to the Apostolic Nunciature Monsignor Maurizio Bravi with Fr Albert Lenon SDB, Fr Guillermo Tadena MSP, Fr Edward Ante, Fr Giorgio Licini PIME, Fr Matthew PIME and Fr Ambrose Pereira SDB as concelebrants.

Present were members of the different sub committees of the Logistics Committee as well as members of the Catholic Professionals Society.

A moving homily fitting for the occasion was given by Fr Ambrose Pereira SDB.

He reflected on the months of preparation leading up to a very unique event in the history of the Church in PNG and highlighted that it is important to take up what the Holy Father shared with us during the Papal Visit - make it our own in our local context and ensure that it is shared with our people.

"Let's not forget what the Holy Father said. 'Papua New Guinea is so far away from Rome. Yet, it is so close to the Heart of the Church'. We're gathered here to give thanks to God, to the people who made it happen and we give thanks to all who participated for a very peaceful event that brought us far from messages not only for our Catholics but for the wider members of society".

Fr Ambrose highlighted three points in his homily: our faith, our witness and the aspect.

**Faith:** As we encounter the ups and downs, the difficulties, perhaps the cause of our journey. We need to stick to our faith. Our faith will see us through challenging moments.

"The Holy Father reminded us during his visit to APEC Haus that faith can become a lived culture, inspiring minds and actions and becoming a beacon of light that illuminates the path forward".

**Witness:** It's wonderful that we were able to bring in multitudes for both the Eucharist celebration for the Papal Visit and so while we are witnessing our faith, we also need to pray for our brothers, our sisters and our children and those we know that have left the church and are no longer celebrating the sacraments that they may come back to the church.

**Service:** We have spent months preparing for a climax, we've celebrated the event and we have to ensure that we reap the fruits of service. By your life of service, you have brought people close to God.

"It was not an easy task, and sadly sometimes we fall because of our pride and ego. Thank you for your smile and hope. There can be no journey without suffering".

He concluded by reminding everyone that we are wantoks of love in service.

Following the mass, Mons Bravi in his remarks thanked everyone in the logistics team for their dedication and commitment

"The Pope's visit will remain in the history of this country and I am sure it will remain in the heart of each individual".

Meanwhile Catholic Professionals Society President and Chair of the Logistics Committee gave a heartwarming speech thanking all the members for their dedication and effort put together to pull off a successful Papal Visit despite the challenges faced.

"My A-team were the pillars behind the success and smooth flow of the logistics arrangements. They gave it their all despite being faced with so many challenges and I today I give credit to each and everyone of them".

He concluded by adding that the Papal Visit has now been the fourth major event that CPS has played a major role in organising. Other notable events include: working in collaboration with CBC PNGSI to coordinate the Federation of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Oceania in 2018, working with the PNG Government to organise the State Funeral for the late Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare and Organising Dynamic Deacon Harold Burke - Sivers visit to PNG.



Group picture taken after the thanksgiving mass with Mons Bravi in centre.

## 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](mailto:socom@catholic.org.pg) on or before **20th of the Month, 2024.**

EDITOR <b>SR DAISY ANNE LISANIA AUGUSTINE MSC</b> Phone: 325 9577 Email: <a href="mailto:secretary_socom@catholic.org.pg">secretary_socom@catholic.org.pg</a>	SUB-EDITOR <b>CBC SOCOM</b> Phone: 325 9577 Email: <a href="mailto:socom@catholic.org.pg">socom@catholic.org.pg</a>	LAYOUT AND DESIGN, EDITING & PROOFREADING: <b>CBC SOCOM</b>
--	--	--

PUBLISHED BY: CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE ~ PRINTED & DISTRIBUTED BY: WANTOK NIUSPEPA