



'To Bear Witness to the Light' - Jn 1:7 The Catholic Reporter

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- Thaddeus Jones

Pope on Pentecost: Let us invoke the spirit daily upon our whole world.

counter this evil of discord, the Pope recounted how the Lord at the culmination of salvation poured out his good Spirit to give us the harmony we need for true peace. The Holy Spirit brings harmony, as "the Spirit of unity, the bringer of peace", he emphasised.

Harmony out of diversity: Looking at how the Holy Spirit works in the Church, starting from the day of Pentecost, the Pope described how the Spirit descended upon each apostle giving each one special graces and unique charisms. And while one might think these differing gifts might create confusion, in reality, as in the created world, "the Holy Spirit loves to create harmony out of diversity."

Recalling the synodal journey underway in the Church, the Pope said this path should mark "a journey in accordance with the Spirit," and above all an "opportunity to be docile to the breath of the Spirit" as he is "the heart of synodality, the driving force of evangelization."

The Pope added that the synodal process offers the People of God a unique opportunity to journey together, filled with the Spirit, to build harmony in the Church and be renewed.

Harmony in our hearts: In conclusion, the Pope explained how the Spirit "restores harmony in the heart" as he creates "intimacy with God." The Lord bestowed the Spirit "to forgive sins, to reconcile minds and to harmonize hearts wounded by evil, broken by hurts, led astray by feelings of guilt." The Pope then said it would be good to examine our own lives and ask if we are open to the harmony of the Spirit, or if we resist being transformed by him sticking to our own pursuits and ideas. Are we quick to judge others, overlooking our own weaknesses, he asked, and do we try to foster reconciliation and build communion? To overcome our own divisions, he said, "Let us invoke the Spirit," praying that "Holy Spirit, Spirit of Jesus and of the Father, inexhaustible wellspring of harmony, to You we entrust the world; to You, we consecrate the Church and our hearts."

- Jessica Oata



At the Mass on the Solemnity of Pentecost celebrated in Saint Peter's Basilica, Pope Francis in his homily highlighted how the Holy Spirit acts in the world he created, in the Church, and in our hearts, bringing order and harmony in all spheres.

Holy Spirit brings harmony, peace: In bringing harmony to the world, the Spirit "directs the course of time and renews the face of the earth," the Pope explained. And our world today, marked by discord and divisions, desperately needs this harmony it is resisting, he lamented, noting how while we may be more "connected," we are in reality more cut off from one another "anaesthetized by indifference." He pointed out how the many wars and conflicts we witness today show the magnitude of evil individuals are capable of committing, hostilities fueled by the spirit of division, the devil, meaning "divider". But to

Meet your Bishop: Abp. Christopher Cardone, OP (Archbishop of Honiara)

- Jessica Oata



He is described by those who have had encounters with him as 'a man of immense faith' who is dedicated in his vocation as a good shepherd and a Solomon Islander through and through for his fluent Bislama.

He lives by the motto: **Serving the Lord with gladness** and is none other than the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Honiara, Archbishop Christopher Cardone OP.

Hailing from Long Island, New York, Abp Cardone was born on December 20, 1957 into a loving Catholic family. He has a brother who is also a priest and two sisters.

"My mother would always joke and say, 'we have two saints (referring to my brother and I) and two sinners (referring to my sisters)', to which my brother and I would reply and say our sisters are the saints and we are the sinners", he recalled with a big smile.

When asked what inspired him to become a priest, he replied: "I was drawn to the Dominican spirituality whilst a business student at the Providence College on Rhode Island".

After completing his studies, he went into the seminary with the intention of going out as a missionary. He made his religious profession on

August 15th, 1981 and was later ordained a Dominican priest in May 30th, 1986.

He was soon posted to Afghanistan after his ordination; however, he couldn't obtain his VISA due to the unrest at that time.

"My mother must've been praying really hard for me not to go to Pakistan", he joked.

He served for two years as a parish priest at St. Gertrude Parish in Madeira, Ohio before he was sent by his superiors in 1988 to the Hapi Isles (Solomon Islands) upon the request of the Dominican Friars in Australia.

"I was supposed to go to the Solomons for just 3 years but then 3 years turned into 6 and then 9, until I was appointed as auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Gizo in 2001. I was later appointed as the Bishop of the Diocese of Auki on October 19, 2004 and on September 10, 2016, I was installed as the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Honiara."

Abp Cardone describes his experience as a missionary in the Solomon Islands as a 'very unique, humbling but fruitful' experience.

"The Solomon Islands has been my home for the last 35 years and I've been blessed to watch the church grow and thrive", he said with a big smile.

He acknowledged the efforts of the Society of Mary (Marist) missionaries and other congregations

who paved the way in evangelization in the Solomon Islands and Bougainville.

"We are now harvesting the fruits that were sown by the Marists and the early missionaries. The church has been localized and we have a good number of local priests. Every parish has about 3 priests and we also have a good number of seminarians in the seminary. One good example is our very own Bishop Peter Houhou from the Diocese of Auki"

"One of my focus in the Archdiocese is capacity building for our local seminarians and priests so that they are well equipped when they go out to evangelize. So far, quite a good number of them have been sent abroad for further studies and have returned and I hope to send a couple more."

When asked what brings him joy in his vocation, he replied: "I'm happiest when I am celebrating mass because I bring Jesus to the people through the Holy Eucharist."

"Over the course of my stay in the Solomon Islands, I've visited all the parishes I've spent at least 4 nights in each of these parishes and celebrated mass, which is what I look forward to".

Abp Cardone's advice to the young people is: Serve the Lord with gladness.

"When we do little tasks assigned to us with honesty and gladness, we are praising the Lord."

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The salt of democracy



- Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME, CBC General Secretary

There is a way to keep people happy and satisfied. Talk to them and ask their opinion. Share your plans. Call them to contribute ideas and action to the common good. Always respect them whether you agree with their stand or not. This is a simple lesson the PNG government and politicians, with a few exceptions, still need to learn. The Prime Minister is good at explaining and reassuring but fails to provide relevant information before decisions are taken and papers are signed. The most recent case is the Defense Cooperation Agreement with the United States of America.

An international understanding of whatever sort not only requires widespread public consultation (with the exception perhaps of provisions strictly related to national security) but should also go through a healthy parliamentary debate before it takes its final shape. It can't be only the work of ministerial staff and experts on the matter at stake.

Nobody will say that PNG politics and current government are undemocratic. But the weaknesses in the system are evident. Start with the fact that the

current executive is the expression of a Parliament running low in credibility. It is common knowledge that a high number of members won the election in 2022 by tricks in the polls and cheating in the counting. They are sitting in Waigani, but they are not the legitimate representatives of the people. Such a Parliament and government should be very humble and repentant. Grave instances of corruption, violence, insults and slurs by Ministers towards colleagues or common citizens can only be followed by immediate resignation to restore the integrity of the office. This is what is being done all over the world. An alternate respected and respectful figure can easily be identified for the same task.

A unicameral system, such as the one in place in Papua New Guinea is not the safest possible. It becomes a rubber stamp of the government when the opposition is reduced to a few units and no second chamber stands in the way of the Prime Minister. Barring a complex constitutional amendment, this deficiency can only be addressed by an increased sense of political responsibility on the part of the executive. The function of Parliament is not to just take note of what the government does,

but to legislate on its own and explicitly approve or reject government action.

The media need to be more aggressive and investigative in Papua New Guinea. The fact that a Defense Cooperation Agreement with the United States (regardless of the nature of its provisions) went undetected and unreported while discussed for months and years in inter-ministerial meetings is a failure of the information community more than an act of disrespect or just an oversight by the government. The evident unbalance between the legislative and the executive branches of government in the country can only be remedied by the vigilance of public opinion of which the media constitute the pillar. Regular and balanced information services prevent surprise and alarmism of public opinion, emotional reactions and fear, feelings running high and uncontrolled especially among young people and on social media when the impression arises that the common interest is not properly upheld. Democracy is more than a word only if nurtured with personal integrity, information and participation.

The Gospels: Integrity of the Gospels



- Fr. Tomás Ravaioli IVE

Liturgical Catechetical Institute Director

Is the Gospel text as we read it today the same text that came from the pen of the Evangelist who wrote it? The problem is an essential one. In the question of integrity, just as in the question of authenticity, the Gospels enjoy a privileged position with respect to the other authors of classical antiquity. The most ancient complete texts date back to the fourth century. They are thus only 300 years removed from the time of original composition. We possess some **4,000** manuscripts transcribed between the fourth and ninth centuries.

The objection might be made that there is an enormous number of variants in the Gospel. In such

a case, how is it possible to have the true original text? The answer is that these variants do not affect the essential part of the text. This is the result arrived at by comparative analysis of the various manuscripts in an effort to reconstruct the original text. In the totality of manuscripts, citations from the Fathers prior to the fourth century, and ancient versions, there are some **250,000** variants. The greater part of these are insignificant, since they concern only the spelling and order of words. Only about fifteen have any real importance, and not one of them touches on the substance of any dogma which is established on the basis of critically certain texts without needing to fall back upon any dubious text.

It is not difficult to explain the origin of these variants. Since there was no technique for mass printing, the scholars of antiquity were obliged to hand down their library of texts by successive transcriptions. In this work the copyist, either by distraction or for some other reason, could inadvertently be the cause of additions or omission. In copying a manuscript, the copyist could easily change one word or letter to another, or he might even understand a word differently if he were writing from a dictation. A good number of variants is due to the ancient practice of citing Scripture from memory.

We can thus be certain that we have a Gospel text that is in conformity with the original.

- Sr. Esther Bolis FMI

Archdiocese of Rabaul thankful for the life of late Metropolitan Archbishop Emeritus Karl Bernhard Hesse MSC

Rabaul: "We cannot thank God for the gift of late Metropolitan Archbishop Emeritus Karl Bernhard Hesse MSC, without appreciating his deep desire and commitment to charity and justice, especially for the poor and the marginalized."

This heartfelt statement was made by the Vicar General, Rev Fr. Paul Kote, during his informative talk through Voice of Blessed Peter Radio on Monday 15th May, 2023.

Late Archbishop Karl Hesse MSC died on May 14th, 2023 at St. Mary's Hospital, Catholic Archdiocese of Rabaul, Papua New Guinea. He was a leader who stood up for Charity and Justice (Caritas et Justitia).

The weeping and mourning of the people indicated that late Archbishop Emeritus Karl Hesse was really a true missionary of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He has fulfilled the invocation: *May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere loved* and has touched the hearts of many people especially in the New Guinea Islands region namely; Kimbe Diocese,

Kavieng/Lorengau Diocese, Bougainville Diocese and most especially, the Archdiocese of Rabaul.

He added that the late Archbishop has done his very best even in the most trying and difficult times.

Archbishop Emeritus Karl Hesse always supported the poor, like the affected people of the 1994 volcanic twin eruptions in Rabaul, the Bougainville Crisis, and made sure that the people were well treated and happy because they are the Church.

He would always say: "Serving the Church was serving the people of God."

During the Eucharistic celebration, the main celebrant Fr. George Tami, MSC said Emeritus Archbishop Karl Hesse came to PNG when he was a young priest. He was first stationed in the Baining areas of Vunamarita and Raunsepna parishes for a long period of time living among the Qaqet people on the Mountain ranges.

Becoming the Archbishop of Rabaul, he had a very busy schedule, but he showed great love, care

and concern and he served and lived the love of the Sacred Heart in his relationship with the people. That is why he never thought of going back to Germany, his home Country. He totally and willingly gave up everything until he passed away with love and service in the mission to serve God.



Picture: Late Metropolitan Archbishop Karl Bernhard Hesse MSC, DD, MBE, GCL

- Mr. Enoch Jebeth and Fr. Ambrose Pereira SDB

Mary our Mother: Small Acts, Big Impact

Gabutu: On the 26th of May 2023, Don Bosco Technical School, Gabutu (DBTS) celebrated the Feast of Mary Help of Christians with the theme **Mary Our Mother: Small Acts, Big Impact**. The theme emphasized the idea that yeast, a small ingredient has a big impact on bread. So too, small acts of love, kindness and service can make a big difference in the world.

The main celebrant at the Solemn Eucharist was Fr Gregorio Bicomong, SDB, Provincial Superior of the Vice Province of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. Alongside him was the Rector of DBTS, Fr. Pedro Sachitula, SDB and the spiritual moderator Fr. Ambrose Pereira SDB. All the Salesians, Salesian Educators, support staff, and the students were present in the Kurongku hall and participated in the celebrations with love and

devotion to honour Our Blessed Mother Mary. Fr Angelo Fazzini SDB celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation, thus preparing the students for the Eucharist.

The celebration began with the entrance procession led by the Grade 11 students dressed in traditional Manus attire. The songs sung during the mass were led by the music club under the direction of Mr Vincent Numbos. The student body sang in harmony and created a wonderful atmosphere of reflection and meditation on Our Blessed Mother Mary. The beautiful decoration and colorful lighting put a smile on the faces of all who were present.

In his homily, Fr, Greg reminded the congregation about the importance of devotion and of creating a close relationship with Mary. He gave examples of the early Christians who witnessed miracles when

they prayed and asked Mother Mary to help and protect them. He concluded his very animated and lively sermon reminding all of Don Bosco's dream of the two columns that highlighted devotion to Mary and the Eucharist.



Students during entrance procession with Mother Mary. (Picture supplied)

The Bishop as Communicator

Sr Daisy Anne Lisania Augustine MSC, Secretary for Social Communication

Bishops are, in their hierarchical position, the first and most important persons in pastoral ministry and therefore should be especially concerned about pastoral communication.

"The order of the bishops is the college of the apostles in their role as teachers and pastors..." the Vatican II decree on the pastoral office of bishops, *Christus Dominus* (No.7), quotes from *Lumen Gentium* Vatican II's basic document on the Church (No.22).

This is further developed in pointing to their obligation for evangelization and apostolate. It implies the special obligation of bishops as personal examples of pastoral communication. In this responsibility, they are the first to practise the basic rules of human communication in dealing with all those people entrusted to them.

This is, in a special way, reflected in their communication with their priests, whom they should consider as "their indispensable helpers and advisers in the ministry and in the task of teaching, sanctifying and shepherding the people of God" (*Presbyterorum*

Ordinis. No.7. They "are to regard their priests as brothers and friends and are to take the greatest interest they are capable of in their welfare both temporal and spiritual... on their shoulders particularly falls the burden of sanctifying their priests..." They should be glad to listen to their priests and consult them. Here, all the elements of proper and engaged human communication come in, which a bishop should also develop in relation to all the other people entrusted to him. As *Christus Dominus* says (No.13): The bishops "should make it their special care to approach people and to initiate and promote dialogue with them... marked by charity of expression as well by humility and courtesy, so that truth may be combined with charity, and understanding with love. The discussions should likewise be characterized by due prudence allied, however, with sincerity which by promoting friendship is conducive to a union of minds."

In their communication, bishops should "also endeavour to use the various methods available today for proclaiming Christian doctrine," which includes preaching and catechetics, but also "instruction in schools, universities, conferences and

meetings of every kind." There are also public statements the bishop might make "by way of comment on events" also using "the press and other media of public communication."

For the basic attitude of a bishop as pastoral communicator *Christus Dominus* (No. 16) recommends that he "should be with his people as one who serves, as a good shepherd who knows his sheep and whose sheep know him, as a true father who excels in his love and solicitude for all, to whose divinely authority all readily submit. He should so unite and mold his flock into one family that all, conscious of their duties, may live and act in the communion of charity.

Within his diocese, the bishop has a *special responsibility for any communication activity*. In fact, he is the first and solely responsible as clearly stated from different Church documents, especially the decree on Social communication of the 2nd Vatican council, *Inter Mirifica* (No. 20).

On the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (Friday June 16) let us remember our bishops in a special way to be communicators after the Heart of Jesus.

- Sr. Daisy Anne Lisania Augustine

Bishops of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands conclude "Ad Limina Visit"

Vatican City: The "Ad Limina" visit by Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands bishops to the Vatican drew to a close over the weekend of the second week of May.

On Friday May 12, Pope Francis met with the bishops in the Papal Palace. The pontiff greeted the bishops individually and received gifts from them. The Holy Father in turn gave them gifts and a book titled 'Do not be afraid' which he wrote during the pandemic.

For an hour and thirty minutes the Holy Father listened to the bishops of both countries.

He expressed his closeness to the people as he dialogued with them with issues and concerns for the Church in both countries.

The visit has also a personal meaning because "each individual bishop meets the successor of Peter and talks to him face to face."

"It is a moment I was looking forward to" expressed Bishop Siby Peedikayil of the diocese of Aitape who had this Ad Limina Visit as his first.

For a week, from May 8 to May 13, the bishops were in Rome for the obligatory visit to the pope and gave him a report on the status of their dioceses covered by a five-year period.

In the "Pastor Bonus," the 1988 Apostolic Constitution promulgated by St. John Paul II, it

was explained that "Ad Limina" visits have a sacred meaning as expressed in the bishops' "visit to the tombs of Peter and Paul."

In addition, The bishops celebrated masses in the Basilica of Saint John Lateran, the pope's church, the cathedral of the Diocese of Rome where the Bishop of Rome presides and Basilica of Saint Mary Major (Santa Maria Maggiore) the largest of the 26 churches in Rome dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

The "Ad Limina" has a curial significance which is a "hallmark of community, because the bishops enter into conversation with the moderators of the dicasteries, councils, and offices of the Roman Curia".

The organizer of the Ad Limina Visit and the General Secretary of the Bishops Conference of PNG and SI Fr. Giorgio Licini, remarked of the visit, "Once every five years, bishops must make a pilgrimage to the tomb of their predecessors, the apostles, in Rome, and report to the Holy Father and meet with the Roman dicasteries."



Pope Francis meets with the Bishops of CBC PNGSI including CBC PNGSI General Secretary Fr. Giorgio Licini PIME and CBC PNGSI Social Communications Secretary Sr. Daisy Anne Lisania Augustine MSC.

National Catholic Teachers' Day launched by CBC National Catholic Education Commission - Ahisha Mangot

Port Moresby: "The impact of Catholic Teachers extends far beyond the classrooms; we are called to be ambassadors of the Catholic Faith to share the Joy and beauty of our traditions with our students and the wider community."

This bold statement was shared by the Deputy Secretary of the National Catholic Education Commission of CBCPNGSI Mr. Victor Piniau during the launching of the National Catholic Teachers Day on Friday May 12 with the theme "A Catholic Teacher as Salt and Light".

NCEC invited heads of the different Catholic schools in Port Moresby, Dr Catherine Nongkas Vice President of Don Bosco Technological Institute and chair of the National Catholic Education Board, Ms Grace Wrakia National Coordinator for La Salle Family, Mrs Paula Bomai CES of the Archdiocese of Port Moresby, Doug Tennent CBC Land and Justice officer as well as staff of CBC.

The launching began with a Eucharistic celebration led by Fr Martin We-en followed by speeches from the different heads who shared their perspectives and reflections as well as their messages to Catholic teachers.

Deputy Secretary for the National Catholic Education Commission Mr Victor Piniau gave the

keynote address during the program followed by a reflection and message to Catholic teachers by the National Catholic Religious Education Coordinator Sr. Roshni Kachuwa.

Mr. Piniau stressed that Catholic teachers and schools must work together and build a just and compassionate society that reflects the values of the Gospel.

"Education in Papua New Guinea is pioneered by the early missionaries, the government came in later and that's why as heads of schools, you must take pride and take the lead. The Catholic Schools are part of the Church set up where you find a parish, you also find two things and they are a Catholic school and Catholic health service."

Mr Piniau also extended his appreciation to the Salesians, De La Salle's, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, the Marist Brothers, the Christian Brothers, the SVDs, OLSH sisters, and others. "These congregations have paved the way and they are still guiding us. The missionaries will not be in PNG forever and we must start taking the lead. What are we doing to show that we are ready to take the lead? Are we willing to learn? Are we willing to humble ourselves? And Are we willing to take the hard road?" challenged Mr Piniau.

The same sentiment was shared by Doug Tennent, the Land and Justice officer for CBC.

"What about our own roles as educators to address issues affecting our environment? If we go around Port Moresby what do we see so much? We see rubbish and that is why I'm challenging the schools to do something about it. Work with NCEC we the Catholic Church must take the lead." He said.

The National Catholic Teachers Day is celebrated annually on May 15th on the feast of St John Baptist De La Salle, the patron Saint of teachers.



Dignitaries cut the cake to commemorate the launching of the National Catholic Teachers' Day.

MFIC Sisters celebrate Foundation Day

-Sr. Maria Tongop pbvm and Tracey Nateleo

Aitape: With the theme 'Honouring the glorious past, celebrating the golden present and envisioning the promising future', the Missionary Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception (MFIC) in Aitape celebrated 150 years of ministry since foundation.

The sesquicentennial anniversary was celebrated on Saturday May 6, 2023 with a Eucharistic celebration and had Fr. George Ayikade CSSp as the main celebrant with Fr. Thomas Pradeesh Mathew HGN and Fr. Andrew as the con-celebrants.

This significant celebration commemorated not only the 150th Foundation Day of the MFIC Sisters but also the blessing of the Early Childhood Development school facilities and monument of the school named after the Foundress, Elizabeth Hayes.

During his inspiring homily, Fr. George asked the MFIC sisters; *What are you touching, reaching out to and where are you drawing near to?* He reflected on the aspect of the life of the MFIC congregation founder (Elizabeth Hayes) and urged the sisters to be like a magnet to magnetize; to touch, to strike, to reach out, and to draw near to people like the foundress during her time who touched lives, reached out and drew near to those ones who needed help.

Fr. George also encouraged the sisters to be thankful to God with grateful hearts for the wonderful deeds he has done through the longevity of service in the lives of the MFIC sisters of Papua New Guinea.

"The Celebration today consists of the reality of faith, biblical structure of leadership and accountability to honor Elizabeth's persistence and consistency," said Fr George.

"Your Foundress started something 150 years ago, today these people are gathered here, because of her. The challenge is spelled out in the gospel of Mathew 5: *He gave them the talent according to their ability,*" said Fr. George.

He added that a person can only be golden and future promising, it gives each member of the institution a clear picture to realize the key as a unique and responsible role to play. As you celebrate the glorious past, golden present, and the promising future it is because the order consists in the power of the Holy Spirit moving from the past to the present.

The celebration was well prepared with joyful voices and dances at the liturgy which was led by the postulants, novices, staff of Elizabeth's school, and sisters. Families, and friends from villages near and far also joined to witness the 'Sesquicentennial' (150 anniversary) celebration.

The Elizabeth Hayes Early Childhood Development School commenced its first enrollment in February this year with a total of 84 pre-school minors of ages 4 and 5. It has two double classrooms each well equipped with learning materials catering for lessons from 8am to 12midday and an ablution block with a shower and toilet each for boys, girls and school staff.

Mother of the Word Governance Circle, PNG and MFIC leader Sr. Clara Wartak thanked all those who were present to celebrate with them in their congregation's milestone achievement.

The Missionary Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception was founded by Mother Mary Ignatius of Jesus (Elizabeth Hayes) in Belle Prairie, Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA in 1873. The MFIC congregation has been in PNG since 1949.



The Missionary Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception with friends after the sesquicentennial Anniversary.

Emulate the meekness of St Francis de Sales and make disciples through Communication

- Jessica Oata

Boroko, Port Moresby: "As the theme for this year is 'Speaking with the heart', let us remind ourselves that what we communicate to others comes from the heart, therefore, it is our challenge to emulate the meekness of St Francis de Sales the patron Saint of writers and journalists and make disciples through our communication, both verbal and non-verbal".

This was the message by Fr. John Curtis CP at St Joseph's Parish during the 57th World Communications Day celebrations on Sunday May 21st.

The celebration had as its theme: *Speaking with the heart* and was organized by the Social Communications Commission of the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI.

The auspicious event in the Catholic church which also coincides with the Ascension Feast Day was well attended by the staff of CBC, student representatives, media animators and principals from selected Catholic schools within the Archdiocese and the parishioners of St. Joseph's.

The mass was animated by the Our Lady of Fatima Basic Christian Community (BCC) and had Fr. John Curtis CP as the main celebrant.

In his homily, Fr. John encouraged the congregation to be good communicators in their everyday communication with God and with other Christians.

"Let us always look up to God who was the first communicator whose first words during creation were: *Let there be.* When we open our hearts to God's communication, we become vessels of hope, goodwill and peace to others."

He added that each of us are commissioned to go out and make disciples of all nations and made reference to the Gospel of Matthew 28:16-20.

"As the theme for this year is 'Speaking with the heart', let us remind ourselves that what we communicate to others comes from the heart, therefore, it is our challenge to emulate the meekness of St Francis de Sales the patron Saint of writers and journalists and make disciples through our communication, both verbal and non-verbal".

The celebration concluded with a brief outside program where there was a gift presentation to the teachers as a token of appreciation to them for being communicators to the young in the schools followed by refreshments for everyone.

World Communications Day was established by Pope Paul VI in 1967 as an annual celebration that encourages us to reflect on the opportunities and challenges that the modern means of social communication (the press, motions pictures, radio, television and the internet) afford the Church to communicate the gospel message.

Celebrations were also held in the dioceses throughout the country.



Students, teachers and Principals take a group picture with Fr. John Curtis, CP after mass.

Poinini hosts National Catholic Teachers' Day

- Janice Roka

Poinini, Kimbe: The National Catholic Teachers' Day was celebrated by schools in West New Britain Province on Friday May 19, 2023 at Poinini Catholic Agricultural Technical Secondary School.

The celebration commenced with the arrival of the participating agency, government and private schools; Karl Hesse Primary School, St Joseph Ruango Junior High and Primary School, St. Monica Early Childhood, Callan Inclusive Education Resource Center, Gigo Primary School, Mosa Primary School, St. Philomena Laheri Primary School, Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice Banaule Primary School, Gaongo Elementary School, Kapore Primary School, Poinini FODE and Poinini Early Childhood.

The Holy Eucharistic Mass which was the main highlight of the day was celebrated by the School Chaplain Fr. Jazek Kedzior, a diocesan priest from Poland, and was animated by the staff and students of the hosting school.

The second part of the celebration was held in the school hall, where representatives of the participating schools gave 5 minutes of inspirational speeches on the theme; *"A Catholic Teacher as Salt and Light"* and the life of the Saint of the Day; St John Baptist De La Salle, the Patron Saint of all teachers followed by an item presentation consisting of a choir and a dance.

A moment was also given to an important guest of the day, Officer Sergeant Narol of the Police Department in Kimbe, who shared some light with the teachers regarding the current crime issues in the province.

"Our findings show that the crimes are connected to school-aged children, thus, we are now looking at schools as the avenue to make awareness and help correct these issues to help our young people make good choices and stay out of trouble when they leave school", Officer Sergeant Narol said.

He challenged the teachers to be good Christian teachers and be the salt and light to the lives of the young generation that are entrusted under their care.

The celebration concluded with the cake cutting ceremony where the principal of the hosting school, Mr. Edmund Matawe, passed the knife to the administrator of the next hosting school and finally the sharing of lunch.

The National Catholic Teachers' Day falls on May 15 but was postponed to May 19.



Teachers from the different participating schools take a group Photo in front of the chapel after mass.

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, 2023.**

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