



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

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- Zenith

Pope Francis: 'Our Father' one of the most precious gifts



Pope Francis reflects on the Our Father, "one of the most precious gifts" Jesus has left us. The disciples wanted "to experience the same 'quality' of prayer that was present in Jesus' relationship with the Father.

The disciples are fascinated because they see that He doesn't pray as the other teachers of prayer of the time, but His prayer is an intimate bond with the Father, so much so that they want to be participants in these moments of union with God to savour its sweetness completely.

So, one day, waiting for Jesus to finish His prayer in a place apart, they ask Him: "Lord, teach us to pray" (v. 1). Responding to the disciples' explicit request, Jesus doesn't give an abstract definition of prayer or teach an effective technique to pray and "obtain" something. Instead, He invites His own to have an experience of prayer, putting them directly in communication with the Father, arousing in them nostalgia for a personal relationship with Him.

Therefore, He gives them the prayer of the "Our Father," which is one of the most precious gifts left to us by the Divine Teacher in His earthly mission. After having revealed His mystery of Son and brother, with this prayer Jesus makes us penetrate in God's paternity and He shows us the way to enter into prayerful and direct

dialogue with Him, through the way of filial trust. It's a dialogue between a Daddy and his child and of the child with his Daddy. What we ask for in the "Our Father" is already realized and given to us in the Only-Begotten Son: the sanctification of the Name, the coming of the Kingdom, the gift of bread, of forgiveness and of freedom from evil. While we ask, we open our hand to receive. To receive the gifts that the Father has made us see in the Son. The prayer that the Lord taught us is the synthesis of every prayer, and we address it to the Father always in communion with brethren. Sometimes it happens that there are distractions in prayer, however, many times we feel the desire to pause on the first word: "Father," and to feel that paternity in our heart.

Let us ask Mary, woman of prayer, to help us to pray to the Father united to Jesus to live the Gospel, guided by the Holy Spirit.

Bp Anton Bal appointed as Archbishop of Madang

Port Moresby: Pope Francis has appointed His Excellency Most Reverend Anton Bal, as the new Archbishop of Madang.

The announcement was made by the Apostolic Nunciature (Vatican Embassy) in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea on 26th July, 2019 at 8pm. Bishop Bal, is presently the Bishop of Kundiawa. He will replace Archbishop Stephen Reichert, O.F.M. Cap., Archbishop of Madang who has reached the age limit.

Bishop Bal was born in Yuri (Diocese of Kundiawa) on 29th November, 1963. After his elementary studies at Dirima Primary School and

Kundiua High School, he entered St Fidelis minor seminary at Madang. He studied Philosophy and Theology at the Holy Spirit Seminary, Bomana, Port Moresby and was ordained priest for the Diocese of Kundiawa in 1991. From 2004 to 2007, he was Vicar General of the Diocese of Kundiawa and Administrator of the Cathedral of Kundiawa. He was elected Auxiliary Bishop of Kundiawa on 5th June, 2007 and received the Episcopal Consecrations on 10th September. He was appointed as the Ordinary Bishop of Kundiawa on 12th January 2009.

Currently Bishop Anton Bal is Vice President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Papua New

Guinea and Solomon Islands, Chairman of the Committee for Integral Human Development and Bishop Deputy of the National Family Life Commission.



Bp Anton Bal

May the Lord continue to bless and guide him as he prepares to take up the pastoral governance of the Archdiocese of Madang.



Bp Otto Separy

New Bishop for the Diocese of Bereina

Port Moresby: Pope Francis has appointed His Excellency Most Reverend Otto Separy, as the new Bishop of Bereina.

The announcement was made by the Apostolic Nunciature (Vatican

Embassy) in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea on 16th July, 2019 at 8pm.

Bishop Otto was born in Kubila (Diocese of Wewak) on 5th August, 1957. He was ordained priest for the Diocese of Wewak on 19th June 1991 and held offices as Parish priest and the Chancellor of the Diocese of Wewak. On 2nd July 2007, he was appointed the Auxiliary Bishop of Aitape and ordained bishop on 30th October. On 9th June 2009 he was appointed by the Holy

Father Pope Benedict XVI as the Bishop Ordinary of Aitape. At present he is the Deputy Bishop of the Commission for New Evangelization of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

May the Lord bless him as he takes up his role as Shepherd of his flock in the Diocese of Bereina.

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Elementary school celebrates St Anne's Feast Day

- Nigel Akuani



Offertory procession by the students of St Anne

Port Moresby: St Anne's Catholic Elementary School, Gerehu, honoured Saints Anne and Joachim on Friday 26th July. It was an occasion to express their gratitude to their grandparents and parents who care for them.

The celebrations were divided into two parts, the Eucharistic celebration at which His Eminence

Cardinal Sir John Cardinal Ribat was the main celebrant.

This was followed by a lively Entertainment. Also present for the celebrations was Department of Education School Inspector Joseph Salangau, priests, religious and guests.

In his homily Cardinal Ribat said, "This day commemorates the efforts made by St Anne and Joachim and how they listened in obedience to serve the Lord Jesus". He congratulated the school for its education and achievements. "By attending school, we learn to listen carefully. By listening we do things right, and we become successful. This is everyone's dream to one day become successful," he said.

Sr Mary Joseph said she was amazed by the energy put in by the teachers and students in entertaining their guests. "This day promotes the

need for more respect to be shown to elders, particularly the grandmothers and granddads."

According to Mr Salangau, the school is making gradual progress toward becoming a primary school. "I am in charge of ensuring that all documents of the school make it through to the Provincial Education Board, and then onto to the National Education Board." he said.

The event was full of fun and laughter. The items were presented by students and grandmothers. More than 450 people were present for the celebration that included priests, sisters, brothers, teachers, students, family and friends.

The school has over 174 students currently enrolled who attend Pre-School, Elementary Prep, and Grades 1, 2 and 3. The day's celebration concluded with shared food and refreshments for all the students and guests.

From Dreams to Decisions

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb
CBC SOCOM and Youth Secretary

All people have dreams. Young people love to dream. These dreams must not be ideal principles but must be imbedded along with our life journey. The invitation comes from Pope Francis in his Apostolic Exhortation 'Christus Vivit' and goes out to all our young people.

Dear young people make the most of these years of your youth. Don't observe life from a balcony. Don't confuse happiness with an armchair or live your life behind a screen. Whatever you do, do not become the sorry sight of an abandoned vehicle! Don't be parked cars but dream freely and make good decisions. Take risks, even if it means making mistakes. Don't go through life anaesthetized or approach the world like tourists. Make a ruckus! Cast out the fears that paralyze you, so that you don't become young mummies. Live! Give yourselves over to the best of life! Open the door of the cage, go out and fly! Please, don't take early retirement (ChV 143).

Over these past few months, it has been an amazing experience to encounter young people in different parts of the country who are ready to dream, ready to take risks and above all ready to challenge their companions to do something good and right.

Our two young icons, Desmond Aigilo and September Kelokelo have just returned with zeal and are enthusiastic about sharing their dreams, insights and experience with their companions.

Desmond has been involved in the BCC and choir at St. Joseph's, Boroko. Together with his friends, he has been committed to ensure that they spread the message of 'Live Pure' and put it into practice. Returning from Rome, he is passionate about 'Christus Vivit'. His dream is to take it to the different parishes in the Archdiocese of Port Moresby and then to share about it in the different Dioceses of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

September Kelokelo has been involved with the young people in her Diocese of Alotau. Her presence and involvement in New York at the UN side event, 'Youth Aspirations and Climate Change' organized by the Don Bosco Green Alliance has spurred her on to say, "I am a Green Ambassador, not only for my community and province, but for my country." She is now speaking to young people to make them aware of moving from research and awareness to constructive and practical activities.

Young people, you have your dreams. In these years of your youth, dream freely and make good decisions. Live! Give yourself over to the best of life! Open the gate of your cage, go out and fly! Ensure that your dreams will become a reality by the decisions you make. God bless!



CPNG on gender advocacy

With its function as an agency to promote Justice, Peace, Relief and Development, the Caritas Papua New Guinea (CPNG) Commission of the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNG-SI have always promoted women empowerment and will continue to do so.



- Abigail Seta

According to the newly appointed CPNG director, Mavis Tito, promoting women and ensuring that the women are included in programs or activities that are implemented is an aim of the commission.

"Past programs ensured governance mechanisms at all levels and even at the community level, it involved women. As opposed to what it was like in the past, CPNG now has a good representation of women as Diocesan Caritas Coordinators," said Mavis.

The commission's board itself also comprises of a good number of women. Currently, CPNG is providing scholarships to 9 young West Papuan females at Don Bosco Technical School in various trade skills training. This has been made possible through funding from Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand.

Apart from promoting women empowerment, gender-based violence is an issue that Ms Tito personally is concerned about and believes that it needs a multi-stakeholder approach to be able to address the issue in a holistic way.

"We need to start with our children. As we raise them, we must teach them to value life, love, care for and respect one and other. We must instill in them at a very young age that it is very wrong to hurt a fellow human being and that no one has the right to inflict pain and suffering on another," she stated.

"This education must continue in our elementary, primary and secondary schools so that children are constantly reminded of these very important principles of life. We need to be supportive of our women and girls in our families, at work, in schools and in the communities we live in. We must encourage our girls to excel in school and support the aspirations of those in our workplaces to achieve their dreams."

She advised that instead of being obstacles to our fellow women, we need to be a team cheering each other on and that men need to be educated on the vulnerabilities of women and be more understanding and supportive.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Dates: **21st February to 01st March, 2020**
 Target Number: **A group of 25 people**
 Price: **PGK 10,000 (Total Cost)**
 Registration: **(non refundable): K1000.00 + Passport copy (valid beyond 31st August 2020) - due 31st August 2019; and outstanding K9000.00 - due 25th October 2019**
 Pilgrimage Chaplain: **Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME, CBC General Secretary**

For further details, contact: **Ms. Nyleptha Kenny**
 Tel: 71209422 or 78233125 Email: cbcea@catholic.org.pg

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 2019

Care for our Common Home

Sunday, 01st September

This year marks the 5th Annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. September 1st is set aside by Pope Francis and he calls for humanity to take better care of our common home.





No death penalty!

The death penalty may be inflicted by the courts in Papua New Guinea, but it has not been carried out since 1958. The Australian administration deemed it an inappropriate draconian measure more than sixty years ago, and the successive governments of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea always refrained from the temptation of turning back the clock of history.

However, the government never meant condoning crime or withdrawing solidarity from victims of heinous crimes and their families. Murder, rape, sorcery payback and whatever deliberate human action leading to death and grave humiliation of a fellow human being must be prosecuted to the full force of the law; and those responsible punished with life in prison in most of the cases. Whatever due and deserved financial compensation towards the families must never replace a rigorous a speedy judiciary process. Crime has its roots. Human heart is evil at times. The lack of education; poverty; alcoholism; drugs. Crime has to be

tackled at its origin, rather than at its end. Prevention begins with the family, the school, the Church. The first problem is that a large number of parents do not know how to build up their children into mature and responsible adult men and women. Young people need leisure and entertainment facilities, now totally absent in our communities, as effective alternatives to alcoholism and drugs. Churches and local level governments could do a lot on the ground in this area. The actual implementation of the death penalty with the execution of the offender creates the false impression that crime is properly dealt with and deterred. Nothing more deceiving than that! A man under the influence of alcohol and drugs will never refrain from killing or raping because of the risk of execution. His mind is already completely off at that time of total loss of self-control. The same applies to the logics behind tribal fight, sorcery payback, ancestral rules and beliefs which imply the death of the enemy or the offender. The implementation of the death penalty only serves the purpose of self-gratification by politicians and society. It provides government departments with a smoke screen hiding their responsibility to tackle and root out ignorance,

Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME
CBC General Secretary



bigotry, destitution, unemployment, neglect of youth, urban poverty and endemic underdevelopment in rural areas. Better have a task force working on viable solutions against the roots of crime, rather than one providing government ministers with the illusion of a cheap solution on the huge tasks ahead of them.

The last time the Parliament of Papua New debated at length the implementation of the death penalty was in the years 2012-'13 under the then Prime Minister Peter O'Neill and Justice Minister and Attorney General, Kerenga Kua. Only to find out that it is technically difficult, costly, controversial, opposed by the United Nations and a great majority of countries, alien to the Commonwealth and the Pacific community of nations, anachronistic and useless. Better avoid any further waste of time, and work hard to strengthen the justice system, empower the police force, and improve the life of the lowest levels of society. The hangman will only take on the small fish anyway. Millionaires and powerful people are likely to still go scot free.

'Laudato Si' as a moral guide in PNG

- Nigel Akuani

Port Moresby: The effects of Climate Change are real, affecting the lives of many Island countries in the Pacific that needs addressing now.

This was the message emphasized during an Environment Seminar on Pope Francis Encyclical on 'Laudato Si', on Saturday 13th July, at the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) in Waigani. It had as its theme: "Laudato Si as a moral guide to sustainable development in PNG."

The seminar had as keynote speakers Bishop of Kavieng and President of the Catholic Bishops Conference, Bp Rochus Tatamai MSC and Professor Chalapan Kaluwin, Acting Executive Dean of School of Natural & Physical Sciences, UPNG. Also present at the seminar was Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC who was a

part of the panel discussion that was conducted after the keynote speeches. Bp Rochus spoke of Laudato Si and how it brought the spiritual perspective to the scientific conversation on environment and climate change. Professor Kaluwin highlighted the Pope's Encyclical and strongly spoke of how science constantly proves the reality of climate change and its effects.

"Laudato Si is not just for Catholics, it is for everyone, no matter what Church or religion they belong to. Laudato Si has no legal binding effect but still has the moral authority to help guide sustainable development. Developments in pursuit of money alone will lead to self-destruction and rupture of the interconnected relationship of God, human beings and creation," said Paul Harricknen, President of



Audience at the environment seminar

the Catholic Professionals Society. The seminar ended with a highlight of resolutions to effectively enforce Laudato Si in the country. The seminar was co-hosted by the Catholic Professionals Society and the University of Papua New Guinea with the support of Caritas PNG.

See resolutions on page 4

Legion of Mary marks 10th Anniversary

- Fr. Martin We-en



Daru-Kiunga: The Legion of Mary celebrated its 10th Anniversary in the Diocese of Daru-Kiunga, Western province of the Regia of the Southern Region of the Legion of Mary.

It was a five-day celebration that commenced on Wednesday 3rd July and ended on Sunday 7th July. The event was

concelebrated by Bishop Gilles Cote, Bishop of the Diocese of Daru-Kiunga, Fr. Martin We-en, Director of Radio Maria PNG and Fr. Alphonse Dende, Spiritual Director of the Regia, a diocesan priest from the Diocese of Kimbe and over 500 members of the Legion of Mary from the three dioceses of the southern region. The three dioceses were the Archdiocese of Port Moresby, Diocese of Bereina and the Diocese of Daru-Kiunga. Celebrations began with the arrival and welcome ceremony of the legionaries from the two dioceses by the hosting diocese.

Fr. Martin celebrated the opening mass on Thursday 4th July. Speaking at the homily, he said that the celebration was to hear, see and do things like Mary did in God's name. Bp. Gilles gave a spirit filled talk on the authentic devotion to Mary and our baptism. The Bishop also presided over the closing Eucharist and encouraged the legionaries to be like Mother Mary, obedient and humble in all things. The 15-Year Anniversary will be held in the Archdiocese of Port Moresby in 2024.

Mendi diocese holds youth rally

Fr. Robert Ablewicz MSF

Mendi: Over 2000 youth gathered for a Highlands Youth Rally that was held from 9th to 13th July in the Diocese of Mendi.

With the theme: 'Called to the Fullness of Life and Love,' the five-day program dwelt on the Call to Holiness, Baptized and sent and the Blessing and sending to preach the Gospel. The program also had Adoration time, confession and the Eucharist which prepared the youths to pray. Present to celebrate the Eucharist with the youths was the Bishop of the Diocese of Goroka, Bp Dariusz Kaluza MSF.

"We had prepared for the Youth Rally last year but due to the state of emergency in Mendi and political issues, we were unable to conduct the rally," said Fr. Robert Ablewicz MSF, Youth Coordinator & Vocation Director of the Diocese of Mendi.



Participants at the highlands youth rally

"The 2018 theme: Called to the fullness of life and love was our light and the way throughout this youth rally."

The rally had youths from the Archdiocese of Mt Hagen, Diocese of Goroka, Kundiawa, Mendi and Wabag.

The youths in the region are now looking forward to the next Highlands Youth Rally that will be held in the Diocese of Goroka in 2021.

Yumi Yet Sios

Long namba 16 dei bilong mun Julai 2019 Papa Francis i bin makim Bisop Otto Separy bilong daisis bilong Aitape i kamap nupela Bisop bilong daisis bilong Bereina insait long Sentral Province. Bisop Otto bai kamap namba 12 Bisop bilong Bereina bihain long Bisop Rochus Josef Tatamai MSC na Bisop John Ribat MSC husat nau em kadinal na Asbisop bilong asdaisis bilong Port Moresby.

Daisis bilong Bereina i bin stat pastaim tru long Yule Ailan taim ol nambawan misinari i bin kamap sua long namba 1 de bilong mun Julai 1885 na Pater Henri Verius i bin mekim nambawan Misa long Yule Ailan long namba 4 dei bilong Julai 1885. Nambawan Bisop tru bilong Bereina taim hetkwuata i stap yet long Yule Ailan em Bisop Andre Navarre MSC. Andre Navarre em i bin nambawan Katolik misinari long kamap sua long Matupit Ailan klostu long Rabaul long namba 29 dei bilong

mun September 1882. Tupela arapela misinari bilong Santu Hart husat i bin kam wantaim Pater Andre Navarre MSC em Pater Theophile Cramaille MSC na seminarian Mesmin Fromm MSC. Bihain liklik taim ol dispela nambawan misinari i kamap long Rabaul na Pater Andre Navarre MSC em i go bek long Sydney Australia long stretim sampla moa material na kargo samting bilong nupela misin long Rabaul. Ino longpela taim na ol politik i senis long Papua i stap aninit long Britain na Niu Gini i bin stap aninit long Germani. Em nau ol Missinari bilong France i bin hat long ol i go i kam namel long Australia na PNG. Em nau ol i kirapim ol misin station long Sydney na Townsville i kam antap inap long Thursday Ailan. Olsem na ol misinari kamap long Yule Ailan na wok misinari i bin stat long hap na pinisim olgeta kona insait long Sauten Region. Long Yule Ailan yet em ol Bisop i bin stap na go pas long wok Ivangelaisesen em:

1. Bisop Andre Navarre MSC

- Bp Rochus Tatamai MSC



2. Bisop Henri Verius MSC,
3. Bp Alain de Boismenu MSC,
4. Bp Andre Sorin MSC,
5. Bp Eugene Klein MSC,
6. Bp Louis Vangeke MSC,
7. Bp Benedict ToVarpin,
8. Bp Lukas Matlatalrea MSC,
9. Bp Gerard Dechamp SSM,
10. Bp John Ribat MSC,
11. Bp Rochus Josef Tatamai MSC,
12. Bp Otto Separy em i kamap tru namba 12 Bisop bilong Bereina daisis.

Sapos yu lukluk gut na skelim olgeta wokabout bilong olgeta wanwan daisis yumi ken strongim tok olsem Bereina i stap olsem wanpela lapun Daisis insait long PNG. Yumi pre bai God Papa i ken blesim olgeta yangpela manmeri na leiti bilong yumi na wokabout gut wantaim Bisop Otto Separy olsem gutpela wasman namel long olgeta manmeri bilong daisis bilong Bereina.



Participants of the peace and unity campaign

Peace and unity campaign for Bougainvilleans

said Marie Mondu, Development Secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference and facilitator of the program.

“This is also a means to provide avenues for discussions and encourage locally driven messaging that will contribute towards peaceful actions and attitudes pre-and-post-referendum.”

The two-day program had two parts to it with the first on community education and information dissemination which basically focused on identifying threats and issues and on how to evangelise peace and unity. The second part focused on media training especially on public speaking, creating posters and using the radio to advocate for peace and unity which was facilitated by the Social Communications Commission.

“The start of this campaign was very informative and I know the participants will use this knowledge to evangelise peace,” stated

William Taong, Caritas Diocesan Development Secretary of Bougainville.

Present for the training were twenty-seven representatives from the Catholic and United Churches in the region. They represented districts from Buka, Bana, Selau/Suir, Siwai and Torokina.

“I am happy with this training as it has given me more knowledge that when I go back to my village, I will use what I have learnt to advocate for peace,” stated Adelyne Kokin, Secretary of the Hahela Catholic parish youth and a Bougainville Human Rights Defender.

During the final day of the training, Ms Mondu met with Bougainville Christian Churches Council Executives to revisit commitments made during a Referendum Workshop in Goroka, for PNG Council of Churches and Bougainville Referendum Commission organised by United Nations Women earlier on in April.

The campaign is sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Bougainville, Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand and Caritas PNG.

Hahela, Bougainville: The Caritas Papua New Guinea (CPNG) have kick-started a peace and unity campaign in the Diocese of Bougainville for pre-and-post-referendum which will be run over the course of six months this year.

The first part of the campaign commenced on Tuesday, 9th July in the Diocese with a peace educator media training that ran for two days.

“The purpose of the program is to educate the general public of Bougainville to know about their voting rights and to accept responsibility for the outcome of the Referendum peacefully,”

Seminar resolves to action Laudato Si values

The Environment Seminar held on Saturday, 13th July resolves to action the values and principals of ‘Laudato Si.’ These resolutions were highlighted once more at a press conference held by the Catholic Professionals Society (CPS). President of CPS, Paul Harricknen presented nineteen resolutions, here are a few highlights of those resolutions.

1. Laudato Si is a moral guide only and we call on leaders, managers, professionals, technocrats, academia, old, young, all of us on planet earth, to review and calibrate our individual and collective

plans of activities in our spheres of activities or influence.

2. Leaders of our nation in civil authorities and spiritual authorities in churches are called on to lead by example the values and principles of Laudato Si.

3. Managers of civil authorities and church institutions are called on to make proper diagnosis of the use of resources to seeing human development as key to responsibly responding to values and principles of Laudato Si.

4. Professionals and technocrats are called on to provide holistic advice and support to leaders and managers of authorities and institutions with Laudato Si as an essential list of factors informing development decisions and actions.

5. Academics are called on to review and reflect values and principles of Laudato Si in the academic disciplines and fields of study in academic and technical institutions.

6. Individuals and businesses are called on to review and reflect consumer behavior and disposal of waste to live eco-friendly lives.

7. Resources industries are called on to practice environmental stewardship and social



responsibility in their line of business.

8. Regulators or resources industries are called on to balance need for development and protection of earth and environment in allowing extraction of resources.

9. Finance lending institutions and insurance providers are called on to assess resources extraction projects against, among others, values and principles of Laudato Si. Lenders and insurance providers will not assist developing nations like PNG if they were only concerned with financial returns.

10. To continue collaboration with all key participating institutions, agencies of government, multilateral institutions and church on key issue of care of our common home – earth, environment and ecosystems.

11. Community awareness is a necessity.

Catholic Reporter

Invites you to send in your articles, photograph and reflections on events and happenings in your parish, community, institution and diocese.

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