



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



Our Pope to young people: 'You are the today of God, the today of the Church!'

Rome: JUNE 24, 2019

Pope Francis addressed the participants of the International Youth Forum on June 22, 2019, in the Clementine Hall of the Apostolic Palace. He said, "You are the today of God, the today of the Church!" The International Youth Forum, promoted by the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life, took place in Sassone di Ciampino, Rome, at the Casa Il Carmelo, from June 19 – 22, on the theme: "Young people in action in a synodal Church". The meeting was aimed at promoting the implementation of the 2018 Synod on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment. Below are extracts of the message of the Holy Father.

The Holy Father expressed his gratitude to Cardinal Farrell and his entire staff for acknowledging young people as the chief protagonists of the pastoral conversion so greatly desired by the Synod Fathers. Protagonists. You are *young people, and young people on the move, in a synodal Church*, and this is what you have been thinking about and reflecting on during these past days.

The Final Document of the last synodal assembly views "the account of the disciples on the way to Emmaus (cf. Lk 24:13-35) as a model for our understanding of the Church's mission to the young" (No. 4). "Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him (Lk 24:30ff). It is not by chance that you celebrated the Solemnity of Corpus Christi at the very time when you were gathered for this meeting. Could it be that the Lord wanted once more to open your hearts so that he could speak to you through this page of the Gospel?"

The experience of the disciples of Emmaus led them irresistibly to take up anew, their journey, even though they had already walked some seven miles. It was growing dark, yet they were no longer afraid to walk at night, for Christ was lighting up their lives. Like the disciples of Emmaus, we were called to bring the light of Christ into the darkness of the world. You, dear young people, are called to be light in the dark night experienced by so many of your friends who do not yet know the joy of new life in Jesus.

There can be no true joy unless we share it with others. You are all happy that you could take part in this Forum. The disciples of Emmaus did not want their "mysterious guest" to go away... "Stay with us", they said, in an effort to convince him to stay with them. The more we bring him to others, the more we will feel his presence in our lives. Jesus lit a fire in the hearts of the disciples (Lk 24:32). Feed the fire of Christ burning in your hearts, and let it spread!

Dear young people: you are the today of God, the today of the Church! Not just the future, but today. The Church needs you so that she can be fully herself. I would like you always to remember that you are members of one body, of this community. Our world is more and more divided, and divisions bring wars and conflict in their wake. You have to be a message of unity. With Christ, let us bring his fire to light up the darkness of this world!

I would like to take this occasion to make an important announcement. The next International World Youth Day will be held in Lisbon in 2022. The theme I chose for this

stage of the intercontinental pilgrimage of young people is: "*Mary arose and went with haste*" (cf. Lk 1:39). In the two coming years, I would ask you to meditate on these two verses: "*Young man, I say to you, arise!*" (cf. Lk 7:14; *Christus Vivit*, 20) and "*Stand up. I appoint you as a witness of what you have seen*" (cf. Acts 26:16). Do not tune out the voice of God, who urges you to arise and follow the paths that he has prepared for you. Like Mary, and in union with her, may you daily bring to others his joy and his love. The theme says that Mary arose and went with haste to see her cousin. Always ready, always hastening, but not anxious or troubled. I ask you to pray for me, and now I will give you my blessing. All together, each in his or her own language, but all together, let us recite the Hail Mary. *Hail Mary...*

Photograph below supplied: Desmond Aigilo, PNG Youth representative meeting the Holy Father and speaking to him



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Tribute to Late Philip Alabeti

Alotau: Province up until his appointment as the new Philip Alabeti, Catholic Education Secretary in 2018. He took over from Martin Todogieta, a long serving Catholic Education Secretary in the diocese. Prior to his appointment, he had worked with Mr. Todogieta for six months and at the same time, acted as the Diocesan Religious Education Coordinator as the position was vacant for a year.

The Late Philip worked hard on his own on the two positions and was able to manage the office and meet the demands of the teachers as well as the expectations from the Diocese and the Provincial Education office.

This year he organized two teachers' workshops, the first was in April for all head teachers, and the second in May for all Religious Education Coordinators from all the Catholic Agency Schools.

Sadly, he never ran the second workshop which was to commence on Monday, 27th May as he had collapsed on the morning of Sunday 26th May and passed away.

The workshop was conducted with the help of Sr Betty Simbajon and Sr Emma, who took the topics that the Late Philip was going to facilitate.

Philip will be sadly missed by his colleagues, the Catholic Education Secretaries and the Coordinators of each diocese.

Representing the National Catholic Education Office of the Catholic Bishops Conference were Fiona Wenama and Sr Emma Lapun OLSH, who helped with the teacher's workshop and attended his funeral mass and burial.

We pray that the Lord welcomes him into Paradise.



at the very young age of 38 years. He leaves behind his wife and two young children. He was from a mixed parentage of Milne Bay and Solomon Islands.

As a trained primary school teacher, he taught in various schools in Central and Milne Bay

Make a difference

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb
CBC SOCOM and Youth Secretary

'Youth Aspirations and Climate urgency' is one of the events of the High Level Political Forum to be held in New York from the 8th to 18th July, 2019.

Papua New Guinea is proud that **September Genevieve Kelokelo**, 23 years, from Normanby Island, Milne Bay Province will be representing the country at this event. September graduated with a Diploma in Electronics Technology from the Don Bosco Technological Institute, Boroko, Papua New Guinea.

At the recent National Youth Animators Seminar, held in Port Moresby, which brought together 20 participants from the different dioceses in Papua New Guinea, September led the participants in a Nature meditation. Her reflection awakens in us the need to protect and care for our planet.

Her reflection went thus:

"I saw this flower fallen on the ground. The flower was just starting to fade away, but its beauty was still radiant. As I peered into the flower, I noticed moving creatures within – a spider and an ant. The spider has eight legs while the ant has six. This beautiful flower plays host to a spider and an ant. It offers them a home and security. All live in peace and harmony enjoying the beauty of each other.

On the other hand, a man has two hands and two feet. He has been given the earth to till and cultivate for his advantage. Sadly, he has destroyed the earth to a degree that needs urgent attention. Imagine, if man had eight limbs, what would the destruction to our mother earth be like?"

"Papua New Guinea is one of the island nations in the Pacific that is in the early stages of experiencing climatic changes. Unexpected wet and dry seasons and unpredictable weather patterns are becoming a regular feature. Many do not know what is happening due to lack of awareness on climate change. We regard ourselves as a generation of consumers of the natural environment, not caretakers to our Common Home. We complain about everything, but do not realize that perhaps it is our actions that contribute to climate change. The government has policies, but these have yet to come down to the community", says September.

Young people, like September are concerned about the planet and wish to do something to ensure that future generations will also enjoy its beauty. We wish September an enriching experience at the High Level Political Forum in New York and look forward to her return when she will in different ways advocate for 'Climate Change'.



Gender equality in the workforce

Gender equality in the workforce is important however, achieving it, practicing it and promoting it is a struggle and is challenging in a predominantly male society.

At the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands (CBC-PNGSI), the equality of men and women is a significant part of its structure. To understand its importance, *The Catholic Reporter* spoke to a few of the CBC staff who support gender equality in all sectors.

According to CBC's Executive Assistant to the General Secretary, Nyleptha Kenny, gender equality in the workforce means everyone regardless of being male or female are on equal footing in terms of accessing better opportunities at work without being discriminated because of their gender.

"CBC promotes gender equality in the workforce by giving equal opportunities to both men and women to serve the Catholic Church in different capacities according to their qualifications, experiences and on merit," Nyleptha said.

Also sharing her views was Sr. Emma Lapun OLSH, the National Catholic Education Coordinator who mainly spoke on ways to promote gender equality.

"Equal Participation as described in the National Goal of our country is the way forward. It is about the voice of the women to be heard in all aspects of life."

"It encourages more women to speak out openly and freely on issues affecting them in their communities and shared responsibilities of employment and other duties in the society that is dominated by the male counterpart," stated Sr Emma.

Ms Kenny also suggested that there should be continuous gender awareness through strategic planning and decision-making processes when it comes to recruitment, training and skills development.

For gender equality to be effective in all sectors of the country, both male and female, whether young or old need to learn to support and empower each other.



- Abigail Seta

ENVIRONMENT SEMINAR

Co-hosted by **Catholic Professionals Society and UPNG**,
the seminar will dwell on the theme:

'Laudato Si' as moral guide to sustainable development in PNG

Date: **Saturday, 13th July 2019**
Time: **8:30am - 3:30pm**
Venue: **UPNG campus**

Speakers:
Most Rev. Bp Rochus Tatamai MSC
Professor Chalapan Kaluwin

For more information, contact:
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SINGKAI LECTURE 2019

Advocacy for the people of Pomio: *Implementing Laudato Si*
Given by + **Francesco Panfilo SDB**

Date: **Friday, 5th July 2019**
Time: **7:30pm**
Venue: **Catholic Theological Institute, Bomana, Port Moresby**

The Archbishop of Rabaul will talk of the work of his diocese on following the directives of Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si*.



Our common journey achieved in Networking

Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME
CBC General Secretary

I write these notes from Aachen in Germany. With Fr. Victor Roche, my predecessor as General Secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and

Solomon Islands (CBC PNG/SI), we are visiting here the funding agencies that support several of our pastoral and development projects.

In Aachen alone we met the staff of *Misereor, Missio, Cameco and Kidermissionswerk*. Proceeding to Konigstein we will see *Church in Need*. And in Munich another smaller branch of *Missio*. The generosity of the German Catholic Church, their people and government allow for many good things to happen in developing countries: pastoral programs, media work, child protection awareness, climate change preparedness, calamity response and many more.

Also, thanks to this support, our Catholic Bishops Conference is strengthening its organization and its services. New positions have been created in recent months such as that of the Development Secretary. We are expanding our care for Migrants. A new Caritas PNG director is in place since the 1st of July.

We are also moving fast to fill other gaps such as that of the Secretary for Laity, for family Life and Child Protection and possibly a full timer for Youth. Our Social Communication team is also growing and thriving. The two historical Commissions for Education, along with Health, and the Liturgical Catechetical Institute in Goroka perform well beyond ordinary expectations. In 2020 we will also be able to strengthen the work of New Evangelization and journey steadily towards a New Conference Pastoral Plan, perhaps preceded by a new General Assembly of the Catholic Church in PNG/SI in the year 2021.

The CBC offices in Port Moresby, however, are not supposed to grow out of proportion. They are only instruments of stimulus, support and inspiration to the dioceses of our two countries.

Therefore, the local coordinators for Caritas, Family Life, New Evangelization and all other commissions and services need to strengthen their commitment, if needed redefine their purpose and always come up with creative ideas and initiatives.

It is important nowadays, in Port Moresby as well as in the dioceses that pastoral and development agents network, interact and plan together. Furthermore, we need to be clear that all we plan and promote will enable our people enjoy better conditions of material, social, intellectual and spiritual life. We can't see ourselves as children of God unless our faith in Him makes us true brothers and sisters in the common journey.

- Nigel Akuani

Caritas PNG launches scholarship program

Port Moresby: The West Papua Scholarship Program was officially launched at a Seminar on Friday, 28th June at the Catholic Bishops Conference, Gordons.

Caritas PNG (CPNG) launched its support to the first 20 West Papuan teenagers in its Humanitarian Aid program to provide education scholarships in partnership with Don Bosco Technical School, Gabutu. The short courses that runs for 4 months annually give an opportunity to disadvantaged young men and women to complete and attain a basic certificate in computing, administration, electrician and motor mechanics.

DBTS Deputy Principal for Technical Affairs, Mr Kenneth Gonzales described the program as a special one as it involved people who left their homeland and are in Papua New Guinea as refugees. 'They welcomed angels' is the Mission

theme for 2019. "In keeping with the theme, we are happy to welcome the West Papuan Refugees and offer them the possibility of being educated at DBTS, Gabutu. The program will develop their skills, and most importantly help them find a decent job," said Mr Gonzales.

The seminar's facilitator and Secretary for Development of CBC-PNGSI Ms Marie Mondu emphasized the need for empowerment and a sense of purpose to be given to refugees. "Refugees in PNG today need our help, particularly our brothers and sisters from West Papua. This program provides them with the tools necessary and the opportunity to rebuild their lives," Ms Mondu said.

Representative of Nine-Mile West Papua Community, Hans Wonsiwor explained that the scholarship meant a great deal to his people.



West Papua recipients of the CPNG scholarship program

"I'm proud of the partnership between Caritas PNG and DBTS, and I thank them both in providing this wonderful scholarship program to assist the West Papuan Community. My presence here today is to express my gratitude toward the program," Mr Wonsiwor said.

- Abigail Seta

Solemnity of Pentecost observed



Fr. Ambrose Pereira speaking during his homily

The Holy Spirit Seminary, Bomana marked the Solemnity of Pentecost and their feast day with a special liturgical celebration on Sunday, 9th June 2019.

Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb, Catholic Bishops Conference Social Communication and Youth Secretary, was the main celebrant at the Eucharistic celebration at which eight others concelebrated.

Ambassador Michael Maue; President of the Catholic Theological Institute, Fr. Joseph Vnuk OP; Dean of studies of the Catholic Theological Institute, Brandon Zimmerman and many others together with the community of the Catholic students from Pacific Adventist University (PAU), Priests, brothers and seminarians from the neighbouring colleges, Sisters from the neighbouring communities and representatives of Radio Maria were present at the celebration.

At the Eucharist, in his homily, Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb dwelt on "*Christus Vivit*" (Christ is Alive). He stressed the presence of the Holy Spirit and human dignity. He also elaborated on refugees and asylum seekers in the country and their plight on Manus Island.

Following this was the outdoor activities which had speeches by invited guests and speakers, showcasing of traditional songs and dances by the Seminarians and invited family and friends with refreshments served for everyone.

The Solemnity of Pentecost falls 50 days after Easter and is celebrated by the Universal Catholic Church.

Youth Training focuses on 'Christ is Alive'

CBC, Gordons: The National Youth Animators Training hosted by the Youth Commission of the Catholic Bishops Conference was held from 3rd to 7th June at the Catholic Bishops Conference Centre, Gordons.

The theme was 'Call to Holiness' where the sessions focused on the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis entitled '*Christus Vivit*' (Christ is Alive).

The week-long program gathered twenty youth coordinators from the Catholic Archdioceses of Port Moresby, Madang, Mt Hagen, Rabaul and the Dioceses of Alotau, Daru-Kiunga, Mendi, Kavieng, Aitape, Wewak, Kerema, Bereina, Vanimo and Lae. Among the participants were the Bishop of the Diocese of Kerema, Bp. Peter Baquero sdb and Bishop of the Dioceses of Alotau, Bp Rolando Santos who were facilitators at the program with Secretary of the Social Communication and Youth Secretary, Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb, Sr Rebecca Fernandez OND and Fr Pablo RamirezO Carm.

Addressing the Youth Coordinators, Bp. Peter stressed on listening. "Young people want a Church that listens more than simply condemning the world. The Pope highlighted that this is a challenge for youth animators and coordinators to listen to our young people," said the Bishop of Kerema.

A special part of the training saw the animators view the film 'The Least of These' at the Paradise Cinema in Vision City on 6th June.

The Youth Training was aimed at helping the youth animators and coordinators in their youth ministry and journey with young people from each diocese.



Photo: CBC SOCOM and YOUTH
Youth coordinators at the National Youth Animators Training

Yumi Yet Sios

- Bp Rochus Tatamai MSC



God i singautim yumi olgeta long kamap olsem ol wanwok manmeri bilong em insait long ol ples yumi stap long en.

olgeta i gat wankain wok na responsibiliti long sanap bung wantaim na mekim gud ol wok bilong lukautim olgeta ples yumi stap long en.

Long nambawan buk bilong Baibel long Jenesis yumi ridim stori blong God i mekim kamap olgeta samting long heven na graun, insait long ol bus, maunten na solwara na God i pulumapim ol long ol animal, welabus, pisin i flai long skai na ol kainkain pis i swim insait long ol wara na bikpela solwara.

Tudei igat planti toktok i kamap long yumi mas lukautim gud ol envaironmen bilong yumi olsem ol diwai long ol bikbus bilong yumi, ol nambis na rif wantaim ol solwara na ol bikpela na liklik wara bai oli mas stap klin na noken bagarapim ol long kain katim nating ol bikpela diwai na burukim nating ol welabus na bikbus bilong yumi, skelim gud ol wok maining na stopim ol pasin ol bikpela kampani kam insait nating long ol ples na wokim ol giaman toktok long mekim ol wok kamap olsem development tasol tru tru bilong dispela pasin em i blong stilim na bagarapim ol envaironmen bilong yumi.

NOGAT NA BAI INOGAT WANPELA KAMPANI BILONG YUMI YET O BILONG OL LAIN AUTSAIT bai kam insait long ol ples bilong yumi na wokim kain wok kamap long stilim ol divai insait long ol bush bilong yumi o wara na solwara bilong yumi.

Taim God i mekim kamap ol man na meri God i givim ol manmeri long wankain lukluk na dignity long ol olsem oli piksa tru bilong God yet.

Yumi mas sanap wantaim na stopim ol kainkain wok illegal logging, illegal fishing o mekim ol operation bilong ol mining kampani.

Wantaim dispela wankain lukluk God i givim olgeta gutpela save na strong long ol manmeri long lukautim na bosim olgeta samting God i bin mekim kamap. Olgeta man na meri yumi

Yumi ol manmeri bilong olgeta ples bilong yumi, yumi mas sanap wantaim na tok I

Yumi olgeta i mas wok bung wantaim long kamapim trupela wok kamap na development we yumi olgeta i ken amamas na kamapim gutpela envaironmen bilong ol pikinini na tumbuna bilong yumi bihain taim.

Lae Diocese opens and blesses new Chancery and radio station



Photo: Catholic FM 103.7

Catholic faithful gathering to see the Catholic FM studio

Lae: World Communication Day in the Diocese of Lae was marked by the blessing and official opening of the new Chancery and Catholic FM radio station on 2nd June, 2019.

The opening ceremony, held in front of the new building gathered invited guests and catholic faithful to witness the event. Addressing the crowd, Bishop of the Diocese of Lae, Bp. Rozario Menezes said:

“Communication plays a vital role in human life. It not only helps to facilitate the process of sharing information and knowledge, but also helps people to develop relationships with others”.

Reflecting on the Popes message, Bp Rozario told the people during the opening ceremony that “true”

communication provides real signals and emotions. Pope Francis highlights this in the theme for this year's world Communication Day, “We are members one of another (Eph 4:25) - from social network communities to the human community.”

The new Chancery building has been named after the late Emeritus Bishop Christian Blouin CMM, the second bishop of Lae.

The Broadcasting studio room has been named after the late Bishop Henry van Lieshout CMM who was the first Bishop of Lae and founder of Catholic FM 103.7 Radio. The production studio room after the late Fr. Geoffrey Lee, Co-founder of Catholic FM 103.7 Radio.

Mr. Bill Hodges, the builder, handed over the key of the Chancery and Catholic FM 103.7 Radio to Bp. Rozario who then blessed the rooms in the company of Fr. Alfonso Voorn CMM, Fr. Martin Ween, the Director of Radio Maria PNG and Fr. Brian Nonde CMM.

The Bishop of Lae is hoping to reach the poorest of the poor through the radio. He hopes to extend and expand its coverage area as well as activities.

Archdiocese of Madang engages inmates in youth rally

- Nigel Akuani

A youth rally was held in the Archdiocese of Madang from 16th – 19th June that engaged inmates from the Beon Correctional Services Institution and young people from four main Parishes in the province.

nuns to the Archbishop, were all pleased with the positive turn out in numbers that created the lively atmosphere that was needed for the rally,” he said.

According to the coordinator of the rally and Madang Deanery Youth Chaplain, Fr. Anton Gambu, the main purpose of the event was to share their faith through informing and engaging the youth in positive ways. Fr. Anton Gambu spoke of how the event was a first of its kind and said that the event proved to be very successful.

Fr. Anton thanked the Madang Governor, Hon. Peter Charles Yama, and everyone who helped in every way to make the event a success and said that a second Youth Rally in the near future was possible. The rally concluded with a closing Mass celebrated by Archbishop of Madang, Abp. Steve Reichert on Trinity Sunday at Beon Prison.



Photo: Abp. Steve Reichert

Inmates and participants with Abp. Steve Reichert

“Everyone who took part in the event from the inmates, the youths, parishioners, priests and

Prisoners who were allowed out of the fences and those who participated from inside, enjoyed

the event, a break from the normal difficult life of someone in prison.

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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