



# 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

February 2020

Issue 170

- Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb and Lucy Lavu

## Veritas in Caritate – Truth in Service

### Episcopal Ordination of Bishop John Bosco Auram, Bishop of Kimbe

Memorial Park where thousands of people flocked to witness the ordination.

Archbishop Francesco Panfilo, Archbishop of Rabaul, Cardinal John Ribat, Archbishop of Port Moresby and Bishop Emeritus William Fey were the consecrators of the Ordination. Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal, Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands read out the Apostolic Bull from Pope Francis and preached a very fitting and well-articulated sermon.

In his homily, the Apostolic Nuncio paid tribute to His Lordship William Regis Fey who had been shepherding the diocese for over nine years with untiring dedication even to the point of neglecting his health. Addressing the new bishop on his big commitment, he reminded him of God's words to Jeremiah (Jer 1:4-10). He spoke of his 'yes' to God at his priestly ordination in 2004 and the new challenge as the Bishop of Kimbe.

"It is your call within a call." The task of the bishop is not of domination, but of humble service, as he strives to be a pastor with the 'smell of the sheep'. Trust in God and Our Blessed Mother and pray for your people and your priests. Be the 'sacrament of closeness' for your priests and your people," said the Archbishop.

Addressing the congregation, Bp John Bosco said: "I see hope in your eyes." He thanked God, his parents, family and the people for the support of their prayers. He encouraged all to be deeply spiritual and lift up their hearts and voices in prayer. He requested them to pray a decade of the rosary daily as a family for him and for the ministry in the diocese.

Bishops and representatives from different dioceses joined the priests, religious and lay faithful of the diocese of Kimbe. Hon. Francis Galia Maneke, MP, Governor of West New Britain Province, Hon. Sasindran Muthuvel, MP, Minister for Public Enterprises and State Investments and several government and other well-wishers joined in the celebrations.

The entire celebration was organized by the Diocesan organizing committee. The St. Francis Xavier Parish, Valoka choir sang under the baton of Herman Bareoa, while Allen Sauli coordinated the musicians. The participants of the choir were from the villages of Kololo, Gavaiva, Vovosi and Galewale. The choir sang with heartfelt emotion inviting the congregation to lift up their hearts and voices in petition, praise and thanksgiving. The hymns sung on the day were compositions of Bishop John Bosco Auram, Fr Boniface Kasate, Br Benedict Saua MSC and Mr Andrew Bubu.

- Nigel Akuani and Abigail Seto



Bp John Bosco Auram, 3rd Bishop of Kimbe receiving the Episcopal cross from Abp Francesco Panfilo sdb

**Kimbe:** Rev. Fr John Bosco Auram was ordained as the third Bishop of the Diocese of Kimbe with 'Veritas in Caritate – Truth in Service' as his motto.

Colourful and vibrant cultural dances accompanied by melodious music and harmonious singing filled the air as he was ordained on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2020. The solemn celebration took place at the Bernard Vogae

## CTI signs affiliation with University of Santo Tomas

**Port Moresby:** The Catholic Theological Institute (CTI) is a step closer to be able to offer a Bachelor in Sacred Theology (STB) granted by the University of Santo Tomas, Philippines after signing an affiliation agreement.

In an official gathering between representatives of CTI and the University of Santo Tomas (UST) on Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January, the documents namely the 'Affiliation Agreement' and the 'Norms to be Observed' were signed in triplicate copies by His Eminence Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC, Pro-Chancellor of CTI and Rev. Dr. Joseph Vnuk OP, President of CTI.

However, the affiliation is not official until approved by the Congregation of Education - the pontifical congregation of the Roman Curia responsible for Catholic universities, faculties, and institutes of higher study.

This ceremony marks that UST is sponsoring CTI's petition to the Congregation of Education for affiliation. The STB follows the universal requirements set by the Congregation and qualifies a graduate for further studies in any ecclesiastical university.

In his welcome speech, Rev. Vnuk, told of how CTI had been seeking for a number of years to have its degrees approved by UST and spoke of the many changes to meet UST's standards.

"The signing indicates that UST recognizes that CTI has met those standards and that CTI is prepared to maintain those standards and to meet its obligations to UST. With this affiliation, we are able to train more and more people for teaching positions so that one day CTI will be run primarily by local priests and religious and will move up to accrediting higher degrees," he said.

Representing UST were Rev. Dr. Jannel N Abogado OP, Regent of Studies of the Dominican Province of the Philippines, Rev. Dr. Florentino Bolo Jr, OP, Director, UST Institute of Religion and Mr Leo-Martin Angelo Ruiz Ocampo, Academic Collaborations Officer, UST.

In his remarks, Rev. Dr. Jannel N Abogado OP said that the affiliation was an essential aspect to improving the formation of clergy and the local church. He called for CTI to take full advantage of the benefits of the collaboration with UST in pressing forward the affiliation process.

Cardinal Ribat described the signing as the end of one long and challenging journey and the start of

another for CTI in its unwavering efforts toward achieving affiliation with UST.

The special occasion was graced by the presence of Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, His Excellency Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal; Chair of CTI Governing Council, Bp Donald Lippert; Regent of Studies of the Dominican Province of Philippines, Rev. Dr Jannel N Abogado OP; Director of UST Institute of Religion, Rev. Dr Florentino Bolo OP; PNG MSC Provincial, Rev. John Willio; PNG, Australia, and SI Dominican Provincial, Rev. Anthony Walsh; Catholic Bishops Conference General Secretary, Fr Giorgio Licini PIME; Priests, Religious Sister, seminarians and laity.



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# Our Catholic Laity: Holy and formed for mission

A Pastoral Letter for the Year of the Laity Part II, 2020 continued

-The lay apostolate is far more than liturgical and pastoral tasks. However, those of you involved in these ministries such as catechists, communion, music, and other liturgical ministers, youth, men and women leaders can also improve your knowledge and skills to carry out your ministries effectively. Liturgy and prayer led by lay people is a normal part of the life of the church. Appropriate formation of these ministries is a special task of the parish priest.

-In places with Internet access, there are some wonderful and informative sites that you can use for education and formation if you have access, (e.g. Vaticannews.va, Catholicnewsagency.com, and Catholicanswers.com). These free internet sites have reliable and accurate information on the teachings of the Church. The Vaticannews.va site also has the daily readings, lives of the saints and even a summary of the Pope's daily homily. The Internet and social media are valuable resources for your growth but you need to be cautious since they also promote pornography, bullying, cybercrime, scams, fake news, data theft, and other negative things. Those of you who are able can help us instruct our youth and others on good and proper Internet and social media use and to offer caution about its negative factors (see signis.net for help).

-Priests can offer spiritual formation and education when they visit communities for Mass, sharing the knowledge they learned at the seminary. This is a proper task of clergy, to empower the laity (PNGSI Catechism 311-315). Seminarians and clergy also need formation in servant leadership for cooperation with the laity in order to avoid clericalism, the temptation to claim a power and authority unrelated to their proper role. A key part of priestly ministry is to offer catechesis to the laity, to support and be present at lay led activities, and to learn from them.

-Most of our Major Seminaries are now open to lay students. A few of you have taken advantage of this offer but perhaps the seminaries could consider how to organize themselves so that more laity could take religious studies, philosophy, or theology certificate, diploma, and degree programs. Allowing young lay people into these programs has also promoted and fostered vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Your formation is for your own personal knowledge and for the betterment of your families, communities, and the whole of the church and society. This formation must lead you to be more involved in the *mission* of the Church which is to teach, preach, evangelize, and

transform our communities and the whole world (Mt. 28:16-20). Thus, formation is for action, not for show (Rom 15:14). Preparation for Confirmation is a special time where candidates could be equipped with appropriate skills and motivation for mission.

Prayer is a vital part of your Christian life. Jesus began all ministry and continued it with prayer. Prayer for the Laity can be food that makes formation and mission possible. Commitment to personal and family prayer, and faithfulness to community and liturgical prayer, supports mission. You and your communities can be united in prayer with this common Prayer for the Laity which could be said at Mass or community prayer:

May God bless you and our church and all our work together as laity, priests, bishops and consecrated people in the mission of the church, spreading the Gospel for our own good and for God's glory.

**+ Rochus Tatamai**  
President CBC PNGSI

## Share stories that inspire

54<sup>th</sup> World Communications Day, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb  
Secretary for Social Communication

We are from a Melanesian tradition that is dominantly oral. Our stories and our history are handed down from generation to generation. These stories are important as we get an understanding of our rich history and customs. They speak of the struggle for unity and togetherness, peace and harmony. In spite of the ever-increasing voices around us, stories from the past help us rediscover our roots, shape our attitude, our behaviour and inspire us to move forward. It is these stories that weave the fabric of our society and give us the courage to face the challenges of our life.

All of us want our stories to be stories that are good and positive. We want stories that speak of joy and happiness, glory and success. Sadly, many of our stories speak of violence and falsehood, revenge and hatred, destruction and exploitation. We realize that we often give in to evil, to the temptation of the serpent our fill our communication platforms with stories that are unverified and hateful, provocative and destructive that do not build our history, but rather strip us of our human dignity.

"That you may tell your children and grandchildren" (Ex 10:2) is the theme of Pope Francis for World Communications Day, to be celebrated on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2020. The Holy Father reminds us that God has given us life, a gift and a privilege. It is up to us to recount the most significant episodes of the story of our lives, 'weave' a wonderful mystery, and communicate the best meaning. We know from our faith that Abraham (Ex 2:24), Moses (Ex 10:2) and the Exodus experience tell of Gods personal presence with us as he weaves himself in the fabric of our society. Christs presence in flesh makes our stories divine. The spirit constantly writes in our hearts.

Each one of us have experiences and stories that need to be shared. May we ponder on the positive stories and like Mary, untie the knots of our lives and recount the magnificent works of God. Here is an invitation for you to share your positive and inspiring stories that will weave us together in harmony and love.



## DMI Sisters positively impacting women

The Daughters of Mary Immaculate or DMI sisters have been positively influencing the lives of women and children in the settlements of Port Moresby.



- Abigail Seta

Over the past year, the sisters have been conducting programs to up-skill the women in various trades by creating self-help groups. This has impacted the women to play a better role in their families.

During the month of December 2019 and January 2020, they engaged women in the pastoral ministry where the sisters distributed rosaries and statues to the self-help groups. Prior to the distribution, these items were blessed by His Eminence Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC.

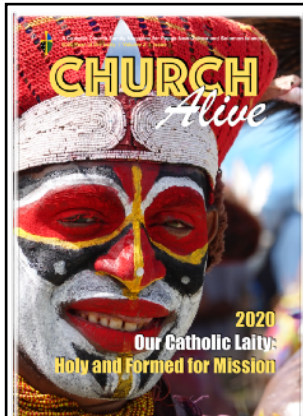
"In order to have devotions and a divine relationship with God, we want to inspire the women and children to recite the rosary every day with their families and to practice regular prayers," stated the sisters.

"We are also preparing Catholic families to encounter Jesus, as well as enriching the people who have been interested in being baptised."

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of January, the sisters received a donation of 6 bags of 10kg rice from His Excellency Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, Archbishop Mathew Vayalunkal.

The Sisters also bought fifty more bags and distributed them to thirty self-help groups in Korobosea, Kaugere, Kogeva, Sabama and Joyce Bay areas.

Currently, the sisters are fundraising together with the communities to celebrate the International Women's Day – a global celebration that falls on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March. This event will be celebrated at Gabutu on 21<sup>st</sup> March. The sisters have been seeking sponsorship from different business houses over the past weeks to celebrate the the event meaningfully.



### CHURCH ALIVE! Magazine

Church Alive Magazine is now available. Catholic Family magazine for Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. Volume 2, Issue 1, January to March.

Price: K2/

Bulk purchase of 50 copies and more are priced at K1.50 a copy

Contact CBC SOCOM Office on:  
Phone: 325 9577 | Email: [socom@catholic.org.pg](mailto:socom@catholic.org.pg)

## Youth Alive!

Spiritual insights by and for young people  
Sharing on the Sunday Gospel

One-minute:  
*Personal experience,*  
*Reference to the Gospel*  
*and an Invitation to Change.*

Check out the YouTube Channel 'Youth Alive 2020' and **SUBSCRIBE.**

To be a part of this initiative, contact SOCOM office on email: [socom@catholic.org.pg](mailto:socom@catholic.org.pg)

AN INITIATIVE BY:  
**CBC Social Communication**  
and **PGS Communications**



# Mind your own garbage!

Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME  
CBC General Secretary

The concern for the environment grows all over the world as the damage to earth inflicted by modern development takes a toll on the ground, the air and the sea. Those who only think of wealth and their own

political privileges tend to deny scientific research, direct observation, and common sense. But the fact that the forests disappear, the waters get dirtier and dirtier and pollution suffocates people in many parts of the world is just there to see. Garbage also piles up in the streets and millions of tons of plastic floats on the oceans.

Calls for action at the international level generally fall on deaf ears. Talks and statements are ignored when it comes to sacrifice economic gains and possibly jobs and livelihoods for families. While that may be understandable, what is unacceptable is that medium and long term projects are still being developed with no consideration for the impact on the health of the planet. There should be no place for greed and pure financial interest. The cost now becomes

unbearable; and the wounds inflicted to nature will remain permanently unhealed.

A new guide for action will now be provided by Pope Francis with the imminent publication of an Apostolic Exhortation following the Synod on the Amazon in Rome in October last year. There is a possibility that media focus on relevant, but marginal details with the risk of missing the point: the rights of creation being denied by human greed, arrogance and violence. Greed refers to unchecked financial goals in destroying the rainforest and turning it into plantations of soy or rubber or oil palm. Arrogance and violence translate into the forced displacement of the native population and ancestral communities, forever losing their habit, becoming strangers on their own land, and ending up among the increasing number of the urban poor.

The safeguarding of the environment begins in the mind and heart of each one of us. Nature has rights on its own. We share the planet with innumerable other vegetal and animal species. At the moment our actions not only threaten their survival, but deliberately destroy them. And this

becomes even more unacceptable when human life is put at risk, and entire communities get wiped out of the map as they come to be seen as an obstacle to the plunder of lands, rivers, and forests.

Papua New Guinea has its own decisions to take. Still our garbage is not being segregated and properly recycled. Agriculture remains small scale and too traditional to be able to provide an alternative to the mining industry in terms of income for families and for the national budget. The mining and extractive sector, therefore, tends to expand and the government to rely on it for royal ties and public funds.

On a more direct observation and daily experience, the way empty cans at times are thrown out of car windows, or plastic bags and all sort of waste are dumped into the sea denotes widespread arrogance and insensitivity towards nature and people. The action actually tells of individuals far from feeling part of creation and the common human family. The time for change has come. It's now.

## PNG forest under threat

Marie Mondu  
CBC Development Secretary

The forests of Papua New Guinea are being chopped down so quickly that more than half its trees could be lost by 2021, according to a new satellite study of the region.

Researchers compared satellite images taken over three decades from the early 1970s. In 1972, the country had 38m hectares (94m acres), of rainforest covering 82% of the country. About 15% of that was cleared by 2002. This was evidence of what was happening inside of PNG forests. Deforestation is occurring at the same rate in protected and unprotected areas of Papua New Guinea. Although new forestry programs should involve small and medium-scale, locally-owned and managed operations where commercial activities are more likely to be environmentally sustainable; Up to now PNG Forests are still under escalating threats as its Government continues to introduce new economic corridors as the Special Agriculture Business Lease that is allowing Palm Oil companies and more logging companies to take advantage of PNG Forest.

There is no evidence that suggests the deforestation activities are slowing down and the spike of reforestation picking up. If the State of PNG is not acting aggressively enough, where will PNG be in 10 years' time? It is really up to the people of PNG to start realizing that Climate Change is not an issue only contributed by the Developed Nations. PNG too is responsible.

Catholic Bishops Conference of PNG and Solomon Islands is encouraging every Papua New Guinean to take back their forest. We need to educate the general public on this issue and take practical actions such as tree planting, changing policies and laws that are damaging, reforest what has been lost, and find greener solutions to our economic need as a nation to cater for its growing population. Let's put 'Keep it Clean. Go Green' into practice.

- Marie Mondu is the Development Secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.



## Life in the Spirit Seminar

- Reuben Oaveta

Port Moresby: The 'Life in the Spirit' Seminar is the theological source of learning information in the Church and is an asset to believers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

A 3-day seminar from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> January facilitated by Catholic Evangelist Brother Alejandro Augustina MLCC, was held at the St Francis Church in 9 Mile. 108 participants attended the seminar travelling in from as far as Brown River and 14 mile outside of Port Moresby. Bro Alejandro said that the seminar's main focus was to promote Christian values. "It is to enable participants to have a renewed sense of Christian faith and spirit in persons by way of preserving and protecting their spiritual culture, identity and building a legacy for the future generation," he said. A participant said that the seminar had showed him a new Christian direction, and he now knew where he wanted to go as predestined by God. The seminar dwelled on the Purpose of Man, Christianity, Christian Attitude, Experiencing God's Gifts, Baptism in the Holy Spirit, Miracle Healing, Christian Growth and Evangelization. All participants received the Baptism in the Spirit, married couples renewed their marital vows and families reconciled with each other.



## Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

- Anne Delsorte



The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a form of teaching that invites and helps children to come close to God. A seminar on this Catechesis had twenty-six sisters of the Missionaries of Charity participating at the Pastoral Centre at Tokarara from 9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

Facilitating the sessions were Veronika Metcalf, President for Australian Association for Catechesis of Good Shepherd and Anne Delsorte, Vice president of the Association. Based on the pillars of the Bible and Liturgy, every work or presentation is centred around the words of the Scriptures or the prayers of the Church and with its many hands-on materials, it speaks to all ages, all levels of education and all cultures. Materials are designed to draw the child and adult into an encounter with God. They respond to the cry of the child's heart "Help me to come close to God by myself!" An authentic and personal relationship with God is formed and the pure joy of being in God's presence is experienced. The Catechesis originated in Rome, in 1954, by two women Sofia Cavalletti, a Hebrew Scripture scholar and Gianna Gobbi, a Montessorian. Today atria of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd can be found in over a hundred countries throughout the world.

## Celebrating Bp Bill Fey's contributions

- Brandon Zimmerman

Bp Bill Fey OFM, the former Bishop of Kimbe has been honoured for his contributions to the Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Dialogue.

Bp Bill has been involved in Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Dialogue in Papua New Guinea for nearly 20 years, organizing meetings with the Lutherans, the Anglicans and the Muslims.

Dean of Catholic Theological Institute and Secretary for Inter-Religious Dialogue of PNGSI, Brandon Zimmerman, highlighted the Bishop's past as Dean of Studies of the Catholic Theological Institute at Bomana, and described him as instrumental to starting the Lutheran-Catholic dialogue in 2003. He also started started the Muslim-Catholic dialogue in 2002, that gave the Muslim and Catholic leaders in Moresby an opportunity to learn about each other's faith as well as to discuss similarities and differences. All three dialogues will continue under the leadership of Mr. Zimmerman.



## LENTEN APPEAL 2020

'Holy and Formed for a Mission of Love and Charity'



Caritas PNG's Lenten Appeal 2020 is based on the call to the Laity to be **Holy and formed for mission.**

In this Lenten Season, CPNG focuses its appeal on those in need. We are called to be of service to the poor, the needy, the marginalised and those around us who need help.

May we all listen to the call and serve with **love** and **charity**.

**CARITAS PAPUA NEW GUINEA**  
The Justice, Peace, Relief & Development Agency  
of the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNG-SI

For more information,  
contact the CPNG Team  
on phone: **325 9577**



Religious and lay people in discussion

**Port Moresby:** What are the challenges facing the Catholic Church at this time? What are the solutions?

These were the questions raised by Fr Victor Roche svd, the newly appointed Secretary for New Evangelization, to sixty religious and laity persons on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> January. He presented in draft form a proposed program to address current needs in the Church at the Catholic Bishops Conference.

Among the challenges named were education and formation in faith for all: adults, youth and children.

## New Evangelization in PNG today

- Sr Mary McCarthy pbvm

Adults are trying to cope in a rapidly changing world and their only resource is a very elementary education in faith – inadequate for their needs as parents in the home, as workers in the workplace and in the wider world. Challenged by a culture of corruption, violence, greed and other forms of darkness, it is a struggle to live the faith we profess.

In his reflections, Bp Rochus Tatamai, Bishop of Kavieng and President of CBCPNGSI, likened many of our people to travelling along parallel roads: a traditional belief system and Catholic faith that do not meet and influence the daily life of the PNG people today. In addition, Satan frustrates our poor efforts to rise above our weaknesses.

The work of the early missionaries has not succeeded to the extent that the seed of faith flourishes in the rich soil of Melanesian culture. Hence, the need for a new generation of Melanesian missionaries who can relate effectively to the traditional mentality of the people and when necessary challenge it. The idea that a New Evangelisation is needed in the Catholic Church and it goes back to the early 1980s. Pope

Francis is placing renewed emphasis on evangelization as the priority of the Church's mission. This is what he has to say:

- "I would like to say very simply: the joy of the Gospel springs from the encounter with Jesus."
- "We need a free and simple Church, which does not think of looking good, of convenience but outward looking".
- "the need to proclaim the Gospel arises spontaneously and becomes irrepensible."
- "we must not hold back out of fear of making mistakes and our fear of following new paths."

Our roadmap for Evangelization in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands in 2020-2030 involves a collaboration with everyone.

The Commission of New Evangelization involves networking with the Family Life Apostolate, Education and Christian Education, the Laity, Youth, Social Communication, the Society of Catholic Professionals, Religious men and women and the Clergy of PNGSI.

## New Year with Empathy

Elizabeth Aribi  
CBC Youth Commission Secretary



A new year always comes with new possibilities, goals and a perspective in life.

The hope is that life turns a new page and the worries of the past remains in the worn, ripped pages of our old diaries. The idea of starting new is captivating and like the smell of freshly brewed coffee in the morning, it is.

Although the hype of a new adventure begins, many of our youth are challenged with so many questions; *Will I pass my exams this year? How can my parents afford my school fees? I wonder who will visit me this year while I am in Prison or hospital? Will my parents find a new home for us?*

These are the silent fears many young people face every year, the unheard questions that throb minds frequently.

Our challenge as the youth of today is to be moved by the reality of our peers. When you start setting your goals for the year, do it with empathy.

Look around you and see the need of your friend. You may not be the solution; you may not pull them out of their insecurities, but you will give hope. Hope that the next year will be a better one.

### Youth Commission

*For the past years, the Youth and Social Communications Commission were joined together as one Commission under the leadership of Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb.*

*This year the Youth Commission is on its own and is now under the leadership of newly appointed Secretary, Elizabeth Aribi.*

## Catholic Reporter

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

Editor: **Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb**

Sub Editor: **Abigail Seta** Layout: **CBC SOCOM**

Please send in your material to:

socom@catholic.org.pg

on or before **20th of the month, 2020**

Published by: **Catholic Bishops Conference PNGSI**

## 25 years of the beatification of Bl Peter ToRot

- Dominic ToMar

**Port Moresby:** A solemn Eucharistic celebration was held on 18<sup>th</sup> January to thank the Lord for the beatification of Bl Peter ToRot, by Pope St John Paul II, twenty-five years ago.

Held at the St Josephs Parish in Boroko, the Eucharistic celebration was presided by Bp Rochus Tatamai MSC, CBC President and Bishop of Kavieng-Lorengau.

Concelebrating with him were Fr John Willio, Fr Urban Kalimet, Fr Ambrose Pereira, Fr Reynold Caigo and Fr Victor Roche. "Blessed Peter ToRot was beatified especially because of his defence of the Sacrament of Marriage," Bp Rochus said in his homily.

He spoke at length about the life and martyrdom of Blessed Peter ToRot from which he drew lessons for the work of catechists, the Sacrament of Marriage and family life, relationship of our faith and culture.

Blessed Peter ToRot a catechist in Rakunai Village in the Gazelle Peninsula of East New Britain Province was killed by the Japanese in 1945 toward the end of the second World War.

He was killed for refusing to cease carrying out his duty as a catechist in leading his people in praying, instructing the children in the faith, witnessing and blessing marriages and above all defying the order of the Japanese allowing polygamy by defending the sanctity of Marriage. He was officially declared by Pope St John Paul II a Martyr for the faith during the Beatification Ceremony at Sir John Guise Stadium, Port Moresby on 17<sup>th</sup> January 1995.



Offertory Procession led by ladies from Duke of York Islands

The Friends of Blessed Peter ToRot led the choir and a group of young ladies led the offertory procession with a traditional dance and tune from the Duke of York Islands in East New Britain Province.

The main Anniversary celebrations were held in Rakunai on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January while Cardinal John Ribat blessed a chapel dedicated to Bl Peter ToRot in the Marian Valley in Brisbane, Australia on 19<sup>th</sup> January.

## CPNG appeals for bushfire support

- Rosemary Yambune



Picture from CNN

**Port Moresby:** Caritas Papua New Guinea and the Catholic Bishops Conference are fundraising to support the Catholic Church Australia to rehabilitate what has been destroyed in the bushfires.

They have appealed to the Catholic faithful and the general public in PNG to assist with funding and prayer vigils for healing, recovery and mercy for the Australian bushfire victims.

The appeal was made on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January by Caritas PNG Director, Mavis Tito. "As Christians we stand in solidarity

sharing the pain and suffering of families who have lost loved ones, homes, businesses, and eco-systems due to the raging bush fires since September 2019 and presently continuing and spreading throughout Australia," she said.

The general public in Papua New Guinea who wish to help can safely donate financial assistance through Caritas PNG's account to aid those afflicted by the bush fire in Australia. According to Ms Tito, the Diocese of Alotau was the first to pledge K2000.

"Australia has been our closest support and there are many good-hearted Australians who have been donating through to Caritas Australia, the Catholic Mission etc for many years to respond to our emergencies and

community development programs," stated Marie Mondu, CBC Secretary for Development.

She added that it is only fair we give back and stand in solidarity in times of their need of our prayers, human resource and financial aid.

*The Sun* reported that around 24 lives were lost, 2000 families are displaced and many people still missing from the raging bush fire that started around September in Australia, engulfing about 5 million hectares of the region.

Those wishing to make a donation to Caritas PNG, can do so to the following account: **Account Name - Caritas PNG Account Number - 0717856801, Westpac Waigani.**

Financial donations to Caritas PNG will be transferred to Caritas Australia, St Vincents De Paul, Salvation Army, who are currently assisting on the ground.