



The Catholic Reporter

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- Zenith

Amazonia: Importance of the ecosystem for Global Climate

seeks to surmount borders and re-define pastoral lines, adjusting them to the contemporary times." However, before beginning to reflect further on this Synod, it's necessary to clarify a series of prior questions about the Amazon region, such as the delimitation of the territory that conforms it; the history and evolution of the native population; the threats suffered by its inhabitants; and the importance of this Amazonian ecosystem for the world's climate.

A Wide and Heterogeneous Territory: The Amazon basin is made up of all the rivers that flow into the Amazon River. According to data offered in the Synod's Preparatory Document, it is one of the greatest reserves of biodiversity, as it has 30 to 50% of the world's flora and fauna, and 20% of the unfrozen sweet water of the whole planet. Moreover, over a third of the planet's primary forests are concentrated in Amazonia, so that its endeavour to capture carbon is significant.

History of the Population: The occupation of this region probably precedes colonization by thousands of years. The same source points out that, traditionally, the population was concentrated on the

margins of rivers and lakes, before the arrival of the colonizers. When colonization took place, as the Indians were enslaved, many of them fled to the interior of the forest, and new settlements were created on the banks of rivers and lakes. In general, the peoples of Amazonia have always had an interdependence with the water resources, "life directs the river" and the "river directs life," and its peoples — farmers, gatherers and /or hunters —, act as custodians of the forest and its resources."

Forced Move to the Cities: Despite all, the Amazon's cities have grown very rapidly, in part because they have welcomed migrants that have settled on the outskirts of cities, which spread towards the interior of the forest. These brothers and sisters, in the majority riverine and Afro-descendants, left their lands forcefully given the mining and oil activity and wood extraction, affected as they were by the consequent socio-environmental conflicts that the latter generated. In recent times, between 70 and 80% of the Pan-Amazonian population has resided in these urban areas and the Indians of the forest have led the greatest mobilization. Many of them are undocumented, refugees or find themselves in other vulnerable situations.

To be continued in the next issue

- Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb



Rome: On October 15, 2017, Pope Francis convoked the Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the Pan-Amazonian region, with the objective of "finding new ways for the evangelization of that portion of the People of God, especially of the Indians, often forgotten and without the prospect of a serene future, also because of the crisis of the Amazon forest, a lung of fundamental importance for our planet." As described on its Web page, the Amazon Synod implies a "social, civic and ecological project, which

Sevim pipol bilong God

Port Moresby: "I offer my sufferings for the people of Bougainville, the referendum and for all of you," said John Cardinal Ribat recalling the words said by the late Bp Bernard at a Requiem Mass at St Joseph's parish on 16th August 2019.

At the Eulogy, Vestina Monala, niece of Bp Bernard highlighted the qualities of her uncle. She mentioned that he visited remote villages accessible only by foot. "He was amongst the people at the height of the crisis. He set up youth rehabilitation programs and activities to keep the youth away from unlawful activities", she said. "Reconciliation and bringing the churches together for peace was done on Good Friday in 2019", she added.

Archbishop Douglas spoke of him as a visionary and a hard worker. "He lived his Christian life of suffering with simplicity, genuine faith and the gentleness of the Spirit. He believed in self-reliance and a sustainable future rather than a hand out mentality", he said. Tributes were received from Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State, Cardinal Fernando Filoni, Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal, Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. Thomas Taberia spoke of him as a 'Bishop who was there for his people as a peace-maker'. The mortal remains were flown to Rabaul then on to Bougainville

on 18th August. He was laid to rest at Mabiri, in Central Bougainville on Saturday, 24th August.

Highlights:

Born on 5th May 1957 at Bolioko, Sovele Parish, Nagovis, AROB.

Ordained priest: 14th December 1985
Appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Bougainville: 1st June 2006

Appointed Bishop of Bougainville: 15th December 2009

Entered Eternal Life: Saturday 10th August 2019



Bougainville community and Catholic faithful viewing the body of the Late Bishop

Most Rev. Bernard Unabali DD passed away on Saturday 10th August 2019 in Manila, Philippines. The Requiem Mass was celebrated by Sir John Cardinal Ribat. Concelebrants Archbishop Douglas Young, Archbishop of Mt Hagen; Bp Arnold Orowae, Bishop of Wabag; Bp Dariusz Kaluza, Bishop of Goroka; Bp Rozario Menezes, Bishop of Lae and about 40 priests joined in the Eucharistic celebration. The church was filled with religious and lay people who gathered to thank the Lord for the sacrifice, dedication, and commitment of Bp Bernard.

"Reconciliation in homes, families, communities, churches and the government was at the heart of his Pastoral Plan. His efforts were focused in a major way on the sister churches to enable Bougainville prepare for the referendum", said Cardinal Ribat as he dwelt on the efforts of Bp Bernard to lead his people in Bougainville.

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The Church of Christ on Mission in the World

“Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World” is the theme chosen by Pope Francis for the Extraordinary Mission Month. Awakening the awareness of the *missio ad gentes*, and reinvigorating the sense of responsibility for proclaiming the Gospel with new enthusiasm, are themes that combine the pastoral concern of Pope

Benedict XV in his Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*, published 100 years ago, with the missionary vitality expressed by Pope Francis in his recent Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*: “Missionary action is the paradigm of every work of the Church.” (EG 15)

How to Live the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019

There are four dimensions, specified by the Pope, to live more intensely the journey of preparation for the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019:

1. A personal encounter with Jesus Christ alive in His Church through the Eucharist, the Word of God, personal and communal prayer;
2. Testimony: missionary saints, martyrs and confessors of the faith, as an expression of the Church scattered throughout the world;
3. Missionary formation: biblical, catechetical, spiritual and theological;
4. Missionary charity.

PRAYER for the EXTRAORDINARY MISSION MONTH OCTOBER 2019

Heavenly Father,
When your only begotten Son Jesus Christ rose from the dead, he commissioned his followers to “go and make disciples of all nations” and you remind us that through our Baptism we are made sharers in the mission of the Church.

Empower us by the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be courageous and zealous in bearing witness to the Gospel, so that the mission entrusted to the Church, which is still very far from completion, may find new and efficacious expression that bring life and light to the world.

Help us make it possible for all peoples to experience the saving love and mercy of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit.

One God, forever and ever.
Amen.

Vocation: A call for the good of others

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb
CBC SOCOM and Youth Secretary



It is very natural that every young person asks the question, “Am I called to be a priest or religious.” The seed of a vocation is planted in every person and that starts to nurture when parents take their children to celebrate the Sacraments. It develops when young children want to serve at mass. As they grow older, they want to join in the choir and be part of the parish youth group. The way of relating to Jesus in one’s parish is seen clearly in the love and relationship young people experience in their home and their family. This then is the start of a ‘special vocation’. Every vocation is a unique call from God and God wants us to respond to him with creativity and generosity. A vocation is always for the good of others (*Christus Vivit V 253-258*). As priests or religious we are not a favoured group isolated or detached from others, but “missionaries at the service of others” (*Christus Vivit V 253*). The saints were called for others, never for themselves. An individual is called for many and not for oneself. Every person is called to live out the fullness of life and invite others to do the same.

Pope Francis stresses our ‘missionary vocation’.

“The missionary vocation has to do with service. Our life on earth reaches its full stature when it becomes an offering. ... I am on a mission on this earth, and that is the reason why I am here in this world” (Ch V 254).

I do not ‘have a mission’, but ‘I am a mission’. The exciting paradox is that when I leave myself, I interpret my identity not as a refuge, but having a space for meeting, dialogue and above all service. I realize that I do not exist for myself, but for service. One’s personal vocation does not consist in the work we do, but it is a path guiding all our many efforts and actions towards service to others” (*ChV 255*). A person is then able to realize and understand the reason and purpose of our life on earth. The Lord has a plan for me and my life. This is revealed over time and in detail. Hence, I have to make prudent decisions and listen to the voice of the Creator. ‘I am clay in the hands of the potter’. Only then, will I be shaped and guided by him. Only then will I become what I am meant to be, faithful to my own reality. (*ChV 256*). The Holy Father is reminding all of us and especially young people that at the heart of every vocation is the call to bring out the best in yourself for the glory of God and the good of others”(*ChV 257*). They are filled with zeal, talent and energy and are ready to place their lives at the service of others.

Young people never lose this quality of looking at the horizon and searching for ways to reach out to others. You are meant for others.

Empowering women in business

A local business woman has urged Papua New Guinean women to step out and try to achieve something higher than where they are.



- Abigail Seta

Roselyn Tia is a business woman who recently launched the country’s first Mobil Speedy Site – a new concept of a service station that offers a lot of advantages compared to the usual fuel sites.

It also aims to create opportunities for small business men and women. It is quicker to build, it is portable with tanks that are above ground and has the capacity to hold 40,000L. During the launch on August 14th, she was asked about what PNG can do to encourage more women in business. Here is what she had to say:

“We need more women who are already empowered to come together to share ideas and to work together. As a woman, I have struggled to be out there in a men’s world, given the culture and where we live.”

“So, just believe in yourself, that you are able to do it and you take one step at a time. Sometimes we fear, and we don’t step out and we feel that we are not good enough. This is what holds us back.”

Roselyn added that in business, you can fail countless times however it is a stepping stone towards pushing you to becoming better.

Together with her husband, Robert Tia, they are working in partnership with the Mobil Oil New Guinea, a subsidiary of Exxon



Local business woman, Roselyn Tia

Mobil Corporation. She said that the business environment is challenging and acknowledged him for being supportive.

As this is her first time to do business in the fuel industry, Roselyn hopes to learn as much as she can and share her knowledge with women in the country.

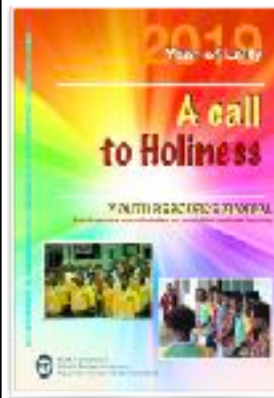


CHURCH ALIVE! Magazine

The second issue of the Church Alive! Magazine is now available. It is a Catholic Church Family Magazine for Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

Price: K 2/- | K 100/- for 55 copies

Contact CBC SOCOM Office on:
Phone: 71209422 | Email: socom@catholic.org.pg



2019 - Year of Laity

A Call to Holiness Youth Resource Manual

The youth resource manual offers a variety of sessions on self. Each session can be used by the parish youth group.

Price: K 5/-

Contact CBC Youth Office on:
Phone: 71209422 | Email: youth@catholic.org.pg

Australia should lead through kindness

Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME
CBC General Secretary



Papua New Guinea is a developing country suffering from budget shortages. Still it occupies a central position among the family of nations in the Pacific.

As such the government in Port Moresby and the civil society in the country should not hesitate to raise their voice regarding the current most pressing issues. Papua New Guinea stands between Australia and Indonesia when it comes to the West Papua unrest and divisions, both internal and with the central government in Jakarta, which is rejected by many.

Our country is also bearing the brunt, and that way highlighting the issue of people seeking asylum and protection far from their place of birth and troubled spots of the world. Six years of Australian off-shore processing centre in Manus (and Nauru), however, are leaving behind a legacy of mental health and bitterness among vulnerable people, who rather needed care and healing.

The assault on natural resources also has Papua New Guinea defend its portion of last remaining rainforests on the planet and try to resist the first ever experiments of seabed mining in the world right off its coasts.

Political ambition and corporate greed pose the greatest risks to social harmony in the Pacific.

The richest and biggest nation, Australia, should rather lead the region through solidarity and inclusiveness. It will not be a military basis in Manus Island to keep people like the Chinese at bay. They are equipped with financial resources and skills, clearly showing industriousness and hunger for new geographical space and financial opportunities for an immensely bigger population, and not completely abstaining from corrupt and unconventional practices to get their way into business and profit.

A costly naval facility will not win the hearts and minds of smaller Pacific nations, who may still surrender their natural resources to China in exchange for ordinary budget needs. It will rather further promote the idea of a new West

colonial attempt, which relies on estranged military strength rather than empowerment of local human resources and assets.

The people of the Pacific value cooperation, respect and harmonious relationships with fellow humans and the environment. If Australia wants to lead, it can only do so through compassion and kindness.

Arrogance and refusal to listen will isolate the big island south, leaving the smaller ones in the vast ocean with no choice but to turn to Asia.

Nobody intends to infringe on the rights and borders of Australia; but their citizens will not be loved if their government keeps on picking on a few hundred refugees on off-shore detention centres; or if they refuse to acknowledge the negative impact of coal burning on the environment; or make access and work in their country difficult for other members of the Pacific family.

A true leader supports and inspires, rather than lord it over and show muscular strength.

- Abigail Seta and Nigel Akuani

Film Festival highlights family values

Port Moresby: 'Safe Family, Happy Family' was the theme of the 3rd International Short Film Festival 2019 that highlighted the importance of family values through the use of media.

It was held on Saturday, 3rd August at the Paradise Cinema, Vision City, Port Moresby where 220 students, parents, teachers and media personnel attended the event. His Eminence Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC, Archbishop of Port Moresby commenced the celebrations with the cutting of the cake and a time of prayer and reflection. He spoke of the underlying power contained in media.

"The media is important, and it is important that young people can use it to address the issues affecting themselves. They are struggling to be part of a safe and happy family environment," said the Cardinal.

The festival showcased short films from different countries and films created by young students during their attendance of the four Media Education Seminars (MES) held earlier this year. The films screened opened up brief discussions on the issues presented. Representatives of each of the MES participating schools spoke on their experience and

the topics they learnt. Certificates and appreciation were then given to students, animators and media persons. Prizes were awarded to the schools for the films screened. The first place, a SONY RX 100 camera was awarded to Jubilee Catholic Secondary School for their 4-minute film entitled, 'All for Love.' Limana Vocational School emerged second for their film 'The Changed Hand' while the film 'Saving Family' produced by De La Salle was third.

Social Communications Secretary Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, facilitator of the festival said that film is a powerful medium that can inspire people. "Young people have energy, creativity and talent and all this needs to be channeled to produce something that is good and positive. Media is a tool that connects young people today. Their discussions, reflections and productions have enabled them reflect on important family values that they will strive to put into practice", he said.

Participating in the festival were students from Caritas Technical Secondary School, De La Salle



Cardinal John Ribat opening the ISFF19 with a word of prayer

Secondary School, Don Bosco Technological Institute, Don Bosco Technical School, Jubilee Catholic Secondary School, Limana Vocational Centre and Marianville Secondary School who were all part of the MES 2019.

The festival was hosted by the Social Communications Commission (SOCOM) of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. SOCOM is grateful to SIGNIS, the World Catholic Association for Communication and MISSIO Aachen together with the many who believe that the Media has power to inspire and bring about a change in the minds and lives of the young.

PNGCC towards reweaving ecological framework

held from 19th to 23rd August. According to a press release by PNGCC, once this framework is developed, it will be used as a guide for a national policy formulation and analysis, for the churches mission to work with village and community and for political advocacy. The churches realize the need for change in the current development paradigm. They acknowledge that they also contributed to the "brokenness of our PNG Household" and recognize that they have the moral authority to envision a liberating reality for Papua New Guinea. Throughout the EFD conversation, the churches have committed to three key pillars.

They include;

1. The Political system needs a new direction,
2. Development needs a new model and to focus on home-grown initiatives and the development of people and
3. The relationship between men and women needs to be with mutual respect and love and respect between God and his people.

The conference engaged speakers from the Pacific Theological College in Suva, Fiji, the Pacific Conference of Churches, Reverend Roger Joseph, General Secretary for PNGCC, Church Leaders and representatives from the 7 Main Line Churches in PNG and other Pacific Island Nations. There were also leaders from the Government such as Hon Bryan Kramer, MP for Madang Open, Hon Gary Juffa, Governor for Oro Province, Sir Arnold Amet, Bp Rochus Tatamai and Cardinal Sir John Ribat who were present as guest speakers.

Sixty conference participants mainly; Heads of Churches, women, youth and CSOs, from Fiji, Rotuma, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Hawaii and PNG were present at the conference.

The main topics that were discussed included ecological issues; mainly land grabbing and seabed mining, climate change, violence, self-determination and a call for partnerships.



The Papua New Guinea Council of Churches is aiming to deepen the renewal process that began in 2016 and to reweave the PNG Household towards a PNG Ecological Framework for Development (PNG EFD).

'Reweaving the Ecological Mat of PNG' was the theme of a week-long conference hosted by the PNGCC at the Catholic Bishops Conference that was

Yumi Yet Sios

Yumi yet Sios em i mekim yumi tingting bihainim sampela kain lukluk nau i kamap long Sios hia long PNGSI.

Pastaim tru yumi tok tengkiu i go long Apostolik Nursio Abp Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal long bikpela wok painim aut long ol Bisop kandidat long helpim igo long ol daisis bilong yumi hia long PNGSI. Wankain bikpela tok tengkiu tru i mas i go tu long Papa Santu Francis long mekim tupela nupela appointment bilong Bisop Otto Separy bai kamap nupela Bisop bilong Bereina Daisis na Bisop Anton Bal bai em i kisim Sia bilong Asdaisis bilong Madang. Dispela kain nius i mekim yumi olgeta i ken amamas tru na litimapim nem bilong God Triwan husat i astru na em i gutpela Papa Tru bilong yumi olgeta.

Tasol insait long wankain taim yumi gat bikpela bel sori na wari tru bikos nau yumi sot gen long tupela nupela Bisop long kisim ol Sia olsem

bisop bilong Aitape Daisis na tu narapela long kisim Sia olsem Bisop bilong Kundiawa. Yumi olgeta mas hop na prei bai dispela ol senis i ken kamap hariap na bilong kamapim gutpela wok long strongim ol bilip manmeri ol pris na religious wantaim olgeta leiti bilong yumi long PNGSI.

Dispela kain lukluk i go kamap hat moa yet gen taim Sios long PNGSI i lusim Bisop Bernard Unabali husat i dai long namba 10 de long mum August 2019. Nau yet Daisis bilong Bougainville i stap insait long wari bikos yangpela Bisop Bernard Unabali i dai lusim planti ol bikpela wok redi bilong referendum na reniuwal insait long balans laip.

Dispela dai bilong Bisop Unabali i mekim wanpela narapela kain hevi na lukluk insait long ol daisis bilong Niu Gini Ailans. Bisop Bill Fey ofm Cap bilong Kimbe daisis em sikman na stap insait pinis long retaiamen bilong em.

- Bp Rochus Tatamai MSC



Nau em i wok long weitim nupela Bisop long kisim ples bilong em long Kimbe daisis. Long wankain taim Abp Francesco Panfilo sdb em tu i stap redi long kisim retaiamen bilong em tasol nau Papa Santu i askim long lukautim tu daisis bilong Bougainville olsem Apostolik Administrator. I luk olsem Sios insait long PNGSI bai weitim ol nupela Bisop bilong ol daisis bilong Aitape, Bougainville, Kimbe na Kundiawa na tu long Asdaisis bilong Rabaul.

Yumi yet i Sios i gat bikpela salens long prei wantaim long wok painim ol nupela na gutpela lidasip ba wasman namel long ol pris bilong yumi long ol i ken kolim na go pas long ol bilip manmeri insait long ol Daisis bilong yumi insait long PNGSI. God Triwan i ken blesim yumi olgeta nau na oltaim.

- Winifred Worealevi

Lae Youth seminar urges young people to 'Live Pure'



The youth seminar was facilitated by Social Communications Secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference, Fr Ambrose Pereira SDB. The seminar had three sessions and saw over 108 youths from the three parishes in the Diocese of Lae.

At the seminar's start Fr Ambrose posed a very important question to the young people to answer and reflect on. He asked the participants to reflect on their intentions and purpose of life.

young people to answer and reflect on. He asked the participants to reflect on their intentions and purpose of life.

"Young people of this day and age are susceptible to the different ways of this world, as such it is good to have concrete intentions or purpose for oneself in order to evade

temptations that may come their way," he stated.

He spoke on the theme of the Laity for this year 2019, "A Call to Holiness", and said as young people they needed to be credible and to not be overwhelmed by the ways of this world. He added, "The Youth are the next generation of Catholic Faithful, especially in PNG and also the very people who are able to break the cycle of abuse that happens in our communities, as well as families".

A Eucharistic Celebration ended the seminar on Sunday 11th August, and had 27 brave participants, 12 males & 15 females, take part in the "Live Pure" ceremony. The young men and women made a promise to live a life of purity until the day they decide to take part in the sacrament of Holy Matrimony. The young people were encouraged to live out their life in purity.

- Fr. Brian Nonde CMM

118 years of Faith and Post Crisis Challenges in Bougainville

The faithful of the Catholic Diocese of Bougainville gathered in hundreds at the Pro-Cathedral Church in Hahela to celebrate the 118 years of faith.

Bp. Rochus Tatamai, President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands presided over the Liturgy of Mass. Women and men led the procession with the traditional bamboo singsing style. The celebration took place on Wednesday 8 August recalled the work of the first German Marist Missionaries who came to Pokpok Island in Kieta, Central Bougainville in 1901. The significance of 118 years of faith among the Bougainvilleans is hidden in a continuity of the Gospel message spread first by the missionaries

in the face of many political challenges of today. At the beginning of the liturgy of Mass that marked the anniversary Bp. Rochus blessed water during the penitential rite which then was sprinkled on the people. This same blessed water is to be taken out to the people in the communities and parishes used during the reconciliation services. Bp. Rochus reflected on the political challenges in Bougainville and said that "the role of Church during the referendum and after is fostering peace and reconciling people of different clans, beliefs and political opinions". The Vicar General of the Diocese of Bougainville, Fr. Polycarp confirmed the outlined role of the Church and said that, the Church will help the people of Bougainville during the processes leading to the Referendum and beyond by through reconciliation services. Apart from the celebrations, the Diocese launched its first radio station, DOB FM 103.1. The launch was aimed at presenting, for the first time,



Catholic faithful leading the procession with traditional bamboo singsing

the different way of Church's presence to the people in Bougainville.

"The radio station will be a unique way of Diocese's self-presentation to the people" said Fr. Martin We-en, Director of Radio Maria PNG during the launch. The launch of the new radio station came with the media and radio training seminar which was organized by the Social Communication Commission of CBC.

The seminar gathered about 30 people and four directors of the Catholic radio stations.

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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