

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

The Catholic Reporter

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Pope at Easter Vigil: 'With Jesus, no tomb will suppress the joy of life'

-Lisa Zengarini

At the Vigil Mass in the Holy Night of Easter in St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Francis invites us to "look up" to Jesus, the God of life, and reminds us that by welcoming Him no failure will doom us to despair.

Pope Francis presided over the traditional Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter in Saint Peter's Basilica on Saturday evening. The celebration started at the entrance of the Basilica with the evocative rite of the blessing of fire followed by the candlelight procession while *Lumen Christi* was sung and the Basilica lights came on in all their brilliance. The celebration included the baptism and confirmation of eight catechumens from Italy (4), South Korea (2), Japan (1) and Albania (1).

"Who will roll away the stone from the tomb?": In his homily, Pope Francis reflected on the Gospel account of the women visiting the empty tomb of Jesus, drawing attention to two crucial moments of that event. At first the grieved women are troubled by a question: "Who will roll away the stone from the tomb?"

"That stone, an overwhelming obstacle," said the Pope, "symbolized what the women felt in their hearts. It represented the end of their hopes, now dashed by the obscure and sorrowful mystery that put an end to their dreams."

The tombstones we encounter in our lives: Sometimes in life, the Pope observed, we too experience this feeling of being overwhelmed by sorrow and despair: "We encounter these tombstones in the emptiness left by the death of our loved ones, in the failures and fears that hold us back from accomplishing the good we mean to do", but also "in all the forms of self-absorption that stifle our impulses to generosity and sincere love, in the rubber walls of selfishness and indifference that hold us back in the effort to build more just and humane cities and societies, in all our aspirations for peace that are shattered by cruel hatred and the brutality of war."

The victory of life over death: Yet, Pope Francis remarked, the same women who bore this darkness in their hearts tell us something quite extraordinary: when they looked up, they saw that that heavy stone had already

been rolled back, revealing God's power: "the victory of life over death, the triumph of light over darkness, the rebirth of hope amid the ruins of failure."

Let us look up to Jesus, our Pasch: Pope Francis, therefore invited the faithful to "look up" to Him: "If we allow Jesus to take us by the hand," he said, "no experience of failure or sorrow, however painful, will have the last word on the meaning and destiny of our lives."

By welcoming Jesus, "our Pasch", the "God of life," into our lives, and saying "yes" to Him, the Pope added, "no stone will block the way to our hearts, no tomb will suppress the joy of life, no failure will doom us to despair."

"Let us lift our eyes to him, the Risen Lord," he concluded, "and press forward in the certainty that, against the obscure backdrop of our failed hopes and our deaths, the eternal life that he came to bring is even now present in our midst."



Pope Francis at Easter Mass (Picture Courtesy: ©Vatican Media/Dicastery for Communication)

Meet your Bishop: Abp Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC (Port Moresby Archdiocese)

- Jessica Oata



In this edition, we feature His Eminence Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC, the shepherd of the Archdiocese of Port Moresby and the first clergy from the Papua New Guinea and the Pacific to be bestowed the prestigious title in the Vatican.

The Cardinal's upbringing goes back to the beautiful island of Watom, an island with a predominant population of United Church faithful, East New Britain Province. He was born on February 9th, 1957 to devoted Catholics who were always close to the German priests assisting them whenever they visited the island.

When asked what inspired him to become a priest, he said there have been many people who have inspired and guided him in his vocation beginning with his parents.

From a young age, the priests made a very good impression on him whenever they visited the island for their pastoral visits.

"They were close to the sick and the old. They would pray for healing and comfort for them while encouraging them as well to carry their cross through their pain and suffering."

He attended elementary school in Nevao and Volavolo, he attended the Malabunga Government High School in Rabaul.

"The Parish Priest of Volavolo at that time was the first local Archbishop of Port Moresby, Herman ToPaivu and based on his recommendation, I went to Malabunga."

It was in Malabunga that the Christian Brothers who came to teach Religion would again spark the calling to join religious life.

"The Brothers would teach us bible studies and the beginning of John 15:16 is very interesting and has remained with me until today: **You did not choose**

me; I chose you. When I came across that, I always prayed and believed that priesthood had been my calling"

After the completion of high school at St Peter Chanel High School of Ulapia, he entered the Congregation of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and made his first profession on February 2nd, 1979.

He later went on to study philosophy and theology at the Holy Spirit Seminary in Bomana and went out for his pastoral work in St Peter Parish - Kurada, Normanby Island, in the Diocese of Alotau - Sideia in 1982. He was ordained a Priest on December 1, 1985.

Following his ordination until 1991, he exercised his pastoral ministry in various parishes in the Diocese of Bereina. He took up a training course at the SAIDI Centre in Manila, Philippines before returning to PNG to take up his post as the Master of Novices from 1992 to 1996. In 1997, he served as parish priest and from 1998 to 2000 as the Novice Master in Suva, Fiji.

"The news of me being appointed Bishop took me by surprise as I was in Fiji. A Fijian priest who was the Rector at the Seminary came and told me that he heard I was being appointed Bishop. After a while, the news was made official and I had mixed feelings of surprise and fear. I knew that as Bishop, I would now have so many responsibilities."

It did not take him long to remember the line: **You did not choose me; I chose you** and that gave him the courage and confidence to take up his new post. On October 30th, 2000, he was elected to the Titular See of Macriana Minor and appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Bereina. He received Episcopal Ordination on February 11th, 2001 and on February 12th, 2002, he was appointed Bishop of Bereina.

On April 6th, 2007, he was appointed as Coadjutor Archbishop of Port Moresby and on March 26th

became Archbishop of the Metropolitan See on March 26, 2008.

On November 19, 2016, he made history by being proclaimed by Pope Francis in the consistory of 19 November 2016, Titular Church of San Giovanni Battista de' Rossi. He is a member of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

"Again, I had to remind myself that God chose me to do his will and that gave me the strength to accept yet a bigger responsibility."

When asked how he has been working towards achieving the plans for his Diocese, he said since he has been focusing on two things: A Diocesan Pastoral Program to unite the diocese under the name: Movement for a better world and to have more Diocesan Priests.

"When I first took over as Bishop, I asked the Priests what they were doing in their Parishes and they told me that they were their own 'Bishops' in their Parishes. That's when I knew the Diocese needed something to unite all the Parishes, thus, the Diocesan Pastoral Program and over the years, everyone has worked hard to ensure that all parishes are united through their Pastoral Programs and I'm now very happy that we have 11 students in the Seminary."

During the little free time he has, Cardinal Ribat enjoys taking walks and taking care of his health.

"I am a sick person and I have been surviving by the grace of God, so I am always cautious of my health and well-being."

His advice to the young people is to strive for everlasting life with God.

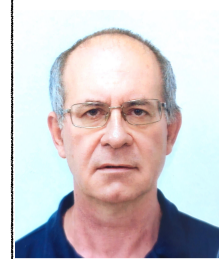
"And how can we achieve that? We must love God and love our neighbors enough to become a servant that serves with love and compassion, just like Jesus who loved us so much that he died for us."

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The state of our schools

- Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME | CBC General Secretary



I went out for Easter to a location in Central province where I also had the chance to visit one of our Catholic schools. The new Principal, a guy from the area apparently full of goodwill, had been after me for months. I was somehow prepared to come across a series of infrastructural problems, which are rather common in our institutions, but I was unaware of their scale when almost forty teachers and six hundred boarding students crowd a place which suffers for a regular shortage of power, water, accommodation facilities and hygiene. In other countries authorities wouldn't allow a public institution to operate in such conditions. Owners and administrators would be sued resulting in hefty fines and probably even jail terms.

The fact that my visit was the next day the students had left for the Easter holidays allowed me to conclude that the disorderly and filthy status of the dormitories and the ablution blocks was the result of neglect and lack of guidance to the students. Some classrooms also had been left with disarranged

desks, chalk on the floor, papers and rubbish scattered everywhere. Boys and girls should be instructed and guided to sweep, mop and clean up everything before going for the deserved break.

Some of the teachers may be demotivated and upset. Their residential area at one end of the school compound appears to be discreetly well maintained. But almost all houses need renovation. Some are abandoned, being now unsafe and unfit for human dwelling. Broken stairs and falling gutters are everywhere in the school. Electric pumps provide water from less than 20 meters underground and depend on a generator which, working a few hours a day, consumes six thousand Kina of fuel every week. Drinking water must be boiled unless it's raining water from a tank. Natural springs are unavailable around the school. There is a nice IT laboratory. But it only has ten computers for more than six hundred students. No internet connection.

In about a decade the school will reach the seventy-five-year milestone. It will be the sad celebration of an inevitable demise if nothing massive is done soon for its rehabilitation and upgrade. The initiative must come first from the surrounding

communities, to make sure that what the missionaries started over the past century is to survive. Not that the villagers can be expected to provide the twenty million Kina needed to bring the place back to full operational capacity; but part of the amount yes, and on top of that a clear show of interest and strong will to encourage governments and funding agencies to play their crucial role. The local diocese also needs to show support, but unfortunately has no financial capacity.

Papua New Guinea still falls tremendously behind in education. Things are getting worse. With the increase in population and the deterioration of roads, wharfs, and airstrips, remote areas remain even more isolated and neglected. New large pockets of illiteracy emerge. You could converse with anybody in English in the past in the Southern Region of the country. Not anymore with the new generations.

We need to save our schools. Or the forests will reclaim them. But our youth will then walk like zombies in a world they will be unable to inhabit, understand and appreciate.

The Letters of St Paul: Romans

- Fr. Tomás Ravaioli IVE
Liturgical Catechetical Institute Director



Date: According to 16:8, Paul wrote the epistle while staying in Ephesus in Asia Minor (located in what is modern Turkey). This stay most likely corresponds to the apostle's third missionary journey from A.D. 53 to 58. Because Paul was writing in anticipation of coming to Corinth after his stay in Ephesus (1 Cor 11:34), we can date its composition during the second part of his third mission, probably in the spring of A.D. 56.

Destination: The city of Corinth was a flourishing commercial center of the Mediterranean world. Like many cosmopolitan centers, however, Corinth had a reputation for shameless immorality and a ruthless spirit of competition. Paul himself planted the young Church there about A.D. 51, but he stayed only long enough to get things up and running (Acts 18:118).

Purpose: Nearly five years had elapsed between Paul's founding of the Church in Corinth and the

arrival of this letter. During his absence the community had fallen prey to a number of vices that were beginning to fracture its unity and drag members away from the faith. Although Paul planned to visit Corinth to disentangle these problems in person (see 11:34b), he sent the letter we know as 1 Corinthians to hold things together until his arrival. Unfortunately, during Paul's absence, he was first informed that a crisis was brewing in Corinth through delegates of a woman named Chloe (1:11; 11:18). Their disturbing report included news of internal divisions (1:12-15), a case of incest (5:1-5), sexual immorality (6:12-20), multiplying lawsuits (6:1-8), and outspoken denials of the Resurrection (15:12). Liturgically, the Corinthians were becoming careless in their celebration of the Eucharist (11:17-34), and some were exercising charismatic gifts in a manner more disruptive than edifying (14:1- 40). Much of 1 Corinthians consists of Paul's addressing these issues one by one.

Themes and Characteristics: First Corinthians reveals more about the struggles and conditions of a young, apostolic Church than any other NT letter. It gives a clear picture of the wide range of pressures that the earliest Christians had to face, pressures both from within their communities and from their surrounding pagan environment. The leading themes of the letter follow the doctrinal and moral issues that Paul was forced to address, especially those related to immorality, arrogance, liturgical abuse, and erroneous opinions about death and resurrection. These problems shook the local Church in Corinth down to her foundation and made the community look more at times like a pagan society than a spiritual family. To reverse this trend, Paul takes aim throughout the letter at two vices that underlie the Corinthians' multiple struggles: pride and selfishness.

We need a renewal in the Catholic Church: Why do Catholics leave the Catholic Church? - Possible solutions

- Fr. Victor Roche SVD
Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies



Dear Reader, In the last issue of the Catholic Reporter, we discussed the possible solutions to "Why do Catholics leave the Catholic Church?". Let us continue to reflect on the possible solutions.

In one of the Seminars on the "New Evangelization", a seminarian commented, "Catholic Youth are joining other churches in big numbers. Catholic Church may disappear from Papua New Guinea one day". Certainly, it is not going to be true. Catholic Church in

PNG has the largest followers with 25.6% and the next church is Lutheran Church with 12.9%. Some Churches are increasing in numbers at the expense of other mainline churches.

1. Pope Francis is bringing a great renewal in the Catholic Church. In his Encyclical named, 'The Joy of the Gospel' (Evangeli Gaudium), Pope Francis says, "In this Exhortation I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come". He goes on to say, "we must not hold back our fear of making mistakes and our fear of following new paths."

2. Pope Francis and the Synod: Pope Francis launched the Synod 2021-2024 : for a Synodal Church, Communion, Participation and Mission. The recently ended session 4-29 Oct 2023, had almost 500 participants which consisted of many lay people including women. The Pope sees the need of inclusion of Lay people in the Decision making and Administration of the Catholic Church

3. We also need a renewal in the Liturgy of the Mass. We need the lay people to be more active participants than passive on-lookers.

4. The Catholic church was founded by Jesus Christ himself. He will guide the church.

- Leotina Akwai

Catholics Embrace Palm Sunday and embark on Holy Week journey

Honiara: Catholics across the nation joined in unity on March 24th, 2024, to observe Palm Sunday, marking the commencement of Holy Week, the sacred period leading up to Easter. At Holy Cross Cathedral, a significant congregation gathered for the Holy Mass to commemorate Jesus Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The 9am Mass, presided over by His Grace Archbishop Christopher Cardone OP, was a vibrant and spirit-filled liturgy, enriched by the participation of Deacon Bradley and an Australian Defense Force Chaplain, along with the energetic contributions of Holy Cross Cathedral Youth.

The day's liturgy began at 9:00 am with a poignant blessing and procession of palms, symbolizing the palm branches laid down before Jesus as he entered Jerusalem. His Grace Archbishop Christopher Cardone OP delivered a heartfelt homily, urging parishioners to deepen their prayers throughout Holy Week.

"This week, as we embark on the journey of Holy Week, let us express gratitude to God for his life, death, and resurrection," emphasized His Grace Archbishop Christopher Cardone OP. He further

encouraged the faithful to actively participate in the upcoming Easter Triduum, a series of liturgical ceremonies commemorating the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

"Participating in the Easter Triduum will foster the growth of Faith, Hope, and Love within us," he remarked, urging attendees to dedicate this time to prayer and reflection, aligning their will with God's.

His Grace Archbishop Christopher Cardone OP outlined the schedule for Holy Week at Holy Cross Cathedral, including Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday. On Holy Thursday, March 28th, Holy Cross Parish will commemorate the Last Supper with a Mass at 7:00 pm, honoring the tradition of Jesus washing his disciples' feet.

Good Friday, March 29th, will witness a solemn enactment of the Passion of Christ by the youth of Holy Cross, starting at 8:00 am within the Holy Cross Compound. The day will culminate in the Veneration of the Cross at 3:00 pm, a time for sorrowful reflection and fasting.

Easter Vigil, occurring on Holy Saturday, March 30th, will mark the end of Lent with a Mass at 7:00 pm, symbolizing the anticipation of Jesus Christ's

resurrection. Finally, Easter Sunday, March 31st, will be celebrated with the joyous commemoration of Jesus' resurrection, featuring Holy Mass following the usual Sunday schedule.

As Holy Cross Cathedral embarks on this sacred journey through Holy Week, the faithful are invited to embrace prayer, reflection, and communal worship, embodying the essence of the Easter season.



Picture: Archbishop Christopher Cardone OP blessing the palms during the Palm Sunday Mass.

The Church and Internet

- Sr Daisy Anne Lisania Augustine MSC
Secretary for Social Communication



The Internet was the subject of two documents released by the Vatican in 2002.

The two documents, "Ethics and the Internet" – a reflection on ethical issues, and "The Church and the Internet" – an assessment of online pastoral opportunities, were released on February 28, at a

Vatican press conference.

Archbishop John Foley and Bishop Pierfranco Pastore, the then respectively president and secretary of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, introduced the texts.

The documents "point out how providential the emergence of these new tools have been for communication and communion", the archbishop said.

He said Pope John Paul II had encouraged the Church to "enter without fear into the world of the Internet", seeing it as a new area for evangelisation.

In recent years, the council's members and consultants studied the subject aiming to produce one document, as had been done when it published "Ethics in Advertising" in 1997 and "Ethics in Communications" in 2000.

However, as Archbishop Foley explained, the council "decided we should publish a document not only on 'Ethics in Internet,' but also a document on 'The Church and Internet' -- that is, how the Church itself can use the Internet in its own mission."

"Ethics in Internet" does not offer a universal ethical assessment but sets out "a Catholic view of the Internet, as a starting point for the Church's participation in dialogue with other sectors of society, especially other religious groups, concerning the development and use" of this new medium.

It proposes that solidarity and "the international common good" be principles on which ethical judgments should be based.

It sees the Internet as a new technology that "drives and supports globalization," which itself "is spurring rapid, sweeping social change" that can be both positive and negative.

The document says the Internet can help individuals, groups, nations, and the human race.

However, it also cautions that the Internet "also raises a number of other ethical questions about matters like privacy, the security and confidentiality of data, copyright and intellectual property law, pornography, hate sites, the dissemination of rumor and character assassination under the guise of news, and much else."

It also speaks of specific "areas of concern" involving the Internet, such as "the digital divide -- a form of discrimination dividing the rich from the poor, both within and among nations, on the basis of access, or lack of access, to the new information technology."

Another concern is that of cultural domination because the Internet can "help instill a set of cultural values -- ways of thinking about social relationships, family, religion, the human condition -- whose novelty and glamour can challenge and overwhelm traditional cultures."

The document observes that while the Internet helps promote freedom of expression, it can be controlled by authoritarian regimes wanting to block negative criticism, as well as by liberal democracies in which real access may be limited to only the wealthy.

It says the Internet can help journalism in various ways, but warns that "the economic competitiveness and round-the-clock nature of Internet journalism also contribute to sensationalism and rumor-mongering, to a merging of news, advertising, and entertainment,

and to an apparent decline in serious reporting and commentary."

Despite these concerns, the document points to the Internet's "enormously valuable contribution to human life."

It also lauds its potential to "foster prosperity and peace, intellectual and aesthetic growth, mutual understanding among peoples and nations on a global scale," and for helping "men and women in their age-old search for self-understanding."

The companion text, "The Church and Internet," positions the Internet among other communications media that help the Church fulfill its mission.

In this view, it says the Internet is both an opportunity and a challenge that is "relevant to many activities and programs of the Church."

The document advises that the Church "needs to understand and use the Internet as a tool of internal communications. This requires keeping clearly in view its special character as a direct, immediate, interactive, and participatory medium."

It offers "words of encouragement to several groups in particular -- Church leaders, pastoral personnel, educators, parents, and especially young people."

It ends with a message "to all persons of good will," urging that virtues such as prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance "need to be cultivated by everyone who wants to make good use of the Internet; their exercise should be based upon and guided by a realistic appraisal of its contents."

Sources:

- https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/pccs/documents/rc_pc_pccs_doc_20020228_church-internet_en.html
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Fostering a vibrant Parish

Bomana, Port Moresby: On Friday, the 8th of March, and Saturday, the 9th of March, the Mary Help of Christians Parish in Sabama held an LKK (*Liklik Kristen Komuniti*) Leaders' Overnight at the Sivarai Namona Pastoral Centre (SNPC) in Bomana. The participants included LKK leaders from three mass centres: Sabama, Sero Kone, and Gabutu, with a lone representative from Pari.

After an opening prayer, Fr. Ambrose Pereira SDB encouraged the participants to offer the overnight recollection for the repose of the soul of Fr. Edwin Genova SDB. The first session saw Fr Ambrose Pereira express the role of the 3Cs in different areas: The 3 Cs of Customer Experience; 3 Cs for mastering an ADHD brain; 3 Cs for CEOs; 3 Cs for success in life; and finally, the 3 Cs for us Catholics, which are Christ, Community, and Church. He went on to say that continuous formation for children, young adults, and the elderly is an essential component of a vibrant parish.

Following the opening session, the participants engaged in the Way of the Cross and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, led by Sr. Lapyanshi Khongwir MHMSC and Sr. Kanchan Toppo MSMHC. This provided the participants with quiet time to recollect and pray for themselves, their LKKs, and the parish.

After a delicious supper at the quaint and naturally decorated refectory of the centre, the participants were led by Abraham Kolako into the next session entitled: 'A Vibrant Parish'. Together with Christopher

Abau, they outlined what a vibrant parish should look, sound, and act like. Their presentation emphasized the importance of participation from parishioners, obedience to the call of service, and practicing what one preaches in order to foster vibrancy within the parish. With much to ponder, the participants had a restful sleep that night.

Early the next morning, at 6:20 am, the participants engaged in contemplative breathing exercises. They savored the silence of the morning, the crisp fresh air, and the surrounding sounds of nature. The Rosary, led by the MSMHC sisters, followed this period of contemplation.

The Eucharistic Mass was celebrated by Fr. Albert Swer SDB, with Fr. Ambrose as the concelebrant. In his homily, Fr. Albert stressed the importance of unity within the parish and expressed joy in seeing leaders come together for prayer and reflection, stating, "This exhibits a vibrant parish in action." A beautiful missionary rosary, a gift from Vietnam was given to every participant at the conclusion of the Eucharistic celebration. Fr Albert also expressed his happiness in celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation with the parishioners.

The morning session focused on this year's Strenna: 'The Dream that makes you dream, a heart that transforms wolves into lambs'. Vincent Numbos animated the session, delving into the dream of Johnny Bosco, which laid the foundation for the mission of the Salesians today. He outlined pointers

-Vincent Damien Numbos , DBTS (Staff & family) LKK Leader

for leaders to help make the parish vibrant. Through this session, participants were able to identify weaknesses and explore ways to address them.

An evaluation, aided by a SWOT analysis, enabled the leaders to identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats surrounding sacraments, prayer life, resources, church venue, and future possibilities. Highlighted by every group were the need for constant formation to build on commitment, respect, unity, and togetherness. The different groups also shared their need for a common space for peace and quiet where all can come together to worship as a united and vibrant parish.

After a mouthwatering lunch, the overnight program concluded at 1 pm, allowing participants the opportunity to attend the funeral service and burial of Fr. Edwin Genova SDB.



Picture: Group picture taken after the Liklik Kristen Komuniti Leaders' Overnight Program at Sivarai Namona Pastoral Centre(Picture supplied)

Holy Cross Sunday school children find healing and hope in trauma session

-Leotina Akwai | Catholic Communications Desk

Honiara: On Saturday, the 2nd of March 2024, Holy Cross Cathedral witnessed a remarkable event as children aged 8 to 13 from the Sunday School program gathered for a special trauma healing session following the opening mass of the Sunday school year. The session, held at the Holy Cross Stage, aimed to address the emotional wounds of children who feel neglected in their homes.

Led by Sunday School Coordinator Mrs. Lilian Kwa'nairara, assisted by dedicated Holy Cross Sunday School teachers, the session explored into the theme "I Am Important." Through powerful stories, the children were guided to understand their significance in the eyes of God and society.

The first story narrated the modern-day experiences of Shabby and Rose, children who felt neglected by their parents. The second story drew from the Book of Genesis, emphasizing how God



Picture: Holy Cross Sunday school children that took part in the healing and hope in trauma session.

created humankind in His image, imbuing each individual with inherent importance and purpose.

Vitalyn Risimora, a Sunday school student, said, "From the two trauma healing sessions, I realize and I feel God is with me, and I am a child of God. I will go

home and talk to my parents that I am important to God."

Mrs. Lilian Kwa'nairara, reflecting on the session, highlighted the concerning trend of children feeling ignored in society. She stressed the need for children to have the freedom to express themselves, receive education, and pursue their aspirations.

Mrs. Lilian announced plans to invite parents and guardians for a trauma healing session next month, recognizing the vital role families play in nurturing the emotional well-being of children.

The initiative undertaken by Holy Cross Cathedral reflects a collective effort to address the emotional needs of children, emphasizing their significance and fostering a supportive environment within the community.

Priests reminded to serve as Christ's Messengers during Chrism Mass

- Catholic Communication Desk

Honiara: The Catholic Church of Solomon Islands marked a significant moment on Monday as it hosted its annual Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of Holy Cross. His Grace Archbishop Christopher Cardone OP presided over the Holy Mass, joined by 15 brother priests from across the diocese and one deacon. The liturgical singing was led by Seminarian Brothers from the Holy Name of Mary Seminary, adding to the solemnity of the occasion.

In his Homily, Archbishop Cardone OP shed light on the significance of "chrism," emphasizing its Greek origin, meaning "anointing" or "ointment." He underscored the sacred role of chrism in various sacramental rites within the Catholic Church, such as baptism, confirmation, Holy Orders, and the anointing of the sick. Despite traditionally scheduled for Holy Thursday, logistical considerations led to the celebration being held on Holy Monday, accommodating priests residing closer to the Cathedral.

Archbishop Cardone OP reminded his fellow Priests of their ordination day, urging them to reflect on their commitment to serve as Christ's messengers. "The Lord has called us and anointed us...to become his voice, his messengers," he remarked, highlighting the profound responsibility bestowed upon priests in their ministry.

During the Mass, priests renewed their priestly vows, affirming their dedication to be faithful stewards of God's mysteries and to discharge faithfully the office of teaching. Archbishop Cardone OP blessed the sacramental oils used in various rites throughout the diocese, including baptism, confirmation, anointing of the sick, and the ordination of priests, underscoring their sanctity and significance.

His Grace Archbishop Cardone OP expressed gratitude to the Religious brothers and sisters from Holy Orders and the Lay faithful for their presence and support. He urged Catholics to continue praying

for priests and their mission, acknowledging the vital role they play in the spiritual life of the community.

The annual Chrism Mass serves as a poignant reminder of the sacred bonds shared within the Catholic community and the enduring commitment of priests to their vocation. The sacramental oils will be distributed to the other 2 Diocese (Diocese of Gizo and Diocese of Auki) and to the parishes.



Picture: Group picture after the Chrism Mass. (Picture supplied)

The way of the cross 2024: Journey of Reflection and renewal

- Jordan Pomat

Gabutu, Port Moresby; The Don Bosco Technical School Gabutu commemorated the solemn occasion of the Way of the Cross, reflecting Jesus' suffering and death. This event took place on March 28th, 2024, within the peaceful surroundings of the PCTA park. The entire school community gathered to participate in prayer and contemplation, engaging with each station along the Way of the Cross as a moment for personal introspection.

This annual tradition, marking the journey towards the Easter Triduum, was meticulously organized by the school's Pastoral Team, with invaluable assistance from Fr. Ambrose Pereira SDB, the Parish Priest of Mary Help of Christians Parish, Sabama, along with class representatives. Throughout the procession, students and staff symbolically carried the cross from one station to the next, re-enacting Jesus' burdensome path to Calvary. The teaching staff and ancillary staff respectively led the initial and

final stations, accompanied by reflective melodies that enhanced the atmosphere of contemplation.

"It was a meaningful and an eye-opening experience, a time of true reflection and realization," described Benjamin Malu, 11 Srugi, as he shared his experience, which fostered genuine moments of introspection and realization among participants. Following the stations, the mission group, under the guidance of Ms. Rica Lavilla, delivered a touching dance performance to the meaningful melody of the World Youth day 1995 theme song, "Tell the World of His Love," providing a fitting conclusion to the spiritually enriching event.

In his closing address, Fr. Pedro Sachitula, SDB, the Rector of Don Bosco Technical School, expressed gratitude to Fr. Ambrose and the Pastoral Team for their efforts in animating the Way of the Cross. He emphasized the importance of continuing the spirit of prayer throughout the Easter Triduum,

urging participants to manifest the love they experience.

As the afternoon ended, Mr. Peter, the Deputy for Student Affairs and Discipline, offered relevant reminders, followed by a final blessing given by Fr. Pedro Sachitula, concluding on a high note of spiritual fulfillment and communal solidarity.



Picture: Students taking part in the Way of the Cross. (Picture supplied)

Aitape Deanery hold Youth Workshop

- Sr Maria Tongop PBVM

Aitape: The Aitape Deanery youths recently held their first meeting and elected the new team of deanery executives.

The youths thanked Sr. Helen Bubu mfc, the Diocesan Youth Co-ordinator who completed her term of office in the diocese for her contribution and guidance to the young people.

From March 12-15, 2024 the parish executives of Aitape Deanery Youths gathered at St. Martin's Pastoral Centre and discussed the issues affecting their lives and prepared the Deanery Youth Annual Activity Plan for 2024.

The gathering had thirty-seven participants from six parishes and Area Steering Teams attend the workshop and actively participate in the discussions and activities.

The workshop aimed to promote harmony, self-reliance, participation, and open dialogue at all levels.

There was discussion on the cries of young people coming out with a sense of responsibility and ownership calling on the leaders to assist them.

The participants were also reminded of their roles as parish leaders and that they needed to look more seriously at the strengths and weaknesses of the different areas of their respective parishes, do something more concrete and motivate the youths in the communities.

The youth leaders were reaffirmed that as young people, they are the leaders for tomorrow, they have great potential and can contribute much for the family, community and the Church.

The workshop concluded with a Eucharistic celebration, launching of Aitape Deanery Youths Annual Activity Plan, and blessing of the newly elected executive of the deanery youths by Fr. George Ayikade CSSp.



Picture: Participants of Aitape Youth Deanery Workshop. (Picture supplied)

Media Education Seminar Empowers Youth

- Lucy Napitalai

Port Moresby: In this ever-changing world of media, young people need the right tools to communicate effectively. On Saturday, March 23, 2024, the second session of the Media Education Seminar series on print media took place at St. Charles Lwanga Secondary School in Gerehu.

The program began with moments of prayer and reflection. Student representatives from the 11 Catholic institutions said a prayer for themselves, followed by icebreaker games before the sessions began.

The program, organized and facilitated by Fr. Ambrose Pereira, SDB, EAO Social Communication Coordinator, and his team of volunteer animators, delved into the key elements of writing news reports, followed by the anatomy of a newspaper. Emphasizing the need to write stories and document events and activities in their respective institutions, the students were taught the elements of writing news reports such as the 5Ws and 1H and organizing ideas or content through the inverted pyramid.

"Open your eyes to see what is happening around you and write about it, sharing your views and opinions on issues," stated Ms. Sheryll as she emphasized writing news reports. The participants were also encouraged to write positive and reflective stories to positively impact others.

The second half of the session, through a working lunch, involved an activity on designing a layout of the news board. Students in their respective institution groups were tasked with organizing the layout in their own context or settings. During this time, a reporter, Jeshier Tilto from the National

Newspaper, joined the session. He commented and shared his experiences with the students. "What you all are doing is amazing, and it's great to see that you're learning all these in your student days before you begin your careers," commented Mr. Tilto while sharing the need to be disciplined and meet deadlines. After the group activities, the students presented their news board followed by an evaluation and reflection on how they will practically share what they learned with others when they go back to their respective institutions.

In conclusion, Fr. Ambrose expressed his utmost gratitude to Br Johnson Chacko SG, principal of St. Charles Lwanga, the staff and their students, for their hospitality and kindness. Apart from providing the venue, snacks, and drinks were also provided for everyone.

The Audio Media will be held at La Salle Technical Secondary School, Hohola, on the 27th April 2024. It plans to be creative and exciting as the participants will record Jingles, a 20 second video message, a radio drama and a 30 second video clip.



Picture: Limana Vocational Centre students with their animator during a group activity. (Picture supplied)

The Catholic Reporter Team

You are invited to send in your articles, photograph and reflections on events and happenings in your parish, community, institution and diocese. Please send in your material to: socom@catholic.org.pg on or before **20th of the Month, 2024.**

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