



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

# The Catholic Reporter

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## Pope at Angelus: Faith is not true if based on our prejudices

- Devin Watkins

At the Angelus prayer on Sunday, Pope Francis urged Christians to embrace true faith and prayer that open our hearts and are never based on our prejudices.

Pope Francis prayed the noon-day Angelus on Sunday with pilgrims in St. Peter's Square, and reflected on the day's Gospel (Jn 6:41-51).

Ahead of the traditional Marian prayer, the Pope noted that Jesus' contemporaries refused to believe His word that He had "come down from heaven."

Since they knew His father and mother, as well as His profession as a carpenter, they doubted that God could manifest Himself in such a familiar, ordinary way.

"They were obstructed in their faith," said the Pope, "by their preconception of His humble origins and the presumption, therefore, that they have nothing to learn from Him."

**Hardened hearts impede spiritual growth:** Pope Francis noted how damaging prejudices and closure of heart can be for a person's spiritual growth.

He said Jesus' contemporaries, as recounted in John's Gospel, observed the law, pray, and fast, adding that they carried out these practices only to seek confirmation of what they already thought.

"This is demonstrated by the fact that they do not even take the trouble to ask Jesus for an explanation," he said. "They limit themselves to murmuring among themselves against Him, as though to reassure each other of what they are convinced, closing themselves up as if in an impenetrable fortress."

Their hardened hearts and prejudices, said the Pope, keep them from believing in God's Son.

**True faith and prayer open the heart, not close it:** The Holy Father went on to warn that the same closure can happen to us when we pray only to find confirmation of our own convictions and judgments.

"True faith and prayer open the mind and the heart; they do not close them," he said. "When you find a person who is closed in mind and prayer, their faith and prayer are not true."

Pope Francis concluded his reflections at the Angelus by inviting everyone to ask ourselves if we are able to be truly silent before the Lord and welcome His voice.

"May Mary help us to listen with faith to the Lord's voice, and to do His will courageously."



The Holy Father greeting the crowd (Picture Courtesy: ©Vatican Media/Dicastery for Communication)

## Reflection on the Pope's Visit to Papua New Guinea

- Bishop Rolando Santos CM

Papua New Guinea becomes the focus of the world as Pope Francis visits the country on 6-9 September 2024. He will be in Port Moresby much of the time and will be paying a short 3-hour visit to Vanimo. We pray that his visit will be safe, meaningful and pastorally fruitful as he meets with the clergy, religious, catechists, the youth, the disabled and more abandoned, the faithful and all other Christians and people of goodwill whom he regards as his own children.

Following is a brief essay on who is the Holy Father and what kind of respect and allegiance both Catholics and non-Catholics have towards him.

The Papacy stands as a pillar of authority and spiritual guidance within the Catholic Church, embodying centuries of tradition and faith. At the heart of this institution lies the figure of the Pope, the spiritual leader of the Catholic faithful worldwide. To understand the role of the Pope, one must delve into the foundations laid by St. Peter as depicted in the Gospels, explore the significance of the office's authority, and contemplate the reverence and allegiance Catholics hold for the seat of St. Peter. Equally important is the question of how non-Catholic Christians should perceive and regard the Holy Father in the context of their own beliefs and traditions.

In the Gospels, particularly in the Gospel of Matthew, a pivotal moment occurs when Jesus declares to Peter, "You are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my Church" (Matthew 16:18). This passage is often interpreted as the establishment of Peter as the foundation of the Church and the precursor to the institution of the Papacy. It symbolizes the authority given to Peter by Jesus to lead and guide the early Christian community, laying the groundwork for the future role of the Pope as the successor of St. Peter.

The authority of the Pope within the Catholic Church is rooted in this biblical foundation, with the belief that he is the Vicar of Christ on Earth, possessing the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven. Catholics view the Pope as the visible head of the Church, entrusted with the responsibility of safeguarding and interpreting the teachings of Christ for the faithful. This authority extends to matters of doctrine, morality, and discipline, shaping the spiritual direction of over a billion Catholics worldwide.

The seat of St. Peter commands profound respect and unwavering allegiance from Catholics, who see in the Pope the representative of Christ on Earth and the symbol of unity within the Church. Catholics are called to obey and honor the Pope as the successor of Peter, acknowledging his role as the supreme shepherd of the Church and the infallible interpreter of faith and morals. This

loyalty is deeply ingrained in Catholic tradition, reflecting the belief in the Pope's divine mandate to guide the faithful in matters of faith and practice.

For non-Catholic Christians, the question of how to regard the Holy Father can be nuanced by theological differences and historical perspectives. While they may not recognize the Pope's authority in the same way as Catholics, non-Catholic Christians can still appreciate the spiritual leadership and moral influence the Pope wields on a global scale. Respect for the office of the Pope, regardless of doctrinal disagreements, can foster dialogue, understanding, and collaboration among Christians of different denominations.

In conclusion, the Papacy, epitomized by the figure of the Pope, holds a central place in the Catholic Church's spiritual and doctrinal framework. The origins of the Papacy in the Gospels, the authority it represents, the allegiance and respect it commands from Catholics, and the regard it evokes from non-Catholic Christians all contribute to its enduring significance in the tapestry of Christian faith. As the spiritual successor of St. Peter, the Pope continues to embody the timeless values of faith, unity, and service for believers around the world.

**Welcome to Papua New Guinea**  
 His Holiness Pope Francis  
 "Lord, teach us to pray" - Luke 1:11  
 September 6 - 9, 2024

- September 6, 2024  
Candlelight welcome for the Holy Father.
- September 7, 2024  
Street Ministry and Callan Services @ Caritas Technical Secondary School.
- Meeting with clergy, religious and catechists @ Mary Help of Christians Shrine.
- September 8, 2024  
Eucharist Celebration @ Sir John Guise Stadium, Waigani.
- Visit to Vanimo
- September 9, 2024  
Youth Festival @ Sir John Guise Stadium, Waigani.

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### August 10: A Day Against Sorcery Violence

- Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME | CBC General Secretary



The World Day against Witchcraft and Sorcery Accusation returns since 2020 on the 10th of August. This year is a Saturday, which should make it easier to mobilize people for a local rally, a time of reflection, a prayer or a special Mass for the Catholic parishes and communities.

The medicine to such sickness can only be found in educational and spiritual means by working directly with the communities. In other words, take care of the (potential) perpetrators before you have to care for the victims. In the diocese of Wabag now small teams visit the villages and talk directly to the people. One of the first steps is probably to make basically illiterate communities aware of the natural causes of death and common ailments that may easily take the life even of young people, such as asthma and tuberculosis. Then there is diabetes, high blood pressure causing heart failure and stroke, respiratory issues and infections of all sorts. It is not somebody causing death, except in the blunt and evident case of murder, but something from inside or outside the body.

healed and resurrected people. He consoled and embraced them. He forgave those who unfairly treated and eventually killed him. He prevailed over death by attributing a redeeming meaning to it. To Peter who saw what was coming in the last hours and could grab a sword, he ordered to put it aside. An attitude and a decision for prayer at the passing of a friend or a family member is the best alternative and antidote to uncontrollable feelings and primitive witch hunts.

Sorcery Accusation Related Violence (SARV) remains widespread in at least forty-four countries in the world, and it's worsening in Melanesia. In the Enga province of Papua New Guinea, Wabag auxiliary bishop Justin Ain repeatedly tells people that the horrifying torturing and burning of women was not practiced by past generations. It is not part of local culture. How did it start? And how can it be stopped.

The belief in occult practices or the pretence of control over them will diminish with the increase of knowledge and understanding on the way nature works. That will also help in dominating the feelings of loss, despair and outrage at the death of loved ones. Revenge over innocent people cannot be an acceptable answer. It is totally unjust and unjustified.

Never forget that you will always have to call a murder a murder. It's a mortal sin. Bishop Donald Lippert of Mendi warns Catholics that, "People who participate in sorcery related violence in any way, from contributing to hiring a *glassman* (or *mambuman*, etc.), to joining in the accusations, to being present for the hideous spectacle, or simply remaining silent, are themselves guilty of mortal sin. They must not approach the Holy Altar to receive Holy Communion until they have repented of these crimes against God and against humanity and received Sacramental absolution. If they die before doing this, they will not enter the Kingdom of God. They will not go to heaven. Our people need to know this."

It seems that law enforcement and police action can not provide the solution. Not enough personnel and means to keep vast areas of rough terrain under control. No sufficient determination by officers caught up in the same cultural and psychological mishap. Fear of reprisal from villagers by whomever reports and tries to curb the unjustified and blind violence.

Even deeper than that is a journey of conversation and faith that can turn the page. Open the Bible, especially the New Testament, and read how Jesus

### The Letters of St Paul: Ephesians

- Fr. Tomás Ravaioli IVE  
Liturgical Catechetical Institute Director



**Date:** As far as the date of the letter is concerned, in view of its close similarity in style and content to Colossians, the likelihood is that it was written towards the end of Paul's first imprisonment in Rome, that is, very shortly before the spring of 63.

the Father (1:20) and renewing the earth through his Church (3:10). Though Paul often attacks doctrinal error and moral laxity in his letters, he seizes the opportunity in Ephesians to step back from these controversies to contemplate and articulate in a more reflective way God's saving work in Jesus. Instead of pastoral surgery, then, Paul gives the Ephesians a dose of preventative medicine, hoping that a deeper appreciation of God's blessings will lead them to a more mature commitment to the gospel. Since many of Paul's readers are recent converts, Ephesians might best be described as Paul's mystagogical catechesis for the newly baptized. The towering theme of Ephesians is the "mystery" of Jesus Christ once concealed but now revealed (1:9; 3:4, 9). This is first of all the mystery of Christ the Redeemer, whose violent death on the Cross was a vicarious sacrifice

for the redemption of Israel and the Gentiles alike (1:7; 2:16; 5:2). Having died to restore peace between the Father and the human family, Christ now reigns supreme over all things at the right hand of the Father in heaven (1:20). So far is he exalted above creation that even the angels find themselves under his feet (1:21-22). As Paul reflects upon these redeeming achievements of Christ, he is not content to view them as events confined to the past. Rather, the Resurrection, Ascension, and Enthronement of Christ are saving mysteries that continue to grace our lives and souls in the present, making us participants in his royal, priestly, and prophetic mission to the world (2:4-6; 5:2). The mystery of Christ is also the mystery of his ecclesial body, the Church.

**Destination:** In the time of St Paul Ephesus was the leading city in Asia Minor. In the time of St Paul Ephesus was the leading city in Asia Minor. St Paul may have had to leave Ephesus in a hurry, but he did not forget the faithful in that city. In the course of his imprisonment in Rome he sent them the letter now described as the Epistle to the Ephesians.

**Themes and Characteristics:** Ephesians sets before us a vision of Christ reigning in heaven next to

### Sunday is our Sabbath

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



Dear Reader,  
A student asked me a few weeks ago, "why do Catholics and other Christians worship on Sunday while the Seventh Day Adventists worship on Saturday? Whom should I follow?". I like to explain why the Christians worship on Sunday; why Sunday is our Sabbath.

of sabbath rest: carrying, burning, cooking, washing, ploughing, planting etc. The bible gave only one instruction to keep the sabbath in Exodus 20:8. The pharisees added many more rules to create suffering for the common people. If a man has a doubt whether walking 2 miles to see his sick mother is ok on a sabbath, he had to clarify it with the pharisee of the town. If he broke the Sabbath regulation, the punishment is death. The Bible says, "whoever desecrates the Sabbath, shall be put to death. If any one works on the sabbath, he must be rooted out of his people" (Ex 31:14).

2:27). They wanted to kill Jesus because he did not follow many of their rules of the sabbath.

**1.Old Testament:** The Old Testament of the Bible states: "God rested on the seventh day from all the work he had undertaken" (Gen 2:2); and again, "Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but on the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord. No work may be done by you..." (Exodus 20:8-9).

**3.Jesus and the Sabbath:** Jesus saw that the people did not worry about the joy of worshipping God on the Sabbath. The Pharisees wanted that the people followed the rules of the Sabbath. Jesus wanted to correct the distorted views of the Pharisees on the sabbath. That's why he said, "Sabbath was made for man and not man for the sabbath" (Mark

Jesus was not fanatic about the sabbath as the pharisees of his time. For him, the most important law is not the law of the Sabbath. For example, the rich young man asks Jesus, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, " you know the commandments: 'do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother'". (Mark 10:17-31). Jesus did not **include the law of the sabbath**. It is a very interesting exclusion; it is a very important exclusion. If Jesus wanted the rich young man to follow the Sabbath, he would have told him so.

Jesus' view is: 'Sabbath was not created by God to enslave people but benefit them'.

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### Archbishop Christopher Cardone's Pastoral Mission in Tangarare Parish

- Catholic Communication

His Grace Archbishop Christopher Cardone OP conducted a pastoral mission in Tangarare Parish from July 29 to August 2, following his recent visits to Makira and Ulawa over the past two weeks.

The parishioners of Tangarare expressed their deep gratitude to Archbishop Cardone for his visit, which brought the Holy Spirit and the celebration of the Eucharist to their community.

Tangarare Parish, the largest Catholic parish in the Solomon Islands, saw a significant event with 474 Confirmations administered during three major Masses held at Tinge Community's Holy Rosary Church, Tangarare Parish Station Church, and Hulavu Community's St. Theresa of Avila Church. Archbishop Cardone was accompanied by Deacon Badly during this mission.

His Grace was warmly welcomed in traditional style by the local communities, marking a memorable and spiritually uplifting occasion for Tangarare Parish.

With a population of over 10,000 people spread across 37 different communities, Tangarare Parish is served by three diocesan priests and numerous catechists.



Archbishop Christopher Cardone OP with confirmation candidates in Tinge Community at the Our Lady of the Rosary Local Church.

During his spiritually enriching journey, Archbishop Cardone OP emphasized the importance of the Sacrament of Confirmation, stating, "In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized person is sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit and is strengthened for service to the Body of Christ. Those who received the sacrament are now soldiers of Christ, ready to fight against the presence of Satan in our midst, manifested through alcohol, kwaso, other drugs, and community disorders."

## Pope's visit to Papua New Guinea; a local experience



- Sr Daisy Anne Lisania Augustine MSC  
Secretary for Social Communication

Pope Francis is scheduled to visit Papua New Guinea beginning of September. The faithful are preparing to welcome him as he visits them on his 45<sup>th</sup> Apostolic Journey abroad.

Papua New Guinea is a nation of considerable cultural diversity, comprised of hundreds of ethnic groups indigenous to the island with over 800 Indigenous languages spoken in the country.

Nearly all Papua New Guinea citizens are Christians, and 26 per cent of the population is Catholic.

Pope Francis will be the second Pope to visit Papua New Guinea after Pope John Paul II.

The Pope will visit the city of Port Moresby and the town of Vanimo in Papua New Guinea from September 6-9.

According to Fr. Mario Abzalón Alvarado Tovar, Superior General of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC), who offered this assessment in an interview with Vatican News ahead of the Apostolic Journey. "Pope Francis will find a Church with a strong practice of faith, but in the style of Papua New

Guinea, of the islands of New Guinea, of the mainland, of the highlands, and of the coastal areas."

In this context, the Pontiff will land in the evening of the sixth of September and be welcomed as a state leader but more so as a Church leader to Catholics in this land. The colourful headdresses of the Mekeo people of the Central Province will have the honour of giving the Pontiff in the style of PNG a welcome fit for an important guest.

Ordinary people will line up the streets to get a glimpse of a once in a lifetime experience of a leader they heard of on televisions or read about in news. But for Catholics, the Pope is the Vicar of Christ, and the successor of St Peter who was head of the apostles. He is their Shepherd.

Catherine Loftus, the Program Coordinator at the Center for the Study of Law and Religion in the US wrote this of Pope Francis in 2014. He is transforming the Papal Office; 'from refusing to live in extravagant quarters to choosing modest vestments and cutting bonuses in the Vatican, Pope Francis is the epitome of a humble servant. He is dedicated to the poor and marginalized and is showing the world that the Catholic Church can talk the talk and walk the walk. He is encouraging service and sacrifice not by telling,

but by doing. This is a powerful message for young people, and one that is inspiring service around the world.

Pope Francis said of himself: "The pope is a man who laughs, cries, sleeps well and has friends like everyone else; a normal person." It is this humble attitude and the normalcy that he brings to the papal office that has captivated audiences, both young and old. He has spoken time and time again about how he is a regular guy and enjoys things like World Cup soccer and motorcycles. He does not view himself as living above the people he serves, but as one who walks with all of us in our journey to follow Christ. I believe this is the most important part of Pope Francis' ministry. He is out working with people, talking to people, and adapting his role as a world leader and religious leader to communicate with and relate to ordinary people, especially young people, in hopes to bring the world closer to Christ.

It is this Pope Francis that Papua New Guinea will welcome to its shores from Port Moresby to Vanimo, it will be a local experience of a man who is like us but chosen to lead the Church entrusted to him by Christ himself.

## Mount Hagen Archdiocese welcomes Coadjutor Archbishop Clement Papa

- Donovan Pintol

**Rebiamul, Mt Hagen:** After ninety years of having Bishops and Archbishops of different ethnicities, languages, and skin colour having helped to build the Archdiocese of Mt. Hagen, it has finally come to pass that someone with so much courage, speaks the same language as the people from Western Highlands, and has the same skin colour finally had a raise of hand when the call came.

Coadjutor Archbishop Clement Papa's ties to the church goes back to his late father, one of the first Catechists who was responsible for bringing earlier missionaries into the land of Rebiamul, and then into parts of Western Highlands and neighbouring provinces as well.

The Coadjutor Archbishop was born on February 22, 1971. He did his first philosophical years of studies in Good Shepherd Seminary in Maiwara (Madang Province) and Fatima (Jiwaka Province) in 1991 and 1992. He entered Holy Spirit Seminary in Port Moresby in 1995 before being ordained a priest in 1999.

Apart from his title as a clergy, Coadjutor Archbishop Clement Papa holds a doctorate in the field of Systematic Theology, a qualification which he gained from the University of Divinity in Melbourne, Australia.

The Ordination of the new Coadjutor Archbishop took place in the parish of Rebiamul on Saturday, August 3, 2024 with pre-celebration feasting and dancing to commemorate the historical event not only for the Catholic Faithful, but for all people of goodwill, even highly respected academics and associates of Coadjutor Archbishop Clement flew in to Hagen to witness and support one of their own in his achievement in the Church.

The historical celebration saw thousands of people coming in from not only the outstations and parishes in the province of Western Highlands, but also from

other provinces and the world as well bringing in gifts, food and money as a way of support towards their newly ordained coadjutor Archbishop.

The Principal Consecrator during the Episcopal Ordination was Archbishop of Mt Hagen Archdiocese, Douglas Young SVD with Bishop Arnold Orowae from Wabag Diocese and Bishop Paul Sundu from Kundiawa as co-consecrators.

The Ordination itself was centered around the theme; '*Bilong Lotuim na Lukautim*'. A phrase taken from 1 Corinthians 3:8.

In an inspiring homily fit for the occasion, Archbishop Young SVD highlighted and acknowledged the work done by the Divine Word Missionaries that brought faith into the Highlands Region paving way for development and also acknowledged the early Catechists who bravely put their hand up to work alongside the missionaries. The fruit of which was now the reason why this big celebration came to be as Coadjutor Archbishop Clement Papa is a descendant of one of the early Catechists.

Leading the beautiful and angelic choir were seminarians from Good Shepherd Seminary in Fatima. A choir that complemented the atmosphere of ordination.

In his acknowledgement speech after the Episcopal Ordination, North Waghi Member of Parliament Honourable Benjamin Mul congratulated Coadjutor Archbishop on his Ordination and highlighted the need to support one another.

"I am privileged to be here to show my support to our new Coadjutor Archbishop. Although I belong to another denomination, I felt the need to come and show my support to this big celebration. This is a unique quality that is embedded with the norms and practices of the Highlands Region".

Mr Mul expressed sentiments of joy and appreciation to see many others from other denominations who also turned up in numbers to show their support to the Catholic Faithful and the Archdiocese of Mt Hagen.

"Despite the fact that we all are from the different churches, we must always acknowledge the fact that it was through the Catholic church that our forefathers, our fathers, and now us, know how to read and write through the schools and aid posts that were established by the early missionaries".

CBC President Bishop Otto Separy expressed sentiments of joy and congratulated Coadjutor Archbishop Clement Papa on his appointment.

"It's always a blessing to the Catholic Church to see a local Archbishop/Bishop being appointed to look after the flock and we are yet again blessed to have our very own Coadjutor Archbishop Clement Papa."

Bishop Separy also expressed his appreciation to the people for their effort in ensuring that this historic Episcopal Ordination was a success.

In the meantime, Archbishop Douglas Young SVD while congratulating Coadjutor Archbishop Clement Papa announced his official retirement on his birthday next year as he turns 75 on January 23, 2025.



From left to right: Bishop Jozef Roszynski SVD, His Eminence John Cardinal Ribat MSC and Coadjutor Archbishop Clement Papa.

## Catholic Diocese of Wabag successfully reintegrates two SARV victims back into community after four months

- Caritas Enga

**Enga Province:** It was a day of emotions for two victims of Sorcery Accusation Related Violence (SARV) who were finally reunited with their family in the Laiagam District of Enga Province on July 17, 2024. This comes four months after their brutal experience of torture and humiliation.

On March 18, 2024, the two women were falsely accused of sorcery and were tortured badly when a little boy fell ill due to contaminated food. One of the women was a mother of three and the other was an elderly woman with six grown up children. The unfortunate incident occurred at Lilyates village of the Waiap tribe near Laiagam station.

The mother of the three was with her little children at night when she was attacked. Her husband was in Porgera at that time, and no one was around to protect her and her children. Young men of the village dragged her out of the house tortured her mercilessly accusing her of sorcery.

The other woman was also accused when she returned that morning from the Lutheran church where she attends. If it was not for Fr. Newman Kingi, the parish priest of Wanepap Parish, the two women would have been burned to death.

Fr. Newman, upon hearing of the incident, quickly responded and came to their rescue. He pleaded with the perpetrators and brought the victims to Yampu Health Centre where they were carefully treated by the health workers and later moved to Sari Pastoral Centre where they received further care and counseling from the Catholic Church until their reintegration today.

Auxiliary Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Wabag, His Lordship, Bp. Justin Ain Soongie took the lead with the reintegration. Upon handing over the victims back to the family and the Waiap tribe, Bp. Justin stressed that life is sacred, and no one has the right to take another person's life regardless of whatever reason.

He further said, "Belief in *sanguma* or sorcery is a misconstrued belief and is not even part of our culture in Enga and we should all work together to get rid of this false belief that is destroying our families and communities".

Those who were present included Fr. Emmanuel Dian and Fr. Newman Kingi; members of Caritas Enga; PNGDF personnel, Provincial and District Law and Order Officials headed by Mr. Anton Yogapen

who issued a preventive order to the community not to accuse the victims again.

The Deputy District Administrator Mr. Tom Litapi was also present to witness the occasion. Many of them shared the same sentiments not to harbor the false belief of *sanguma* and encouraged the communities to live peacefully and to protect and promote life.

The leaders of Waiap tribe and the family members of the victims thanked the Catholic Diocese of Wabag and Caritas Enga for their generous assistance in caring for the two women and finally bringing them home after four months.



Government and church officials present during reintegration.

### Bishop Dariusz Kaluza MSF: Build your communities in Communion, Participation and Mission

- Jessica Oata

**Bougainville:** Tucked away in the terrains of the Emperor Range in Bougainville's Suir Constituency is a little parish called Tekoknih Ascension Parish. Sunday July 21, 2024 had parishioners turning up in joyful spirits dressed in their best Sunday attire to witness more than 60 candidates receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.



Some of the candidates take a group picture with Bishop & the Parish Priest.

The candidates were students from Tekoknih Ascension Primary School and St Anthony Moehva Primary School. Joining them were a few students from Hutjena Secondary School and Bishop Wade Tarlena Technical Secondary School who are also local parishioners.

Present to administer the Sacrament of confirmation was His Lordship Bishop Dariusz Kaluza MSF. Accompanying him were Sr Famita Somogod MSM and Sr Marivic Cabote MSM and the dedicated driver.

Bishop Dariusz was welcomed by the Catholic Women's Association with a traditional welcome of the washing of the feet and *singsing Koma* to signify the joy of having a Bishop visit the Parish for the first time to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Parish Priest Fr Louis Lobosi in his welcome remarks expressed his sincere gratitude to the Bishop for accepting the invitation come to his parish and also thanked the parishioners for the tireless efforts put into the preparation.

An angelic choir with colorful processions set the tone of reverence throughout the Eucharistic celebration.

In his homily, His Lordship challenged to confirmation candidates to always be humble in the eyes of God and fully participate in building their communities with their individual gifts and talents.

Bishop Dariusz said that the cry to God to renew the face of the earth means that we are also ready to go through a phase of transformation and leave behind our attachment to earthly possessions and ways.

"And how can we be renewed? We can be renewed through Communion, Participation and Mission of the Synod. Pope Francis invited all Christians to journey together in the Synod".

He elaborated that we need God's grace for communion, participation and mission for a transformed society.

His Lordship highlighted that communion does not mean being perfect and being together all the time, but it is about putting our differences aside and accepting each individual and their gifts and talents and working together for a common good.

"How can I as an individual with my talents and gifts contribute to building the community? Building community is not only the job of the Bishop, priest, and the catechist but it is everyone's duty."

His Lordship concluded his homily by reflecting on Mission and encouraged the candidates to beg humble in the eyes of the Lord, find joy in the Gospel and always be ever ready to live out their faith.

"Life may seem unfair. Challenges will come and you will cry. Ask your parents how many times life has made them cry. But the secret is that you must remain strong. Sometimes we accept situations for what they are, and we do not expect any more in life. We accept who we are, and we think nothing can change, but we become complacent and so becomes our faith, but we must always be ready for change, don't stop living your faith and mission just because you are going through a hard time".

The Eucharistic celebration ended with short speeches by the Bishop and the Parish Chairman Mr Aloysious Sipoixie.

Mr Sipoixie in his remarks encouraged the Confirmed candidates to uphold the Catholic Social Teachings and live out their Catholic faith in their respective communities.

Meanwhile Choir Master Mr Thomas Tabelin expressed joyful sentiments of having the Bishop celebrate mass in Tekoknih Parish.

The program concluded with a group picture and presentation of gifts to His Lordship Bishop Dariusz Kaluza and his delegates.

### Remain steadfast in sharing sentiments with those affected in Holy Land - Palestinian Christian

- Ahisha Mngot

**Port Moresby:** A press conference was held at the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands on July 11, 2024, highlighting the deadly war in the 'Holy Land' and to encourage the people of goodwill to remain steadfast in sharing sentiments with those who are affected.

The Holy Land has witnessed a prolonged humanitarian crisis of alarming proportions since October last year which has triggered a devastating deadly war and as the situation threatens to further escalate.

Mr Bastoli shared that the sources from hospitals back home in his homeland confirmed that over 180 000 were lost, infrastructure destroyed putting nearly most of the people in devastation and agony.

"We get calls every day from people back home that one of our family members is dead, injured or hurt...that is so painful for me to have to go through this in the past and even now".

"As a Palestinian Christian, I feel like the world is not aware of our existence, we are forgotten and misunderstood".

Mr Bastoli made a plea for the people to get to know the history of the crisis in order to at least have a better understanding of the true cause of such inhumane act.

He also said that the press conference was not only for awareness but a cry for help as well so that the people of goodwill may help alleviate the suffering of Palestinians and the Christian minority in the Holy Land.

"Donations can be made to help the people of Gaza through the Council of Churches...people can also join on my nightly zoom on prayer for peace from 8:30pm - 9:00pm", said Bastoli.

"World leaders need to do more to stop the genocide, like starting to implement humanitarian laws and seek justice for the innocent lives lost"

Meanwhile President of the Catholic Professionals Society Mr Paul Harricknen in his remarks acknowledged Mr Bastoli's presence and presentation on the topic at hand and encouraged Christians throughout the country to speak against the injustice happening in the country and around the world.

"It is good that Mr Bastoli is here to share his personal experience of the conflict and as Christians, we need to speak up. PNG cannot claim to be a Christian country while Christians around the world are dying without us knowing".

Mr. Bastoli was born in Jerusalem and lived nearly half of his life there before migrating to Australia in November 1969.

In 1972 Costandi joined the Catholic Charismatic Renewal movement and served as a coordinator in Sydney. In 1979, Costandi became a founding member of the original Disciples of Jesus Covenant Community. Mr Bastoli has vast experience as a layman in Christian teaching, preaching and the healing ministry for over 40 years. His ministry has stretched across Australia, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines.

Recently, he was doing pastoral work with the charismatic movement in the archdiocese of Mt. Hagen.



From left to right: Mr Elias Bastoli, CBC General Secretary Fr Giorgio Licini PIME, Mr Costandi Bastoli, CBC President Bishop Otto Separy and Catholic Professionals Society President Mr Paul Harricknen.

The press conference saw Mr Costandi Bastoli, a Palestinian Christian and member of Palestinian Christians in Australia (PCiA) sharing his perspective and experience on the situation in the Holy Land.

### Caritas PNG commemorates World Youth Skills Day with first ever Tech Talk

- Isabella Saleu

**Gabutu, Port Moresby:** Caritas PNG in collaboration with the National Catholic Education Secretariat (NCES) and Social Communications Commission (SOCOM) of the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI, recently hosted the first ever Tech Talk commemorating the World Youth Skills Day on July 15 at Don Bosco Technical School, Gabutu.

The second session included representatives from Josien Training & Consultancy, Coral Sea Hotels, and Total Energies representing the demand side.

Ms. Mary-Anne Reen from Total Energies said the projected expansion of PNG's resource sector in companies will create significant demands of various technical skills in the country.

Answering to what recruiters look for in graduating students, Mr. Joe Kavatpuo, CEO of Josien Training & Consultancy and an Alumni of Don Bosco highlighted the formation received at a

Catholic institution apart from academic and skills training, that have now played an important role in shaping his value systems and character as an individual. He said recruiters will want reliable, honest, punctual and committed employees and learning that in school was an advantage.

Steamships Talent Manager Human Resources, Ms. Natasha Austin challenged the students to take advantage of the trends of the times and market their skills and talents.

Ms. Judith Thomas, HR Business Partner for Coral Sea Hotels, a subsidiary of a Steamships Trading Company,

challenged the schools not to expect organizations or industries to reach out to them for opportunities but for schools and teachers to contact managers and seek partnership for On-the-Job trainings for their students.

The program ended with a Q&A session.



Panelists from Supply Side...Fr Lawrence Arockiaraj (left) and Br Antony Swamy (right)

Fr. Lawrence Arockiaraj, Commission Secretary for National Catholic Education and Br. Antony Swamy of La Salle PNG and Principal of La Salle Technical Secondary School who were panellists for the first discussion, raised points on the challenges faced by technical education service providers.

Br. Antony stressed on the limited pathways to attain teaching resources to train students in technical courses and lack of personnel to teach as even though there were trained teachers many of whom had ventured into industrial opportunities.

He also added that there were not enough technical colleges to meet the requirements of the demand of skilled personnel in technical industries in the country.

## 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](mailto:socom@catholic.org.pg) on or before **20th of the Month, 2024.**

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