



# The Catholic Reporter

Catholic Bishops' Conference of PNG & SI - Commission on Social Communications, P.O. Box 398, Waigani, NCD Tel.: 325 9577 - Fax: 323 2551

October 2020

Issue 178

- Courtesy Vatican News

## Fratelli Tutti on Fraternity and Social Friendship

Pope Francis' third Encyclical Letter "Fratelli tutti" on Fraternity and Social Friendship, was published on October 4, 2020, on the occasion of the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. The Holy Father signed the Encyclical at the tomb of Saint Francis of Assisi after the celebrating Holy Mass.

reach that goal: recognizing ourselves as brothers and sisters because we are children, one another's

the other as a stranger. In fact, every Christian is called to discover "Christ in each human being, recognizing him crucified in the sufferings of the abandoned and forgotten of our world, and risen in each brother or sister who" who gets back on their feet. The message of fraternity is one that can be accepted, understood and shared both by men and women who believe in other faiths, as well as the many women and men who are unbelievers.

keepers, everyone in the same boat, as this pandemic has made even more evident. It is the way out of surrendering to the temptation of being *homo homini lupus* (people who act like wolves toward others), of building new walls, of isolation. Instead, it holds up the ever current and "out of the box" evangelical icon of the Good Samaritan.

During the signing of the Encyclical, Pope Francis invited Msgr Paolo Braida to bring the copies of the Encyclical to be signed. He then explained that Msgr Braida handles the translations in the First Section of the Secretariat of State.

Fraternity and social friendship are the ways the Pontiff indicates to build a better, more just and peaceful world, with the contribution of all: people and institutions. With an emphatic confirmation of a 'no' to war and to globalized indifference.

He also introduced two of the priests who also work in the First Section. Father Antonio translated the Encyclical into Portuguese from the original Spanish.

The path Pope Francis indicates is founded on Jesus's message that destroys every perception of

- Nigel Akuani

## Installation mass for 1st local Archbishop of Rabaul

**Vunapope, Rabaul:** A grand Installation Mass of the first local and 8<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Rabaul, His Grace Rochus Josef Tatamai MSC was held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September, at the Vunapope Sacred Heart Cathedral, East New Britain Province.

He reminded the people to continue to support the Church in their efforts to drive forward the Province and its people. He urged parents to pray and encourage their children to live a Holy Life in the Church. "Pray for our children, that they become people of faith and remain in the service of the Church as Catechists, Seminarians and as Religious," he said. He highlighted not only quantity but quality of vocations.

The Installation had as its theme: "God Wantaim Yumi". Archbishop Rochus Tatamai was the main celebrant. Concelebrating with him were 14 bishops. Amongst them were the Apostolic Nuncio to PNGSI, Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal; Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC; Archbishop Emeritus, Francesco Panfilo SDB; and a large number of priests. Also present were religious, seminarians, family and friends and the people of the Archdiocese of Rabaul and the other dioceses.

He stressed the need for the archdiocese to become more inclusive in its efforts of improving its quality to effectively deliver its diocesan pastoral plan among its people. He thanked Archbishop Panfilo for his inclusive thrust of reaching out in a special way to the people in Pomio, where he established 7 new parishes. He thanked him for his stress on education, youth ministry, family ministry, vocations and the different social issues faced by the people. He thanked Archbishop Karl Hesse who stabilized the archdiocese after the volcanic eruption.

In his homily Abp Rochus gave thanks to God for the years and experience as Bishop of the dioceses of Bereina and Kavieng. He compared his return to Rabaul similar to that of Jesus' return to Nazareth.

After the Eucharistic celebration speeches and a variety of items were presented. These included a march past by the students and Vunapope Catholic Women, traditional dance performances from the Baining and Pomio areas of Rabaul, and a variety of dances from the Dioceses of Kavieng and Kimbe.

"Jesus returned to Nazareth and was judged by the people for what he did. There will be those who will judge and question my decisions, but all I ask for is your cooperation and patience as you allow me to lead as your new Shepherd," he said.



Picture 1 (top): Bishops from the Dioceses of PNG-SI

Picture 2 (bottom left): Abp Rochus proclaiming the creed

Picture 3 (bottom right): Abp Rochus Tatamai blessing the people

Pictures by CBC SOCOM

### In this Issue:

1. Fratelli Tutti on fraternity and social friendship; Pope; Installation mass for 1st local Archbishop of Rabaul
2. New Bishop for Diocese of Bougainville; My voice, our future; Social isolation in COVID-19; Evangelization in the Catholic Church
3. Commentary; Care for Creation; Grade 12 students on a retreat; New president for DWU; Upper Mendi parish opens new church building
4. Emotional farewell for a much loved Shepherd; Endorsement of Laity Pastoral Letter 2021; 45th Independence; Laity and family life workshop



## New Bishop for Diocese of Bougainville

A new Bishop has been appointed for the Diocese of Bougainville. This was announced on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 8pm, by Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal, Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

His Excellency Most Reverend Bishop Dariusz Kaluza MSF, until now Bishop of the Diocese of Goroka, was appointed as the new Bishop of Bougainville by the Holy Father Pope Francis. Bishop Dariusz has already given his consent to this important and delicate assignment to which the Holy Father has now tasked him with. The Nuncio congratulated Bishop Kaluza on his new mission in

the Church, and urged for all Christians to remember him in their prayers, so that the good Lord may continue to bless and guide him as he prepares to take up the pastoral governance of the diocese of Bougainville.

### Brief History

His Excellency Most Rev. Dariusz KAŁUŻA, M.S.F. was born on 5th November 1967 in Pszczyna (Poland). After his Primary and Secondary Education, he commenced his formation for Catholic Priesthood in the Seminar in Kazimierz Biskupi (Poland). He received Presbyteral Ordination on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1993 as a solemnly professed member of the Missionaries of the Holy Family. From 1993 to 1996 he was Assistant Parish Priest in Zlotow (Poland). After his arrival in Papua New Guinea he served

various communities in the Diocese of Mendi: Assistant Parish Priest at Ialibu Parish (1997-1999), Parish Priest at Imbongu Parish (2000 – 2002) Parish Priest at Ialibu Parish (2003 – 2004), Director of Catechist Training School (2004-2014).

From 2006 to 2011, he was Vicar General of the Diocese of Mendi. In 2011 – 2012 its Diocesan Administrator and from 2012 – 2014 once again its Vicar General. In 2015 he transferred to the Archdiocese of Madang where until 2016 he was the Pastoral Vicar.

On 9<sup>th</sup> June 2016, the Holy Father Pope Francis appointed Rev. Fr Dariusz Kaluza, M.S.F., Bishop of the Diocese of Goroka.

His Episcopal Installation will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> November at Our Lady of Assumption Pro Cathedral Hahela Parish, Buka Island in the Diocese of Bougainville.



## Social isolation in COVID-19

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, Secretary for Social Communication

Across schools and educational institutions, young people are not able to socially engage with their peers as they did before the COVID-19 pandemic. This is detrimental to their physical and mental health. They connect using a digital device, but this has negative consequences. It is affecting their mental health and social skills.

A study in the UK reveals that social isolation and loneliness could impact the mental health of previously healthy persons. Social Isolation increased the risk of depression and anxiety and its effects could last for several years. It is therefore of vital importance that every educational institute should have qualified councillors who organise awareness sessions for the students and personally assist the ones most affected.

We also need to remind ourselves and our students that digital devices cannot replace human interaction. Human interaction in the company of friends is most essential. Digital devices effect the healthy development of social

behaviours. Physical activity reduces anxiety and stress. It develops skills in cooperation, communication, negotiation, conflict resolution and empathy.

Here are four ways to encourage outdoor activity. They keep young people off the digital device and encourage human interaction.

1. *Plan a time every day for children and young people to play. It will be for their health, well-being and learning.*

2. *It is important that children and young people are told about safe and responsible use of digital media. There needs to be limits on the use of screen time, to enhance active engagement and interactive games – without the use of digital devices.*

3. *Studies show that 'green time' in parks, nature reserves, playgrounds and open spaces have favourable psychological outcomes over those with high levels of screen time.*

4. *Be the change you want to see in young people. Children and young people mimic their parents, it is therefore essential that they learn and image good example.*

## My voice, our future

"My voice, our future" is the theme of the International Day of the Girl. It is an annual event by UNICEF that falls on the 11th of October for girls to amplify their voices and stand for their rights.

Its focus for this year is for adolescent girls worldwide to:

- *Live free from gender-based violence, harmful practices, and HIV and AIDS*
- *Learn new skills towards the futures they choose*
- *Lead as a generation of activists accelerating social change*

In a society where violence and abuse are prevalent, what are we going to do to protect women and girls and eliminate this social issue?

According to UNICEF, a few ways to take action are to:

1. *Eradicate violence against girls.*
2. *Promote girls awareness of and participation in social, economic and political life.*
3. *Strengthen the role of the family in improving the status of girls.*
4. *Promote and protect the rights of girls and increase awareness of their needs and potential.*

Hence, what will you do to make a difference during the International Day of the Girl?



- Abigail Seta



## Evangelization in the Catholic Church 1500-1800 AD

Fr. Victor Roche SVD, Secretary for New Evangelization

Continued from the September Issue entitled: "What is New Evangelisation?"

In 1492 Christopher Columbus of Spain 'discovered' the Americas, a world unknown to by Europe. He and subsequent European explorers found a vast land teeming with people who had never heard of Christ or the Gospel.

The kings and queens of Spain and Portugal sponsored these voyages of exploration, but also were interested in converting the indigenous people to Christianity. So missionaries-Franciscans, Dominicans, Augustinians accompanied the various explorers with what was known as the famous 'policy of cross and the sword'. Conversions were made in Central and South America, sometimes called Latin America. People in these countries speak Spanish or Portuguese, both of which are derived from Latin. On the other side of the world, in the 1530s, Spain began to colonize the Philippines and, as in Latin America, Dominicans, Augustinians and Franciscans were sent to evangelize the country. The Philippines are the fourth largest Catholic country in the world today and are known for their loyalty to the Catholic Church.

About this time, Martin Luther (1483-1546) who was an Augustinian Monk started a protestant Reformation in Germany. It spread to other European countries through Ulrich Zwingli and John Calvin. They fought head on some of the abuses in the Medieval Catholic Church- corruption of the clergy, lack of pastoral care, less importance of the Word of God and the like. When Rome would not listen, they formed their own churches. Europe was split between Catholics and Protestants and not only was there religious turmoil but political turmoil as well. The next two hundred years at least would be years of senseless wars and persecution: Catholics of Protestants and Protestants of Catholics.

In this context, Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556) from Spain founded the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). They were new type of missionaries: highly disciplined, highly educated and highly motivated. They took a fourth vow to be at the Pope's direct disposal and they spread rapidly throughout Europe. They went to Latin America, North America and Asia. A notable Jesuit missionary to Asia is St.

Francis Xavier. He made many conversions in India, Japan and Malay Peninsula. His incorruptible body is kept in the Basilica of Bom Jesus in Goa, India.

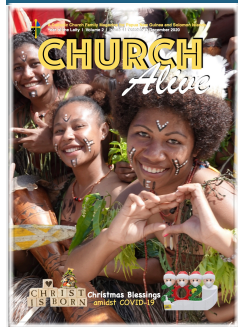
Another Jesuit, Matheo Ricci worked in China and became renowned for his mastery of the language and the mastery of Confucian classics. He managed to convert a small but an important group of Chinese, among whom were even men ordained as priests.

Europe at this time was being devastated by wars of religion which resulted in a great suspicion of religion and the church. There was more trust in human reason in this Age of Enlightenment.

The French Revolution of 1789 brought about a lot of destruction and almost put an end to mission work throughout the world. It is said that in 1800 there were only a few hundred Catholic Missionaries still working around the world. This bleak picture, however, would change dramatically with the next century.

To be continued in the next issue

### CHURCH ALIVE MAGAZINE



Church Alive Magazine a Catholic Family magazine for Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. Volume 2, Issue 4, October to December.

Price: K2/

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

### MONTH OF ROSARY

A time of Prayer and Meditation

**Faith:** Pray to increase your faith in God  
**Hope:** Pray for a deeper desire and hope for heaven  
**Charity:** Pray to have a deeper love for your neighbours for the sake of your love for God

The rosary is an invitation to experience the grace of Mary's spiritual motherhood as she leads us to her Son, Jesus.

### WORLD COMMUNICATION DAY 2021

"Come and see" (Jn 1,46)

Communicating, encountering people as and where they are.

"In the call of the first disciples, with Jesus who went to encounter them and to invite them to follow Him, we also see the invitation to use all media, in all their forms, to reach people as they are and where they live."

WCD | May 2021



## Preventing education is violence against youth

Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME, CBC General Secretary

We frequently come across stories of violence against women and children. The cases related to sorcery accusations are probably the most gruesome and reprehensible. Without any scientific and judicial proof, women and other vulnerable members of society are subject to hours of primitive and murderous psychological, physical, and sexual abuse, before they are left dead or severely injured. Community reaction and police intervention remains insufficient.

There are, however, more subtle forms of violence being perpetrated especially against young people. Take the case of good boys or girls selected for college or university studies at the end of grade 12. They may receive a visit from the so-called elders of the clan telling them that they are not going to go anywhere. No further studies, but life in the village looking after gardens, pigs, perhaps the old parents; getting into an arranged marriage of convenience to increase the social and financial stand of the clan. In the traditional set-up the family is weaker than the community. The

parents are not strong enough to protect the future of their children and what they dream of.

Ignorance and selfishness may be the most immediate reasons for such type of adult behaviour. Another can be lack of exposure and experience of places and opportunities different than what the elders have grown up with. Should not underestimate, however, also that ingrained sense of diffidence and envy towards those who attempt new goals and horizons in life. This feeling is probably frequently disguised, but it is there and appears to be the worst result of ancestral isolation and routine. The other is arrogance deriving from lack of knowledge of what is outside and above one's little geographical and cognitive world.

Preventing education, arranging marriages, forcing young people into any type of life they do not agree with are practices that cannot be defended anymore, let alone promoted. Any Church youth ministry must focus in creating spaces of freedom and responsibility for children and youth. They must be guided, not forced. They must be supported, not burdened with selfish interests and self-serving traditional practices. In the Christian

perspective the family and the parents take priority over any other social figure or institution in orienting their children. The State, the Churches, the education system, the elders of the village only complement and reinforce the family; they may replace it only when it shows clear signs of weakness.

One would think that newly graduate teachers should go back to their village and uplift the conditions of the place, impart a better education to the local children, help opening up the mind of the community on what the modern world and development now require. It may be a good idea, but not necessarily practical. Too many stories of opportunism and greed; of people doing nothing all day just waiting to feast on the small salary of the teachers, that way preventing the young professionals from building a future of their own, even a new and independent family, robbing them of their rights and their privacy.

It's time to free the great potentials in young people, by respecting them and promoting them; rather than holding them back to serve petty interests and outdated practices.



## Create and Care

*What is the meaning of Creation and why should we Care?*

- Marie Mondu, CBC Development Secretary

Creation is the action or process of bringing something into existence. Sometimes it is referred to as the existence of God's handiwork. In the book of Genesis we read a lot on God's effort's in putting piece by piece to what is known to us today as planet Earth and the universe. God wisely created creatures who would Care for each other in the food chain and there was balance. Care means to take care for and be concerned of the wellbeing of an existence of something.

Pope Francis in the Encyclical entitled: "Laudato Si'" speaks boldly about our actions and inactions leading to the poor wellbeing of our Common Home. It is common knowledge that if we look after a property or personal item with care, it will last. Mother earth is one of the most precious asset we all have inherited as Humans and as God's Children. How well are we caring for it?

In this Season of Creation, let us call on those before us who have demonstrated immense love for the environment and all its creatures. One such Saint is St Francis of Assisi. We also must pray selfishly for those who are in the forefront to fight for Environmental Justice. It is not very easy advocating for creatures and habitat that do not speak the human language. However, if we pause amidst our normal everyday routine and reflect on how our everyday survival is inter dependent, we might start caring a little bit more. Few reflection points to consider during the Season of Creation:

- Am I the best example of a Carrier of Creation? Why do I claim so?
- I know I depend on oxygen from plants. What have I grown apart from anything that is edible?
- I know both plants and humans will die without water. What did I do to care for my water to be clean always?
- I know humans and animals will die without eating. What did I do to preserve food, or plant just enough to get my household going? What did I do with the extra food or waste food?

Pope Francis again highlights in one of his many writings on the Gospel of Love saying: "Let us learn to look upward, towards God and also downward, others especially the last ones. And we must not be afraid of sacrifice. Think of a mom or dad: How many sacrifices? But why do they make them? For love! And how do they face them? With Joy! Because it is for the people they love, the cross of Christ embraced with love, does not lead to sadness but happiness."

Yes, caring for mother earth or creation requires self-sacrifices. Denying oneself to consume more to reduce pollution where primary production is involved for example. Denying oneself the right to expression of freedom and individual ownership to common good. Denying development that will bring fast economic gains to ecologically safe low income projects in our communities.

## Grade 12 students on a spiritual retreat

- Nigel Akuani and Rosemary Yambune



**Port Moresby:** A spiritual and fun-filled Youth Retreat has left over a hundred grade Twelve students with a heightened sense of optimism for their future ambitions.

The three-day retreat began on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> and ended on September 24 with the theme, "Care for Creation. Live LIFE!" The program had the participation of students from Jubilee Catholic Secondary School. A significant

practical demonstration done, during the retreat, was the act of forgiveness marked by the students. In a symbolic gesture, the students walked to the front with written notes of persons that did them wrong and dumped it in the bin.

Various sessions were given throughout from Commission Secretaries of CBCPNGSI, that included: Elizabeth Aribi, Secretary of the Youth Commission; Fr Ambrose Pereira SDB, Secretary of Social Communications; and Development Secretary, Marie Mondu. Sessions dwelled on: Pope Francis' Encyclical of *Laudato Si'* and the Season of Creation from September 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> October; Relationships in Life; and Forgiveness.

Prayer moments were held between sessions with Confession and the Eucharistic a held in the afternoon that saw both male and female students make a personal commitment to live pure, in respect of themselves and others.

## New President for DWU

**Madang:** Professor Fr Philip Gibbs SVD OBE has been appointed as the new President of Divine Word University and will take office as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

Chairperson of the University Council, Archbishop Dr Douglas Young SVD, delivered the announcement to the DWU Community in a letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020 on the occasion of the 45th Independence Anniversary of Papua New Guinea.

Professor Gibbs, who is currently the Deputy President of DWU, will take over from Professor Cecilia Nembou PhD, the first lay person and woman academic to have held the position since the establishment of DWU and its predecessor Divine Word Institute.

Professor Gibbs is a New Zealander, who first came to PNG in 1973. Besides his missionary work, he is a prolific social

researcher and academic.

He holds a Doctorate in Theology from the Gregorian University in Rome and a Master of Business Administration from DWU among several other postgraduate and undergraduate qualifications.

The DWU Council made him a Professor Social Research in 2017. The PNG Government recognised Prof Gibbs for services to PNG and was awarded The Order of the British Empire (OBE) from Queen Elizabeth II in 2018.



## Upper Mendi parish opens new church building

- Rosemary Yambune



**Port Moresby:** More than a hundred catholic faithful within the Upper Mendi parish can now celebrate Eucharist with their priest, inside the newly opened St Joseph Ekari church building, in Upper Mendi, Southern Highlands province. The church was blessed by Bishop of Mendi, Bp

Donald Lippert on September 10th, 2020, in Apua Nene, Upper Mendi.

During the occasion, nine parishioners also received the sacrament of Confirmation. The parish is located 45km from the Kundiawa town which. It took almost 7 months of tireless efforts from the catholic faithful, the locals, and other religious brothers and sisters.

The program began with a welcome dance and singing by the locals to Bp Donald Lippert and religious.

It then continued with opening remarks, followed by the Eucharistic Mass, the blessing of the church, homily, and the receiving of confirmation sacrament. The program concluded with light refreshments.



**Rabaul:** Archbishop Francesco Panfilo sdb, was given an emotional farewell by the people of the three deaneries of the Archdiocese of Rabaul. The

## Emotional farewell for a much-loved shepherd

- Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb

celebration was held at Vunapope on the 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2020.

Over the past few weeks, the people have expressed their gratitude and thanks to their shepherd Archbishop Panfilo. During his years as archbishop he has travelled the length and breadth of the diocese, waded through fast flowing streams, climbed steep mountains and sailed rough waters to reach his flock in the remote parts of the diocese. He was with his people to celebrate the sacraments with them, listen to their struggles and respond to their pains both spiritual and material.

Over the last few weeks he celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation in several parishes and ordained men to the priesthood. Amidst expressions of gratitude at Vunapope, were tears of appreciation for the much-loved shepherd for the past ten years.

- Abigail Seta

## CBC President endorses Year of Laity Pastoral Letter 2021

**Gordons, Port Moresby:** President of the Catholic Bishops Conference (CBC), Abp. Anton Bal, has officially endorsed the Pastoral Letter for the third Year of the Laity 2021.

With the theme 'Our Catholic Laity: Holy, Formed and Sent for Service,' the three-page letter was signed on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September in a brief ceremony at the CBC headquarters.

Present to witness this momentous occasion was the Central Committee of CBC made up of the President and Archbishop of Madang, Abp Anton Bal; Bishop Deputy for Laity and Bishop of Bereina, Bp Otto Separy; Bishop of Goroka, Bp Dariusz Kaluza; Bishop of Mendi, Bp Donald Lippert; General Secretary of CBC, Fr Giorgio Licini, PIME. Joining the Bishops were the staff and friends of CBC.

Prior to the signing, there was a procession of the Pastoral Letter led by the Laity Secretary, Eva Wangihama. It was then read out by Abp. Anton Bal who officially signed the Pastoral Letter.

Giving his remarks on the Year of the Laity 2021, Bp Otto Separy encouraged all Catholic faithful to make a difference in the Church.

"Lay people, you are called to holiness. Holiness is not just for the Pope, the Cardinal and the religious. By the virtue of your baptism and confirmation you are called to live a holy life. We are all called to holiness," he encouraged those present and those watching online Radio Maria.

He said that Lay people are sleeping giants in the Church and that if they realize their vocation and rise up to work together, we can make a big difference in the Church and in society.

"The Year of Laity is a challenge for Lay people in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands to use your God-given talents and gifts for the promotion of joy, peace and happiness in our homes, villages, communities and in our walks of life."

The Year of the Laity, 2019 was extended to 2021 by the Bishops. The themes for the three years of the Year of Laity are:

2019: Called to Holiness

2020: Holy and formed for mission

2021: Holy, Formed and Sent for Service

Picture (right): Abp Anton Bal signing the Pastoral Letter 2021



**Port Moresby:** In commemoration of Papua New Guinea's 45<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary, a memorable independence celebration was held by staff of the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI.

The event held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September, at its headquarters in Gordons, had the full engagement of both its local and expatriate staff that included Priests, Religious, and laity. Also present was His Excellency Bp Otto Separy, Bishop of Bereina; members from Wantok Nuispepa, Caritas Australia,

## 45th Independence in diversity and unity

- Nigel Akuani

Radio Maria, family and friends. More than sixty people joined the celebrations.

The program began with a flag raising ceremony with melodious singing of the country's National Anthem

and the recitation of the Pledge by the staff of CBC. Following this were speeches by Marie Mondu, Secretary for Development and Michael Ova, National Catholic Education Secretary.

In her opening speech, Marie Mondu, recalled the history of Papua New Guinea and said the celebration was a time of recollection, appreciation and pride in the sovereignty of the country.

Michael Ova, described Independence Day as a time to take pride and be proud, and most

importantly as a time of unity as one people. An exhibition of traditional items, food and beverages, from the four regions were showcased as Judges and audiences had the privilege to move between booths to observe. A quiz comprising of ten questions was given at the end to test participants on their knowledge of the country's history before and after gaining independence.

Four judges were appointed, tasked with evaluating presentations given. Judges were Fr Giorgio Licini; Paul Harricknen, President of the Catholic Professional Society of PNG; Steven Farapo, Senior Journalist of Wantok Niuspepa; and Cathy Maso from Caritas Australia.

Participants were later awarded prizes based on overall group performance in presenting their traditional items, and the region that scored the most correct answers in the short quiz.

## Workshop on Laity and Family Life

**Wagina:** Forty-one participants in Wagina were part of a two-day workshop that focused on the purpose of laity, the Bible and family life.

Held from 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> September, the workshop was held at the Wagina parish and had presentations from Jerom Kuibatu with the help of Rev Fr Humberto the parish priest of Wagina.

The participants were selected from different standing ministries in the parish along with each village leaders from the different existing zones in the village. They were made up of youths, the Sunday school teachers, the legion of Mary, the men's group and the women's group.

The workshop really opened the eyes and hearts of all the participants and led them to a new awareness and understanding of the meaning of being baptized and sent.

Because of our baptism, we laity had these responsibilities to take part in the church dynamically. It is not the priests responsibility alone for the growth of the parish, but working together with our parish priest will bring oneness in the community and be united.

The topic on the bible was well appreciated by most of the participants. It allows them

to know more than what they know before about the bible. The bible is not only a book but the word of God, alive and active.

Knowing now how to use the bible and not just reading it one may have a question such as, who would continue to make this holy bible alive and active if we don't use it or take it as part of our daily life.

Participants from the Wagina Parish in the Diocese of Gizo



### Catholic Reporter

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

Editor: **Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb**

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

Please send in your material to:

socom@catholic.org.pg

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

Published by: **Catholic Bishops Conference PNGSI**