



# 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

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- Zenith

## Amazonia: Importance of the ecosystem for Global Climate

activities has damaged the ecological richness of the region, of its jungle and its waters and has forced a non-integral and non-inclusive urban development of the region, which has contributed not only to its economic but also to its social and cultural impoverishment.

### The Indian Communities' Identity

The people and cultures that coexist in the Amazon basin are very varied, with different ways of life. According to the mentioned Preparatory Document, the nine countries that make up the Pan-Amazon region have some three million Indians, with some 390 nationalities and different peoples. Moreover, according to the Church's specialized institutions, such as Brazil's Missionary Indigenous Council, there are between 110 and 130 different Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation (PIAV) or "free peoples."

### The Fight against Threats

The indigenous peoples and Amazon communities organize themselves and fight against the known threats to defend their lives, cultures, territories, and rights. The most vulnerable group is that of the PIAV, as they haven't developed instruments of dialogue and negotiation with outside actors that occupy their circumscriptions. The Indians social situation is damaged by their exclusion and poverty, despite the

fact that, as Pope Francis remarked in Puerto Maldonado, Peru, "Their cosmo-vision, their wisdom, have much to teach those of us that don't belong to their culture. All the efforts we make to improve the life of the Amazon peoples will always be little."

### Importance of the Amazon Tropical Forest

The World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) explains that "the plants extract the carbon dioxide of the atmosphere and absorb it in photosynthesis, a process creator of energy that produces oxygen, which is again freed in the air and . . . carbon, which enables the plant to grow." So, the destruction of the forests would make the greenhouse effect even more pronounced and, therefore, the situation of climate change would worsen in the future. Moreover, the WWE stresses that both the tropical forests as well as woody regions exchange great quantities of water and energy with the atmosphere, and it's believed that they play an important role in the control of local and regional climates. The water released by plants rises in the atmosphere through evapotranspiration (evaporation and transpiration of the plants) and flows through the air to different parts of America in real "flying rivers." This phenomenon added to the great quantity of water that the basin brings to the ocean, influences the global climate and circulation of the oceanic currents."



The burning Amazon is destroying wildlife

Message of the Holy Father, continued from the Catholic Reporter, September Issue.

### Threats

The wealth of the Amazon's biodiversity and, therefore the survival of its inhabitants, who depend on the resources that this ecosystem gives them, have been and are put in danger from the economic use of their resources: intensification of the felling of the jungle; the contamination of the rivers, tributaries and lakes given the use of agro-toxic products, oil spills, legal and illegal mining and the production of drugs as well as drug-trafficking. In a word, the over-exploitation of the Amazon basin through the stated

- Nigel Akuani

## Bp Otto Separy installed as 8th Bishop of Bereina

**Bereina:** A heart-warming Installation Mass was held to welcome the 8th Bishop of the Diocese of Bereina.

Most Reverend Bp Otto Separy was installed as the new Bishop of Bereina on Saturday 21st September at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Bereina, Central Province.

Bp Otto is the former Bishop Ordinary of the Diocese of Aitape after being appointed by Pope Benedict XVI on June 9th 2009. He was announced as the new Bishop of Bereina by the Apostolic Nunciature on 16th July 2019 in Port Moresby.

Celebrating the special occasion with Bp Otto, were Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, Cardinal Sir John Ribat MSC, Archbishop Douglas Young SVD, Bishop Anton Bal, Bishop Gilles Cote SMM, Bishop Rochus Tatamai MSC, Bishop Rozario Menezes SMM, Bishop Jozef Roszenski SVD, Bishop Pedro

Baquero SDB, Priests and Sisters, Religious, Staff of Catholic Bishop Conference of PNGSI, officials from various Institutions and Departments, family and friends from the diocesan communities.

The Installation began with the Nuncio reading the Letter of Appointment of Bp Otto as Bishop of Bereina and showing the Letter of Appointment to the College of Consultors and the people. An acclamation by the congregation then followed. The Bishops went to Bp Otto and offered their congratulations. Priests of the Diocese wished the Bishop and ceded obedience to their new Bishop. A representative group of religious and laity of the diocese were also welcomed to meet and greet Bp Otto.

In his homily Bp Otto highlighted the crucial role of laity and appealed for their constant cooperation in carrying out the word of God and helping the works of the Church. "This Year is the 'Year of the Laity' because the Church



New Bishop of the Diocese of Bereina, Bp Otto Separy

recognizes the significant efforts the Laity makes," he said.

"I am your new Bishop, but I cannot do it alone, and I implore you to work and support my leadership in promoting the faith and evangelization so we can make a big difference in the Diocese of Bereina."

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# Installation of the new bishop of Bereina



The Nuncio in his speech congratulated Bp Otto for his work in Aitape and said that he would continue praying for him and the Diocese of Bereina, its Priests, Religious and people.

Cardinal Ribat urged the people to work together and journey with their new Bishop to continue building the church in the diocese.

A gathering of over 3000 people from the surrounding communities came to witness and support this extraordinary event.

The celebrations concluded with lunch and traditional dance performances provided by the local communities.

Bishop Otto was born in Kubila (Diocese of Wewak) on 5<sup>th</sup> August, 1957. He was ordained priest for the Diocese of Wewak on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1991 and held offices as Parish priest and the Chancellor of the Diocese of Wewak. On 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007, he was appointed the Auxiliary Bishop of Aitape and ordained bishop on 30<sup>th</sup> October.

On 9<sup>th</sup> June 2009 he was appointed by the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI as the Bishop Ordinary of Aitape.

At present he is the Deputy Bishop of the Commission for New Evangelization of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

The Diocese of Bereina was established on 15<sup>th</sup> November 1966. It comprises of the Kairuku and Goilala Districts in the Central Province.

"I believe in collective ideas and collaborative efforts when working because that is what the Church is all about."

## In search of answers

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb  
CBC SOCOM and Youth Secretary

Every person, young or old seeks to answer the big questions: Who am I? Why am I here? What is my ultimate goal?

Pope Francis reminds us that while we ask ourselves the various questions we should not start with where I could make more money or achieve fame and glory. But ask ourselves: Do I know myself? What brings me joy or sorrow? What are my strengths or weaknesses? How can I serve people better? Do I have the necessary qualities? Could I develop them? (*Christus Vivit ChV 285*).

However, the Holy Father reminds us that the real question is not: Who am I? But rather, for whom am I? We need to remind ourselves that God has made us for others. He has given us qualities, gifts and charisms, not for ourselves, but to share with those around us (*Christus Vivit ChV 286*). He invites us to remember that each of us is on a mission. That is the reason why I am here in this world. The question therefore is: Who do I have to make happy in order to be really happy? The Gospel reminds us of the underlying principle: 'Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you' (*Lk 6:38*). The Lord will never be mean to anyone. He is always generous to everyone. The bread and fish offered by the little lad was multiplied and fed to many people (cf. *Jn 6:4-13*). The small seeds sown by young people can yield a rich harvest (cf. *Mt 13:23.31-32*).

At the Eucharist, our bread and our wine are transformed to grant us eternal life. Young people face immense and difficult challenges. With faith in the Risen Lord, they can confront them with creativity and hope, ever ready to be of service, like the servants at the wedding feast, who unknowingly cooperated in Jesus' first miracle. They did nothing more than follow the order of his Mother: 'Do whatever he tells you' (*Jn 2:5*). Mercy, creativity and hope make life grow (*Christus Vivit ChV 173*).

Young people are searching for answers. In the search for answers they are passionate about the different issues of honesty, right living and justice. They want to make a difference and are ready to stand up to be counted. It is wonderful to see young people on the weekly Chat Room program hosted by Tribe FM 92.0. They have dealt with a variety of topics. Climate Change, Drug abuse, Leadership, corruption, Sexual abuse, etc. have been some of them. Our young people are concerned about many issues.

Our task as priests, parents, teachers and leaders are to support them in their search. Often, they challenge us to service: "Strive for the common good, serve the poor, be protagonists of the revolution of charity and service, capable of resisting the pathologies of consumerism and superficial individualism" (*Christus Vivit ChV 174*). Accompanying them and working together will help all in the search for the right answers.



## Empowering women in the Maritime community

"Empowering women in the Maritime Community" was the theme of this year's World Maritime Day that was marked on 26<sup>th</sup> September.



- Abigail Seta

In a press release, MV YWAM PNG honoured young mariner, Miriam Maua, who is the first female Papua New Guinean crew member to serve aboard the MV YWAM PNG.

She currently has a General Purpose Rating Two under her belt, which qualifies her to serve on ships as an engine hand or deckhand.

Miriam hails from the Simbu Province and is now putting her training to use by serving as a deckhand aboard the YWAM Training and Medical Ship, MV YWAM PNG. Alongside her fellow crew members and volunteers from around the globe, she is using her skillset to reach some of Papua New Guinea's most remote communities in the Southern Region and Morobe Province with healthcare and training.

Miriam's responsibilities include supporting the small boat operations that transfer teams and patients to and from villages to the ship, anchor and gangway watches, serving in a mooring stations team, and general maintenance and upkeep of the vessel.

"It's amazing, I have learned from a variety of people and have gained exposure to so many different levels of the industry. I really like being bowman for the boat drivers. I love what I do, and I am happy I can be an example to other women who are considering getting involved in the maritime industry," she said.

Miriam is encouraging women who are pursuing a career in the maritime industry to just go for it, be strong, respect your colleagues and they will respect you.

The theme gives an opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of gender equality, in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, and to highlight the important - yet under-utilized - contribution of women within the maritime sector.



### EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH

**"Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World"**  
This year, 2019 marks the 93rd World Mission Day and will focus on the Holy Father's message which will be celebrated as part of the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019.

With its new website and guide, you can now access the Holy Father's Message and more information on the Extraordinary Missionary Month on: [www.october2019.va](http://www.october2019.va)

### OCEANIA CATHOLIC YOUNG LEADERS SUMMIT



Oceania Catholic Youth and Young Adult leadership formation and fellowship will be held over a 3 day weekend. It includes teaching, workshops, youth rally, prayer ministry, Praise and Worship, resources and how to run a life in the Spirit seminar for other young people.

Date: **6-8 December 2019**  
Venue: **Sacred Heart, Auckland**

For more information, contact: [oceaniacatholicyouth@gmail.com](mailto:oceaniacatholicyouth@gmail.com)



## Three challenges for the Laity

Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME  
CBC General Secretary

The Catholic Church in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands (CBC) gathered for a Missiological Symposium at the Catholic Theological Institute in Bomana on 24-25 September to

celebrate and prepare for the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019. About 300 persons attended, including the majority of the Bishops, diocesan and religious seminarians, their lecturers, clergy, religious, and Laity from Port Moresby and elsewhere.

A few days later the Bishops Conference disseminated the Pastoral Letter for the year 2020, *Our Catholic Laity: Holy and FORMED for Mission*. This follows the 2019 message, *Laity: A Call to Holiness in Today's World*. The year 2021 will also focus on the Laity and their call to service.

A great effort, therefore, has been undertaken by the Catholic Bishops Conference to increase Laity awareness, participation and competence. By mid-November our Commission for the Laity will finally have a new Secretary, Ms. Eva Wangihama from Wewak;

and a workshop will take place at the end of the same month to offer further training to Diocesan Laity Coordinators.

The first challenge for the Laity is to understand that their mission is to the World. Catholic faith and practice have to accompany us out of the church and the parish into the family, the garden, the school, the office, the court room, the hospital, the government departments, the parliament, and wherever we interact with people, with creation, and make decisions. A father who neglects his children and their needs for food, clothes and school fees in favor of alcohol and other vices is a bad Catholic layman. And so is a nurse who shouts at patients or takes an unnecessary leave of absence. A corrupt Catholic politician does as much damage to the fabric of society as termites do to the house our parents built for us to live in. Greed, disregard of duties, laziness, indifference to the common good run against the Gospel and make of a baptized person a liability and a living failure of a faith only verbally proclaimed.

A second challenge facing the Laity refers to the need for an ever more qualified service to the Church. Catechists, liturgists, choir

members, lectors, parish and diocesan employees can't be improvised assets occasionally giving a hand. The Secretariat of the Catholic Bishops Conference will try to mobilize its Pastoral Commissions, the Liturgical and Catechetical Institute in Goroka, and other competent people to promote professional trainings for pastoral workers of all types, especially when this cannot be guaranteed by the individual dioceses. By January 2020 not only the Laity will have a new Conference Secretary for Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, but also the Family Life Apostolate and the Youth; that way completing the basic CBC pastoral staff.

Formation in fact is the third and somehow the preliminary challenge for responsible lay Faithful active in the Church and the World. Knowledge and awareness effectively accompany a robust spirituality, which now goes beyond traditional devotions and novenas, to be nurtured by the Scripture, the writings and the witness of the Saints, the teachings of the Second Vatican Council and the recent Popes.

Quite a bit of joyous work ahead for all of us!

## Diocese of Mendi blessed with new infrastructure

- Moses Ben

**Mendi:** The Catholic Diocese of Mendi celebrated on Friday 23rd August, the opening of their newly constructed Church and Priest's house at the Saint Joseph's upper Mendi Parish of Ekari, Southern Highlands.

The celebration had as its main celebrant Bishop of Mendi Dioceses, Bp Donald Lippert OFM, priests, religious sisters and invited guests.

In his homily during the mass, Bp Donald said that each person's heart was a home and temple to Christ and much preparation and dedication was needed by everyone in housing Christ into their lives.

"We need to prepare ourselves to receive the Holy Spirit in our lives and our communities to continue the work of our Lord Jesus Christ,

because we are God's temple and God's Spirit lives in us," he said.

He added, "Things we own and enjoy on earth are there for us to use, but we also have to prepare ourselves for life in Christ."

Parish priest, Fr Alberto Dawas, thanked Bp Donald for assisting with funds necessary to address the aftermath of the 7.5 magnitude earth quake that destroyed homes and infrastructure on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

He extended his gratitude to the local carpenter and constructor Mr Lucas Martin for his generous help and support and thanked God for receiving these blessings. More than 1000 people from Christian communities around the different parishes and



Bp Donald Lippert with priests in front of a newly blessed building

different denominations came together to celebrate and witness the blessing and opening of the new priest house and church.

## Lasallian community conclude tercentenary celebrations

- Nigel Akuani



Lasallian concluding mass at Rita Flynn

**Port Moresby:** An unforgettable closing mass was held to conclude the Lasallian Tercentenary Celebration of St John Baptist De La Salle on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September at the Rita Flynn Indoor Stadium, Boroko.

The Mass had as its theme: 'One Heart, One Commitment, One Life.' Fr John Glynn AFSC, School Chaplain of Jubilee Secondary was joined by Fr Dominic Kachira SDB and fellow Priests to celebrate mass. In his homily, Fr

John highlighted the Lasallian Vocation and urged everyone to follow and live in the ways of the great saint by helping those that need it most. "Though rich and privileged, he forfeited all of this, as he had a strong ambition of empowering the powerless. He wishes to become like many who are lonely and poor," he said.

Teacher of Jubilee Catholic Secondary School, Esther

Maragau said, "It was a memorable Mass. The singing of the hymns, dancing and processions were excellent".

A Lasallian, Emmanuel Bagere said that it was an honour for him to return for the Closing Mass of the 300<sup>th</sup> Lasallian Celebrations. "There are many Lasallians working around the country. They will later regret not attending this closing Mass," he said.

Wilson Felix a Grade Eleven student of De La Salle Secondary, explained that he had attended the previous two Mass Celebrations, and said he was pleased with himself in participating in the third. "I took part in all three because I strongly believe in the moral principles set by our patron teacher St John the Baptist De La Salle."

The mass comes as the third celebration after the previous two hosted at De La Salle Secondary School, Bomana and La Salle Technical School, Hohola. Participating schools in the event included Jubilee Catholic Secondary School, De La Salle Secondary School, La Salle Technical College, Mainohana Catholic Secondary School and Sacred Heart Teachers College.

The spiritual event had Religious Sisters, Lasallian Brothers, Lasallian Schools, Catholic Commission Heads, friends, benefactors and associates and over 2000 students including teachers in attendance. The event concluded with the hymn 'Father I Thank You for Your Goodness'.

# Yumi Yet Sios

- Bp Rochus Tatamai MSC



Insait long dispela mun bilong September 2019, olgeta manmeri bilong PNG ol lapun na ol yangpela wantaim olgeta pikinini yumi bin bung wantaim bikpela amamas na selebreitim 44pela krismas bilong kantri bilong yumi i bin kisim independence. Em i tru yumi mas bung na amamas wantaim gutpela pasin bilong respekt long ol arapela bratasusa olsem yumi wanpela bikpela famili.

I bin gat bikpela singaut tru long olgeta sitizen bilong PNG long sanap bung wantaim na soim flag bilong PNG stret. Ol kala bilong flag bilong PNG stret em blek, red na gol. Toksave bilong mekim bikpela luksave olsem yumi olgeta i mas mekim commitment na soim olsem tru tru yumi wan pipol yumi wan kantri, yumi wanpela PNG stret. Dispela kain luksave i strongim yumi olgeta wanwan na yumi olgeta wantaim i wanpela famili olsem konstitusen bilong kantri i laik mekim yumi olgeta stap bung wantaim.

Pasin bilong stap bung wantaim na respektim ol arapela bratasusa em pasin tru bilong God

Triwan. Pasin bilong laikim tru ol arapela olsem ol bratasusa bilong yumi yet em i strongim pasin bilong kalsa we i save bungim olgeta kainkain lain tokples, kainkain pasin tumbuna na tradisen, kainkain kastam wok na singsing tumbuna tu. Sapos yumi skelim gut kantri bilong yumi na tu insait long laip bilong Sios bai yumi painim olsem tok piksa olsem bodi bilong manmeri wantaim kainkain hap bodi na wok bilong ol stret i makim gut wei bodi i gat planti hap hap long en tasol olgeta i mas wok gut wantaim na kordineit olsem bai olgeta bodi bai stap wan na gutpela kordinesen i bungim gut olgeta hap bodi imas stap wan na wanpela tasol.

Ol Bisops tu i bin bung long hetkwata bilong Daisis bilong Bereina long witnessim installation bilong Bisop Otto Separy olsem namba 8pela Bishop bilong dispela Daisis. Dispela bikpela bung bilong amamas i bin pulim ol katolik manmeri bilong Kerema na Port Mosbi na tu ol lain bilip manmeri bilong ol Daisis bilong Aitape na Wewak long kam kamap long dispela

bikpela pestode na de bilong bikpela amamas tru. Insait long ol dispela bikpela amamas na celebresen spirit na luksave olsem Yumi Yet Sios i kamap ples klia olgeta.

Insait long simposium bung long katolik Teologi Institute long Bomana ol Bisops bung wantaim ol Pris, Religese manmeri wantaim ol seminarians na Tisa insait long Bomana bung wantaim ol leiti manmeri kam long ol peris insait long Port Moresby olgeta i skelim bikpela mun bilong misin insist long mun Oktoba. Planti gutpela skul na toktok ol i sut stret long sakramen bilong baptais na long dispela as tasol God emi i singautim yumi insait long sakramen bilong baptais na em i salim yumi go long autim dispela gudnius wantaim ol gutpela witness long laip i stap gud na i holi.

God i ken blesim yumi olgeta

## Missiological Symposium highlights Pope's Apostolic Exhortation

- Nigel Akuani



as its theme: 'Baptized and Sent.' It discussed matters of Laity and the Mission, New Evangelization, Parish in Mission, Mission in the era of media and instant communication, and a Panel Discussion on 'Justice to Creation is Justice to Humanity'.

The symposium's main speakers were Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal, Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands and Sir Cardinal John Ribat MSC, Archbishop of Port Moresby.

"This symposium prepares us for the Extraordinary Missionary Month. It reminds us of our baptismal duty to proclaim Christ and evangelize people by our lives. This is the Mission of the Church and it should be a permanent part of our lives," emphasized the Apostolic Nuncio.

"Though there are many modern challenges ahead of us that impede the Mission of the Church, we have to find ways around these and employ modern technology to our advantage to spread the faith," he added.

The event had over 300 participants and brought together Archbishops and Bishops of the different Dioceses, Priests and Sisters, Religious, Lay Personnel, Seminarians, Senior Officials from various Institutions and Organizations, and teachers. It was coordinated by Fr Valentine Gryk, SVD, PMS Director.

**Port Moresby:** A Missiological Symposium was held to highlight the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pope Benedict XV's Apostolic Letter Maximum Illud.

Other speakers were Fr. Joseph Vnuk SDB, President of the Catholic Theological Institute, Fr. Dr. Clarence Sandanaraj Devadass, Director of the Catholic Research Centre in Malaysia, Mr Paolo Baleina, Fr. Edgar Javier SVD and other Religious.

Held from 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> September at the Catholic Theological Institute, Bomana, the symposium had

- Nigel Akuani

## Catholic Professional Society hosts successful dinner

**Port Moresby:** The Catholic Professional Society of Papua New Guinea organized a successful Fundraising Corporate Dinner raising over K580,000.00 on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September at the Gateway Hotel, Port Moresby.

The corporate dinner had as its theme: 'Together we journey in the life and love of God' (Called to be salt and light of today's world). Prime Minister Hon. James Marape was the chief guest at the event. Archbishops, Bishops of the Catholic Church, Ministers and Department Heads, Members of the Catholic Professional Society, Priests and Sisters, Special Guests from Catholic Bishops Conference of PNG and Solomon Islands, and nearly 400 people were present for the function.

The Prime Minister reassured the Church that more would be done by the government to assist its efforts to help the people take back the country. "The country is at a crucial point in its development and there needs to be an effective partnership between the State and the Church to serve the people better," he said. He explained he was looking forward to this partnership and commended the Catholic Church and Catholic Professional Society for the great work they have done over several decades. "I encourage the Church to continue as the moral compass of the country. It is the Church that knows the pain of our people," he said. "For PNG to become the 'Richest Black Christian Country' our lifestyles have to become Christian-based. This will ultimately anchor and bring together this country of a thousand tribes," he added.



West Papuan Dancers at the fundraising dinner

the Dr Scott Hahn visit in 2021."

Bishop of Kavieng and President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI, Bp Rochus Tatamai, spoke of a 'meaningful and constructive dialogue among all development partners' that is critical to take the country forward. Issues of climate change, seabed mining, Tuition Fee Free, Health Services, Refugees and Asylum seekers, Commission Against Corruption and other issues were highlighted.

The funds included payments and pledges by Prime Minister Hon. James Marape, associates, partners, and benefactors to help assist in realizing the goal of CPS and the Catholic Church.

### Catholic Reporter

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

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According to the President of Catholic Professional Society Mr Paul Harricknen, "The fundraiser is to fund the Society's two major events in 2020 namely laity convention and the Catholic Expo and