



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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- Courtesy Zenit.

Sexual Abuse and the Protection of Minors

"Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea." - Mt 18:6



Vatican City: Addressing 190 bishops from across the world, Pope Francis reminded them to always "keep the innocent faces of the little ones" before them. This harsh reminder was given by the Holy Father, in his concluding address at the Sala Regia of the Vatican's Apostolic Palace, on the final day of the Summit on the Protection of Minors in the Church, Feb. 21-24, 2019.

The Pope acknowledged the universal problem, tragically present almost everywhere and affecting everyone. According to statistics, he said, the first truth that emerges from the data at hand is that those who perpetrate abuse, that is acts of physical, sexual or emotional violence, are primarily parents, relatives, husbands of child brides, coaches and teachers.

"The brutality of this worldwide phenomenon becomes all the more grave and scandalous in the Church. Consecrated persons, chosen by God to guide souls to salvation, let themselves be dominated by their human frailty and thus become 'tools of Satan'. "No explanations suffice for these abuses involving children," he said, adding: "We need to recognize with humility and courage that we stand face to face with the mystery of evil, which strikes most violently against the most vulnerable, for they are an image of Jesus."

The Pope underscored: "if in the Church there should emerge even a single case of abuse – which already in itself represents an atrocity – that case will be faced with the utmost seriousness. Indeed, in people's justified anger, the

Church sees the reflection of the wrath of God, betrayed and insulted by these deceitful consecrated persons. The echo of the silent cry of the little ones who, instead of finding in them fathers and spiritual guides encountered tormentors, dulled by hypocrisy and by power."

The Church's aim will thus be to hear, watch over, protect and care for abused, exploited and forgotten children, wherever they are. To achieve that goal, the Church must rise above the ideological disputes and journalistic practices that often exploit, for various interests, the very tragedy experienced by the little ones. The Pope applauded the "best practices" formulated under the guidance of the World Health Organization. The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors has outlined the following aspects:

1. the protection of children.
2. impeccable seriousness.
3. genuine purification.
4. formation.
5. strengthening and reviewing guidelines by Episcopal Conferences.
6. accompaniment of those who have been abused.
7. the digital world.
8. sexual tourism.

Pope Francis concluded by stressing the need to turn this evil into an opportunity for purification.

A time of grace

- Sr. Mary McCarthy pbvm

Gordons, Port Moresby: Catholic Bishops Conference President of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, Bp Rochus Tatamai MSC, shared highlights on the Summit on the Protection of Minors in the Church during a Press Conference and Discussion on Sunday, 3 March 2019.

Present at the Press Conference and Discussion were Archbishop Douglas Young, Archbishop of Mt Hagen; Bishop Anton Bal, Bishop of Kundiawa; Bishop Gilles Côté, Bishop of Daru Kiunga; Priests, sisters, religious, seminarians and lay faithful.

In a letter, August 2018, the Pope called for a meeting to find a way forward at this time of crisis in the Catholic Church. 'Learn first-hand from those in your own place who have been victims of sexual abuse,' he instructed each bishop 'If one member suffers, all suffer together with it ...' 1 Cor 12:26. "Church leadership depends on authenticity. Leaders are now under scrutiny by victims of sexual abuse, the public and the wider society," he said. Five testimonies from North and South America, Europe, Africa and Asia opened the summit. These awful testimonies; these very heart-rending stories were difficult to come to terms with. Most painful was the fact that the leadership in the Church did not regard the victims as believable; rather the leadership accused them of being 'enemies of the Church'. Bp Rochus, in referring to the summary of the work

done in the discussion group, highlighted that there was clear recognition that they were not considering isolated cases but were dealing with sexual abuse as a global issue. It is essential then to call on the talents of laymen and women to contribute to a response.



This concern was later emphasised during discussion time by Mr Paul Harricknen, who has himself served as Director of the Bishops' Conference Commission on Right Relationships. Other lay people present expressed the desire to see 'synodality' – based on the principle that all can make a contribution. Bp Gill Cote was emphatic in the fact that all Bishops and priests are fully aware of their calling and are committed to follow the protocols that are in place.

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Lent



1. The redemption of creation

The celebration of the Paschal Triduum calls us yearly to undertake a journey of preparation, in the knowledge that our being conformed to Christ (cf. *Rom 8:29*) is a price less gift of God's mercy.

When we live as children of God led by the Holy Spirit (cf. *Rom 8:14*) capable of obeying God's law, beginning with the law written in our hearts, *we also benefit creation* by cooperating in its redemption. Yet in this world, the harmony generated by redemption is constantly

Can we change things?

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb
CBC SOCOM and Youth Secretary

Young people want a challenge, they want to go beyond the ordinary, they are eager for change and are ready to work to achieve it. Once they achieve it, they want to share it with others.

"Can we change things?" This was what Pope Francis asked the young people gathered for the World Youth Day in Krakow. And with one voice they all shouted: "Yes!"

That shout came from young and youthful hearts, which do not tolerate injustice, corruption and violence. They do not bow to a throw-away culture and do not give in to the globalisation of indifference.

At the World Youth Day in Panama, the last words of the Holy Father to the young people were: "We are on a journey. Keep walking, keep living the faith and always share it with others". And do not forget, said the Holy Father, that "you are not the tomorrow, you are not the meantime, you are the Now of God".

The Holy Father has invited our young people to look beyond the narrow confines of their lived space to the world beyond them.

To look at our world of young people in Papua New Guinea enslaved in the grip of addiction and vice, a world of young people who are searching for their identity and a world of young people who have lost all hope and the will to live.

Young people, you are invited to reach out to your brothers and sisters and give them hope. This is our Catholic identity and our lived Catholic faith. You are guided in your task by the Shepherds of the Church, the bishops of your diocese, the priests and your youth animators.

May we have the courage to take up the challenge and change our world. Let us start with our own countries, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

Creation waits with eager longing

- Courtesy Zenit.

Pope Francis offers us reflections to accompany our journey of conversion this Lent.

threatened by the negative power of sin and death.

2. The destructive power of sin

When we fail to live as children of God, we often behave in a destructive way towards our neighbours, other creatures and ourselves. Unless we tend constantly towards Easter, the horizon of the Resurrection, the mentality expressed in the slogans "I want it all and I want it now!" and "Too much is never enough", gains the upper hand.

3. The healing power of repentance and forgiveness

Lent is a sacramental sign of this conversion. It invites Christians to embody the paschal mystery concretely in their personal, family and social lives, by fasting, prayer and almsgiving.

- **Fasting** is learning to change our attitude towards others and all of creation.
- **Prayer** teaches us our need of the Lord and his mercy.
- **Almsgiving** whereby we escape from the insanity of hoarding everything for ourselves in the illusory belief that we can secure a future that does not belong to us. Rediscovering the joy of God's plan for creation and for each of us, which is to love him, is to find in this love our true happiness.

May our Lent be a journey of bringing the hope of Christ to creation. Let us leave behind our selfishness and turn to Jesus' Pasch. Let us stand beside our brothers and sisters in need, sharing our spiritual and material goods with them. In this way, by concretely welcoming Christ's victory over sin and death into our lives, we will also radiate its transforming power to all of creation.



Promoting gender balance

'Think equal, build smart, innovate for change' is the United Nation's (UN) theme for this year's International Women's Day (IWD) with the global theme #BalanceforBetter which is a campaign that runs all year long.

It is celebrated around the world on 8th March, annually. Marking this day, *The Catholic Reporter* spoke to a few of the staff of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands (CBC PNG-SI) to share their thoughts on the IWD.

"It is wonderful that we have a powerful theme on equality and balance as we complement each other," said Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb, SOCOM and Youth Secretary of CBC PNG-SI. He spoke on the importance of encouraging the youth of today to practice and promote gender equality through awareness programs at the level of the diocese and at the level of the parish.

"Students need to understand that they can learn from each other and benefit much from each other's interaction. Above all, our young men need to respect and protect our young ladies at all times. On the other hand, our young ladies must be ready to command and demand respect from their male friends."

A strong advocate of gender equality and CBC's Secretary for Development, Marie Mondu, spoke on the themes to challenge everyone. "Think equal, build smart, innovate for change is challenging us to think, act, mobilise, create, serve out of the box that will open up doors for everyone to participate meaningfully in almost every day life activities. Equal participation should come naturally and should also come as an act of self-reliance and independence to respond to a common goal," she said.

Executive Assistant to the General Secretary, Nyleptha Kenny also shared her thoughts on embracing oneself on equal grounds. She said, "It is a call for everyone to know and embrace themselves on equal grounds in their different circles either at work, in sports and in communities because they all have a part to play."

"At CBC office, we have to bear in mind, equal participation in all our CBC related activities is essential to build a smart, professional and Christian working environment so that many good changes in our services can come about for the people of God in the Catholic Church of PNG & Solomon Islands."

According to the United Nations, the 2019 theme focuses on innovative ways in which we can advance gender equality and the empowerment of women, particularly in the areas of social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure.



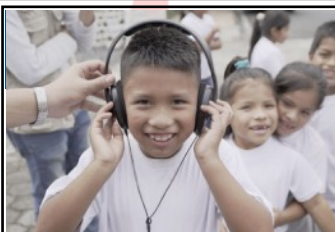
- Abigail Seta

53rd WORLD COMMUNICATION DAY

"We are members one of another" (Eph 4,25).

From social network communities to the human community.

2nd June, 2019

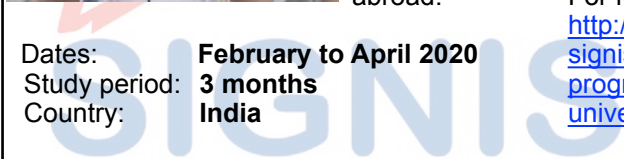


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Dates: February to April 2020
Study period: 3 months
Country: India



Families homeless after widespread flooding

- Joseph Dunlee, Archdiocese of Rabaul

the roads, drains and gully's. This has seen many youths, women and children homeless with schools officially suspended as of Wednesday 20th February.

Newly appointed Caritas coordinator of the Archdiocese of Rabaul, Fr. Gabriel Pabet had the chance to visit these families who are currently taking refuge at St. Joseph's

Malagunan Parish hall, and also visited the village to make his own assessment. He said that Malagunan No 3 village comprises of 5 zones, of which zones 1 and 2 consists of seven small Christian communities and are the ones heavily affected.

The parish priest of St. Joseph's Malagunan Parish, Fr. Francis Paska is in control of the situation, as he is working closely with the Rabaul District personnel under the leadership of the DA, Mr. Marakan Uvano.

Fr Paska said that they have started to bring in rations, and basic kitchen wares for the affected families. Despite the situation, he expressed gratitude and thanks to God that no life was lost during their ordeal. A few were injured as they tried to save roofing irons. Fr Paska acknowledged his own parish and community leaders for welcoming, organizing, and controlling the affected families. He thanked the Rabaul District and Caritas Rabaul for their immediate response.



East New Britain: The province of East New Britain has seen an increase in homeless families following the continuous rain and widespread flooding. After a heavy downpour in the early hours of Monday, 18th February 2019, there was widespread flooding, landslides causing road blocks, heavy slit washed out on

Social network communities to human community

Port Moresby: Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal, Apostolic Nuncio to PNGSI addressed the participants on the 15th February, 2019 and reminded the participants of their responsibility to use the media positively. He stressed that truth, light and life must always be elements that are in the media.

"It is a very powerful tool, that can change the world. People working in the media and in journalism need to always strive to lead people from untruth to truth, from darkness to light and from death to life. You have the power to influence thousands through media," he said. The participants expressed their gratitude to the Archbishop for his presence, his challenging words and encouragement to them in their ministry of communication.

The week-long seminar brought together 15 participants from different dioceses. It was held

at the Catholic Bishops Conference, Gordons from 11th to 15th February 2019. It dwelt on the World Communications Day theme: "We are members one of another (Eph 4,25). From network communities to human community." The seminar was facilitated by Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb, Social Communication and Youth Secretary and the SOCOM team and Radio Maria.

Participants from the Catholic Dioceses of Rabaul, Mt. Hagen, Kimbe, Mendi, Kavieng, Vanimo and volunteers from Radio Maria engaged in creative practical sessions after the inputs on Print Media, Audio Media and Visual Media.

Social issues in PNG were also highlighted throughout the seminar. The issues dealt with



Apostolic Nuncio with the SOCOM participants

were on environmental abuse, Laudato Si, domestic violence and Christian family values. The participants were encouraged to use the media to highlight these issues. Field visits at the end of the day gave the participants the opportunity to visit the secular media outlets and establish networks with them. The National, Radio Maria and the National Broadcasting Corporation welcomed the participants and showed them around.

Listening Across Borders



Port Moresby: A panel discussion was held at the Catholic Bishops Conference (CBC) on 13th February 2019 to give a voice to the voiceless refugees, residing in Port Moresby.

'Listening Across Borders' was the theme of the panel discussion and it focused on stories of five refugees who have been in the country for 5 to 6 years. The refugees are from different countries; a Pakistani, a West Papuan, a West African, a

Sudanese and a Central African - their stories had a very important decision: either risk long imprisonment or even death or abandon their beloved country, family and friends in order to find safety and freedom in another country.

Mr Paul Harricknen, President of the Catholic Professionals Society, spoke on what has transpired since the first Panel Discussion on the Manus Refugees, held on the 1st November

2018. "As a Church, we have been in communication with other organisations including the Human Rights Office, UNHCR office in Sydney, and expect support to bring awareness on this situation. Some good news is that the Australian Government passed a law which now allows sick refugees from the off-shore processing centres to be allowed to enter Australia for medical treatment. It is a window of opportunity for the people," Mr Harricknen said.

In summarising the discussions, Sam Kaipu, shared points on what was said during the discussion. "The speakers shared the reasons why they are in Papua New Guinea. From their sharing, it was evident that the refugees live in fear for their lives, have lost their rights and freedom. They have left their countries at great risk to themselves and their loved ones," Sam Kaipu said. It is hoped that awareness will lead to interaction that will benefit the refugees. Present at the seminar were Church representatives, media personnel, SOCOM participants, Catholic schools and several others.

Religious congregations meet

- Sr. Evangeline Orpilla MCST, Diocese of Vanimo

Madang: The annual general meeting of the Federation of Religious men and women of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands was held on February 24 to March 1, 2019, at Alexishafen, Madang. There were 46 delegates present for the meeting. The sessions focused on External Challenges that religious men and women face today; Human trafficking; Right Relationship Protocols and the Policy for Child Protection and reports from the Federation leaders.





OLSH Sisters pay tribute to Fr. Adrian Meaney MSC

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Sisters (OLSH) in PNG paid tribute to Fr. Adrian Meaney MSC, an Australian missionary.

He was the Director of MSC Mission Office and had served PNG for forty years.

and lived it to the end. He was passionate about his ministries; he had a passion for the poor, the disadvantaged and underprivileged,” said Sr. Relida Gumur, Provincial Leader for the OLSH Sisters of PNG.

“This did not mean that he had no time for the rich. He seemed to have had that gift to adapt himself to any group of people regardless of age, gender, states, and race. He had great faith in God, in others and himself.”

Sr. Relida Gumur added, he touched; or rather God touched and reached out to so many people through Fr. Meaney and because of his experience and knowledge as a missionary, he knew the needs of the people, and was able to help appropriately. His vision was to exercise

his priestly ministry as a missionary of the Sacred Heart and mission to make Jesus known and loved everywhere. Fr. Meaney achieved and carried out his vision and mission until the very end of his life.

Fr. Adrian Meaney MSC passed away on 6th February 2019 in Australia. According to the MSC Povincialate, Fr. Stephen Dives MSC, Fr. Adrian suffered from a series of health issues and was placed in intensive care.

“Let us pray for Adrian, his family and many friends and co-workers in our prayers. May our brother rest now in the peace of our loving and compassionate God,” said Fr. Stephen Dives MSC as he shared the news.

In the tribute, the OLSH sisters thanked Fr. Meaney for who he was to all of them, for what he did for the OLSH sisters and many others in the Pacific, Asia and Africa. “Fr. Adrian Meaney was a man of action and a real Missionary of the Sacred Heart. He loved his priestly vocation

- Nigel Akuani and Abigail Seta

Media seminar encourages Catholic students

Gordons, Port Moresby: The first Media Education Seminar (MES) for 2019 was hosted on Saturday, February 23rd at the Catholic Bishops Conference (CBC) where sixty plus Catholic students gathered.

Facilitated by the Social Communication Commission (SOCOM) of CBC, the program focused on communicating positive messages through logos, posters and photographs. The schools present at the seminar were from Jubilee Catholic Secondary School, De La Salle Secondary School, Limana Vocational School, Marianville Secondary School, Don Bosco Technical School (DBTS), Don Bosco Technological Institute (DBTI) and Caritas Technical School.

“The Media Education Seminar for school students gives selected students an opportunity to be critical consumers and creative producers of the media”, said Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, CBC Social Communications and Youth Secretary, in the opening session of the program.

He encouraged the students to practice and share what they learn and be witness of Gospel values.

“Communicate positive messages through your posters and photographs and always communicate the Good News by your life”, he said.

The seminar had three sessions, the first session focused on the World Communication Day (WCD) message of the Holy Father, 2019, the second session was on posters and the third session focused on photography.

“I liked the seminar as it brought each school to present their work and to hear each other share and with the things that I have learnt, I am committed to informing my fellow friends through our school media club and keeping it updated with stories and positive messages,” shared



Participants at the Media Education Seminar

Corina Alfred, a student from Jubilee Catholic Secondary school. “Working together as a team, in helping and sharing with each to get activities done on time is what I enjoyed about the seminar and my commitment is to encourage youths to work together,” Tofua Lele, a student from Limana Vocational School said.

The 2nd Media Education Seminar will be held on March 30th, 2019 and will deal with newsletters and writing articles.



Apostolic Nuncio celebrating the Eucharist

Lasallian community celebrates 300 years

- Nigel Akuani

The Eucharist celebration was held at the De La Salle Secondary School in Bomana and was attended by the Lasallian community, De La Salle Brothers, teachers, students and alumni.

Present at the celebration was Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, Archbp. Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal who was the main celebrant. He spoke on the work of the Lasallian Brothers in PNG and the world.

“The De La Salle Brothers of different nationalities have touched the hearts of thousands and millions of young children all over the world”, shared the Apostolic Nuncio. “They

have offered their time and energy to educate hundreds of thousands of Papua New Guineans.”

“As members of this institution what you learn here is to become responsible and impart what you learn to the next generation and to try to find time for the poor and marginalized.”

The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools and the Lasallian Family have designated 2019 as the Year of Lasallian Vocations. The Tercentenary and the Year of Vocation is a holy way of commemorating the continuous work of the Lasallian Family even after the death of its founders’ 300-years ago.

The occasion celebrates the great deeds they have done for many in Papua New Guinean and poor young people across the world.

De La Salle, Bomana: Commemorating the Tercentenary of the death of St John Baptist de La Salle, the Lasallian community in PNG celebrated with a Eucharistic celebration on Friday, 22nd February 2019.

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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Friday, 8th March

#BalanceforBetter

is a call-to-action for driving gender balance across the world. How will you help make a difference?



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2019

#BalanceforBetter