



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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- Zenit

Pope Francis sends message to Legionaries of Christ

Rome: Pope Francis had a message of hope and renewal on February 29, 2020, for the Participants in the General Chapter of the Legionaries of Christ, and to the General Assemblies of the Consecrated Women and of the Laity of *Regnum Christi*. Here are the extracts of the Holy Father's message.

"Accompanied by the Church, you carried out patiently and willingly a demanding work to overcome the tensions, also very strong, which sometimes were caused," the Pope continued. "This called for a further change of mentality because it required a new vision in the mutual relations among the different realities that make up the *Regnum Christi*. I know well that it wasn't easy because what we are most strongly connected to are our ideas and often true indifference is lacking, to which we must open with an act of our will, to have the Holy Spirit work within us.

the change of mentality in individual persons and in an institution requires much time for assimilation, hence, a continuous conversion."

You, members of the new general governments, have received the mandate of the Church to continue on the journey of renewal, gathering and consolidating the fruit matured in these years.

I exhort you to act *fortiter et suaviter*: energetically in the substance and gently in the ways, being able to take, courageously and at the same time with prudence, whatever other ways are to be undertaken in the line traced and approved by the Church. If you put yourselves docilely in the school of the Holy Spirit you won't be overwhelmed by fear or doubt, which disturb the mind and hinder action. I entrust you to the maternal protection of the Virgin Mary; I accompany you with my affection and my prayerful remembrance, and I impart to you my heartfelt Apostolic Blessing, which I extend to the entire Family of the *Regnum Christi*. And, please, don't forget to pray for me.

The Spirit leads us to detachment from ourselves and to seek only the Will of God because only from it comes the good of the whole Church and of each one of us.

"I hope that your new governments are aware that the journey of renewal has not ended, because

different realities that make up the *Regnum Christi*. I know well that it wasn't easy because what we are most strongly connected to are our ideas and often true indifference is lacking, to which we must open with an act of our will, to have the Holy Spirit work within us.

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The journey of renewal has not ended, because the change of mentality in individual persons and in an institution requires much time for assimilation.'

"You opened yourselves courageously to the action of the Holy Spirit, thus entering in a course of true discernment," Pope Francis said in a message read to the group.

The Holy Father had intended to meet the group in person but for the third straight day a slight indisposition" kept him close to home in Casa Santa Marta.

Pilgrims embark on journey to the Holy Land

- Nigel Akuani

Port Moresby: Twenty-five Pilgrims from Papua New Guinea embarked on a prestigious 10-day journey to the Holy Land of Jerusalem.

The religious group of 10-Priests and 15-Lay people came from the Southern, Momase and Highlands Regions of Papua New Guinea, and from the Solomon Islands. They left from Port Moresby to Israel on Friday, 21st February and returned on Sunday, 1st March.

Their pilgrimage took them to Mt. Nebo, Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, Cana, the Mount of the Transfiguration, Mt Carmel, Bethlehem, the Mount of Olives, Jerusalem, and Bethany beyond the Jordan.

According to Peter Nend, from Sangurap Parish in the diocese of Wabag, it was an opportunity for him and his wife Elizabeth to renew their wedding vows in Cana of Galilee.

"We both will forever be grateful. The visit was enriching and refreshing, because we were able to strengthen our faith, which has its origin firmly rooted in this part of the world," he said.

Fr John Adai, from the diocese of Auki in the Solomon Islands, described it as a 'highly spiritual and unique experience', and said, "though the land is dry and mostly a desert, you'd be baffled and amazed at how many tonnes of food is produced on a daily basis. The land is truly a marvel that upholds the Scripture's promise of a land of milk and honey."

He reflected on his past when he went to study in Rome for four-years, which was a dream come through, but maintained that his visit to Israel was special, and surpassed all his previous visits to other countries. "It was definitely a faith-strengthening and eye-opening experience for all of us both religious and laity, because we got to see and walk the places Jesus walked," he said.

As their special visit to the Holy Land of Israel came to an end, the 25-Pilgrims left with a heightened sense of spirituality not just as preachers of the Gospel, but also as witnesses.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands (CBC PNGSI) prepared and coordinated the trip promoted by General Secretary Fr Giorgio Licini, PIME.

According to Ms Nyleptha Kenny, Assistant to the General Secretary, this was the first time for CBC PNGSI to arrange such a group travel and see it successfully through. She highlighted 2020 as another year dedicated to the efforts of the Laity here in PNG and Solomon Islands and said that the pilgrimage was intended to spiritually broaden the horizons of the laity.

"The pilgrimage was aimed at stimulating enthusiasm among laity in carrying out the mission of the Church," she stated.

Requests for the next 20-28 February 2021 pilgrimage are already pouring in.



Pictures courtesy of Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME:

Picture 1: At the Roman city of Caesarea Maritima

Picture 2: Celebrating the Eucharist at Bethany beyond the Jordan where Jesus received the baptism of John the Baptist.

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Servant Leadership

Church, with special emphasis on their gifts for leadership and teamwork.”

During his 2-hour talk, he spoke about Jesus as a servant leader and

and actions. We need to follow his example. This is the spirit of Servant Leadership that Christ calls us to live in our different ministries,” said Bp Gilles.

Bp Gilles also touched on the characteristics of a servant leader, the leader and the laity and his personal experiences in the diocese of Daru-Kiunga. He encouraged those present and listening in to have the characteristics of a leader and serve with integrity. Servant leadership is more a way of being than a way of doing. “When servanthood becomes the goal and experience of all the workers or members of the institution such as a parish, a school, a seminary, CBC Secretariat, a Religious Congregation, a Diocese and others, it becomes a servant to itself and to the community,” he stated.

Present at the talk were priests, religious brothers, sisters, seminarians from the Catholic Theological Institute and lay people.

The next session of the CBC Talk Series will be held on March 7th and will have the Archbishop of Rabaul, Abp. Francesco Panfilo sdb speak on Just Land Agreements.

the example of Pope Francis. Quoting Matthew 20:28: “The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to live his life as a ransom for many,” he elaborated the following; Jesus articulated his own ministry as ‘service’ because he modeled the behaviours inherent in-service leadership, he facilitated both the education and formation of his disciples. He highlighted the choices Jesus made, the aspects of Jesus as a servant leader and model of Christian leadership.

Pope Francis was also highlighted as the embodiment of servant leadership in the talk where he is a servant first. Pope Francis is a servant-leader in action. He is not afraid to consult and include others. People can trust him, and he is in touch with life.

“Pope Francis lives servant leadership. His example of servant leadership is in word and actions. He challenges us to follow Christ’s words

Pictures Above by Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb:

Picture 1: Bp Gilles Côté speaking on Servant Leadership

Picture 2: Bp Gilles Côté washing the feet of Stella Yambunpe

Port Moresby: Bp Gilles Côté, s.m.m, Bishop of Daru-Kiunga is encouraging leaders to empower the laity to utilize their gifts and create an environment where people feel called to contribute to the fullest extent.

In his talk on Tuesday 18th February, Bp Gilles spoke on servant leadership in the first Talk Series hosted by the Catholic Bishops Conference. At the introduction of the talk, he portrayed the servant leadership role by washing another’s feet in service. He invited the audience and those listening to Radio Maria to reflect on this symbolic action.

“A servant leader has more chance to recognize, acknowledge and value the gifts of the laity and support the use of their gifts in ministries outside the Church,” Bp Gilles stated to an audience of around 100 persons.

“They also help to develop gifts and involve laity much more intentionally in the mission of the

No half measures

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb
Secretary for Social Communication



The Season of Lent that we have entered into on Ash Wednesday, 26th February, is an occasion for us to ponder on the abundance of God’s love for each of us.

God is generous and lavish in his love for each one of us. He believes in totality and fullness and not in control, in limitations or in half measures. We are reminded in scripture, “I know your deeds; you are neither cold nor hot. How I wish you were one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I will spew you out of my mouth” (Rev 3:15-16).

We know the parable of the Prodigal son and the Prodigal Father (Lk 15:11-32). The son demands his share of the inheritance and then leaves for a far-off country. There, together with his friends he squanders his father’s wealth on all that the devil offers him in a special way the 3Ds – dancing, dining and dames. The wealth soon ran out and one by one his friends abandoned him. Realizing that his entertaining dancing, fine dining and beautiful dames are no more, his thoughts turn to his father and family. Dishevelled, destitute and dirty, he returns home. His father saw him a fair distance away and overjoyed runs to welcome him.

“I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am not worthy to be called your son”, said the son. The father tells his servants, “Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found (Lk 15:22-25).” The father lavishes on his son abundant care, concern and compassion. No half measures, only the totality of love.

Dear young people, the welcoming arms of the Lord are open for you and for me. He wants us back. He wants our total commitment. No half measures. This Season of Lent offers us a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the sacraments and enjoy the abundant loving care, total concern and lavish compassion of a prodigal and extravagant ‘Father’.

Improving lives through male advocacy

Being a male advocate is challenging when it comes to addressing the issue of gender-based violence and involving men and boys to be advocates.

According to Dominic Naiowe, a Trainer and Advocate at the Meri Safe House in Madang, the challenges are different in nature and involves time and commitment.

“Male advocacy is all about helping men see what he can do to relieve violence against women and to participate in the organized system to improve the lives of those who are survivors of GBV and abuse,” said Dominic.

Mr Naiowe’s role as a male advocator includes conducting awareness or advocacy training programs and sensitizing training programs for men and boys.

“When dealing with men, it can be hard to change them. Most times, it involves face-to-face

interaction and I involve them in activities and give them various responsibilities like leadership roles in the family and communities,” he stated.

He added that at times the men intervene when issues of domestic violence arise in their communities. One of Mr Naiowe’s strategies in getting the men involved in advocacy is through invitation and advocacy trainings.

“Through the advocacy training, many of the men who attend go back to their communities and inspire others to be a part of it so they can contribute meaningfully,” he said.

Currently, Mr Naiowe has 43 active male advocates working with him as volunteers.



- Abigail Seta

What is New Evangelization?

Fr. Victor Roche SVD, Secretary for New Evangelization

It is a New Way of sharing the Evangelion, which is the Latin word for Good News. It is a New Way of sharing our Catholic faith with our families, in our communities, parishes, dioceses and workplaces.

There is a new emphasis that every Catholic has to Evangelize, not only the priests, religious and catechists. There is also a need for new methods of Catechizing children, youths and adults. We need to Re-Evangelize our Catholics.

St. Pope John Paul, on 9 March 1983 addressed the Bishops of Latin America (CELAM), in Port au Prince, Haiti, on the occasion of 500 years of Evangelization in America (1992). He said, “The Commemoration of the half millennium (500th year) of evangelization will gain its full energy if it is a commitment not to re-evangelize, but to a “New Evangelization”, new in its ardor, methods, and expression” (No 9).

In 1960, the Catholic population in Papua New Guinea was 33% of the total population and in 2020, the Catholics have slipped to 25%, a decrease of 8%. Of course, we are still the largest

Church in the country, but some Catholics are leaving the church to find ‘new life’ in other churches.

Some young people are not coming to church, they are happy to be at home watching T.V or playing with friends. Sunday mass is not attractive! The Catholic Church in PNG has produced many great people, has sent many missionaries overseas and many lay leaders are able to preach and share their faith. But some of the Catholics do not know the Catholic faith well.

For instance, they attend Sunday Mass faithfully but do not know the real meaning of different parts of the mass. The children too do not have a systematic catechesis from childhood, nor the adults.

Hence, we need to do something about it we. We NEED a NEW EVANGELIZATION and new ways of sharing our Catholic Faith!



Church needs good priests

The Church needs good priests, not many priests.

This was the message stressed by Archbishop of Rabaul, Archbishop Francesco Panfilo sdb at the ordination of Fr. Joseph Liaia, cp on Saturday, 22nd February at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Vunapope, East New Britain. Archbishop Francesco asked of the new priest three things - First, God’s word belongs to God, to be taught and received by God’s people as their food and nourishment. Priests must be holy and taste sweet to God’s people by example. As priest he must read the word of God with clear mind, believe what he reads and teach what he believes and practice what he preaches by

- Paul Harricknen

example. Secondly, when celebrating the sacraments for the people always give praise and thanksgiving with joy. Third, when you do your ministry of Christ you must work hard to bring people together as one family, and lead them to Christ in the Holy Spirit. Fr Joseph aged 31, born to Camillus and Julie Liaia, is the 8th of 11 children and is from Napapar village. He held his first Mass in his home village of Napapar 5, St Anthony’s church on Sunday 23 February 2020.



SOCOM SEMINAR 2020

Keep it Clean. Go Green!

“Encouraging Creative Minds to Care for the Environment and be Responsible for our Common Home”

Dates: 16th to 20th March 2020.

Venue: Catholic Bishops Conference, Port Moresby
Participants: SOCOM participant from each diocese of PNG-SI

Organised by: Social Communications Commission



To the Holy Land for a renewed commitment

Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME
CBC General Secretary

It was nice for the Papua New Guinea and Solomon Island group in February to begin the pilgrimage to the Holy Land from Mt. Nebo. The locality is on the eastern side of the river Jordan in the territory of the

country that bears the same name opposite to Israel. Moses saw the promised land from there, but never crossed the river below to take possession of it and settle the Israelites in relative peace and prosperity. The task was left to Joshua.

The arrival at Nazareth at night, at the end of the long trip from Port Moresby, to Manila, Dubai and Jordan, offered the pilgrims deserved rest and the unique feeling of having reached the place of the Annunciation, the remote town in Galilee where the Virgin was told that the Word would become flesh and dwell among us. The Basilica erected on the site keeps the memory of the event and embraces the faithful coming in prayer and thanksgiving.

From there the visit to the Sea of Galilee and several sites of the ministry of Jesus takes you to the very locations where the Son of God lived, thought and healed the people. Events such as the Beatitudes, the Transfiguration, the Primacy of Peter and others have churches built on their site. You stay for a while in prayer and reflection, read the pertinent passages of the Gospel, contemplate in awe the same sky, water and soil Jesus, his disciples and the people saw and stepped on. At Cana the couples in the group, though only one from Enga in our case, renew their marriage vows. One of the six jars of the miracle of the water turned into wine at the famous wedding is still there and carefully kept.

The transfer from Galilee, in the north, to Judea, in the south, allows you to visit Mt. Carmel with prophet Elijah's dwelling cave, and Caesarea Maritima (*by the sea*), the ancient capital of the Roman province of Syria, which used to include Judea and the Holy City of Jerusalem. Caesarea was built by Herod the Great (73 B.C. – 4 A.D.). Its bay was the place of arrival and departure by sea

to Rome and the rest of the old Roman empire. The Apostle Paul indeed transited through the city port; and it was there, in the house of Cornelius, that for the first time Peter acknowledged that Jesus' person and message was not only for the Jews but for all peoples (Acts 10).

This followed the events of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ, which pilgrims thoroughly experience visiting and praying at the holy sites in Jerusalem: the Mount of Olives, the Gethsemane, the Upper Room, the place of the Denial of Peter, the Via Dolorosa (Way of the Cross), and many others, up to the Calvary and the Holy Sepulcher. It's a jump backward, but into the past that never ends and permanently reverberates in the heart of the believers.

On the way to the airport for the return flight a final visit to Bethany beyond the Jordan reveals the ruins of the ancient churches successively built on the place of the Baptism of Jesus. And especially provides an opportunity for the personal renewal of the baptismal promises, for a stronger commitment in faith and service back home.



Faithful stewards of the environment

Marie Mondu
CBC Development Secretary

In the book of Corinthians, God specifically summons us to acknowledge that His creation remains a mystery and we remain faithful to this calling as Christians.

We identify ourselves as "Earth Community" – a community made up of human and non-human creation. We are members of God's Household. We are all equal and valued members of the earth community.

Some may debate and say that "I am not a Christian this does not apply to me." However, the principle of "Sensitive Environment Stewardship" applies to every human living on planet Earth. It is our common home and the only home conducive for human life. It is our moral obligation to care for each other and for our future. The same benefits we receive now such as clean air, water, food, healthy family and marvel of natural environment should remain a goal for all human who pass through this common home.

What can we do to protect our home so it remains conducive for living in? In a typical household, we clean our dishes, we make sure there is clean water, food, clothing, shelter, security, savings, peaceful relationships, storage, etc. These are some of the practical solutions to retain our common home:

- **We clean up our rubbish and stop making more** – focus on renewable energy, organic farming, and maintain reusable items, buy less, store and look after what we have for daily consumption.
- **We clean our air** – stop cutting more forests (for logging or large-scale agriculture), reforest and plant trees every year. Stop fossil fuel burning. Use air conditioning less, reduce number of cars. Encourage common facility use as reliable public transport.
- **We grow and learn to preserve our food** – Buy or grow only what we can eat, don't waste food and land space. The need for food in large scale farming is encouraging large forest clearing and chemical use in farming that pollutes our waters and seas.
- **We clean our Water** - Don't dump rubbish, chemicals, fuel, oil and bombs into our ocean and water. Minimize use of chemical in everyday household cleaning, farming and industrial cleaning. Keep all human rubbish as plastics, cans, metal etc off the rivers and oceans.
- **We save our finances** – Save enough and buy enough to get you by, not accumulate more so you can have a variety. Financial greed does not value the Earth Community principles. Save some money – some disasters are not manmade they are part of the mysteries of God's creation that balances planet's ecosystem. If we are faced with these calamities – we can start over.
- **We maintain peaceful relationships** – This is the essence of mutual benefits. If one family member is not responsible, he/she must be cautioned, penalized and rehabilitated until he/she realizes that they too can contribute to a peaceful, clean and conducive Household.

Media seminar highlights importance of environment

- Abigail Seta



Port Moresby:

CBC SOCOM hosted its first Media Education Seminar for Catholic students and highlighted the importance of caring for the environment.

Held on Saturday, 29th February, the seminar had

as its theme; 'Keep it Clean. Go Green' and had sessions that focused on the 54th World Communication Day (WCD) message of the Holy Father, logos, posters and photographs.

"We are committed to plant fruit trees around our school and we will share the important things that we have learn by doing social media awareness for our students," stated representatives from Marianville Secondary School.

The program had prayer moments, interactive sessions, energizers and discussions. The

Media Education Seminar is the first in a series of seminars that are held annually.

The nine participating schools at the seminar were: Don Bosco Technical School; Limana Vocational Centre; Caritas Technical Secondary School; De La Salle; Marianville Secondary School; Don Bosco Technological Institute; St Charles Lwanga Secondary School; La Salle Technical School and Jubilee Catholic Secondary School.

The next media education seminar will be held on 28th March and will dwell on writing news articles.

Student spiritual retreat on 'Giving Generously'

Madang: Young people stood boldly and made their promise to 'Live Pure' as they concluded the Spiritual Retreat for the Catholic Students on 23rd February at the Divine Word University Chapel, Madang.

The chapel was filled to capacity as staff and lay faithful joined the students on Sunday 23rd February. Bernadette Tefe and seven male students boldly committed themselves to 'Live Pure' and celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage before they engage in sexual intimacy.

280 Catholic students spent a fruitful weekend from 21st to 23rd

February in prayer, reflection and the celebration of their Catholic Faith as participants of the Spiritual Retreat. It had as its theme: 'Giving Generously' and was animated by Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, CBC Social Communications Secretary. The retreat commenced on the 21st and concluded on the 23rd February.

Fr Philip Gibbs svd, Vice-president coordinated the retreat together with Fr Elias Aiyako svd, Chaplin of the university.

"It was wonderful to have young people gather for prayer, reflection and the celebration of



the sacraments," said Fr Ambrose.

"The presence of over 280 catholic students for the Spiritual Retreat is a sign that our young people are in search for the 'God element' in their lives. Youth groups and other events will be organized in the year ahead," said Fr Philip.

Present yourself to the Lord of Service

- Fr Yulianus Gunawan, cm



Religious Sister, Brothers and Priests renew their vows. Picture: Fr. Yulianus Gunawan

Kiunga: Religious Sisters, Brothers and Priests gathered together to renew their vows at

St. Gerard's Parish, Kiunga.

This gathering took place on the celebration of the presentation of the Lord, 2nd February 2020 where 23 sisters, 6 brothers and 17 priests working in the Diocese of Daru-Kiunga renewed their vows. At the Eucharistic celebration, Bishop Gilles Coté, SMM thanked the religious for their dedicated service and invited them to constantly present themselves to the Lord.

"Mary, Joseph, Simeon and Anna were prayerful and faithful people. They presented their lives to God. They always had time to pray, sacrifice and even fast. They were blessed by God to recognize the Messiah who would save the world", said Bp Gilles. "In the same you are called to present your life faithfully to God. God will then guide you to recognize God's presence."

After the homily all the religious renewed their vows with lighted candles held aloft. They were then sent to share the peace of Christ with the faithful.

CPNG launches Lenten Appeal Campaign 2020



L-R: CPNG Director, Mavis Tito, Mr Paul Harricknen, Bp Jozef Roszynski and CBC Development Secretary, Marie Mondu
Picture: Rosemary Yambune

Port Moresby: Caritas Papua New Guinea (CPNG) marked the Lenten Season by launching the Lenten or Turangu Appeal Campaign for 2020.

With the theme "Holy and formed for a mission of love and charity," the annual appeal was launched on Wednesday, 26th February through a ribbon

cutting ceremony. Present for this momentous occasion was the Bishop of Wewak and Bishop Deputy of CPNG, Bp Jozef Roszynski, SVD; the Bishop of Bereina, Bp Otto Separy; the Director of CPNG, Mavis Tito, Catholic Bishops Conference (CBC) Development Secretary, Marie Mondu and staff of CBC. Ms Mondu spoke on the Lenten Appeal Campaign and shared that it is a time to give to those in need in the communities and for the common good.

"The Lenten Appeal is a six-week campaign that starts during the Lenten Season and we are encouraging priests, religious brothers and sisters, lay men and women to contribute towards reaching out to people who are in need of help in our communities," Ms Mondu

said. According to the Director of CPNG, Mavis Tito, K314,321.73 was raised during the 2019 campaign of which K93,451.16 was returned as one-third returns to the dioceses. K85,135.48 was given to the dioceses that requested support from CPNG to help with responding to disasters. The dioceses were Wabag, Alotau, Kimbe and Daru-Kiunga.

Diocese of Kimbe farewells Bp William Fey

Kimbe: A Thanksgiving Mass and farewell ceremony was held for his Lordship Emeritus Bishop William Fey OFM Cap who served for 10 years in the Diocese of Kimbe.

Held at the indoor gym of the Muthuvel stadium on Tuesday, 25th February, the celebration saw Catholic faithful from all nineteen parishes gather to farewell the retired Bishop. The Emeritus Bishop was the main presider and concelebrating with him were the new bishop, Bp John Bosco Auram and priests, most of whom he taught and ordained.

In his homily, Bp William praised the virtues of Saint Francis of Assisi and challenged all faithfuls to continue to uphold vigilantly the virtues of humility and piety. "Mi tenkim yupla olgeta, ba mi nonap lustingting long yupela na ba mi pray long yupla wanwan (I thank you all, I will not forget you and I

will be praying for each one of you)," said Bp Fey as he concluded the mass.

In attendance at the ceremony were the Caritas Sisters, the Charity Sisters, the OLSH Sisters, MSC Sisters and the FMI Sisters, Catechists and Lay men and women. The celebrations concluded with a delicious lunch that had Bp John Bosco Auram and important guests give farewell speeches. Bp John expressed his gratitude and recalled the words of St Monica to her son St Augustine. He said: "Bishop William, you are leaving us, but always remember us whenever you are at the altar offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass." Emeritus Bishop William Fey OFM Cap left the Diocese on Friday 28th February where he returned to his home in the United States. Bishop William Fey OFM Cap served as a missionary in Papua New Guinea for over 40

- Fr. John Balele and Fr. Benjamin Agea



New Bishop of Kimbe, Bp John Bosco Auram with Bp William Fey at the Ordination of the new bishop of Kimbe.
Picture: Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb



Bishop of Kavieng, Bp Rochus Tatamai, with the Safe House participants. Picture: Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb

Port Moresby: The Development Commission of the Catholic Bishops Conference (CBC) hosted its first workshop for 5 Catholic Safe Houses in the country.

Held from the 17th to 19th of February, the workshop had representatives from the House of

CBC hosts first Catholic Safe House Workshop

- Rosemary Yambune

Hope in Madang, Stella Maris in Wewak, Coupe House in Rabaul, Nazareth Rehabilitation Centre in Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Caritas Australia and Heads of Commissions from Laity, National Family Life Apostolate and Right Relations.

"Safe houses require careful planning, expertise and holistic sustainable approaches to meet the needs of violated and vulnerable populations within their communities," said Marie Mondu, the Development Secretary of CBC PNGSI.

The representatives during the three-day program identified available resources and challenges that Safe Houses have, particularly, the manpower, infrastructure, population, support programs, skills, sustainability and networks. They also reviewed the existing policies and guidelines that dictate the operation of their respective Safe

Houses put in place by Consultative Implementation Monitoring Committee (CIMC).

The program hosted a press conference on the 19th of February, to announce the Launch of its Catholic Safe House Association initiative and provided recommendations for improvement to Department of Community Development and Religious Office, CBCPNGSI, and CIMC. The official launch date is set for 30th June 2020.

According to the inception statement, there is growing interest to provide special accommodation or short stay refuge for battered women and their children who are under 18. Few of such facilities, now commonly known as safe houses are self-funded mostly and sometimes receives donor subsidies. These facilities are coordinated by different Catholic Religious movements who fall under the Religious Federation of CBC PNGSI.

CPS begins year with dedication Eucharist

- Paul Harricknen

Port Moresby: The Catholic Professionals Society held its 2020 dedication Eucharist celebration at the St Joseph's Parish, Boroko on 15 February 2020.

The Mass was celebrated by the CPS Spiritual Director, Fr. Ambrose Pereira, SDB and concelebrated by parish priest of St Joseph's, Fr. Francis Xavier Chennampally, CP.

Over 30 members and their families attended the celebrations. OLSH Provincial Sr. Relida Gumur, AD Sisters, CBC Laity Commission Secretary Eva

Wangihama, CBC General Secretary Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME, and newly appointed Judge of the National & Supreme Courts, a devout Catholic himself Dr. Vergil Narokobi were among the invited guests present.

In a small but significant celebration, members of the Society took their oaths of membership and pledge of commitment to serve the Church and Society through their professions, gifts, talents and experiences. Candles were lit and carried to

symbolize their commitment to be the light and living witnesses of Catholic faith in society.

Fr. Ambrose and Fr Francis presented each one with a "cross of courage" and commissioned them to go out to the world with the zeal of courage to bear witness to the Catholic faith. The members were challenged and encouraged to model their lives on the life of Bl. Peter ToRot who was a married man, catechist and martyr for his Catholic faith in Jesus Christ.

"We must be transmitters of the faith". Find



Members of the Catholic Professionals Society after the Eucharist. Picture: Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb

ways to transmit the faith to your children is the big challenge of Pope Francis to each of us. For Catholic Professionals, Fr. Ambrose stressed four main areas - all life is sacred, every action and work is holy, Catholic Professionals have a unique ministry, and they are called to go out and evangelize the world. PNG requires the stable presence of mature lay leaders endowed with authority.

The dedication Mass at the start of the year, and the thanksgiving Mass at the end of the year, are two important events for the Society.

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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