

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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- Lydia O'Kane

Season of Creation: Jubilee for the Earth

From 1 September to 4 October, Christians all over the world will celebrate the Season of Creation, as well as the Day of Creation on 1 September. As in the past years, both the Conference of European Churches (CEC) and The Council of Bishops' Conferences of Europe (CCEE), are encouraging Member Churches in Europe to come together over the course of the month to celebrate the "richness of the Christian faith as an expression to protect our common home."

Creation a gift for mankind: In a statement issued by Cardinal Angelo Bagnasco, President of CCEE, and Rev. Christian Krieger, President of CEC, Creation is described as "a gift of God for mankind and for all living beings. It is, therefore, our responsibility to protect it as good and reliable stewards, and as faithful servants of God."

Pope Francis's call to protect our common home: They point out that Pope Francis, in his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, underlines, "the urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development."

They also stress Pope Francis's appeal "for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet."

The eminent theologian Jurgen Moltmann, they highlight, calls for "a discernment of the God, who is present in creation through his Holy Spirit," a discernment that "can bring men and women to reconciliation and peace with nature."

Ecumenical dimension: Emphasizing the ecumenical dimension to the Season of Creation,

the joint statement gives thanks for the proposal of the late Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I in 1989. Since that time, the two presidents' comment, "the idea of the Season of Creation and its ecumenical spirit has been further confirmed by the European Ecumenical Assemblies organised jointly by CEC and CCEE in Basel 1989, Graz 1997 and Sibiu 2007."

COVID-19: This year, the Season will be observed in the midst of a global pandemic. The Coronavirus, the statement reads, has shown "more than ever that we are not isolated from each other and that conditions related to human health and well-being are fragile."

It goes on to say that the "impact of the pandemic forces us to take seriously the need for vigilance and the need for conditions of sustainable life throughout the earth. This is even more important when considering the environmental devastation and the threat of climate change."



Jubilee for the Earth: In conclusion, the two presidents invite Christians to celebrate the Season of Creation this year under the heading of Jubilee for the Earth. "The concept of Jubilee," they note, "is rooted in the Bible and underlines that there must exist a just and sustainable balance between social, economic and ecological realities."

They also underline that "the lesson from the biblical concept of jubilee points us towards the need to restore balance in the very systems of life, affirming the need for equality, justice and sustainability and confirming the need for a prophetic voice in defence of our common home."

- Moses Ben

First International Day against Witchcraft and Sorcery



March at Momei Oval on 10th August. Picture: Moses Ben

Mendi, Southern Highlands: The Catholic community in the Diocese of Mendi with members from other Churches joined in the First International Day against Witchcraft and Sorcery Accusation advocacy awareness on 10th August 2020 at Momei Oval.

The peaceful march and awareness had over 3000 participants that involved students and staff from Kumin Primary School, local community health workers, youth groups, women groups and public servants. They marched and chanted with placards,

"Do not to kill innocent mothers, fathers and young women. Respect the dignity of persone, especially our mothers and sisters."

Among the invited guests present were Vicar General of the Diocese of Mendi, Fr Pius Hal; Bishop of United Church, Rev. Stanley Buka; Sargent Jimmy Suaip, Family and Sexual Violence; Ms. Jenny Kareng, Public Solicitor; Pastoral Vicar Fr Robert Gigmai; UN Women represent Mr. Steven Gari; and Mr. Leo Supiri, Advisor for Village Court Law and Order.

Recently three women in Tulum village of Karinz Local Level Government (LLG) in Mendi-Munihi District were accused of Sorcery. The women were strung-up, tortured by fire and were forced to take responsibility for the death of a young man.

Fr Pius said that though there were only few cases reported, the grim reality was that many women still faced torture in the province, where some were even forced to leave their families and villages. He discouraged the practice of consulting witch doctors during times of pain and loss, especially during the death of a person, and urged for communities to seek an autopsy report of the

deceased from medically qualified and trained doctors. "When bush doctors are hired, they do not need proof to blame innocent and vulnerable people, and this is an act of Satanism. Doctors are trained and qualified for such matters and can provide medical proof to confirm the cause of death," he stated.

Sgt Suaip said that the day commemorated victims and created awareness of SAV. "Many women were hanged, tortured and killed in the remote villages of the province but relatives do not report to us in fear of retaliation, he said. More should be done to encourage women suspected of sorcery and their families, to come forward and report the abuse.

Ms Kareng said there was a big need to have a safe house in the province to accommodate frightened mothers that ran away from such threats and intimidation. "It is not only the role of the Law and Justice sector only in helping them. It is everyone's moral duty to protect their mothers and sister and to fight against Sorcery related issues," she said.

The awareness concluded with a drama and dance performance from members of the Strongim Bilip Team of the Diocese of Mendi.

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DBTI students collecting and sorting rubbish in a big aluminium cart

DBTI Integrated waste management project

initiatives for the care of the environment as practical ways of exemplifying being upright citizens. In our Vice-Province of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, the Council has chosen to focus its Thrust on *Laudato Si*, proposing attitudes to be developed for each month.

The points of emphasis for the months of June, July and August are: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. Moreover, DBTI is a member of Don Bosco Green Alliance, an international movement of young people from the Salesian

Family institutions, who contribute to global environmental action, thought and policy. Recently Pope Francis invited Don Bosco Green Alliance to lead the school sector during the Year of *Laudato Si*.

There were efforts at waste collection in DBTI, like buying of willie-bins, weekly rubbish collection, selling of scrap metal, and so forth. But these have focused more on waste collection rather than on waste management. There is, therefore, a need for an Integrated Waste Management for DBTI. We

would wish that all members of the community will be involved in this project and that all types of waste can be properly disposed of. Our ultimate goal is Zero Waste, as it is defined by the Zero Waste International Alliance:

"The conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging, and materials without burning and with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health."

As of the moment, much of the efforts in waste management are exerted by the student and staff residents. Soon, we hope to involve more and more people until every member of the educative pastoral community becomes aware and contributes responsibly for sustainable management of waste.

As in other parts of the world, the youths become protagonists of initiatives and concrete actions for the care and preservation of the environment. We hope that our youths at DBTI and eventually of our locality can sustain their efforts at integrated waste management and contribute in making Papua New Guinea the Paradise of the Pacific.

Port Moresby: A confluence of factors contributed to make us initiate an Integrated Waste Management Plan at Don Bosco Technological Institute (DBTI) this year.

First of all, Pope Francis has instituted 2020, starting on May 24, as the Year of *Laudato Si*. Incidentally, the Rector Major of the Salesian Society, Fr. Angel Arttime, chose as the theme of this year's strenna, "Good Christians, Upright Citizens." In that strenna, Fr. Angel emphasized concrete



Celebrating the Season of Creation

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, Secretary for Social Communication

Every year from September 1 to October 4, the Christian family unites for a world-wide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home, called the Season of Creation. We rejoice that we have this opportunity to care for our common home.

This year, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic as each of us goes through the stress, strain and pressures of the pandemic, this Season of Creation takes on a new dimension. We are aware that it is intertwined with our wellbeing and the wellbeing of God's creation. Each one of us realizes that when our world is affected we are also affected. During this pandemic nature has had a bit of time to rejuvenate and recover. We have realized that we need to think of new and sustainable ways to give the Earth the rest it requires.

Convener of the Don Bosco Green Alliance, Fr Savio Silveira sdb, offers us a few suggestions that we could implement during this Season of Creation.

CALL TO PRAYER

- Praying daily 'A Prayer for Our Earth' by Pope Francis, which is found in *Laudato Si*
- Hosting a prayer service on the theme of Creation, either indoors outdoors or online.

- Integrating the theme of Creation into the Sunday liturgies.
- Organizing a meditation session in nature to appreciate creation and its importance.

CALL TO ACTION

- **Week 1 (01-05):** Enjoying Creation by spending time outdoors, organizing a nature hike, getting to know your local biodiversity, visiting sites of natural beauty, walking in the countryside etc.
- **Week 2 (06-12):** Enhancing Creation by organizing tree plantation drives, restoring depleted gardens, or developing new gardens in your campuses/neighbourhoods.
- **Week 3 (13-19):** Respecting Creation by organizing clean up events in the neighbourhood (if possible), culmination on World Clean Up Day on 19 September.
- **Week 4 (20-26):** Protecting Creation by organizing an online campaign/webinar to highlight local threats to nature. We recall the words of Pope Benedict XVI- "If You Want to Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation" - as we celebrate International Day of Peace on 21 September.
- **Week 5 (27-04):** Celebrating Creation by organizing local activities or online events, especially on 4th October the feast of St Francis of Assisi, which culminate in making personal commitments to live eco-friendly lives, inspired by the Rethink, Reconnect, Renew campaign of Don Bosco Green Alliance.

Creating opportunities for women



- Abigail Seta

The month of August saw a series of skills training programs being conducted by the Daughters of Mary Immaculate (DMI) for women in the settlements of Port Moresby.

Despite the pandemic, the sisters went out of their way to focus on the women's skill training which included creating face masks, an awareness education on COVID-19 and many other programs.

It was from 17th to 24th August that the women in Kogeva and Sabama settlements learned to sew face masks, sell and earn money for their families. According to the Sisters, this present situation has limited the women who are unable to support their families and these skills programs are giving them better opportunities.

"It made them happy to practice their talents and start up small businesses where each individual has successfully earned K100 - K200 as well as safeguarding herself and her family too. These slow steps ensure that the women may decrease their dependence on the men in the future," said Sr Catherine, the program coordinator.

Apart from the skills training, the sisters also raised awareness on COVID-19 and encouraged those involved to follow the precautionary measures. The awareness had the sisters and volunteers visit Sabama and Joyce Bay areas, Mahuru and Pari villages where demonstrations to protect them from COVID-19 were conducted.

The Sisters will continue their work in the months ahead providing and creating more opportunities for women who are in need.



What is New Evangelisation?

Fr. Victor Roche SVD, Secretary for New Evangelization

The words 'Evangelion' in Greek and 'Evangelium' in Latin means 'Gospel' or 'Good News'. 'Evangelization' means preaching or sharing the Good News. 'New Evangelization' is 'New Ways of Evangelization'; new way of 'sharing the faith'; new way of 'doing Parish ministry'; new way of 'being mission'; new way of Catholic Lay people doing the 'missionary work'.

History of Evangelization

(adapted from an article by Fr. Steve Bevans SVD):

Jesus was a Missionary, sent by God to preach, love, serve and witness to the Kingdom of God. His disciples went far and wide preaching and establishing Christian Communities. The best missionaries of the early church, probably were the ordinary women and men who preached by the integrity of their lives and shared their enthusiasm with neighbours and relatives: people who 'gossiped the gospel' in the market place, while doing laundry, buying food at the local shops (Michael Green). "This informal missionary work is most probably the cause of Christianity spreading, through personal

and family networks, with wives convincing husbands, mothers sharing with their daughters and sons, friends sharing with friends" (Rodney Stark). The great witness to the people was how the Christians loved one another.

There were many persecutions of the Christians by the kings until Emperor Constantine made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire (313). There were mass conversions to the faith. At this time a new movement emerged-'Monasticism'. Several women and men realized that a 'red martyrdom' was no longer possible for Christians and they began to seek a 'white martyrdom' of an ascetic life in the monasteries. Thus the monks in the different monasteries became witnesses to the faith. Some monks were 'pilgrims for Christ' because they preached the Gospel as they travelled.

From the beginning of the 6th Century, Benedictine Monasteries became the places of evangelization. After the appearance of Islam in the beginning of 7th Century, Christians survived but not always very well under the Muslim rule. But the Monks and Nuns continued to evangelize through their monasteries.

From the thirteenth to sixteenth centuries, in the West, the Church leadership had become very

powerful and inevitably, corrupt. There were many calls to return to the purity and simplicity of the Gospel and to live the apostolic life.

At this time, another movement emerged, 'Mendicant' movement: Franciscans under Francis of Assisi in Italy and Dominicans led by Dominic Guzman of Caleruega in Spain. Franciscans went to different parts of the world as missionaries. Clare of Assisi sent many of her sisters to Muslim lands to witness the Gospel, even though most were martyred a short time after they arrived. Dominicans were men of high learning, expert preachers and simplicity of life who travelled the whole of Europe preaching and teaching reform. They also sent representatives to China.

During this time there were groups of lay people who lived together in communities, called Beguinages. These were not monastic enclosures but men and women who lived active lives of Charity in the world. There were some outstanding women leaders. They represent women's constant efforts to live dedicated and active Christian lives in the midst of the world-efforts that would not be fully successful until the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.



COVID-19, an opportunity for conversion

Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME, CBC General Secretary

Epidemics like COVID-19 are natural events, which rarely extend globally to become pandemics. Prior to the current one was the so-called "Spanish flu" exactly 100 year ago. Apparently, it was much more infectious and lethal than COVID-19. It affected one-third of the world population at that time and caused about 50 million deaths in two years. We do not know what the final toll of COVID-19 will be.

Having the last three generations on earth no direct experience of a pandemic, we need to be patient with medics, who have to find the way to fight it, and government leaders, who are expected to make decisions on how we need to conduct our daily business. We must also be patient with religious leaders, who do not find it easy to decide on the continuation or suspension of religious gatherings to safeguard public health. Contrary to what some may believe, the virus does not discriminate on time and space. It will hit anywhere at any time purely depending on environmental

conditions. If things remain as of now, Papua New Guinea appears to be successfully going through the pandemic with limited community transmission and low number of casualties. But we do not know what is in store for the next few months or years. The virus could totally disappear or return in stronger and deadlier waves. A new different pandemic could also add to the current one.

There are two healthy forms of exercise for these uncertain times of a duration unknown to us. The simpler one is physical. Keep the body and the environment clean. Wear a face mask in public places. Discourage big gatherings and avoid crowded places. It is not bad to learn a bit of personal autonomy, healthy distance, and independence. The second more exciting exercise is spiritual. Pandemics are a product of nature like other illnesses caused by microorganisms such as bacteria and viruses. They are treated medically. God may or may not decide to help us now or in any other misfortune. It is not for us to demand it or to take his intervention for granted. We just pray for that. The Revelation rather tells us that trials coming across the human journey are to be seen

as an opportunity for repentance and conversion. Mankind cannot stop a pandemic, only minimize it through cautious behaviour. However, we can exit it one day in a better shape than the time it caught up with us. Churches closing for a few Sundays does not mean lack of faith, devotion, and trust in God. It may be a chance to think of how much our worship matches our lives; how much the love of God is reflected in attention, care, and love for people around us; how much our honouring God is translated into social justice and personal honesty and sacrifice for the common good.

COVID-19 is slowing down our activism. It leaves us with more time for reflection and prayer. Unfortunately, it also makes people around us jobless and hungry. Anxiety may take hold if the situation worsens. We are confident that God will hear us. For the meantime we take this opportunity to get back closer to him, in church and out of church, with a renewed consciousness of the need for equality and justice among human beings and towards creation. Trials of all sorts are an opportunity for conversion rather than despair or recrimination.

SEASON OF CREATION 2020

September 1st to October 4th, 2020



"Jubilee for the Earth: New Rhythms, New Hope"

This year, amid crises that have shaken our world, we're awakened to the urgent need to heal our relationships with creation and each other.

During the season this year, we enter a time of restoration and hope, a jubilee for our Earth, that requires radically new ways of living with creation.

It is a time to consider the integral relationship between rest for the Earth and ecological, economic, social, and political ways of living.

LAUDATO SI' GOALS



HOPE FOR THE EARTH AND THE POOR



West Papuan students with their certificates from DBTS

Many migrants today have been forced to leave their homeland, just as Jesus Christ was forced to flee Bethlehem from persecution. The sentiment was expressed by West Papuan Refugee Resettlement Officer, Donatus Nahak,

Forced to flee like Jesus

on Friday 21st August. Mr Nahak also an interpreter and translator assisting West Papuan refugees, recalled his past experience and said many people became refugees not by choice, but because of the extreme situations they were forced to endure.

He commended humanitarian and Church organizations for their ongoing assistance and told of how the Catholic Church of PNG had a direct and positive impact in his life.

He said migrants and refugees were growing issues in the Pacific region, and that these groups of people who received little or no government support, had their hopes and lives dependent on the Catholic Church.

He thanked the Catholic Mission for its unwavering efforts in helping to resettle refugees and migrants around the world.

- Fr Newman Kingi

Women's dignity unveiled

Wabag: More than five hundred women and men of the Lagaip Deanery in the Diocese of Wabag attended a week-long course on "Recognising and Valuing the Dignity of Women."

The course was offered by Fr. Justin Ain, Vicar General of the diocese which ran from August 13-17 at the Mariant Martin de Porres Parish in Kandep District. The talk by Fr Justin enlightened the women on recognising their values. He said that the specialities of women is about what she does but by the way she was created. Also speaking at the talk was Fr Philip James, parish priest of Porgera Piam, who spoke on Mariology. His talks lightened the path of the women to imitate the life of Mother Mary to be a woman of faith, value and dignity.

According to many people in remote places like Kandep and many other parts of Enga Province and Papua New Guinea, a woman is



recognised in the society by her maternal duties such as childbirth, household obligations and gardening. They are often thought of as inferior to men due to cultural boundaries and taboos that limit them to act. Hence, the talk has brought about an understanding to the women and men that attended. This program is an ongoing program not only for mothers but to those who are interested depending on their request.



Mt Hagen: In observance of the 1st International Day against Sorcery Accusation Related Violence, a panel discussion was held in the Archdiocese of Mt Hagen.

Organized and hosted by the New Evangelisation Secretary, Fr Victor Roche SVD, the panel discussion was held on Wednesday, 5th August live on Trinita FM Radio. The purpose

Discussion on sorcery violence

of the discussion was to inform and raise awareness the people. Guest speakers of the event where Mr Aton Lutz, a Lutheran Lay Missionary and Mr Simon Mokot, Trinita FM Journalist.

- Some of the points from discussion were:
- The entire act of accusing others of sorcery and inflicting physical harm on them is senseless and immoral.
- Papua New Guinea must do away with this belief in 'Sanguma' or Sorcery.
- We should be fully and truly Christians embracing Biblical teachings and living as Sons and Daughters of God. We should be living the principle of Love, Caring and Respecting one another, living in Peace and Harmony, not with violence, fear and grief.
- The Churches and Civil Societies must stand united in the fight against this evil that is destroying our society.

Let us all work together in the fight to eradicate this evil from this society **now; today,** not tomorrow.

United against PNG's 'SANGUMA'

Committee of the CIMC; and Dr Uma Ambi, a pioneer in mental health. There were several others who addressed different points on the agenda and added to the richness of the discussion.

"The discussion is designed to be a time of awareness, reflection and a way of supporting victims of SARV and their families", said Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, Social Communications Secretary of CBC, as he opened the discussion. It served as a build-up from:

- 1) a panel discussion held on 5th August, over Trinita FM in Mt Hagen, that focused on SARV; and
- 2) the first International Day Against Sorcery Accusation Related Violence observed with a massive demonstration on 10th August in the Diocese of Mendi and in other parts of PNG.

Commencing discussions was Archbishop of Madang and President of CBCPNGSI, Anton Bal. He said the term 'Sanguma' referred to the cultural practice of giving reason to situations that had no logical explanation. "It was used to give reason to unexplained diseases, misfortunes and death. It is a belief that does not require any substance and that seeks to give an answer to a situation especially during times of loss and grief," he said.

Bp Donald Lippert said the appalling atrocities of SARV continued to hinder peace and respect in society, and warned that such practices, left

unchecked, could have devastating consequences on society as a whole. "In the Southern Highlands SARV is on the increase and has become something that was never part of traditional culture," he said.

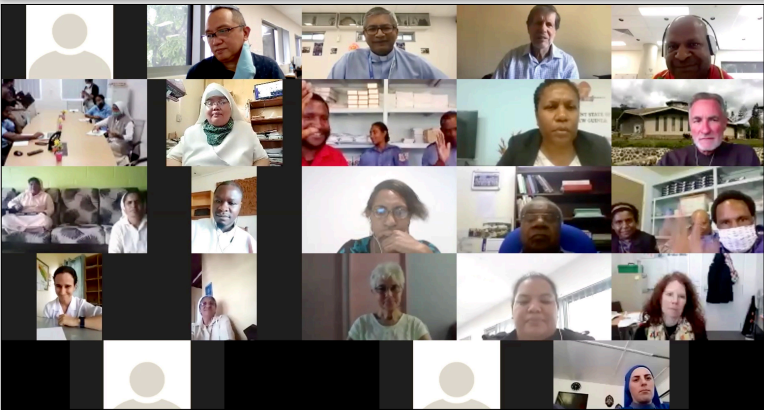
"It is a complex issue and a terrible atrocity that now, in many cases, has a very perverse sexual aspect to it. So, it is something that we really need to address and do whatever is necessary to stop the practice," he said.

Fr Philip Gibbs, Deputy President of Divine Word University, stressed that many people believed in sorcery as a way to cope with the experience of a misfortune or loss. "The whole issue of 'Sanguma' deals with the 'Why' question. Science can say how someone died of cancer or a heart-attack, but this still does not answer the 'Why it happened'. It is a difficulty not just faced here in Papua New Guinea but by all of humanity," he said.

Marcia Kalinoe, National Coordinator for the Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee made the point of need for relevant organisations at the Provincial level. She urged for these organisations and local communities to work as a collective unit in resolving the issue.

The requests of the participants were to have a platform to highlight the issue and a roadmap to assist the victims as well as those engaged in the practice.

The meeting brought together persons who are passionate and wish to address Sorcery Accusation Related Violence in Papua New Guinea.



Port Moresby: A detailed and thought-provoking discussion on Sorcery, Witchcraft, and 'Sanguma', was recently held in light of the rampant crimes stemming from Sorcery Accusation Related Violence.

The discussion was hosted by the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI on 18th August at 10am, via online video communication platform, Zoom. It had the engagement of around 60 participants joining in from around and outside of the country. Participants included three Bishops, Catholic Priests, Religious, professionals from the Social, Health, Environmental and Legal sectors, and media personnel.

While several contributed, the panellists were: Archbishop Anton Bal, Archbishop of Madang; Bishop Donald Lippert, Bishop of Mendi; Fr Philip Gibbs, Deputy President of Divine Word University; Michelle Taumpson, Director Policy Planning and Development; Marcia Kalinoe, National Coordinator for the Family and Sexual Violence Action

Catholic health facilities receive PPEs

- Caritas Correspondent

Port Moresby: Catholic Health facilities across the country have finally begun receiving the much-needed Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) from Caritas Australia and the Catholic Health Service Secretariat (CHSS).

The supply is a part of the Catholic Church's COVID-19 Joint Response Plan funded by the Church Partnership Program. The Catholic Health Services Secretariat oversees 233 health facilities ranging from District Hospitals to Aid Posts throughout PNG, making up a significant portion of the country's total health facilities.

As part of the church's response to COVID-19, K500,000 worth of PPEs were purchased from a reputed supplier to distribute to the facilities and help boost their preparedness against the deadly virus. These PPE's were distributed on 12th August.

Graham Apian, Program Manager of CHSS, stated that supply would go a long way toward supporting the dedicated efforts of its health workers situated throughout the country.

"Our Catholic Health facilities employ over 250 health workers who are or will become the front line in our fight against COVID-19."

"Many are serving communities in under-equipped and difficult conditions and the much-needed PPEs will be a welcome addition to their limited resources," he said.

Echoing his sentiments, Caritas Australia's Program Quality and Effectiveness Manager, Roslyn Kuniata, said that health services were vital, especially during a global pandemic.

"The recent spike in confirmed COVID-19 cases and the subsequent lockdown invigorated our staff to make sure that necessary PPEs like gowns, masks and gloves were sent this week so that health workers and communities they serve can be better protected," she said.

Charlotte Vada, Disaster Management Coordinator of Caritas Australia, said COVID-19 response plans extended through to December due to the alarming rise in local cases.

"Our response plan runs through to December and upcoming activities include the training of Head Teachers in priority provinces and the distribution of IEC materials to each of our Catholic Schools, which make up one-quarter of the total number of schools in PNG," she added.



The staff of the health services in the Diocese of Lae received their PPEs from Caritas Australia and CHSS

The COVID-19 Joint Response Plan is shared between the Catholic Bishops Conference, Caritas PNG and Caritas Australia. It came into effect in April and has seen the implementation of activities such as the distribution of hygiene kits to vulnerable groups, risk communication training for key diocese staff in priority provinces, and the training of Catholic students to produce awareness materials through a series of media seminars.



Religious women network for greater service

- Sr John Mary, FIHM

Wabag, Enga Province: Eight different women congregations from the Catholic Diocese of Wabag Women Religious (CDWWR) are rendering their service to the people in the Diocese of Wabag.

CDWWR was officially formed on 17th November 2018, in Sangurap FIHM convent in Wabag Diocese of Wabag campus. Bishop Arnold Orowae led the reflection on religious vocation and its purpose. Confessions heard by Fr Casimir Niezgodia SVD, the diocese's pioneer missionary. This was followed by Holy Mass.

The women religious from around the diocese come together quarterly for their recollection, confession, Holy Mass and business meetings. At each time a different religious congregation takes responsibility to organize the program. Each religious community brings food to share with all present.

Until this year 2020, it was decided that the gathering occurs twice a year. Their first meet this year was on 23rd May, in Sikiro and had as its theme: "Love of Christ in the Spirit of Generosity".

The religious sisters then decided to have a picnic to Sirungi Lake on August 8th 2020. The

picnic went according to plan with everyone returning back home with fond memories of a beautiful day of togetherness.

"The religious gathering has provided the invaluable experience of recollection, sharing of joy, faith and problems. It is an opportunity to share spiritual growth and strengthen the bond of friendship amongst the different religious congregations," said Sr John Mary FIHM.

"It fosters sharing responsibilities and insight, supporting and praying for each other in the different ministries."

CDWWR has as its vision, reaching the needy in remote places. Vocations are gradually increasing in the congregations.

It hopes to increase its different services such as pastoral work, faith proclamation, holistic health, quality education, by working among different age groups to improve their capacity and other services.

Picture above (top left): The different women congregations from the Diocese of Wabag Women Religious (CDWWR)

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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