



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

March 2021

Issue 183

- Courtesy Vatican News

Pope at Angelus: Prayer lifts us out of spiritual laziness to help others

At the Angelus address on Sunday, Pope Francis reflects on the Transfiguration of Jesus, and urges Christians to turn our experience of prayer into a desire to carry hope to the world.

"His face radiant and his garments glistening, providing a preview of his image as the Risen One, offer to those frightened men the light to pass through the shadows."

New point of view: The Pope went on to reflect on Peter's words: "Rabbi, it is good that we are here!" He said the Apostle's expression of appreciation is a reminder that the Lord never lets darkness have the final word. When we face seemingly-

praying never means avoiding the difficulties of life," he said.

Christian mission: Pope Francis concluded his catechesis urging Christians to transform our experience with Jesus and carry His light throughout the world. The mission of every Christian, he said, is to ignite "little lights in people's hearts; being little lamps of the Gospel that bear a bit of love and hope." And the Pope asked the Blessed Virgin Mary to accompany us to welcome the light of Christ, to care for it, and to share Him with our brothers and sisters.

107th World Day of Migrants and Refugees

Pope Francis has released the theme and his message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees which is to take place on 26th September.

The theme is "Towards an even wider 'we'". Pope Francis' message will "stress the importance of being attentive to the entire human family through an inclusive Church that reaches out and is capable of creating communion in diversity."

Catholics around the world are invited to pray for refugees and migrants in their many difficulties, and to learn more about the benefits which migration offers.

Sunday, 26th September 2021 | Migrants & Refugees



Rome: Ahead of the traditional Marian prayer of the Angelus, Pope Francis spoke about the Transfiguration, as recounted in the Sunday Gospel (Mk 9:2-10).

He began by considering what Jesus told His disciples before taking them up the mountain. Jesus had just revealed that He would be condemned to death but would rise again. "The image of a strong and triumphant Messiah is put into crisis, their dreams are shattered, and they are beset by anguish at the thought that the Teacher in whom they believed should be killed like the worst of wrongdoers," said the Pope.

Broken hearts: With these concerns in their hearts, the disciples follow Jesus up the mountain, where He is transfigured before them. Pope Francis said Jesus thus reminded them that He would overcome death.

endless trials, said the Pope, we need another point of view: "a light which illuminates in depth the mystery of life and helps us to move beyond our frame of mind and the criteria of this world." We too, he stressed, are called to climb the mountain with Jesus to have every fragment of our lives illuminated by His victory at Easter.

Spiritual laziness: Yet, warned Pope Francis, we must not let our joy at the Transfiguration become "spiritual laziness." "We cannot remain on the mountain and enjoy the beauty of this encounter by ourselves," he noted. "Jesus himself brings us back to the valley, amidst our brothers and sisters and into daily life." Spiritual laziness, said the Pope, pushes us to rest in the satisfaction of our own well-being, while ignoring the struggles faced by others. "Going up the mountain does not mean forgetting reality;

Statement from CBC on the passing of Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare

Port Moresby: The members of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands (CBC PNG/SI) are saddened at the death of Sir Michael Somare. He was a faithful servant of God, the Church, and his Country.

Sir Michael Somare was a faithful Catholic: He was brought up in the Catholic faith by the Divine Word Missionaries (SVD) in his native East Sepik province. He was a friend of the late Archbishop Leo Arkfeld, SVD.

He went regularly to the Catholic Church services whether as a Prime Minister or an ordinary citizen. While in Port Moresby, he always attended the Pidgin Mass on Sundays together with Lady Veronica Somare at St. Joseph's Parish, Boroko. He had a very cordial relationship with the Catholic Bishops and the Catholic Bishops Conference.

Sir Michael Somare was a faithful Husband and Father: He reached the height of his political status of Prime Minister and Father of the Nation as a faithful husband to his wife Lady Veronica. He maintained

good family values and was a good father to his children.

Sir Michael Somare is indeed the Father of the Nation: He deserves the title. He was passionate about the people of Papua New Guinea and his country.

After gaining Independence, he continued his efforts to keep the country together and stir it towards development as the Prime Minister for four terms. His political service spanned 49 years as an Assembly Member, Member of Parliament, Prime Minister, and Governor of East Sepik till he stepped down from politics in 2017.

On behalf of the Catholic Bishops of Papua New Guinea, the Catholic faithful, and the whole nation, I extend my heartiest condolences to Lady Veronica and the whole Somare family, and I offer prayers for the eternal repose of the soul of Grand Chief and Servant of the Nation Sir Michael Thomas Somare.

MOST REV. ANTON BAL

Archbishop of Madang and President, CBC PNG/SI



Late Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare
Picture from Department of Prime Minister and National Executive Council

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Statement by Catholic Professionals Society on Late Sir Michael Somare



The Catholic Professionals Society of Papua New Guinea joins the family, the people of East Sepik Province, PNG, the Pacific and the world to mourn the passing and celebrate the life of Grand Chief Sir Michael Thomas Somare.

The Grand Chief was the founding father and first Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea. The society assures Lady Veronica and the family of its closeness and prayers at this time of grief and sorrow for them and our nation.

Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare, we convey our greatest respects and prayers as we mourn and celebrate your life with the rest of PNG.

Sir Michael Somare was both a national icon and an international statesman who led our thousand tribes from colonialism to nationhood as a member of the National Parliament, Chief Minister and Prime Minister of our great nation for over 40 years. In the Pacific Region he was a role model for Melanesian Leadership and Pacific Brotherhood. His legacy will live on for generations to come in Melanesia and the Pacific. We salute you.

Sir Michael Somare was the epitome of a faithful husband and a loving father who drew inspiration and strength from his Catholic Faith. The Catholic Professionals Society acknowledges in humility that

Sir Michael Somare was a founding and lifetime member of the Society. His life reflected the Society's aspirations about the sovereignty of God, dignity of every human being, family life, and servant leadership among others.

With St Paul, Grand Chief Sir Michael can now say, *"I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness with which the Lord, the just judge, will reward me on that day ..."* 2 Tim 4: 7-8. And may Jesus' assurance of eternal life be also for him, *"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die."* John 11:25a.

May His Soul Rest in God's Eternal Peace.

- Paul Harricknen, President of CPS



Tragedy and triumph

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb
Secretary for Social Communication

There is an old Celtic legend about a bird, which sings only once in its life. It sings that single song more sweetly than any other creature on the face of this earth. From the moment it leaves its nest, this bird searches for a thorn tree and does not rest until it has found one. It then impales itself upon the longest sharpest thorn. In its moment of agony and death, it rises above its own agony, to sing its song, a song that outshines the lark and the nightingale. The whole world stops to listen, while God in heaven smiles. The best is accomplished at the cost of the greatest pain.

We are in the midst of the Season of Lent and at the end of the month we will enter into Holy Week, a week that will culminate in the celebration of the great Easter Triduum. Our Lord Jesus Christ celebrates his triumph as he enters Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. However, just a few days later, this triumph, turns to tragedy with his cruel death on the cross, on Good Friday. The very same people who cried Hosanna to the King, shouted out 'Crucify Him'.

'Like a lamb about to be slaughtered,
Like a sheep about to be sheared,
he never said a word.' Is 53:7

He bore it all for your sins and mine. However, His life does not end in tragedy, it does not stop there. Christ breaks the bonds of death and rises triumphantly in glory to sit at the right hand of God the father. The past year has been a tragedy for all of us. Lockdowns, social distancing, quarantine, limited travel, multiple COVID-19 tests and the many restrictions, have limited our connection and interaction with friends, colleagues and co-workers. It has created a lot of fear, anxiety, worry and tension. When will it all end? What will be our future? It is indeed a tragedy. However, we are reminded and constantly called to reflect on the positive effects of this untimely tragedy. The opportunity to pause and relax, to enjoy the beauty and wonder of nature all around us, the time to interact and network with family and friends and above all the time we have to reflect and connect with our God. It has been a triumph as we have come to appreciate persons and situations. The tragedy is indeed a triumph.

As we celebrate this solemn liturgical event, we go beyond the suffering and death to the glory of the Risen Christ and his triumph over death. May we rise above our problems, pains, worries and difficulties and the many inconveniences and setbacks of COVID-19 to recognize and appreciate the triumph that has been offered to us. And may each of our lives reflect the radiance of the Risen Lord.

History of Evangelisation in PNG - Part 2

Fr. Victor Roche SVD, Secretary for New Evangelization Mission Work was seriously affected due to World War I. The subsequent change of sovereignty by which Australia received German New Guinea as Mandated Territory from the League of Nations in 1920. If it was executed immediately all the German-born missionaries would have been expelled. But extension was granted until 1928. As Germany had become a member of the League of Nations, the order was not carried out. The German missionaries were able to carry out their mission work.

In the Vicariate of Rabaul, so named in 1922, expansion of mission work on New Britain beyond Gazelle Peninsula began in 1924 under the new Bishop Vesters. Catechists have been very active well before the World War I. Mission work also progressed well in New Ireland and Manus Islands.

In Papua, the mission among the mountain tribes spread steadily and many new districts were established. Several Missionaries lived in community, visiting the sub-stations. Missionaries were also expanding their mission work in the Coastal areas of Samarai and Sideia. Australian Missionaries of the Sacred Heart were evangelizing at the invitation of Bishop de Boismenu. The young women's congregation of the Handmaids of our Lord (AD), started in 1918, grew rapidly under the charismatic leadership of Mother Marie Therese Noblet. Louis Vangeke, born at Veifa'a (Mekeo) in

1904, did his seminary studies in Madagascar and was ordained a priest in 1937. 1935 saw the arrival of the five Carmelite sisters of the Convent of Autun, France.

The events of World War I and the change of Sovereignty over the North Solomon Islands from Germany to Australia posed an unexpected challenge for the Marist Missionaries. Until then, they had been the only Christian mission in this area. But with the Australians appeared the Methodist Mission in 1916 and the Seventh Day Adventist mission in 1924. Both of them started their mission in what were considered Catholic areas.

The Apostolic Prefect, Maurice Boch SM, disregarding the Marist rule that they should not be deployed singly, broke up the communities and thus doubled the number of stations in Buka and Bogainville. Every station was subdivided into sectors headed by catechists.

The number of Catechists increased to 356 in 1935. When World War II broke out and most of the German Missionaries had to leave or were interned, they left behind a remarkably strong Catholic community which proved able to survive the war years.

Adapted from the article by Dr.Reiner Jaspers MSC



- Fr. Tomás Ravaoli IVE



The Creed: Suffered, was crucified, died and was buried

That Christ died for us is so tremendous a fact that our intellect can scarcely grasp it. Now, we must believe that, although Christ suffered death, yet his Godhead did not die; it was the human nature in Christ that died. For He did not die as God, but as man.

But what need was there that the Son of God should suffer for us? There was a great need; and indeed it can be assigned to two reasons. The first is that it was a remedy against sin, and the second is for an example of what we ought to do.

It was a remedy to such an extent that in the passion of Christ we find a remedy against all the evils which we incur by our sins, namely: we commit an offense against God, we defile our souls, and we deserve a punishment for it.

But the charity and obedience of Christ in his Passion were greater than our sins and our disobediences. Jesus in his Passion *"washed us from our sins in His own blood."* (Rev 1:5) Also: *"When we were enemies, we were reconciled to God*

by the death of His Son" (Rom 5:10). And the Passion profit us as an example. Whoever wishes to live perfectly need do nothing other than despise what Christ despised on the cross, and desire what Christ desired.

There is no virtue that did not have its example on the Cross. St. Thomas teaches: *"If you seek an example of charity, then, 'greater love than this no one has, than to lay down his life for his friends' (Jn 15:13). And this Christ did upon the Cross.*

If you seek an example of patience, you will find it in its highest degree upon the Cross.

If you seek an example of humility, look upon Him who is crucified; although He was God, He chose to be judged by Pontius Pilate and to be put to death... If you seek an example of obedience, imitate Him who was obedient to the Father unto death.

If you seek an example of contempt for earthly things, imitate Him who is the King of kings, the Lord of rulers, in whom are all the treasures of wisdom; but on the Cross He was stripped naked, ridiculed, spat upon, bruised, crowned with thorns, given to drink of vinegar and gall, and finally put to death."

Prayer | Fasting | Almsgiving

Season of Lent 2021:
Wednesday, February 17 to Saturday, April 3

Ash Wednesday – February 17th
Way of the Cross – Each Friday of the Lenten Season

Holy Week 2021
Palm Sunday – 28th March
Maundy Thursday – 1st April
Good Friday – 2nd April
Holy Saturday – 3rd April
Easter Sunday – 4th April

Fasting during Lent

In the words of Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words and say kind words

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude

Fast from anger and be filled with patience

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope

Fast from worries and have trust in God

Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity

Fast from pressures and be prayerful

Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate

Fast from grudges and be reconciled

Fast from words; be silent and listen



Religious life: Change or perish!

Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME, CBC General Secretary

Last month the Federation of Religious of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands held their Annual General Meeting in Alexishafen, Madang. The Solomon Islands group, however, could not be present due to the suspension of flights connected with the coronavirus crisis.

In our two countries about ninety Religious Congregations and Societies of Apostolic Life carry out their ministry. Some are present with a small number of missionaries. Others have a long tradition, especially the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and the Society of the Divine Word in Papua New Guinea; and the Society of Mary (Marists) in the Solomon Islands. They effectively founded the Catholic Church in our two countries and remain quite active now with a respectable number of local members.

They concentrated in the past on pastoral and social work as a means of evangelization with a clear emphasis on education and health services.

Nowadays their scope of work can widen considerably. New frontiers and challenges emerge in society: vulnerability of women and children, marginalization and unemployment of youth, fragmentation of the family, exploitation of resources and destruction of traditional farming and fishing grounds by transnational corporations.

To face these challenges and support the people, a vibrant style of religious life is needed, conscient of the traditional values of charity, prayer, contemplation and offer of self, but also fully immersed in society, aware of the new course of the world, of the way individuals struggle every day, bearing the suffering of those who have no comfort of a house, a regular salary, formal education, and regular food on the table.

The vow of poverty today probably translates, for example, into the sharing of personal and community resources for young people to study and make a difference for themselves and their communities. Obedience is a plan of work endorsed and carried out by the whole religious community to show the Kingdom of God among the people not by

means of meetings (which COVID-19 has providentially reduced) and statements but by the dressing and healing of all sort of wounds. Chastity is certainly physical as a result of a spiritual disposition, but is expected to increase and not reduce the opportunity of relationship and connection with those who need a word of encouragement, a bit of help, a warm hug.

Religious life has traditionally been associated with a professional qualification not only for teachers and nurses, but also for engineers, managers, accountants and others, something so common among the so-called "brothers" in the past. A professional qualification is salt spread on the evangelical counsels of poverty, obedience, and chastity. It translates into effective service in the fight against the forces of ignorance, superstition, greed, and today's arrogance towards the environment and the local communities damaged by indiscriminate exploitation of their traditional habitat. Sail out into the deep of new challenges and new ways of life, be effective and qualified, or perish. That's the future of Religious life!

- Trevor Pasman



Abigail Seta

Choose to challenge

The 8th of March marks the International Women's Day, an annual event dedicated to honouring the achievements of women throughout history and all across the globe. It is typically a day for women from all different backgrounds and cultures to

band together to fight for gender parity and women's rights.

This year's campaign theme is 'Choose to Challenge' with the slogan that says 'we can all choose to challenge and call out gender bias and inequality. We can all choose to seek out and celebrate women's achievements. Collectively, we can all help create an inclusive world.' Choose to challenge is represented by the gesture of raising your hand to call out inequality.

Brief history of IWD

The beginning of the 20th century was a time of unrest and political debate amongst women. They were becoming more vocal about their oppression and were beginning to campaign for change. In 1908, 15,000 women marched through New York City, demanding better pay and voting rights. A National Women's Day was celebrated across the USA the following year. In 1910, an International Socialist Women's Conference, held in Copenhagen, voted to establish an annual International Women's Day. In 1911, this was honoured for the first time in Austria, Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland. The United Nations began celebrating International Women's Day on the 8th March in 1975. The day is now observed across most of the world and, in 27 countries, it is an official holiday.

To be a part of this campaign, strike the **Choose To Challenge pose** and share on **social media** using #ChooseToChallenge #IWD2021 to show your commitment and encourage others to choose to challenge inequality, call out bias, question stereotypes, and help forge an inclusive world.

The IWD is a world-wide event that can be celebrated in many ways and is open for men to join women in celebrating. Hence, how can we as Papua New Guinean men and women 'choose to challenge' and create an inclusive world?

Rabaul deanery launches 3rd Year of Laity



Rabaul: St Francis Xavier Parish in Kuragaga, Rabaul, came to life as its Deanery's Youth and Women's Association members convened for the eucharistic celebration to launch the third year of Laity.

The launching held on Tuesday 16th February 2021, was to commemorate the third year of laity and its theme: "Holy, formed and sent for service". Celebrating the launching was Most Reverend Rochus Josef Tatamai MSC, Archbishop of Rabaul; Dean of Rabaul, Rev Father John Rongdiat; and priests of the Rabaul Deanery. In his homily, Abp Tatamai stressed the need for

Christ in all forms of lay service and apostolates. Towards the end of the eucharistic celebrations Abp Tatamai blessed and commissioned newly voted executives of the Rabaul Deanery Youth, Women's Association and St Francis Xavier Rabaul Parish – all of whom were lay men and women.

The Archbishop of Rabaul, congratulated the newly elected and commissioned executives and commended this coordination and enthusiasm by the Catholic Youth and Women Association of Rabaul that is evidence of a faith deeply rooted in society. He also noted that with segregation of work to lay executives gives way to a greater sense of ownership and responsibility and is a sign of many good things to come. Abp Rochus once again stressed on adherence to the Pastoral Plan of the Archdiocese of Rabaul, reminding all baptized Catholics that we are called to share in Christ's ministry of Prophet, Priest and King – themes that run parallel to the 3-part mission in the Diocesan Pastoral Plan of Rabaul.

Child protection workshop in Lae

Lae: The Child Protection Voluntary Officers Workshop was coordinated by the Child Protection Office of Catholic Diocese of Lae, assisted by Right Relationship in Ministry of CBC PNGSI.

The workshop conducted from 1st to 5th February 2021, at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre in Lae Morobe Province, was aimed at training volunteers to become responsible citizens in creating a better and safer family and community for their children.

Facilitating the workshop were Sr Ancy John SCISA, Directress of Right Relationship in Ministry CBC PNGSI; Mr Andrew Zuhukepe, Training Coordinator- Femili PNG; Mrs Emily Boski, Child Protection Officer, Social and Welfare Office, Morobe Province; and Mr Noel Apul, Diocesan Child Protection Officer. A good number of the 35 participants were teachers from all the Catholic



agency schools while others were Family Life coordinators, Sunday school teachers, youth animators, catechists and village court magistrates, representing the nine districts of Morobe.

Discussions and training activities were held that dwelled on the inputs from the Child Protection Act 2015; Family Protection Act 2013; types of abuses and reasons for the Abuses; Family Relationships and Broken Relationships; Signs and Consequences of Abuses.

LENTEN APPEAL 2021

'Give, and it will be given to you' Luke 6:38

In this Lenten Season, CARITAS Papua New Guinea focuses its appeal on those in need.

We are called to be of service to the poor, the needy, the marginalised and those around us who need help.

May we all listen to the call and give with a heart of love and joy for it is in 'giving that we receive.'

Contact CPNG team on
325 9577 for more information



CARITAS PAPUA NEW GUINEA
The Justice, Peace, Relief & Development Agency
of the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNG-SI



Port Moresby: The Daughters of Mary Immaculate have been concentrating on the education of children in the month of February. The Children Sponsorship Program has helped

DMI Sisters on educating children

50 children from the 3 study centres that was recently established by the Daughters of Mary Immaculate to enrol in formal schools. The sisters have also been visiting school head teachers to collect data on orphan and semi orphan children to find out the percentage of the parents' payment for the fees.

According to Sr Catherine DMI, the head teachers of the schools were very happy and thankful to the Daughters of Mary Immaculate sisters for the help and care given to the orphan and semi orphan children and also for being their sponsors.

Hope amidst COVID-19

Friday 26th February, at the Catholic Bishops Conference (CBCPNGSI).

The seminar was facilitated by the Social Communications Secretary, Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, and the SOCOM team respectively; Abigail Seta, Nigel Akuani, Rosemary Yambune, and Jessica Oata. It had the involvement of eleven participants representing the dioceses of Wabag, Goroka, Alotau, Mt Hagen, Lae, Kavieng, Aitape; with two staff from the National Catholic Church Health Services (NCCHS).

Specifically focused on the Print Media, the seminar taught participants how they could effectively harness the use of print media and its essential elements to communicate the 'Good News' through their news stories and events happening within and around their diocese. It dwelled on Church Communication, Feature Articles, Creating Diocesan Newsletters, Importance of Print Media, 5W's and 1H, Inspiring Photographs, Layout and Design Applications, News Writing Elements, Photography Guidelines, Types of Camera Shots, with practical activities and product presentations.

In his talk on Church Communications, Fr Ambrose highlighted the importance of the need to

be authentic and be credible witness of the Gospel message. Elaborating on the objectives of the media: to inform, to educate, to entertain, he stressed on the need to inspire persons, transform communities and bring about social change in communities.

Fr Bibin Babu from the Diocese of Goroka, thanked the facilitators for the sessions and said he would do his part to be a source of inspiration for others. "We have built up our capacity as communicators and each of us ought to be active contributors throughout our diocese that strives to not just inform and educate, but also to inspire," he stated.

Reuben Vagi, Information Technology Officer from NCCHS, described the seminar as an overwhelming experience that provided him with a detailed insight into writing and photography. "This training has definitely broadened my understanding, appreciation and the crucial role of the Print Media," he said.

Interactive action songs and games were held in between to liven up the atmosphere that had participants fully engaged in. A special Eucharist was held on the final day and was celebrated by Fr Ambrose, and concelebrated by Fr Bibin, Fr John Bosco from Aitape, and Fr Newman Kingi of Wabag.

- Fr Gregorio Bicomong sdb, Provincial Salesians of Don Bosco

SOCOM participants during the week-long seminar at CBC

Picture: CBC SOCOM

Port Moresby: 'Hope Amidst COVID-19' was the inspirational theme for the 2021 Social Communication Seminar held from Monday 22nd to

Consecrated life at the service of God's mission

Madang: 37 participants representing the different congregations of men and women were part of the 30th Annual General Meeting of the Federation of Religious (FOR).

Held from 15th to 18th February, the week-long meeting was enriched by the speakers who shared their thoughts on the theme: "Consecrated Life at the service of God's mission".

Present as speakers at the program were the Apostolic Nuncio, Abp. Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal; Bp Gilles Côté, Bishop of Daru-Kiunga; Bp Rozario Menezes, Bishop of Lae; CBC General Secretary, Fr Giorgio Licini PIME and Fr. Victor Roche, the Secretary for New Evangelization and Pontifical Mission Society. Abp. Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal challenged the religious to be true religious by staying with God, living for God and living in God.

Fr. Victor Roche, spoke on the challenges facing the Catholic Church in PNG/SI and the solutions to

the challenges. He emphasized, for the religious, to do more on the evangelization aspect of the people *vis a vis* the social work of the mission. He also talked about the challenges of increasing cultural diversity among religious communities and the method on how to resolve differences and build an intercultural community.

Bp Rozario Menezes gave a talk on the different energies at work when making decisions in life and how to harness them. It could be a decision by emotions (mobile), by obligations (bound), and by choice or convictions (autonomous). Other inputs were also from Fr. Giorgio Licini, on the structure of the CBC of PNG/SI and Bp Gilles Côté on Right Relationship.

The meeting concluded with a talk on the giftedness of the consecrated life to the Church particularly in PNG/SI and a Holy Mass by Cardinal John Ribat.



Apostolic Nuncio and Cardinal Ribat with the FOR participants at Alexishafen. Picture: Fr Gregorio Bicomong

The participants were very happy and had a good impression of the meeting despite the pandemic.

At the end of the meeting, the participants visited the Provincial House of the SVDs and Divine Word University while celebrating the 125th anniversary of the SVDs presence in PNG.

- Abigail Seta

Communicating the 'Good News'

program had facilitators from different parts of the country.

These facilitators were Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, Catholic Bishops Conference Social Communications Secretary and his team; Fr Martin We-en, Director of Radio Maria; Sr Mary Lillian, Director of Trinity FM, Archdiocese of Mt Hagen and Fr Felipe Pepriciado IVE, Diocese of Vanimo.

The sessions focused on the newsletter of the diocese, World Communication Day 2021, writing news article, audio recordings, photography, short films, live streaming and had practical activities. The seminar also had prayer moments to strengthen the faith of the participants.

According to Fr Brian Nonde, Director of Catholic FM 103.7 and host of the seminar, the participants have been placed in strategic places where they can support, encourage and become the voice of the voiceless in the communities in Morobe Province. "They have a great potential of feeding the platforms and means of communication at our disposal with verified information. So, together with them, we can communicate positive messages in our

society and bring about good change," said Fr Brian.

Apart from the sessions, the participants had a special visit by Bishop of Lae, Bp Rozario Menezes and Mr Adrian Chow, Managing Director, Prima Small Goods. Mr Adrian shared his commitment to live his faith, communicate the Good News and reach out to better the lives of the people.

The program concluded on Friday, 12th February with a Commissioning Mass celebrated by Bp Rozario. He encouraged the participants to put into practice what they have learnt and communicate Gospel Values by their lived lives.

"Communications Seminar is the first of its kind in the Diocese of Lae and I am very privileged to be a part of the seminar. Thank you to all the facilitators who gave their time to train us," said Ambrose Kamelo, a participant at the seminar.

The Communications Seminar was sponsored by SIGNIS, the World Catholic Association for Communication committed to the task of using media to share the Good News and bring about positive change in the communities.



Participants of the Communications Seminar in front of Lae's Catholic FM studio. Picture: CBC SOCOM

Lae: 27 representatives from the different parishes in the Diocese of Lae gathered for a week-long Communications Seminar that focused on communicating the 'Good News' through the different platforms of media.

The seminar was held from 8th to 12th February at the St Joseph's Pastoral Centre and had as its theme 'Communicating and connecting with each other on our journey of faith.' Hosted by the Diocese of Lae's Catholic FM 103.7 Team, the

Catholic Reporter

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

Editor: **Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb**

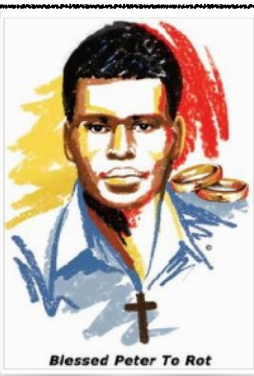
Sub Editor: **Abigail Seta** Layout: **CBC SOCOM**

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on or before **20th of the month, 2021**

Published by: **Catholic Bishops Conference PNGSI**



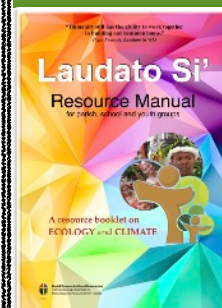
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Laudato Si Resource Manual



Laudato Si is a resource manual for parishes, schools and youth groups. These resources can be used to create an awareness on Caring for our Environment in Papua New Guinea.

You can purchase at **CBC** for the price of **K5.00 per booklet.**