



# 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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Issue 154

- Abigail Seta and Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb

## New CBC building blessed and opened

Prime Minister, Hon. Peter O'Neil congratulated the architect and the builders for a wonderful building.

"It will not only serve the Church but also serve our people in Papua New Guinea and in the Solomon Islands", said the Prime Minister. "It is important that the government

new buildings with Holy Water while the guests proceeded into the building.

In the newly blessed conference hall, a video presentation highlighting the history of CBC was screened. Fr Victor Roche SVD, outgoing General Secretary of CBC, gave a brief history of the building, and the reason for its construction. He thanked the contractors, Cord Associates, the bishops and all the people who contributed to the success of the project.

"The increase of CBC commissions and staff members required that a new building be built. The present buildings were not adequate and are nearly 52 years old", said Fr. Victor.

Fr Victor also expressed his gratitude to all who worked closely with him. "I wish to thank the Apostolic Nuncio, Bishops, Commission secretaries, staff of CBC, priests, religious, Prime Minister, leaders of the government and other churches, NGOs, lay leaders, supporters and clients of CBC and all who have journeyed with me at CBC", he said. He welcomed Fr Giorgio Licini PIME, the next General Secretary.

Bp Rochus Tatamai MSC, CBC President also gave a speech and acknowledged the commissions and secretaries of the CBC. "We have made big achievements and it demonstrates that we are together," he said.

Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare, acknowledged the role of the Catholic Church in the development of the country. "The Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands have through their efforts, made a contribution to keep alive the teaching of Christ in the country," the Grand Chief shared.

The blessing commenced at 11 am, with a hymn 'It is good to give Thanks.' The keys of the building were then handed over to Bp Rochus Tatamai MSC, President of CBC by Brad Smith, CEO of Cord Associates. Following the scripture reading, 1 Corinthians 3:9-11, His Eminence, Cardinal John Ribat blessed the Holy Water and sprinkled it at the main entrance. At the entrance, the ribbon was jointly cut by the Prime Minister, Hon. Peter O'Neil, Cardinal John Ribat MSC, Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal and Bp Rochus Tatamai MSC symbolising the opening of the building. A plaque commemorating the event was unveiled by Bp Rochus. Cardinal John Ribat and Archbishop Kurian Vayalunkal sprinkled the two

L-R: Apostolic Nuncio, Bp. Rochus Tatamai, Prime Minister Hon. Peter O'Neil, and Cardinal John Ribat cutting the ribbon to officially open the new building.



CBC Bishops at the AGM and Workshop in September

**Gordons, Port Moresby:** The Catholic Bishops Conference (CBC) of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands new building was blessed and opened on Monday, 17 September 2018.

Prime Minister Hon. Peter O'Neil, His Eminence, Cardinal John Ribat MSC, His Excellency, Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal, Bp Rochus Tatamai MSC, Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare and Lady Veronica Somare were among the dignitaries present. Priests, religious, catholic faithful and several invited guests were present for the occasion.

continues to support the work of the Church. The government and the church must work hand in hand in partnership to not only develop our country but to also provide spiritual guidance for our people and make sure that they have the services that they deserve in education and health," he said.

The blessing commenced at 11 am, with a hymn 'It is good to give Thanks.' The keys of the building were then handed over to Bp Rochus Tatamai MSC, President of CBC by Brad Smith, CEO of Cord Associates. Following the scripture reading, 1 Corinthians 3:9-11, His Eminence, Cardinal John Ribat blessed the Holy Water and sprinkled it at the main entrance. At the entrance, the ribbon was jointly cut by the Prime Minister, Hon. Peter O'Neil, Cardinal John Ribat MSC, Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal and Bp Rochus Tatamai MSC symbolising the opening of the building. A plaque commemorating the event was unveiled by Bp Rochus. Cardinal John Ribat and Archbishop Kurian Vayalunkal sprinkled the two



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- Sr. Marilyn Akonoh, MSC

# New Evangelization hosts first conference

**Port Moresby:** A national conference for all Pastoral Vicars and Pastoral Coordinators of the dioceses in Papua New Guinea was held from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

It was the first ever conference hosted by the Commission for New Evangelization under the Catholic Bishops Conference and was held at the Sivarai Namona Pastoral Centre.

There were 22 participants from the different dioceses in the country. Among the participants was Fr. Valentine Gryk SVD - Pontifical Missionary Society Secretary, Bp. Rolando Santos CM, Bp. Otto Separy, the Bishop Deputy of the Commission and Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Matthew Kurian Vayalunkal.

The conference focused on the key areas of the Conference Pastoral Plan 'We are Church proclaiming, sanctifying and serving.' The sessions highlighted missionary activities in the Catholic Church, Missionary Childhood

Association with the emphasis on Mission Sunday, New Evangelization, Method and Guidelines of Pastoral Planning.

"I dream of a 'missionary option', that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation," Bp. Rolando Santos CM said during his session on Evangelization.

Bp. Otto Separy spoke on New Evangelization calling on every diocese to be creative and innovative with our Pastoral Plans for our work of Evangelization in the Church. Other sessions highlighted the Method and Guidelines of Pastoral Planning to assist dioceses with managing the Pastoral Services within the Catholic Church.



Participants of the conference

The Apostolic Nuncio urged the participants to move out of their comfort zones and go out to the peripheries of our society to evangelize the untouched, the fallen Catholics and the marginalized so that they can be assured that we do care about them.

The Conference ended with a thanksgiving mass with the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Mathew Kurian Vayalunkal and Rev. Bishop Otto Separy of Aitape.

## Spirituality and Selfies

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, CBC SOCOM and Youth Secretary

Social Media has opened us to the possibility of sharing pictures with our friends. It has become common to take a selfie at tourist destinations and in our day to day life.

'How can I post a picture of myself with an amazing view? How many likes will I get?' are thoughts that constantly pop up in our heads. We know of accidents and of people even losing their life while taking a 'selfie'. So, it is good to ask if the trend is harmless or if there are negative aspects to taking a selfie.

Firstly, when we take a selfie and share it on social media, we think more about ourselves and less about others. We think about the angle that will make us more attractive and people will take notice of us. We want others to know that we are on a vacation in Bali. After posting the selfie, we worry about the number of likes we will receive. Our self-esteem receives a boost and our pride increases if we receive a lot of likes.

Negative thoughts arise, if our post is not well received. This is a manifestation of our ego. Taking selfies can create obstacles to the ego removal process. We are aware that it is only by reducing our ego, that we can experience God. Secondly, a selfie attaches us to our senses, rather than to experience the God within us. Finally, a selfie opens us to attacks from negative energy as it clearly makes us look inwards.

Hence, let us post positive and inspiring events, the beauty of nature, the wonder of architecture, rather than one's face, to truly understand and appreciate God within ourselves.



## The importance of women leadership

Women empowerment in PNG is slowly taking shape. These were the sentiments shared by a female youth leader, Tamarah Munjin, who is the Vice President of the Archdiocesan Catholic Youth Ministry of the Archdiocese of Port Moresby.

Like every leader in all sectors of life, Ms. Munjin has faced her share of challenges in terms of women empowerment, leadership roles and dealing with gender-based violence (GBV) and with the help of the Church, it has given her an insight into addressing these issues.

"I've been told that I'm not good enough for a leadership position and that the task at hand is too big for a female to do. I am always criticized," she said.

"However, the Church has provided me with talks, workshops and retreats to truly look at this issue with a new and more positive way."

When addressing these issues in her community, Ms. Munjin advocates that both men and women are equal and although leadership positions in the Church most times go to males, she stands firm as a young advocate.

"As the Vice President of the Catholic Youth Ministry, I am in a man's world but I stand strong and show from my actions that a woman can do a man's job," she said.

She shared that women leadership is important in the Church and that we, especially the young, have to empower each other whether we are a leader or not.



- Abigail Seta

## Caritas Goroka conducts workshop on Sorcery

**Goroka:** A workshop on sorcery and witchcraft was conducted by Caritas Goroka from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> of September 2018 in Goroka.

Conducted by the Caritas Coordinator in the diocese, Sr. Cathy Jambet, rsm, the aim is to help the parish caritas coordinators (PCC) to be

conscious and aware of the belief system of 'posin' and 'sanguma' in the society and how best they could work towards eradicating this belief system.

National Director of Caritas PNG, Raymond Ton who was present at the workshop said that sorcery belief leads to violence and fault accusation and encouraged the PCC to pray the Rosary every day. "It is really the work of the devil. We as Christians must pray unceasingly and say no to this belief. The Holy Rosary is the powerful weapon to defeat the devil, this fight is not physical but it is a Spiritual fight," he said.

During the closing of the workshop, Bishop Dariusz Kaluza, addressed the Coordinators and all Christians sharing that "the belief of sorcery and witchcraft, is a question of Christian Faith".



National Director of Caritas, Raymond Ton (top row centre) with Parish Caritas Coordinators

"Do people really believe in God who has the power over everything that includes the evil one or they believe in the evil one, that of sorcery and witchcraft beliefs?" he asked the participants. The Bishop challenged the people of Papua New Guinea to put their perspectives right as a Christian nation.

### Youth Convention 2018

*a time of prayer and commitment*

### Called to the fullness of Life and Love

Rabaul, 10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2018.  
10 Youth from every PNGSI Diocese.

**Participants** must be between **15-26 years; single; no addictions** and be **fully involved** in their diocesan youth programs.



# Milne Bay Churches against seabed mining

On Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> of September, Bishop Rolando Santos of the Catholic Church and Bishop Leidimo Edoni of United Church organized a Heads of Churches meeting in Alotau.

"We must not let down our guard but stand up united against sea bed mining (SBM)," Bp Rolando Santos CM of the Diocese of Alotau said.

He appealed to his fellow pastors who represented the different ecclesial communities or "Churches" in Milne Bay Province.

Bp. Leidimo Edoni and Bp. Rolando Santos represented Milne Bay province in the Church Leaders Workshop on Sea Bed Mining last 27-29 August in March Girls resort, Central Province. An Alliance was formed with members of the PNG Council of Churches to totally ban SBM in PNG. 17 pastors representing the United Church, Catholic, Anglican and Pentecostal Churches of MBP attended the meeting in Alotau.

Steven Nesai of Kula Sea Warriors explained the problem and the present situation of

SBM. Bp. Rolando stressed that SBM poses a very real and enormous risk of destroying the fragile ecosystem under the sea together with

the livelihood, food security and culture of the people of MBP.

"SBM can adversely alter the future of MBP which is one of the richest breeding places for tuna in the world. It is very disturbing that the government had already issued a license to Nautilus Minerals to explore and mine almost the whole sea of MBP without getting the informed consent of the people," said Bp. Rolando.

He said that though there is strong national and international opposition to SBM which has never been tested before, we cannot let down our guard. Millions of dollars and kina have already been invested on this both by Nautilus and the PNG government, and it is very possible they will not just easily give up on this project.

We should boldly protect our seas and the whole of our environment for the future.



Left: Milne Bay Churches Coalition at their meeting on 14th September  
Photo: Aileen Baretta

## World Mission Sunday

### World Mission Sunday - Sunday, October 7, 2018

This year 2018, World Mission Sunday falls on October 21. In your charity please pray for the missions and be generous on World Mission Sunday. "Go! Make disciples of all nations." (Mt. 28:19) The words of Christ are imperative and they call each baptized Catholic to action. The Church has a

Your support will help missionaries in proclaiming the Gospel of joy and peace around the world.

### Sunday, October 21, 2018 - World Mission Sunday

On World Mission Sunday, we are invited to celebrate our mission's vocation, to pray for the people who are actively engaged in mission, and to generously contribute to our worldwide mission solidarity fund through this collection. Your gift on this day helps:

- People in remote villages, towns and cities, through the witness and work of missionaries and local priests;
- Children, the elderly, refugees, the sick, and orphans through the services of religious Sisters and Brothers;
- To bring the Gospel to the poorest of our human family;
- Catechists proclaim the message of hope and peace that only Christ can give. Please offer your prayers for the work of the Church in the missions today and be as generous as you can on World Mission Sunday.



lasting mission to perform in this world, a mission that is ever more apparent, and the need for it is ever more urgent.

### Sunday, October 14, 2018 - One week before World Mission Sunday

Every parish across the globe will celebrate World Mission Sunday. It is a global sign of the Universal Church and mission. On Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, Pope Francis invites all Catholics to contribute to a special collection for the Propagation of the Faith.

## Suggestions for World Mission Sunday

### Mission Month

1. Eucharist celebration: Special prayers for missions and missionaries.
2. Intercultural Worship Service: Have a worship service. Take the offering or sing songs the way it is done in various cultures where you are working.
3. Workshops: Hold workshops with different speakers on missions/other congregations in the local place.
4. Audio-visual Presentations: Obtain a video about mission and lead in a discussion.
5. Mission Fair/Carnival: Include a variety of booths and activities set up in a parish or in classrooms. Include: poster-making room, story-telling rooms (with missionaries telling about their work), mission film room, musical instruments.
6. Poster/Painting Contest:  
*Have children and/or young people from Sunday School and Catechism classes. Youth Groups, etc. create posters on missions in general or various themes.*
7. Banner: *Ask a group(s) to do up a special banner(s) on missions*

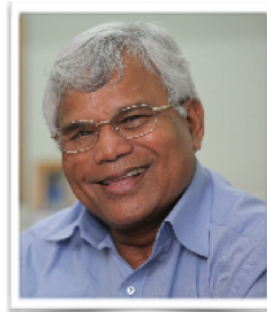
8. Cards: *Have Sunday School children make cards and send to missionaries. These could be displayed on a wall or bulletin board before sending.*
9. Fundraiser: *Raise money for missionary support or a project by selling eatables.*

### A Universal Collection

The collection on World Mission Sunday stands as a "mandatory" universal collection. This means that all the Catholic communities of the world must remit it to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in its entirety. All the donations gathered within the churches of the world on that day, constitute the Universal Solidarity Fund for the poorest dioceses of the Church. The universal collection provides each bishop the means and freedom of action for the formation of catechists, solidarity, priestly vocations and consecrated life, education, health care, etc. Therefore, it allows supporting the permanent effort of the Universal Church to go and proclaim the Gospel to all nations. This mandate, received from Christ, is assumed by the baptized people and those who are jointly responsible for the Universal Mission along with the Church of Africa, Asia, South America, Central America, Europe and Oceania.

## Commentary

- Fr Victor Roche, SVD  
CBC General Secretary  
(2010 - 2018)



Dear Friends,

As of the month of September, I have completed 8 years of service as the General Secretary to the Catholic Church in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

I will be on a Sabbatical leave of 12 months (Oct 2018 – Sep 2019). I plan to Reflect, Renew and Re-energise during these months: 6 months in India, 6 months overseas. I will spend time with my family, friends and SVD communities; to listen to the birds, to get to smell the flowers and the smell of the sheep; to get trained and return to PNG for a smaller ministry.

I thank God for the good experience I had as the General Secretary. My humble lesson is that I need two hands to clap: one is mine and the other one is God's. Sometimes the sound is louder and sometimes, very soft. All for a reason!

I thank the Bishops, CBC Staff, CBC Commissions, leaders of other churches, NGOs, Government and all the supporters of CBC.

### Some of my reflections:

Papua New Guinea had 33% Catholics in 1975 and has 27% in 2018, a decrease of 6%. People of God in the Catholic Church have to put more efforts in preaching and healing in humility and love as Jesus did.

Family is the most important place in the society where a child learns the values of life. Parents, stay faithful and look after the children. Leaders of all walks of life in the communities, Churches, government and NGOs should build genuine and better partnerships to build a better Papua New Guinea.



# Yumi Yet Sios

## Pasin Rekonsiliesen na sekhan i mas soim wei bilong pogivim ol arapela i mekim nogut long yumi

Yumi tok amamas tru long olgeta pipol bilong yumi long PNG long dispela taim yumi selebretim foa-pela ten tri (43) Krismas bilong tingim yumi kisim independens bilong yumi. Planti bikpela samting long tingting insait long dispela mun September wantaim amamas na kainkain selebresen insait long famili na ol komuniti bilong yumi.

Long Provins bilong Is Niu Briten i bin gat wanpela bikpela bung i kamap long Skul Oisca long mekim wanpela rekonsiliesen namel long ol pipol bilong Is Niu Briten yet wantaim wanpela delegesen i kam yet long kauntri Japan. Dispela lain ol i bin kam long Japan ol i mekim ol Kristen komuniti we ol i bin redi gut tru na mekim dispela wok rekonsiliesen na sekhan wantaim ol pipol bilong ples Is Niu Briten bihainim ol bikpela bikpela bagarap tru i bin kamap long bikpela pait yumi save kolim long Namba Tu Wol Wo.

Dispela wok rekonsiliesen i bin kamap long namba 15 de bilong mun September. I bin kamap gutpela tru long lukim ol Sios insait long Provins ol i bin go pas long dispela program.

Ol Sios makim ol pipol na gavmen bilong Is Niu Briten ol i bin wok bung gut tru long redim dispela bikpela wok rekonsiliesen we ol pipol bilong Japan i bin askim belsori na pasin bilong fogivnes insait long bel bilong ol pipol na kauntri bilong ol yet long Japan. Taim ol delegesen bilong Japan ol i kamap long provins, nambawan samting ol i bin mekim em olsem wanpela pilgrim o spirituel wokabaut i go lukim ol ples i gat sampela koneksen wantaim dispela namba Tu Wol Wo. Nambawan ples yet em ol i kolim long "Ramale" insait long Kokopo Distrik klostu tru long Vunapope. Dispela ples i mekim ples bilong kalabus bilong ol misinari husat i bin wok insait long daiosis bilong Rabaul. Long taim bilong Wo na bikpela pait namel long ol Japan na ol Amerika na ol Australia, ol yet i bin stap olsem ol birua tru. Sori tru long ol pipol bilong yumi i bin kirap nogut tru long taim ol Japan i kamap long Rabaul long mun Januari long yia 1942. Ol i stap insait long dispela hevi bilong pait inap tripela yia olgeta (1942- 1945).

Insait long dispela wok rekonsiliesen long Oisca ol pipol bilong Is Niu Briten i bin mekim

bikpela wok kastam wantaim ol garamut ol i bin paitim na tu ol i presentim ol rol sel moni (tambu) na brukim na serim long ol yet wanpela narapela long makim pasin bilong ekseins (exchange) em wanpela bikpela hap na stretim ol bagarap namel long ol komuniti. Dispela pasin ekseins i bin lukim tripela grup ol i wok wantaim long serim dispela sel moni (tambu) makim gavana bilong Provins Mr Nakikus Konga, makim ol lain insait long Sios em Provinsel mausman bilong ol Sios yet na wanpela Sif bilong ples, Grand Chief Sinai Brown wantaim dispela bikpela delegesen bilong ol Japan yet.

Yumi yet Sios i kamap ples klia taim yumi mekim ol gutpela wok bihainim ol gutpela pasin insait long kalsa na tu ol gutpela pasin na tok tru i kam yet long Gutnius bilong Jisas Kraist. God i ken blesim kauntri bilong yumi PNG na tu yumi olgeta manmeri pikinini na sitisen bilong dispela naispela kauntri bilong yumi.

- Bp Rochus Tatamai MSC



Community celebrating 50th Jubilee

The Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel colourfully celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Golden Jubilee in Kiunga, Western Province from September 22nd to 23rd, 2018.

## 50th Golden Jubilee for Montfort Brothers

- Fr Andrew Moses

Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal, Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea; Bro. John Kallarackal, Superior General from Rome, Bro. Ronald Brisette from Canada, Bro. James Ekka, Provincial Superior from the Province of Delhi, India and other invited guests, priests, religious and hundreds of lay faithful were part of the celebration.

The focus of the Jubilee was to thank God for his blessings and reflect, appreciate and celebrate the arrival of the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel to the Western province. It was also an occasion to recognise the contributions in education since 1968.

The celebrations officially commenced on Sunday with a thanksgiving Mass attended by thousands of people followed by the presentation of gifts, speeches and dances. This culminated with a fellowship meal.

As a sign of gratitude and in recognition for the work done, prominent representatives of the people presented a special cash donation from the Fly River Provincial Administration on behalf of the people of Western Province. The Brothers affectionately accepted the gifts and expressed their on-going support to the mission in providing quality and excellent education to the people of Papua New Guinea.

## CBC farewells Fr. Victor Roche, SVD

- Abigail Seta

**CBC Office:** General Secretary of Catholic Bishops Conference, Fr. Victor Roche, SVD was farewelled at an emotional gathering on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

"I plan to Reflect, Renew and Re-energise myself during the year ahead", said Fr Victor. "I will spend six months in India, and six months overseas. My time will be spent with my family, friends and the SVD communities. I hope to listen to the birds, to smell the flowers and smell of the sheep. I plan to get trained and return to Papua New Guinea for a smaller ministry."

The farewell gathering was hosted by the staff of CBC at the ToRot Building conference hall and was graced with the presence of SVD Superior, Fr. Freddy Jehadin and Labour and Industrial Relations Secretary, Mary Morola. In his speech, SVD Superior Fr. Freddy Jehadin told the audience that he was happy to be present for the farewell of Fr. Victor. "As a confrère, there's a lot of joy in my heart. Fr Victor has achieved much for the Church during the past eight years. It is wonderful to hear your impressions and the way you have conveyed your gratitude and thanks to Fr. Victor," Fr. Freddy said.

"For a long time, the CBC has been hoping to have a new building and now during his term, it has come to into existence. I am proud of him."The program saw a prayer and scripture reading by Sr. Marilyn Akonoh, MSC, Secretary of New Evangelization followed by a 10-minute video that presented sincere thoughts and heartfelt reflections of the staff toward Fr. Victor. It was then followed by the



CBC staff, Joseph Agua bidding Fr. Victor goodbye

presentation of gifts, a farewell song composed and sung by the staff of CBC and refreshments were then served.

Fr. Victor Roche who has spent 8 years as the General Secretary left the Catholic Bishops Conference in early October and will be on Sabbatical leave for a year. Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME is the next General Secretary for the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

## Share your Stories

Send in your articles, photograph and reflections on events and happenings in your parish, community and diocese. All articles and photographs are to be sent to: ambrose.pereirasdb@gmail.com and socom@catholic.org.pg on or before **20th October, 2018**  
Produced by: **CBC SOCOM**