

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MENDI

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Office of the Bishop

Pastoral Letter 7
Prot. 27/2025

YEAR OF REVERENCE

Solemnity of Sacred Heart 2025 – Solemnity of Corpus Christi 2026

Pastoral Letter of Bishop Donald Francis Lippert, OFM Cap., to the Priests, Consecrated Religious and Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Mendi (SHP & Hela)

"Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground" (Exodus 3:5).

"For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy" (Lev 11:44).

"But be holy in all you do, just as God, the One who called you, is holy. It is written in the Scriptures: 'You must be holy, because I am holy' (1Pt 1:15-16).

"Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountains to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw Him, they worshipped Him;..." (Mt 11:17a).

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Peace and goodness!

The fundamental stance of all creation towards God is one of adoration, love and reverence. The angels adore God incessantly in Heaven, crying Holy, Holy, Holy. All natural creation adores God by instinctively following the laws of nature established by God. The human person fulfills their purpose in the world, fulfills their vocation & identity, and reaches the heights of meaning, purpose and happiness when they freely turn to God in humility, obedience, love and adoration. This is the reverence that is due to God because of His Nature as holy, and because of our nature as fallen creatures of God, yet chosen to be His sons and daughters.

The first three of the Ten Commandments (Ex 20:1-17) refer to God, and instruct us as to what is expected from the human person in relation to God:

Stap Wanbel Wantaim Sios

- I. "I am the Lord your God, ... you shall have no other gods before me.
- II. "You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain.
- III. "Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day."

And, Jesus, when asked about which Commandment was the greatest says this:

1. "Hear O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mk 12: 29-30).

Sadly, deceived by the Evil One, our world has forgotten the holiness of God, in many cases it has forgotten God altogether; and so, it has forgotten the duty of the human person towards God. The results of this forgetfulness are evident everywhere: the atrocity of Sorcery Accusation-Related Violence (SARV); the tragedy of senseless tribal violence; the horrific abuses of women and children; the atrocity of abortion, the depression and despair of so many young people leading them to drugs, alcohol, violence and even suicide.

Because of the Holy Spirit that has been generously poured out upon the Church at Pentecost and remains as the life-giving and love-giving force in the Church today, Catholics must first retrieve, rediscover the forgotten Truths of the holy Nature of God and of the human person reaching dignity through our duty of love and reverence towards God – first in our own living and then as a witness to the world of the same. This will necessarily involve repentance and reparation. We will begin this journey over the course of the coming **Year of Reverence** by reflecting on the following:

1. The Reverence due to God. This consideration will focus mainly on the Sacred Liturgy in very practical terms. It is in the Sacred Liturgy where Catholics express most fully and concretely our duty of adoration, love and reverence toward God.
2. The Reverence due to ourselves as temples of the Holy Spirit
3. The Reverence due to others as created in the image and likeness of God

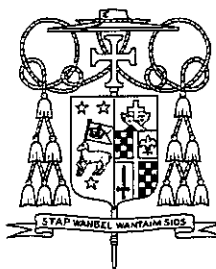
And so I hereby proclaim, for the Catholic Diocese of Mendi, a **Year of Reverence** which will begin on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus 2025, and conclude on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Corpus Christi) 2026.

May the Lord draw us ever more deeply into His holy presence and transform our lives (and the Church and world) through adoration, reverence and love.

Given at Mendi on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus 2025


+Donald Francis Lippert, OFM Cap.
Bishop of Mendi





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Pastoral Leta Numba 7

YIA BILONG REVERENS

(Reverens = Adorim, Laikim tru, na Lotu long God)

Bikpela Pestode bilong Santu Hat Bilong Jisas (27 Jun 2025) – Bikpela Pestode bilong Bodi na Blut bilong Krai (7 Jun 2026)

Pastoral Leta bilong Bisop Donald Francis Lippert, OFM Cap., i go long ol Pris, Relijis Brata na Sista, na Lei bilipmanmeri bilong Daiosis bilong Mendi (SHP na Hela)

"Yu no ken kam klostu. Na yu mas lusim su bilong yu, long wanem, dispela graun yu sanap long en i bilong mi yet na i tambu." (Kisim Bek 3:5).

"Mi Bikpela, mi God bilong yupela. Olsem na yupela i mas givim yupela yet long mi na lusim pasin i no stret na bihainim stretpela pasin na i stap holi. Long wanem, mi yet mi holi na mi save mekim pasin i gutpela na stretpela olgeta." (Wok Pris 11:44).

"God i singautim yupela pinis, em i holi na em i save mekim gutpela na stretpela pasin olgeta. Olsem na yupela i mas givim yupela yet long God na stap holi long olgeta wokabaut bilong yupela. Buk bilong God i tok olsem, 'Yupela i mas i stap holi na bihainim gutpela na stretpela pasin, long wanem, mi God bilong yupela, mi stap holi.'" (1 Pita 1:15-16).

"Ol 11-pela disaipel i wokabaut i go long Galili, na ol i kamap long dispela maunten Jisas i bin tok bai ol i mas i go long en. Na ol i lukim Jisas, na ol i lotu long em." (Matyu 28:16-17a)

Ol bratasusa bilong mi long Krai,

Bel isi na gutpela taim i ken i stap wantaim yupela.

As tru bilong olgeta samting God i wokim i bilong adorim, laikim, onarim na lotu long em (*reverens*). Long heven, ol ensel i oltaim singsing 'Holi, Holi, Holi' (cf. Is 6:3). Olgeta samting bilong graun i adorim God taim ol i bihainim ol pasin na lo God i wokim na mekim ol long stap long en. Man na meri i stap long inapim as tru bilong stap olsem manmeri, taim ol i inapim singaut bilong God long laip bilong ol, na painim ol yet i husat tru. Ol bai painim amamas tru na inapim laip bilong ol taim ol i kam long God wantaim daunpasin, harim tok, laikim pasin na adorim em. Yumi mas givim *reverens* long God olgeta taim long wanem God em i holi tru, na yumi, maski yumi manmeri bilong sin, God i makim yumi long kamap pikinini bilong em, na kamap holi olsem Em.

Namba wan, namba tu, na namba tri lo bilong God insait long Ol Tenpela Lo Bilong God (Kisim Bek 20:1-17) i skulim yumi long nambawan laik bilong God na i soim yumi wei long pas tru tru wantaim Em:

- I. "Mi yet mi Bikpela, God bilong yupela, ... yupela i noken i gat ol arapela god."
- II. "Yupela i no ken kolim nating nem bilong Bikpela, God bilong yupela."
- III. Yupela i mas tingim long mekim de bilong Bikpela i stap holi.

Na taim ol i askim Jisas long wanem mandato i bikpela tru, Jisas i tok:

1. "Harim gut, Israel: Bikpela em i wanpela tasol i God bilong yumi. Yupela i mas laikim God, Bikpela bilong yumi wantaim olgeta bel bilong yupela, na long spirit bilong yupela na long tingting bilong yupela na wantaim olgeta strong bilong yupela." (Mak 12:29-30).

· Giaman bilong Satan i pulim na paulim planti manmeri long lus tingting long bikpela ona na glori bilong God na long lusim God long laip bilong ol. Taim yumi lus tingting long God, kinkain bagarap i save kamap. Na kaikai nogut bilong pasin bilong lusim tingting long God na lusim God olgeta i pulap long olgeta hap. Kain olsem ol lain i kisim bagarap long sutim giaman tok long sanguma (*SARV*); kilim pikinini long bel; ol yangpela manmeri wari i daunim ol na nogat hop na ol i pulim mariwana, drink bia na spak, kirapim kros pait, na sampela taim ol i kilim ol yet.

Holi Spirit i kamdaun long Pentikos na i stap wantaim Sios yet. Em i save givim laip long yumi na kirapim laikpasin long Sios nau, olsem na yumi ol Katolik manmeri mas opim lewa bilong yumi na pre long kisim grasia bilong Holi Spirit long luksave long God moa moa yet na adorim em tru. Yumi bai kamap gutpela manmeri bilong God taim yumi bihainim God long pasin bilong *reverens*, laikim na lotu long Em. Na tu, yumi i mas kisim bek pasin bilong laikim God na onarim God i lus pinis. Pasin bilong laikim God, lotu long em na givim ona o *reverens* long God i mekim manmeri i gat

nem na namba (*dignity*). Dispela wok bilong painim na kisim bek dispela reverens i mas stat wantaim yumi yet na i go aut long olgeta hap long pasin witnis bilong yumi. Dispela wok bai go wantaim pasin bilong tanim bel na sore long sin na mekim wok penans. Yumi bai statim dispela wokabaut long dispela **Yia Bilong Reverens** na pulim tingting long ol dispela tingting i stap hia:

1. *Reverens* i mas go pastaim long God. Yumi bai lukluk long liturji (Santu Misa na ol Sakramen) bilong yumi na skelim gut ol samting yumi mas mekim. Insait long liturji, yumi ol Katolik manmeri i save adorim na onarim God, laikim God na soim *reverens* long God. Long liturji, yumi inapim tru pasin na wei bilong givim *reverens* long God.
2. Yumi givim *reverens* long yumi yet olsem yumi yet i haus holi bilong Holi Spirit (1 Ko 3:16-17).
3. Yumi givim *reverens* long ol manmeri bikos God i wokim ol olsem piksa tru bilong Em yet (Genesis (Stat) 1:27).

Wantaim dispela ol astingting mi autim pinis, nau mi tokaut olsem Katolik Daiosis bilong Mendi bai stap insait long dispela **Yia Bilong Reverens** na em bai i stat long Bikpela Pestode bilong Santu Hat bilong Jisas long 2025 na pinis long Bikpela Pestode bilong Bodi na Blut bilong Krais long 2026.

God Triwan i ken bungim yumi moa yet i go insait long Holi *presence* bilong em na senisim laip bilong yumi (na Sios na olgeta hap bilong graun) taim yumi adorim Em, givim *reverens* na soim laikpasin.

Mi givim dispela toktok long Mendi long Bikpela Pestode bilong Santu Hart bilong Jisas long yia 2025.

Stap wanbel wantiam Sios,

+ *Donald F. Lippert OFM Cap.*

+Donald Francis Lippert, OFM Cap.

Bishop bilong Mendi



(Many thanks to Fr Joice and Fr Nelson for the TokPisin version.)