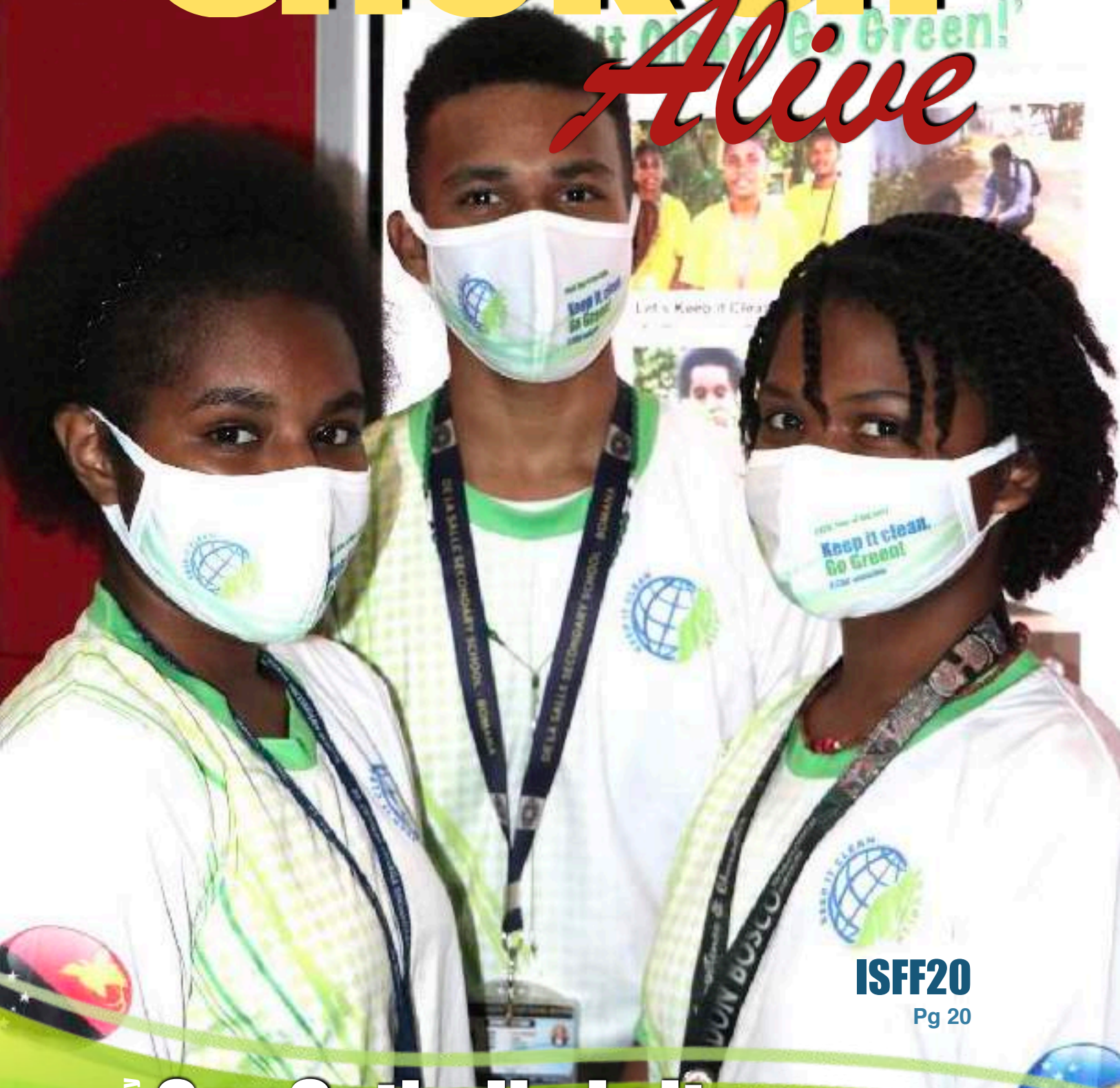




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# CHURCH

*Alive*



**ISFF20**

Pg 20

Year of the Laity

**Our Catholic Laity:  
Holy, Formed and Sent for Service**



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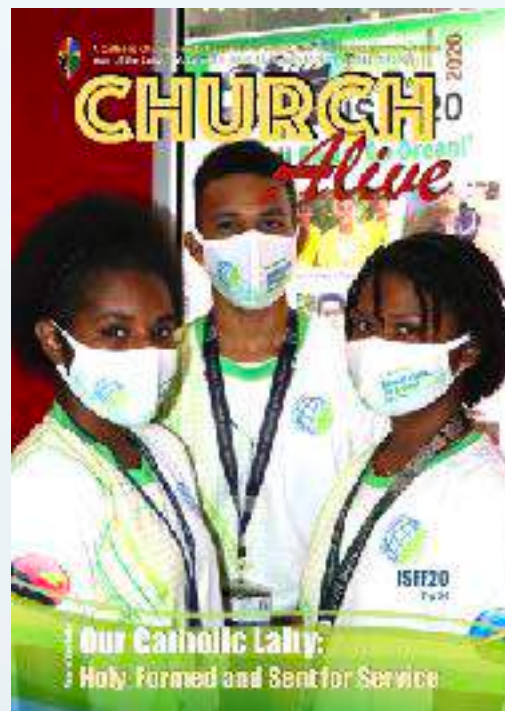
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## Church Alive Cover



**Tiffany Mari**, St Charles Lwanga, **Azriel Gamiandu** De La Salle, Bomana and **Thelma Matbob**, Don Bosco Technological Institution, Boroko were participants of the **International Short Film Festival 2020 (ISFF20)**, the fourth in a series from 2017, that had as its theme: **'Go Green, Keep it clean.'** Short films by young people portray the quest for a clean and green Papua New Guinea.

## Contents

1.	<b>2021 year for service</b>	- 3
2.	<b>Fulfil the mission of Christ</b>	- 4
3.	<b>Fratelli Tutti</b>	- 5
4.	<b>Farewell to a much-loved shepherd</b>	- 6
5.	<b>God wantaim yumi</b>	- 7
6.	<b>The legend of Chimbu</b>	- 8
7.	<b>Spreading faith through symbols</b>	-10
8.	<b>Blessed Petro ToRot</b>	-12
9.	<b>Even at 95 a missionary</b>	-14
10.	<b>Salesians Silver Years in Solomon Islands</b>	-16
11.	<b>Laudato Si</b>	-18
12.	<b>ISFF20</b>	-20

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## Church Alive Invitation

The Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI in this Third Year of the Laity 2021 has as its theme: **Our Catholic Laity: Holy, Formed and Sent for Service.**

In this New Year 2021, we bring you this issue of Church Alive with insights into the documents of the church, stories of people and articles of events that will inform and inspire you. Thanks to all those who have contributed to this issue of Church Alive.

Reflections, inspirational stories, photographs and news items for the entire church are also welcome.

All material are to be sent to:  
**socom@catholic.org.pg** or  
**ambrose.pereirasdb@gmail.com**  
on or before **10th February, 2021.**  
Trust you will enjoy reading this issue.  
With gratitude.  
God bless you and your families.  
**Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb**  
Editor

# 2021

## A Year for



Dear friends,

We begin a New Year 2021 with new hopes, new dreams and new beginnings. Look up, smile and get ready for a fresh start. Thank God for the experiences of the 2020. Tally the lessons learnt and apply them to exciting new possibilities. Welcome opportunities and embrace the graces that the Lord bestows on each one of us.



Our theme for the year: **Our Catholic Laity: Holy, Formed and Sent for Service'** invites us to search for new and exciting ways of service.

The past months, nay the entire 2020 has appeared dark with the pandemic raging on and the search for a vaccine that seems to elude us. We have been disoriented by violence, hatred and the discomfort of our brothers and sisters all around us. Domestic violence, sorcery and sexual abuse has been on the rise during the months of lockdown. Political turmoil and the greed for personal gain at the cost of the struggling majority has wedged our country even further. The darkness around us in Papua New Guinea has been depressing. We seem powerless and we have often asked ourselves the question. When will this end?

Our theme for the year: **'Our Catholic Laity: Holy, Formed and Sent for Service'** invites us to search for new and exciting ways of service.

The Holy Father, Pope Francis in his book, 'On Hope', reminds us that Hope never disappoints us. He invites us to reflect on God's love for us and for creation at this time of trial caused by the pandemic. "It is Christ who will help us navigate the tumultuous waters of sickness, death and injustice," he said. The Holy Father notes that the social inequalities that reveal a social illness and a virus of a sick economy that disregards human dignity and human values. He reminds us of the need to care and cultivate, protect and preserve the earth and not dominate it. Above all the Holy Father is reminding us to think about our disadvantaged persons and young ones, who are suffering due to the unjust system. They lack an education, and many are dying due to hunger, little possibility for education and a lack of opportunities. "After the crisis, we must be better," stressed the Holy Father.

Papua New Guinea has a lot to learn from the pandemic. We cannot be complacent and shift from the 'new normal' to our old ways of life and behaviour. The government cannot sacrifice the economy, nor bring about a destruction of the country, but must be concerned that its people and its citizens benefit over a long period of time. 2021 is a year that will offer us many possibilities for service.

Through this issue we are happy to share a few reflections on the documents of the Holy Father. We bring you stories of persons who live their life of commitment, dedicating their lives to service. Am sure it will inspire you to live a life of faith and hope and offer your service through the variety of avenues.

May the blessings of the Lord be upon as we reach out in love and service.

Happy New Year 2021 to you, you friends and your families! 🇩🇪

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb  
Secretary Social Communications Commission  
January 2021







# Fulfil the Mission of Christ

**Sir John Cardinal Ribat**

**Pope Francis tells us that the time has truly come to 'dream as a single human family' in which we are 'all brothers and sisters'.**

Several things happening today are signs that people need security, happiness and peace aside from the pandemic situation. There are those who resort to destructive activities like stealing, land grabbing, killings and many more. There is a growing violence as many do not recognize their own worth.

Formation in the family is not happening in a way that children are guided and taught. The children and youth find themselves lost and resort to things that they think would give them a sense of fulfillment. They are more influenced by the social media than the guidance of their parents and elders.

We are called to do our part of contributing to the formation of our society and the Church as parents, teachers, public servants and youth together with priests, religious sisters and brothers fulfilling the Mission of Christ.

In this trying time we are in, we must be with our own families. Organizing workshops for parents will be beneficial for them to understand the changes taking place; and thus, enable them to handle situations with confidence.

All of us want to be good and we have to work together to make peace happen. It is an individual, community and family effort that peace, security and happiness abound in the heart of persons, in families and in the society. In place of violence and disrespect of others and in families, we promote respect because it is here that true peace flourishes.

In his encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, that aims to promote a universal aspiration toward fraternity and social friendship, Pope Francis tells us that the time has truly come to "dream as a single human family" in which we are "all brothers and sisters".

Jesus was praying for peace and unity as I quote the following Bible Texts:

*"May they all be one, as you Father are in me and I am in you. May they one in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me." Jn 17:21*

*"Peace be with you! I give you my peace; not as the world gives peace do I give it to you." Jn 14: 27*

In this New Year 2021, my prayer and hope for all of us is that we may receive the peace Jesus wants to give us and the unity that comes from our relationship with the Father and Jesus through the Holy Spirit as "holy and formed laity sent for service".

Happy New Year 2021! 

**Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC**

Archbishop of Port Moresby



Isabella Pior, adapted

ENCYCLICAL LETTER  
**FRATELLI TUTTI**  
OF THE HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS  
ON FRATERNITY  
AND  
SOCIAL FRIENDSHIP



Fraternity and social friendship are the ways that the Holy Father, Pope Francis indicates in '**Fratelli Tutti**' that will build a better, more just and peaceful world. It needs the involvement of all: people and institutions. He states emphatically a 'no' to war and to globalized indifference.

"No one can face life in isolation" and that the time has truly come to "dream, as one single human family" in which we are all "brothers and sisters"

The background is the Covid-19 pandemic. Pope Francis reminds us that it has "unexpectedly erupted" as he "was writing this letter". But the global health emergency has helped demonstrate that "no one can face life in isolation" and that the time has truly come to "dream, as one single human family" in which we are all "brothers and sisters" (# 8).

**Chapter One: Dark Clouds over a Closed World**, reflects the many distortions of our contemporary era. The manipulation and deformation of concepts such as democracy, freedom, justice; the loss of the meaning of the social community and history; selfishness and indifference toward the common good; the prevalence of a market logic based on profit and the culture of waste; unemployment, racism, poverty; the disparity of rights, trafficking, abortion, organ trafficking (# 10-24). It deals with global problems and calls for global actions, emphasizes the Pope, also sounding the alarm against a "culture of walls" that favours organized crime, fuelled by fear and loneliness (# 27-28).

While the issues are global, we as a country need to look closely at the issues of violence, abuse, domination and the loss of a unified community. It is a call for each one of us and especially our leaders to be at the service of the people who have elected them.

**Chapter Two: A stranger on the road**, is dedicated to the luminous example, a herald of hope: the Good Samaritan. The Pope emphasizes that an unhealthy society turns its back on the suffering and is "illiterate" in caring for the frail and vulnerable (# 64-65). The invitation is that each of us be that Good Samaritan (# 81),

overcoming prejudices, personal interests, historic and cultural barriers. Love builds bridges and "we were made for love" (# 88), the Pope adds.

Looming right in front of us is the need to reach out to the poor, the sick, the weak and and vulnerable. Over the last several years we have had the opportunity to reach out to the street children, refugees and the migrants. Have we been able to reach out to them as well as the street children, the drug addicts, the prostitutes? Our Holy Father reminds us, that we will understand them only if we are able to spend time - 'to smell like the sheep'.

**Chapter Three: Vision of an open world.** The principle of the capacity to love according to "a universal dimension" (see Par 83) is also resumed in the third chapter, 'Envisaging and engendering an open world'.

In this chapter Pope Francis exhorts us to go "outside" the self in order to find "a fuller existence in another" (# 88). The spiritual stature of a person's life is measured by love, as it seeks to better the life of the other, far from all selfishness (92-93). It begins in the family, where there is respect and dignity for every person. The Holy Father also reminds us that the natural right to private property will be secondary to the need of persons and of an ethics of international relations, (# 126).

As a country we need to be provide basic resources to all people. Our leaders must be careful not to sell the country at the expense of the struggling poor and benefit themselves and in the process destroy the wonder and beauty of amazing Papua New Guinea. 🇩🇪



# Farewell to a much-loved shepherd

**Rabaul:** Archbishop Francesco Panfilo sdb, was given an emotional farewell by the people of the three deaneries of the Archdiocese of Rabaul, at Vunapope on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2020. During his years as the Archbishop of Rabaul he has travelled the length and breadth of the diocese, waded through fast flowing streams, climbed steep mountains and sailed rough waters to reach his flock in the remote parts of the diocese. He was with his people to celebrate the sacraments with them, listen to their struggles and respond to their pains both spiritual and material. Vocations were his priority as he guided and supported several to the priesthood or religious life. Even during last few weeks he celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation in several parishes and ordained men to the priesthood.

Amidst expressions of gratitude at Vunapope, were tears of appreciation for the much-loved shepherd for the past ten years. "Our thanks are not only in words, but it is expressed in our deeds and through the expression of our gifts", were constant refrains as shell money and customary gifts of pigs and food were presented to the archbishop.

Archbishop Panfilo took as his theme: '*Duc in altum*' – an 'invitation to remember the past with gratitude, live the present with enthusiasm and look forward to the future with confidence' (Novo Millennio Ineunte, 1). "Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the Archdiocese of Rabaul was a time for all the laity, consecrated persons, and clergy, to assess our fervour and find fresh enthusiasm for our spiritual and pastoral responsibilities", said Archbishop Panfilo. He encouraged his flock to strive for Holiness, give importance to Prayer, to the Sunday Eucharist and to listen and proclaim the Word of God. He reminded the people to follow the Pastoral Plan of the Archdiocese

**Archbishop Panfilo** has spent his life as a missionary ready to serve the flock he was entrusted with. His missionary journey began in the Philippines where he spent 32 years of his life. He has spent 23 years in Papua New Guinea, 19 as a Bishop, 9 in Alotau and 10 in the Archdiocese of Rabaul.

and put into practice the motto of the Archdiocese: "Ut Unum Sint". "That they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you" (Jn 17:22-23).

An issue dear to his heart was that of 'Land'. In his last Pastoral Letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> September, he appealed to everyone to put personal interests aside and think of the common good reminding them to leave behind in good shape the gifts received. "It should bring people together, instead it is tearing people apart because of greed and pride. The Church has the duty to help people consider themselves as stewards of the land rather than the owners of the land ... We must help people to work together cooperatively and in harmony" wrote the Archbishop.

He thanked Archbishop Emeritus Karl Hesse, MSC, for his unflinching support and example of pastoral zeal. He gratefully acknowledged his priests, consecrated brothers and sisters, the staff at the diocesan offices, the lay leaders and catechists in all parishes, the medical staff in health centres, the teachers in Catholic schools and all the Catholic faithful – for their friendship, cooperation and faithful collaboration that made his ministry and work much easier.

At the farewell, Archbishop-elect Rochus Tatamai was handed over by the faithful of Kavieng. He was brought in procession and handed over at a moving ceremony. Archbishop Panfilo welcomed him and invited the people to welcome him with the same love and affection with which they loved and accepted him. A candlelight procession, a wonderful experience of the spiritual atmosphere of the Archdiocese of Rabaul concluded the celebrations.





Nigel Akuani

# God Wantaim Yumi

## Installation Mass held for the First Local Archbishop of Rabaul

**Vunapope, Rabaul:** A grand Installation Mass of the first local and 8<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Rabaul, His Grace Rochus Josef Tatamai MSC was held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September, at the Vunapope Sacred Heart Cathedral, East New Britain Province. 29<sup>th</sup> September is the feast day of the Archangels and St Michael is the patron saint of Papua New Guinea.

The Installation had as its theme: “God Wantaim Yumi”. Archbishop Rochus Tatamai was the main celebrant. Concelebrating with him were 14 bishops including the Apostolic Nuncio to PNGSI, Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal; Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC; Archbishop Emeritus, Francesco Panfilo SDB; and a large number of priests. Also present were religious, seminarians, family and friends from the Archdiocese of Rabaul and the other dioceses.

Abp Tatamai served the Diocese of Bereina for eleven years since 2007, the diocese of Kavieng for two years since 2018. He is a direct descendant of Blessed Peter ToRot.

In his homily Abp Rochus gave thanks to God for the years and experience as Bishop of the dioceses of Bereina and Kavieng. He compared his return to Rabaul similar to that of Jesus’ return to Nazareth. “Jesus returned to Nazareth and was judged by the people for what he did. There will be those who will judge and question my decisions, but all I ask for is your cooperation and patience as you allow me to lead as your new Shepherd,” he said.

He reminded the people to continue to support the Church in their efforts to drive forward. He urged parents to pray and encourage their children to live a Holy Life. “Pray for our children, that they become people of faith and remain in the service of the Church as Catechists, Seminarians and as Religious,” he said. He also highlighted the quality of vocations.

He thanked Archbishop Panfilo for his inclusive thrust of reaching out in a special way to the people in Pomio, where he established 7 new parishes. He thanked him for his stress on education, youth ministry, family ministry, vocations and the different social issues faced by the people. He thanked Archbishop Karl Hesse who stabilized the archdiocese after the volcanic eruption.



Archbishop Rochus Tatamai at the creed

At the start of the celebration, the Apostolic Letter of Pope Francis, was read and displayed to all. Thousands of Catholic faithful from the three deaneries of Rabaul, Pomio and Kokopo were present together with many who travelled from as far as the Dioceses of Kavieng, Kimbe and other dioceses of Papua New Guinea to be present for the celebration. The Vunapope parish choir led the singing and the dances were by the Diocese of Kavieng and the Vunadirdir parish.

After the Eucharistic celebration speeches and a variety of items were presented. These included a march past by the students and Vunapope Catholic Women, traditional dance performances from the Baining and Pomio areas of Rabaul, and a variety of dances from the Dioceses of Kavieng and Kimbe.

Several amongst the gathering thanked Archbishop Panfilo and spoke joyfully of the new archbishop. Patricia Novena, a housekeeping maiden, with joyful tears in her eyes said that the installation of the first local Archbishop was not just a milestone for the Church but for the people of ENB Province. “I am grateful for the grace and power of God. I am blessed to be part of this generation witnessing this significant event for the Archdiocese,” she said.

Allister Tavtavun, from Rabaul, described the installation as ‘historic’ as this was the first time a local was appointed to such a prestigious role in the hierarchy of the Catholic Church. “The previous seven Archbishops were expatriate missionaries and this is the first time that one of our own, born and raised up here, has taken up this elevated position of the Church,” he said.

The Catholic church was established 138 years ago on Matupit island. Many missionaries lived and proclaimed the faith. Several died of exhaustion, malaria and were even martyred for their faith. 🇯🇵

Left: Archbishop Rochus Tatamai preaching to the people



# The Legend of CHIMBU

**Dr Jan Jaworski** surgeon and priest has been ministering to bodies and souls in one of the most volatile, remote precincts on the planet, the highlands of Papua New Guinea, Kundiawa.

**"I made a contract with God - that whatever will happen, I will accept."**

Little Rachel is seven, hails from Lihir and started walking for the first time just a few months ago, thanks to Dr. Jan's orthopedic surgical skills.



For over three decades Papua New Guineans, especially in rugged Chimbu and parts of the Highlands region owe their lives, both socially and spiritually to Polish surgeon and priest, the incredible Doctor Jan Jaworski, stated Johnny Poiya, from The National Newspaper.

Dr Jan has been ministering to bodies and souls in one of the most volatile, remote precincts on the planet. "The repair of bodies is, he says, is the easier task." Fr Jan Jaworski has served as priest in the parish of Yombar through periods of fierce, bloody tribal conflict has seen his entire congregation damaged by the fighting and their homes razed. As he patched their physical wounds, he wondered deeply about his mission, about what good he might achieve.

Dr Jan graduated from medical school in Poznan in 1970 and was determined to take his skills to someplace in the world where doctors were scarce. When a university friend became a priest and was sent to Papua New Guinea, it became the young doctor's objective. But first came many more years of medical training, accumulating the skills he hoped to one day take to PNG.

Finally, in 1984, he was ready. He was in Vienna finishing up a final year of

training. He dropped into an exhibition of PNG culture. The pictures showed highlands men in traditional costume. "I was a little bit frightened of where I was going, and what I would do," said Fr Jan. Then "a friend of mine, a Pallottine father who had been taking spiritual care of me for many years, said, 'Now is time for you to make a decision - you should enter the priesthood.' I was ready for this somehow ... I never before directly spoke of it, but I was sensing I was going in this direction. I was waiting for a sign from God."

He sent off a letter of application to the PNG Health Department, and he put his name down to enter a novitiate to study for the priesthood. "I made a contract with God - that whatever will happen, I will accept." Two weeks before he was supposed to enter the novitiate, the visa paperwork came through from PNG, and he flew to Port Moresby - with some relief. "The priests had said, 'You have to make a decision. Once you enter our congregation, you will not practise surgery.' This was very painful for me, but I said 'God's will is God's will.' One of the first people I met in PNG was an Australian missionary father, Father Peter Flynn, who had entered medical school and become a doctor, and was doing some basic surgery. I thought perhaps it is possible for me



Adapted -  
**Johnny Poiya and Jo Chandler**

Photographs: Henry



**Many Papua New Guineans, especially in rugged Chimbu and parts of the Highlands region owe their lives, both socially and spiritually to this Polish surgeon and priest — the incredible spiritual and medical feat - Dr Jan Jaworski.**

to be a priest and to practise surgery."

But four years later, the bishop who sent him to Rome to the seminary for late vocations was adamant that when he returned he would need to choose - he could be a doctor, or a priest, but not both. By the time of his ordination by Pope John Paul II in 1992, the bishop had undergone a pragmatic change of heart - he could keep operating. For 27 years, Doctor Fr Jan Jaworski has saved more souls and lives in the country, especially Chimbu. Repairing a body is easy to do as he had 20 years of training in colleges and hospitals all over Europe but finding ways to fix brutalised communities in a deeply tribal rooted society which he calls home has been a challenge which he conquered through trial and error over years.

Dr Jaworski's punctuality is incredible for a near 70-year-old surgeon. He says, if he was late for a minute, somebody's life would be at risk. Usually beyond his realm in surgery, but preoccupying many of his colleagues, are the girls and women who are the victims of pervasive sexual violence. The fragile truce is the result of painstaking, meticulous, stitch-by-stitch work: not in the operating theatre, but out in the parish where Father Jaworski serves as priest, and where he is also recognised as a tribal chief - a rare honour for a white man.

"The girls suffer the most. The women suffer the hunger - their gardens, source of sustenance and income, have been lost. "Children are sick from different illnesses, brought back to die on their forefathers' ground. I was angry," he said in an interview in 2010. "I was

angry to the extent that I wanted to move the church out of the place. But the bishop said, 'These people need some support. If you will not do something for young people, they will become raskols.' So slowly I reconciled with myself, and we tried to do something to avoid

another painful incident of tribal fighting in the next election."

In 2014, a 9-year-old boy was admitted to the Kundiawa hospital after being attacked by his uncle with an axe accusing the young boy of being a 'sanguma' (a witch). Fortunately, Dr Jan operated on him in a very long surgery in the early hours of the morning where he was able to piece the damaged tissues back together.

Several members of the Catholic Church: Archbishop Douglas Young, Bishop Don Lippert, Father Philip Gibbs and Father Jan Jaworski worked on finding a place where Peter could go and be with other children, so he would have the chance to continue his education and develop a normal life. People responded very positively and, after identifying some places in the Highlands, he was relocated, ready to start a new period of his life.

As a consequence of his work, both socially and surgically, Dr Jan is spoken of with such deference that he seems more myth than man. His "magical hands" were even described in a special report in The Sydney Morning Herald, Australia. The Port Moresby press recently referred to him as a legend, a man with "magic hands".

*Governmental Hospital in Kundiawa (5 thousand residents) is the largest institution in the town and the workplace for over 100 nurses and 6 doctors. They have to deal with the area with a population of 200 thousand residents. The hospital located among picturesque mountains looked as if some part of the civilization had been moved to the heavenly scenery. I was visited by Jan Jaworski, the priest and doctor. As a missionary and the only surgeon in the central part of the island, he was highly energetic and determined. Soon he familiarized me with the essence of topical medicine" – wrote one volunteer after his stay in PNG.*

Today, many Papua New Guineans, especially in rugged Chimbu and parts of the Highlands region owe their lives, both socially and spiritually to this Polish surgeon and priest — the incredible spiritual and medical feat - Dr Jan Jaworski. 🇵🇳

Photo:

Fr Jan in his Hospital Chapel



# Spreading Faith t h r o u g h



**Marek Sobola Ph.D.** was born on July 3, 1981 in the city of Žilina, Czechoslovakia (now Slovakia) into a Roman Catholic family from Lalinok and Divina villages. The Sobola family have lived in Lalinok since the beginning of the 16th century. He spent the first years of his life in Divina. Marek Sobola is an authorised landscape architect, designer and heraldic artist. He is a member of the Slovak Chamber of Architects, a member of the Liturgical Commission of the Diocese of Žilina and a member of the Council of the Episcopal Conference of Slovakia for Science, Education . At present, he works in Žilina.

**The church motifs take the form of attributes of the saints to whom the local cathedral is dedicated or from the patron saints of the diocese.**

Ecclesiastical heraldry is a science that is still alive and refers to Christian institutions (dioceses and archdioceses) and Christian clergy. This heraldry evolved as a system for identifying ecclesiastical dignitaries, bureaus and institutions. Especially and markedly it is manifested within the Roman Catholic Church. It differs from secular (aristocratic) heraldry by using special insignia around the shield that indicate the rank of Christian dignitaries or institutions. The most prominent insignia is the wide brimmed ecclesiastical hat, called Roman galero (in Latin: *galerum*). The colour and the number of tassels of galero indicate rank within the clergy. Other insignia include the episcopal mitre, crosier and the processional cross (single or double). For bishops and archbishops, customarily the colour green is used. In connection with the archbishop's coat of arms, there is one more element. This is the most important liturgical symbol of the Metropolitan Archbishop – the pallium. Heraldry had been developed over eight centuries. After its establishment in the nobility and aristocratic class, it gradually began to be applied in the ecclesiastical area as well.

Ecclesiastical heraldry then began to write its own history. Each century has added certain specifics. Many rules

and principles codified in the Gothic period have persisted to the present day. While heraldry has rules and practices to build and describe coats of arms (blazon), importantly it is also art, the ability to assemble an eloquent and visually impressive coat of arms. New coats of arms are created constantly, according to principles and regularities which have developed gradually. This article discusses the coats of arms of some ecclesiastical dignitaries of a few archdioceses and dioceses of Papua New Guinea. The new coats of arms described in this study are based on the European heraldic tradition. The depiction of some figures is different from British heraldry, which greatly influenced heraldic work in the Oceania region, especially in the former British Dominions. From the point of view of the Catholic Church, many countries in Oceania are called Missionary countries.

Coats of arms of newly established ecclesiastical jurisdictions or administrative units of the Roman Catholic Church in Papua New Guinea are often composed of a large number of heraldic figures and their structure was made "ad hoc". As a sign of office many prelates and bishops use their personal arms as a symbol of their diocese, territories, monasteries or chapters. The coat of



**The  
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of an  
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arms of the institution and the personal coat of arms are two different things. While this is a common practice in missionary countries, it is not heraldically correct. The coat of arms of an ecclesiastical institution is a tool to spread God's Word and the message of faith by means of symbols. The church motifs take the form of attributes of the saints to whom the local cathedral is dedicated or from the patron saints of the diocese. Popes, themselves, have repeatedly outlined the relationship between the church and heraldry in their documents. A significant document that sets out guidelines using personal ecclesiastical coats of arms is the *Motu proprio* of Pope Saint Paul VI *Pontificalia insignia* dated 21 June 1968. By creating a coat of arms every heraldic artist can leave behind a trace and a heritage. The coat of arms of an archdiocese or diocese is used, once approved by authorities, for decades or centuries until the end of the church institution itself. It is a constant and unchangeable symbol. A personal coat of arms is used by a bishop until his death, and no other bishop or person should ever use the same coat of arms in the future according to the strict rules of heraldry. At the end of 2015, I contacted a number of archbishops and bishops, mostly from Papua New Guinea, with an offer to design coats of arms. One of my first heraldic assignments was for Archbishop Stephen Joseph Reichert OFMCap. from the Archdiocese of Madang. I altered his original non-heraldic sign and created a new personal coat of arms. 🇵🇬



## SELECTED HERALDIC WORKS

### ARCHBISHOPS

#### Archbishop Anton Bal

This is a newly created coat of arms for Archbishop Anton Bal (\*29 November 1963). Metropolitan Archbishop of Madang since 2019. The new coat of arms including the motto was derived from his original bishop's coat of arms. It is composed of a personal coat of arms and also the coat of arms of Madang Archdiocese.

#### Archbishop Rochus Josef Tatamai

This is a newly created coat of arms for Rochus Josef Tatamai (24 September 1962 in Raduna, Rabaul) Metropolitan Archbishop of Rabaul since 2020. The new coat of arms including the motto was derived from his original bishop's coat of arms. It is composed of a personal coat of arms and also the coat of arms of the Archdiocese of Rabaul. In 2019, Archbishop Rochus Josef Tatamai was awarded the Order of the Star of Melanesia.



### BISHOPS

#### Bishop Dariusz Kałuża MSF

I was also contacted by Bishop Dariusz Piotr Kałuża MSF (\*5 November 1967). He was installed as the Bishop of Bougainville on 16th November 2020.

#### Bishop Francis Meli

The coat of arms I created for Bishop Francis Meli (\*21 July 1962), Bishop of Vanimo and the Apostolic Administrator of Aitape is composed of a personal coat of arms and the coat of arms of the Diocese of Vanimo.



#### Bishop Rolando Crisostomo Santos CM

Bishop Rolando Crisostomo Santos CM (\*21 March 1949), has been Bishop of Alotau-Sideia since 2011.





# Blessed Petro ToRot Answering God's call

Part II continued

- Dominic ToMar



**As an obedient child To Rot always followed his father's will for him because he believed it was the will of God.**

God's calling comes to us in different ways, through an event, someone who impresses us, someone's word in a conversation, reading the life of a person who inspires us etc. In the case of Peter To Rot the only event that related to his calling was the account of the short discussion between Fr Laufer and his father, To Puia. Though To Puia did not agree that To Rot should study for the priesthood, he would not mind if To Rot would train to become a catechist and teacher. Little did they know then what this agreement between him and Fr Laufer would mean for To Rot, his family and the church. The conversation could be perceived as the voice of God. God intervened at that moment in To Rot's life. To Puia's words that To Rot could train to be a catechist was God's call. To Rot's consent to his father's wish was his answer to God's call. We can only presume that To Puia talked to To Rot about the idea of training to be a catechist. As an obedient child To Rot always followed his father's

will for him because he believed it was the will of God. In this instance it was indeed the will of God that he becomes a catechist and pasture his flock not to be the future chief of Rakunai village.

We are not sure when the conversation between Fr Laufer and To Puia took place. But we do know that ToRot entered St Paul's Catechist Training College at Taliligap in 1930 at the age of 18 to commence his training as a Teacher-Catechist. He undertook training for just under 3 years. He graduated from the college in 1933 at the age of 21 and was posted back to Rakunai Mission Station to work among his own people. Some of the catechists with whom he trained were posted to other mission stations in the Vicariate Apostolic of New Britain which then comprised of New Britain (East and West), New Ireland and Manus.

Nowadays being a catechist or teacher may not be held with high



## Youth Alive!

Spiritual insights by and for young people  
Sharing on the Sunday Gospel



*One-minute:  
Personal experience,  
Reference to the Gospel  
and an Invitation to Change.*



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CBC Social Communication  
and PGS Communications





**The life of a catechist was very demanding. It was a full-time job, leading the people in morning and evening prayers, teaching the catechism to school children, preparing couples for marriage, visiting the sick etc. Since many catechists were also teachers, they also taught children reading, writing and arithmetic. They spent much of their time with the priests at the mission stations and often had little time to spend with their families.**

regard and esteem. But in the early days of the catholic mission, teacher-catechists were highly respected by the people. The catechists were the middlemen between the priests and the people. They were the priests' helpers, companions, confidants, advisors, informants, assistants and interpreters. Catechists were invaluable for the propagation of the faith in the early missionary days. Without them the work of the early missionaries would have been very difficult or would have failed. Catechists were defenders of the faith and pillars of Christian communities in distant and isolated villages and localities. At the main mission stations, the catechists were the priests' right-hand men. In the outstations where the priests could not be present or visit regularly, it was the catechists who took care of the spiritual and pastoral needs of the people. A committed and reliable catechist was every priest's dream, hope and joy.

Catechists also taught the priests the local language so the priests could preach the message of the gospel in a medium and in concepts the people could understand and relate to. Fr Joseph Theler MSC who was a teacher at St Paul's Catechist College, Taliligap around the time of To Rot's college days and who later became the parish priest of Rakunai Mission Station, was renowned for his knowledge of the Kuanua Language. He translated many books of the Bible, the Liturgy, prayers etc. into the local Kuanua language. These were used widely throughout the mission. Many German missionary priests and Sisters lay catechists and FMI Sisters especially from West New Britain and New Ireland learnt and became proficient speakers of the Kuanua language.

The life of a catechist was very demanding. It was a full-time job, leading the people in morning and evening prayers, teaching the catechism to school children, preparing couples for marriage, visiting the sick etc. Since many catechists were also teachers, they also taught children reading, writing and arithmetic. They spent much of their time with the priests at the mission stations and often had little time to spend with their families. The mission crosses they received and wore reminded them of their commitment to God and to the church. They did their work for the honour and glory of God and in the service of the church. The remuneration they received for their labour was very small. Originally it was not paid in cash but in food stuff and other goods.

This was the life God called To Rot and many others dedicated catechists to live. To Rot willingly answered God's call and followed Him even to death. Many others also answered the call and sacrificed their lives for the Gospel. We remember and thank God for them all as we recount the life of Blessed Peter To Rot.

Blessed Peter To Rot, pray for us and strengthen our faith. 🇹🇻



### **Prayer To Blessed Petro ToRot**

Blessed Petro ToRot,  
God called you to serve Him  
among your own people,  
as a catechist.

You loved your work and  
you were faithful to the Divine call.

Your heroic witness to serve your creator  
strengthened them in the faith.

We rejoice and thank God,  
for exalting you to be the  
first Beatified Martyr of our country.

Pray for us,  
that we may remain faithful  
to our vocations and stand firmly  
committed  
to God and his people,  
especially in times of trials and  
difficulties.

**Amen.**

Please send us your favours, graces and miracles received through the intercession of Bl Petro ToRot, together with photographs and documents that you may possess. These will support the cause of his canonisation.





# Even at 95 a MISSIONARY

**Raingarde, Anna Webhofer**, the oldest of 8 children, was born on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1925, in a small village at Vierschach in the Province of Bozen, South Tirol, Italy. Coming from a deeply religious family, very early in her life she wanted to give her life to God and to become a **missionary Sister**, an outstanding trait that accompanied her throughout her whole life.

Her ardent wish of Sr. Raingarde to become a religious became a reality when she could enter the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters at St. Koloman, *Stockerau*, near Vienna. This was not before she was 25 years old, and had overcome many bouts of sickness. She then received professional training as a nurse, especially in *Mother and Child Care*. She was overjoyed when she was appointed to Papua New Guinea. She arrived in Alexishafen in February, 1962. Her first mission field was in Dagua near Wewak, where a new health centre had been established on the mission station. Her outreach as a compassionate nurse evolved around working with orphaned and handicapped children. Regularly, she would drive the old jeep, an American *Willys 6*, to the surrounding villages. There she conducted clinic patrols, often returning with some very sick mothers and their babies, squeezed into the little free space of the jeep.

Sr. Raingarde worked with great dedication as a nurse on various mission stations along the North Coast Road of the Madang Province. Places like Manam Island, Bogia, Malala, Mugil and Alexishafen, the main station of the Holy Spirit Sisters. In 2001 she took up semi-retirement and enjoyed her time helping with little tasks, spending time in the sewing room and visiting the patients in the hospital at Alexishafen.

After Sr. Raingarde could no longer go to the sewing room with her "walker" she continued sewing clothes for small children. Later, when

she was forced to be in the wheelchair, she started an apostolate very dear to her heart - she glued holy-pictures especially that of Our Lady, on to cardboard and distributed them to the *Legion of Mary* members, the catechists who attended courses at the Catechetical Training School, Alexishafen and to others who came to visit her. It is very important to her to hand the attractive pictures personally to those people and instruct them. They have already gone ahead of her to the surrounding villages, to settlements along the Sepik river and even up to the highlands. These images inspire and rekindle devotion to our Blessed Mother, strengthen Catholic families and are a seedbed for priestly and religious vocations. This apostolate keeps her busy to this very day and helps her to stay mission-minded and mentally alert. Despite her advanced age, Sr. Raingarde is full of energy, young at heart and interested in whatever happens around her and the world at large.

Her happiness, inner contentment and amazing strength doubtlessly come from her closeness to the Lord. She sustains herself by daily prayer, reflection and long hours before the exposed Blessed Sacrament. Her rosary beads are always in her hands. May God continue to be her Guide and Protector and her Eternal Reward.

Sr. Mary Linda Krems, SSps  
with Sr Raingarde





# A Special Day of Joy for Sr. Raingarde

**Alexishafen:** Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 was a day that Sr Raingard's looked forward to welcome a group of *Legion of Mary* members from Manam Island, Asuramba Camp near Malala. Over 20 women and two men, both church leaders, came in person to meet *Sister Raingarde*, an eager promoter of the Legion of Mary and offer her respect and gratitude. They had heard a lot about Sr. Raingarde from Gabriela, whose family lives in the Asuramba Camp.

Shortly after 10 a.m., the *longingly-awaited delegation* arrived in front of the convent. The group had already paid a visit, prayed and offered thanks at the grave of Fr. Zucculo, SVD, their longtime parish priest of Manam Island.

The Provincial, Sr. Florence and Community Leader, Sr. Benedikta welcomed the visitors and together with the rest of the Sisters helped them unload the many stylishly decorated baskets with fruits and vegetables. These gifts reflected the generosity of the culture and hospitality of our people and was gratefully accepted. One basket was for Sr. Raingarde that delighted her.

Light refreshments were offered before their well-organized "program" unfolded. The women were dressed in their *legion uniform*, white *meri blouse* and light blue *laplap* and performed action songs, drama and choir, all interspersed with joy and laughter, held us onlooker's captive.

A speech by the church leader, Mr. John Gameh, a retired PIR soldier and also a devout Legion member, followed. He recalled the time when our Sr. Everharda Hardering started the *Legion of Mary* on Manam Island many years ago. The spirit and zeal enkindled then is still kept alive today. Also, the sewing and baking skills taught to the young ladies by our Sisters at that time were passed on to the next generation and have proven so richly blessed all along, as Mr. John stressed in his speech. The hard work of our teaching Sisters has born rich fruit and well-educated Manam islanders can be found in all professional sectors of this young nation today. It is truly a credit to the Holy Spirit Sisters.

After the due applause, the Rosary in Pidgin was recited by all and ended with a fitting song to Our Lady. Sr. Raingarde, the main person of the event, decorated with colourful flower-wreaths, relaxed in her wheelchair, taking it all in. The Sisters around her were "adorned" likewise with a fragrant lei. Of course, Sr. Raingarde had to have photos taken as she prepared to give her



Sr. Raingarde, happy with the day's proceedings

speech. It was amazing, how clearly, she could speak to all, her great love and veneration to Our Lady being the centre of her delivery. While handing out rosaries and her self-made pictures to each one, a word of encouragement, to keep and spread the devotion to Mary, accompanied all her gestures.

At lunch time, the group was invited to a cooked meal in the spacious sitting room at our working ladies' house before returning home, while Sr. Raingarde, happy with the day's proceedings, preferred to take a rest first, thanking God for everything, especially for the kind people that surrounded her. Memories of a delightful day will linger on as she continues pasting pictures on cardboard to spread the veneration of Our Lady and to sustain the zeal of the *Legion of Mary members* near and far. 🇯🇲

Women in blue and white meri blouse and laplap, Legion of Mary from Manam came to visit Sr. Raingarde and the sisters at the Alexishafen Convent.





Fr Ambrose Pereira sub

# Salesians Silver Years Solomon Islands

1995-2020



2010: Blessing of the statue of St John Bosco

**The Salesians of Don Bosco** celebrate 25 years of pastoral ministry in the Solomon Islands. Following the Preventive System of Don Bosco, based on 'Reason Religion and Rapport', they strive to transform the lives of young people into 'Good Christians and Honest Citizens'. This article briefly highlights the situation and the response of the Salesians over the years. Due to COVID-19 celebrations were restricted.

## The Hapi Isles

Nestled at the end of the world are the beautiful islands fondly called by Spanish navigator Álvaro de Mendaña in 1568, the '*Hapi Isles*'. Similar to its Melanesian neighbors, this tiny little country has about 992 islands, a population of 700,000 people, 70 different tribes and an equal number of languages. A rugged country with coral islands and atolls, it is about the poorest in the Pacific. With limited water supply, sanitation and connectivity it can be categorized as 4<sup>th</sup> world. Colonized and 'missioned' by the British, it gained its independence from Britain in 1978.

Despite its limitations, there is always a smile on the faces of the people. They radiate joy, happiness and contentment at all times. There exists that basic struggle of people trying to straddle two worlds: their own and the modern one that has become so dominant, controlling and directive. The land is fertile, and people live on root crops, fruits and fish.

## Solomon Islands in hope

Solomon Islands is fast losing its identity amidst trends of globalisation. Four systems are at work here - the chiefly system, the government, the churches and now the business-money ethos which dominates our world. False promises and constant handouts by government officials have weakened the political system. The churches are the ones most in contact with the young and strive to give them a direction and hope for themselves. The churches are the hope of the Solomon Islands. It is the church that brings people together for worship, fellowship, interaction, relaxation and networking. Christianity is just over a century old and its committed and dedicated missionaries brought with its education, health services and development. The country has just a few foreign missionaries who have made the Solomon's their home. It is up to the islander priests, pastors and people to minister to their own flock. Women have played a major role in contributing to the peace process after the coup on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2000.

## Salesian Parish of Christ the King, Tetere

In 1995, Archbishop Adrian Smith sm, Archbishop of Honiara, welcomed the presence of the Salesians and assigned them the parish of Christ the King, Tetere. Fr. Pedro Balcazar, (Mexican), Br Tanaka Yukihiro (Japanese) and Fr



Left: 2000: Salesians in Solomon Islands with Fr Provincial



Nichizawa Pedro Manabu (Bolivian) were the first Salesians in the Solomon Islands. Fr Ambrose Pereira (Indian) was the forth. He arrived on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1999 and Fr Luciano Capelli (Italian) arrived several months later.

As we celebrate the Silver Jubilee, the parish has the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, a local DMI congregation of sisters care for the parish and animate the liturgical celebrations. The silver years have seen the presence of many long-term as well as short-term parish priests. They are Fr Pedro Balcazar sdb, Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, Fr Luciano Capelli sdb, Fr Dominic Kachira sdb, Fr Fernando (Sonny) Fajardo sdb, Fr Joseph Than sdb, Fr Albert Lenon sdb, Fr. Joseph Dai and several others. The Salesians cater to the pastoral needs of the people as well as to their minds and their bodies as well. The Rural Training Centre and the Mini Hospital are adjacent to the parish and serve not merely the parish but even the province.

### Don Bosco Technical Institute, Henderson

The institution opened in 2000, amidst the ethnic tension. The Motto of the Institute is: 'Born for Greater Things', and over the years young men and women have realized their potential and grown to be leaders in society. Fr Luciano Capelli, now the Bishop of Gizo spearheaded the program. In 2013, Fr Ambrose Pereira partnered with the Australian Pacific Technical College (APTC). The institute is also in partnership with the Skills for Economic growth program in Solomon Islands, that runs parallel to the skills program offered by APTC.

**Don Bosco Rural Training Centre, Tetere** The Don Bosco Rural Training Centre was a response to the cry of the people for educational and health facilities. The Salesians set up a rural training center on a piece of land adjacent to the parish in 2004. The La Pieta sisters run the Good Shepherd Hospital, adjacent to the Rural Training Centre. The two-year course at the Rural Training Centre has students from across the Solomon Islands and focuses on agriculture and animal husbandry.

### Radio BOSCO FM 89.9

In 2005, Radio BOSCO FM 89.9, coordinated by Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb with its slogan 'Empowering people, building community,' hit the

*Below: 2011: Fr Pankaj Xalxo, Bp John Donenoel, Bp Christopher Cardone, Fr Ambrose Pereira and Fr Srimal Priyanga.*



2010: Christ the King Parish, Tetere



2005: Volunteers at Radio BOSCO FM 89.9

airways. Every broadcast had community and personal messages that cemented the bond as one people. Sadly, the life of Radio BOSCO came to an end in 2010.

### Prison Ministry

In 2008, Fr Albert Swer ran a short course in welding and fabrication for inmates at the Correctional Centre Rove. Amidst the security of the prison for each class, the course was completed thus giving the prisoners added skill to set them back on their feet once they are set free. Salesians continue to offer skills and the pastoral visits to the inmates.

### Going beyond boundaries

In 2018, Fr Srimal Priyanga Gajasinahage Silva sdb commenced a reach out program to the young people living in the Ranadi Landfill Site. It is a concrete example of the spirit of Don Bosco reaching out to the young who are poor.

As Salesians, we are filled with gratitude to the Lord, Our Blessed Mother and St John Bosco, for the wonderful and enjoyable 15 years in the beautiful 'Pearl of the Pacific', Solomon Islands. Gratitude to the Salesians, staff, students, benefactors, well-wishers and the many people who are interested in the education of the young and of our people in the *Hapi Isles*.

"The people are intelligent, but perhaps lack a rhythm of life and a determination to plan, stick to a job and complete the task in the allotted time", says Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb who has spent 15 enjoyable years in the 'Hapi Isles'. A missionary once said, 'The longer you stay, the less you know'. This is what I constantly ponder on, continues Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb.

Wishing the mission dedicate, happy and fruitful years with the constant blessings of the Lord. 🙏



Adapted from:  
Dominican Sisters of San Rafael

# Laudato si'

## Praise be to you my Lord

### Chapter 1: Our Common Home

Pope Francis reminds us that we cannot fail to consider the effect that a 'throwaway culture' and environmental deterioration has on our country and on the lives of our people.

**1. Pollution:** We need to make the constant effort to segregate waste and ensure that the biodegradable waste is placed in a compost pit. Toxic substances are constantly polluting our environment.

**2. Warming of the climate:** Its effect is visibly seen in the Pacific with constant rise in the sea level. Several living in coastal areas have had to move to higher ground due to sea level rise.

**3. Water poverty:** Our rivers that were once clean, now flow with contaminated water. Multinational companies have taken the easy way out, dumping their waste into rivers on which the livelihoods of several people depend.

**4. Loss of biodiversity:** Papua New Guinea has exquisite flora, fauna and unique birds and animals. Logging, seabed mining, sand mining, LNG, etc., are destroying the natural habitat of species unique to Papua New Guinea.

**5. Global inequality:** A true ecological approach always integrates questions of justice with concerns for the environment so as to hear *both the 'cry of the earth and the cry of the poor'* #49. While we speak of a global inequality, we need to pay careful attention to the inequality within our country.

### Implications and Challenges

God has blessed us with flora and fauna. However, this 'culture of abundance', 'a disposable mentality' and a 'throwaway culture' that we have grown up with needs to be changed into a responsible use of the resources that we possess.

Having jumped from the stone age to the computer age, we have missed out on repair and maintenance. Our cities have an enormous quantity of white goods from fridges and washing machines to vehicles and computers that are piled high in several places. This also includes delicate and sophisticated health equipment so necessary to cater to our people struggling amidst our fragile health system.

Our challenge is to care for the beauty of nature and the wonder of resources in Papua New Guinea. May we plant fruit trees that will provide us food sustainability for years ahead. May we recycle waste and correctly dispose of toxic materials that are a byproduct of the major projects in Papua New Guinea.

### Questions for reflection and discussion:

1. Do I recognize the 'throwaway culture' in my daily life? How do I spend money on the purchase of digital equipment?
2. How do I understand the notion of pollution and cleanliness? Do I carelessly dump my personal garbage as I travel along the streets?
3. What efforts am I making to respond to the seriousness of the destruction that the multinational companies are making in Papua New Guinea?

Dump yard at Rinadi, Solomon Islands



Photo: F. Srimal Priyanga sdb



## Chapter 2: The Gospel of Creation

The Holy Father Pope Francis reminds us that: “**Science and religion**, with their distinctive approaches to understanding reality, can enter into an intense dialogue that will be fruitful for both.” [62]. As Christian believers we need to recognise **our responsibility within creation**; our duty toward nature and the Creator are an essential part of our faith. [64]. Pope Francis is warning us of the exploitation of the resources of our land and reminding us of our relationship with God, His fullness that is revealed to us in nature. Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a **sincere love for our fellow human beings** and an **unwavering commitment** to resolving the problems of domination, violence and abuse in society. [91] We pray that the Spirit of God will open us to different possibilities.

### Implications and Challenges

The variety and beauty of the natural environment of our country is our inheritance, for the collective good and it is the responsibility of every person to engage in the healing work of our common home.

### Response: Reflect, Discuss, Pray, Act

As a practical response each one of us is invited



to engage in sharing with friends and family and discuss moral questions and ethical insights. It is also important that we are able to discuss the long-term effects of logging, mining and the extraction of fossil fuels.

## Chapter 3: Technology, Creativity & Power

Pope Francis reminds us that: “**Our technical prowess**, when well directed, can produce important means of improving the **quality of human life**.” [103] We are reminded to bring in creativity and knowledge to improve our life with sound ethics and a culture of spirituality that brings about transformation rather than confrontation and domination [104]. There is an urgent need for us to move forward in a **bold cultural revolution** [114] where the renewal of our relationship with nature will bring about a renewal of humanity itself [118]. Our relationship with the environment can never be isolated from our relationship with others and with God.

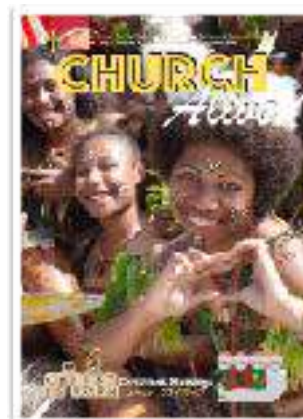
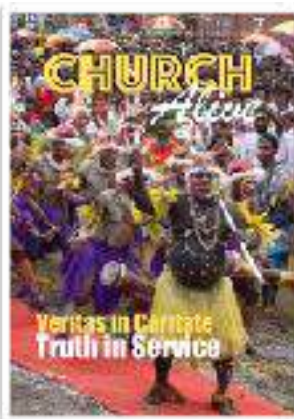
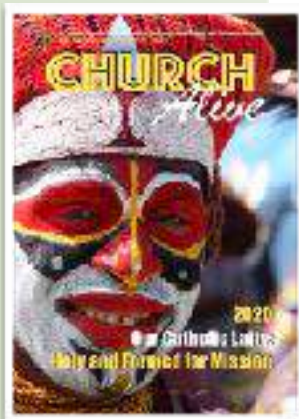
### Implications and Challenges

“A technology severed from ethics will not easily be able to limit its own power.” [136] In the face of “*super-development*” there will wasteful and consumerist kind of developments and we will fail to see the roots of our present failures.

“Contemporary man has not been trained to use its power well,’ because our immense technological development has not been accompanied by a development in human responsibility, values and conscience.” [105] We also need to make sure that our work is an expression of human dignity and creativity. It is a necessity, part of the meaning of our life on this earth, a path to growth, human development and personal fulfillment.

### Response: Reflect, Discuss, Pray, Act

How can we as a community and as an individual opt for a non-consumeristic way of life? Is my freedom compromised by technology? Do I need to grow in affirming the dignity and value of persons in my family and with those I work? How do I support the beauty in myself and in others? 🙏



Church Alive Magazine is a Catholic Family magazine for Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. Invitation is open to all to share our Catholic faith.

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# ISFF20

Article: Nigel Akuani  
Photographs: Karl David Valmonte

## Keep it clean. Go Green!

**Port Moresby:** The International Short Film Festival (ISFF20), the 4th festival to be conducted in Port Moresby, left many with a heightened sense of awareness to care for the environment and the need to take precautions in the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October at the Paradise Cinema in Waigani, the ISFF20, a culmination of a number of weekends, had as its theme, 'Keep It Clean. Go Green.' It premiered short captivating films created by school and university students from Papua New Guinea. COVID-19 limited the participation to just over a hundred people for the celebration. The films drew inspiration from Pope Francis's encyclical titled, *Laudato Si*. It means: 'Praise be to you' and the Holy Father emphasises the urgent need to care for the earth.

Among those present were Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Port Moresby; Priests, Religious, Brothers, Principals of the various schools; friends and family; and representatives from the Australian High Commission and Caritas Australia. Journalists from various media organisations were also present to provide media coverage of the event.

Organised by the Social Communications Commission of the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI, the festival was facilitated by the Commission's Secretary Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, and the SOCOM team. "Young people have an abundance of energy and zeal and they have used their talent to

share their concerns about the environment and COVID-19. Their creative productions have been a result of research and reflections. It has been hard work and the results are marvellous," he said.

Ms Sheryll Isoaimo, Teacher and Media coordinator of Jubilee Catholic Secondary School, Hohola animated the audience with song, dance, prayer and reflection. She kept them engaged as the program dwelt deeper into issues that matter.

Cardinal Ribat urged for more engagement of young people to create a positive change for society. "You are the future of our country, and many young people today need similar programs to guide them and give them formation and a direction for their lives," he said.

Prizes were awarded in two categories:

### **MES Films:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: De La Salle Secondary School, Bomana - The Talking Tree
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: La Salle Technical College, Hohola - Let's Keep it Clean
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: St Charles Lwanga, Gerehu - I care for the Earth

### **Laudato Si Film Competition:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Jordan Charlehand - Our Common Home
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Christ the King Parish, Youth Ministry - Seeds passed on.

The event was made possible through the support of SIGNIS International, CARITAS Australia, CBC PNGSI, SVS Mart, Paradise Cinema, Media outlets and the many others who are interested in the young. Gratitude to the Principals of the different schools who joined the program and made it possible for the students to attend the sessions.







Cardinal with Muslim and Protestant representatives at CTI

**Bomana, Port Moresby:** An enriching symposium providing a detailed insight into Pope Francis' Encyclical entitled 'Fratelli Tutti' was held on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November, at the Catholic Theological Institute Bomana.

The symposium was graced by the presence of Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal, Apostolic Nuncio to PNGSI; Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC, Archbishop of Port Moresby; Fr Giorgio Licini PIME, General Secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI; and Fr Joseph Vnuk, President of the Catholic Theological Institute. It also had the presence of more than a hundred people that included Priests, Religious, laity, staff of CTI and media personnel.

## Symposium highlights Pope's **NEWS** encyclical 'Fratelli Tutti'

- Nigel Akuani

The program had different speakers present the various aspects of the Encyclical that ranged from its overall background; the document's eight chapters and its Franciscan history. The importance of dialogue in the modern world and among the different religions; implementation and effectiveness of its principals in regard to Papua New Guinea's impeding social circumstances; responses and working together with non-Catholics and protestants were dealt with. The 'Question and Answer' sessions and group discussions held in-between gave the audience an opportunity to share their reflections on the presentations given in the Encyclical.

A Closing Mass was held in the evening at the Holy Spirit Seminary Chapel celebrated by Cardinal Ribat, that was concelebrated by fellow priests from the seminary and lay faithful. Fratelli tutti is Italian for 'All Brothers' and is Pope Francis' third encyclical that was signed on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2020.

It focuses on "Fraternity and Social Friendship", and according to the document the COVID-19 pandemic has proven the world's failure in uniting together during this crisis.

## Third year of Laity officially launched

- Rosemary Yambune

**Port Moresby:** An official launching ceremony to welcome the Third Year of Laity, was held at the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI, on November 27<sup>th</sup> in Gordons, Port Moresby.

With the theme: "Our Catholic Laity: Holy, Formed and Sent for Service," Bp Otto Separy, Bp Deputy for Laity Commission unveiled the banner before laity coordinators, CBCPNGSI staff, religious and Radio Maria PNG. The Third year of the Laity (2021) will be the year of Missions, which means that all good Catholics must be missionaries and evangelizers in their families, parishes, dioceses and the society.

Eva Wangihama, Secretary for Laity commission clarified that the launching was held at the beginning of the new liturgical Year. Bp Otto Separy, Bishop Deputy of the Laity commission celebrated the Holy mass that was dedicated to close off the second year of Laity and welcome the Third year of Laity. In his homily, Bp Otto Separy reminded those present about the beauty of the vocation of every lay person and



Bp Otto, Fr Giorgio and laity coordinators with candles

repeated the words of the Lord in the gospel of Luke: 'Do not be afraid, I will be with you until the end of times'. He urged all to reflect once more on the life of Blessed Peter ToRot as a lay person who died defending his faith. "The church is now calling lay people to radiate the Good News by your life", he said. The three years of Laity were 2019, 2020 and 2021 summed up in the theme: "Our Catholic Laity, Holy, formed and sent for service".



## Print Media Seminar for Archdiocese of Hagen

- Fr Peter Kopil

**Rebiamul, Mt Hagen:**

A three-day print media seminar was held in the Archdiocese

of Mt. Hagen focused on writing articles, creating newsletters and capturing photographs with a message. Held from 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October, the purpose of the seminar was to equip the participants with

necessary skills that will enable them to participate in the different media platforms to spread the message of God's love to all especially in the print media.

Catholic Bishops Conference Social Communications Commission (SOCOM) Representative, Ms Abigail Seta, facilitated the program at the Trinity FM studio which had seven participants present. The participants were five staff from Trinity FM Radio Station and two youths from the parishes in the Archdiocese.



**Bp Dariusz Kaluza with priests.** Picture: **CBC SOCOM**

**Hahela, Bougainville:** *'Yumi mas sanap antap long tupela lek wanpela em tok tru na narapela laikpasin,'* Bp Dariusz Kaluza emphasized on the occasion of his Episcopal installation as the 6<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Diocese of Bougainville.

The installation was held on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> November, a significant date that marked the 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bougainville becoming a Catholic Diocese of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands (PNG-SI). The event consisted of two parts, the first began with the installation where the Eucharist celebration took place inside the parish of Our Lady of Assumption Pro Cathedral. The second part of the

## Yumi mas sanap long Tok Tru na Laikpasin

- Abigail Seta

event had speeches, a luncheon and item presentations.

Present to witness this momentous occasion were Abp. Mathew Kurian Vayalunkal, Apostolic Nuncio to PNGSI; Cardinal Sir John Ribat MSC; Emeritus Abp. Francesco Panfilo sdb, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Bougainville; Abp. Douglas Young sdb, Archbishop of Mt Hagen; Bp. Donald Lippert, Bishop of Mendi; Bp. John Bosco Auram, Bishop of Kimbe and Bp. Rozario Menezes, Bishop of Lae; priests and religious sisters. Also present was the President of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, His Excellency Ishmael Toroama and members of the 4<sup>th</sup> House of Representatives. Representatives from the different Christian Churches of Bougainville were also present.

The Diocese of Bougainville welcomed the newly installed Bishop, Bp. Dariusz Kaluza to the sound of the famous bamboo band, traditional dancing, joyful singing, presentation of gifts and inspiring speeches.

Despite the heat of the sun, over three thousand people, young and old, gathered for to witness this momentous occasion.

## Holy See donates PPE's to CCHS

- Rosemary Yambune

The Holy See which is the universal government of the Catholic Church has donated Personal Protective Equipment to the Catholic Church Health Services.

A brief ceremony of the donation took place at the Catholic Bishops Conference on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> November. Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, His Grace Abp. Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal, presented cartons containing the much-needed PPE's to the CCHS Secretary, Sr Jadwiga Faliszek.

The Apostolic Nuncio expressed how pleased he was to handover the PPE's to CCHS and reminded everyone present about the Holy Father's love to Papua New Guinea.

Sr Jadwiga Faliszek responded with words of gratitude to the Holy See and affirmed the good use of PPE's and immediate distribution to the 21 catholic dioceses for effective use in the effort to fight



COVID19. Present to witness the brief ceremony were Bp Francis Meli, Bishop of Vanimo, Bp Rozario Menezes, Bishop of Lae, Bp Donald Lippert, Bishop of Mendi, Fr Giorgio Licini, Secretary for CBCPNGSI, President of the Catholic Professionals, Mr Paul Harricknen, board members from the Catholic Church Health Services, religious sisters with several other senior officers within the Health ministry from the Church and the Government.



## Priest appointed as member of Missionaries of Mercy

- Simon Mokot

**Mt Hagen:** Fr. Bogdan Swierczewski, CSMA, has received recognition as a member of the Missionaries of Mercy in the Archdiocese of Mt. Hagen.

On Wednesday, 14 October

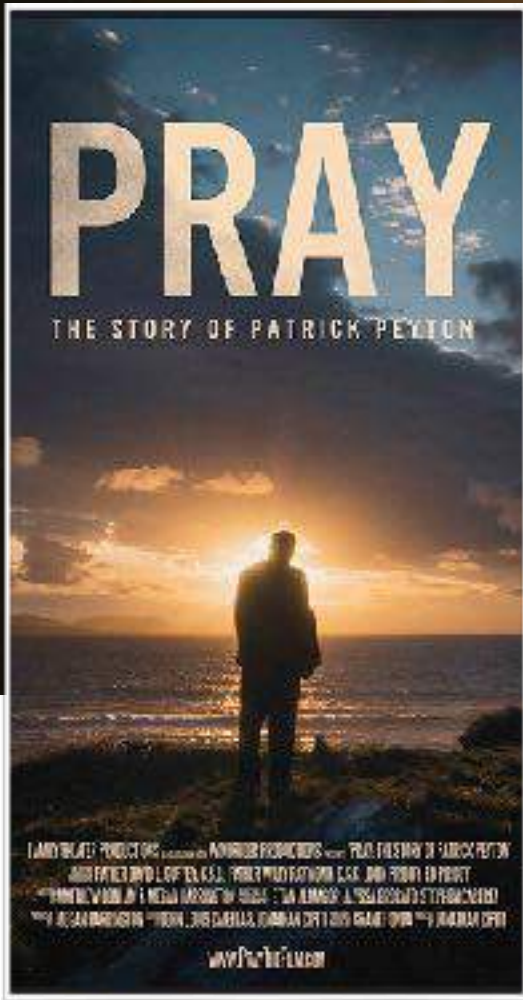
2020 Archbishop Douglas Young, SVD presented the Decree, an official document from the Holy See which confirms Fr. Bogdan Swierczewski, CSMA as a member of the Missionaries of Mercy. This recognition comes directly from the Missionaries of Mercy under the care of the Pontifical Council in Rome. The right to appoint priests to be members of the Missionaries of Mercy is reserved only for the popes. Only the popes

appoint priests whom the bishops in each diocese choose upon their works as priests.

This means Fr. Bogdan Swierczewski, CSMA is now a 'Confessor'. Confessor is a special ministry in which a priest is officially vested with special powers and authority to absolve every sin through the sacrament of Confession, even the sins that are reserved only for the Holy See. This ministry is given only by the popes to priests of the Missionaries of Mercy. They are to show mercy and forgiveness of the Father to the world.

Further, they have to proclaim God's mercy through active preaching. Individuals who believe in God's mercy, repent in their hearts and come for confession, should experience the mercy and grace of God.





## A family that prays together stays together

**Pray: The story of Patrick Peyton** is an inspiring documentary that re-tells the story of Fr Patrick Peyton C.S.C as a poor, uneducated Irish immigrant who sets sail for America in 1928 with nothing but his faith and dreams of becoming a millionaire. Arriving in Pennsylvania and unable to find work, he accepts the position as a janitor at the cathedral, which rekindles his long lost desire to become a priest and changes the course of his life. Nearing ordination, his life takes a radical turn when he is stricken with tuberculosis. Facing certain death, he sinks into despair. A visit from his mentor, who delivers a

simple message to pray, lifts the darkness. Taking his advice to heart, Patrick prays fervently to Mary, the Mother of Christ, for her intercession and he experiences a miraculous recovery.

Feeling deep gratitude, he dedicates his life to telling all the world about the power of prayer and encourages families everywhere to bring prayer into their homes. Never taking “No” for an answer, he convinces Hollywood’s biggest stars to help him spread the message, Father Peyton’s fame spreads around the world and audiences in the millions flock to his public prayer rallies. This is the story of a tireless missionary, an unlikely hero, and one of history’s greatest advocates for family prayer.

It started when Fr Peyton was a seminarian in which he contracted tuberculosis and received illness through the intercession of the Blessed mother, and at that point he wanted to pay her back, to show his love for her. He prayed for a long time about it and came up with the ‘family rosary crusade’, a family prayer movement that he started in 1941, a time when world war two was raging and families were being separated because family members were going off to war.

This is the story of the man that coined the phrase ‘A family that prays together, stays together’ and also popularised the line ‘a world at prayer is a world of peace’.

A must-watch film brought to you by the Family Theatre productions.

### Questions for reflection and discussion:

1. List the moments during the day that you spend in prayer as a family?
2. Do you gather as a family to pray the daily rosary? If not why?
3. Are you praying daily to bond together as a family?
4. Do you pray constantly to overcome fear as we go through the pandemic?





## CARITAS PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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

# LENTEN APPEAL 2021

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



*Picture courtesy - Diocese of Alotau.  
Villagers from Goodenough Island in Milne Bay  
Province receiving food supplies.*

For more information, contact your respective Diocesan Caritas Coordinators:

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