



The Catholic Reporter

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Pope Francis condemns Violence against women

Pope Francis has denounced femicide and other gender-based crimes that have turned Latin America into the most violent place on Earth for women, calling for legislation to protect them and a new cultural mindset as he visited one of Peru's most dangerous areas. At a Marian prayer in the northern seaside city of Trujillo, Francis called women, mothers and grandmothers the guiding force for families. And yet in the Americas they are too often victims of murder and "many situations of violence that are kept quiet behind so many walls", he said on Saturday during the closing stages of a tour of the region.

The first Latin American pontiff called for lawmakers to protect women and for a new culture "that repudiates every form of violence". His remarks came the same day large crowds marched throughout the United States and other countries in support of female empowerment.

Francis's use of the term femicide – the killing of women where the motive is directly related to gender – marked the second time in as many

days that he has spoken out against "machismo" culture in Latin America. The region has the dubious honour of having the world's highest rates of violence against women occurring outside romantic partnerships, and the second-highest of violence within.



Even though more and more countries in the region are adopting protective policies for women, female homicides are rising in Latin America, with two in every five resulting from domestic violence, according to a November 2017 report from UN Women and the UN Development Programme that called the phenomenon a "global pandemic".

Church of the Poor

Bp Rolando Santos, CM

A seminar was held in Alotau based on the *Church of the Poor* on Friday, 19th January for those who felt called by God to to serve the poor. Speaking at the seminar to 48 participants was Fr Neil Lams, a Vincentian priest and Bishop Rolando Santos, CM of Alotau.

"I used to earn alot of money but I gave this all up because I wanted to be poor like Christ and serve the poor," Fr Neil Lams gave this testimony at the seminar. "Pope Francis wants the Church to be poor. To serve the poor, one has to be prayerful," Fr Neil stated. "There are three schools where I learned to be a Vincentian: the school of suffering, the school of prayer, and the school of the poor," he said.

Speaking on *Social Teachings of the Church* was Bp Rolando Santos, also a Vincentian, said: "The dignity of the human person lies at the very foundation of the Church's social doctrine, and this dignity is rooted in the

conviction that every person bears the image of God." Bp Santos said that this was the faith of every saint who stood out in the service of the poor, like Vincent de Paul, Mother Teresa, John Bosco and Francis of Assisi. St. Vincent de Paul said: *You visit the houses of the poor ten times a day, and ten times a day you will see God.*

From this conviction flows also all the other social teachings of the Church: respect for human life, the common good, equality, option for the poor, solidarity, subsidiarity, participation, association, economic justice, peace, development, and stewardship of God's creation. Bp Santos went on to say that love for the poor must be translated into action. "The Church will not be credible in the eyes of the world if she did not serve the poor," he said.

As a response to this call of the Gospel and the Church, the participants committed themselves to join the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a world-wide lay organization founded by Blessed Frederic Ozanam. One participant said that the ideals of the Society is one of the more important and urgent challenges for the Church of our time. Another said that the Social Teachings of the Church are so important they should be taught to everybody, especially to young people in the schools.



Bp Rolando with the group of participants

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Year of Youth - 2018 - Part 4 of the Pastoral Letter in this Year of Youth 2018

My dear young people, your Pastors, affirm that:

1. You are loved. On the occasion of the presentation of the preparatory documents of the 15th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, Pope Francis declared that you, young people, are in his heart. This reminds us of John, the beloved disciple, who as a young man was called by the Lord to follow Him. To you are addressed these words of Jesus, "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full" (Jn 15:11).

2. God has a dream for you. Just like Joseph and David, Mary of Nazareth and Mary Magdalene, as well as Blesseds John Mazzuconi and Peter Torot, young people are called by the Father who has a wonderful dream for each and every of them. Like Abraham, you are called to "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's

house to the land that I will show you." (Gen 12.1).

3. You are called to discover the dream. The Father has placed His dream deep within your heart. It is now up to you to discover that dream. Today, many of you, lose hope in yourselves and in your future as you encounter many problems and difficulties. Poverty, low quality of education, lack of employment find many young people turning to alcohol, drugs and other criminal activities. Many are led to irresponsible behavior. This is definitely not the Father's dream for you. Jesus looks at each and every one of you with love and wants you to discover the Father's Kingdom of joy, love and peace on earth. Your vocation to love finds expression in marriage, the ordained ministry, consecrated life, as well as in the different professions and forms of social and civil commitment, lifestyle, and the management of time and money. Learn how to transform them, in the light of faith, into steps that would

lead towards the fullness of joy to which everyone is called.

4. Be not afraid to follow the dream of the Father. With God's grace, a better world can be built by you, young people, as a result of your faith, your efforts, your desire for change, and your generous heart. Do not be afraid to listen to the Spirit who proposes bold choices to you. As Pope Francis exhorts you, "make your voice heard, let it resonate in communities and let it be heard by the shepherds of your souls".

Young people, entrust yourself to Mary of Nazareth, a young person, who will guide you to responding fully to God.

The full version can be got from the Editor



Is Social Media good or bad? - Part 2

It is wonderful to embrace the benefits of technology, but there is the need to be aware of the negative effects of



Fr. Adam Samsel MSF
Liturgical Catechetical Institute, Goroka

God is calling you

"And he made the twelve, whom he called apostles, that they might be with him, and that he might send them to preach, and that they might have power to cast out demons" (Mk 3: 14-15).



According to the gospel of St. Mark, Jesus chose the twelve apostles and gave them the threefold task: first, to accompany Him; second, to preach and teach what He himself taught; and finally that they cast out impure spirits in His name.

The first task was that the apostles are to be with Jesus, to accompany Him, to stay in His school. It was a clear invitation for the disciples to get to know their Master perfectly, to build a close, personal relationship with Him. Jesus invites His apostles and through them, he invites us, to personally meet Him in prayer. This is the first and the most important task of the disciple of Christ, to know Jesus Christ and to love him through prayer. Someone may say, 'There is so much to do, so many places to visit, so many people waiting for help, ... I cannot waste time in prayer'. In fact only when I become a friend of Jesus, when I really know who He is and what He has done for me, that I will become an effective tool in the hands of God and my apostolic work will bear abundant fruit. The priest, in order that he may properly fulfil his basic mission of sanctifying the people of God and leading the faithful to salvation, must take care of his inner life and constantly grow spiritually. This truth, found in the history of the Church, is the fruit of apostolic work and depends primarily on the degree of sanctification of the apostle. The priest's prayer for his own perfection is indispensable, and his negligence will lead to his fall and to the total loss of the priestly spirit.

Only a priest living in close union with Christ can effectively fulfil the second, mentioned task – that of proclaiming the word of God. He will remember that the effectiveness of the preaching does not depend on his education or pronunciation, on his dignity or power in the Church, but only on the extent to which he becomes like Christ. Thus we have the last task mentioned task in the gospel according to St. Mark. The priest who lives the life of Christ, who preaches the word of God effectively in the name of Jesus, becomes a threat to the evil one. Evil spirits fell before Jesus knowing who He was (see Mk 5: 6-7). They could not stand in the presence of Jesus. Therefore, like the - *alter Christus* - the priest will be a very good confessor and he can effectively use the prayer for the release from evil. Because he was given the power to cast out demons. And when he does it in the name of Jesus, the demon has no choice but to leave.

Although all these words seem to refer mainly to priests, they also refer to all those who minister in the Church, including religious, sisters and brothers, as well as lay faithful, are called to holiness (see Lev 11, 44) and through the sacrament of baptism they also participate in the priesthood of Christ. As Christians, disciples of Jesus Christ, we must not forget that He called us above all to be with Him, to accompany Him all the days of our earthly life, to be a person of prayer.

technology in our lives. The following are highlighted:

Social media can be addictive

An alcoholic finds it difficult to start his day without a glass of alcohol. A person attached to nicotine needs to smoke a cigarette as he gets out of bed. A drug addict needs his regular dose of cocaine. And a social media addict needs to connect with persons on social media at regular moments of the day. Studies have shown that 27% of social media consumers check their social networks as soon as they wake up and 51% continue to log in throughout the day. This behavior can be problematic and can also lead to cases of depression. It is said that addicts get the same *dopamine high* when someone likes one of their posts. This is similar to the high that an addict gets from his regular dose of cocaine.

Reduced productivity

Social Media can have a negative impact on productivity. While at work, one notices service providers, care givers, sales persons and teachers who use social media regularly when they are working. Persons are paid for an eight-hour day and they need to ensure that targets are met and goals are achieved.

Misinformation and fake news

Main stream media in Papua New Guinea does carry 'fake news'. An example is the inflated budget that creates false hopes. However, this ultimately leads to large cuts in education and health. Social Media gives everyone the possibility of creating content. Both real and 'fake news' is found as content on social media networks. There are those who capitalize on this and push their own agenda. There may be platforms to control this, but the ultimate control lies with the social media user.

Cyber-bullying

Social media can also facilitate cyber-bullying, which can take disagreements to new levels, leaving little escape for victims. People seem to feel bolder and more apt to attack others when hiding behind their screens.

While the above list is not exhaustive list, we need to constantly ask ourselves, 'How can I use social media for good?'

Genocide on life

- Elizabeth Gavuri, Journalist for the Archdiocese of Rabaul



Deep sea bed mining is the extraction of metals such as iron, manganese, copper, zinc, lead nickel, cadmium, silver, platinum gold and rare earths from the sea floor.

The Parliament decision for granting license to Nautilus (Under Sea Bed Mining) in Papua New Guinea waters is a disgraceful act of genocide on all levels of life in PNG history.

According to Caritas Co-ordinator, Chairman of the Indigenous priest association, Kokopo, Fr Mathias Lopa, the awarding license to Nautilus Sea Bed Mining is a preferential choice for more money over the indigenous livelihood.

He stated that it is a shame for the authorities not listening to the people's voice and no considerable attention is given to the result of the independent scientific research study on the fragility and vulnerability of life under the sea. The scientific study proves the imminent destructive impact on human life and the natural coexistence as an eventual consequence of such an economic venture. He said that should there be a

rational thinking Papua New Guinean that could explain to all citizens of this nation, why Papua New Guinea has major mining operations by foreign investors, razing of the virgin forest and grabbing land to make millions of kina as revenue over night and yet our rural population still lack basic services.

He said that the people of the NGI region considered the parliamentary decision on sea bed mining as pre-mature, short-sighted and an imprudent decision and that they are concerned about their lives and the lives of their children and their grandchildren. He stated that it is a common knowledge that PNG as a nation has no skill and knowledge on how to restore and rebuild the lives of the sea living organism when imposing of an unimaginable and pre-meditative act of crime against nature by an affluent nation.

He said that the short sighted and non-evaluative decision by Parliamentary Bureaucracy is an outcome of being blind folded by foreign economic creed. He also said that using the robot to destabilize the eco-system of life under the

sea that sustains life on the land is a scary scenario and that such an invasion on non-renewable resources is an act of economic terrorism against the basic foundation of life under, within and above the sea.

He said that as thinking citizens, we need to rationally speculate and conceptualize the possible terrifying scenario if revoking of the international agreement would cost our nation a significant amount of penalty payment. He questioned as to why harvest all non-renewable resources with no due consideration of the future generation. Consuming all resource for the future generation to pay the debt of the present incurring nation's economic debt is morally unacceptable.

Fr Lopa urged all fellow citizens that we have a social obligation and constitutional responsibility to speak up as openly guaranteed by our constitution to air your views on this matter.

Gender Based Violence and Women Empowerment

- Abigail Seta

The East New Britain Daughters of Mary Immaculate (DMI) together with the support of the Catholic Archdiocese of Rabaul are planning to establish the first safe house in the province.



The ENB Provincial Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee (FSVAC) has identified the lack of secure refuge for survivors of family and sexual violence as the number one gap in FSV service provision in the province.

Five nuns of the DMI congregation from Kokopo went on a study tour of safe houses in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ABG) from August 14 to 24, 2017. FMI leader Sr Wilhelmina Sundu, Sr Kostka Tutuo, Sr Gerarda Kaliop, Sr Xavier Gunan and Sr Serah Malaivuye were accompanied by Laura Bennett, a volunteer from the New Zealand Volunteer Service Abroad (VSA) which is currently based in Kokopo.

The group toured three operating safe houses in Buin, Arawa and Chabai which were part of the Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation (NCfR). Also to raise awareness on the issue of GBV in PNG, a 23-year-old New Zealander walked the length of New Zealand to support women and children in Papua New Guinea.

Finn Egan walked the Te Araroa Trail, a tramp that traverses the length of New Zealand's two main islands. His journey, "2000 miles for PNG", was done in an effort to raise awareness and to help build a women's refuge in Kokopo which started on August 19th, 2017 and ended at Christmas.

It was in Kokopo where Egan spent about 18 months working as a volunteer at the local university's teachers training college. This was where she learnt of the endemic problem in PNG: the horrific rates of gender-based violence. In Kokopo, the local church provides services but despite best intentions, they're often inadequate. A small charity, Roar4PNG, was hoping to build a proper safe house with well-resourced services in Kokopo with the help of the church, however, there was not enough funding.

With ENB's bid to minimise GBV within the communities, more counsellors have been trained and educated on how to carry out awareness and to deal with the issues at hand.

Commentary

- by Fr. Victor Roche, SVD



Back to School

Students are returning to school in January and February. I like to share some useful guidelines for their life as students.

Ten Commandments for students:

1. Be grateful to God for, you are fortunate to be a student (Some of your classmates have been less fortunate).
2. Honor your parents and guardians (Do not forget the pains they have gone through in bringing you up).
3. Be proud of your language and culture.
4. Read the Bible. (Atleast one Bible verse a day) and Pray daily; be faithful to your church (do not go from church to church).
5. Keep your priority as a student.
6. Make use of the gifts and talents (If you bury them even the talents you have will be taken away).
7. Respect authority, teachers and rulers of the institution.
8. Respect public property (If you are angry to not destroy public property) and work for the common good of all.
9. Respect friends and be faithful to them (Have right relationships).
10. Be honest and faithful (The faithful servant will be rewarded).

Sanguma and Faith - Sr Marilyn Akonoh MSC



Today, the Church has grown and our own national missionaries with local congregations have increased. The work of Evangelization continues today as we Christianize minds, attitudes, intentions, beliefs and our values. An area that needs to be dealt with is sorcery.

There are many reasons why people practice sorcery, *sanguma* or other forms of evil practices. Reasons could be: the loss of faith; the fear of death; jealousy or other immoral practices. The absence of Missionary activity also allows those immoral practices to increase. It is a concern that such immoral practices challenge the faith of Christians today.

Factors that can shape the mindset of the person are: the environment, education and a good conscience. The Catholic Church continues to evangelize today. It this year of Youth, 2018, we need to ensure that the faith of our young people can grow and develop, so that they are able to deal with these and other issues that they face.

Yumi Yet Sios

- Bp Rochus Tatamai MSC



Insait long dispela yia 2018, ol Bisop i askim olgeta bilip manmeri insait long PNG na Solomon Ailans long bungim tingting long prea na wokabout wantaim olgeta yangpela manmeri (krismas 14 – 30) insait long bikpela astingting: “Singaut long stap pulap tru long laip na laikim bilong God.” Pop Francis yet em singaut olsem “Yupela ol yangpela manmeri, yupela istap ‘centre’ o bun tru na astingting. Olsem na yupela mas stap laip insait long Kraist husat em I as truru bilong skelim ol kainkain singaut na mekim gutpela desisen long wonem laip wanwan yet i bihainim.” Yumi pre na wokabout wantaim long dispela astingting taim yumi redi tu long bikpela bung bilong Wold Yut De long yia 2019. Long ol wok redi yumi ken skelim tingting bihainim bikpela astingting “Mi yet wokmeri bilong yu Lord. Mekim long mi olsem Yu yet i bin tok pinis.” (Lk 1:32)

Narapela bikpela tingting yumi selebretim 23 aniversari long namba 17 de bilong mun Januari 1995 taim Santu Pop John Pol II emi bin tokaut klia olsem Peter ToRot: Katekist na Martir i kamap “Blessed.” Dispela luksave olsem “Blessed” emi laspela hap bipo Pop long nem bilong Mama Sios i ken tokaut klia long ai bilong Sios olgeta olsem wanpela man o meri i kamap na stap “Santu” insait long Katolik Sios olgeta.

Lukluk igo bek long dispela de olsem 23pela yia igo pinis, bikpela ren tru i bin pundaun long dispela de taim Papa Santu i kirapim bikpela lotu insait long Sir John Guise Stadium. Olgeta manmeri husat i kam long dispela bikpela Misa i bin waswas gut tru. Ino bin gat ren long longpela taim tru insait siti bilong Pot Mosbi. Olsem na Papa Santu i bin strongim olgeta bilip manmeri long Misa na tu olgeta long kauntri PNG olsem dispela ren emi spesel blessing bilong God antap long pipel bilong PNG. Papa Santu i bin tokaut olsem olgeta bilip manmeri long PNG na tu olgeta sitisen bilong PNG ol i ken hamamas tru na tengkim God bikos nambawan “Blessed” bilong PNG em wanpela leiman em truru wanpela bilong ol leiti. Dispela i mas mekim olgeta insait long Melanesia ol i ken hamamas tru bikos nambawan “Blessed” em marit man, em papa bilong famili, em tisa na katiket, em gutpela lidaman tru bilong ol pipel bilong em long taim bilong bikpela hevi na pait. Em ino bin ronowe na hait. Nogat emi sanap ples klia na autim bilip bilong em long ai bilong ol birua bilong Jisas Kraist na gut nius bilong em.

Yumi prei wantaim na tingim olgeta yanpela manmeri bilong yumi bai ol i ken pulap tru long Holi Spirit bilong God na skelim gut wonem kain laip oli bihainim olsem ol i disaipel tru bilong Jisas. Yumi bungim tingting na prei wantaim bai laip, wok ministri, na dai olsem martir bilong Blessed Peter ToRot i ken kirapim planti gutpela man long strongim laip bilong famili wantaim sakramen bilong marit. Kamapim planti moa gutpela lida manmeri, strongpela famili laip, gutpela lukaut long olgeta pikinini manmeri, strongim pasin bilong tok tru, kamapim tru wok jastis na gutpela sindaun insait long olgeta ples.

Kamapim planti moa gutpela lida manmeri, strongpela famili laip, gutpela lukaut long olgeta pikinini manmeri, strongim pasin bilong tok tru, kamapim tru wok jastis na gutpela sindaun insait long olgeta ples.

Celebrating 50 years of ‘Dedication, Hope and Service’

Port Moresby, 14th January, 2018: Sr. Margaret Arere Ani, AD and Sr. Stella Kambis, AD, celebrated their Golden Jubilee as professed members of the Handmaids of the Lord – Ancilla Domini (AD) sisters on Saturday, January 13th at 10:30am with a Thanksgiving Eucharist at the Shrine of Mary Help of Christians, East Boroko in Port Moresby.



Sr. Margaret and Sr Stella

Present to witness and celebrate this special occasion was His Eminence John Cardinal Ribat, Archbishop of Port Moresby, Bp Rochus Tatamai, MSC together with family members, priests and religious sisters. The Ambassador of France, Phillippe Janvier-Kamiyama was also present for the celebrations.

In his homily, Cardinal Ribat congratulated the sisters for hearing the call of the Lord and fulfilling it in their everyday lives. He spoke of Mary and her complete surrender to fulfil God’s will in her life. “It was Mary’s faith that prompted her to say ‘I am the handmaid of the Lord’, to God’s invitation”, reminded the Cardinal. The St Michael’s choir, Hanuabada, led the congregation in a prayerful celebration with their melodious voices.

After the Eucharistic celebration, a luncheon was held for all present. Colourful dances were staged by different groups. The organization was done by the family of Sr. Margaret with a view to encourage vocations to religious life.



Bp Capelli at the opening.

New hall for Wagina community

Rellysdom Aaron Malakana

Solomon Islands: The Wagina community in the province of Choiseul unveiled a new community hall or the ‘Te Maniaba’ on Sunday, January 14th, 2018.

The unveiling of the hall was celebrated with a Eucharistic Mass and a beautiful homily from Bp Capelli, which was translated by a church elder. Bp Capelli’s message was based on helping the children where he challenged the community to prioritise and not neglect their children. He also congratulated the community and the parish priest for the hall and asked them to use the Maniaba for planning for the betterment of the children.

After the mass, the Bishop together with Fr Stanislaus Mynt, Fr Rauben and a parish priest from Noro proceeded to officially open the Maniaba which was witnessed by the parishioners. Later, lunch and words of appreciation followed.

Mary Help of Christian’s graduation

Bomai D Witne

Goroka: Mary Help of Christian’s Parish was blessed with its share of graduation joy. Parishioners celebrated two graduations, the first graduation of Blessed Peter ToRot’s play school on 1st December and the second graduation of St Joseph’s Vocational School on the 6th of December, 2017.

At the Eucharistic celebration

The play school is an initiative of the Parishioners with support from Fr. Michelle Morando to prepare children between the ages of 3-5 years for elementary school. In his opening prayer, Fr. Michelle encouraged parents to care for children as they are God’s gift and stressed that the church also cares for them in providing basic education. Many parents learnt and appreciated the importance of early childhood education at the play school graduation. A partially blind parent praised the school for his child who could read to him.



At the St Joseph’s Vocational School’s graduation, a mass was held where Bishop Dariusz Kaluza encouraged students to use their skills, knowledge and talent to serve other people. “This is something you have and can use anytime without waiting for money or other people’s support. Personal success, integrity and discipline comes from serving people with pride and dignity,” he said.

Vicar General, Fr. Peter thanked the students, parents and the community for supporting the school and encouraged graduating students to become good citizens by using their knowledge and skills to contribute positively to development. The Board Chairman challenged carpentry students to use their skills to build or repair their parents’ house and do simple work in the village and community and eventually transfer skills to the workforce. Mr Anton Towa and Joachim Homate shared their struggles and achievements, while Mr Yausi Yameniko stressed on job opportunities. Pacific Builders thanked the school and announced its recruitment of the only two female carpentry graduates.

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

on or before **20th February, 2018**

Articles may be edited due to space constraints.

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