



# The Catholic Reporter

Catholic Bishops' Conference of PNG & SI - Commission on Social Communications, P.O. Box 398, Waigani, NCD Tel.: 325 9577 - Fax: 323 2551

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- Larissa Lopez

## World Day against Human Trafficking: A fight that concerns all countries

Every year, on July 30, the United Nations Organizations observes the World Day against Human Trafficking, a crime and grave violation of Human Rights. According to the UN, every year thousands of men, women, and children fall into the hands of traffickers, in their own countries and abroad. Virtually all the countries of the world are affected by trafficking, either as the country of origin, of transit, or of the victims' destiny.



**Rome:** The Holy Father labels human trafficking "an ignoble activity, a shame for our societies that call themselves civilized. As the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano points out, in an article entitled "Pope Francis' Teaching against Human Trafficking," since occupying the Petrine See, the Pope has strongly denounced this scourge, describing it as "the greatest slavery of this 21<sup>st</sup> century and making it one of the recurrent subjects of his teachings.

According to the Vatican newspaper, for the Pope, this scourge is a crime against humanity that, in his words, "concerns all countries, including the most developed, and it affects the most vulnerable people: women, boys and girls, the handicapped, the poor, those coming from situations of family and social disintegration.

To seal his original "vocation" of service to the excluded, the Pontiff has not failed to call the

Church, stressing to other religious leaders, to rulers, and to the International Community the need to put the subject among the priorities of their pastoral agenda.

Thus, for example, in a note written and sent by the Pontiff in August 2013, the year his pontificate began, to the Chancellor of the Pontifical Academies of Science and of Social Sciences, his compatriot Monsignor Marcelo Sanchez Sorondo, he requested specifically "that it would be good to address human trafficking and modern slavery."

Since then, the Pontiff has made numerous appeals in addresses, homilies, and documents, including concrete initiatives. Such is the case, for instance, of the creation in 2014 of the Saint Martha Group, a global alliance of Police Chiefs, Bishops and Religious Communities, as well as the establishment of the World Day of Prayer and Reflection, observed every year on February 8, in

memory of Saint Josephine Bakhita, a nun native of Sudan, who was sold as a slave when she was a child.

For his part, given this World Day and this time of the spread of COVID-19, the Secretary-General of *Caritas Internationalis*, Aloysius John, laments this worrying reality and affirms that the concentration of attention and efforts in the emergency caused by the virus "should not hinder us from taking care of the people most prone to exploitation, by offering them "safety nets" and "material, medical, legal and psychological support" to "accompany them in difficulties."

Therefore, *Caritas Internationalis* has appealed to governments to pay more attention to the "collateral damages of the global pandemic, especially to migrants and informal workers, who are now more exposed to trafficking."

- Sr Lorena Jenal, FSDP

## A voice for the voiceless

The flare-up of human rights violations occurs in the 21<sup>st</sup> century all across the globe. In times of war, disease and disaster, people often look for scapegoats. The United Nations is watching this with great concern. Sadly, across over 30 countries of the world, sorcery related violence and witchcraft is at its peak.

For Sr Lorena, the fight against these violations of human rights has become her great mission. She has saved the lives of dozens of people and, with the support of missio, has set up an aid project. Here is her account of sorcery related violence in Papua New Guinea.

Easter in the Pomerel Parish in the Diocese of Mendi was not as joyful as all the other years because three women were blamed by some for the death of an elderly man who suffered for many years with asthma and kidney failure. The man died on Wednesday of Holy Week. For three days we discussed, mediated and negotiated about a good solution regarding the grieving family as well as the families of the three accused women. Most of all, the life of the three innocent women, who were mothers of many children, respected women with dignity and the full right of being protected, was our focus. At the same time Pomerel is the Parish which has a good team of very involved and committed men and women who over the past four years have confronted the problem of violence and especially

the issue of sorcery accusation violence. They are all active laity working for the fullness of life in Christ. We also have in this extremely important ministry, members from other Christian denominations, because of believing in unity binds us together and makes us stronger to confront this evil that is harming our community. The three women were horribly tortured and burned on Easter Sunday morning when we all were in Church for the Resurrection Liturgy. One cannot ignore the diabolical irony of this. They are recovering from their physical torture, but the trauma of all the rest that happened is far from being healed, it possibly takes a lifetime.

In the middle of July, a school student died unexpectedly. Six women in a village of the Upper Karinj Pastoral Area were accused of Sanguma. Immediately a team from the Diocese of Mendi went to the village. The women were saved following a long and heated argument. Some of the team members have been following up to make sure that the women will be safe for the long term.

At present, in the Southern Highlands alone there are 76 survivors of sorcery accusation violence and 12 people who have been murdered. Keep in mind, these are only the cases that we know about and have been directly involved in. There are probably many more cases. The issue of Sorcery Accusation Violence is happening all the time and it is



something that the Church, working with people of good will, must confront and root out from Papua New Guinea once and for all. Bishop Donald Lippert, Archbishop Anton Bal, Bishop Arnold Orawae, and the other bishops have been very much involved in this issue of Sorcery Accusation Violence (SAV).

**10 August 2020** is the **1st International Day against SAV**. It was announced by Missio, the mission outreach agency of the German Catholic bishops. "This International Day draws attention to a new wave of human rights violations in more than 30 countries. For too long, people have overlooked and kept silent about the fact that misanthropic superstition is used to scapegoat less women, children and men as scapegoats for social problems", said Pastor Dirk Bingener, President missio Aachen, Germany.

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# Embracing the PNG culture



Frater. Joseph Hoang Quoc Phan with locals from the Momase and Highlands region

**Wewak:** Frater. Joseph Hoang Quoc Phan was born in Huong Khe - Ha Tinh, Vietnam into a family of seven children, of which four dedicated their lives to God. The desire of the age of “tam thap nhi lap” (only at the age of thirty can one establish oneself well in life) impelled Frt. Phan to decide to spend his life for the mission in the distant island of Papua New Guinea and as a result gained unforgettable experiences.

Wishing to gain experience in a real mission area - after finishing Philosophical courses - Frt. Joseph Phan signed up for the OTP proactively to serve in

PNG where there are more than 800 different tribes.

Although PNG is a wild country, Frt. Phan still did not hesitate to involve himself in different daily activities in order to bring the spiritual benefits to the native people over there.

“Any missionary who comes here must spend 200% of his effort to sow the seeds of Good News in the soil of the hearts of the native people. Through this mission, I deeply acknowledge the effort of the former foreign missionaries in the early time to bring the Catholic faith into Vietnam”, said Frt. Phan.

It was in 1986 that the Good News was brought to these islands by the SVD missionaries for the first time. This is the spirit of the SVD congregation: *a missionary will consider it as his home wherever he goes and joins the local SVD community.*

It is this spirit that greatly supported Frt. Phan’s commitment and helped him not to feel lonely in a

foreign country. Talking about his daily works, Frt. Phan said: “Besides spending time studying the new language, culture, mission skills, I also served at parishes which are run by SVD missionaries. In particular, I was assigned to work with the youth and the altar servers in Kunjingini, a parish in the Diocese of Wewak.

He spent time praying the Chaplet of the Divine of Mercy after mass and doing other activities. I also went out to farther mission places with the pastor to celebrate Sunday mass for those who could not come to the parish.”

PNG is a country which has only 18% citizens living in cities. The tribal characteristic is still strongly manifested in the life of native people. It is noteworthy that they have an anthem which deeply reflects religious spirit. Many people joined the Roman Catholic Church. But later on, they switch to other religions.

“I feel that their faith was not strong enough, and they didn’t have many chances to deepen their faith so they could not experience the meaning and value of it”, said Frt. Phan.

After serving and practicing one and a half years as a missionary outside of his homeland, Frt. Phan is set to return to Vietnam to continue his study of Theology in the middle of this year. Frt. Phan looks forward to his future.



## Push your cow

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, Secretary for Social Communication

Sometimes our dependence on something small is the biggest obstacle to our growth. Here is a story for us to reflect on and take the relevant steps to change our lives.

Once a wise man and his disciple on their walk through the country saw a hut in the distance. As they approached, they realized that it was occupied by a man and his wife, three young children and a thin, tired cow. Since they were hungry and thirsty, the wise man and his disciple stopped for a few hours and were well received.

At one point, the wise man asked: “This is a very poor place, far away from anything. How do you survive?” “You see that cow? That’s what keeps us going,” said the head of the family. “She gives us milk, some of it we drink, and some were made into cheese. When there is extra, we go into the city and exchange the milk and cheese for other types of food. That’s how we survive.”

The wise man thanked them for their hospitality and left. When he reached the first bend in the road, he said to his disciple: “Go back, get the cow, take her to the cliff in front of us, and push her off.” The disciple was terrified. “How can you be so ungrateful? The cow is all they have. If I throw it on the cliff, they’ll have no way to survive. Without the cow, they’ll all die!” The wise man, calmly repeated the order: “Push the cow off the cliff.” The student then obey his master.

Years later the student passed that way again. He wanted to find out how the family was doing. Upon rounding the bend, he saw a beautiful house with trees all around, a farm full of rich crops, cars in the garage. He

approached the house and asked a man that was passing by about the whereabouts of the family that had lived there several years before. “You’re looking at me, my wife and children.”

“What happened? Several years ago, this place was miserable. How did you improve your lives in such a short time?”

The man looked at the disciple and replied with a smile: “We had a cow that kept us alive. She was all we had. But one day she fell down the cliff and died. To survive, we had to start doing other things, develop skills we didn’t even know we had. And so, because we were forced to come up with new ways of doing things, we are now much better off than before.”

Yes. Our dependence on something small is the biggest obstacle to our growth. Perhaps the best thing that could happen to you is to push your “cow” down the cliff.

Is there a cow in your life that is keeping you miserable? Perhaps it may be an attachment to alcohol that will only ruin your life. It may be an addiction to smoking, which we know only reduces our immunity to fight COVID-19. Or it may be an addiction to social media that deprives one of quality family time and most needed sleep, or it may be an abusive relationship that one may need to terminate and walk away.

Get ready to throw your ‘cow’ down the cliff. Get out of your comfort zone. Take the risk to get the best results and stay blessed forever.

# Stop Sorcery Accusation Violence in PNG

The brutal killing of a young woman last month gathered together many Papua New Guineans to take a firm stance against domestic violence and all forms of violence.

While this was taking place, there were reports of sorcery accusation related violence (SAV) in the country. Sadly, because of these accusations, women were being tortured and burned.

According to Sr Lorena Jenal, a missionary in the Diocese of Mendi, three women were tortured and burned on Easter Sunday after being accused of the death of an elderly man who suffered for many years with asthma and kidney failure. Recently, another six women in the province were accused of *sanguma* or sorcery.

Over the past weeks, Bishop of Mendi, Bp Donald Lippert, has been raising awareness and campaigning on social media against SAV. He stated: “Those who torture and kill women accused of sorcery are verifiably guilty of the crime that they are accusing the women of doing. In the case of the

torturers there are witnesses watching the heinous spectacle.”

“It is obvious that their actions directly cause the death of the accused woman. They could easily be convicted in a court of law. On the other hand, there is never any admissible evidence that the accused woman was responsible for the death of anyone.”

He added that the issue of Sorcery Accusation Violence is happening all the time and it is something that the Church, working with other people of good will, must confront and root out from PNG society once and for all.

On the 10th of August is the 1st International Day Against Sorcery Accusation Violence, the Bishop has urged everyone to observe the day.

Hence, let us all stand together, pray together and take action to stop Sorcery Accusation Related Violence in PNG.



- Abigail Seta

## Domestic violence and New Evangelization

Fr. Victor Roche SVD  
Secretary for New Evangelization



In the last few weeks, the media has been filled with rage about the torture and killing of Jenelyn Kennedy. It is unfortunate that a young mother of two had to die at the hand of her partner. It is an opportunity to check the conscience of this nation how men and boys respect women and girls; how the wives are treated by their husbands in our culture.

There have been protest marches by women, girls, students, men, politicians, ‘PNG Man Up’ group and the like. They are demanding tougher laws for perpetrators of domestic violence. There is a high rate of domestic violence or Gender Based Violence (GBV) in PNG. According to the Police Minister, Mr. Bryan Kramer said 647 cases of domestic violence were reported in Port Moresby in June alone.

Hence, we have to reflect on **why** there is such a high rate of violence against women and girls or Gender Based Violence (GBV) in PNG. And how can we **PREVENT** GBV happening in PNG?

**Possible preventive measures:**

1. **The teachers in the schools** should teach the students the moral value of respect for one another; how to respect girls. If there is an abuse by a male student, proportionate punishment is to be given to the student. If a male teacher is involved in domestic violence, a tougher punishment should be given to him, because he is teaching moral values to the students by words and actions.
2. **Families** should teach their children how to respect women and girls. Family is the place where the children learn their values. Family is the domestic church and domestic school.
3. **Chiefs and Bigmen** of the tribes have to reflect on the attitude which is handed down to the men in PNG culture: “If I have paid my bride price, I can do whatever I want with my wife. She is my ‘property.’ Men have to change their attitude.
4. **Churches** have to instill the value of human respect; respect for women and girls. Almost 140 years of the presence of Christianity in PNG has changed the behaviour of only some people; more men have to learn the value human respect, especially of respect for women and girls. Priests and pastors have to preach about the dignity of the human person; that each woman is also an image of God.
5. **Leadership roles for women in PNG:** Among the 111 MPs in PNG, there is no woman MP. Men and women do not respect women leadership in PNG generally. This attitude has to change. Government, businesses and churches have to give leadership roles to women.

I hope and pray that after the mass-protests on GBV, there is a great change in the attitude of men and boys in their respect for women and girls.





## Health crisis an eye opener on the care for the poor

**Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME, CBC General Secretary**

The crisis in the health sector in Papua New Guinea over the past few months was an eye opener. The nurses and doctors of the Christian Health Services and Catholic Church Health Services

scaled down or completely interrupted work by the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July due to no release of operational grants and no payment of salaries by the government since January or February 2020.

The financial difficulties of the government in these times of pandemic and apparent change in economic policies and foreign investments can be understood. The question, however, arises when it comes to the setting of priorities. The health services of the different Christian denominations in PNG cover about 50% of the total national health sector. The fact that they are located mostly in the rural areas, where there is nearly no government

infrastructure, tells how vital these services are for millions of disadvantaged citizens in the country.

Yes. Salaries may have been delayed by relying on the fact that Church management serves as a deterrent against quicker abandonment of duties. And the Churches may in effect be able, as in similar instances in the past, to mobilize emergency resources for a few fortnight contributions. But the Churches are not raising taxes. Without government paid salaries, their health services would be all gone in much less than one year.

The government must be careful not to undermine its claimed Christian inspiration with practices that jeopardize it, such as spots of blurred financial accountability, neglect of remote areas, financial rewards for hosting scores of asylum seekers and refugees who never aimed at our shores.

The issue here are the rural health services. Should they fall again at a very low level of priority, then the commitment of the government to the most

disadvantaged people in the country could be seriously questioned.

In a post COVID-19 poorer world, there will be no margins for personal and corporate greed; or human arrogance will once again push millions to the fringes, and in conditions of starvation, sickness, and death. Papua New Guinea is a rare example of a country refraining from investing in armaments and weapons of war. Still the task of ensuring sufficient financial resources for the required basic services, for the State machinery, and for the infrastructural improvements for a growing population is daunting. Can't waste a single toea. International solidarity helps, but not at the price of sacrificing human rights and moral standards. At the end of the day every person and every country are largely responsible for their destiny. What is essential is the integrity and commitment of the leadership, which is immediately seen in the treatment reserved to the marginalized and the poor.

- Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb



## Work together to heal our Common Home

**- Marie Mondu, CBC Development Secretary**

When we hear the phrase "Climate Change" what does it really mean to us?

Many Papua New Guineans observe the symptoms of weather patterns, storms, droughts, frosts, cyclones causing floods but do not understand what is causing these extreme weather conditions to change rapidly and unexpectedly.

We live in a Greenhouse. Life on Earth depends on energy coming from the Sun. About half the light reaching Earth's atmosphere passes through the air and clouds to the surface, where it is absorbed and then radiated upward in the form of infrared heat. About 90 percent of this heat is then absorbed by the greenhouse gases and radiated back toward the surface. The greenhouse gasses are number of gasses in the air that protects us from direct heat of the sun. They act as a blanket trapping the sun's heat and spreading it out around our Earth responsible for our weather patterns and climate.

On Earth, human activities are changing the natural greenhouse. Over the last century the burning of fossil fuels like coal and oil has increased the concentration of atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). This happens because the coal or oil burning process combines carbon with oxygen in the air to make CO<sub>2</sub>. To a lesser extent, the clearing of land for agriculture, industry, and other human activities has increased concentrations of greenhouse gases. This is resulting in warming of our planet a phenomena known as "Global Warming".

What can we do to cut down some of our harmful contributions to the greenhouse gasses? Every country must make the political decision and commitment firstly and be serious about greener solutions.

In our recent visit to the Diocese of Lae we were delighted to see a project called the Green Carbon Project along the Markham area of Okuk Highway. There is evidence of Reforestation project covering few hectares of land. Trees, coral reef, mangroves and plants can absorb carbon dioxide naturally and use it to make their own food. In other words, they help reduce carbon dioxide in our atmosphere and keep a healthy balance to our greenhouse gasses in their interaction with the sun's heat.

We can take green actions as in the evidence at Markham Valley and do more:

- Plant more trees in areas we have destroyed through logging, gardening or bushfires
- Stop using harmful chemicals in agricultural practices, fishing and factories
- Ban deep sea mining, exploration, land mining and fossil fuel burning
- Adapt new ways of generating electricity through use of more solar and hydro technologies.
- Ban large scale logging or clear felling logging techniques.

Some evidence in the plight of COVID-19 and the lockdown has slowed down many of our activities and some say the EARTH is HEALING itself. Yes, we can Heal our Home if we work together as a global community.

## Living life with right relationships



The Mary Our Help Hostel, Boroko, Port Moresby, had a session for the young ladies at the hostel residence on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

The ladies participated in a two-hour session, the topic of which was 'Living Life with Right Relationships'.

Two guest speakers were invited to speak. They are young professional Catholics involved in the work force of Papua New Guinea and who are siblings. They are both actively involved as parishioners of St Joseph's Parish and are members of the Parish Youth group.

Desmond Aigilo, aged 27 years, a Lawyer by profession, was the first speaker. He shared his

grounding in the Bible and highlighted verses from Scripture that speak of the importance of being pure, rewards for purity and words of counsel.

Carol Aigilo, aged 32 years, an Environmentalist by profession, shared her reflections on life. She spoke of the Catholic values that she holds dear in her life. She shared on three figures in the Bible: Abigail, Deborah and Mary.

The presentations were followed by group discussions and questions which were an opportunity for the young ladies to ask questions and clear doubts about their relationships.

The questions were answered by a team on the panel consisting of the guest speakers, Carol and Desmond Aigilo, together with Fr Ambrose Pereira and Sr Carmencita Rodriguez, FMA.

- Bp Luciano Capelli

## Handing over of a new parish to a caretaker

**Taro:** Bp Luciano Capelli, Bishop of the Diocese of Gizo witnessed the handing over of the newly erected parish to the new 'care taker,' Rev Fr Fred Guadalupe, on 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2020.

The official handover was done through two simple signs: the handing over the key of the Tabernacle and of the Stole. Fr Kobakina who will take some time to recover expressed his gratitude to the people and encouraged them to be generous in their support of Fr Fred, who has expressed his availability to offer his service to the community.

The Taro church has great potential and we look forward to its Catholic witness in Taro.

Meanwhile, the Gizo St Peter's Kindergarten Teachers visited Sacred Heart Parish Kindergarten in Waghina. The Kindy has about 100 children who attend class daily. The Kindy teachers have had no formal training but have



taken part in a number of seminars offered by diocesan personnel. At the seminars they were given topics to be developed, materials on the topics and inputs on how to use the materials.

The teachers are thus confident in their teaching and hope soon to pursue further formal studies in the near future.

- Godfrey Jordan Abage

## CBC representatives visit diocese of Kavieng



Institutional Strengthening Program (CISP) finance officer, Anna Nongkas.

On 30<sup>th</sup> June, the representatives met with the diocesan team and highlighted three important aspects which were Organization Assessment, Policies and Organization Structures. The representatives expressed the need for improvement on administration and more evangelization and advised the diocese to consult with relevant policies to guide our operation and smooth delivery of pastoral activities.

"The need to observe different policies of the diocesan administration is important to shape our conduct and focus," said Marie Mondu.

The different managers and commissions of the diocesan administration will coordinate to redirect our vision.

**Kavieng:** The Diocese of Kavieng is thankful to three representatives of the Catholic Bishops Conference who gave their time to dialogue with the administration and parishes.

The representatives were CBC's Development Secretary, Marie Mondu; Laity Secretary, Eva Wangihama and Churches





DWU participants of the Media Education Seminar. Picture: CBC SOCOM

**Madang:** Eighteen students of the Communication Arts Department of Divine Word University have raised awareness on COVID-19 and the environment through short films and jingles.

The students from the second, third and fourth year were a part of a three-day Media Education Seminar held from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020. The seminar was facilitated by representatives from the Social Communications Commission of the Catholic Bishops Conference in partnership with Caritas Australia and Radio Maria.

The first day of the seminar dwelt on the 'New Normal' and Risk Communications which was facilitated by Caritas Australia representative, Robin Lesley. He spoke on the COVID-19 precautionary measures and how to communicate the messages

## Raising awareness through media

- Abigail Seta

in an informative, entertaining and shareable way. Following this session, video basics was dwelt upon where the students created 20 second videos on the six key messages. The 20 second films are:

1. Clean hands – Clean friends
2. The elbow cough
3. Social distancing and disinfecting surfaces
4. Avoid touching your face
5. Stay at home

The sessions continued with audio and creating jingles where Fr Martin We-en, Director of Radio Maria PNG recorded jingles of the students on COVID-19. 14 jingles were produced in English and Tok Pisin.

For the second day of the seminar, the sessions focused on the environment Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, Social Communications Secretary gave an informative session on Pope Francis' Encyclical 'Laudato Si' where he challenged the students to care for our common home – 'Mother Earth'. Charlotte Vada, Caritas Australia representative also spoke on climate change.

The students were then given time to plan their short environmental films. The participants created storyboards and a storyline, acted out their scenes and shot their films.

They produced five films which are:

1. Plant a tree, go green, no regrets
2. Let's stop the Plastic
3. Wara dai – water mismanagement
4. All about Attitude
5. Trash to Treasure

Addressing the participants Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, encouraged the students to unleash their talent and their creativity and produce video clips with powerful messages.

"Your video clips should be a product of your reflection and an expression of your mind and your heart. It should invite people to bring about a change of attitude and behaviour that will be for the common good of all people", he said.

All throughout the seminar there were moments of personal and group prayer. The students realized the importance of reflection and the need to have a clean mind and heart to ensure that the productions were for the common good of all.

The three-day program concluded with a presentation of the 10 short films and 6 jingles on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> July. Following the screening, the students were given certificates of participation.

The seminar was hosted by CBC SOCOM together with the Divine Word University, SIGNIS International, MISSIO, Caritas Australia and Radio Maria.

- Paul Harricknen

## Catholic faithfuls mark feast day of Blessed Peter ToRot

Catholic faithful nationwide marked the life of Bl Peter ToRot on the 25 years of his Beatification and 75 years anniversary of his Martyrdom during the month of July.

His feast day which falls on 7<sup>th</sup> July was celebrated with a Eucharist on 2<sup>nd</sup> July by the Bishops during the conclusion of their 61st Annual General Meeting.

Archbishop Rochus Tatamai, MSC, a close family descendent of Bl. Peter ToRot gave a moving homily highlighting the life, witness, and example of Bl. ToRot as a man of courage and fortitude in faith and resolve to follow Jesus Christ by his life and death. ToRot was a family man, catechist, teacher, and eventually died a martyr in defense of his Christian faith.

Tatamai recollected the life of Bl. ToRot from the time his parents became the first-generation Christians when the missionaries landed on Matupit in 1882. ToRot was a second-generation Christian following in the footsteps of his parents.

Mary Queen of the Pacific in Wagani hosted the celebration parishes within city limits, on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020. The Archbishop of Port Moresby, His Eminence Sir John Cardinal Ribat celebrated the Holy Eucharist Mass while Fr Robert, Fr John Willio, Fr Urban Kalimet, Fr Fabian, and Fr Martin Ween concelebrated with him.

More than 200 people attended as the Cardinal encouraged the faithful to show courage and commitment to live the Catholic faith they received in their time as ToRot did during his time. The highlight of the celebration was the reception of ToRots portrait from St Charles Lwanga Parish blessed by Cardinal Pietro Parolin Vatican Secretary of State.

On Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> July, the St Joseph's parish in Boroko held their celebrations with a Eucharist to commemorate Bl Peter ToRot's life. The Mass was led by the assistant parish priest, Fr. Joseph Liaia, CP and assisted by the parish priest Fr. John Curtis,



CP. Fr Joseph shared the Sunday Gospel reading on the Wheat and the Weed in Mathew 13: 24-30 by relating to Jesus's parable to Bl. Peter ToRot's life as an example of the good seed, a firm rock, sure commitment of faith and courage, especially during the times of war and Japanese occupation.

The Diocese of Lae also celebrated mass in honour of Bl Peter ToRot. The mass was led by Bp Rozario Menezes at the St Mary's Cathedral.

Peter ToRot was an apostle, responding to the call of Jesus to the people of East New Britain, PNG, and the World as a lay missionary. He was a seed and the sower.

- Sr Nava Jothi Kannika DMI

## DMI Sisters open two skill centres for women



The Daughters of Mary Immaculate Sisters (DMI) have been positively influencing the lives of women and children in the settlements of Port Moresby.

One of those ways of influence is through enhancing the skill of women. According to Sr Catherine, Country Program Coordinator of the DMI Sisters, they have opened two Vocational Skill Centre's in Kogeva and Sabama Settlement together with Help Humanity International (HHI).

The centre is for women and youth to learn basic stitching, cutting and embroidery courses. These courses will run for three months.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> June, the centre in Kogeva was opened with village leaders and women members. In Sabama, it was opened on 23<sup>rd</sup> June and had

participants who are currently taking part in the course which will conclude with a graduation on 25<sup>th</sup> September.

With the support of WeCare Foundation, 20 sewing machines were bought with other materials needed for the program.

Picture 1: Participants from Sabama at the launching of the program.

Picture 2: Sr Catherine, Project coordinator displaying the sewing machines at Kogeva.

Picture courtesy: DMI Sisters



## 1st International Day against SORCERY ACCUSATION VIOLENCE

MONDAY, 10TH AUGUST 2020

NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT AND PRAY!

The atrocity of the torture and killing of women and sometimes men, accused of sorcery continues with impunity in PNG.

Now is the time to stop these crimes against humanity that are occurring in our communities.

## STOP SAV in PNG!

### Catholic Reporter

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

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

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