

'To Bear Witness to the Light' - Jn 1:7 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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- Christopher Wells

Pope at Mass in Hungary: Christ calls us by name and sends us forth



The Pope went on to explain that, as Christians, we are all “called by name by the Good Shepherd, summoned to receive and spread his love, to make his fold inclusive and never to exclude others.”

From this, he said, it follows that we are called to build fraternity and avoid divisions, “opening our hearts to mutual love.”

The Shepherd ‘leads them out’: After the Shepherd calls his sheep, the Pope continued, he goes on “to lead them out,” to send them forth into the world to be “witnesses of the love that has given us new birth.”

Introducing the image of the door, Pope Francis said that Jesus is the door that brings us “into the fold of the Church” and then “leads us back into the world.”

The Pope lamented the doors closed to the lonely, the underprivileged, foreigners, migrants; closed doors that are found “even in our ecclesial communities,” doors closed “to other people... to the world... to those who are ‘irregular’... those who long for God’s forgiveness.”

Pope Francis implored the faithful, “Please, let us open those doors! Let us try to be, in our words, deeds, and daily activities, like Jesus, an open door, a door that is never shut in anyone’s face, a door that enables everyone to enter and experience the beauty of God’s love.”

Be open doors!: Addressing bishops and priests, and all those who are “shepherds” within the Church, the Pope called them to be “increasingly open doors, ‘facilitators’ of God’s grace. He likewise called on the lay faithful, including catechists and pastoral workers, political and social leaders: “Be open doors! ... Be open and inclusive, then, and in this way, help Hungary to grow in fraternity, which is the path of peace.”

The Holy Father concluded his homily by inviting the faithful to never be discouraged, and to remember that Jesus the Good Shepherd “calls us by name and cares for us with infinitely tender love.”

Celebrating Sunday Mass in Budapest’s historic Kossuth Lajos Square, Pope Francis reflects on the image of the Good Shepherd, who knows his sheep and calls them by name, and then sends us forth to be witnesses of the Gospel.

Pope Francis began his third and final day in Budapest with the celebration of Holy Mass with tens of thousands of faithful gathered in Kossuth Lajos Square in central Budapest.

The Holy Father based his homily on the Gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday of Easter, which focuses on the figure of the Good Shepherd. A good shepherd, he said, “gives his life for his sheep.”

“Jesus, like a shepherd who goes in search of his flock, came to find us when we were lost,” he said. “Like a shepherd, he came to snatch us from death.”

Christ, the Good Shepherd, does two things in particular for his sheep, the Pope continued: He calls his sheep by name, and he leads them out.

Called by name: Pope Francis reminded the faithful that God calls each of us by our name, desiring “to save us from sin and death, to give us life in abundance and joy without end.”

- Ahisha Mangot

Meet your Bishop: Bp. Luciano Capelli SDB (Bishop of Gizo Diocese)



South East of Papua New Guinea and in the Solomon Sea, lies the Island Paradise of the Solomon Islands. Tucked away neatly in one of the Islands is Gizo, the home of the Flying Bishop of the Diocese of Gizo, Bishop Luciano Capelli SDB.

Bishop Capelli was born two years after the World War II on October 19, 1947 in Tirano, Italy. The flying Bishop comes from Tirano, north of Italy, the border of Switzerland and Italy. Though he comes from the land of the mountains and Alps, God landed him in the Solomon Islands. “From the mountains to the sea” he said.

Bishop Capelli will be turning 76 years old come October and has been the Bishop of Gizo since 2007. He described his upbringing as coming from a beautiful Catholic family of three brothers and their parents. He said his parents were always prayerful.

He recalled when he was around 12 years old, he attended high school, Insitito Salesiano Montodine in Italy and at 18 years of age he was sent to the Philippines for College, 1965 to 1971.

He obtained a Bachelor Degree in Education Philosophy studies in 1968, and he also worked as a Biology instructor for Don Bosco Technical College of Engineering. In 1971 he attained Perpetual Profession as a Latin teacher in Don Bosco

Seminary College. After teaching he became the Provincial for Manila and Papua New Guinea, from 1993 to 1999. He said, “I came to Papua New Guinea from 1993 to 1999, twice a year. After that I saw the need in the Solomon Islands so I was sent there. In my first 8 years in SI with my dedicated team I built two schools and a beautiful hospital” he expressed proudly.

“You cannot say ‘no’ to the Holy Father so when I was asked to go to Gizo in 2007, I went and I have been there ever since” Said Bishop Capelli.

When asked if he considered Gizo as his second home he said, “yes, it is my second home and I would love to be buried in Gizo. I love the place, the people and I believe that’s where I spent all my energy.” He added, “the most important thing I tell my people is that they must not remember me by the churches, schools or buildings I built but remember why I did that for them and with them. That is pastoral love, all I have done is out of love and nothing else, so the message is how we express the love of God.” He also said that his motto is always lifting up your hearts to the Lord, “if you lift your heart to the Lord you achieve great things but if you don’t you become lazy or discouraged, which is a big issue affecting our faith in the Solomon Islands. Loving God should bring us to people especially through Education as well” said Capelli.

He also reflected on when he first became the Bishop of Gizo. He said it was straight after the tsunami and earthquake on April 2 2007, he was the only one with only two priests and he had to look for people, priests and volunteers. With a good number of volunteers from Italy and priests, they helped build the confidence and trust of people. “We rebuilt 14 churches, 7 schools including the Cathedral which was completely destroyed.” recalled Capelli.

“I was appointed as Bishop of Gizo in July but took over in October. It was the time of rebuilding, people were discouraged due to many losses and suffering so I took the challenge to lift up the hearts of people as was and is still my motto. Many NGOs came, made assessments and disappeared but the church stayed and worked with them in the rebuilding of the structures and most of all to rebuild their confidence”, expressed Capelli.

“That is what I loved doing most as a servant of God” he added. “I have a sea plane that I use to reach my people under my diocese to spread the gospel and also help in whatever way I can”

As a Salesian and an educationist, he believes education should be a priority in order to alleviate social problems.

“The church really tries to provide schools that teach life skills that will do good for both PNG and Solomon Islands”, he concluded.

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Strengthening Communion in the Pacific

- Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME, CBC General Secretary



The Catholic Church in Oceania is organized in four Bishops Conferences: Australia, Papua New Guinea with Solomon Islands, Pacific islands, and New Zealand. There are about eighty dioceses or similar jurisdictions including some of Eastern right. There is not much formal and established communication within the continent except for a general assembly of bishops held every four years on a rotation basis. The most recent one was just last February in Fiji hosted by the Bishops Conference of the Pacific islands. In 2027 it will be the turn of Australia and then New Zealand and Papua New Guinea in the third decade of the century.

In Fiji the Bishops had a good sharing on two different topics. The first had been planned since a few years. The second came along because of circumstances. Pope Francis with his Laudato si' encyclical in 2015 called the attention of everybody

on the gift of creation and the need to preserve it. For the people of the Pacific the work of God is mainly the ocean. It cannot be allowed to deteriorate or be ransacked by arrogance and greed. Those who live by its shores who be the first casualties.

The Fiji Assembly also couldn't afford ignoring the journey and the reflection of the universal Church on a renewed spirit of participation and mission spearheaded by the so-called synodal way. This is another call by Pope Francis to abandon any remnant of individualism and self-centeredness to give way to a humble, participatory and fraternal way of being Christians; in service not in pride.

The quadrennial general assemblies certainly help the Church in Oceania. But the need for more is widely felt. A permanent secretariat would facilitate cooperation and mutual enrichment in a variety of areas: youth and education, clergy formation, ecumenism and interfaith dialogue, social issues such as protection of creation, indigenous people, migrations, seafarers, social communications, response to secularization and cultural trends. This is

beyond the traditional and now a bit obsolete relationship between ancient and well structured Churches (Australia and New Zealand in our case) and mission Churches (practically the rest of the Pacific). We also need to escape the trap of seeing things from the point of view of the rich and the poor. Regardless of their history, their facilities and their resources, the core of the Christian communities is their struggle for genuine faith and charity. And that is what they must help each other strengthen and develop.

The time between the two general episcopal assemblies of 2023 and 2027 will be crucial for the Bishops and in general the Catholics in the Pacific to lay the foundation for that minimal secretariat which will allow participation and mission to be more effective and beneficial to all. It must be located in a place of intense transit and communication in the Pacific (easy to think of Sydney) and be animated by persons of large pastoral experience, knowledge of the universal Church and intense familiarity with the Pacific family of nations and Churches.

The Gospels: Date and Place of Composition

- Fr. Tomás Ravaioli IVE
Liturgical Catechetical Institute Director



We might ask what was the date and place of composition for each of the Gospels. Here, too, the historical tradition of the primitive Church supplies the information. Due to our intention to be brief, we won't give many details, nor will we give the sources of these claims. It's enough to know that

the information below follows the Tradition of the Church and the teachings of the saints.

Matthew wrote his Gospel, with reasonable probability, in Palestine, around the year 50. He wrote it in Aramaic., but unfortunately the Aramaic

text has not survived. It was translated and reworked into Greek between the years 65-70.

Mark wrote his Gospel at Rome. In so far as it can be determined, was written in its present form around the year 65, after the death of Peter. Ancient sources report that the second evangelist wrote his Gospel upon the request of the Romans, who wanted to have a written record of Peter's preaching at Rome.

Luke wrote his Gospel probably between the years 60-70. According to many scholars, it received its "definitive form" in Rome, though the original may not have been written there. Probably, the physician of Antioch began collecting the material for his

writings in Greece and then put them into final form in Rome, where he was able to read Mark's Gospel, whose outline he largely follows.

John wrote his Gospel in Ephesus, or at least in some city of Asia Minor, at the end of the first century. This opinion is common to Christian antiquity.

We can thus conclude that the authenticity of the Gospels is a fact which does not permit any reasonable doubt. Both manuscript and historical tradition justify the conclusion that the authors of the four Gospels are actually the men to whom they are attributed. From the outset of our investigation, we can thus exclude this fundamental doubt.

10 Commandments to strengthen the faith of the Catholics (and not leave the Catholic Church)

- Fr. Victor Roche SVD, Secretary for New Evangelization



Dear Friends,

I met a worried Catholic woman who was saying, "many of my relatives have left Catholic Church and joined other churches. They tell me that we Catholics are adoring the stone idols; go to confessions to a sinful priest; we do not follow the Sabbath Law as

in the Bible; Pope is 666 etc. How can I answer them?"

We had a meeting of the Catholic Professionals and other Lay leaders in the CBC about Apologetics. They said, "There is a need for on-going formation to strengthen the faith of the Catholics".

Here are "10 Commandments to strengthen the faith of the Catholics" (and not to leave the Catholic Church).

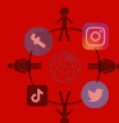
1. **Catholics: be informed about the Catholic Faith. Read books; read informative materials on the Catholic Faith in the social media.**
2. **Read the Bible; pray the Bible; study the Bible.**
3. **Know the Biblical references for the Catholic Faith: the sacraments, rosary and Catholic teaching.**
4. **Be an evangelizing Catholic in your family, community and parish.**
5. **Catholic Parents: Know your faith well. Teach the Catholic Faith to your children.**
6. **Catholic Laity: Mission of Evangelization is also the duty of the lay people; not only of the priests, religious and catechists.**
7. **Priests: you have the privilege and the duty to be a Good Shepherd to your people.**

Know them personally and be attentive to their spiritual needs.

8. **Priests: help the people to experience Jesus during the Sunday-Mass; give well-prepared homilies. Preaching and Teaching are necessary.**

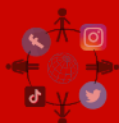
9. **Priests: follow the New Evangelization and/or Re-evangelization in your pastoral care: New Fervor, New Methods, New Expression.**

10. **Bishops: The ultimate responsibility of the diocese is on you. Be a good father to your priests and a Good Shepherd to the people: "feed your sheep (the strong) and feed your lambs (the tender ones) (John 21:15-19)"**



57th World Communications Day (Speaking with the Heart)

"After having reflected in past years on the verbs "to go and see" and "to listen" as conditions for good communication, with this Message for the LVII World Day of Social Communications, I would like to focus on "speaking with the heart". [1] A heart that reveals the truth of our being with its beat and that, for this reason, should be listened to. This leads those who listen to attune themselves to the same wave length, to the point of being able to hear within their heart also the heartbeat of the other. Then the miracle of encounter can take place, which makes us look at one another with compassion, welcoming our mutual frailties with respect rather than judging by hearsay and sowing discord and division". - Pope Francis



World Communications Day

Sr Daisy Anne Lisania Augustine MSC, Secretary for Social Communication



The "World Communications Day" (WCD) was instituted by the Second Vatican Council through the Decree Inter Mirifica (Among wondrous works) on the means of social communications (no. 18).

In that document, the council Fathers requested all dioceses that every year "a day is set aside...on which the faithful will be reminded of their duties in this field." They are to be asked to pray for the communications apostolate of the Church and also to support financially to it. This way, projects would be maintained and developed.

Pope Paul VI celebrated with a special Eucharist on May 6, 1967 in St Peter's Cathedral the opening of the first World Communications Day. In his homily he addressed the communicators as *cultures Verbi* who like John the Baptist are called to proclaim the Lord. They are to form, to edify and to save through the process of human communication which presupposes a proper social conscience. Since this time, "The Church and Social Communication" (First World Communication Day) the World Communication Day has become an ongoing annual event as proposed by the Second Vatican Council. (IM) *Inter Mirifica* Vatican 2 Document on the means of Social Communication.

For every World Communications Day (WCD) the Pope Publishes a message which treats the theme he chooses for that year. These themes relate mostly to current issues of the Church and Society and their relation to social communication. Thus the Pope has an opportunity every year to treat the need for proper and effective communication in areas like the family, youth, the elderly, peace and justice, human freedom, for evangelisation and reconciliation, and the importance of Social Networks and digital communication.

The themes for the different years are announced well in advance on September 29, the feast day of the Archangel Gabriel, the patron for all electronic communication (Pius XII). The full text of the message is published on January 24, the feast of St. Francis de Sales, patron of journalists. The actual celebration, however, is normally in May on the Sunday before Pentecost (Ascension Sunday). The theme for 2023 is "Speaking with the heart: Veritatem facientes in Caritate" (Doing the truth in Charity).

Seen together, this message gives quite an insight into the Church's approach to social communication. The Pope's message can be considered as basis for a deeper analysis of the Church's contribution to human society as well as to the communication of the Church herself. The

underlying assumptions in many of these messages often show a certain optimism in the power of the media but they also give warnings about possible dangers in their use.

The World Communications Day messages are not only addressed to Christians and Catholics but also to "People of goodwill and everywhere". It should be noted that in some places like Hong Kong, other Christian Churches join the Catholic initiative in an ecumenical spirit to celebrate World Communication Day.

The Church's approach to the means of Social Communication is fundamentally positive and encouraging. She does not simply stand in judgement and condemn; rather, she considers these instruments to be not only products of human genius but also great gifts of God and true signs of the times (*cf. Inter Mirifica, 1; Evangelii Nuntiandi, 45; Redemptoris Missio, 37*). She desires to support those who are professionally involved in communication by setting out positive principles to assist them in their work, while fostering a dialogue in which all interested parties - today, that means nearly everyone - can participate.

64th AGM concludes on high note

- Ahisha Mangot

Port Moresby: The 64th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Catholic Bishops Conference (CBC) of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands was held from April 18 - 28 with the goal "A life of Communion, Participation, and Mission as Salt and Light of the earth".

The AGM brought 19 Archbishops and Bishops from the Archdioceses and Dioceses of Papua New Guinea and 3 from the Solomon Islands together where they met, discussed and made decisions for the Catholic Church and its Pastoral service in the two countries; Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

The 22 bishops had the meeting for two weeks with the continuous assistance from the hardworking and generous staff of CBC, in Port Moresby.

Activities during the AGM comprised of Eucharistic celebrations for the days; mornings and afternoons, in house information, Lauds and Retreat, encounters like human and religious formation of children, youths and the seminarians of the Catholic Theological Institute in Bomana, reports from commission heads, masses in Port Moresby parishes, the Central Committee's meeting, the Apostolic Nuncio's address, CBC General Secretary's Report, election of new CBC president, appointments for Bishop's Deputies for commissions, election of Heads of Committee members and lastly, the closing mass for the Annual General Meeting for this year on Friday April 28.

The outcome of the election of the new CBC President saw Bishop of Bereina Diocese Otto Separy elected as the new president with Bishop Rozario Menezes SSM of Lae Diocese elected as the vice-president.

Other members of the Central Committee include Bishop Donald Lippert OFM Cap, Bishop Pedro Baquero SDB, Bishop Francis Meli and CBC General Secretary Fr. Giorgio Licini PIME.

After the closing mass, Fr Giorgio Licini PIME had the privilege to announce to the CBC staff the newly elected Central Committee members and commission heads for CBC. He also expressed his appreciation and congratulatory messages to all the Bishops from all the Dioceses as well as CBC staff.

The outgoing President for CBC Archbishop Anton Bal also expressed the sentiment of appreciation to everyone who made the AGM a successful one and also congratulated and wished all the bishops the very best in their new roles and their walk in journeying together in Synodality.

The incoming CBC president Bishop Otto Separy also acknowledged and appreciated his brother Bishops for trusting him and electing him to be the new president of the CBC PNGSI. He also thanked all the CBC staff and the management for their hospitality and everyone for their continuous support towards the bishops and all the faithfuls of the church.

Apostolic Nuncio to PNGSI his Eminence Archbishop Fermin Emilio Sosa Rodriguez with the Bishops and Archbishops during 64th Annual General Meeting.



Alleged SARV Perpetrators surrender arms and drugs

- Caritas PNG Advocacy Desk

Wabag, Enga Province: A week-long male advocacy awareness on Sorcery Accusation Related Violence was held at the Monokam Outstation in the Kompiam-Ambum District of Enga Province from 10th-14th April 2023.

This follows the torture of nine women in Lakolam village in September 2022 after the untimely death of the owner of Mapai trucking company, late Jacob Luke.

The awareness was initiated by the Monokam community leaders and was facilitated by church leaders from different denominations present in the community, Caritas Office of Wabag and Bishops Arnold Orowae and Justin Ain Soongie of the Catholic Diocese of Wabag.

Over 300 people, including youths, mothers, children and elders from surrounding communities in the Ambum valley attended the event.

Apart from sorcery-related issues as the main highlight of the week-long awareness, other social issues like tribal fights, alcohol and drug addiction, rape, and stealing that are affecting the community were also addressed during the awareness.

Concluding the 5-day community awareness was a renunciation program for the men involved in the alleged SARV torture and fights and drugs held on Friday which followed a Mass animated by Bp. Arnold of Wabag Diocese.

The renunciation program saw about 77 marijuana plants uprooted, one homemade gun and crowbar used in SARV torture surrender to Enga Rural Police Commander Senior Inspector Richard Koki before the gathered public.

The community of Monokam invited Representatives from Enga Provincial Government and other NGOs working on SARV program, however none turned up.

During the renunciation, about 70 young men, from a group known as the "Disciples", a name given to them by the community, mimicking the 12

disciples but for them, members of the group hail from 12 tribes in the area.

They were the first to renounce their intentions and apologize publicly. This was the group whose story of change had influence positively on the entire Ambum valley for saying no to violence and converting their energy into supporting their group members in livelihood project like poultry, roadside market and are at the verge of completing a trade store with initial help from Caritas.

Bishop Justin praised these men for taking the bold step to come forward and encouraged them to continue to keep up the commitment of living a life better than their past. He also commended the village leaders for organizing the program, giving the young men the opportunity to take the first step in changing their lives.

Bishop Arnold also stressed how it was never easy to receive phone calls of women been burned and discouraged the practice urging the people to see that every individual was unique and should never endure this sort of pain and suffering and even death at the hands of another human being.

Caritas Wabag SARV program lead Dickson Tanda said male SARV advocacy program targeting perpetrators is really driving the message home for youths and men who are now taking lead in advocating against false beliefs and illicit substance abuse within their network of influence.



Participants of the renunciation program with Bishop Justin Ain Soongie and the Rural Police Commander Richard Koki.

First Social Communications Seminar for Diocesan Media Personnel

- Ahisha Mangot

Port Moresby: The Social Communication Commission of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands ran a three-day Media Education Seminar from the Tuesday 11th of April to Thursday 13th of April at CBC, under the leadership of the CBC SOCOM Secretary Sr Daisy Anne Lisania Augustine MSC.

The seminar was attended by Diocesan Media personnel from various dioceses in Papua New Guinea. There were 11 media personnel sent to undertake the seminar from the following dioceses, Rabaul, Kimbe, Kavieng/Manus, Daru/Kiunga, Alotau, Vanimo, Aitape, Kerema, Mendi and Lae. One participant from each diocese respectively while Kimbe sent two of their personnel.

During the three-day seminar, participants were able to cover the following with Sr Daisy, Corporate Communication of the Church, Church and Public Relations, Evangelisation on Social Media, Social Media Guidelines for dioceses, parishes, schools and institution while her two officers covered the

topics of Videography, News Writing, News Letters, Photography

CBC SOCOM also arranged with Radio Maria to facilitate sessions on Basics of Radio while Secretary for New Evangelization and Pontifical Missions Fr. Victor Roche SVD covered the topic Synodality as a form of awareness.

The participants were fortunate enough to have excursions in between the sessions where they visited Post Courier, Radio Maria and Adventure park to do some practical activities.

The three-day seminar was educational for some of the participants as they were in need of this training to be able to be good communicators in the church. Communication is very vital in any organisation. These points were expressed by some of the participants.

In addition, SOCOM had special guests present at the closing ceremony on Thursday evening. The participants and SOCOM was graced by the presence of the Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New

Guinea and Solomon Islands his Excellency, Archbishop Fermin Emilio Sosa Rodriguez and Monsignor Federico Boni Secretary to the Nuncio, Catholic Bishops Conference General Secretary Fr Giorgio Lucini PIME as well as Secretary for the New Evangelisation and Pontifical Mission Societies Fr Victor Roche SVD and CBC HR Manageress Miss Helen Oa.



Group picture of SOCOM Seminar participants with the invited guests and the SOCOM team during the closing program.

Southern Region Youth Convention

-Fr. Japhet Kemali

Sivarai Namona, Port Moresby: A weeklong Southern Regional Youth Convention was held at Sivarai Namona-Bomana, Port Moresby from April 10-16, 2023.

The opening mass was celebrated by Bishop Pedro Baquero, SDB from the Kerema Diocese. He urged the youths to be strong and firm in their faith and encouraged them to be salt and light of the world.

The Southern Regional Youth Convention was attended by enthusiastic youths from Alotau-Sideia Diocese, Kerema Diocese, Daru-Kiunga Diocese, most of whom was their time in the nation's capital and the Archdiocese of Port Moresby. Due to other commitment, the Bereina Youths could not make it to the convention.

The convention kickstarted with a mini cultural show during the introduction where youths from the different dioceses showcased their cultures, followed by sessions from different facilitators and ended with gift presentations and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

Also present with the participants were Fr. Andrew Moses from the Diocese of Daru-Kiunga, Fr. Japhet Kemali from the Diocese of Alotau - Sideia and Sister Agnes from the Archdiocese of Port Moresby (Youth Coordinator), who showed their commitment in the daily Holy Eucharistic Celebration.

The closing Ceremony Mass was celebrated by his Eminence Cardinal Archbishop John Ribat, MSC at the Sivarai Namona chapel. Joining him as concelebrants were Fr. Andrew, Fr. Japhet and Fr. Carol. The youths were commissioned by Cardinal Ribat to be Salt and Light to everyone and were challenged to change other youths who are off track back in their communities in their dioceses.

The program concluded with a dinner and sharing of testimonial experiences and entertainment by the youths.

Southern Regional Youth Coordinator James Ambi expressed his sincere thanks to the Oblates of Notre Dame (OND) sisters of Sivarai Namona for their warm hospitality towards the youths and also commended the youths for their participation and interaction during the program.

There was loud cheering and applause when it was announced that the next Southern Region Youth Convention will be hosted in the Diocese of Kerema in 2025.



Cardinal Archbishop John Ribat MSC poses for a group photo with the youths after mass.

5 SVDs sent as missionaries

-Fr. Victor Roche SVD

Mt Hagen: Five SVD priests received their Mission crosses during a Eucharistic Celebration in St. Paul's Parish on Sunday April 16, 2023.

Fr. Jose Orathinkal SVD, the Provincial Superior of the SVDs in PNG was the main celebrant.

Eleven other priests, a few religious sisters and brothers were among the enthusiastic faithful who witnessed the heartwarming Eucharistic celebration.

Fr. Provincial Superior gave the Mission Crosses to four Priests and one Brother as it is the tradition in the Society of the Divine Word (SVD).

After the mass, blessings were given by the new missionaries to the congregation.

In his speech on behalf of the new missionaries, Fr. Rex Andrew SVD said: "Missionaries from other countries came to evangelise us in Papua New Guinea. Now it is our turn to go out as missionaries. We were a 'receiving' country and now we are a 'sending' country. We want your prayerful support for our missionary service in the foreign missions".

The five missionaries who received their missioning crosses are:

- Fr. John Sine SVD from Kundiawa Diocese appointed to Argentina, South America.

- Br. Raphael Goimba SVD from Mt. Hagen Diocese appointed to Zambia, Africa.
- Fr. Rex Andrew SVD from Mt. Hagen Diocese appointed to Kenya, Africa.
- Fr. Jerry Kuraj SVD from Wabag Diocese appointed to Chad, Africa.
- Fr. John Hal SVD from Mendi Diocese is appointed to the Philippines.

Parish priest of St Paul's Fr. Josaphat Jayakira SVD and his team organised the successful missioning ceremony at his parish with the help of the Catholic faithful.



SVD Provincial Superior Fr. Jose Orathinkal, SVD with the missionaries after the Missioning Mass.

Spiritan General Superior visits Papua New Guinea

- Sr. Maria Tongop, pbvm

Wewak: A traditional welcome ceremony was held on Sunday April 16, at the Good Shepherd Parish in Awain for the General Superior from Rome and the Superior of the Spiritans in Oceania; Australia and Papua New Guinea.

The people extended their heartfelt gratitude through the symbolism of the wooden chair as they lifted Fr. Alain Mayama CSSp seated in the chair.

The people used the wooden chair to symbolize new beginnings and to show their gratitude to Fr. Alain Mayama CSSPs for his visit by carrying him on the wooden chair in a procession towards the grandstand.

There was much dancing and harmonious singing during the procession as the people expressed their joy of receiving blessings from the Holy See through Fr. Mayama's visit.

In his address to the people, he encouraged the parents to produce more vocation and guide them as he was privileged and very pleased through his brothers working in Papua New Guinea.

"It is not enough to have a missionary; you have to be your church's missionary and in PNG, our missionaries are under the care of Fr. Michael Watae CSSp", he said.

The parishioners of Awain parish thanked Fr. Mayama for gracing their humble parish with his presence and requested special blessings from him at the end of the program.

Awain Parish was previously administered by the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) missionaries before it was transferred under the care of the Spiritan Missionaries.



Fr. Alain Mayama CSSp carried on a chair during a procession by the parishioners

The Catholic Reporter Team

You are invited to send in your articles, photograph and reflections on events and happenings in your parish, community, institution and diocese. Please send in your material to: socom@catholic.org.pg on or before **20th of the Month, 2023**.

EDITOR
SR DAISY ANNE LISANIA AUGUSTINE MSC
Phone: 325 9577
Email: secretary_socom@catholic.org.pg

SUB-EDITOR
CBC SOCOM
Phone: 325 9577
Email: socom@catholic.org.pg

LAYOUT AND DESIGN,
EDITING &
PROOFREADING:
CBC SOCOM