



'To Bear Witness to the Light' - Jn 1:7 The Catholic Reporter

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- Courtney Mares

Pope Francis at Synod Closing Mass: To reform the Church, adore God and love others.

Vatican City: At the Synod on Synodality's closing Mass, Pope Francis said that God's love cannot be confined "to our own agenda" and that those who truly want to reform the Catholic Church should follow Jesus' greatest commandment: to adore God and love others with his love.

"We may have plenty of good ideas on how to reform the Church, but let us remember: to adore God and to love our brothers and sisters with his love, that is the great and perennial reform," Pope Francis said in St. Peter's Basilica on Oct. 29.

"We are always at risk of thinking that we can 'control God,' that we can confine his love to our own agenda. Instead, the way he acts is always unpredictable, it goes beyond, and consequently, this action of God demands amazement and adoration," he added.

The pope underlined that worship of Jesus in the tabernacle "in every diocese, in every parish, in every community" is necessary in the "struggle against all types of idolatry" in today's world.

"Let us be vigilant, lest we find that we are putting ourselves at the center rather than him. And let us return to worship. May worship be central for those of us who are pastors: let us devote time every day to intimacy with Jesus the Good Shepherd in the tabernacle. Adoration," he said.

"Only in this way will we turn to Jesus and not to ourselves. For only through silent adoration will the Word of God live in our words; only in his presence will we be purified, transformed, and renewed by the fire of his Spirit. Brothers and sisters, let us adore the Lord Jesus!"

The pope's homily marked the closing of the monthlong **2023 Synod on Synodality assembly**, where 365 delegates discussed and **voted on more than 80 proposals for how to become a more "synodal Church."**

"Brothers and Sisters, the General Assembly of the Synod has now concluded," he said. "In this 'conversation of the Spirit,' we have experienced the loving presence of the Lord and discovered the beauty of fraternity."

In his homily, Pope Francis said that he believed that the conclusion of this stage in the Synod "it is important to look at the 'principle and foundation' from which everything begins ever anew: loving God with our whole life and loving our neighbors as ourselves."

"Not our strategies, our human calculations, the ways of the world, but love of God and neighbor: that is the heart of everything," he said.



Pope Francis emphasized that adoration and worship are "essential in the life of the Church."

Pope Francis said that being "a worshipping Church and a Church of service" entails "washing the feet of wounded humanity, accompanying those who are frail, weak and cast aside, going out lovingly to encounter the poor."

About 5,000 people attended the closing Mass for the Synod on Synodality's 2023 assembly, according to the Vatican. The Mass concluded with the congregation singing the Marian hymn "Salve Regina."

Pope Francis thanked all of the cardinals, bishops, priests, religious, and lay people from around the world who traveled to Rome to participate in the Synod. Next year, the delegates will return to the Vatican in October 2024 to take part in the second assembly to advise the pope on the theme: "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission."

Meet your Bishop: Bp Siby Matthew Peedikayil HGN (Bishop of Aitape Diocese)

- Jessica Oata



Well known for magical sunsets, beautiful beaches as well as mountainous areas, Sandaun Province is where two of our Dioceses are located; Vanimo on the Western part and Aitape on the Eastern part. In this Issue of the Catholic Reporter, we feature the Shepherd of Aitape Diocese,

who were Diocesans that lived Holy lives and were always inspiring to the young.

"In our area, the priests, nuns, teachers and family members normally encouraged priestly and religious vocations and the Lord in his goodness gave me many holy and zealous seminary formators who were inspirations along the way".

Bp Siby entered the Seminary on July 3rd, 1986 and was ordained Priest on February 1st, 1995. He first arrived in PNG as a missionary in 1997.

"I came to Port Moresby and there was no opportunity to see the city as I had a connecting flight to Vanimo. On the following day after reaching Vanimo, I flew to Wasengla, in the Amanab District with Fr. Tomy Thomas HGN, our first missionary to PNG. I had not even seen Vanimo and I thought that all of PNG was more or less like Wasengla, remote and surrounded by forests. But eventually as I started visiting other places, my impression changed", he recalled.

He was ordained Bishop of Aitape on September 26th, 2021 and is currently the sixth Bishop of Aitape Diocese. Prior to coming to Aitape to take up his post, he had been working in the Diocese of Vanimo in seminaries, parishes, administration etc.

When sharing about the plans for his Diocese, Bp Siby said having realized the desire of the priests, religious and laity to continue with the renewal program in the diocese, he has decided to learn to walk along with his people in the journey of their faith, following the examples of his predecessors, Bishop Austen Crapp OFM and Bishop Otto Separy.

"I would like to build up communities of faith, rooted in the Word of God and the teachings of the Church. Our priority is evangelization, however, we are committed to helping our people, as much as we can, for their integral development. We would also like to maintain our dilapidated facilities and build up infrastructure to be able to provide better services to the people".

Bp Siby expressed when he was asked what brings him joy in his vocation, that he is happy to see many lay people are willing to contribute towards evangelization.

When asked to share his experience during the Ad Limina Visit in May, he said: "It strengthened my communion with the Holy Father, and in a way the entire Church. I felt blessed and proud to belong to the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, a blessing given to me unasked".

Bishop Siby Matthew Peedikayil HGN.

Bishop Siby was born on December 6th, 1970 and hails from Kerala, India. As a Priest, he has a bachelor's degree in Arts and Licentiate in Contextual Theology.

When asked about his family background, this is what he had to say: "God gave me loving parents and family members. I have two brothers and three sisters. My parents were very fervent in Spiritual Life and they worked hard to bring us up".

Spiritual Associations like the Mission League and St Vincent de Paul Society to which he had belonged to as a child and the stories of the Saints increased the desire from early childhood to become a Priest. He was also inspired by the Parish Priests

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We have abandoned our children. Haven't we?

- Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME, CBC General Secretary



The school year now comes to an end. But it will take only a few months for us to again witness the struggle of children to find a classroom. All sorts of issues plot against education in Papua New Guinea: remoteness, rough terrain, rural and urban poverty, poor infrastructures and few teachers, alcoholism and gambling depleting family resources, lack of interest and vision by parents and communities, government corruption and favoritism, no counseling and advise to young people.

On top of that put the increasing lack of interest and passion for students and schools by our own pastoral workers. We have abandoned our children. We do not love them anymore. Parish priests are rarely seen in schools. Diocesan leaders hardly know their responsibilities; and the education offices in charge of supervision and coordination are at an all-time low both at the local and national level.

Looking after young people is hard work but rewarding. You need to listen. It takes time, which parish priests have in abundance between Monday and Friday every week. It should not be a problem, while visiting an out-station, to spend some hours with students and teachers for sharing and prayer, give a talk to the classes, take a meal, attend a graduation, just tell stories and listen to what the issues and the struggles are.

Have you ever seen the brightening eyes of a disadvantaged girl or boy to whom you are able to secure enrolment in school or employment after graduation? Gosh! It is something unforgettable! Probably one of the closest things to heaven we experience in our few days on earth. But there is more. After education, which includes academics but also attitude, good manners, time management, care of self, correct relationships and all the rest, comes employment and with it the rise from poverty, self-fulfillment, support of siblings, own family, variety of choices, participation in society, more

mature faith and understanding of God's plans and gifts.

Can we try to understand again that only family, school, and parish can guarantee a future to our children? Can't we see the suffering that neglect is inflicting on them compromising the proper development of their personality and all their life to come? Is it so hard to see that drinking in front of them will make them drunkards, marital infidelity by parents and lack of family stability is driving them to despair, gambling and addiction just make them anguishly stare at their school fees going up in smoke?

The children are most of our population. I would only rate the performance, the quality and the holiness of a diocese, a parish, a small community, a family by the level of concern, respect and care they reserve to children and young people in their midst or living in the surroundings. If we have lost our way in this regard, better find it again. Soon and fast.

The Gospels: The Gospel of Matthew

- Fr. Tomás Ravaioli IVE
Liturgical Catechetical Institute Director



We already wrote about its authorship in March, and about its date and place of composition in April. Let's see some of its characteristics.

1) Matthew is the Gospel which was written for the Jews. It was written by a Jew in order to convince Jews. One of the great

objects of Matthew is to demonstrate that all the prophecies of the Old Testament are fulfilled in Jesus, and that, therefore, he must be the Messiah. It has one phrase which runs through it like an ever-recurring theme, "This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet." That phrase (or similars, like "spoken by the prophet" or "written by the prophet")

occurs in the gospel as often as 16 times. It is Matthew's primary and deliberate purpose to show how the Old Testament prophecies received their fulfillment in Jesus; how every detail of Jesus' life was foreshadowed in the prophets; and thus to compel the Jews to admit that Jesus was the Messiah.

2) Matthew knows and loves the Law of Israel. The Jewishness of Matthew is also seen in its attitude to the Law. Jesus did not come to destroy, but to fulfil the Law. The least part of the Law will not pass away. Men must not be taught to break the Law. The righteousness of the Christian must exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees. Matthew knew and loved the Law, and

saw that even the Law has its place in the Christian economy.

3) Matthew is especially interested in the Church. It is in fact the only Gospel which uses the word "Church" at all. Only Matthew introduces the passage about the Church after Peter's confession (Mt 16:13-23, compare with Mk 8:27-33 and Lk 9:18-22). Only Matthew says that disputes are to be settled by the Church (Matt.18:17).

4) Matthew has a specially strong apocalyptic interest. That is to say, Matthew has a specially strong interest in all that Jesus said about his own Second Coming, about the end of the world, and about the judgment. Especially chapters 24 and 25 are full of teachings and parables regarding the Second Coming and the final victory of Jesus.

We need renewal in the Catholic Church

How do we take care of the Catholic students in the Catholic and Non-Catholic Institutions?

- Fr. Victor Roche SVD
Director | Pontifical Mission Societies



Dear Friends,

We have the "Year of the Children" in 2023. We need to continue the Faith-formation of the children. But I like to draw your attention to the situation of our Catholic Students in PNG. He is the 'Prodigal Son' of the Catholic Church in PNG.

We serve the people of PNG through 35% of Catholic educational institutions in the country. We run some of the best tertiary institutions in the country; some of them are ranked in the top 10.

This is the story of 'Johnny'(not his real name): Johnny comes from a good Catholic Family in a remote village in PNG. His family walks a long

distance to go to the parish church for Sunday Mass. He studied till grade 8 in a Government Community School. He did not have Catholic Religious Education in the school. He studied Grade 9-12 in a Government Secondary School. He did not have Catholic Religious Education in the secondary school either. But some pastors from two different churches came to the school once in a week for lessons. He joined them out of curiosity.

There was a "Bible Camp" in the School Holidays. Johnny enjoyed the Bible camp and was re-baptized as a member of another church. This 'Prodigal Son' returned and found a 'Home' in a Protestant Church.

How do we take care of our Catholic Students in the Catholic and Non-Catholic Institutions? Do we

give faith-formation to them? Do they know well about their Catholic Faith?

1. The Parents are the first 'Catechists' for their children to teach them the Catholic Faith.
2. The priests and the leaders of the Catholic Communities should make sure that Catholic Religious Education is given to all the Catholic Students in their communities and parishes.
3. We need to have an 'External Audit' of our Catholic School-System. We need to have a Professional and thorough study of how we take care of the Catholic Students in 'all' the schools. No Catholic Student should be left out from our Catholic Religious Education.
4. This 'Prodigal Son' has to find a 'Home'

Catholic Church Mediates Peace in Kandep District

- Caritas PNG Communications Desk

Kandep, Wabag, Enga Province: There is now hope for change in Enga Province after the Diocesan Caritas Office in Enga conducted two intensive awareness trainings on social issues and violence at Mogal Outstation of Kumbanda Council Ward in Upper Wage. A local Caritas Peace Mediation Team was formed by representatives from surrounding communities and leaders from different Churches, with the specific role of negotiating peace between the warring tribes.

The Caritas Peace Mediation Team is headed by Mr. Thomas Wambu, the Catechist of Mogal Outstation of Mang Parish, and a member of the Diocesan Caritas Committee, with his assistant, the Chairperson of Karekare Village Court, Mr. James Kep. The team made several visits to different warring tribes, who welcomed the initiative taken by the Catholic Church to facilitate peace.

On October 11, 2023, a total of eighteen tribes of Upper Wage, publicly promised not to engage anymore in tribal fights and other social problems. This promise was made by young men representing the Yapakarut, Kai, Kunalin, Kope, Lyumbain, Epe, Waitin, Pe, Epes, Nom, Sui, Pyandain, Kunis, Pakapu, Wayapu, Kimalai, Woala and Lesan tribes.

This occasion was witnessed by Bishop Justin Ain Soongie, the Auxiliary Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Wabag, members of the Diocesan Caritas Team, and villagers from the different communities.

Bishop Justin reiterated that tribal fights bring nothing good but only death and destruction to the community and that it must be stopped. He challenged the people to work their lands to be economically productive and to invest in their children's education.

The leaders of the community expressed their gratitude to the work of Caritas in Enga and said that this day would be remembered and celebrated annually.



Picture: Warring tribe leaders with Caritas Team and Bishop Justin Ain Soongie. (Picture Supplied by CPNG)

Synodality Synthesis highlights participation and discernment



On 29 October 2023, participants on the Synod on Synodality presented a synthesis to the people of God. This was the fruit from the month-long deliberations in the Vatican.

Amongst many topics of discussion; the "Synod on Synodality" reiterated the need to listen to the poor and the vulnerable as well as victims of clergy sexual abuse and those who feel marginalized in and out of the Church.

Two-thirds of the delegates to the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, including lay women and men given voting rights for the first time, approved a 41-page synthesis report, Cardinal Mario Grech of Malta, secretary general of the Synod of Bishops, told reporters on Saturday, Oct. 28.

According to Cardinal Grech, the work of the synod is not yet over as the document will be sent to local churches for feedback in preparation for a second general assembly next year.

Grech said in a press briefing after the synod's final session. "What emerges is that the Church is also a Church that is reaching out ... nobody feels excluded or not accepted in his or her home."

The document called on the Church to avoid "simplistic judgements" on "controversial" matters such as sexuality and "complicated marital situations" but bucked earlier expectations of an endorsement of Church blessings for same-sex couples.

"Church teaching already provides a sense of direction on many of these matters, but this teaching evidently still requires translation into pastoral practice," the original Italian document was quoted as saying by an English-language summary provided by the Vatican News service.

The synod, convoked in 2021 by Pope Francis to find ways to make the Church more "synodal" or

participative and discerning, had conducted consultations at various levels — parish, vicariate, diocesan, national, and continental — and was supposed to culminate with this month's assembly. But the pope called for a second session in October 2024 to allow for more "discernment."

The synod acknowledged that its assembly took place amid wars and recognized the poor as not just the "materially impoverished," but also "migrants; indigenous peoples; victims of violence and abuse (especially women), or racism and trafficking; people with addictions; minorities; abandoned elderly people; and exploited workers."

"The Assembly hears the cry of the 'new poor,' produced by wars and terrorism that plague many countries on several continents, and the assembly condemns the corrupt political and economic systems that cause such strife."

The synthesis report called for more "theological and pastoral research on the access of women to the diaconate" using inputs from earlier studies by papal commissions as well as earlier theological, historical, and biblical research.

"If possible ... the results of this research should be presented at the next Session of the Assembly," it said.

A commission set up by Pope Francis had failed to come up with a consensus on women in the diaconate, which was opened to married men by the Second Vatican Council.

The report nonetheless pointed to an urgency in ensuring "that women can participate in decision-making processes and assume roles of responsibility in pastoral care and ministry," and called for changes to canon law to allow such.

It called for women's expanded access to theological education and training programs and the use of "inclusive language" in liturgical texts and Church documents.

The document also called for more involved laity and clergy to lighten the administrative and legal

commitments of diocesan bishops, who need human and spiritual support and among whom "a certain sense of loneliness is not uncommon."

On priestly celibacy, some delegates asked "whether its appropriateness, theologically, for priestly ministry should necessarily translate into a disciplinary obligation in the Latin Church, above all in ecclesial and cultural contexts that make it more difficult."

"This discussion is not new but requires further consideration," the document said.

It stressed the importance of deepening "the dialogue between the human sciences" to enable "careful consideration of matters that are controversial within the Church."

These include "identity and sexuality, the end of life, complicated marital situations, and ethical issues related to artificial intelligence."

"It is important to take the time required for this reflection and to invest our best energies in it, without giving in to simplistic judgments that hurt individuals and the Body of the Church," it said.

The report cited the need to extend missionary work to the digital world, saying the internet "can also cause harm and injury, such as through intimidation, disinformation, sexual exploitation, and addiction."

"There is an urgent need to consider how the Christian community can support families in ensuring that the online space is not only safe but also spiritually life-giving."

Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich of Luxembourg, the synod's relator general, said the report did away with an earlier plan to vote on issues of "divergence" apart from "convergences," questions, and proposals.

"We need common ground to let the Holy Spirit build the Church," he said.

"The synod is about synodality. We have always repeated it even if people did not believe us," Hollerich said.

'NO' to Constitutional Amendments

- Ahisha Mangot

Gordons, Port Moresby: The Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands and the Catholic Professional Society held a press conference on Saturday, October 7 to re-affirm their stance on saying **No to Constitutional Amendments**, the Issue of PNG as a Christian country.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of PNG and Solomon Islands together with the Catholic Professional Societies expressed that the bill before parliament to make PNG a Christian country is not necessary as there was no proper consultation with the PNG council of churches, especially the mainline churches.

Speaking at the press conference were CBCPNGSI president and Bishop of Bereina, Most Rev. Bishop Otto Separy, Vice President of CBCPNGSI and Bishop of Lae Most Rev. Rozario Menezes SMM, and the President of Catholic Professional Society Mr. Paul Harricknen.

Bishop Otto Separy expressed that politicians must not use faith for the government's agenda because faith cannot be governed by law and that

would mean citizens have to go to church because the law says to do so.

Bishop Rozario in his talk said that PNG is already a Christian country recognized and adapted in the preamble of the constitution, thus, we do not need to impose laws on how to live and practice our faith

"The government said amending the constitution will not affect anyone for that matter and if the government said there will be no effect then why go to the trouble to amend the constitution in the first place?"

Bishop Rozario also highlighted that the Catholic Church is not against the government, but against the processes taken for laws concerning faith which is a serious concern, and that the mainline churches be part of the process and called on other mainline churches to stand in solidarity on the issue of saying 'No to Constitutional Amendments'.

"The consultation carried out by the National Executive Council took 6 months and should have taken more than a year"

The same sentiment was shared by the Catholic Professional Society President Paul Harricknen.

"Prior consultation with mainline churches and the people is very important as this is a serious issue that concerns everyone. A proper process should be encouraged so ordinary people will know and understand the content of the amendment for the case of PNG being a Christian country by law".



Panelists of the Press Conference, Vice President of CBC Bp Rozario Menezes (left), Catholic Professionals Society President Mr. Paul Harricknen (centre) and CBC President Bp Otto Separy.

Archdiocese of Honiara concludes Month of Rosary with 4th Marian Motorcade

- Leotina Akwai

Honiara: The Catholic Archdiocese of Honiara marked the conclusion of the Month of Rosary with a majestic and prayerful display, hosting their fourth annual Marian Motorcade on Saturday, October 28th, 2023. The event commenced with thousands gathering at Christ the King Parish in Tetere on Friday and culminated in a spectacular motorcade on Saturday, commemorating the blessed month dedicated to the Rosary.

The motorcade, led by the fervent Holy Cross youths, commenced in the early hours of Saturday morning, featuring singing and prayer at each of the 20 stations along the route from Christ the King Parish in Tetere to the Holy Cross Cathedral in Honiara. Hundreds of vehicles adorned with rosary-

themed decorations joined the procession, paying homage to the Blessed Mother Mary.

This year's themed scripture, "Mary arose and went with haste" (Luke 1:39), echoed the Second Joyful Mystery of the rosary, emphasizing the significance of the Visitation, when the Blessed Mother Mary visited her sister Elizabeth.

Fr. Mark Misiwasi, the Holy Cross Youth Chaplain and Priest who initiated the Marian motorcade in the Solomon Islands, highlighted the significance of the event as it concluded the Month of the Holy Rosary. Fr. Mark emphasized the veneration of Mary as an avenue through which Jesus, our Saviour, was brought into the world to provide salvation.



Archbishop Christopher Cardone OP, with altar servers and dancers.

Aitape Diocese concludes third Diocesan General Pastoral Assembly

- Sr. Maria Tongop pbvm

Aitape: The 3rd Aitape Diocesan General Pastoral Assembly was held from 9th - 15th October 2023. The assembly evaluated how the diocese lived phase two of stage one of the diocesan pastoral plan, from 2018 to 2023, which had identified as its primary value and dignity, participation, self-reliance and equality as sub values. In preparation for the diocesan assembly parish assemblies were conducted during the last one year in all the 32 parishes and quasi parishes of the diocese.

200+ participants made up of priests and religious and representatives from all the parishes, sectors and services of the diocese in the three deaneries of Aitape, Nuku and Lumi attended the week-long assembly at St. Martin's Pastoral Center, Aitape. Also joining the group were teachers, nurses and other public servants. The assembly was organized by Rev. Fr. Hugh Kuam OFM, Vicar General and Pastoral Vicar, and the DTPA.

There were sessions on the objectives and spirituality of the Renewal Program in the context of a synodal Church journeying together, a Church of communion, participation and sharing in the mission of Jesus. Many of the discussions during the assembly pointed out the fact that the people really

tried to live their faith through the spirituality of communion and how they lived out locally what they believed.

In fact, over the last six years of phase 2, the diocese of Aitape experienced many challenges in living the values of Identity. But this doesn't stop us from moving forward into Phase - 3 with the primary value of 'Loving Unity'; and Harmony, Sharing, Relationship and Unity as its sub values. We feel the sense of unity and oneness in the faith and we take ownership of our faith in a spirit of service for the spiritual, social, physical and material benefits of all, expressed in Participation, Communion and Mission.

Fr. Andrew Moses of Daru Kiunga diocese, an expert priest in the Renewal Program, was very skilful and helpful. He worked tirelessly during the assembly. He smoothly conducted the week-long Assembly to the very level and understanding of the local people. It was a great blessing for the people of Aitape to have him in our midst.

The Assembly ended with the solemn Holy Mass and significant activities on 15 October 2023:

1: Closing of the 3rd Aitape Diocesan General Pastoral Assembly.

2: Launching of Phase 3, with the theme of 'Loving Unity'.

3: Feast of St. Ignatius of Antioch, Patron Saint of the diocese.

Bishop Siby Mathew Peedikayil, HGN was the main celebrant with thirteen priests and one Deacon who assisted him during the celebration. Large gathering of the faithful participated in the well-organized liturgy with beautiful music, lovely and creative decorations and traditional processions.



Bishop Siby Mathew Peedikayil HGN with priests after mass.

Parish Youth Animators' Faith Formation Workshop

- James Miri

Kerema: Parish Youth Animators recently concluded a four-day workshop on Faith Formation with the theme: 'Mary arose and went with haste'.

The four-day Faith Formation program was organized by the Diocesan Youth Coordinator Miss Elizabeth Evoa and was held at St Vincent de Paul Parish in Terapo with the aim of forming and imparting new skills to the Youth Leaders of Kerema Diocese.

In attendance were 16 Small Christian Community Leaders from Sacred Heart Parish in Moripi and St Vincent de Paul in Terapo.

Sessions in the program included Sacraments, Development Psychology of teenagers and youths and its spiritual impact, family life, spirituality of communication and the role of Mother Mary in the church. The sessions were also accompanied by prayer sessions.

The program ended with a Eucharistic celebration to commemorate the feast day of St Vincent de Paul, the patron Saint of the parish. Presiding over the mass in this special occasion was Parish Priest Fr. Eugene Karava with a wonderful choir by the Parish Youth Animators.

In his homily, Fr. Eugene gave an inspiring challenge to those present to live a life of self-reliance and improve their way of thinking. He also shared a brief history of St Vincent de Paul and encouraged everyone to help the poor and those in need back in their communities in whatever small ways they can.

Following the Eucharistic celebration were speeches and gift presentation from the organizing committee to the facilitators.

Speaking on behalf of the Parish Council, Parish Chairman Peter Toae thanked and acknowledged the participants of the Parish Youth Animators Program and Kerema Diocese Youth Coordinator for hosting the program in his parish and for the wonderful and successful program.

In her address, Kerema Diocesan Youth Coordinator Miss Evoa thanked the facilitators for their wonderful insights during their sessions and presented them with tokens of appreciation.

The gathering was the second formation program this year for the Youth Leaders.



Participants of the Parish Youth Animators' Faith Formation Workshop.

Mother Mary's image visits Parishes in Kundiawa Diocese

- Sr. Jenifer Arul

Kundiawa: With October being one of the two months in the Catholic Calendar where Catholics uphold and remember Mother Mary; up in one of the most rugged and terrain provinces of the Highlands Region, the parishioners of the Kundiawa Diocese put on a smile as it is time for their Diocese's Matron with Mother Mary visiting all parishes.

The visitation of the image of Mother Mary started in 2022 and visited a few of the parts of Simbu Province and this year, Bishop Paul Sundu of Kundiawa Diocese hoped that the visitation continues to reach more parishes.

Bishop Paul Sundu believes that the visitation may not only bring joy to all parishioners from the different parishes, but also bring peace and reconciliation to communities in the midst of political turmoil; promote prayers for vocations to priesthood and religious life; promote the Legion of Mary especially junior Legion; commemorate 40 years since Kundiawa Diocese separated from the Diocese of Goroka; and bring all faithful towards holiness and to strengthen the Catholic Faith.

Despite Simbu being so rugged and mountainous; with nearly all parishes isolated by the

geological landscape and setting, the people were filled with so much joy and excitement as they travelled by foot carrying the image of Mother Mary, with so many people being moved by the visit in taking part in the pilgrimage.

As the month came to an end, all parishes had well-planned programs, such as praying the Rosary, listening to inspirational and awareness sessions before ending the visit with a ceremony that culminated with a Thanksgiving Mass presided over by Bishop Paul Sundu.



Bishop Paul Sundu presiding over the Thanksgiving Mass

DMI Congregation happy with October outreach programs

- Sr. Catherine DMI

Port Moresby: The Daughters of Mary Immaculate Congregation have expressed great satisfaction of their October outreach programs.

This month was a bit special because the congregation extended its outreach programs to the United Church Mothers' group from Pari village. The mothers were introduced to the DMI Development Program that has been successfully implemented in various settlements in Port Moresby and had their group registered in the DMI Association to implement the development program in Pari.

Other programs for the month include;

- Regular savings meetings for the old Self Help Groups.
- Trainings on Book Keeping and Catering
- Health and wellbeing.
- Prison visit to women in Bomana with mothers from the Self Help Groups from Talai and Gorobe communities. Apart from the group games, the sisters also provided some

counselling to the women followed by small motivational talks.

- Children's follow up programs.

Apart from the regular programs, the congregation also gave out bibles and rosaries to families and mothers in the women's groups as well as those in prison and also participated in the Mission Sunday Expo in St Joseph Boroko to expose their key activities for the public to know more.



Mothers from Pari taking part in a discussion facilitated by the DMI Sisters.

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