



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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'Pause, See & Return:' Edited.

Pope's Homily at Ash Wednesday Mass at Basilica of St. Sabina All'Aventino
At 4:30 pm, in the church of Saint Anselm all'Aventino, a moment of prayer was held followed by a penitential procession to the Basilica of Saint Sabina. Taking part in the procession were Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops, Benedictine monks of Saint Anselm, Dominican Fathers of Saint Sabina and some faithful. At the end of the procession, Pope Francis presided over the celebration of the Eucharist in the Basilica of Saint Sabina, with the rite of the blessing and imposition of ashes.



The season of Lent is a favourable time to remedy the dissonant chords of our Christian life and to receive the ever new, joyful and hope-filled proclamation of the Lord's Passover. The Church in her maternal wisdom invites us to pay special attention to anything that could dampen or even corrode our believing heart.

these and other temptations, to allow our hearts to beat once more in tune with the vibrant heart of Jesus. The whole of the Lenten season is imbued with this conviction, which we could say is echoed by three words offered to us in order to rekindle the heart of the believer: *pause, see and return.*

Return without fear, for this is the favourable time to come home, to the home of my Father and your Father (cf. *Jn 20:17*). It is the time for allowing one's heart to be touched... Persisting on the path of evil only gives rise to disappointment and sadness. God does not tire, nor will he tire, of holding out his hand (cf. *Misericordiae Vultus*, 19). *Return* without fear, to join in the celebration of those who are forgiven.

We are subject to numerous temptations. And it is sad to note that, when faced with the ever-varying circumstances of our daily lives, there are voices raised that take advantage of pain and uncertainty; the only thing they aim to do is sow distrust. If the fruit of faith is charity – as Mother Teresa often used to say – then the fruit of distrust is apathy and resignation. Distrust, apathy and resignation: these are demons that deaden and paralyze the soul of a believing people. Lent is the ideal time to unmask

Pause a little, leave behind the unrest and commotion that fill the soul with bitter feelings which never get us anywhere. *See* the face of our families who continue striving, day by day, with great effort, in order to move forward in life, and who, despite many concerns and much hardship, are committed to making their homes a school of love. *Pause, see and return.* *Return* to the house of your Father. *Return* without fear to those outstretched, eager arms of your Father, who is rich in mercy (cf. *Eph 2:4*), who awaits you.

Return without fear, to experience the healing and reconciling tenderness of God. "A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take out of your flesh the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh" (*Ezek 36: 26*).

Pause, see and return!



New Bishop for Vanimo - Bishop Elect Fr. Francis Meli

Reverend Father Francis Meli was appointed by His Holiness, Pope Francis, as the new Bishop of Vanimo on the 5th of February, 2018.

The appointment came after Most Rev. Cesare Bonivento PIME, DD from the pastoral governance of the Diocese of Vanimo resigned for having reached the age limit. He was appointed Bishop of Vanimo on 21st December, 1991 and served till his resignation.

mission entrusted to me. I look forward to working closely with priests, religious men and women, and the people of God the laity in the Diocese of Vanimo", said Bishop elect Francis Meli.

Fr. Francis Meli hails from Poi Island in West New Britain Province, that falls under the jurisdiction of the Archdiocese of Rabaul. He did his Primary education at St. Leo Primary School, Sasavoru, Poi; Secondary education at Kimbe Provincial High School, (WNB) and St. Peter Chanel College (ENB). He has done his Tertiary studies at Holy Spirit Seminary Bomana (NCD); St. Paul's University Ottawa, Canada and Divine Word University, Madang. His assignments included St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Rabaul; Judicial Vicar of the Archdiocese of Rabaul, Administrator of Sacred Heart Parish, Kerewat, Lecturer at Rapolo Major Seminary, Chaplin of Our Lady of Sacred Heart Teachers College, Kabaleo, Administrator at Christ the King, Wairiki. Since 2012, he has been Parish Priest at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Vunapope. He has been a priest for 27 years and served in parish life, Institutions of Higher learning, and served on different Boards in Catholic and public Institutions, at the diocesan, Provincial and National level.

We congratulate him and pray that the Lord shower his grace and blessings on him as he prepares for his Episcopal Ordination scheduled for the 25th April, 2018 in the Diocese of Vanimo.

"I thank His Holiness Pope Francis for this elevation to the highest office of the Church. It is a challenge to take up this demanding and serious responsibility in the Diocese of Vanimo. I am new to the diocese, but, trusting in God, and His Son Jesus Christ and Our Mother Mary, I take up this appointment in my pastoral ministry. New situations means new challenges, and new challenges are opportunities to learn and discover the goodness and beauty of the people, their traditions, culture, situations and be able to appreciate the uniqueness of every individual and their way of life. I accept this appointment with humility and faith and ask you to pray that God gives me the strength and energy to do the

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Fill these jars with water - John 2:7

When Jesus' life in Nazareth was finished, he went out to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God. Thus for us, when the declaration of Christmas is over, it is a time for us to grow in our human personality and Christian maturity to the measure of Jesus Christ.

He accepted us in order to share our sufferings and troubles, so we should adjust our daily life to His and become an extension of His life in the contemporary world. To become "Christ-like" is the most important goal of our Christianity, and of priestly and religious vocations. It is a matter of keeping a proper balance of what is human and divine in our life. Also, that not only human activity or even giving ourselves in service to others is important but also to have time for God and our spiritual needs (See *Mark 1:35*). In John's Gospel of the story of the wedding in Cana (*John 2:1-12*), what struck me most was what Jesus said to the servants: "Fill these jars with water." It is clear that water is a

symbol of humanity and wine is a symbol of divinity. "Fill these jars with water" can be addressed to all of us, that our lives may be humanly perfect and authentic.

St Paul saw Jesus Christ as the most important example for our personality. "Thus we shall become the perfect Man, upon reaching and sharing the fullness of Christ." *Ephesians 4:12-13*.

St Augustine prayed: "Lord, let me know myself that I may know you." During this time of Lent we should get to know Jesus Christ more deeply, thus filling ourselves with wine.



Unplug for closer Relationships during LENT

Psychologists are increasingly concerned that technology today is breaking down family communication. As human beings, we are social by nature and crave for togetherness and bonding with relationships. We feel connected through social media, but it strips us of our ability to hear and see verbal and non-verbal messages. Interpersonal connections between family members are necessary. Kids want to be hugged and listened to. They want to spend quality time with their family members. It is therefore necessary to set aside family time for meals and quality time to talk to each other. These are times that are free of phones, TV and computers.

It was creative of one parent to keep a basket at the head of the dinner table. All devices were deposited there before the meal began. "It helps us listen to each other and has brought us closer to each other", she said.

Our bishops remind us that every family is a cradle, where vocations are nurtured and grow. It is in the family that where values are caught and not only taught. (PL Year of Youth 2018)

Parents set the example

Screen time includes time spent with smart phones, television, computers or video games. Parents need to unplug and their children will do so.

Here are a few tips:

1. Join your children as they play rather than sit glued to your screen nearby.
2. Make sure your children are not immersed in technology, or else they will ignore you 50% of the time.
3. If your child spends a lot of time on social network sites they automatically feel less supported by their parents.

During this Season of Lent, may we strive to increase quality family time without technology.

- Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb
- Editor, Catholic Reporter, SOCOM and Youth Secretary

Women Empowerment: 'Big men system'

There are a lot of factors and reasons that contribute to PNG's high-rate of *gender-based violence* and *gender inequality*.

Culture is one of those reasons and it influences every aspect of this male-dominated country. The perception here is that women are inferior and are not equal to men. Therefore, women face discrimination in economic, political spheres and many other aspects of life.

What is saddening is that it has become a way of life, it is seen as normal and it is "socially acceptable." Thus, the concept of gender inequality and the struggle to *empower women* is felt significantly. So how can we, both **male** and **female**, empower women in all aspects and spheres of life?

The President of the African nation of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, is proof that there can be change where women can be empowered and equal in all spheres of life. After the 1994 genocide, Paul Kagame, the former guerrilla who led an invading force to suppress the genocide saw that his country was so devastated and broken. Kagame realised he

needed the Rwandan women, who were the majority survivors of the genocide, to step up and fill the vacuum.

Today, women hold key leadership roles and their policies are cited as a model for gender inclusiveness. Just like PNG's 22 reserved seats for women bill, Rwanda also had their constitution passed in 2003 decreeing that 30% of parliament seats be reserved for women which today, 64% of its seats are held by women.

PNG can take this as a challenge to address GBV and gender inequality and promote women empowerment for the advancement of women.

CBC's General Secretary, Fr Victor Roche, reminds us that as women, we need to believe in ourselves and in the leadership qualities of other women. On the other hand, men, need to trust in the leadership of women.



- Abigail Seta



Welcome the Homeless

"Every stranger who knocks at our door is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ, who identifies with the welcomed and rejected strangers of every age ... I hope that a greater number of countries will adopt private and community sponsorship programmes, and open humanitarian corridors for particularly vulnerable refugees" (Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the 104th World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2018).



Bp Rolando C. Santos, CM, Bishop of Alotau-Sideia has welcomed migrants who have professional qualifications in health and education. In inviting them to work within the Catholic Agency, he has offered them benefits that are equal to the other employees.

Invitations are also offered by Rt. Rev. B. T. Bogar, Bishop of Dogura, of the Anglican Church.



Parish Pastoral Council members

Lay Empowerment - Fr. Biljohn Arienza msp

The 2nd Parish General Assembly was held on the 10th February, 2018 at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Buka Town, Bougainville. The 96 participants actively participated in all the activities. Bro. Alemar Orit, MSP, dealt with the topic "The Church and its structures". This helped the participants to know more about the Catholic Church and its structures from the Pope down to the laity. Sr. Evelia Lunio and Sr. Famita Somogod, Missionary

Sisters of Mary (MSM) discussed the roles, functions, mission and works of the Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Council. They highlighted the role of the laity as co-partners, co-journeyer and co-responsibilities in the parish towards their parish priest. Then followed the election of the members of the councils.

Investors lose confidence in Solwara 1

- Aileen Baretta, Freelance journalist



Investors are losing confidence in the Solwara 1 project. Indications showed when Nautilus Minerals, the company contracted for the first seabed mining in the world, recently announced resignations of two very senior executives of the company.



With community resistance and legal challenges from affected Papua New Guineans, investors are doubting the project will ever be a success.

In a recently released press statement, former Chief Justice of Papua New Guinea, Sir Arnold Amet, strongly urged the government of PNG to terminate its joint venture agreement with



Nautilus saying PNG government's equity stake of 15% is worthless.

Sir David Frederick Attenborough, an English veteran

broadcaster and naturalist on December 15, 2017 BBC News also made a strong statement saying:

"That is where life began, and that we should be destroying these hydrothermal vents - is so deeply tragic."

Online blog PNG Mine Watch published a response to Sir David Attenborough's statement as saying:

"Reference latest example of human stupidity and greed: its considered in scientific and intellectual circles that humans are the top species. If correct, please will a human more intelligent than me explain why we're the only parasite deliberately destroying the host which ensures our survival."

This response was dated December 19, 2017 at 11:35 pm from **Saveallspecies**.

There is hope yet that the seas of Papua New Guinea and Pacific will be left alone because of heroes and warriors not only in the local communities but individuals and organisations nationally and internationally

that have taken up the fight to stop this injustice to the sea.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea, the Kavailo Lutheran Youth of Karkar Island, the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNG and Solomon Islands, His Eminence Cardinal John Ribat, Roy

Trivedy from the United Nations, the Deep Sea Mining Campaign, the Alliance of Solwara Warriors, communities of Duke of York, West Coast Namtanai, Balopa LLG Manus, Central and members of parliament Garry Juffa, Bryan Kramer, Dr Allan Marat, Ian Ling-Stuckey, the ACT NOW PNG and supporters in the pacific region and around the world.

If there is success in driving Nautilus away from PNG and the Pacific, all that are listed above and others not mentioned would have broken one of the biggest chains of modern capitalism tyranny.

Youth Alive!

Diocesan Youth Day - Palm Sunday 2018

"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God" (Lk 1:30)

The theme is a continuation of the reflections begun by Pope Francis for the last three World Youth Days. Speaking to the young people at the World Youth Day in Krakow, the Holy Father invited them to have "memory of the past, courage for the present and hope for the future."



The themes "are intended to give a clear Marian tone to the spiritual journey of WYDs" and at the same time "give a picture of young people on a journey between the past (2017), present (2018), and future (2019), inspired by the three theological virtues of faith, charity, and hope."

The Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life has noted that the "path that is being proposed to young people can also be seen to be in harmony with the reflection that Pope Francis has entrusted to the Synod of Bishops: *Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment*."

Every Diocese is invited to highlight and Inaugurate the Year of Youth 2018, at a time convenient for the diocese and the young people. Resources are available and can be requested from Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb. Contact: youth@catholic.org.sb

Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment, Synod 2018 - Called to the fullness of Life and Love - Year of Youth 2018

National Youth Animators Seminar

a Seminar that will deepen your Faith and enable you inspire and empower the young. a time of learning, sharing and networking as we listen and journey with the young.

Date: 19th to 23rd March, 2018
Venue: Emmaus Conference Centre, Boroko
Contact: Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb
E-mail: youth@catholic.org.pg



Every Diocese is invited to send their Youth Animator. Year of Youth plans will be discussed and shared. In preparation for World Youth Day 2019.

Commentary

- by Fr. Victor Roche, SVD



Let us thank God for our FAITH

I was privileged to be in Europe last year for some meetings. Whilst there, I attended mass in some of the parishes and institutions. One could notice the decline in the number of people attending mass on Sundays. Only a handful of people from the age of 65 and above attend mass and this is a trend among the Catholic Parishes of Western Europe. Eastern Europe is different.

France, Spain, Portugal, Germany and the Netherlands are some of the countries which had strong Catholic Faith and where many Religious congregations were founded. They sent many missionaries to Africa, Asia, Latin America and Oceania. Christianity thrived in those countries and had the protection of the Kings and Queens who were Christians themselves. Gone are those glorious days! A Seminary in Germany which had 350 Seminarians now has 22 seminarians. Many convents and monasteries are closed. I pray that this will change for the better. God's ways are mysterious!

A hundred years ago, mostly expatriate missionaries from Western Europe served in Asia, Africa and Oceania but now these countries are sending missionaries to those Western Countries. Indonesia, Philippines, India, Ghana, Nigeria, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea are some of the countries which have more vocations for priesthood and religious life.

Marists came to Papua New Guinea in 1852 followed by PIME, MSC, SVD, OLSH, MSC, SSps, and followed by other congregations. After 166 years, PNG has the following statistics (from the statistics of the Vatican, *Annuario Pontificio 2017*):

Total Population	- 7.55 Million
Catholics	- 2.26 Million (29.9 %)
Parishes	- 403
Diocesan and Rel. Priests	- 558
Religious Brothers	- 92
Religious Sisters	- 785

The Catholic churches are full of faithful people in Papua New Guinea. There are more young people and children. Faith is alive among the people of Papua New Guinea.

We should thank God for our faith and we should pray for those missionaries who came to PNG leaving their culture, comfort and countries.



The 2018 the Lenten Turangu Appeal features "Our Children." We are called to give special consideration to their needs through "Protection, Care, and Catechesis" (CBC PNG/SI AGM 2018). During this season of "prayer, fasting, and almsgiving" Caritas PNG focuses its appeal around the needs and welfare of children – a very vulnerable group in our society. Let keep in mind also that there are many children born into very unfortunate, challenging and impoverished socio-economic conditions, harsh and isolated physical environments. Their life revolves around a very precarious lifestyle, and an unpredictable future. This Lent remember them in your prayers and ponder on the question our Bishops of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands have posed: "What will become of our Children in the future?"

Yumi Yet Sios

- Bp Rochus Tatamai MSC



Tenkyu tru Sista Angela Taylor OLSH

Long Sarere namba 17 dei long mun Februari, ol sumatin meri bilong Marianville Katolik Sekondari Skul wantaim ol Ex-student bilong dispela skul wantaim ol OLSH Sista, sampla papamama bilong ol sumatin wantaim sampla ol memba bilong bod na tu ol sampla Principal bilong ol sekondari skul insait long NCD, olgeta ibin bung insait long bikpela hall long Marianville Skul long wanpela Misa Lotu bilong Tok Tengkyu Tru long Sista Angela Taylor OLSH.

Sista Angela emi stap moa long foapela ten-faiv (45) yia pinis insait long PNG. Moa yet long dispela, Sista Angela ibin givim tupela ten-faiv (25) yia long stap olsem Prinsipal long Marianville hia long NCD. Insait long dispela tupela ten-faiv (25) yia Sista ibin mekim planti gutpela wok tru bilong strongim wok bilong skulim ol sumatin meri bai oli ken kisim gutpela save na kamap olsem ol savemeri long wokim ol kainkain gutpela wok kamap long strongim kantri PNG.



Bikpela samting tru long dispela stori bilong Sista Angela em long nambawan kamap bilong en long Yule Ailan insait long Bereina daiosis long yia 1970. Angela em ibin kamap olsem wanpela yangpela meri tisa husat ikam olsem ol lei-misinari o volantia long kam wok long mission. Taim emi kamap long Yule Ailan olsem yangpela tisa meri, Bisop ibin salim em igo long Bereina taun long skulim ol sumatin long primary skul. Em skulim ol pikinini namel lo gred 1 igo inap long gred 6.

Sr Angela go bek long Australia na emi go joinim ol OLSH sista long formation program bilong congregation long ol Dotas bilong santu hat bilong Mama maria (OLSH Sisters). Taim em ipinis long formation bilong em na ikamap Religious Sista orait em ikam bek gen long misin long Yule Ailan. Long dispela taim emi lukautim ol yangpela meri long formation husat em oli laik kamap sista long haus formation long Yule Ailan yet. Ino longpela taim oli askim em long go tisa gen insait long OLSH Hai Skul bilong ol meri long Yule Ailan. Emi bin stap wanpela gutpela na smatpla tisa tru.

Planti samting yumi ken lainim na kisim skul long laip na wokabaut bilong Sista Angela Taylor OLSH.

1. Stap Redi long givim taim na save na laip bilong yumi yet igo long sevim ol narapela manmeri na ol pikinini na ol yut insait long ol narapela ples na kalsa.
2. Noken prèt long go mekim kainkain wok long skul o hausik o wantaim ol meri, ol man ol pikinini long skul na long ples long kainkain wok olsem pastoral na training.
3. Givim yumi tu long laip olsem voluntia na givim taim, laip na save long helpim ol narapela bihainim ol misinari ilusim ples bilong ol yet na kam givim laip bilong ol long sevim yumi insait long PNG.

Yumi ol yanpela bois na meri yumi ken tingting long givim laip bilong yumi insait long religias laip olsem ol religias Brata, Sista, pris na diakon.

Wantaim dispela liklik tribut yumi ken skelim laip, wok comitment na hamamas bilong Sista Angela Taylor OLSH.



Child Protection Training a success

Mendi, SHP: The first Lukautim Pikinini Act - Child Protection training in Mendi saw forty-two participants' graduate on Friday, 16th February 2018.

Hosted by the Mendi Catholic Diocese with the support of the Australian Government through Incentive fund, the one week - February 12 to 16 - training had participants come from respective Catholic parishes within Mendi district, as well as Community Development officers. The training also attracted workers from the ULGA Out of Home Care Centre in Mt Hagen, WHP with Archbishop Douglas Young svd of Mt Hagen Diocese taking the initiative to have them involved in the training.

In his congratulatory remarks, Bishop Donald Lippert of the Diocese of Mendi thanked the Government for taking the lead in conducting such trainings to up skill community leaders and volunteers in dealing with child issues. "When it comes to children issues, it is everyone's business and responsibility. And I am grateful that you all have sat through the week-long Lukautim Pikinini Act Training," said Bp Donald. Acting Chief Executive Officer for the Office of Child and Family Services, Mr Simon Yanis told the participants that the Government is serious in addressing the issue of Child Protection and the Churches play an important role in delivering those services.



Apostolic Nuncio visits DWU, Wewak

The Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea & Solomon Islands, His Excellency Mathew Kurian Vayalunkal, officially launched the academic year and opened a new Administration Building for Divine Word University St Benedict's

Campus Wewak. The event was held on Friday 23rd February. Dr. Kekeya, Dean of Education at DWU, Madang campus, Mr. Mario Sarito, contractor as well as staff and students were present for the occasion. In his homily, the Apostolic Nuncio focused on change and challenged students and staff to trust the Holy Spirit and search for the Truth which is Jesus Christ. They were also encouraged to be the Light and formators of the truth to the younger generation.

The official opening of the Academic Year 2018 and commissioning followed. His Excellency Mathew Kurian Vayalunkal then officially cut the ribbon of St. Benedict's new administration building.

Consecrated Life celebrated in Madang Archdiocese

- **Abp Steve Reichert**

In 1997, Pope St. John Paul II celebrated the first World Day of Consecrated Life, which he himself had instituted to take place every year on February 2nd, the feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple.



The World Day of Consecrated Life was celebrated in the Archdiocese of Madang at the Cathedral, where religious and laity began the day with a period of recollection following a spiritual talk by Fr. John Ryan SVD, the chaplain of Divine Word University. Later, the Eucharist was presided over by the Archbishop. Lunch and an entertainment then followed.

Share your Stories

Send in your articles, photograph and reflections on events and happenings in your parish, community and diocese. All articles and photographs are to be sent to: socom@catholic.org.pg on or before **20th March, 2018**
Produced by: **CBC SOCOM**

PRAYER CARDS

Holy Rosary Prayer Guide

Ensis BCC 2

Copies available K 0.50 each
Contact: Marie Mondu
on [728 43207](tel:72843207) or
email mmondu@gmail.com

Holy Rosary Prayer Guide

October and May is the Month of the Holy Rosary
Bow to our Blessed Virgin Mary's image to show reverence



St John The Baptist - Ensis BCC

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW JESUS

Luke 9:23

Alvaro de Mendana arrived in Solomon Islands in 1568 and placed a CROSS on Holy Cross Hill. 2018 is the 450th Anniversary of this important event

In 2018 the PNG/SI Bishop's conference in union with the Catholic Church throughout the World remembers our YOUNG PEOPLE, Faith and Vocation Discernment