



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

August 2018

Issue 152



Cardinal Ribat moderator for the Synod on Youth

'Young people, the Faith and Vocational Discernment' is the theme of the Synod to be held in Rome from the 3rd to 28th October, 2018. John Cardinal Ribat has been appointed as one of the four moderators for this Synod. He highlights the need for respect and the good of all persons as he shares with us his impressions as he prepares for this important Synod on Youth.

What does this appointment as Moderator of the Synod mean for you?

'The appointment as one of the Moderators of the Synod came to me as a surprise. However, it has given me an opportunity to reflect on how I can channel the voices of young people from across the world and more especially the voices of our young people from our beloved country Papua New Guinea'.

What are the issues our young people face in Papua New Guinea?

'Papua New Guinea has a population of 8.42 million people. One third of the population are young people that are between the ages of 15 to 25 years. Our young people are moving on according to the 'spirit of our time'. We need to understand them and the issues that they face in their world today. The meaning of life, the possibility to be educated, the struggle for a job, the need for an enhancing relationship – are issues that our

young people are constantly facing in our country today. As a church, we need to journey with our young people and guide them as they strive to live out their faith amidst dominating leaders and an overpowering culture. Our young people are in search of credible witnesses in the government and in the church. They need support, encouragement and a direction'.

What can you say about the faith of our young people?

'Faith is something that touches every person at the deepest level. It is wonderful to see young people participate fully and joyfully in choir, music and dance on several occasions. They give of their best and do it with commitment and zeal. It is a challenge for us to ensure that they celebrate their faith not only on occasions, but on a regular basis all throughout the year. As church personnel, we need to organize programs and activities at different levels that will help them grow in their villages, parishes and

in their dioceses. Their faith should not be limited to music and dance at liturgical celebrations, but we need to guide them and provide them opportunities to understand and organize sacramental and liturgical celebrations. Opportunities for prayer, vibrant liturgical celebrations and youthful spiritual experiences through retreats and youthful spiritual celebrations enable them encounter the Lord in their lives. Two issues confront them – the need to care for their parents and their families and the Christian understanding of their traditional culture.

I see young people as generous and open to the religious and priestly vocation. However, they are in search of committed 'Good Shepherds' who will journey with them and help them discern God's will for them in their lives. Our young people need to be guided into open, respectful and enhancing relationships. We need to help them talk openly about their

relationships and be prepared for the committed relationship in the Sacrament of Marriage. Their marriage should be growth promoting and enhancing for themselves and their families.

What can you say about the use of technology today?

Technology is something that we cannot avoid and our young people are immersed in it on a regular basis. They are able to use technology in a variety of ways and I am challenged to teach our young people the ethics of using it wisely and well. Pope Francis reminds us that we need to relate with our family and friends who are at table with us. 'Do not bring your phone to the table', he reminds us. May we always use technology to promote and enhance the lives of people.

We congratulate Cardinal Ribat and wish him every success as one of the four moderators of the Synod of Youth.

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ISFF18



Youth Alive! Celebrate Life and Love!
Vision City, 4th August, 2018 at 9am
The ISFF18 kit will be available from 4th August, 2018 @ K100.00/+ postage.
CBC SOCOM and Youth

Society and Culture: Transformed by the New Evangelization

- Sr Marilyn Akonoh MSC

Christ came to bring hope, peace and salvation to the world. As baptized Catholics, we are called to share Christ in our daily life. The New Evangelization is announcing the Good News to those who have never heard of Christ. This is a mission to all the nations - *ad gentes*. It is done through on-going catechesis in schools and parishes. It is re-proposing the Gospel to those who, although baptized, have drifted away from the Church.

By deepening our relationship with Christ and experiencing His love for us, we renew our faith as disciples in a community of believers, grow in confidence in the truth of the Gospel, and then share our faith in Jesus Christ joyfully with others. The New Evangelization invites all Catholics to see the world as an opportunity to bring people to Christ and to grow closer to Christ themselves.

We need to live everyday of our lives in the awareness of God's presence. Growing in faith, hope and love is the most effective way to share our faith with others. It is this witness that will help us reach out to others in our communities, families, friends, neighbours and colleagues

in order to transform culture. Christ told us to be witnesses to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). He did not tell us to just witness to our family and friends, but to ends of the earth, that is to everyone. Through our Baptism we are called to witness to all in Society.

We are called to evangelize the world by entering into dialogue with modern culture and confronting the influences of secularism, materialism, individualism. Modern culture, though often positive, leads to isolation and weariness when taken to the extreme. New evangelization offers Hope. Our hope is in the person of Jesus Christ who offers Salvation to all people. As Catholics, we offer hope with the saving grace of Jesus Christ, to our community and culture by publicly witnessing through our words and actions.

Every baptized person is called to be a disciple of Christ and proclaim the Gospel Values in our society, community and homes. The Catholic Church through the Sacraments, provide us with the grace and resources necessary to be evangelizers in our local communities. Remember – an evangelizer is a disciple who shares the faith!

Addiction to Social Media

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, CBC SOCOM and Youth Secretary

Addiction is any compulsive activity that a person finds difficult to stop even with great effort. More important it is harmful to a person engaged in that behaviour or activity.

Travelling for a Social Media program, I got into a conversation with the one who was driving me. After a few pleasantries about the day, I inquired about his family. He mentioned that he had three children who were in high school. I then asked him about the use of Technology and the Media and if he had any difficulty in this area. He said that he permitted his children to watch television only on the weekend and during the holidays. "Their primary duty is to study. They then need to go to bed early so that they rise early and are ready for their school day", he said. "It is wonderful that he and several parents have a positive influence over their children and are able to help them use technology wisely", I pondered.

Many young people spend a lot of time with technology, their digital devices and above all with social media. They acknowledge that they are drawn into it and enjoy it so much that they lose track of time. They even state that it draws them away from their school work. It also creates a time management problem. Parents are invited to enter into the world of young people, learn about their world and communicate to them that the television, the computer and digital devices are just tools to be used to communicate to others and learn a lot about people, the environment and the universe.

As parents and church personnel, we are encouraged to enter the world of our *networked teens* and guide them into the right use of Technology and Social Media.



Facebook group is empowering women

- Abigail Seta



A Women's Lukaut Team on Facebook is paving the way for change and empowering many Papua New Guinean women in this technological era.

The Lukaut Team comprising of young Papua New Guineans, created a group on Facebook called 'Women's Lukaut.' The group is a 'closed group' with the purpose to get women and girls to report incidents that they encountered which makes them feel unsafe and vulnerable.

In a recent interview with the Lukaut Team, they stated that: "It also keeps members informed of danger and warns women and girls to make informed decisions about their safety when travelling and moving around in public spaces or even at home."

"Currently, the group is only open to females living in Port Moresby. There is a registration process that must be completed before women are accepted into the group. Members report incidents such as bag snatching, pick pocketing, carjacking, physical harassment and other incidents that they witness within their communities, markets, bus stops and sporting venues. In addition, we encourage women to seek help such as counselling or safe houses where the administrators of the group can link the victims to the relevant organisations for assistance."

The Lukaut Team was motivated to create the group after personally experiencing and witnessing close family, friends and colleagues encounter incidents of harassment and carjacking. They wanted other women to be warned of possible dangers they would encounter.

Since the creation of the group, the team has received a number of positive responses. Currently the group has 158 members with women slowly beginning to report incidents of harassment. The group has assisted women in danger and also helps those seeking a safe place to stay.

"A few men, supporting the group have requested permission to join this group. We have a safety trainer who is a member of the group who also supports this initiative," said the Lukaut Team.

The Women's Lukaut group enables women to report incidents and warns of possible danger so that other women and girls are informed. It aims to empower women to feel safe while creating a community of people who care and support each other.



Left: Young people use technology to prepare programs that will inspire their peers.

2018 Regional Youth and Media Education Seminars –

for Media and Youth Coordinators – Aim: To get a basic insight into Media and produce inspirational programs

Region	Date	Venue	Coordinator	Host	Remarks
Southern	5 th - 9 th March	Chancery POM	Sr Virgie Gayon FSP	Card John Ribat MSC	Postponed
New Guinea Islands	14 th - 18 th May	Cardinal Degenhardt Convention Centre	Sr Daisy Anne Lisania MSC	Abp Francesco Panfilo SDB	Completed
Momase	16 th – 20 th July	Madang	Fr George Ryfa	Abp Steve Reichert OFM Cap	Completed
Highlands	6 th - 10 th August	Mt Hagen Rebiatul YC	Fr John Philip and Sr. Mary Lilian	Abp Douglas Young SVD	On schedule
Solomon Islands	3 rd – 7 th September	Honiara	Sr. S Sala FMA	Abp Chris Cardone OP	Postponed

Youth Convention 2018

a time of prayer, celebration and commitment for young people who are
Called to the fullness of Life and Love

Rabaul, 10th - 14th December, 2018. 10 Youth from every PNGSI Diocese.

All young people are invited to prepare themselves for this important event.

Exeter publish study on seabed mining

- Aileen Baretta, Freelance journalist



A new study says seabed mining can cause irreversible damage to the deep-sea ecosystem.

The Exeter University of United Kingdom published a study on the 22nd of January, 2018 to give a global overview of all current plans to mine the seabed in the world.

Dr. David Santillo, a marine biologist and senior Greenpeace scientist based at the University of Exeter said, "As we learn more about deep sea ecosystems and the role of oceans in mitigating climate change, it seems wise to take precautions to avoid damage that could have long-lasting and unforeseen consequences."

The rising demand for minerals and metals for use in new technology would cause extraction to very wide areas of the sea floor than digging down to any great depth where these mineral deposits occur.

The first commercial enterprise in deeper

waters, expected to target mineral-rich sulphides at depths of 1.5-2km off Papua New Guinea, is scheduled to begin early in 2019.

Speaking about these plans last year, environmental advocate Sir David Attenborough, of United Kingdom, said it was "tragic that humanity should just plough on with no regard for the consequences."

Dr. Santillo said demand for seabed mining will diminish if humanity could cut overproduction and overconsumption of consumer goods adding, "It is easier to repair and make better use of the limited natural resources we have instead of inventing more."

"As governments prepare to set the rules and the first companies gear up to mine, now is the time to ask whether we just have to accept seabed mining, or should instead decide that the potential damage is just so great that we really need to find less destructive alternatives," he said.

Meanwhile, resistance is building up in Papua New Guinea Maritime Provinces with the help of churches, civil societies and people's groups.

The resistance is against Nautilus Minerals and PNG government's plans to mine the sea bed off West Coast Namatanai in New Ireland Province which shares fishing and sacred grounds with Duke of York Islands, East New Britain Province.



Feast of Blessed Peter ToRot

- Elizabeth Gavuri

Rabaul: The NGI region celebrated the Feast of Blessed Peter ToRot with a pilgrimage on Saturday, July 8th 2018 to St Augustine Parish, Rakunai.

The walk to the home of Blessed Peter ToRot saw Catholic faithful, youth, divine mercy and other groups from the Archdiocese of Rabaul as well as others from the dioceses of Kimbe, Bougainville and Kavieng.

Archbishop Francesco Panfilo welcomed the pilgrimages who travelled from different places of the Archdiocese, other provinces and the Teachers of the Archdiocese who ended their Education Convention with the pilgrimage to

Rakunai. He said that to be a witnesses of the 'Good News', we must be true followers of the Good News as well and not just read, listen and tell the good news.

Also, the Vunapope Parish of the Archdiocese of Rabaul and its sub-parishes had a week long convention at Ramale catholic community of Vunapope which began on Wednesday 4th of July 2018 and ended on Saturday the Feast Day of Blessed Peter ToRot. According to Vunapope Divine Mercy Coordinator, Fidelis Sipala, the celebration was the initiative of the Divine Mercy Ministry to celebrate the Feast of Blessed Peter ToRot at the place where his faith began.



Young people on the pilgrimage walk to Rakunai

Program for young religious

- Sr Grace Nakan FSM

Bomana: The Xavier Institute in Bomana offered a 2-month enriching course for young religious. 15 participants from different congregations of Papua New Guinea were present for the program.

The first course started with 'Vows in the context of Ecology' presented by Sr Jaroslava Staris SSPS and highlighted about living the vows and seeing the surroundings, the natural place as the place of God. Sr Louis Runne SMM, presented, 'Grace and the human experience of God.' She dwelt on patiently disposing ourselves to the will of God.

Relationships were touched upon by Sr Ancy John SCSA. She gave a presentation on 'Right Relationship' and focused on having good healthy relationships and live good and pure religious and priestly life.

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb spoke to the young religious on Media and Leadership. It was a three-day workshop from July 11th to the 13th and

mainly focused on being a leader, role model and a servant to others.

Br Geoffrey Whitefield CFC spoke on spiritual direction. He also dealt with different forms of prayer, discernment for the junior professed religious and the vows we live in today's world. At the end of the course, a retreat was held for the young religious. Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal, Apostolic Nuncio concluded the program with a Eucharistic celebration.



The future of a child depends on early childhood development

- Bp. Rolando Santos CM

Alotau: UNICEF Australia in collaboration with the Catholic Education Agency of the Diocese of Alotau, conducted two trainings in Alotau. They aim to put up 12 Early Childhood Development Training Centers in 4 parishes. These centres will prepare children between the ages of 3 to 5 years to enter the school system.

The first training was held from 18-29 June 2018 at the Diocesan Community Center, Alotau. It was for those who will be teaching the children. The second training was held from 18-21 July for members of the

Board of Management. 24 participants took part in each of the trainings. Bp. Rolando Santos stressed that the education of children from the earliest age should never be neglected. "Early childhood development is so crucial such that the future of a child depends heavily on the kind of education he or she receives early in life. This should be done with much care and love. It should also be holistic, and include the spiritual, as Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me" (Lk 18:16)", said Bp Rolando Santos CM.



Yumi Yet Sios

Long de namba 6 long mun Julai yumi save makim pestode bilong Santu Maria Goretti, wassantu bilong ol yangpela manmeri bilong PNG na Solomon Ailans. Planti yangpela manmeri ol i bin bung insait long ol daiosis na ol peris bilong ol long mekim ol bikpela program na selebresen bilong amamasim dispela bikpela pestode.

Bikpela skul na eksampel yumi kisim long yangpela meri Maria Goretti em pasim bilong stap klin na lukautim bodi na sol bilong yumi. Yangpela Maria Goretti em i bin gat 12pela krismas tasol na em i bin strong tru long tok nogat long yangpela man Alessandro husat i bin aigris long em na pulim em long mekim sin. Yangpela i bin tokim Alessandro long noken mekim sin pamuk bikos yumi olgeta wanwan, yumi haus holi bilong Holi Spirit bilong God.

Yumi save olsem Alessandro ino bin harim toktok bilong yangpela Maria Goretti na em i sutim em long naip inap 14pela taim olgeta. Oli karim Maria Goretti igo long hausik na kwiktai tru em i askim bai oli singautim peris pris i kam bai em yet i ken mekim konfesio bilong em na tu em ken kisim laspela sakramen wantaim santu komunio. Taim klostu bai em i dai em i mekim wanpela toktok olsem em i pogivim Alessandro na em bai prei long em bai em tu i ken go long heven.

Dispela gutpela pasin bilong Santu Maria Goretti i wankain olsem laip na wok bilong Blesed Peter ToRot em katekist na martir. Wankain olsem Maria Goretti, Blesed Peter ToRot em i sanap strong tru long ai bilong ol birua bilong Tok Tru bilong Jisas. Ol Siapan ol i bin laik burukim lo bilong marit olsem Jisas yet i skulim yumi long bihainim. Taim ol Siapan i laik

senisim pasin marit olsem em kontrak na moa yet emi kavenen namel long wanpela man na wanpela meri olsem wankain pasin Jisas yet em i pas tru wantaim Sios bilong em, Peter ToRot i sakim toktok bilong ol Siapan taim ol i bin laik kirapim pasin poligami (tok orait long ol man ken maritim planti meri bihainim laik bilong ol man yet.

Na olsem Santu Maria Goretti yumi mas prei long ol husat manmeri i laik bagarapim yumi na yumi mas redi long pogivim tru husat ol i mekim rong long yumi. Santu Maria Goretti and Blesed Peter ToRot, yu tupela prei long helpim mipela na strongim tu bilip, laik na hop bilong mipela.

- Bp Rochus Tatamai MSC



Archbishop Francisco Panfilo sdb at the Media Press Conference

Mediation conducted for Oil Palm Project



Local land owner companies (LCO) which are: Pomata Investments Ltd; (15,000 hectares), Ralopal Investments Ltd; (11,300 hectares), Nakiura Investments Ltd; (16,100 hectares) and Unung-Sigite Investments Ltd. (13,000 hectares)

Registration and Shareholding of different Incorporated Landowner Groups (ILGs). Issues of management structure and practice, transparency and the like also need to be addressed to ensure that the landowner companies can be ready for the renegotiation in 2020. It was agreed at the mediation that the negotiations for the new project development agreement and sub-lease agreements will address the following issues:

Rabaul: From March 26th to 27th 2018, a mediation was conducted at Kokopo to address issues relating to the Sigite Mukus oil palm project in West Pomio.

Archbishop Francesco Panfilo, in the statement, said that the project area is mostly forested and that logging has been undertaken pursuant to Forest Clearing Authorities (FCA's). "There has however been a number of issues in relation to the Project which has caused considerable tension within the communities in the project area and between the Land Owners and the Developer (Gilford Limited)," the Archbishop stated. "This eventually led to legal proceedings being instigated by the Land Owners in November 2016 and, as a result, mediation of the Issues was directed by the National Court."

- Benefits—rental, royalty, contribution to infrastructure and community development;
- Operation of the project;
- Scope;
- Conduct of the parties to the Agreements;
- Communications;
- Social and economic impact of the project and how to manage it in a beneficial manner for all parties;
- Environmental issues

The External Accredited Mediator, Craig Jones, conducted the mediation. According to a statement from the Catholic Archdiocese of Rabaul, this project is being undertaken by Gilford Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Rimbunan Hijau. The project area covers a large area of 55,400 hectares, broken into four blocks which are owned by four respective

While the Agreement is being renegotiated in 2020, Gilford will consider Landowner Proposals before then.

"All of this process will be overseen by the Court appointed Mediator, Craig Jones," said the Archbishop.



The Archbishop further stated that since no development had commenced in Unung-Sigite, it was agreed that the current agreement be rescinded and a new agreement be negotiated with Unung-Sigite placing a development proposal to Gilford Ltd by 31st May 2018. The significant point here is that; it is the Land owner company that is taking the lead with regards to the development proposals. With the three other Landowner Companies of Pomata Investments Ltd, Ralopal Investments Ltd, Nakiura Investments Ltd, the Developer, Gilford Limited, has made a commitment to renegotiate the current project development agreement and Sub-lease Agreement in 2020. To prepare for this, the Landowner Companies acknowledge that they need to address Governance issues in the companies, such as fair and proper representation of the clans within the project areas, either through

"This mediated arrangement opens the door to effectively address all of the issues, concerns, and tensions that relate to the project. It allows both parties to negotiate on equal terms and enables the Land owners to take the lead in proposing the Terms and Conditions of the new Agreements based on equity, justice, sustainability and with an emphasis on the need for environment awareness and protection."

"The work ahead is immense and difficulties are anticipated, but it is encouraging that both parties have agreed to move forward and work cooperatively, respectfully and in good faith."

"The Archdiocese of Rabaul, faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and in accordance with the Social Teaching of the Church, especially with *Laudato Si'* of Pope Francis, responded to the cries of the West Pomio people and initiated this Process and is committed to see this through to conclusion."

Share your Stories

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