



The Catholic Reporter

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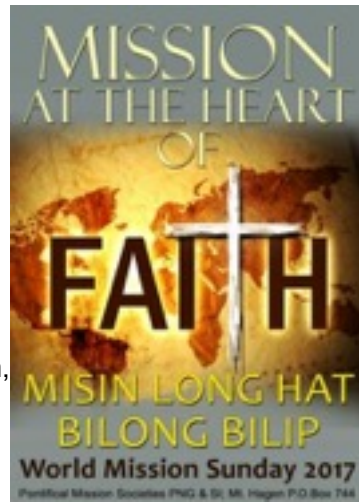
Mission Sunday



Mercy at the Heart of Faith

The Mission Month will start with the feast of **St. Theresa of Child Jesus**. This is a **Day for the Missionary Holy Childhood**. It needs to be celebrated in our schools and parishes. **World Mission Sunday** is to be celebrated on 22nd October. It is a celebration for all of us. We are called to proclaim the God's mercy to all. We are all sent to proclaim this Good News. Thus, the whole Church is missionary; each of us according to our own charisma, our own gifts and in our own place,

This Day invites us to reflect anew on the mission at the heart of the Christian faith. The Church is missionary by nature; otherwise, she would no longer be the Church of Christ, but one group among many others that soon end up serving their purpose and passing away. So it is important to ask ourselves certain questions about our Christian identity and our responsibility as believers in a world marked by confusion, disappointment and frustration, and torn by numerous fratricidal wars that unjustly target the innocent. What is the basis of our mission? What is the heart of our mission? What are the essential approaches we need to take in carrying out our mission?"



The Pontifical Mission Societies are a precious means of awakening in every Christian community a desire to reach beyond its own confines and security in order to proclaim the Gospel to all. In them, thanks to a profound missionary spirituality, nurtured daily, and a constant commitment to raising missionary awareness and enthusiasm, young people, adults, families, priests, bishops and men and women religious work to develop a missionary heart in everyone. World Mission Day, promoted by the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, is a good opportunity for enabling the missionary heart of Christian communities to join in prayer, testimony of life and communion of goods, in responding to the vast and pressing needs of evangelization. - *extracts from the message of Pope Francis Message 2017.*

communities, place of works, are called to be missionaries.

"Once again this year, World Mission Day gathers us around the person of Jesus, "the very first and greatest evangelizer" (Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 7), who continually sends us forth to proclaim the Gospel of the love of God the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Captive Released

Pope blesses former captive Fr. Tom Uzhunnalil

Rome: Salesian Fr. Tom Uzhunnalil received a personal blessing from Pope Francis on September 13, 2017, a day after being released and after 18 months in captivity. He was kidnapped in March 2016 in Yemen. He spent a few days in Rome to meet and thank the Holy Father and then returned to India. "Thanks also to those thousands and thousands who have been praying so long in these eighteen months of the Gethsemane of our brother Tom. The Lord has indeed blessed us with a great Grace. Therefore, in the future we shall continue to respond with greater fidelity and authenticity to His call and to the charisma that he has entrusted to us and to which Fr Tom has committed his life: the proclamation of Jesus and of his Gospel, predilection for the boys and girls as well as the young people the world over, and that especially for the poorest and the most abandoned among them", said the Salesian Rector Major, Fr Ángel Fernández Artime, sdb. Father Tom was working as a chaplain at the home in

southern Yemen established by Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity. On Thursday 28 September, Fr Tom Uzhunnalil, sdb was finally able to set foot on his native ground. Fr Tom met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj and several other dignitaries. "I am very happy. I thank the Almighty for making this day possible, and I am grateful to all the people who have, somehow, contributed to it," said the Salesian. He then presided at a Thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration at New Delhi's Sacred Heart Cathedral. He was joined by the Apostolic Nuncio in India, Msgr. Giambattista Diquattro, a large number of priests and a packed cathedral. While in his hometown, Ramapuram, a festive welcome, has been prepared and CBCI officials have publicly expressed their gratitude to Minister Swaraj for her contribution to Fr Tom's release from captivity.

Photos:
Fr Tom being blessed by the Holy Father; In New Delhi with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other officials.



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Finding your niche

Rome: All the Capuchin bishops of the world were recently called together by the Minister General of the Order. It was a graced time of renewed friendships and fraternity in the birthplace of Saint Francis and Saint Clare. It was a return to the place of the original inspiration of the universal Franciscan movement in the Church as well the personal vocation of every Franciscan.

After this I came to Rome for a few days rest before starting a spiritual retreat. I was able to visit our Mendi seminarian, Thomas, who is beginning his theological studies at the Urban University which is very near the Vatican. (There are a number of other PNG seminarians, priests & Sisters studying in Rome!) We celebrated PNG Independence Day in St Peter's Square. During these reflective days I had the opportunity to visit the magnificent Saint Peter's Basilica - together with thousands of pilgrims who come daily from the four corners of the globe. The

The Capuchin bishops of the world in Rome



basilica is so large that the cathedral in Mendi could fit inside the sacristy!

I also had the opportunity to walk around the outside of the basilica and noticed something that I had never paid attention to before. Cut into the walls all around St Peter's are huge niches filled with the equally huge images of saints. Perhaps because I began my journey thinking about Saint Francis & Saint Clare, I was reflecting a lot on the men, women and young people whom the Church proposes for our veneration as saints. Among those most recently named in this way are the shepherd children, Jacinta Marto and her brother Francisco. They, together with their cousin Lucia, were witnesses to the apparitions of the Virgin Mary in 1917 in Fatima, Portugal.

As I walked around Saint Peter's Basilica I noticed the saints peering down at me from their great niches. They come from every country, speak many languages, belong to different races, have different skin colors.

Some were scholars, some were illiterate. Some accomplished great deeds, some found holiness in the quiet of a monastery. Some were rich, many were poor. Among all these differences there was one thing they all had in common love! They loved God above all things and they loved their brothers and sisters after the example of Jesus and with the help of the Holy

Spirit. They were not perfect. They made mistakes. All (except the Virgin Mary) were sinners, but they believed in God's forgiveness and mercy.

As I considered the lives of so many saints (and as I remembered the example of our own Blessed Peter To Rot) I remembered that we are all called to be saints. Holiness is not for the few. God wants all of us to go to heaven! At our Baptism, all of us receive the call to holiness. Each of us receives the vocation to be a saint! The Holy Eucharist and other Sacraments give us strength to walk this road of holiness despite many obstacles and difficulties. The highway to heaven is the highway of self-forgetting love - following the example of Jesus who walks with us hand-in-hand on the road.

As I continued my walk around the exterior of the great Basilica of Saint Peter, I stopped and pondered two particular niches ... they (and others) were empty! There was no image of a saint standing in them. I couldn't help thinking that perhaps by God's grace, one was for me and the other for you!



- Bishop Donald Francis Lippert, OFM Cap.
Bishop of Mendi

Integrity, a key virtue in leadership

Australia: Obituaries have been pouring in for the late Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor. *The Tablet's* September issue has given him remarkable coverage. Yet in its editorial, the magazine persists in reminiscing a dying man's mistake. It points out that the late Cardinal failed to report to the Police a paedophilia priest who had caused harm to children and families. This had darkened his personal reputation as well as the credibility of the English Catholic Church. Almost on an equivalent lane, Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel laureate and Myanmar's national leader is under very heavy criticism over her silence on the Rohingya crisis. The US President Donald Trump has attracted many criticisms both domestically and internationally. Among the recent one was a simple noted gesture. He failed to meet the Houston victims when he made his first visit to the flooded regions last August. In Australia, Cardinal George Pell has been heavily criticized for failing to protect children abused in clergy sex scandal. Politicians at the State and Federal level are under immense scrutiny. In 2015 Browyn Bishop, the former Speaker of the House of Representative in the Australian Parliament was forced to resign regarding her use of parliamentary entitlements including a helicopter charter to a party fundraising. The Speaker and the deputy Speaker in the Victorian Parliament were forced to resign regarding their abuse of parliamentary entitlements to country MPs.

Back home PNG politicians are no different. Sharp criticisms are placed on some sectors of mainstream service providers, including PNG politicians, past and present as people

experience inadequate provision of service delivery to our local communities. There is also heavy criticism on the PNG Royal Constabulary regarding their violent and brutal behavior in executing their civil duties. The PNG Electoral Commission's credibility is questioned and there have been violence and chaotic scenes with death and damage to property during the recent PNG national elections. Needless to point out the reported cases in vote rigging, election fraud, irregularities in counting, and making some controversial declarations. The student protest sparked by the ongoing lawsuit against the PNG Prime Minister has threaten his personal reputation as well as the Office he occupies.

By and large, what we are experiencing is a significant decline in leadership. Whether, it be within the Church or the secular society, whether it be locally or globally, more and more is demanded from a leader. There is increasing public scrutiny in those who occupy leadership roles in various posts, including workplaces, in ministries, in sports, in hospitals and nursing homes, at schools, at homes, in almost any public institution. Personal credibility does count, and it eventually contributes to the reputation of an entire institution reflected extensively in a wider society. The public want to see a leader who is capable, trustworthy, accountable, honest and hardworking. They want to see their leaders give good examples rather than just preaching about it. People want to see the noble virtue of integrity lived out in those occupy leadership roles.

The Australian Catholic Church is immensely challenged to find its place in the Australian

society with the sex scandal and the subsequent Royal Commission. More pressure is now applied with the debate on the same-sex marriage. These events have overshadowed multiple examples of heroic leadership witnessed in the Australian Church as well as the society at large.

In our Church we are privileged to have Pope Francis who is providing the much needed leadership in our present time. The PNG Church leadership is commended for both her spiritual, social and infrastructural development. Its rewards have come with a title of a Cardinal. Occasionally too, in PNG, we read or hear of incredible stories of missionaries, pastoral workers, NGOs, public servants and volunteers in both urban and rural communities giving outstanding witness to us in our communities. In fact, many others never make up it to public view.

What is needed in PNG generally, in our present time are good role models. The great observers are the youth of our time. They would want to see good role models in both the society and in the Church. They want to see in us, the older generation how we use power, money and how we strive to live our lives well within our limitations. Noble traditions can be continued by the example we show to our children and these children's children will carry on by passing it on to the future generations.

- Fr. Clement Papa



Fr. Clement Papa
Former Rector of Good Shepherd, Banz.
Presently on study leave in Melbourne, Vic. Australia

Most Papua New Guineans DO NOT KNOW

- Aileen Baretta, Freelance journalist



Deep Sea Mining

Nautilus Minerals Inc. an underwater mineral exploration company based in Vancouver, Canada, has already mapped out tenements in the Bismarck Sea in Papua New Guinea. Not just the Bismarck Sea, the Solomon Sea specifically the Milne Bay Province is also mapped.

In PNG, the company is operated as the Nautilus Minerals Niugini Limited. As shown in the Nautilus Figure 2 Map, tenements colored red, yellow, green and turquoise have been marked. The Bismarck Sea is shared in West Sepik, East

Sepik, Madang, Morobe, the East and West New Britain, New Ireland and Manus. Eight provinces in all and communities within that vicinity have access to this sea.

People who live in this sea admittedly say they have no idea, their sea that includes; fishing grounds, sacred sites, navigational paths and even customary boundaries have been cut into segments of exploration licenses without their knowledge.

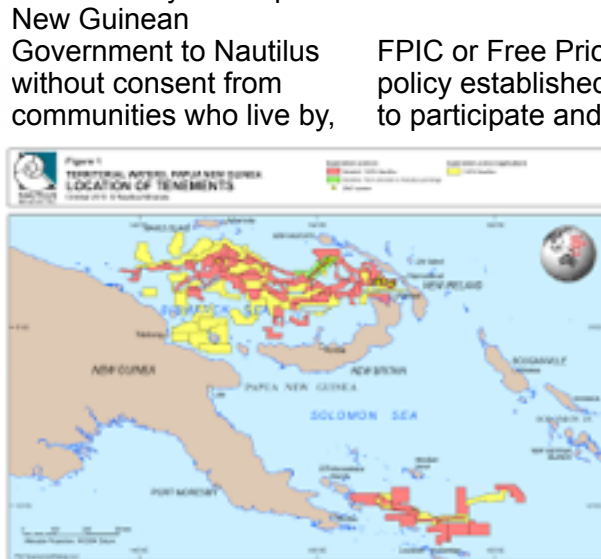
Most tenements have already been listed as granted exploration licenses by the Papua

on and off the sea. This includes the Solwara 1 site within West Coast New Ireland and Duke of York Islands, East New Britain.

Note that this map, Figure 2 is dated March 2009. Local communities have only begun to become aware of the intentions of Seabed Mining by 2015 in the New Guinea Islands and 2011 in Karkar Madang Province. Which means, there was no Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) executed with communities concerned.

FPIC or Free Prior Informed Consent is a policy established for indigenous population to participate and be consulted prior to the development of ancestral land or use of resources within the indigenous population's territory. This policy is detailed under the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)

Surely, that was a mistake done by the PNG Government.



Wellness Program

Goroka: The Wellness program, an initiative of the Catholic Bishop Conference of PNGSI was attended by 10 priests from different dioceses in PNG, on the 12th August to September 24th. The 6 weeks wellness program was facilitated by different facilitators from PNG and abroad. The main purpose was to help priests to live a better life in this world where dynamic changes are taking place. The course helped the participants be physically, mentally, spiritually and socially fit in all aspects of life and ministry.



Caritas Handover

Port Moresby: Caritas PNG's new head of the Board of Governors, Most Rev. Bp Jozef Roszynski, SVD is the new Bishop Deputy and Chairman of the Board after Bishop Christian Blouin, CMM, was farewelled in a small yet significant ceremony on August 31, 2017 at the Port Moresby Archdiocese HQ. The handover-takeover occasion was witnessed by the members of the Board during its 2nd BOD Meeting of the year. In a symbolic gesture Bishop Chris handed over to Bishop Joe an engraved wooden logo of Caritas PNG which had survived the 2013 fire at Caritas PNG. In appreciation Bp Joe presented a small glassed image of Caritas PNG after he thanked him for his services from 2008 to 2017. The National Director, Mr. Raymond Ton also thanked Bp Chris for steering the organization to safety from the stormy waters. He said, Caritas PNG can now move forward in small steps with confidence.



Bp Josef Roszynski, SVD (left), receiving the Caritas PNG wooden logo exchanging from Bp Christian Blouin (right) at the ceremony.
Photo: Paul Harricknen



Marriage Encounter Retreat

- Sr. **Davida Strojek**, National Catholic Family Life Coordinator
Goroka: The marriage encounter retreat was held at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, Kefamo. 13 couples from different parishes of the Diocese of Goroka took part in the retreat that had as its goal the deepening of the relationship with God and with each other as husband and wife. At the opening mass, Bp. Dariusz Kaluza, stressed the importance of the small transformations that can influence the rest of society. The retreat was animated by Fr. Peter Michalski, Sr. Davida Strojek and a married couple Steven and Margaret Paglau. The 12 stages of the program encouraged the participants to a deep dialogue. The couples now value each other and communicate with respect and love. They are committed to stop violence in their families. It is hoped that this type of Retreat will be given to many other Dioceses and benefit others couples throughout our countries.

For your parish, community or Diocese 2017 Directory of the Catholic Church in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands

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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 on or before **20th September, 2017**
Produced by: **CBC SOCOM**

Commentary

- by Fr. Victor Roche, SVD



Cardinal Sir John Ribat, MSC

Pope announced that Abp. John Ribat was made a Cardinal on 9th October 2016. On the next day's National newspaper, the head line read, "First Cardinal for PNG" with Abp. John Ribat's photo. One joyful Catholic gentleman from the settlement in Port Moresby carried a cut out of the newspaper shouting, "We have a new Pope".

Of course, we all know that the gentleman who carried the front page of the newspaper, was overcome with joy of the announcement.

I write these lines from Madang where Cardinal received a warm welcome at the airport and the Cathedral by the people of Madang. One can see and feel the joy of the Catholics and non-Catholics alike about Cardinal John Ribat. One expatriate layman said, "Cardinal John Ribat is a very humble man. He deserves the title and Pope chose the right man".

In my travels with the Cardinal, I feel that he is very gracious and humble about the new title and the responsibility placed on him. He is a spokesman for the Catholic Church in PNG and for the whole country on the international issues.

Another aspect of the appointment of the First Cardinal of PNG shows that the maturity of the Catholic Church in PNG. The Catholic Church in PNG is 135 years old with 27% of the total population.

I see a great future for the church in PNG; a springtime of growth.

Yumi Yet Sios

- Bp Rochus Tatamai MSC



Long namba 19 de bilong mun Septemba, Apostolik Nuncio Asbisop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal i bin askim mi long givim wanpela toktok long of Het bilong ol Mission o ol Diplomat husat i makim ol narapela kantri bilong ol yet hia long PNG. Astingting bilong dispela toktok ibilong serim tokaut long ol dispel a ol lida long wonem contribution tru o ol wok helivim em Katolik Sios yet i mekim insait long kantri bilong yumi PNG na Solomon Ailens.

Long nem bilong 2,265,135 Katolik manmeri insait long PNG na 123,914 Katolik manmeri insait long Solomon Ailens mi tengkim olgeta Diplomat long olgeta helivim ol i save givim long dispela tupela kantri bilong yumi na wok poroman wantaim Katolik Sios long taim bipo inap nau. Dispela toktok tu i karamapim ol selebretion bilong 42 yia bilong tingim independens bilong PNG.

Bikpela askim planti manmeri i save mekim long taim ol i save lukim Katolik Sios insait long olgeta daiosis i save mekim ol wok kamap long education na Helt o ol rot na bris, ples balus insait long ol ples maunten na longwe insait namel long ol rural komuniti, ol klin wara project o ol seif haus bilong ol helpim ol mama na pikinini long taim bilong ol hevi insait long famili. Dispela askim oli save mekim igo olsem **“Dispela kantri PNG em bai stap we stret nau yet long dispel taim sapos Katolik Sios ino bin stap namel long ol pipel na komuniti bilong yumi?”** Dispela em trupela askim bikos insait long sampla ples we hanmak bilong gavman ino stap ples klia, emi Katolik Sios yet imekim na lukautim olgeta planti gutpela wok kamap.

Stat long ol yia 1880s inap long 1920s planti missionary manmeri bilong ol Religes Oda ikam long France, Germany, Italy, Dutch, Switzerland, Canada na Spain ol i bin kamap olsem ol nambawan wait manmeri husat em ol tumbuna bilong yumi bin bungim ol na wok wantaim ol.

Namel long ol yia 1920s inap long 1960s sampla moa missionari i bin kamap na helivim long ol wok bilong stretim bek ol haus lotu, skul na hausik, haus pater na ol convent bilong ol sista na planti moa ol samting em ol i bin bagarap long nambatu bikpela pait bilong wol olsem second wol woa.

Katolik Sios i mekim bikpela wok kamap tru insait long Education o ol wok skulim ol population bilong PNG. Ol nambawan missionary ol i kirapim ol nambawan skul na raitim ol nambawan diksinari, ol grama bilong wei bilong toktok na tu ol i tanim planti tokples olsem Inglis na ol tokples bilong ol wanwan lain komuniti. Wok bung bilong ol missionari na ol katekist na tu ol tisa bilong ol wanwan ples i bin senisim tru kantri bilong PNG. Taim ol i lanin ol tokples, oli raitim ol tu na long dispela pasin ol pipol yet iken toktok na tu ritim ol tokples bilong ol yet.

Ol skul ibringim wantaim ol kainkain tokples na traib ol i kam stap wantaim na skul. Ol missionari i bin bilip olsem Education na ol skul long ol ples inap bungim tru olgeta kainkain tokples na pasin bilong wanwan lain long stap wantaim na kamapim belisis na wok bung wantaim. Ol skul i bin kamapim nupela wei long stap wantaim ol narapela lain na tu ol yangpela manmeri i bin stat long maritim ol narapela man na meri bilong ol narapela hap. Dispela pasin i bin kirapim tingting na lukluk bilong ol pipol bilong yumi long wok bung wantaim na kamapim wankantri wan pipol wanpela PNG tasol. Dispela em bikpela wok Katolik Sios imekim insait long PNG na Solomon Ailens.

Love without Frontiers

Celebrating 25 years of Hospitality in Papua New Guinea

Gerehu: The Sisters of Charity of St Anne commemorated 25 years of their presence in Papua New Guinea with a well prepared Thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration at St. Anne’s Convent, Gerehu Stage 6, on 23rd September, 2017. His Excellency Most Rev. Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal, Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands presided at the Eucharistic celebration. In his homily, he acknowledged the service of the Congregation to the people of God for 213 years, and their service in Papua New Guinea from 1992. He thanked them for spreading their love and spending their time for others, working to educate children and mothers, and for helping young people especially the addicted ones find a secure future for themselves. In congratulating the Sisters, he challenged them and all present to beat in unison with the heart of the Lord. Present for the celebration were priests, sisters, brothers, parishioners, parents, teachers and students, Parish priest Fr. Michael Wartom MSC, Parish Pastoral Council President Mr Michael Awa, Salesians of Don Bosco and all other supporters of the mission.



Sr. Philo Malliakkal, Provincial receiving a papal blessings from the Apostolic Nuncio.

Sr. Philo Malliakkal, Provincial Superior thanked the pioneers and the former Provincial superiors - Sr. Primitiva Vela, Sr. Begonia Villar, Sr. Lucia Retuerto and Sr. Milagros Zulaica, present on the occasion. She also thanked Hospitler Brothers of St. John of God, who were responsible for their entry into PNG and the Salesians of Don Bosco who are close associates in the mission at Simbu. The Spanish based congregation has as its charism: Universal charity to the poorest and the neediest, through the practice of hospitality, to the point of heroism. The Spirituality is based on Humility, Hospitality and Heroism. Besides the three evangelical counsels, the Sisters take the 4th vow of Hospitality. At present there are 10 sisters working in Papua New Guinea with 2 local vocations.

- 1992-94:** Kamina, Gulf province - Upliftment of Women
- 1995:** Gerehu, stage 6 - Ladies hostel; Elementary school; Sewing & cooking for mothers; FODE Centre and ‘Garden boys’
- 1999:** Ladies hostel at DBTC, Kumgi

Living the Lasallian Dream

- Sheryll Extra-Isoaimo, English teacher, JCSS

Port Moresby: Jubilee Catholic Secondary School, a Lasallian associated school in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea established in the Jubilee year 2000, celebrated its 17th year. From the 13th to the 15th of September, the students enjoyed the three-day celebration dubbed us the “most fun” foundation day in years! The celebration began with the opening assembly retelling the history of Jubilee Catholic Secondary School on Wednesday, September 13. The presentation of the history of the school was complete with students acting the roles of Mrs. Bernadette Ove, the principal for the last 16 years and Fr John Glynn, school chaplain since 2002. The students also enjoyed Dagia Aka, National Lasallian Youth Minister and an alumnus from 2015, dancing on the stage and emphasizing what it really means to be a graduate of Jubilee. ‘The Festival of Talents’ was filled with competitions of singing and dancing. The four year levels competed in the cheer dance, battle of the bands, dance and air band categories. The air band competition was the most enjoyable as the students who never really had musical talent mimicked and mimed, lip-synched and danced to the beat as the music played. In the end, the grade 10 students won in the over-all score. Friday, September 15 saw all students and staff attired in their best PNG colours to commemorate the 42nd Independence of Papua New Guinea. The Thanksgiving mass presided by Fr. John Glynn was solemn and prayerful as the students prayed for their country, their school and their Grade 11 student leaders who have received the leadership candles from the outgoing Grade 12 leaders. The celebrations were capped off by the Unity lunch, simple food shared between students and staff members in their classes.



Students in the PNG colours



Participants during the course

Financial Management Course

- Fr Xavier Sariman sm

Port Moresby: A Financial Management course was held from the 22nd of August to the 14th of September at the Xavier Institute, Port Moresby. Sr. Marie Turner DW and Sr. Kumari Pappu FIHM, skilfully animated the 22 participants.

The course focused on financial planning, recording and reporting. The participants were taught how to make a budget, write up cash and cheque registers, write cheques and deposit them in banks. From the registers, they put together monthly reports, yearly reports and reconciled bank statements. In the last two weeks they wrote project proposals. Apart from these there were also topics like; Investment; claiming for GST; Human Resource Development and calculating the depreciation value of a commodity. “As religious we realize that our attitude towards managing finances should not make us stingy in our dealings with the poor. However, it should enable us realize that the projects we write, our acquisition of temporal goods, our incomes etc. are all gifts that help us to carry out our mission to the poor and for the common good. We are stewards of these gifts entrusted to us to be shared with those for whom we have received them in the first place.”, said Fr. Xavier Sariman sm. The participants return to put to use what you they have learnt, recalling what Saint Mother Teresa has said “Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love”.