



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

June 2020

Issue 174

Jim Fair, Zenit

Pope at Pentecost Mass: 'Holy is the One who brings together Many'

Pope Francis celebrated Mass on Pentecost in St. Peter's Basilica, reminding the faithful that "the Holy Spirit is the *one* who brings together the *many*; and that the Church was born this way: we are all different, yet united by the same Holy Spirit."

A limited number of people attended the Mass, wearing face masks and sitting in "social distance" from one another. Rome is opening up to some degree from the pandemic restrictions but health protocols of the Covid-19 pandemic are still in place in Italy and the Vatican.

"Let us go back to the origin of the Church, to the day of Pentecost," the Holy Father exhorted the congregation during his homily at Mass. "Let us look at the Apostles: some of them were fishermen, simple people accustomed to living by the work of their hands, but there were also others, like Matthew, who was an educated tax collector.

"They were from different backgrounds and social contexts, and they had Hebrew and Greek names. In terms of character, some were meek and others were excitable; they all had different ideas and sensibilities. They were all different. Jesus did not change them; he did not make them into a set of pre-packaged models. No. He left their differences and now he unites them by anointing them with the Holy Spirit.

"With the *anointing* comes their *union* – *union* in diversity. At Pentecost, the Apostles understand the unifying power of the Spirit. They see it with their own



eyes when everyone, though speaking in different languages, comes together as one people: the people of God, shaped by the Spirit, who weaves unity from diversity and bestows harmony because in the Spirit there *is* harmony. He himself *is* harmony."

"Brothers and sisters, let us pray to him: Holy Spirit, memory of God, revive in us the memory of the gift received. Free us from the paralysis of selfishness and awaken in us the desire to serve, to do good. Even worse than this crisis is the tragedy of squandering it by closing in on ourselves. Come, Holy Spirit: you are harmony; make us builders of unity. You always give yourself; grant us the courage to go out of ourselves, to love and help each other, in order to become one family. Amen.

PM launches Radio Maria fundraising

- Abigail Seta and Nigel Akuan



Picture 1: Hon. James Marape with Director of Radio Maria, Fr Martin We-en in the studio.

Picture 2: Hon. James Marape giving his keynote speech at the launching. Picture by CBC SOCOM.

Port Moresby: Prime Minister James Marape committed K250,000 to Radio Maria as he launched its Mariathon Fundraising Drive to sustain its work of evangelizing through sharing the 'Good News.'

The fundraising was launched on Wednesday, 13th May at the Radio Maria headquarters in Gordons and concluded on 18th May.

The prime minister who was the keynote speaker at the launch also toured the facilities of Radio Maria and stated that Radio Maria as a media organisation plays an important role in

society by monitoring the government's actions and more importantly providing the inspiration of God to the people.

"Mediums like Radio Maria continue to disseminate correct information to society as well as keep the government and public servants balanced and in check with what we do. I am here to ensure that proper societal knowledge and acknowledgement of this sort of small but key facilities in our country are given the correct support they deserve," said Mr Marape.

The launch of the fundraising was graced by the presence of His Eminence Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC; Acting Health Secretary, Dr Paison Dakulala; General Secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference, Fr Giorgio Licini PIME; Ambassador Gabriel Dusava; Mr Fabian Chow, Chairman of the Fresh Produce Development Authority and Managing Director Costal Shipping.

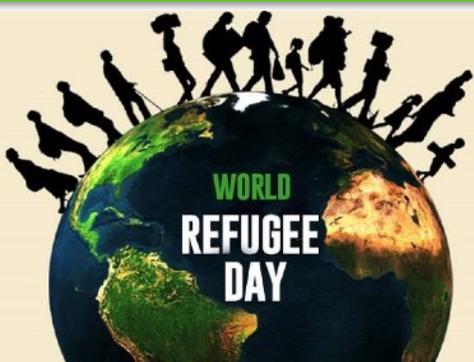
"Radio Maria is a worldwide network for the Church, and we have Radio Maria PNG. I am grateful that everyone has come to be a part of this. It is now up to us to fundraise and support its work," stated the Cardinal as he addressed the gathering.

Following the official launch, a pledge of K17,000 was made by the Acting Health Secretary, Dr Paison Dakulala who, in his speech, gave a brief awareness on precautionary measures against COVID-19. Mr Fabian Chow also pledged K10,000 on behalf of his family.

With its theme "Bringing Mary's smile to everyone," the station is working to extend its network across the country and provide leadership for Radio Maria in the region.

In this Issue:

1. Pope urges praying the Rosary in Marian Month of May; PM launches Radio Maria fundraising
2. Standing in solidarity with refugees; COVID-19 a time of grace; Communication and New Evangelization
3. Suffering of refugees; Feast of our Lady of Fatima; Special prayer intention for nurses; Kimbe clergy senate conference
4. CPS makes statement on same sex union; Diocesan centre serves as quarantine facility; MES students raise awareness



Standing in solidarity with refugees

In its role as an agency for peace, justice, relief and development, the Caritas Papua New Guinea (CPNG) will commemorate this event for the first time with a four-day program.

CPNG's Migrants and Refugees Officer, Jason Siwat, said the purpose of commemorating the World Refugee Day is to expand the awareness to the people and to advocate on the plight of refugees and migrants alike around the world and also in PNG.

"The awareness is to create a positive image and understanding about refugees and what they can bring to host communities. It is also an avenue for CPNG to advocate for more positive government actions to find doable solutions for all refugees left in PNG including the West Papuans," he said.

For West Papuan Advocate, Donatus Nahak, he is hoping that the program would lead and draw the attention of the global community to stand in solidarity with refugees and to end the massive suffering of refugees and asylum seekers in PNG regardless of differences.

"We will commemorate the day with a simple prayer and the strengthening of our solidarity among refugees and community surroundings," he said.

According to CPNG, about 123 refugees from the closed Manus Regional Processing Centre are

currently in the country after a total of 36 left for United States and 1 to Finland on 21st May 2020.

For the ex-Manus refugees and asylum seekers CPNG is supporting them in several areas including, providing food vouchers to refugees with families, general welfare checks on the sick and vulnerable including 2 in prison, and maintaining ongoing advocacy.

"The support we provide is on a needs basis depending on our resource capacity and the types of help needed by refugees," said Jason.

For West Papua group, since 2019, CPNG has been providing welfare support to a high-profile asylum seeker and his wife, support skills training for adults and technical training for the youth.

With the commemoration of the World Refugee Day, CPNG is hoping for more people and leaders to understand the struggles of these people and help to assist them build new lives and that they can make tremendous contributions to their host country.

The program will be held on 15th, 17th, 19th June that will involve student awareness and interaction with selected refugees.

The main event on Saturday, 20th June is open to the public to attend to stand in solidarity with the refugees in PNG and the world.

Imagine being displaced in your own country and for dear life, you are forced to flee the only home that you know and cross boundaries to seek refuge in a strange land.

Sadly, this is what millions of people in countries where there is persecution, war and violence are facing each day. They are unable to return home or are afraid to do so. As refugees in a foreign country, they are most times detained and while facing detention, many of the refugees barely cope and succumb to stress, anxiety and face mental health problems.

To stand in solidarity with them, the world observes June 20 each year as World Refugee Day. This day honours the courage, strength and determination of women, men and children who are forced to flee their homeland under threat of persecution, conflict and violence.

COVID-19 a time of grace

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb
Secretary for Social Communication

Over two months into the global pandemic and we in Papua New Guinea have to raise our hearts and voices in thanks to God for health, healing and above all for protecting us from an impending disaster. Our country with its inadequate health system struggles to deal with daily health issues. Having multiple COVID-19 cases would be disastrous for the country.

Our leaders are spiritual persons and are able to recognize the presence of the divine. Speaking about the global pandemic and our situation in Papua New Guinea, at the launching of the fund raising of Radio Maria on 13th May, Prime Minister Hon. James Marape said, "We as a government cannot claim credit for protection from COVID-19. God has been good to us and has protected us from disaster. However, we cannot be complacent, but need to follow the State of Emergency protocols as we learn from this experience."

Schools, educational institutions, parishes and institutions have opened their doors and have restrictions in place. Timetables have been rearranged with special events reorganized to ensure safe distancing. Some institutions invested in infrastructure to offer their participants a clean environment and hygienic possibilities.

As the global pandemic unfolds across the world, we realize that "everything is closely interrelated and today's problems call for a vision capable of taking into account every aspect of the global crisis" (*Laudato Si*, 137). Together with the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, Pope Francis has announced a **Special Laudato Si' Anniversary Year** from 24th May 2020 – 24th May 2021. It is an anniversary year with a clear emphasis on 'Ecological Conversion'. It is a call to renew our lives, a time of grace and an occasion to let the earth rejuvenate itself. It is a jubilee year for the earth, for humanity and for all God's creatures. We need, above all, "a peoples' movement" from below, an alliance of all people of good will. Pope Francis reminds us, "All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents." (*LS*, 14)

Participate in the different initiatives of awareness, reflection, discussion and action organized at different levels. COVID-19 has made it clear that each of us are interconnected and interdependent.

May each of us do our part and contribute to transform our lives, the lives of our families and the lives of generations to come. God bless!



Communication and New Evangelization

Fr. Victor Roche SVD
Secretary for New Evangelization



We, in the Catholic Church celebrated the 54th World Communications Day on 24th May 2020. It was also the Feast Day of St. Francis De Sales, the Patron of Journalists. In his message for the World Communications Day, Pope Francis has the theme of "That you may tell your children and grandchildren" (Ex 10:2).

He begins his message thus: "I would like to devote this year's message to the theme of storytelling, because I believe that, so as not to lose our bearings, we need to make our own the truth contained in good stories. Stories that build up, not tear down; stories that help us rediscover our roots and the strength needed to move forward together".

In the world of today, we are surrounded by the tragedies of Corona Virus. We are bombarded by bad news and sad news; fake news and false news.

The Pope encourages us to tell true stories that build human communities to grow and go forward. We need to tell the story of stories: story of the Redeemer; stories of New Evangelization.

Based on Pope's Message and the message of Archbishop Eamon Martin of Ireland, I suggest 10 "Commandments" for "Digital Communication and New Evangelization" for those Christians involved in the Digital world of communications:

1. Tell positive and true stories. Create beautiful and good stories.
2. Be joyful. It is the joy of the Gospel that we are communicating. Do not depict "Funeral Faces".
3. Avoid aggression and preachiness. Be gentle and precise.
4. Fill the internet with charity and love. Give rather than receive.
5. Pray in the Digital world. Establish sacred spaces and opportunities for reflection and meditation.
6. Establish connections and relationships; show we love one another as Christ loved us.
7. Be safe and use the internet responsibly. Once you write or communicate with someone in the digital world, it is recorded in a computer somewhere forever. It cannot be deleted easily.
8. Do not pollute your spirit or the spirit of others with pornography and commodification of sex.
9. Be an Inter-Net Missionary. Add the initials I.N.M after your name. Preach the "Story of stories" and reach the ends of the earth.
10. Be a good story to yourself; renew the spirit within others' stories.

LAUDATO SI'

Special Anniversary Year
24th May 2020 - 24th May 2021

GENERAL EVENTS:
Season of Creation:
1 September – 4 October 2020

Laudate Musical Piece:
with Youth Choirs Worldwide

Launch of the Laudato Si' Multi-Year Action Platform and other events



Youth Alive!

Spiritual insights by and for young people
Sharing on the Sunday Gospel

One-minute:
Personal experience,
Reference to the Gospel
and an Invitation to Change.



SUBSCRIBE to our YouTube Channel 'Youth Alive 2020'

To be a part of this initiative, contact
Rosemary Yambune on:
Phone: 325 9577
Email: yambune0543@gmail.com

An initiative by:
• CBC SOCOM
• PGS COMMUNICATIONS





The suffering of the refugees

Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME, CBC General Secretary

The 20th of June is World Refugee Day. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) will remind us that there are seventy million of them in the world.

Commemorations will be held, statistics will be given, appeals will be issued.

I have been dealing with refugees for the last eighteen months here in Papua New Guinea. We have a few thousands of them, who have crossed over from West Papua over the years, because of the conflict with the Indonesian government. We also have a handful who ended up in Port Moresby from other countries. And still 190 of the 1523 men brought to Manus Island by Australia in 2013. They refuse to take them to their country for the simple fact that they arrived by sea.

Working with refugees you fast realize the amount of suffering they endure. The first time I visited them in Manus I could not believe that two governments (Australia and Papua New Guinea) would be so deaf to their cry and so blind to their plight. The suffering begins at home in their troubled countries. By and large the refugees are the good guys running away from the bad guys. "I

was 15 in Kandahar, Afghanistan when my parents told me to leave, because they didn't want to lose me to terrorists", Hakim told me one day. While in Manus in 2014 his father and younger brother were gunned down in the streets while buying bread back home. Today Hakim is still detained in a hotel room in Brisbane, Australia.

Leaving behind the family at times happens overnight to refugees. Run for life and find yourself in the hands of well-organized human trafficking syndicates, since nobody else can help you overcome border controls, get on a plane with a fake or stolen passport or in a boat at sea or march in a forest at night. You run for life not aware of what is ahead; it could still be death. You are devoured by anxiety, while your future is totally out of control. You may suffer significant physical damage, while your soul is devastated by a sense of loss and insecurity. A good number of refugees do not make it to a safer place. What remains of their suffering bodies lies at the bottom of the sea, on the sand of the desert or in the tick of a forest.

The refugees are those asylum seekers whose good reasons for leaving their country have been formally recognized by international laws and official procedures. That should be

enough to ensure a speedy process of resettlement and personal recovery. Not the case. Rejection will continue. You may still live in camps for years, where you cannot work and earn, go to school and learn, have basic medical treatment, support your family or plan one if you are still young. This is a daily psychological torture which leads to insomnia, depression, self-arm, suicide attempts at times successful.

If you are a refugee, or, even worse, an asylum seeker you have no country of citizenship, you cannot travel to attend weddings and funerals of closest relatives. Years earlier you may have left behind a pregnant spouse; and now the child is already five or ten or fifteen, and you do not know when you will see and hug that lovely boy or girl. Perhaps never.

Government ministers and bureaucrats who decide on the fate of refugees hardly see them. From their offices and meeting rooms every day they study how to make their torturous ways more effective. They believe that, by making life as hard as possible to those they hold, others will be discouraged from undertaking the perilous journey and ever show up at their doors. Still the suffering of refugees may not be the first theme of discussion at gatherings, commemorations, and fora on the 20th of June. Sad as it is!

- Moses Ben



"Enable us to listen and respond to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor," *Laudato Si* 49

Keep it Clean. Go Green!

Photograph Competition (Individual)

1. Photograph must reflect 'Keep it Clean. Go Green'
2. A quote from *Laudato Si* to accompany photograph
3. Size: **500 to 999 Kb**
4. Format: **JPEG Only**

Film Competition (Group)

Institutions, Schools, parishes, youth groups

1. Video must reflect 'Keep it Clean. Go Green'
2. A quote from *Laudato Si* to accompany film
3. Duration: **02:30 to 05:00 minutes**
4. Format: **MP3, MP4, VLC in High Definition Format**
5. Send your Videos to the **email IDs** below via **WeTransfer**

Criteria

- Age group: **15 to 26 years old**
- **Points for Inspiration, creativity, composition and original local content.**

- All films and photographs are to be submitted on or before **Thursday, July 30th 2020 to the e-mail IDs below.**
- **All material will become the property of CBC SOCOM and may be used in publications.**

IMPORTANT

To register your school/institution to be a part of the competition, send an email to the IDs below for the registration form.

For more information contact:

1. Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb:
ambrose.pereirasdb@gmail.com
2. Abigail Seta:
socom@catholic.org.pg

Mendi celebrates Feast of Our Lady of Fatima



Mendi: The Diocese of Mendi celebrated the first of Six apparitions of Virgin Mary to three children of Fatima in

Portugal at The Mary's Centre, Kewabi Parish of Ialibu-Pangia electorate, Southern Highlands province. The event was celebrated on Wednesday 13th May 2020. Bishop of the Diocese of Mendi, Bp Donald Lippert OFM, was the main celebrant.

Superior of Missionary of Holy Family, Fr Piotr Michalski MSF and several priests joined him at the Eucharistic concelebration.

In his homily the Bishop said: "The Virgin mary

identified herself as Our Lady of the Rosary and urged the children to pray the Rosary daily for peace in the world and to make sacrifices for the conversion of sinners.

"He said that we, as Christians have to sacrifice ourselves to pray and help the poor people and those who are in need in both spirit and body.

More than hundreds from Christian communities from different outstations came together to celebrate the feast day of Our Lady of Fatima.

- Rosemary Yambune

Special prayer intention for unpaid nurses

Port Moresby: To commemorate the International World Nurses Day, the staff of the Catholic Bishops Conference gathered to pray the Holy Rosary.

The gathering was held purposely for the committed nurses under the Catholic Health Services (CHS) who have not been paid for four fortnights.

The event on Wednesday 13th May also commemorated the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima and saw the staff offering special intention for

Divine Intervention to allow the government to speed the payment of funds to CHS which will enable them to compensate the efforts of their nurses.

According to Sr Emma Lapun OLSH, Religious Education Secretary, there are over 200 hundred faithfully nurses under the CHS, who are serving in remote regions of this nation.



The CHS were not able to pay their workers for two months, and they await the collaboration of the government to ensure that the employees' efforts are adequately compensated.

- Fr John Balele

Kimbe clergy senate conference



Priests from Diocese of Kimbe at the senate conference.

Kimbe: The diocese of Kimbe had its first annual priest's senate conference with their new bishop, His Lordship Most Rev. Bp John Bosco Auram.

It was held from the 4th to 7th May. Over thirty priests gathered together in the heart

of Kimbe town where the Diocese headquarters is.

The primary purpose of the meeting was the formulation of

a Diocesan Pastoral Plan which Kimbe diocese for the past 17 years lacked.

According to this Steering Committee, consisting of Fr Benjamin Agae, Fr Joseph Galia, Fr Gregory Kasprzycki,

Catechist Mark, Mr. Mathias Ire and the Bishop Himself, the next part of this process is getting the laity to be involved. This means collecting recommendations from the faithful laities within the diocese in all 19 parishes.

At the end of the conference a consensus was agreed upon that after every necessary information collected are analysed and processed a draft of the diocesan pastoral plan should be made available on the 15th of September 2020.

CPS makes statement on same sex unions



donors and organisations whose policies could potentially harm the Christian fabric of Papua New Guinean societies.

“Be vigilant against any blind reception of advices, terms, and conditions from funding givers that are aimed at eroding and destroying our founding values, morality, beliefs and faith,” he said.

He reminded all about the criminal offence on homosexuality and warned the government against any proposal to change the marriage law of the country.

He told of how these office buildings raised the flag without authorization and approval from the PNG Government, and said the press conference was an occasion to make a clear statement against this practice.

“We cannot afford to be complacent to allow foreign organisations and governments to influence laws and policies against our faith, beliefs, values and morality. We are a Christian country and have a moral duty to respect and protect our values, beliefs and faith,” he said.

Moderating the conference was Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, Social Communications Secretary of CBCPNGSI. He said that the public statement by CPS was not in any way intended to create anger or violence toward the LGBTQ Groups.

“We do not condemn those who have an LGBTQ orientation. However, we are here to defend morals,

faith, values and beliefs. We are here as Christians, who believe in God and we want to make known our position clear and ensure that what our beliefs as a Christian country respected,” he said.

An audience of 63 people were present to show their support and concern, all from various Church denominations, media organizations, government departments and NGO’s.

The Press Conference was broadcast on Radio Maria and live streamed on facebook. The conference ended with a closing prayer given by Fr Giorgio Licini PIME, General

Paul Harricknen speaking to the audience at the Press Conference on same sex unions. Picture by CBC SOCOM.



- Raymond Komis Girana

Port Moresby: The promotion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) flag is perceived to influence our government and country into an agenda that is against our faith, beliefs, and values.

Mr Paul Harricknen, President of the Catholic Professional Society, presented the LGBTQ issue at a press conference on 21st May, at the Catholic Bishops Conference, Gordons.

The statement followed after various foreign organisations operating within Papua New Guinea recently raised the controversial ‘rainbow flag’ to show their support for LGBTQ Groups.

Mr Harricknen urged for leaders of the government, civil services, churches and people, to become vigilant and aggressive against foreign aid

Diocesan centre serves as quarantine facility

Bougainville: The Fr. Begg Conference Centre of the Diocese of Bougainville formerly known as YC Hall is being transformed into a quarantine facility for Bougainville.

The Caretaker of the Diocese of Bougainville, Fr. Polycarp Kaviak in a phone interview on Wednesday, 20th May, told Bougainville Diocese Media that there is a temporary agreement between the Diocese and the Autonomous Bougainville Government on the use of the centre for quarantine, that goes as far as June 2020, is subject to extension depending on the situation.

Fr. Polycarp said the work on the additional three units in the centre has reached its completion stage and should be ready to cater for people traveling into the region following the uplift of the restrictions on commercial flights into Bougainville. The Diocesan staff working in the centre were also

privileged to receive training on how to handle things during the quarantine period.

Meanwhile, the diocese is maintaining the COVID-19 State of Emergency protocols despite the persistence from parishioners to attend Mass.

The period leading from March to May saw the Diocese delivering awareness to the people through the parish priests in all the parishes. Holy Week and Easter celebrations were celebrated with emphasis on family taking the lead with adherence to liturgical instructions put in place by the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.



YC Hall that is now used as a quarantine facility in the Diocese of Bougainville.

Fr. Polycarp expressed that the Diocesan Media is being so helpful in this time of the lockdown in broadcasting Holy Mass, awareness and other relevant information. These are also being relayed by other radio stations in Bougainville like Dawn FM to central and south Bougainville.

- Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb and Abigail Seta

Students raise awareness on COVID-19 and Environment



Held at the Emmaus Conference Centre, Boroko on Sunday, 17th May, the productions created by the students reinforced the precautionary measures circulated by the State of Emergency (SOE) controller and on the seminar’s theme: “Keep it Clean. Go Green.” Present to view the productions were Br Joy Mathew, Principal of St Charles Lwanga Secondary School, Gerehu; Charlotte Vada and Robin Lesley, Representatives of Caritas Australia; Maureen

6. De La Salle Secondary School, Bomana: Before and after COVID-19 and
7. La Salle Technical School, Hohola: Keeping the environment clean.

“I was amazed at the superior level of presentations by the students. I couldn’t believe they were the work of secondary school students,” said Charlotte Vada, Caritas Australia.

Speaking on behalf of the principals of the schools involved, Br Joy Mathew thanked the Social Communications team for offering this unique opportunity to the students. He congratulated the students for their public speaking, critical thinking and creative production. The other guests and animators expressed similar sentiments.

The participants are challenged to change their attitudes and behaviour and put into practice what they share through audio and film. “Think not as me, but as we”, Fr Ambrose Pereira reminded the participants as he congratulated the students and thanked the animators. He invited all to reflect on how they could spread the message of *Laudato Si* and celebrate the *Laudato Si* year announced by the Holy Father, Pope Francis.

The MES was a three-day seminar held from 15th to 17th May that had forty participants from seven catholic agency schools participating. The program had sessions on the Environment and COVID-19, Audio Basics and Creation of Jingles, Video Basics, Types of Shots, The Problem Tree, Storyboard Making, Film Shooting, Video Editing and Video Presentations.

Lesley, Catholic Health Services Communication Officer and religious sisters.

The presentation commenced with student representatives speaking about their experience at the seminar. Following this was the screening of the jingles and short films. With the jingles, the students highlighted the precautionary measures to take against COVID-19 while the films dwelt on the environment. The following are the themes of the short videos:

1. Jubilee Catholic Secondary School, Hohola: Recycling
2. Don Bosco Technological Institute, Boroko: Rubbish
3. Caritas Technical Secondary School, Boroko: Stop the use of plastic bags
4. Marianville Secondary School, Bomana: Chemical usage on the environment
5. St Charles Lwanga Secondary School, Gerehu: A minute to save the earth

MES participants at the 2nd Seminar. Picture: CBC SOCOM

Port Moresby: The lively and energetic 2nd Media Education Seminar for students concluded with a presentation of jingles and videos that raised awareness on COVID-19 and the environment.

Catholic Reporter

Invites you to send in your articles, photograph and reflections

on events and happenings in your parish, community, institution and diocese.

Editor: **Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb**

Sub Editor: **Abigail Seta** Layout: **CBC SOCOM**

Please send in your material to:

socom@catholic.org.pg

on or before **20th of the month, 2020**

Published by: **Catholic Bishops Conference PNGSI**