



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

March 2022

Issue No: 195

Refugees fleeing from Ukraine arrive in Hungary
Article and Picture: Vatican News



Pope Francis stands in solidarity with Ukraine

Pope Francis says his heart aches over the situation in Ukraine and dedicated Ash Wednesday, March 2nd 2022 as a "Day of Fasting for Peace". "It is a day to be close to the suffering of the Ukrainian people, to be aware that we are all brothers and sisters, and to implore God for an end to the war."

Rome: During the General Audience on Wednesday, 23rd February, Pope Francis made a heartfelt appeal for peace in Ukraine, saying that the threat of war had caused "great pain in my heart."

"Despite the diplomatic efforts of the last few weeks," the Pope said, "increasingly alarming scenarios are opening up," with many people all over the world feeling anguish and pain.

"Once again the peace of all is threatened by partisan interests," he stressed. Pope Francis appealed to those "with political responsibility to examine their consciences seriously before God, who is the God of peace and not of war, who is the Father of all, not just of some, who wants us to be brothers and not enemies."

He also prayed that "all the parties involved refrain from any action that would cause even more suffering to the people, destabilizing coexistence between nations and bringing international law into disrepute."

On February 25th, Pope Francis visited the Russian embassy to the Holy See in Rome "to express his concern at the war."

Pope Francis spent more than a half-hour at the Russian embassy

on the Via della Conciliazione in Rome on Friday morning.

The Holy Father is closely following the evolution of the situation in the eastern European country, which has been under attack since the night of 24 February, where numerous people have already been killed and injured. Already at the General Audience on Wednesday, before the Russian invasion began, the Pope had expressed the "great sorrow in his heart" over the worsening situation in the country.

The Pope appealed "to those with political responsibility to examine their consciences seriously before God, who is the God of peace and not of war."

On the Sunday Angelus, Pope Francis launched a series of appeals: for prayers and closeness to those suffering the Russian assault in Ukraine; for the opening of humanitarian corridors for those who flee; and, for political resolutions to conflicts in Ukraine and in other parts of the world.

Pope Francis went on to say that "those who wage war forget humanity: they do not start from the people; they do not look at the concrete life of the people, but put partisan interests and power in front of everything."

"They rely on the diabolic and perverse logic of weapons which is the most distant from the will of God, and they distance themselves from the common people who want peace," he said.

He noted that, in every conflict, "ordinary people are the real victims who pay for the follies of war with their own skin."

The Pope added that he thinks especially "of the elderly, of those who are seeking refuge at this time, of mothers fleeing with their children."

"They are brothers and sisters for whom it is urgent to open humanitarian corridors and who must be welcomed, with an aching heart, for what is happening in Ukraine."

Pope Francis also invited all men and women of goodwill not to forget the wars in other parts of the world, mentioning those in Yemen, Syria, and Ethiopia. "I repeat: May weapons be silenced! God is with the peacemakers, not with those who use violence!"

Those who love peace, the Pope continued, as the Italian Constitution states, "repudiate war as an instrument of offence to the freedom of other peoples and as a means of settling international disputes."

International Women's Day

Global Campaign theme: **#BreakTheBias**
United Nation's Theme: **"Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow"**
Date: **Tuesday, 8th March 2022**

International Women's Day (March 8) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality.

Imagine a gender equal world. A world free of bias, stereotypes and discrimination. A world that's diverse, equitable, and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated. Together we can forge women's equality. Collectively we can all #BreakTheBias. To be a part of the global campaign, women around the world are **Striking the IWD 2022 pose by** crossing your arms to show solidarity.

The UN recognizes the contribution of women and girls around the world, who are leading the charge on climate change adaptation, mitigation, and response, to build a more sustainable future for all.

Questions for reflection:

1. Will you actively call out gender bias, discrimination and stereotyping each time you see it?
2. How will you empower women and men to work together to help build a sustainable future for all?
3. What are some ways in which we can all take action for equality and raise awareness against bias?



New Bishop of Goroka

Pope Francis has appointed a new bishop for the Diocese of Goroka

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Lenten Season

"...focus on the spiritual dimension and the main options we have, such as prayer, fasting, and almsgiving."

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Pope Francis appoints New Bishop of Goroka



His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed Reverend. Fr Walenty GRYK, S.V.D until now Director of the Holy Spirit Senta in Par, as the new Bishop of Goroka.

The appointment was announced by the Apostolic Nunciature in Port Moresby on Monday, 14th February at 9pm.

Brief History

Fr Walenty was born on 23rd February 1957 in Uzbiereż, Poland. He was ordained on 28th April 1984

and joined the Society of the Divine Word congregation.

From 1985 to 1988, he was the parish priest of Tafeto, Namta in the Diocese of Goroka and parish priest of Drakikira, Tau and Bongos in the Diocese of Wewak from 1988 to 1989.

He has held assignments in the Highlands region and in the Diocese of Wewak which include University Chaplain at the University of Goroka, Director of the

Spiritual Year for the Diocesan Seminarians, Kairuru Islands, SIMBGO (Simbu-Goroka) District Superior of Kundiawa, Diocese of Kundiawa, National Director for the Bible Apostolate for CBC, Goroka, Vicar General, Financial Manager and Pastoral Vicar of Goroka Diocese.

Fr Walenty also served as the National Director of PMS for PNGSI, the Mt Hagen District Superior, the SVD Mission Secretary for the PNG SVD Province, SVD Provincial Consultant and most recently the Director of the Holy Spirit Senta in Par in the Diocese of Wabag.

We pray for Bishop elect Fr Walenty GRYK, S.V.D as he takes up this new responsibility as Shepherd of the Diocese of Goroka.

Picture 1: Rev. Fr Walenty GRYK

Picture 2: Rev. Fr Walenty GRYK celebrating mass

Pictures courtesy of Fr Walenty GRYK

- Nigel Akuani



TECHNO YOUTH - Isabella Saleu

'Where else would you find young people but on social media?' A question that answers itself. Ever since the outbreak of Covid 19, people of all walks of life, whilst in isolation, have taken to the one thing that has not been affected by the pandemic but has rather provided a means of more effective communication and connection: **Social Media.**

Young people, particularly the millennials and Gen Z, who, in their time were born into the age of the advancement of technology, have deeply immersed themselves in this 'way of life'.

While parents, educators and evangelizers try to find fault in this, digital technology offers us a huge advantage as we reach out to our young people, in the space where they gather in huge numbers.

The use of social media apps amongst young people has increased drastically and although the risk of being exposed to a number of threats on the internet such as cyberbullying, fake news, pornographic material, exploitation and addiction are very high, it still provides us the advantage of connecting with them virtually in a time where physical contact has been restricted.

As young people are exposed to both good and bad on social media and the freedom that comes with it, it is our responsibility to make sure that what we share or receive is healthy and safe for ourselves as well those we interact with.

The social media team of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the United States suggests that of all the social apps we use, our posts should be 80 percent inspiration and 20 percent informational.

As Papua New Guineans, it is not a secret that our societies have become sick with our very own actions and thoughts. Lack of respect for properties, human life and even the laws that govern our land. Even our posts on social media, most especially the frequently used Facebook, portray the same disrespect, commonly through the memes that are created by pages whose admins it seems, only purchase data to bully, discriminate and promote hate speech amongst their countrymen. It is a chain; what your thoughts are filled with becomes a status, the next person then reads, poisons his thoughts as well and it becomes a status too. If we allow this to continue, it will affect those after us. We should be challenged to break that chain. Let us all, young and old, make it our responsibility to educate others on how to use social media wisely and spread messages of hope and positivity.

Pope Francis encourages us to always share Jesus' friendship throughout the world, wherever we may be, at work, when studying, even and most importantly by WhatsApp, Facebook or Twitter!

Caritas PNG launches awareness program for elections

Port Moresby: Caritas Papua New Guinea (CPNG) officially launched its Electoral Education and Awareness Program in preparation for the 2022 National General Elections.

Held on Tuesday 15th February 2022, at the Catholic Bishops Conference Centre in Waigani, the launching was a way of creating awareness on individual rights and responsibilities particularly among women and youth.

In a formal statement, Caritas PNG is targeting a population of 3 million Papua New Guineans through community visits, radio and TV messaging, social media and SMS blasts.

According to CPNG National Director, Mavis Tito, "Caritas PNG believes that women and youths can only vote for good representatives if they know their rights and responsibilities, the value of their votes and are also given the opportunity to vote without fear or favour. This is possible if we all rally behind the women and youth of this nation to make their mark on the ballot papers, free from all forms of violence and intimidation."

In her recollection of the poor participation of youth in the past National Election held in 2017, Ms Tito, maintained that she hoped to see more youth actively involved in this year's Elections.

Fr Giorgio Licini PIME, General Secretary of CBCPNGSI, described



L-R: Director of Migrants & Refugees Desk, Jason Siwat, Director of CPNG, Mavis Tito and Secretary for National Catholic Education, Michael Ova with election posters

the launch as the preparation phase for much of the work that will be centred around the population residing around the rural areas and electorates.

"There is much to be done to ensure and avoid any physical confrontation this election period. The election should be an opportunity to debate, participate, share and exchange ideas," he stated.

He added that, "There should be a good electoral exercise for the country where there is a common effort to have fairness and peace that ultimately will benefit and create opportunities for all citizens of Papua New Guinea."

Director of Migrants and Refugee Desk, Jason Siwat, said the Electoral Education and Awareness Program already had in engagement tertiary students from the PNG University of Natural Resources and Environment, Divine Word University, and the University of PNG.

Mr Siwat urged the general public to take on the responsibility of educating others to ensure the next 5 years was one of prosperity.

Caritas PNG will also be working in partnership with law enforcement officials, leaders from the public service and tribal leaders in the country to promote justice and peace during the Elections.

Two new priests for Tunuru parish

Buka: It was a joyful day for the Catholic faithful of Tunuru, Buka, as they witnessed two of their sons become priests.

The Mass was held at the Tunuru Parish on 19th February 2022.

In attendance were parishioners, religious and clergy, families and friends of the two young men who received the Sacrament of the Holy Orders at the hands of the Bishop of Buka, Bp. Dariusz Kaluza.

During his homily, Bp. Dariusz welcomed Fr. Charles Panau and Fr. Gilbert Apunu as priests in the Diocese of Bougainville and asked all present to pray for all the priests of Buka and ask the Lord for holy vocations and life long commitments.

Serve with dedication and loyalty

Alotau: A dedication service for public servants of Milne Bay province was held at the Alotau Cathedral on 16th February 2022 with the theme 'To serve with dedication and loyalty.'

Addressing priests, sisters, teachers, nurses, pastoral workers and public servants, Bishop Rolando Santos urged them to reflect on their mission to serve and reminded them that the good of the people was everyone's responsibility. He reflected on 6 points to discern and become better and more effective servants of the Lord: possessing the gift of wisdom; discernment and obeying God; walking in the Spirit; being humble servants; recognizing the face of Christ in every person and listening to the cries of the poor.

Right Relationships workshop

Kokopo: A formative workshop on Right Relationships was conducted for the MSC Sisters of Temporal Profession and novices at Matanatava MSC Sisters Novitiate in the Archdiocese of Rabaul. The workshop was held from 24th – 29th January 2022 and had 10 participants made up of eight religious sisters and two novices.

It was facilitated by Sr Ancy John Chirayath SCSA, Right Relationships in Ministry Directress of the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI. With the focus on 'Building healthy and mature relationships in our communities and in ministries', the workshop dwelt on the main topics Boundaries, Human sexuality, Values and Rights, and Right Relationships.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Lenten Season: prayer, fasting and almsgiving

Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME, CBC General Secretary

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken with it some of our weak or elderly people and added to our vulnerabilities. It has made us more conscious of our limitations and has prevented many of the movements and

the activities we wanted to carry out. It has been a kind of prolonged Lenten season of good thinking and purification. It has forced us to cut down in travels and meetings proving that many of them may not be necessary.

Further review of our life should take place during the liturgical time of Lent we just entered on Ash Wednesday on the 2nd of March. Let us focus on the spiritual dimension and the main options we have, such as prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Prayer ensures our closeness to God, the source of all strength. Absence of prayer means exclusive trust in our human resources, which may be relevant and consistent, but still limited and defined. We may be intelligent and of good character, nicely projecting

ourselves, like a fancy car, colourful and fast, but useless and powerless without fuel. It is our eyes fixed in God and our trust in his words that give us inspiration, direction, and inner strength to face what comes our way and see the challenges and the meaning of it. Prayers keeps our heart open and our mind honest.

Fasting takes many meanings and many ways nowadays. Abstaining from food can only be an external sign of a deeper engagement against all poisonous nourishment. It's not much what comes from outside that we need to fast from, but what comes from the inside. It's already there and it's damaging: lack of interest, laziness, hatred, jealousy, greed. This horrible mixture translates into alcoholism, neglect of children, violence against women, sorcery practices and false accusations, absenteeism from duties, financial and political corruption, and other evils.

Either fasting from food is a sign and a means of detachment from evil practices or it just remains the show of hypocrites.

All needs to translate into **almsgiving**. Not dole outs. Not an once a while donation. But an attitude of constant charity with solidarity and justice. It means open arms for families without food, children with no school fees, people in hospital or in jail especially with no relatives visiting and supporting them, displaced people and refugees. We have wonderful examples of individuals, youth and students, groups, parishes practicing all this in our midst not only during the Lenten season but for the rest of the year.

As we journey towards Easter and the celebration of the risen Lord, it is our duty to make this attitude sink in our minds and hearts. At the end of Lent, we all should be able to say that we have strengthened our prayer life, we have departed from negative thoughts and practices, and we have helped somebody one way or another. That would be a true sign of conversion leading to life and resurrection!



Emeritus Bishop Gerard Deschamps S.M.M passed on at age 92

Canada: The first bishop of Daru-Kiunga Emeritus Gerard Deschamps S.M.M passed away in Canada on

First bishop of Daru-Kiunga passes on

25th February 2022 at the age of 92 with 73 years of Religious Profession.

The General Council of the Missionaries of the Company of Mary and the Vice-Province of Canada recommend to your prayers the repose of the soul of Mgr. Gérard-Joseph DESCHAMPS, S.M.M.

He was Bishop of Daru-Kiunga from 1966 until 1999, when he became bishop of the Diocese of Bereina.

He was a priest for 67 years and a bishop for 55 years.

From the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNG and SI, may his soul rest in eternal peace.

CPS to make a difference in the general elections

Lae: The Catholic Professionals Society are determined to make a difference in the 2022 National General Elections.

17 CPS delegates gathered from 18th to 19th February in the Diocese of Lae for their 2022 convention and resolved that the elections should be the start of change in the attitude of voting practices where people are usually lured by the candidates promises, favours, projects, food and money.

According to a recently released statement by the group of professionals, PNG is at a cross roads and we should work towards facilitating changes through encouraging voters to vote for caring potential candidates with good standing, who are willing to protect the dignity and rights of people.

The group also raised several issues of concern that need addressing by elected Members of Parliament. They were Defence of the National Constitution, Corruption, Against Death Penalty and For Pro-life, Human Rights Violation, Defence of family values, Catholic Voice and Identity, Justice, Equality, Respect and Prosperity for all.

The convention began with an opening Eucharist celebrated by Bishop Otto Separy, the Bishop Chair of



the laity and ended with a closing Eucharist by Bishop Rozario Menezes, SMM, Bishop of Lae.

Picture above: CPS in the Diocese of Lae at the 2022 convention
Picture courtesy: Catholic Professionals Society

Start of school year delayed due to COVID-19



St John Bosco Primary school in Gizo.
Courtesy: Solomon Islands Salesian Missionaries

Gizo: The start of the academic school year throughout the Diocese of Gizo has been delayed for a month or more due to COVID-19 transmission in the community.

Initially, the 2022 school year was to begin on Monday, 24th January, however, the pandemic has so

far affected communities in Honiara and other provinces. The government of Solomon Island hopes to have the students vaccinated in the weeks ahead and any advice to begin classes will only come from the Ministry of Health and the COVID-19 Oversight Committee.

Bp Luciano Capelli, sdb, in his message to the diocese in the Waves Newsletter, has encouraged everyone to be committed to being the Salt of the earth and Light of the Word. "We will certainly encounter many problems and issues. Besides being isolated by nature, this pandemic will try to isolate us more. Let us keep in touch, call each other, pray for one another, experience communion, and participate in the mission the best way we can," he stated.

Meanwhile, the diocese is urging everyone out in the parishes to comply with the current COVID-19 protocols.

Season of LENT

Season of Lent 2022:
Wednesday, March 02 to Thursday, April 14

Ash Wednesday – March 02nd
Way of the Cross – Each Friday of the Lenten Season

Holy Week 2022
Palm Sunday – 10th April
Maundy Thursday – 14th April
Good Friday – 15th April
Holy Saturday – 16th April
Easter Sunday – 17th April

A Catholic Church Family Magazine for Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands
Salt and Light 11 Volume 4, Issue 1 January to March 2022 Price K 2/-

CHURCH Alive

2022 Pastoral Letter
Salt & Light: The Culture of Life

Church Alive Magazine is a Catholic Family magazine for Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. The theme for the 1st Issue of 2022 is 'Salt and Light: The Culture of Life.'

Volume 4, Issue 1, January to March 2022
Price: K2 per copy

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The secret to happiness is to never say 'NO'

- Jessica Oata



Give her a job to do, any job, and she will deliver with exceptional output. A Jill of all trades is the best way to describe someone of her calibre, let alone, a nun.

Meet Sr. Mary McCarthy pbvm, the Jill of all trades who has had a wealth of experience when it comes to doing voluntary work. It was voluntary work that brought her to Papua New Guinea and more than 30 years later, she is still here dedicating her life and time to serve others.

"If the Lord is calling you to serve then you must respond with total dedication to service", she said.

Her interest to come to PNG dates back to the late 1980s when she came across a poster advertising for a replacement teacher for a year at St Ignatius Secondary School in Aitape.

She had never been on a plane nor had she travelled overseas and she also had little

knowledge about PNG but that did not stop her from applying for the position. She let her sense of adventure be her inspiration when she had uncertainty.

She arrived in PNG in 1989 to take up her post in St Ignatius Secondary School and since then, her voluntary life has been one big and exciting adventure. After her term ended, she realized that she was enjoying what she was doing so much that she renewed her contract for another two years before returning to Australia.

Sr. Mary's desire to continue volunteering did not end there, she enrolled for studies and did a correspondence course on 'what are overseas missionaries called to do'.

When she returned to PNG, she worked as a sub editor, a substitute teacher at Marianville Secondary School and she even volunteered at the Catholic Theological Institute wearing not one,

not two but three hats at the same time. She worked as the librarian whilst she was the student registrar. She also taught Liturgy to the seminarians.

She left the Seminary and served at the Catholic Bishops Conference as the Secretary for National Religious Education before becoming a voluntary chaplain at the Port Moresby General Hospital.

When asked what inspires her to do volunteer work, she smiled and said 'the secret to happiness is to never say 'NO'.

Send your *Stories of Faith* to Jessica Oata at socom@catholic.org.pg to be featured in the *Catholic Reporter*



Lent: Salvation for ourselves and others

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb,
Secretary for Social Communication

Lent is a preparation for Easter. The Season of Lent has been celebrated since the days of the early church. It is a season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It is a season of conversion that will last throughout our lifetime. The season commences with Ash Wednesday. This year it is on the 2nd of March 2022. On this day millions of Christians gather in churches across the world and in Papua New Guinea, to get their forehead marked with a cross as they hear the words, "Repent, and believe the gospel!" or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Ashes are a sign of mortality and a sign of renewal in Christ. Ash Wednesday commences the 40 days, period of fasting known as Lent, and it concludes with the celebration of Holy Week and the joy of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

40 days of Lent

- 40 is a significant number in Jewish-Christian scripture:
- In Genesis, the flood which destroyed the earth was brought about by 40 days and nights of rain. (Gen 7:12)
 - The Hebrews spent 40 years in the wilderness before reaching the land promised to them by God. (Jos 5:6)
 - Moses fasted for 40 days before receiving the ten commandments on Mount Sinai. (Ex 34:28)
 - Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the wilderness in preparation for his ministry. (Mt 4:1-11)
 - Jesus walked the earth for 40 days and then ascended into heaven. (Acts 1:3)

Saved by Grace

Lent recalls the simple truth of life and death. It reminds each one of us that we are creatures that will die and decompose one day. While I am alive, I get to enjoy life together with other creatures. It also reminds me that, I'm a child of God who will last forever. I'm a sinner and that by my faith, I am saved by the grace of Christ (Eph 2:8). It is because of Christ that I will live forever. I share the gift of my life of grace with those around me.

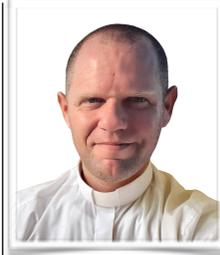
Renew my relationships

Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving are three aspects to dwell on during the Season of Lent. Praying as a family, attending the parish Eucharistic celebrations, a daily reading of the bible are perhaps some ways of drawing close to God in prayer. Fasting takes on a variety of forms. One may choose to give up an addiction, like alcohol, smoking, betel-nut, digital media which in turn increases the quality time with our brothers and sisters. Almsgiving is the ability for me to reach out to those in need. My fasting must benefit my loved ones and my community.

Sow seeds of goodness

Pope Francis in his message for Lent this year invites the faithful to sow seeds of goodness, so that we might reap a harvest of salvation for ourselves and others. The Holy Father goes on to connect Paul's words to the Galatians to the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. "Let us not grow tired of praying," he says, realizing that we need God and others. "Let us not grow tired of uprooting evil from our lives," embracing fasting in order "to fortify our spirit for the battle against sin," especially through the sacrament of Confession and by fighting against concupiscence. "Let us not grow tired of doing good in active charity towards our neighbour," giving joyfully and generously to others, especially to those in most need.

Wishing you a total conversion as you celebrate Lent.



First Marian Dogma: The Divine Motherhood in the Magisterium

- Fr. Tomás Ravaioli IVE

The Third Ecumenical Council, which met in Ephesus in 431 under the presidency of St. Cyril of Alexandria, defined as an article of faith that Mary is really and truly the Mother of God. For a better understanding of the background of this Council, we should recall that the council was summoned in order to clarify the Catholic Faith against the heresies of Nestorius (386-451). In a few words -without many "technical terms"- he affirmed that Mary is the mother of Jesus as man, but she cannot be the Mother of God, because God has no mother. Against this, the Council employed the dogmatic term "Theotokos" (meaning "Mother of God"), and since then, it was destined to become a cornerstone of the true faith. The Council of Ephesus expressly declared, "If any one does not profess that Emmanuel is truly God, and that consequently the Holy Virgin is the Mother of God -inasmuch as she gave birth in the flesh to the Word of God made

flesh, according to what is written: 'The Word was made flesh' - let him be anathema." By "anathema," the Church means that the doctrine and the person who holds it are both outside of the true faith. This important definition was reiterated and confirmed by several later councils in the years 451 and 553. The argument of the Council was this: if the Bible says that Mary is the mother of Jesus, and also the Bible says that Jesus is God, the conclusion must be that Mary is the true Mother of God.

The names "Son of God" and "Son of Man" are both used in the Gospels and applied to Jesus. As Son of the Eternal Father, Jesus is the "Son of God." As Son of Our Lady, he is the "Son of Man." Jesus is truly the Son of the Eternal Father and truly the Son of Mary. Since Mary is His Mother, the Council solemnly declared her to be the "Mother of God."

The Son of God is therefore absolutely identical with the child of the Virgin, and Mary is consequently, in truth, the Mother of God.

House of Hope providing support to survivors - Part 2

2021 was the official start for the project House of Hope, a shelter in the Diocese of Mendi that provides assistance to the survivors of sorcery accusation related violence and other forms of gender-based violence. They are grateful to all donors especially to missio Aachen and all supporters who enable them to do their work.

The House of Hope also started their financial Support Projects with the aim to be self-reliant as well as creating opportunities to assist the survivors as part of their reintegration process.

- Potato and Peanut Project - with the help of Mr. Stoney Kumalo, one of the village leaders, this project was implemented were survivors were included as well as young men who were formally addicted to drugs and alcohol. This project creates opportunities and small income for the workers.
- Chicken Project - a recent initiative for the New Year meant for the production and selling of eggs. It includes the work of the survivors as well as the community.

Throughout the year 2021 we were able to reintegrate six survivors back into their families and social environments. One of them is Rika. In March, she was able to go back to her husband and children after spending 13 months first in the hospital and later in our shelter in Kundiawa. She is a regular visitor to the House of Hope, bringing food out of her own garden for the women in the shelter and participating in some of our weekly programs.

Finally, in September the solar system was installed in the House of Hope, we have light in all

the rooms now. Darkness especially at night time traumatized women.

In the end of September Linda Auth joined the House of Hope team together with her husband Arouna Yaogo. As a social worker Linda Auth is supporting the project. Arouna Yaogo is working with the men of the surrounding communities in different projects like gardening, working together in the carpenter's workshop and doing sports. With the support of Linda and Arouna we were able to do some awareness programs in the beginning of October.

Thereby we addressed the urgent needs of the communities to get to know more about COVID-19 and the possibility of being vaccinated. With COVID-19 within the Southern Highlands, we had an incredible high number of new cases of sorcery accusation related violence. Within the month of November we counted 18 new cases.

We are happy about the cooperation with different organizations all over the country: UNDP, IOM, UNFPA, Unicef, Voice for Change, The Voice Inc., Tribal Foundation, Family Sexual Violence Unit, Family Support Hospital and Family PNG, as well as with all churches and Muslim community.

The Catholic Reporter Team

You are invited to send in your articles, photograph and reflections on events and happenings in your parish, community, institution and diocese. Please send in your material to: socom@catholic.org.pg on or before **20th of the month, 2022.**

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