



'To Bear Witness to the Light' - Jn 1:7 The Catholic Reporter

Catholic Bishops' Conference of PNG & SI - Commission on Social Communications, P.O. Box 398, Waigani, NCD Tel: 325 9577 Fax: 323 2551

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Pope at Angelus: Conflicts could be avoided by listening to others

- Linda Bordoni



"For example, when an important decision needs to be made, it is good to pray first of all, call on the Spirit, but then listen and dialogue trusting that each person, even the littlest, has something important to say, a prophetic gift to share," he said.

He concluded inviting Christians to make people feel welcome, "not because they say what pleases us, but so they feel accepted and valued as the gifts they are."

Pope Francis says when making a decision, it is good to pray, call on the Spirit and listen with the sincere desire to understand the other. Pope Francis' catechesis during the Sunday Angelus of July 2, focused on the reading from the Gospel of Matthew in which Jesus says, "The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward" (Mt 10:41).

Speaking to the pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square, the Pope reflected on the need to welcome the prophets of today.

We are all prophets: The Holy Father went on to explain that a prophet is the one who helps others read the present under the action of the Holy Spirit, helping them "to understand God's plans and correspond to them."

He invited believers to ask themselves whether they live as witnesses of Jesus, bringing a little bit of His light into the life of another person.

"Each one of us, brothers and sisters, is a prophet," he said, noting that with Baptism, all of us received *the gift of the prophetic mission*.

Listen to everybody: The Holy Father went on to note that in the Gospel, the Lord asks *to welcome the prophets*.

"It is important to welcome each other as such, as bearers of God's message, each one according to his state and vocation," he said.

This is something to be done where we live, he explained, in the family, in the parish, in the religious community, in other places in the Church and in society.

And observing that the Spirit "has distributed gifts of prophecy in the holy People of God," the Pope said, "This is why it is good to listen to everyone."

Meet your Bishop: Bp Peter Houhou (Bishop of Auki Diocese)

- Jessica Oata



In this month's edition of The Catholic Reporter, we feature Bishop Peter Houhou from the beautiful Diocese of Auki and the new bishop of the Diocese of Gizo.

He was described by Archbishop

Christopher in our last edition as 'one of the fruits' of the early missionaries in the Catholic Church in the Solomon Islands.

Hailing from the province famous for well-preserved World War II relics, Bishop Peter Houhou is from the Guadalcanal Province of the Solomon Islands.

He was born on October 10, 1964 in a little village called Porokokore Village in Marau Sound, next to the Catholic Mission Station.

"Very interestingly, I was born prematurely but by the grace of God, I survived", he exclaimed with great joy.

Bishop Peter is the fifth child out of six children born to loving parents Luke Iawai and Salome Sautareia.

"My dad and mum and everyone in the family are good Christians", he recalled.

A very humble and down to earth man of God, Bishop Peter lives up to his motto in life: "***I come not to be served but to serve***" and is always ready to give advice to the young.

"My advice to the people of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands is that all of us are called to serve our people differently with all our heart and soul and with all of our strength and our whole being. You will become who God wants you to be by the very fact of how you are living your life now".

Bishop Peter further emphasized on those who wish to join the consecrated religious life to start living that life now.

"If you want to become a priest, live your priesthood now. If you want to be a bishop, start living as a bishop now. You cannot be a priest or a bishop overnight, it takes years of dedication, prayer, discipline and selfless acts".

His education background goes back to completing grades 1 to 6 in a typical Catholic-run institution.

"I attended a Catholic Pastoral Formation School run by a New Zealand Priest, an Irish Priest, an Australian nun and a New Zealand nun and these people had a very big influence in my formation

before I came to PNG to the Holy Spirit Seminary in Bomana"

Bishop Peter realized his calling to become a priest when he was a very small boy serving as an altar boy back in his little parish.

"As a little boy, I was so inspired by the life the priests live; they are not married and they are always free to travel and move from one post to another".

When asked what his reaction was when he was appointed the Bishop of Auki in 2018, this is what he had to say: "When I was appointed to be bishop of Auki four years ago, I felt that I was not worthy. But I had to constantly remind myself: *This is not my will but God's will* and I am reminding myself that again as I am the new bishop for the diocese of Gizo".

Now as a bishop, he enjoys his pastoral visits to the different parishes to be with his people, to guide them and to listen to them.

During his free time, Bishop Peter enjoys reading.

As a local bishop, his plan is for more localization in the church.

We wish Bishop Peter Houhou God's blessings as he takes up his new post in the coming months.

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Walking a fine line with Australia

- Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME, CBC General Secretary



On 20-21 June 2023 the phase 4 of the Church Partnership Program (CPP) was launched at the APEC House in Port Moresby. This means that for another three years, and possibly more, the government of Australia, through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the Australian High Commission in Port Moresby, will work with seven PNG mainline Churches on community development. While the financial amount involved is modest and the bureaucracy enormous, the fact of bringing Churches together and in a close working relationship among themselves and with the Australian government is commendable.

Churches in PNG are regularly praised for their outreach to remote communities and generally trusted for the handling of funds and implementation of projects. Local and foreign government officials will praise us for human rights defense, climate change awareness and sea level rising assistance to

communities, peace building and community pacification, education and health services. But we are carefully kept out of the control room. They will make sure we know nothing and can do nothing about seabed mining licenses, militarization and nuclearization of Manus Island, horrifying "regional" refugee policies, financial corruption, etc. These and other burning issues are not being entertained by Australia in the context of the CPP conversations with the Churches, thus casting doubts on the real scope and purpose of the whole project.

July 19, 2013 is a date that will live in shame. Australian government officials and bureaucrats concocted with opportunist PNG colleagues on what no other decent Pacific leadership would have agreed upon: a concentration camp in the harshest possible conditions in Manus province for a mixture of genuine and non-genuine migrants and asylum seekers who had recently arrived on Australian shores. There were more than three thousand people deported and detained in Manus in 2013, a handful of which (about eighty) are still kept in Port Moresby now after ten years.

The reprehensive initiative in 2013 would have been reason enough for the Churches to pull out of the CPP arrangement. Strangely enough it didn't happen and for ten years we have put our head under the sand trying to ignore one of the worst international cases of injustice and mistreatment. However, there will be no CPP5 in 2026, at least for the Catholic Church, if this issue is not ended soon. There will be no CPP at all if and when this type of government sponsored trafficking of refugees across borders (Australia, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, perhaps Indonesia) is going to be resurrected in any other form or justification. Enough with suicides, medical neglect of the worst type, depression and mental health cases as we have seen in the past years and continue to see now. All accompanied with blatant lies by both governments across the Torres Strait.

Not on PNG soil! Not with PNG complicity! Not with the PNG Churches closing their eyes *na pasim maus!* We will be out!

- Fr. Tomás Ravaioli IV

Liturgical Catechetical Institute Director

The Gospels: Historicity of the Gospels



Finally, the most important question concerns the value of our Gospels. Are the Gospels documents worthy of belief? Do they really tell us about Christ's life, or are they merely the result of the faith of the early Christian community, with its particular visions and interests? Do the Gospels present a real portrait

of Christ? The answer to this question depends on our ability to demonstrate that the evangelists actually knew the facts and that they reported them accurately.

Matthew was a disciple of Jesus. In writing his Gospel in Aramaic, he cited things that he had personally and directly experienced. The Greek reworking and translation which we have today, enjoyed such authority throughout the ancient

Church that its popularity can hardly be explained unless we admit that it was a faithful translation of the original.

Mark came from Jerusalem, the setting for many of the episodes he tells us about and the home of many of the people who had personally witnessed these episodes. As the disciple of Peter he had contact with a man who lived with Jesus. No one could have a better knowledge of Jesus and what he taught and preached.

Luke does not have the same credentials as Mark. Luke, however, as Paul's disciple and travelling companion witnessed his preaching. In the prologue to his Gospel, Luke says that he had taken great pains to inform himself of his material, from those who had been ministers of the Gospel from the very beginning.

John's own words guarantee that he wrote down what he had seen and touched. In his first letter (which many scholars hold to be an introduction for his Gospel) John has this to say: *"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life the life was made manifest and we saw it, and testify to it, and proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father and was made manifest to us that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also, to you, so that you may have fellowship with us."* (1 Jn 1:1-3). John knows that he is recounting events which actually happened, events for which he is an eyewitness (Jn 21:24).

The evangelists were well acquainted with the happenings they recount in their works. Their truthfulness can't be called into question.

- Fr. Victor Roche SVD

Secretary for New Evangelization

Reflections on the Ad Limina visit of the Bishops of PNGSI



Dear Friends,

The Bishops of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands (PNGSI) were on their "Ad Limina" visit to Rome from 8-13 of May, 2023. The last visit was on 31 May-9 June 2012. Ad Limina literally means "At the threshold of the Apostles". The Bishops of each

Country or Conference, have the Ad Limina visit once in 5 years, normally. But due to the pandemic and many other reasons, it was held after almost 11 years.

I was privileged to be part of the whole Ad Limina visit in 2012 and for a day at the present one in 2023. In 2012, the Bishops met Pope Benedict XVI and in 2023, the Bishops met Pope Francis.

It is good that we reflect on the Role of the Pope in the Church and the world:

1. Pope is the Bishop of Rome: The word 'Pope' comes from the Italian word 'Papa' and he is called the "Holy Father" (Sancta Papa). He is the Bishop of Rome, the place of the 'Head Quarters of the Catholic Church' and thus he is the Pope for the Universal church of 1.345 billion Catholics in the world, the largest religious group in the world.

2. Vicar of Christ (Vicarius Christi): This is the title used for the Pope since 492, because he is the 'Earthly representative of Christ'. "Jesus said to Simon Peter- 'Feed my lambs...take care of my sheep'" (John 21:15-17). He has the supreme responsibility of preaching, governing and guiding the church.

3. Successor of Peter, the Prince of the Apostles: Jesus appointed Peter as the First Pope- "I tell you, Peter: you are a rock, and on this rock I

will build my Church." (Mathew:16:18) and Pope Francis is the 266th Pope.

4. Supreme Pontiff of the Universal church: The word Pontiff comes from the Latin word 'pontifex', meaning bridge builder- 'Pontifex Maximus'. This title is accorded to the Pope since the Reformation.

5. Head of the Sovereign State of the Vatican: "He is a King! He is a King of 29 acres" says Tilley, a Theologian. Vatican is the smallest country in the world and he is the Head of State. So he is accorded with due respect. His Ambassadors are the Papal Nuncios in each country.

6. Servant of Servants of God: The title comes from the Latin "Servus Servorum Dei". It is rooted in: "whoever is great among you...let him be your servant" (Mt 20:27).

7. The Pope is a Spiritual Leader: The Pope meets different types of people every day- Cardinals, Bishops, Lay Leaders of the Catholic church. He also meets Presidents, Prime Ministers, Heads of State, Dignitaries, Professionals, Entertainers, Non-Government Agencies, Church Leaders of Other Churches, Religious Leaders of Various Different Religions, Non-Believers etc. People come to meet him and receive his blessings and advice on various issues concerning the people of the world.

8. The Pope speaks up for the voiceless in the world: A fine example is his letter (Encyclical) on "Laudato Si" (Our Care of the World Environment). He speaks for the poor and the marginalized; he speaks for the people affected by the adverse effects of the climate change. He speaks on senseless wars that kill millions of innocents, abortion, natural calamities etc. Sometimes, he is the lonely voice in the desert. But he makes his voice heard.

9. The Pope is the "Conscience Keeper of the World": The world is affected by materialism, individualism, consumerism, atheism and the like. He is the Conscience Keeper of the world".

10. The Pope is a sign of compassion and mercy: For example- He visits the sick in the hospitals, washes the feet of the prisoners on Holy Thursdays and sometimes feeds the poor at night incognito.

11. He has brought about a great renewal in the Catholic Church: Pope Francis has reformed the organization and structure of the Roman Curia with the apostolic constitution, 'Praedicate evangelium' ("Preach the Gospel"), which was released on 19th March, 2022. There are 16 Dicasteries - the first being the Dicastery for Evangelization and thus focusing on the primary task of Evangelization in the Catholic Church. One of the fruits of this reform is: "the Synodal Church- journeying together as the People of God - for Communion, Participation and Mission".

12. Specialty to this Pope: Pope Francis (Latin 'Franciscus') was born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Argentina on 17 Dec 1936 (86 years) and is aging gracefully. He is the first South American Pope and the first Jesuit Pope. He has only one lung (one lung was removed when he was a teenager due to illness).

13. The Bishops are the Successors of the apostles: The functions the apostles performed of preaching, governing and ordaining are continued by the Bishops of the Catholic Church today. The 'Grace is transmitted from the Apostles by each generation by the imposition of hands'. During the 'Ad limina' visit, the Bishops meet the Pope personally; discuss about their diocese and the country; they meet the different Dicasteries (departments) of the church and

The Pastoral Obligation of a Bishop as a Communicator

Sr Daisy Anne Lisania Augustine MSC, Secretary for Social Communication

In his 1957 Encyclical Letter *Miranda Prorsus* on Radio, Television and Film Pope Pius XII reminds his fellow bishops to "take a special interest in seeing that through the individual national offices, which must be subject to your authority... there shall be imparted to the various classes of interested citizens information on the matters to be viewed..."

The Second Vatican Council in the decree on Social Communication *Inter Mirifica* underlines quite clearly the obligations of the bishops for social communications: "It is for bishops to oversee activities and projects of this sort in their dioceses, to promote and, where they touch the public apostolate, to regulate them, including those under the control of exempt religious..." (No. 20). For national offices, it is said that "in each country, the direction of these offices is to be entrusted to episcopal commissions or bishops appointed to do the task."

The Council Fathers requested with "*Inter Mirifica*" a Pastoral Instruction to delineate in more detail the pastoral concerns of the Church. In the document *Communio et Progressio*, published March 23, 1971,

the following things are said in special view of the bishop's responsibilities:

- **Pastoral Planning in communications**

"A careful appraisal of the entire range of communications media, a prudent and well-informed planning for pastoral work and in every apostolic enterprise, all is the rightful province of the ecclesiastical authorities. They in turn should depend upon the advice of experts in the different branches of communication.

According to the *ground rules laid in Inter Mirifica*, this duty devolves upon every bishop in every diocese, upon a special commission of bishops or a bishop delegate in each country and for the universal Church upon the Pontifical Council for Social Communications (No. 165)

- **Preparation and celebration of World Communication Day instituted by Vatican II.**

"The competent ecclesiastical authorities at all levels (mentioned in para. 156) will lend their full support to the preparation and celebration... The ecclesiastical authorities will present regularly to the Episcopal Conferences projects for financing pastoral activity in the field of social communications" (No. 167).

- **Bishops should have a keen interest and consult.**

"Local hierarchies will take a keen interest in the apostolate of social communications. They will seek the advice of the priests and the laity..." (No.168)

- **Setting up national offices and securing international cooperation.**

"A national office for the communication media should be set up in every country. It can be divided into specialized and reasonably autonomous departments for each media. Or it can have separate offices for the press, cinema, and broadcasting that work closely together. In any case, the whole of this apostolate should be placed under a single, overall direction." (cf. *Inter Mirifica* No.20)

"The Episcopal Commission for social communications or the delegated bishop in-charge of the direction of all activities of the national offices. They are to lay down general guidelines for the development of the apostolate of social communication on the national level. They will keep in touch with other Episcopal commissions and collaborate with the Pontifical Council..." (No.172).

In the next issue of the Catholic Reporter, we look at what the Church Document *Aetatis Novae* on communication says about pastoral planning in particular about the Bishops.

- Sr. Daisy Anne Lisania Augustine MSC

Pope Francis appoints new Bishop of Kavieng Diocese

Vatican City: Pope Francis has announced the appointment of REVEREND FATHER RONALD VUNUVUNG, a clergy of the Archdiocese of Rabaul as the new Bishop of Kavieng on Saturday, 24 June 2023, 12 noon Rome time and 8:00 PM in Papua New Guinea.

The Apostolic Nunciature (Embassy of the Holy See – Vatican) in Papua New Guinea in a Press Release dated 24 June informed that His Holiness Pope Francis has made this appointment.

Biography

Ronald VUNUVUNG was born on 11, August, 1959 in Vunapope, East New Britain Province and was ordained a priest on 24 November, 1985. He attended the Minor Seminary of Ulapia (1976 – 1978) before proceeding to Holy Spirit Seminary Bomana where he attained his Bachelor Degree in Sacred Theology (1979 -1984).

After his priestly ordination, bishop – elect Vunuvung served as Parochial Vicar and assistant in Maria Assumpta Parish, Vunadidir (1985-1986) and was the Curate of St Francis Cathedral of Rabaul (1986 -1989).

Between 1989-1991, he served as Parish priest of Mary Help of Christians, Kimbe and Assumption of Mary Valanguo Gasmata, West New Britain Province.

After that, he served as Director of the Pre-Seminary program in Lanuzel and contemporarily Director of vocations in Rabaul (1992-1998).

From 1999 to 2003 he did Postgraduate studies in Philosophy at the Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium).

When he returned to Rabaul, he taught Philosophy and Anthropology in the Sacred Heart Inter-Diocesan Seminary, Rapolo (2004-2008).

He became the Dean of Rabaul Deanery (2003-2011) and was the first Parish Priest of St Paul parish, Vunakanau. Vunuvung became Rector of Sacred Heart Inter-Diocesan Seminary, Rapolo from 2011-2014.

Since 2015, he was the Parish priest of Maria Assumpta Parish, Vunadidir and Dean of Kokopo Deanery until his appointment by Pope Francis as bishop – elect of Kavieng.



New Bishop-elect for Kavieng Diocese Most Reverend Fr. Ronald Vunuvung. (Picture Courtesy of the Apostolic Nunciature)

NGI Community in Port Moresby farewell late Metropolitan Archbishop. Karl Hesse MSC

- Jessica Oata

Boroko, Port Moresby: A funeral program for the late Metropolitan Archbishop Emeritus Karl Bernhard Hesse MSC was held at St Joseph's Parish, Boroko on Saturday June 3rd with an angelic choir led by the Louis Coupepe Choir and the Seminarians from the Catholic Theological Institute.

The rhythmic beat of the *garamut* and the sound of the conch shell signaled the traditional New Guinea Islands Region chieftain arrival of the casket of the late Metropolitan Archbishop into the St. Joseph's Parish grounds.

The casket was carried into the church by the casket bearers passing through the *palnapidik* signifying the traditional chieftainship status of the Late Archbishop Karl Hesse MSC where they were met by his Eminence Cardinal Archbishop John Ribat MSC and the Apostolic Nuncio to PNGSI Archbishop Fermin Emilio Sosa Rodriguez.

A procession was led by the Baining dancers into church following the blessing of the casket by his Eminence Cardinal Ribat.

The procession was followed by the sprinkling of Holy Water and placing of Christian Symbols of Faith and the Archbishop's Eulogy read by the MSC Provincial Fr. Silvester Warwakai MSC before the mass ensued.

"The late Archbishop Emeritus Karl Hesse was a good shepherd who lived by his coat of arms '*Caritas et Justitia*' till his passing. He loved our people so much that he chose to remain here after he reached retirement age."

Some of the late Archbishop Karl Hesse's achievements highlighted by MSC Father Provincial include; assisting many of the refugees followed by

the restoration of damaged properties during the Twin Eruption of Tavurvur and Vulcan and administering the Diocese of Bougainville towards the aftermath of the Bougainville Crisis and ordaining many priests and Bishops throughout his ministry.

In his homily, Archbishop Ribat thanked God for the gift of the life of late Archbishop Karl Hesse to the church in Papua New Guinea, especially in the New Guinea Islands Region in the Archdiocese of Rabaul and the dioceses of Kavieng/Lorengau, Bougainville and Kimbe.

"It was not an easy task administering the church in these dioceses, yet he gave himself wholeheartedly trusting in God's love, mercy and guidance. He also ordained many deacons, a number of priests and a number of bishops.

The mass concluded with tributes from the Apostolic Nuncio His Grace Monsignor Archbishop Fermin Sosa Emilio Rodriguez and Archbishop of Rabaul Rochus Tatamai MSC.

In his tribute, the Apostolic Nuncio recalled the first time he met the late Archbishop Karl Hesse in 2003 when he was appointed to PNG as the then Nuncio's secretary.

"Today we celebrate the legacy of the late Archbishop Karl's work, dedication and achievements and his testimony of love and commitment. We celebrate his passion to bring God to PNG," he said.

"He was a very humble and devoted shepherd and started out his missionary work as a Priest and then a Bishop and later became the Metropolitan Archbishop of Rabaul"

Archbishop Rochus Tatamai MSC in his tribute shared how the late Archbishop Karl chose the theme of his Coat of Arms.

"It was during a pilgrimage to the Holy Land that Archbishop Karl saw an inscription on the pavement in one of the churches, it was written; '*In charity and Justice*'. It was the first time Archbishop Karl as a priest had read such a phrase and he loved it so much that he kept on thinking about it for a long time."

"When he was appointed by St Pope Paul VI, he thought it would be a good motto to indicate the path he would follow in living his years as a Bishop."

A Post-Funeral Mass Program was held at the St Joseph's International Catholic College Hall where there was feasting and item presentation from each of the NGI Provincial groups to commemorate the life of the Late Archbishop Karl Bernhard Hesse MSC.



Welcome banner at St Joseph's Parish during Late Metropolitan Archbishop Karl Bernhard Hesse's funeral.

Be Human, Be Real, Be Saints

-Patrina Kaboanga, ADMA Youth Volunteer

Boroko: "As the Yeast in today's human family", was the theme of this year's WANTOK BOSCO Youth Camp. It was hosted at Don Bosco Technological campus from the 23rd to the 25th of June 2023. The camp, a climax of the youth and club activities in the institutions and parishes, had nearly 200 persons as participants and animators from Salesian institutions and parishes around Port Moresby and Araithiri, Gulf Province.

The program began on Friday with the first talk given by Fr Gregorio Bicomong SDB, the Provincial Superior for PGS Vice Province. His talk, based on the year's stenna, showed participants statistics on issues faced within the country, while also advocating how everyone could be agents of social change within their societies using the social teachings of the catholic church. The students reflected on the presentation through group discussions and sharing.

"The algorithms can change and it is up to you to change that." Those were the words of Fr Ambrose Pereira, SDB who gave the second Talk which was based on the topic, "Agents of Social Change through the use of Social Media." The talk by Fr Ambrose with the assistance of Ms Lucy Napitalai, DBTI instructor taught the youths the basics of Artificial Intelligence. They young people then produced jingles and created posters to spread positive messages through the media. The session encouraged the participants to use social media for the common good and to direct their talents and energies using the media to advocate positive changes within their schools and communities.

The talks for the camp were concluded later in the evening with a Talk show hosted by Mrs Sheryl Extra-Isaioimo. Siblings Desmond and Carol Aigilo and Dr Jerome Oko (PhD) were part of the panel where they encouraged the youths to foster values based on their Catholic Faith that will help them in their career pathways. The Question-and-Answer session that followed demonstrated the quest of the young to live good lives despite the difficulties and pressures they face.

In between the talks were fun games, familiar choreographies, and a visit to the Marian Museum under the Shrine of the Mary Help of Christians. The Bosconians danced and played to their hearts' content while being reminded to 'Run, Jump, Shout and Play but to avoid Sin.'

The camp concluded on Sunday with the Holy Mass celebrated by Bp Pedro Baquero SDB. He challenged the young people to know themselves, their self-esteem and worth, and use their capabilities, energy, and talents to change themselves and society.

The WANTOK Bosco was coordinated by Sr Carmencita Rodrigues FMA under the direction of Fr Moise Palaku SDB. A team of committed animators and volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure that the participants who are leaders in their own youth groups and clubs receive faith formation, enjoy the company of their peers through fellowship and are committed to reach out and touch the lives of others through their hard work, sacrifice, and dedication.

The participants (DBTS-55; DBTI-35; MHOC Sabama-20; DB Araithiri-6; MHOC Araithiri-30; MHC Residence-19; Animators-13 from ADMA Youth and Savio Haus) returned home at the end of the fun-filled, weekend-long camp with convictions to be upright Christians and agents of social change.



Participants of the Wantok Bosco Youth Camp with the animators. (Picture supplied)

World Refugee Day Commemorated by CBC Migrants and Refugees Desk - Ephraim Bavi

Gordons, Port Moresby: The Catholic Bishops Conference through the Migrants and Refugees Desk celebrated the 50th World Refugee Day on Tuesday 20th June at the Limana Vocational Training Centre.

With the theme 'Hope Away from Home: A world where refugees are always included', the event was a day for the different refugee groups living within Port Moresby to come together and celebrate their culture and identity and their plight of finding a new home.

Present as guests were representatives from United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) representative, International Organization for Migration (IOM) representative, the Deputy Chief Migration Officer (DCMO) Borders from PNG Immigration Citizenship Authority (PNGICA) and the CBC PNGSI Secretary General.

The program had speeches from the different guest speakers with entertainment in between by the West Papuan community and was the first major event hosted by the Migrants and Refugees Desk.

In his address, CBC PNGSI General Secretary Fr. Giorgio Licini PIME highlighted how CBC has been working closely with the migrants and refugees through the Migrants and Refugees Desk to ensure refugees have a hope away from home.

"I would like to call on the government of Papua New Guinea to take reasonable steps with concrete actions to facilitate their integration into our society so that refugees living in PNG are included and they live as dignified persons"

It was also an enriching experience for a few UPNG students who volunteered to be part of the program seeing and hearing stories about refugees



West Papuan boys pose for a quick picture before performing a tradition dance during the World Refugee Day. PC: Jamie Bakura, UPNG student

in PNG and seeing the different organizations that work with refugees.

The program concluded with stall visits and photo displays of portraits of refugees living in different places within PNG with some fun games and paintings with refreshments for everyone.

The World Refugee Day is an appointed day designated by the United Nations to commemorate the courage and strength that refugees to leave their place of origin to seek a better life. It is also a day to remember the struggles and hardships that refugees go through.

Catholic Theological Institute hosts Singkai Lecture - Jessica Oata

Bomana, Port Moresby: The staff and students of the Catholic Theological Institute in Bomana attended an enriching Singkai lecture on Friday June 30, 2023. The program began with a Eucharistic celebration at the Holy Spirit Seminary where Bp Otto Separy from the Diocese of Bereina was the main celebrant.

With the theme: 'Trust in the Lord our Savior', the readings were taken from the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul.

In a moving homily, Fr. Phil gave a comparison of a *Tulait Tulait* bus (a bus traveling from Madang to Mt. Hagen) to our Christian duties.

"You go there together with others with a sense of purpose and that purpose is to get to Mt. Hagen. The sense of purpose is the reason why we are taking that journey. This symbolizes our journey of faith as well; we are traveling together with others with a certain purpose in life and we hope to reach a certain destination - heaven".

Fr. Phil concluded his homily by encouraging the seminarians and priests to be hopeful like the *Tulait Tulait* bus drivers who navigate through the treacherous roads sometimes during darkness and uncertainty and be *Tulait Tulait* men of God to help the flock entrusted under their care in their faith journey despite challenges. Following the mass was the Singkai Lecture that was held at the Gastgeber Hall. This year's Singkai Lecture was given by the Divine Word University President Reverend Dr. Fr Phillip Gibbs SVD who presented his talk titled: **Method for Theology of Gutpela Sindaun.**

Fr. Phil's Theology is based on the relationship between God's Revelation and the human experience of Social Reality.

"In considering this relationship, we come to realise that taking God's word seriously can lead to committed action that allows us to experience the reign of God in human history", he said.

In his presentation, Fr. Phil outlined how he has researched the social situation in PNG over a period of 10 years through print media and has developed ways of evaluating sources and for identifying relevant 'faith questions'.

"My method involves 5 steps: researching relevant issues, identifying relevant faith questions, consulting the scripture and the theological tradition and the prophetic witness - committed Christians with the inspiration of the Spirit continuing the work of Christ, thus, revealing the love of the God of life".

The Singkai Lecture is an annual event where different guest speakers are invited to present interesting topics to the seminarians and the staff of the Catholic Theological Institute.



Singkai Lecture Presentation by Professor Fr. Phillip Gibbs SVD.

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, 2023.**

EDITOR
SR DAISY ANNE LISANIA AUGUSTINE MSC
Phone: 325 9577
Email: secretary_socom@catholic.org.pg

SUB-EDITOR
CBC SOCOM
Phone: 325 9577
Email: socom@catholic.org.pg

LAYOUT AND DESIGN,
EDITING &
PROOFREADING:
CBC SOCOM