

A Catholic Church Family Magazine for Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands 2019 Year of the Laity | Volume 1 | Issue 1

CHURSH Hive



A Call to Holiness in Today's World
Blessed are the pure in Heart (Mt 5:8)



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Printed at:

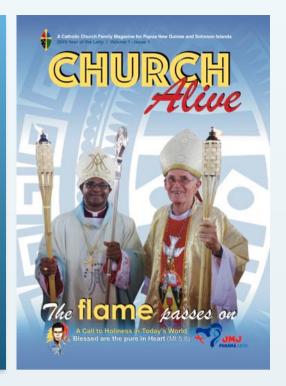
Star PrintersPort Moresby
Papua New Guinea

Produced by:

Catholic Bishops Conference Section 100, Lot 28 Godwit Street, Gordon's Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

Thanks to those who have sent in their articles, reflections and photographs for this first issue of **Church Alive**. God bless you all. - *Editor*

FINE



Bp Christian Blouin CMM joyfully passed on the flame symbolising Christ the Light to Bp Rozario Menezes SMM at the Episcopal Ordination which took place in the Diocese of Lae on 15th December, 2018. On 12th January, 2019, the Diocese of Lae and the entire Church of Papua New Guinea received the sad news of the sudden death of Bishop Emeritus Christian. We pay tribute to him in this issue.

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Church Alive Invitation

The Catholic Bishops Conference in this Year of Laity 2019 has as its theme:

A Call to Holiness in Today's World.

We are happy to bring you this first issue of Church Alive with stories and articles that will inform and inspire you. Thank you to all who have contributed to this issue for our people of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. You are invited to send in inspirational articles on the lives of priests, religious and more especially laity who have over the years led holy lives and have inspired many. Photographs will enhance your article and speak to the readers. Reflections, inspirational stories and news items of importance to the entire church are also welcome.

All material is to be sent to:

socom@catholic.org.pg on or before 24th June, 2019.

Trust you will enjoy reading this issue. Your suggestions, comments and views are most welcome. God bless.

Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb. Editor

Holy Ground

I have always been curiously struck by the Biblical Story of Moses and the Burning Bush. For me personally, this story presents a man who is on a journey and is focused on his very ordinary life but not sure about the mission that will take him or her beyond his or her current boundaries of life.



In another sense, this story enfolds a simple man going about and doing his everyday task in a simple way in a remote and unknown village. However, in this everyday ordinary life situation, an extraordinary thing happened that changes everything around his world of experience even to the extent of insulting his common sense let alone the natural law and order of things which are usually familiar and regarded as normal.

Out of genuine curiosity and wonderment, Moses decided to focus his attention on the extraordinary and interesting reality in front of him. He wanted to be sure of himself, so he came closer to the burning bush. To his surprise, though the bush was on fire, it was not burnt. Such a sight can easily scare a person since it is so unnatural and beyond the ordinary, yet it is so real, authentic and concrete. It is real through and through, a reality in the here and now.

It was only when he heard the voice from the burning bush that he realised that he was the main character. "Don't come near because you are on holy ground," said the voice from the burning bush. Moses was already standing on holy ground. In fact, he was in front of and in the presence of the Holy of all Holiness. "Moses, I heard the cry of my people and you're to go on my behalf and free them from oppression and slavery."

Moses immediately became conscious of his own human and physical limitations and wanted to excuse himself from the direct involvement in the project of God. However, God assured him that he will be with him even though it will be difficult. God gave him his Word that God himself will act in delivering his people to lasting freedom, but God needed Moses to be totally and freely available to Gods plan and purpose. When we realise that we're all being called to holiness, it is important that we are conscious of the invitation by God and we recognise the events and instances of the burning bushes around us that are beyond the law of nature and which are extraordinary in a very ordinary situation. We're invited by our baptism to draw nearer to the voice that says you are on Holy ground be at home, at school, in the workplace, in the garden or down at the beach. In all the circumstances of life, we encounter God and attune our senses, our minds and our hearts, to the presence of God who is Omnipotent and Omnipresent. This means we recognize God's all powerful presence everywhere.

Bp Rochus Tatamai at the Care at protection of Minors Press Conference held on Sunday 3rd March, 2019 Hence, to be holy is to be living our daily lives consistently in his Holy presence. This guides our thoughts, feelings and experiences. We are in unison with God. Ultimately, God calls us and reveals himself to us so he can send us forth on his mission to liberate and heal all his people. Thus, to be holy

is to be ever present in the presence of God and to be sent forth in God's name and mission to extend his reign that his Kingdom may come.

Bp Rochus Josef Tatamai MSC

CBC PNGSI President and Bishop of Kavieng





Calling the Laity to Holiness

Dare to DREAM

Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal is the Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands since 3rd May, 2016. He hails from India, was ordained a priest on 26th December 1991 and consecrated Bishop on 25th July 2016.

Holiness means being 'in Christ'. It is God's work in us and not the result of our own striving. It is our duty to pursue holiness at every moment of our life.

The call to holiness is not a new idea. It is so evident that the Church of Every baptized Christian is entitled to this fundamental and universal call, that informs us how we can be holy, what is our mission today and how we are best going to accomplish it. Jesus Christ is the point of reference and the model to be imitated on our journey to holiness, extending in history his love for the poor, the sick and the marginalized (cf. Luke 10:25).

Holiness means being 'in Christ'. It is God's work in us and not the result of our own striving. Our efforts should not be to earn holiness but to nurture the life of Christ within us. It is everyone's duty to pursue holiness at or profession, by sharing the every moment of our life. There was a time where holiness was seen as belonging only to the monks, to those come to understand economic, consecrated to the religious life, and to the clergy. The lay faithful were viewed as people who lived in the world and only involved in worldly affairs. However, Vatican II emphasized that all Christians in every state of life are called to holiness.

today is crying out for the laity to wake up and accept full responsibility for the mission of sharing God's love in the world. For that to happen we need laity enlightened with holiness, who are willing to open their lives radically to live for Christ. For the laity, holiness is achieved in the midst of the world, in the family, in the community, in friendships, in work, in leisure, in citizenship. Through their competency and by their activity, lay men and women have the vocation to bring the light of the Gospel to every aspect or area of the society.

A layperson, irrespective of his status perspectives of those who suffer, and by living as spirit-filled person, can political, racial, and social problems in a deeper way, - at times much better than a priest or religious - thus leading lives that are more attuned to holiness by service and outreach to others. Therefore, Catholic laity is called to integrate their spirituality with their daily lives in order to bring



Photo left:
Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal
with Bp Joseph Roszynski, SVD, Bishop
of Wevak at Christ the King Cathedral,
Wirui, on 25th February 2018

The Church is in need of laypeople consolidated by holiness with the taste and the experience of life, who dare to dream.

God's holiness to society and the world, according to God's plan.

Every Christian is called to live holiness, daily, through our day-to-day activities, by sanctifying each and every moment of our life. It is not a secret that living a life of holiness in today's fast-paced world can be distracting and daunting, but certainly not impossible.

The latest Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis, "Gaudete et exsultate"— "Rejoice and be glad", is one of the best practical handbooks on holiness which invites each and everyone to strive for holiness through "small gestures" in everyday life. It encourages the laity to look forward to holiness with courage. The Apostolic Exhortation is a roadmap on our pilgrimage to holiness. It indicates what has to be our personal priorities and lists the ways in which each of us can address the challenges to deepen our faith and to be loving followers of Jesus Christ our Lord and Master. The Pope's call to holiness awakens in us the most ordinary circumstances of life: whatever be our vocation in life, all that the Pontiff is asking us is to be holy discovering the fullest meaning of our mission in Christ.

This Pontifical Document is very relevant and is meaningful for everyone, especially for the year 2019 that is specifically dedicated as the year of the laity in the Church in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. As Pope Francis says, "We are in need of well-formed laypeople, animated by a pure and

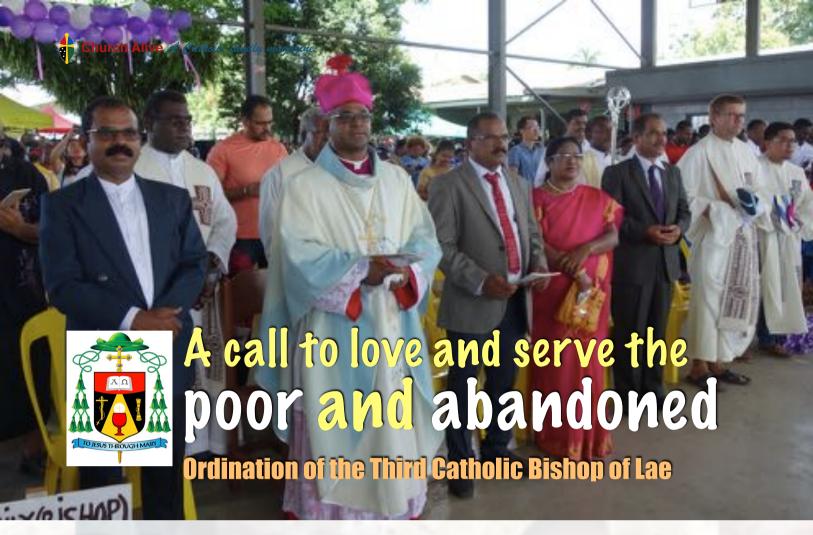
fresh faith, whose life has been touched by a personal and merciful encounter with

the love of Jesus Christ. We are in need of laypeople who risk, who soil their hands, who are not afraid of erring, who go forward. We are in need of laypeople with the vision of the future, not closed in the little things of life."

In today's world, the Church is in need of laypeople consolidated by holiness with the taste and the experience of life, who dare to dream. Like a multi-faceted gem, the lay people with their gifts and charisms, continually echo that genuine search for God and true concern to grow in holiness in the daily realities of life.

There is no doubt that the laity's primary vocation is a call to holiness. But this universal vocation is to be lived out in union with the whole Church. Therefore, as lay people are becoming more prepared today than ever before for the work of evangelization, it is crucial that there needs to be greater collaboration and unity between the ordained ministers, the consecrated ministers and the lay ministers of the Church.

At this particular time in history, the laity must be convinced evermore of their call to holiness and must accept their call to imitate Christ. It is from him that they can receive the necessary grace to fulfill their mission in the world. The Lord is working miracles in our lives; exciting things are happening in our society and we look forward to the best to come as we responsibly embrace our journey in holiness.



Bp. Rozario Menezes SMM is an Indian Monfort Missionary who has been serving the Church in Papua New Guinea since 2000. He was born on 30th August 1969 and hails from the town of Virajpet in Coorg District, Karnataka in India. He has served the Catholic Church of PNG in different capacities, including that of being the Parish priest of St. Brigid's, Kiunga, caretaker of St. Paul's Nomad and St. Martin de Porres parish, Morata.

Lae, Morobe Province:

The Catholic Diocese of Lae was blessed with its third bishop on 15th December 2018. Bp Rozario Menezes SMM was ordained Bishop of Lae at a solemn Eucharistic celebration held at the St Mary's Primary School compound in Eriku, Lae.

The solemn Eucharistic celebration commenced at St. Michael's parish where traditional dancers from the parish of St. Finbar Parish, Mandok/

Siassi Islands led the 21 bishops in their resplendent gold vestments, 55 priests, family members of Bp Rozario who traveled from India to be part of the celebration and invited guests were led to the altar specially erected for the event.

Nearly 2000 members of the congregation from the different parishes of the Diocese of Lae gathered on the school grounds for the

event. Guests from India, Indonesia, Italy, United States, Philippines, Madagascar, Haiti, South Africa, Kiunga, Port Moresby and other places were present for the event.

Photo left:
Group photo at the end of the Episcopal Ordination.





Photo above: Cardinal Ribat at the Episcopal Ordination.

Be an agent of mercy. Listen to the voice of the Lord and spend time with him every night, offering your pains and sufferings and every one of your priests, faithful, catechists and religious.

Photo below:
Family members Raymond
Menezes, Louis Menezes,
Bp Rozario Menezes, Jillis
Menezes and Philip Saldanha
who were present for the
Episcopal Ordination.

His Eminence John Cardinal Ribat, MSC, DD, Archbishop of Port Moresby; His Grace Stephen Reichert, DD, Archbishop of Madang, His Excellency Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal, DD, Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands and His Lordship Christian Blouin, CMM, DD, GCL, Bishop of Lae were Co-consecrators at the celebration.

All joined in prayer for the new bishop. In his homily, the Apostolic Nuncio reminded the new bishop of his call to be merciful and reach out in service. "Be an agent of mercy. Listen to the voice of the Lord and spend time with him every night, offering your pains and sufferings and every one of your priests, faithful, catechists and religious," he instructed the new bishop.

"Your call to be the shepherd of this diocese is a call to love the poor, the marginalized, those abandoned and all strangers."

The Archbishop reminded the new bishop of his responsibilities: to teach, to sanctify, and to govern the People of God.

"Be a pastor with the 'smell of the sheep', who is in the midst of your people, ready to walk with the flock and stay with the flock in good times and bad", he said.

The Examination of the candidate, invocation of the Holy Spirit and the anointing then followed. Cardinal Ribat anointed Bp Rozario with oil. He was then presented with the ring, the mitre and the crosier, signifying his total commitment to

God and his responsibility to care for the sheep. A thunderous applause rent the air as John Cardinal Ribat placed the mitre on the head of Bishop Rozario.

Prayers were said for the new bishop and the needs of the Church and the people of the Diocese. Under the meticulous direction of Fr Arnold Schmitt CMM, Parish Priest of St. Mary's Cathedral and a dedicated team of volunteers the celebration was well prepared. A unique moment at the end of the celebration was the handing over of the flame to the new bishop. Retiring Bishop Christian Blouin CMM, joyfully passed the torch of pastoral leadership to his successor.

The St Michael's combined choir, Eriku consisting of over 100 singers and musicians sang under the baton of Mary Josopath. Members from St. Stephen's parish, 3 Mile; St. Paul's parish, Igam; Holy Spirit Parish, Boundary Road; St. Teresa's parish, Kamkumung; St. Mary's Parish, Top Town and St. Martins, Papuan Compound.

Hon. Ginson Saonu, Governor of Morobe, thanked the Catholic Church for the work it does for the people of Morobe. In return, he has pledged K100,000.00 to the Catholic Church. The superior general of the Missionaries of Mariannhill Rev. Fr. Thulani Victor Mbuyisa CMM presented the new bishop with a crosier made out of Olive tree, pledging his commitment to remain and work together with the new bishop in the Diocese of Lae. "We are happy to continue this partnership with the Bp Rozario and we are committed to stay to continue the mission in Lae. We thank God for Bp Christian Blouin CMM, for shepherding the flock for the past eleven years", he said.





Photo above:

A unique moment Bp Christian Blouin CMM
passed on the flame
symbolising Christ the Light to
Bp Rozario Menezes SMM.

Bishop Emeritus Christian Conrad Blouin CMM was

ordained a priest on 3rd May 1969. Pope Benedict XVI as Bishop of Lae succeeding Bishop Henery van Lieshout in 2007. He was the Bishop of the Diocese of Lae for 12 years.

The Diocese of Lae was saddened by the sudden death of Bishop Emeritus Christian Blouin CMM on Saturday, January 12th, 2019 at 9.45 am.

A funeral mass was held at the St. Mary's Cathedral, Lae. The late Bishop Emeritus Christian Blouin was then laid to rest at the St. Joseph's Pastoral centre cemetery.

The Mass was celebrated by His Eminence Sir John Cardinal Ribat. Bishop Rochus Tatamai, President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands (PNG/SI), gave the homily.

His Excellency Apostolic Nuncio to PNG/SI, Archbishop Matthew Kurian Vayalunkal read the message from the Holy Father, Pope Francis, signed by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State. And also, a message from Cardinal Fernando Filoni, Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples. Bishop Rozario SMM, Bishop of Lae Diocese, Successor of the late Bishop read the letter of Bishop Christian which contained some of his wishes for the future of the Diocese.

Representing the Missionaries of Mariannhill was the Vicar to the Superior General, Fr. Michael Mass CMM. Br. Yvon Bourett CMM, a Canadian by origin represented the family and read the speech of the sister of Bishop Christian to the mourners. Fr. Alfonso Voorn CMM gave the eulogy.

The late Bishop Emeritus Christian Blouin CMM was born on 1st November 1941 in St.-Sebastien, Quebec, Canada. He did his Secondary Education at College de Levi in Levi Quebec in 1955. Prompted by his desire to become a missionary and a priest, Christian Blouin went to Mariannhill Mont-Ste-Anne College in Sherbrooke in 1957 to complete his secondary school training. He entered the Novitiate of the Missionaries of Mariannhill in Rock Forest Quebec in 1962, and then studied Philosophy and Theology at the University of Sherbrooke from 1963-1969.

He was ordained a priest on 3rd May 1969 by the Archbishop of Sherbrooke, Jean-Marie Fortier. For many years he was a staff member of the Mont-Ste-Anne College in Sherbrooke, he worked there mainly as Dean of Students. Then he made a request to come to Papua New Guinea for mission experience.

The Emeritus **Bishop** Christian **Blouin CMM** was the Bishop of the Diocese of Lae for 12 years. His task included relief efforts. He was part of the Caritas board.

In 1985-86 he was in the Lae Diocese for a year. The experience in Papua New Guinea made a deep impression on him, he felt the call to work in the mission, but he had to return to Canada where he continued his work in formation as novice master for two years. In 1989, the late, then Fr. Christian Blouin was transferred to New Guinea.

He was parish priest of the All Saints Parish in the Bumbu settlement then was assigned to the St. Patrick's Parish in the Tent City settlement. As a priest in the diocese, he was also chaplain of the Charismatic Renewal Movement and in his Congregation in PNG he was provincial superior from 1993-99.

In 2002 he was entrusted with the formation of Mariannhill priest candidates at Bomana and was engaged in the setting up of a house of formation at Bomana, of which he was Rector from 2002-2005. Then he was assigned to Lae again where he oversaw formation of candidates for



Mariannhill and at the same time looked after the St. Martin's Parish as parish priest.

He was appointed by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI as Bishop of Lae succeeding Bishop Henery van Lieshout in 2007. The Emeritus Bishop Christian Blouin CMM was the Bishop of Lae Diocese for 12 years. His task included relief efforts. He was part of the Caritas board.

May the Lord grant Emeritus Bishop Christian Blouin eternal rest in his kingdom. May he reward him for his service to the Diocese and other places where he ministered as a missionary, religious and clergy.





Centenary: 1918 - 2018

'Looking at the past with gratitude, Living the presence with passion, Embracing the future with hope'. Ancilla Domini Centenary: 1918 - 2018

The year 2018 marked the Congregation of the Handmaids of Our Lord's Centenary of Foundation.

They celebrated the day with a Thanksgiving Eucharistic at the Shrine of Mary Help of Christians in Port Moresby on 1st December. Cardinal John Ribat was the main celebrant at the centenary.

"The Lord calls us and brings out the best in each one of us. Your lives have inspired and evoked a response in all of us", said John Cardinal Ribat MSC, Archbishop of Port Moresby, in his homily as he thanked and congratulated the sisters for giving generously of themselves to the people of Papua New Guinea for the past centenary.

The choir at the Eucharistic celebration was led melodiously by

the Chevlier family Associates. Traditional dances and processions were part of the celebration. Following this, the AD sisters renewed their vows after which they sang, 'Ecco Domini'. It expresses their total gift of self as Handmaids of the Lord, as Mary did in response to the angel's message.

Sr. Mary Garnier AD, Mother Superior thanked all who were present for the centenary celebrations.

In particular, her founder Archbishop de Boismenu, the Daughters of the Sacred Heart, who supported them as they took their first steps in Religious Life as well as during different periods of their 100 years.

She expressed her gratitude to Ambassador Tarcisius Eri and the members of the Centenary



Cutting the centenary cake

Entertainment

Organizing Committee together with the subcommittees and the Catholic Professionals who organized the event. She thanked Dioceses, Congregations, Companies, groups and individuals who donated money and assisted with the celebrations.

She made special mention of two groups of people from the Central Province who have been with them all these years.

"The Goilalas and the Kunis have been very supportive of us over the years", said Sr Mary.

She also thanked her sisters for the long hours and hard work to organize and celebrate the event.

"Our biggest thanks go to God, for calling us into existence and sustaining us for a hundred years. We ask the same God to lead and guide us in the next 100 years", concluded Sr. Mary.

Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal, Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands; Bishop Gilles Côte, SMM, Bishop of Daru Kiunga, Bp Rochus Tatamai MSC, Bishop of Kaiveng, Bp Otto Separy, Bishop of Aitape, Bishop elect Rozario Menezes SMM, fathers, brothers and sisters together with over a thousand 1000 present in the congregation.

The Carmelite Sisters and Carmelite friars were present at the celebration. They were also brought in to Yule Island by Archbishop Alain Marie Guynot de Beismenu MSC, to plant the Catholic Faith.

Fr Auguie Daniel MSC, Superior in France; Br Lionel Planchet MSC, who served in PNG in the 70s and 80s and Fr Leo Wearden MSC who was parish priest in Fane, PNG were the overseas visitors for the occasion.

The Congregation of the Handmaids of Our Lord (Ancilla Domini sisters) was first established in 1918. They are the second local congregation in Papua New Guinea and were founded by Archbishop de Boismenu, French Missionary of the Sacred Heart.

Six young girls, five from Papua and one from Thursday Island, made up the founding group. They were: Annie Fetchmann, Mary Oberleuter, Mona Bramell, Antoinet Maino, Matthia Toricheba and Theodora Palancio. Today, the congregation have a total of 30 sisters.

The Congregation was founded to provide support for the priests working in remote and isolated areas. Their ministry includes teaching, nursing, pastoral work, child care and health awareness in the villages. They are working in six dioceses in Papua New Guinea and in Australia.

Prior to the event, a walkathon held on the 24th of November, was organized by the Catholic Professionals as part of the fundraising drive for the event. It had as its theme: 'Walk a mile with the AD sisters, who have walked for 100 years.'

Jandmaids of Our Lord

Our

Photo left:

Walkathon held on the 24th November, 2018

11



Call to Holiness

Blessed Peter ToRot Committed Catholic Faithful husband Loving father

Feast Day: July 7th Beatified: January 17th, 1995

"It is bad for a person to die from a bomb or machine gun fire, but it is good for the sake of the kingdom of God. His reward will be great in heaven. It is my duty to die for my people and for the name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit" - Blessed Peter ToRot

Blessed Peter ToRot was born in 1912 in the village of Rakunai in East New Britain Province, Papua New Guinea. He was martyred for the faith in 1945.

Peter ToRot was born in 1912 in the village of Rakunai in East New Britain Province, Papua New Guinea. He was the third of six children of Angelo Tu Puia, a Tolai village chief, and his wife Maria la Tumul, both of whom had been received into the Catholic Church in 1898.

At a young age, he was very interested in his faith and because of this, he was trained to be a catechist, a teacher of religion. At the age of 18, he enrolled at St. Paul's Mission School, a school founded by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart for the formation of lay catechists.

He became a catechist within three years and was the youngest of all catechists in PNG. He worked with the people of Rakunai and was known to be an excellent teacher. In 1936 he married Paula la Varpit, a catholic from a nearby village. They had three children but only one survived past childhood.

During the second World War, the Japanese forces had occupied Papua New Guinea and imprisoned all missionaries and Peter found himself responsible for the mission. He gathered the people for prayer, baptized and catechized adults and children, officiated marriages, visited the sick, taught school children and catechists, and carried food to the interned missionaries and prisoners of war.

In 1942, the Japanese forbade all Christian worship and any type of religious gatherings and wanted the local chieftains to cooperate with them. They tried to push the tribes back to their pre-Christian forms of life. ToRot faced a moral dilemma when the Japanese legalized polygamy with the declared intention of winning the collaboration of the village



chiefs and local population. Because he spoke strongly against the practice, he was declared 'a malign and uncooperative' antagonist, not only of the Japanese, but also of local collaborators. Towards the end of 1943 Japanese tolerance of the Christian faith changed to confrontation. Peter was summoned to a meeting, questioned about his activities and ordered to restrict them on the grounds of 'wartime security'.

In March 1944 he was forbidden to engage in any form of religious observance. Although he exercised more prudence, he refused to cease doing what he regarded as his duty. He built an underground shelter on his property at Taogo and continued to bring people there for prayer and the Sacraments. The Japanese had already imprisoned and executed those who broke their regulations, and he was aware of the risks involved.

To Metapa - a native policeman serving the Japanese - who wanted to take a Catholic woman as his second wife, reported him for officiating the marriage of two Catholic couples. ToRot was arrested in April or May

1945 and sentenced to two months detention.

The Japanese had no intention of allowing Peter to leave prison. At one point when his wife and mother visited him, he told them that a Japanese doctor had been called to give him medicine, even though he had not been sick, and he believed he would be killed.

That year, 1945, he was praying when men came for him. According to witnesses, he was given a drink and an injection, and his mouth was covered. He was murdered by two officers of the Japanese military police assisted by an army doctor who administered the lethal injection.

The people of Rakunai gave him a chief's funeral and buried him in the mission cemetery. His wife, and their son and daughter survived him; a second son, born after ToRot's execution, died in infancy.

Ever since his funeral, he has been seen as martyr for the Catholic faith.

Photo below: Statue of Bl. Peter ToRot venerated at Rakunai



w:

Please send us your favours, graces and miracles received through the intercession of BI Peter ToRot, together with photographs and documents. These will support the cause of his canonisation.

Prayer To Blessed Peter ToRot

Blessed Peter ToRot, God called you to serve Him among your own people, as a catechist.

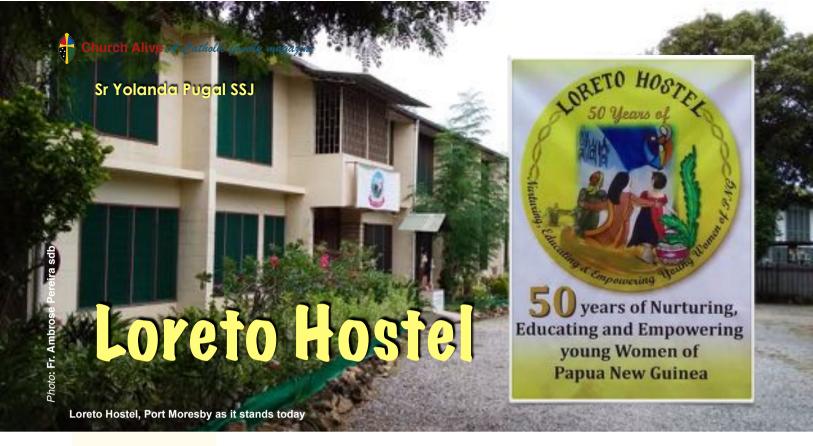
You loved your work and you were faithful to the Divine call.

Your heroic witness to serve your creator strengthened them in the faith.

We rejoice and thank God, for exalting you to be the first Beatified Martyr of our country.

Pray for us, that we may remain faithful to our vocations and stand firmly committed to God and his people, especially in times of trials and difficulties.

Amen.



Loreto Hostel, celebrated its Golden Jubilee on 17th March, 2019. Sr. Yolanda Pugal SSJ gives us a glimpse down the years.

At Loreto
Hostel, the
young
women have
been cared
for and
nurtured
through
Catholic
values and
principles.

Sr Yolanda Pugal SSJ, Bishop Rochus Tatamai and Sr Relida Gumur OLSH at the Golden Jubilee celebrations Loreto Hostel has become a "home away from home" to many young women who had no place to stay. Over 4,000 low income bracket women, new to the field of employment in Port Moresby have been given a place to stay. They have been cared for and nurtured through Catholic values and principles.

Established on the 22nd of January 1966, as an orphanage for needy children, the place was opened to working girls on the 1st of January 1969 by Sisters Veronica O'Connor, Justin Mitchell and Leo Woodbury, Australian sisters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (OLSH). Loreto Hostel was born. The sisters worked for eighteen years at the hostel.

In 1987, the Servants of Saint
Joseph
(SSJ) were invited by the late Archbishop Peter
Kurongku to work in the

Archdiocese of Port Moresby. Knowing the SSJ Charism, he entrusted Loreto Hostel to them as the OLSH Sisters were moving on to other apostolic works.

The first SSJ community, that lived and worked here, was composed of Sisters Julia Talicusay, Edilberta (Edith) Lontok and Erlinda Garaci. For the next 18 years, from 1987 – 2005, the SSJ carried out their Mission in the promotion and evangelization of young women and women workers through Loreto Hostel.

The Religious of the Virgin Mary came in from 2005 - 2010 to manage the hostel for 5 years.

Upon the request of Archbishop John Ribat, now a Cardinal, the SSJ returned to Loreto Hostel in 2010. They care for the hostel till this present day. All these years, many young women have come and gone as well as religious sisters who dedicated themselves to this ministry of caring and accompanying young women in their journey as workers. Indeed, these golden years are worth remembering and thanking God for and those who have supported and continue to support our Mission.



Golden Jubilee Celebrations and Expressions of Gratitude

Launching:

15th January, 2018 Eucharistic celebration by John Cardinal Ribat with the Sisters of Saint Joseph Fr. Alfred Maravilla. The

1st event:

18th March, 2018. Nurturing Friendships @ 50. The presider was (SSJ) and hostel residents. Loreto residents shared their experience of growing being agents of change up as matured working women.

2nd event:

10th June 2018. 50 years of Educating. The Festival of Workers an opportunity to reflect and share on the role of through work and relationships.

3rd event:

10th November 2018. Empowering Young Women of PNG 50 and beyond.

Golden Jubilee event:

17th March 2019. This celebration was dedicated to St. Joseph who was faithful to Jesus as he grew "in wisdom, age and grace before God and people" in Nazareth.



Thank you Loreto Hostel for providing a home for me when I had none. Thank you for showing love, kindness and support when all hope was lost. Thank you for standing in during my parents' absence

Thank you for the responsibilities you took on their behalf.

Thank you for providing hope when there was none.

Thank you for grooming me to be the person I am today.

Thank you for the commitment you've shown in laying the foundation to shape the woman I am today. May you be blessed always & forever.

- Brenda Kokiai, now based in Australia.

"As a newly graduate out from a Tertiary institution and away from home, I wasn't sure how I am going to live my life. Being at Loreto Hostel, a Church-run hostel has nurtured me holistically on how to live my life and interact with people in a positive way. Thank you to the Catholic Church



and her missionaries for their willingness to help the unfortunate and vulnerable people in our society. My gratitude to the Servants of Saint Joseph (SSJ), the Catholic Archdiocese of Port Moresby and the Loreto hostel staff who manage the day to day activities of the hostel. Loreto Hostel has nurtured every resident and made ing them to see the Holy Family in Nazareth as their role model in work and family/community life. - Maryanne Sikas, at the hostel from May 2012 till today.

Loreto Hostel continues to provide welcoming atmosphere with the smell of fragrant flowers and gardens. It offers a safe and affordable accommodation for young women of PNG from different walks of life, ethnic groups and cultural backgrounds. We have been

guided on living Christian values, self-respect, formation of and how to face challenges in life and at workplaces and most of all the dignity of women.

One thing that inspired is learning from the Servants of St. Joseph (SSJ) that any type work is a gift from the Lord and a continuation of God's work for us here on earth to

complete it to its fullness. - Ambrosia Kavale-Sury

"Treasure the moments that you are at the hostel. It is here that you will work, learn, be guided and assisted for life" said Dorothy Mase as she spoke at the Golden Jubilee celebrations. "Coming from a strong catholic family, I was

aware that as a young girl I would land into wrong relationships. As I stepped out of my home, I was determined not to fall pregnant. I was determined to will live by my catholic faith. I owe my success to the nurturing, self-discovery, dedication and commitment of the sisters. Their warmth and friendliness has always been present". - Dorothy Mase, at the hostel 1997-2005.







Photo above: Andrew Sire, Helen John, Fr Bogdan Cofalik, Linda Wowo and Toksy Ameta

Fr Bogdan Cofalik, presently parish priest of Mary Help of Christians parish Kefamo, Goroka is focused on his priestly mission with a difference.

young people have a lot of energy, talent and power. All this power needs to be harnessed and channeled in the proper way, lest it is spent in ways that are destructive.

"Would you like to try your hand at weightlifting?" asked Fr Bogdan to Andrew Sire, as he sat on the bench admiring the weightlifters who were training.

"Something stirred up deep in me", said Andrew, who was a member of the Friendly Youth Centre. The youth group started by Sr. Maryanne Kolkia gave young people the opportunity to try their hand at art, painting and screen printing. Andrew, a school drop-out, started training in 2010 and has since then not turned back.

"Young people have a lot of energy, talent and power. All this power needs to be harnessed and channeled in a proper way, lest it is spent in ways that are destructive", says Fr. Bogdan, fondly called Fr. Christmas, because of his long flowing beard.

Fr Bogdan Cofalik, presently parish priest of Mary Help of Christians parish in Kefamo, Goroka is focused on his priestly mission with a difference. His weekly visits to the Correctional facility are hailed as a

joyous time for the inmates. He visits homes around Goroka for the evening rosary and is welcomed by the *liklik pikinini* as well as all the *lapun manmeri*. On his arrival in Papua New Guinea in 1989, he realized that competing in the soccer games and being part of the team was a good way of being part of the life of the young people in the Eastern Highlands.

With his background in soccer and weightlifting, and coming from a family that has three brothers who are weightlifting champions, Fr. Bogdan set about using his talent, energy and skills for pastoral work. As early as 1991, he opened a gymnasium for young people in the Youth Centre and at Kefamo. And for the last 10 years there has been a gymnasium at North Goroka as well. In 2003, he was requested by the PNG Weightlifting Federation to be the coordinator for the Eastern Highlands province and participate in the first PNG Games. This was an opening that he seized and has down the years trained men and women to participate in different

It is wonderful that these 'raskols' now realize that there is another side. By self-control and discipline, they can develop both their body and their soul.

games and even receive training in different parts of Papua New Guinea and abroad.

"The majority of those who come to train are from the settlements and have led difficult lives with high intake of drugs, little adherence to respect for persons and a lax moral life. It is wonderful that these 'raskols' now realize that there is another side. By self-control and discipline, they can develop both their body and soul", says Fr Bogdan.

The walls of the gymnasium have posters of the Lord's prayer and the catechism of the Catholic Church. The majority of those who train are not catholic and come from different faith backgrounds. Gradually they realize that their lives are taking on a new dimension. They encourage other men and women to spend their time and energy usefully.

"In January, 2019, a new Gymnasium was opened at the Pastoral Centre,

Kefamo. The large gymnasium has sections for power lifting, weight lifting and fitness training and can cater to train 100 persons at a time. Offices and washrooms for men and women are also part of the facility. 2019 has several programs

ahead and we will be sending participants for the South Pacific Games in Samoa and for the Arafura games in Australia," says Fr. Bogdan.

Bp. Dariusz Piotr Kaluza, MSF, Bishop of Goroka is delighted to have one of his priests caring for the lost and the least and venturing into new terrain to cater for young men and women. "There are many ways of working with young people. The very first step is to be open, make the first move, come up with an initiative or proposal. That is what Fr. Bogdan did. He started to bring young people and train them in weightlifting and bodybuilding. The training was not only the training of the body but also the training of dedication, commitment, discipline and faith. I am very happy that we have a priest who gives young people the possibility to train. With the new 'professional gymnasium', young men and women will have their own space to train. One does not have to finish some special youth course to see the need for our young people, hear their cry and then offer them something to keep them busy," said Bp Dariusz. Weightlifting, powerlifting, bodybuilding and fitness are organized and conducted under his supervision and with the help of trainers who he has trained over the years. The centre is open to young men and women who wish to train and put their energy to good use.

Photo: Andrew Sire in the new gymnasium



"The training has helped me build on my dreams", says Andrew Sire, 24 years. Andrew, who lives in the settlements left school at a young age and together with other young men, would drink and fight, steal and destroy. He formed part of the raskols that stole equipment and destroyed the property of people.

"Fr. Bogdan has been a father to me, forgiving me when I did wrong, and encouraging me to train and build on my life of discipline. He has helped me with application and travel fees. I have realized that I need to put 'God

first' in my life and my dreams will fall in line", he said.

Andrew encourages his brothers to do what is good and right.

"The training will give you a discipline for yourself and your life. You will realize that you can do great things and be happy", he tells his companions. He is now employed at the Youth Centre and dreams of winning several medals for his state and country.

The training has given Andrew a chance to win several Gold medals. 2012: PNG Games at Kokop; 2014: Gold Medal at Morobe; 2015: Pacific Games in Brisbane; 2017: 7th Gold medal at the PNG Games at Kimbe.

"I love athletics, and rather than wasting my time at home, or joining the street girls, I am happy to train in weightlifting since 2009", says **Toksy** Ameta, a 23-year-old who spends her time at the gym.

"The youth centre is a lovely place where there are brothers and sisters who respect each other", said Helen John, 22 years. "I hope to be part of the Olympic squad in the future", she continues. Helen has earned 3 gold medals at the 2017 games in Simbu.

"After the 8th grade, I did not make it to the next class. I realize that my dream to travel to other cities has a great opportunity, if I can train and do well in weight lifting", says Linda Wowo, aged 20 years.



In God's commandments there is an explicit injunction dictated from pure love, that we should not commit sins of impurity, nor carry on 'in the passions in our flesh'. (Eph 2:3). This first issue brings you the views of young ladies. The second issue will be on young men. May it inspire us all.

If I had a diamond ring, I wouldn't give it to a girl I'd only known for three months. I would give it to my wife as a wedding present.

The mutual giving of oneself is contained in the words of the wedding vows: "I take you to be my husband. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life," and only after is the expression of sexual intimacy — the giving of one's self and the receiving of the gift of self from one's spouse a 'true giving'.

A certain young man wrote: 'If I had a diamond ring, let's say a valuable family heirloom, I wouldn't give it to a girl I'd only known for three months. I would give it to my wife as a wedding present. So many girls give their bodies to boys they barely know instead of saving it for their husbands on their wedding day. They don't think too much of themselves! Rather they think very little of themselves.

The Church speaks countlessly about being pure of heart and encourages the young to live pure lives until they commit themselves to the one they love in the Sacrament of Marriage.

Towards the end of the Year of Youth 2018, the Catholic youth in Papua New Guinea gathered for the National Youth Convention in the Archdiocese of Rabaul.

At the convention, the Sacrament of Marriage was dwelt upon where the male and female youth were invited to pledge to 'Live Pure.' Several young ladies and gentlemen stepped forward and with a

lighted candle, committed themselves to respect, fidelity and a life of purity. The commitment to remain pure before marriage is without a doubt a challenge for young people as we live in a world full of temptations. In highlighting its importance, this same question was posed to young women between the ages of 15 - 25 years old from all walks of life in Papua New Guinea: "Why is it important to remain pure before marriage?" Here are their reflections:

The truth about today's young women, not only in Papua New Guinea but all around the world is that most of them have lost their virginity at a very young age or out of wedlock. Sex has become something that is normal for teens and young adults and this is mostly fuelled by the media, movies, songs, magazines, books etc. However, the three most important factors that I believe greatly influences young ladies are:

- Peer-pressure
- Trying new things simply because young people are in their teenage years
- Feeling sexually attracted to the opposite sex and so engage in sexual encounters
- The lack of advice, teaching and challenge from parents, teachers and church personnel on the issue

I believe that many young ladies, having understood what love and commitment is all about, would want to change their decisions if they could.





Photo above: Rita and Raymond Kavanamur shared their experience as young lovers.

To answer the question, I believe it is important to remain pure before marriage:

- Firstly, it was admonished by God that it is a sin to be with someone intimately without the bond of marriage, as marriage is a sacred bond by God that only allows those two people to share rights to sex.
- Secondly, I believe remaining so will give the girl a certain confidence

about herself and she will be problem free as her partner will trust her completely and there will not be any room for doubts. This trust is usually missing in many marriages given that many men are still very much insecure about their wives given their history.



Pope Francis with young couples

- Thirdly, I believe it is important as it honours God and it is the utmost gift you can give to your marriage partner.
- 4. Lastly, I believe it is very important as it will make the young lady stand out from the rest and in this generation that is something a person can be very proud of. - Melissa Jones, Milne Bay, 23, Media Personnel

Marriage is sacred and a gift from God. It is ones calling in life therefore must be treasured. Hence, staying pure until marriage is important because it is

sacred - Monique Saulep, East Sepik. UPNG student

It is important for me as a girl to stay pure before marriage because of these two reasons:

- 1.Marriage is a union between a man and a woman and it is important that I keep myself pure and wait for the right person that I will marry.
- 2.Also, to prevent certain things from occurring such as unwanted pregnancy and acquiring sexually transmitted infections or the dreaded HIV virus.

Therefore, we have to think before we do things. If a person is not sure, it is best to wait until the right time comes and that is when you are married. - Hadassah Mabone, 15, Central, Caritas student

As a Christian, it is important to stay pure until marriage because our body is the temple of God. It is not good flirting and having sex with someone when you don't have any intention of committing your life to him. I can't do such activities with someone who isn't mine and give away a special part of me. Also, we understand that having sex before marriage is sin.

When you stay pure until marriage you will truly enjoy the freedom of real love. From my own experience, there are many we know who face problems such as violence and child abuse. These generally result when we are not clear about how we relate with people in life.

- Nerrida Konou, East Sepik, 24, Payroll clerk at Madang Timbers

Conclusion

St Mother Teresa of Calcutta once said: "A clean heart is a free heart. A free heart can love Christ with an undivided love in chastity, convinced that nothing and nobody will separate it from his love. Purity, chastity, and virginity created a special beauty in Mary that attracted God's attention."



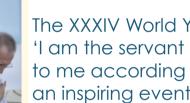
St Mother Teresa also gave this advice to young people:

- You are the future of the joy of loving.
- You are making of your life something beautiful for God.
- That you love a girl or that you love a boy is beautiful, but do not spoil it. Do not destroy it.
- Keep your heart pure for the future of your family life.
- On the day of your marriage you can give something beautiful to each other - the joy of a pure love and a commitment forever.

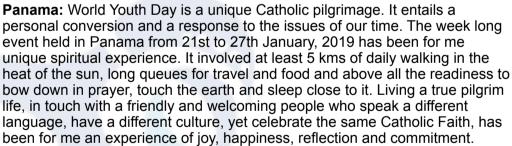




The Challenge to LIVE, the Challenge to GIVE.



The XXXIV World Youth Day 2019, with its theme: 'I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word' (Lk 1:38) has been an inspiring event that invites every person to action.



The highlight of the event was the dynamic presence of Pope Francis and his challenging message of hope for young people. 'You are the 'Now of God' said the Holy Father as he encouraged them to live their faith as each one challenges the issues that exist in the world today.

Images from the celebrations at World Youth Day, Panama





The following have touched me deeply:

- 1. 'Laudato Si' Generation: With the looming threat of Sea Bed Mining, deforestation and the abuse of the environment, we need to harmonise the voices of the people at grassroots level. How do I care for the earth, my home?
- 2. Migrants and Refugees: Our brothers have reached breaking point after six long years on Manus Island. They are uncertain about their future, have no home to call their own, no identity, no family, no flag, no country. This has caused mental trauma and major health issues. The situation is now turning into a humanitarian crisis. Have I been able to listen across borders? What has been my response to their situation?
- 3. Catholic Witness: Young people are ready to take up the challenge to bear witness to Christ by a

committed way of life. We need to encourage and form our young people 'live pure'; celebrate the

Sacrament of Marriage and commit themselves to build good Catholic families and homes is most needed in Papua New Guinea today. Do I constantly remind and challenge the young?

Pope Francis believes in our young people and has challenged them. Together with Mary our Mother, may we say 'Yes' to these challenges.

Let us remember:

We can only challenge them if we live, good, honest and pure lives.

We can only challenge them if we as animators spend time with them.

We can only challenge them if we come down to their level and listen to them.

At the end of the Apostolic Exhortation, Christus Vivit the Holy Father concludes: Dear Young people.

Keep running attracted by the face of Christ, whom we love and acknowledge in the flesh of our suffering brothers and sisters. May the Spirit urge you in your race. The Church needs your momentum, your intuitions, your faith. We need them too! And when you arrive where we have not yet reached, have the patience to wait for us.

- Pope Francis



"Young people are the now of God. The Holy Father reminds us to believe in the young people as they are the face of Christ in the church, the world and the family" - Sr Esther Migueline Jimenez fma, Dominican Republic. She loves working and forming young people.

"World Youth Day is a time to celebrate



"It was a wonderful experience as I camped out overnight following the Saturday night Vigil with Pope Francis and celebrated the Closing Mass of WYD19. I was struck by the message of

the Holy Father to us young people, 'Do not be afraid. Embrace Life! You are the now of God. Imitate Mary in her Yes to the will of God. -Christine Minch, USA, above centre.

As an adult pilgrim, I spent a few days in prayer, celebrating my Catholic faith together with a sea of young pilgrims from all over the world. Witnessing the youth expressing their Catholic faith with me was nothing short of wonderful and inspiring. As I continue to serve Christ and His church through my faith community in Phoenix, AZ, I am more inspired to live my faith as an example to our young Catholic brothers and sisters leading them to Jesus Christ through Mary. - Eunice Lurenana, USA, above left.

World Youth Day gives me the occasion to grow in my faith. Being with the young, keeps you young. When you are without sin, you are young." - Maria Linda, Kuwait, at her third World Youth Day.



our faith and interact with other likeminded people". - Lea Victoria Valladares Morales, aged 20 years, from Mexico, a youth animator, presently doing her business studies.



"It was very nice meeting people from different countries and learning from them about their struggles of faith and life. It has been an uplifting experience for my faith and I look forward to joining the young people in Portugal in 2022" Allison Janet Lopez, Panama City

"The world youth day has been an occasion for me to volunteer my time at the celebrations. I spent long hours at the Omar Park directing the pilgrims for confession. It has given me a lot of joy, as I continue to live and practice my Catholic faith, despite the many struggles in life" -Juana Parris, Panama City



Luis Eduardo Lopes, Nicaragua asked the Rector Major about the possibility of opening our doors to the young and the refugees. "I would be happy to hear that our Salesian houses welcome young people and that the Salesians are always ready to spend time and listen to the young. Sadly, things are not always like this. We need to change. The heart of Don Bosco was filled with passion

for young people. We are weak, you need to challenge us. You need to make us uncomfortable. You need to help us", said Fr Angel

Fernandes Artime sdb, Rector Major on the 23rd January, 2019.



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The 53rd World Communication Day 2019, calls us to increase our human interaction with each other. Below are the highlights of the message of Pope Francis released on the 24th January, 2019.

Virtual communities are formed of persons of common interests connected by weak bonds.

Photo below: Participants of the Media Education Seminar at Catholic Bishops Conference, on 23rd February, 2019 Ever since the invention of the Internet, the Church has always encouraged the encounter between persons, and the solidarity of everyone. This message highlights that the human person does not want to be left isolated and alone.

persons of The net and the community

Today's media environment penetrates every sphere of our lives. The Net is a resource of our time. It is a source of knowledge and relationships. Technology has brought about production and the distribution of content. The Internet represents an extraordinary possibility of access to knowledge, but it is also exposed to disinformation and distortion of facts, that often destroy relationships.

Statistics show that one in four persons are involved in cyberbullying. We need to rediscover the positive potential of the internet and recognize how social networks can help us connect respectfully with persons.

The image of the community is a powerful one. A community progresses if there is unity, common objectives, listening, dialogue and responsible use of language. However, our social networks are not community friendly. Virtual communities are formed of persons of common interests connected by weak bonds. This creates individualism and ferments hate. The Net can promote encounter or increase isolation. It can



MES 2019

Photo right: Limana Vocational school media students on a photo project



FROM SOCIAL NETWORK COMMUNITIES TO THE HUMAN COMMUNITY

> The other person is not a competitor, or our enemy, but a human person. God is Communion.

Photo below: Animators at the Media Education Seminar 2019 on 23rd February, 2019



The Church, governments, schools, families and each of us have the responsibility to ensure that the identity of the community

becoming 'social hermits' as they are cutting themselves off society.

entrap us. Young people are

and the online network responsibility are respected.

We are members one of another Saint Paul reminds us of respectful

relationships. "Therefore, putting away falsehood, speak the truth, each to his neighbor, for we are members one of another" (Eph 4:25). We need to put away falsehood and speak the truth.

not Solitude, Truth is revealed in communion. Lies, on the other hand, is sin and selfishness. It is a refusal to recognize that we are members of one body and a refusal to give ourselves to others. As Christians, we are members of the one body whose head is Christ. The other person is not a competitor, or our enemy, but a human

> person. God is not Solitude, but Communion. God is Love and therefore communication. Love always communicates itself and encounters others.

We are called to invest in



relationships, affirm interpersonal humanity, and ensure it is present in our networks. As Christians, Faith is a relationship, an encounter, with God and others. The image of the Trinity, reminds me that I am truly human when I relate to others. In fact, the word "person" signifies the human being as a "face", whose face is turned towards the other, who is engaged with others.

From a "like" to an "amen"

The image of the body and the members reminds us that the use of the social web complements an encounter in the flesh that comes alive through the body, heart, eyes, gaze, breath of the other. As persons, family and church may we use the Net as an opportunity to share our experiences of beauty or suffering, to pray together and rediscover the good that unites us. The Eucharistic communion, is a unity not based on "likes", but on the truth, on the "Amen", which always welcomes others.

May the Net not entrap, but liberate us to be truly free.

From the Vatican, 24 January 2019, the Memorial of Saint Francis de Sales.

Pope Francis 4



Congratulations Bp Rochus

- Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb

Port Moresby: Rev. Bishop Rochus Joseph Tatamai, MSC, DD was invested with the Insignia of the 'Companion of the Order of the Star of Melanesia' (CSM), on 4th April, 2019 at the Government House, Port Moresby. Bp Rochus received this award for his service to the community and the Catholic Church. His significant contribution as a Priest with diverse roles



in Pastoral ministry, promoting vocations, the 'Voice of Peter ToRot' radio and television, as Bishop of Kerema, Bereina and Kavieng is recognized. He is also appreciated for his wider leadership as the President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.



Left:
Press
Conference on the Care and
Protection of Minors

Right: Archbishop Francisco Panfilo addressing the school students





Left: Celebrating 300 years of the death of St John Baptist de La Salle

Right: Staff at the Catholic Bishops Conference, Port Moresby

