



# 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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FCBCO Assembly



## WELCOME to PNG

The Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands welcomes the delegates of the Federation of the Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania to Port Moresby. The event has as its theme: Care for our Common Home of Oceania, a sea of possibilities. It is held from the 11 to 17 April 2018 at Airways Hotel, Port Moresby. It brings together over 85 participants to join in prayer for our region, reflection on relevant and important issues that effect us and in celebration of our faith and unique culture across the region. We warmly welcome Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary to His Holiness Pope Francis.



## Easter Message of the Holy Father and Blessing 'Urbi et Orbi'

Dear brothers and sisters,  
Happy Easter!

**Jesus is risen from the dead!**

This message resounds in the Church the world over, along with the singing of the Alleluia: Jesus is Lord; the Father has raised him and he lives forever in our midst.

Jesus had foretold his death and resurrection using the image of the *grain of wheat*. He said: "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (Jn 12:24). And this is precisely what happened: Jesus, the grain of wheat sowed by God in the furrows of the earth, died, killed by the sin of the world. He remained two days in the tomb; but his death contained God's love in all its power, released and made manifest on the third day, the day we celebrate today: The Easter of Christ the Lord.

The Holy Father prayed for suffering people across the world, among them: the long-suffering land of Syria, reconciliation for the Holy Land, for Yemen and for the entire Middle East; for dialogue and mutual understanding South Sudan; for the Korean peninsula, that harmony and peace reign within the region; for Ukraine, that the steps taken favor the humanitarian initiatives needed by its people; that the Venezuelan people, that its sons and daughters are not forced to abandon their homeland, that the risen Christ bring fruits of new life to those children, who as a result of wars and hunger, grow up without hope, lacking education and health care; and to those elderly persons who are cast off by a selfish culture that ostracizes those who are not "productive".

## Earthquake in Mendi

Bp Donald Lippert OFM Cap



**Mendi:** In the early hours of Monday morning, 26<sup>th</sup> February, a devastating 7.5 magnitude earthquake struck the Southern Highlands and Hela Provinces. This earthquake triggered landslides that wiped out villages, displaced villagers and contaminated the water. Countless after shocks have been experienced. Bp. Donald Francis Lippert, Bishop of Mendi, said, "Sadly, dozens of our people lost their lives, mainly caused by landslides. Four young girls were crushed by a falling

wall as they slept in their home in Mendi town. Also in Mendi, a young couple and their first born child were killed by a landslide in the Magani area."

Raymond Ton, Director of Caritas PNG reported that Hela & SHP particularly the areas of Mendi/Munhiu, Nipa/Kutubu, Komo/Margarima, Tari/Pori, and Koroba/Kopiago districts have been severely affected. Infrastructure, including, roads and bridges, electricity power lines, buildings of schools, health care centres, and churches sustained severe damages.

The infrastructure of over 30 parishes and 350 sub-stations in the Catholic Diocese established in both provinces has been struck badly. Schools (elementary, community, primary, secondary, technical schools), health centres, parishes houses, pastoral centres, water tanks and church buildings have suffered extensive damage. The people need help to rebuild their lives. "Sadly, tribal fights have added to the pain and the misery of the people of Tari", reports Bp. Donald Lippert.

## Easter celebrations in Pictures



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# The Lord has risen! Alleluia!

**Fr. Adam Samsel MSF**  
Liturgical Catechetical Institute, Goroka



Today, joyful Alleluia resounds in our churches, parish communities, families as we experience the greatest mystery of our faith - the truth about the resurrection.

It is worth noting, that even in this most joyous Christian feast we are not completely free from fears and uncertainties. If we look closely at the evangelical description of the resurrection, we notice that not joy but fear was the dominant feeling among those who faced the fact of resurrection.

In the gospel, according to St. Matthew angel admonishes women: *You must not be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified* (Mt 28, 5). Moments later, the women face Jesus himself, who tells them: *Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me* (Mt 28, 10). Mark evangelist, puts it even more bluntly: *Women went out of the tomb, distressed and terrified. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid* (Mk 16, 8). According to the gospel of Luke, the women *were full of fear* (Luke 24, 5), and the apostles seeing the risen Jesus *were terrified, thinking that they were seeing a ghost* (Lk 24, 37).

We also experience all kinds of fears today. Perfectionists are afraid that they may make a mistake, successful people are afraid of failure. Some people are afraid that life is running away from them, others what the future will bring. We are afraid of illness and death, of people who can limit or take away our freedom. Some are afraid of showing their weaknesses, others of conflicts and want to have peace at all costs ... In these difficult situations, we usually try to hide the source of fear. We cheat ourselves and those among us. We want to show our good side, and hide deeply what is weak and sinful.

However, Christ has risen, overcome death and gives us new life. The fact of resurrection encourages us to stop hiding our weaknesses, fault, sins and to trust in Jesus. He can turn our sins into holiness, weaknesses into power, and fears into courage.

Let us ask the risen Lord to help us to discover the truth, which will set us free.

## Planned Obsolescence

In our digital world today, some of us own a few digital devices, while others may own several devices. We are even proud of our latest smart phone will give us the sharpest photograph. We are aware that every device has amazing computation possibilities that even surpass Apollo 11, sent up to the moon in 1969. On one hand, everything we own is cutting-edge, while on the other, everything that we own, is almost on the verge of becoming old. By the time we have been able to understand a few of the functions on our device, a new model is already in the market. Our smart phone purchased just a few months ago is now obsolete.



Strangely, the Next Big Thing is never really big enough for it to have longevity. The next phone that you buy, the new laptop you covet, the app that you update, will already feel temporary. Patricia Fitzpatrick, a historian of new media, calls this phenomenon "Planned Obsolescence". It means that private corporations think of their digital products as fast-moving and ready to die. They might sell the phone with a 10-year guarantee, but the only guarantee that exists is that in 10 years, they will have discontinued all support for that phone, and you will have forgotten that you owned that device. Planned Obsolescence is a marketing strategy, where everything that is introduced as a technological innovation has a limited shelf-life and is made to be replaced by something new.

What is interesting about this strategy is that it doesn't mean that your device has become redundant. In fact, even as you desire the new, you know perfectly well that your existing device has many years of functionality. The companies want you to feel primitive or out-of-touch by introducing features that you don't need and perhaps something that you will never use.

While this is happening in our digital world, it is happening to our relationships. Our committed relationships seem to becoming obsolete. Marriage breakdowns are on the increase. This causes us a lot of unhappiness. May we realise this and make a change for the better.

May the Risen Christ radiate through our committed long lasting relationships.  
- Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb, **SOCOM and Youth Secretary**

**Abigail Seta**

## Press for Progress in PNG



The month of March saw the International Women's Day being celebrated all over the world.

This event took place on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> March and marks a special time for women and men to celebrate and empower women in all walks of life.

Meanwhile in Papua New Guinea, prior to IWD, an article dated Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> March published on *Loop PNG*, reported about a hearing impaired and mute woman who was raped and killed in the nation's capital. Sadly, her "battered body" was found at her place of residence.

The most disappointing thing about this case is that many times, justice does not prevail. The perpetrators are not caught.

Thus, a follow-up article was published on March 15<sup>th</sup> and according to the Homicide unit, they've established that, "the victims death is highly suspicious however they have not found any suspects at this time." Do you think the suspects will be found?

GBV takes lives. It changes the life of an individual. It reduces an individual's confidence and traumatises them for life. Taking into account IWD's theme: 'Press for Progress,' the challenge for us is to use this initiative to continue to celebrate and empower our mothers, sisters, daughters and grandmothers not only on days marked for women like IWD but every single day.

Let us Press for Progress and celebrate both men and women.

Let us promote gender equality in our everyday lives and celebrate each other as equals both men and women, young girls and boys.

## Shaken lives - shaken beliefs

We the leaders of the Catholic Religious Congregations, of priests, brothers and sisters of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands gathered for our Annual meeting at Alexishafen, Madang Province from the 10<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018. We are saddened by the recent earthquake in the Hela and Southern Highlands Provinces and we put forward our statement.



Statement from the Federation of Religious Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands

Our prayers and support go to the families of the victims of this terrible disaster. We are touched with the expression of solidarity from all over Papua New Guinea and abroad; people are praying for the victims, sending donations and offering food and shelter. It brings out the goodness in people.

We believe that God is with those who suffer the most. He is close to the broken hearted. We are worried about some voices that expressed the belief that the recent earthquake is the punishment from God. We

certainly do not share this belief. But, we Religious Leaders raise another question: Do we take proper care of our environment? We are aware of the connectedness of the spiritual and material world and it is our task to maintain the harmony of these two worlds. We need to examine our relationship to the spiritual world, our relationship with one another and with our mother earth. Therefore, we encourage everyone to keep supporting the victims in whatever way they can. Let us all remain united.

## Alliance pledge to ban seabed mining

- Aileen Baretta, Freelance journalist



The Alliance of Solwara Warriors have lodged Objections against Nautilus Minerals on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February this year. The group was represented by Jonathan Mesulam, Jenny Jack and John Momori who fronted at the counter of the Mineral Resources Authority (MRA) in Konedobu, Port Moresby.

The three lodged Objection Form 14 on behalf of the Karkar Islanders of Madang, The Islanders of York Islanders of East New Britain and the Namatanai people of west New Ireland.

The Objection Notice Form 14 is a legal document under the Papua New Guinea Mining Act 1992 that enables resource custodians to raise their disagreements against corporations and the government when they need to.

The form highlighted the communities' objection to the extension of the Exploration License (EL) 1196 recently announced by the government of PNG and Nautilus Minerals stating four main reasons to object; There is no national policy on seabed mining

in Papua New Guinea, no legal or regulatory framework to monitor impacts, seabed mining is an EXPERIMENT and there was no free, prior and informed consent conducted with concerned communities. In a statement released on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February the alliance said, "As maritime communities whose wellbeing and quality of life depend on the health of the sea, we were not consulted before licenses and leases were awarded by the National Government for seabed mining project in the country. We were not given the opportunity to exercise our rights as stated in the United Nation's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous people on Free Prior Informed Consent."

An extract of the Objection 14 stated strongly that the affected communities along the West Coast New Ireland and East New Britain Provinces were not given the opportunity to exercise their rights under the United Nations' Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.

However, Wardens Hearing on the extension of EL 1196 proceeded despite communities' objections. MRA approved Wardens Hearing for the 20<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2018 in Namatanai.

The Alliance of Solwara Warriors through the Caritas PNG Kavieng Diocese and the West Coast Development Foundation have made their presence known in the Wardens Hearing pledging that their ultimate goal is to halt the Solwara Project and Ban seabed mining in New Ireland, PNG and the Pacific.

The Alliance of Solwara Warriors at radio talkback after the objections lodging



## Youth Alive!

'I am the servant of the Lord, May it be done to me according to your word'.

**Days in the Diocese:** will be held from 16-20 January 2019 in three countries, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama.

**WYD:** 22-27 January 2019 registration fee is USD250.00. It includes accommodation (host families, schools, gyms) public transportation, health insurance and food during the WYD, and the pilgrim kit or backpack.

The **registration period** started on February 13, 2018. Ten percent (10%) discount is applicable if you pay for the registration before **July 31, 2018**. Each diocese is encouraged to send at least one participant who has already been involved in Youth Ministry in the diocese. Please contact your Bishop for details.

- Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb, CBC Youth and SOCOM Secretary



### A stirring Tabour Experience

- Sr Shanty Joseph MSI

A 3-day gathering for women religious of the Diocese of Kerema was organized by Bp Pedro Baquero sdb from the 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2018, for the women religious of the diocese. Fr. Joel SDB, Scripture Scholar from Philippines enlightened them through his lived experiences, symbols, and rousing presentation on the Biblical foundations of family, Amoris Laetitia, Job and mystery of sickness etc. He highlighted that religious life is something beautiful and we are the chosen vessel of God and we must be servant leaders and bearers of joy and love.



## Commentary

- by Fr. Victor Roche, SVD



### Earthquake and its after-effects

On Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 03.45 am a powerful 7.5 magnitude earthquake rocked the Southern Highlands, Hela and Western provinces of Papua New Guinea.

There were landslides, damaged roads and cracked buildings. Schools, Health clinics, Churches, parish houses are badly affected. 37 people are said to be killed. This is the biggest earthquake in 100 years in PNG. About 3000 people are living in tents while 10,000 people are thought to be living in damaged buildings.

There are still dozens of smaller earthquakes and after-shocks in the same area and other parts of PNG. Affected people need food, water and sanitation. Governments, Churches and Non-governmental agencies are in the full swing of helping with relief works. Bishop Don Lippert of the Diocese of Mendi has to plan and supervise the rebuilding of the churches, schools, health clinics, convents and houses affected by the earthquake.

Why did this earthquake happen in Southern Highlands and Hela Provinces? One politician said, "Corrupt government in Hela and Southern Highlands are the reasons for the earthquake. Because usually there are earthquakes in the Islands and Momase regions and not in the highlands of PNG".

One Land owner said, "it is because the oil and gas companies dug our ground so deep that it created the earthquakes".

Are these the real causes of the recent earthquakes? No.

The scientists who monitor the earth movements, Seismologists say the following:

- 16 earthquakes in the past 7 days
- 178 earthquakes in the past 30 days
- 391 earthquakes in the past 365 days

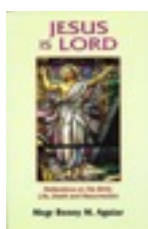
Earthquakes are common in Papua New Guinea, which sits on the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire, a hotspot for seismic activity.

I like to add one more reason for the recent earthquake: PNG experienced this earthquake because God wants us to show compassion and mercy to those people affected by this natural disaster.

Happy Easter to all of you!

Available at LCI, Goroka. Contact: Fr. Adam Samsel MSF e-mail: lci.pngsi.director@gmail.com

- Jesus is the Lord - K 6.00
- Belong to God through Jesus Christ - K 6.00
- Come Holy Spirit. Help us to pray - K 6.00
- Life in the Spirit. Reflection on Genuine Self-Development - K 14.00



# Yumi Yet Sios

- Bp Rochus Tatamai MSC



Planti manmeri itok olsem yia 2018 emi yia bilong planti blessing tru. Yes, yumi ken lukim planti samting bai kamap insait long dispela yia em oli soim olsem tru tru planti blessing bai kamap.

Tasol olsem wanem long bikipela guria ibin kamap long ol daiosis bilong yumi olsem long Daru-kiunga, Wabag, Mendi, Mt Hagen, kundiawa na Goroka? Sori tru olsem dispela guria imekim planti bagarap tru long ol haus lotu, ol skul na haus sik, na tu ol hauslain. Sori tru olsem planti manmeri na pikinini tu idai bikos long dispela guria. Olsem na sampela manmeri oli askim olsem wanem long dispela, em wanem kain blessing ya?

Long mun mars mi yet ibin go long Rom long sindaun long wanpela konferens bilong ol "International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)." Insait long dispela kibung moa long 100 memba bilong ol Katolik Bisop Konferens wantaim ol memba bilong dispela komision yet mipela bung wantaim na skelim ol kainkain wok servis Katolik Sios iwok long mekim bilong helpim planti turangu manmeri husat oli lusim ol ples bilong ol na go painim ol narapela o nupela ples na kantri bikos oli ronowe long planti kainkain hevi ibagarapim laip na sindaun bilong ol na famili bilong ol tu.

Yumi save kolim ol dispela lain tarangu olsem ol refugi (refugees) na population bilong ol istap olsem planti million manmeri na wantaim ol pikinini tu stap insait long dispela kain hevi.

Planti long ol em oli nogat ol ofisial pepa olsem passport o pepa luksave blong ol (identity card) oli stap olsem oli nogat namba na inogat aidentiti na tu inogat digniti o luksave olsem ol tu oli manmeri tru tru wankain tasol olsem yumi olgeta. Bihain long displa ol toktok na wok painimaut mipela ibin makim wanpela nupela President long go pas long dispela Komision. Mipela ibin igat taim tu long bungim Papa Santu Pop Francis insait long Vatican Citi. Insait long dispela bung mi yet ibin sekhan long Pop Fransis na givim em wanpela naispela bilum oli bilasim wantaim PNG Flag na tu wanpela stori buk bilong laip stori bilong Blessed Pita ToRot Katekist na Martir.

Mi bin tengkim em long tingim na pre bilong em long ol manmeri na pikinini ibin kisim bagarap long bikipela guria insait long kantri bilong yumi. Pop Fransis em bekim tok bilong mi olsem "Tokim ol pipel long PNG long tingim mi long pre bilong ol."

Nau long mum April 2018 ol Katolik Bisop bilong Oceania bai kam long bikipela Federation bung hia long Port Moresby stat long 12-16 April. Cardinal Parolin kuskus (Secretari) bilong Vatican Steit bai kam toktok long ol Bisop bilong Oceania (Aust, NZ, CEPAC, PNGSI). Yumi hamamas olsem Cardinal Parolin bai go pas long bikipela misa long opim bikipela Federation bung bilong ol Bisop na tu em bai go pas long narapela tupela bikipela lotu o Misa wantaim ol Religious manmeri na ol pris na bihain Cardinal bai go pas gen long narapela bikipela misa wantaim ol leiti (ol bilip manmeri). Long ol dispela Misa Cardinal Parolin bai givim toktok long ol bilip manmeri bilong yumi. Dispela oli bikipela samting ikamap long laip bilong yumi na tu insait long laip bilong Sios bilong yumi. Ating dispela em ol bikipela bikipela blessings tru ikamap long dispela yia 2018 na ikam long yumi olgeta stap gut olsem yumi yet Sios.

## Bougainville's School Management Program

- Hubert Pinah and Johannes Salaban-Mofer

**Bougainville:** The School Management Program in Bougainville (SMPB) is an educational program within the Catholic Education Agency of the Diocese of Bougainville that supports schools in Bougainville.



The overall goal of the program is to improve transparency and accountability in the education sector of Bougainville. This should be achieved through supporting elementary, primary and vocational schools to improve administration and financial management. It was established in 2007 with funding from the DKA, an Austrian based Catholic Youth Organisation.

SMBP has 5 pillars that it follows through programs such as financial management training, to collaborate, to conduct follow-up school visits, a project on Parish Education Team and mentoring for head teachers and Board of Management (BoM) members of elementary, primary and vocational schools all over Bougainville.

These services are offered by a team supported by the Austrian Development Co-operation. Since the start, the SMPB team has conducted 51 trainings, which were attended by about 1,700 head teachers and Board of Management members. For the school year 2018, the first trainings are already scheduled and the SMPB team will continue to serve the children of Bougainville.

## Apostolic Nuncio visits Wewak

Article - Bp. Joe Roszynski svd  
Picture - Br. Janusz Namyslak



**Wewak:** On a sunny Sunday, Feb 25, Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal made his first visit to the Wewak and celebrated the ordination of deacon Micah Ramujuat from Maprik and launch a yearly pastoral plan for the young people.

The large cathedral was filled with young people representing three deaneries, Wewak, Maprik and Sepik. They prepared the liturgy, with lively processions all dressed up in

their respective colours, red, yellow and green. Their banners and official plans for the year were blessed by the Nuncio.

The Apostolic Nuncio invited everybody to climb the mountains of their difficulties, problems, struggles with Jesus as three of his apostles did. "Only when we walk up the mountain with Jesus he may transfigure and change our struggle into joy and eternal meaning," he told those who gathered.

When *Bishop of Wewak Joseph Roszynski* ordained Ramujuat he reminded him of his duty as a deacon. He also reminded the family that from now on the man Micah Ramujuat was a man of the church and his ministry could not be distracted by the expectations of his relatives and *wantoks*. The celebration was filled with a lot of joy.

## Catholic Youth Ministers gather for Animators Seminar

- Abigail Seta

**Boroko, Port Moresby:** The Year of Youth 2018, is an opportunity to help young people understand and live their faith and assure them that they are the 'crown' and 'joy' of the church. The Youth Commission of the Catholic Bishops Conference, held their National Youth Animators Seminar (NYAS) from Monday to Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018. The seminar was held at Emmaus Conference Centre in Boroko, Port Moresby. 22 Youth animators from 13 different dioceses of Papua New Guinea participated in the program. The week-long seminar, had as its theme: 'Called to the fullness of Life and Love'. "It was aimed at bringing together the youth animators to enable them to interact, network and gain insight into assisting young people as they journey through the turmoils and struggles of their lives. Stress was laid on the Catholic identity, with a strong emphasis on living their Catholic life with the Eucharist and Sacrament of Reconciliation and helping the young to understand the need for committed love in the Sacrament of Matrimony", said Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb. Animators at the seminar included several Bishops, religious and lay persons.



## Share your Stories

Send in your articles, photograph and reflections on events and happenings in your parish, community and diocese. All articles and photographs are to be sent to: ambrose.pereirasdb@gmail.com or socom@catholic.org.pg on or before **20th April, 2018**  
Produced by: **CBC SOCOM**