



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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Issue 145

Year Opens in the Name of the Mother

“The year opens in the name of the Mother,” Pope Francis said in his homily at Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica on January 1, 2018, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. “Mother of God is the most important title of Our Lady”.

The Holy Father reminded the congregation that the Church has declared that Mary is not only the Mother of Jesus but the Mother of God. That shows “a magnificent truth” that God “took on our humanity.” “The word mother (mater) is related to the word matter,” the Pope continued. “In his Mother, the God of heaven, the infinite God, made himself small, he became matter, not only to be with us but also to be like us.” Devotion to Mary is “a requirement of the Christian life...not spiritual etiquette,” Francis concluded. He noted that it is important to “leave behind all sorts of useless baggage” and look to Mary to find what really matters.

In his homily about the Mother of God, he said: “Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart” (Lk 2:19). She kept them. She simply kept; Mary does not speak. The Gospel does not report a single word of hers in the entire account of Christmas. Here too, the Mother is one with her Son: Jesus is an “infant”, a child “unable to speak”. The Word of God, who “long ago spoke in many and various ways” (Heb 1:1), now, in the “fullness of time” (Gal 4:4), is silent. The God before whom all fall silent is himself a speechless child. His Majesty is without words; his mystery of love is revealed in lowliness. This silence and lowliness is the language of his kingship. His Mother joins her Son and keeps these things in silence.



Courtesy: Zenith

That silence tells us that, if we would “keep” ourselves, we need silence. We need to remain silent as we gaze upon the crib. Pondering the crib, we discover anew that we are loved; we savor the real meaning of life. As we look on in silence, we let Jesus speak to our heart. His lowliness lays low our pride; his poverty challenges our outward display; his tender love touches our hardened hearts. To set aside a moment of silence each day to be with God is to “keep” our soul; it is to “keep” our freedom from being corroded by the banality of consumerism, the blare of commercials, the stream of empty words and the overpowering waves of empty chatter and loud shouting.



Priestly Ordination



Called to Service

Priestly Ordination of Fr. Bruce Kupi

Erima, Port Moresby: The Priestly Ordination of Fr. Bruce Kupi (42) was held on 9th December, 2017 at St. Peter Chanel Parish, Erima, Port Moresby. Bruce was born in Rigo, Abau District, Central Province and is a priest for the Archdiocese of Port Moresby.

Christ has called him to share in the work of the church, bring the faithful together and seek out the lost. “Your vocation calls for great discipline and the constant presence of God, to enable you face the trials, challenges and difficulties in your life” said the Cardinal. It was an occasion of great rejoicing in the Archdiocese of Port Moresby, as Fr. Bruce is the fifth priest that belongs to the Archdiocese.

Fr. Marsianus Bei, svd, parish priest of St. Peter Chanel, together with Fr. Lukas Tiala, svd and the parishioners prepared the celebrations. The choir was a combined choir of youth and the Basic Christian communities. The offertory procession was led by the youth of the parish.



Congregation at the Ordination

The Ordination commenced with the dancers from St. Stephen’s parish, Ianu village, Cape Rodney leading the entrance procession. Fr. Bruce was accompanied by his mother and uncle. John Cardinal Ribat MSC, presiding celebrant ordained Fr. Bruce Kupi in the presence of priests, sisters, parishioners and friends.

At the homily, the Cardinal recalled the words of Fr. Bruce, “I want to be a servant of Jesus Christ”. He reminded the newly ordained that

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Year of Youth - 2018

In preparation for the Year of Youth 2018, the Bishops have released a Pastoral Letter. Here is Part 3.

Mary, the Mother of Jesus, is the perfect disciple. Reflecting on her response to God's call, we can learn how to promote and discern vocations among the youth of our own time.

6. Offer your children to God and accompany them in the discernment of God's plan for them. Parents are caretakers and stewards of God who is our true Father. God has a plan for every child, and parents should help their children to discern this plan so that they are able to freely follow what is God's will for them. Together with Mary we rejoiced singing her Mary's Magnificat.

7. Entrust the young to Mary. Mothers have an extraordinary and unconditional love for their children. Encourage the young to be devoted to Mary. Pray the Rosary daily with them, and encourage them to imitate Mary and to entrust themselves to her maternal love and protection. From the heart of Mary, vocations are born.

8. Involve the young in Church activities and teach them the way of joyful service. Young people love to sing and dance, and this will enliven our liturgies and expand the heart of our

youth for service. Catechizing children and reaching out to the poor and the less fortunate are possibilities. Mary set out quickly to the hill country of Judah to serve and bring joy to her cousin Elizabeth. Young people can do likewise as they are encouraged by the example of priests, sisters and lay people who radiate joy in service.

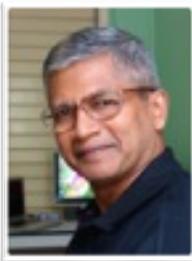
9. Pray for vocations and actively promote vocations. In a vocation, it is God who chooses. In a career, it is we who choose whether to be a teacher, a nurse, an engineer, doctor or lawyer. Since vocation to the married, priestly, religious and single life is God's choice for us, it is a gift that can be ours only if we ask for it. As Jesus said: 'ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers to his harvest.' (Mt 9:37). Let us pray with Mary that the Spirit may touch and empower the hearts of our youth to go and build a more just and friendly society, and spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

10. Challenge young people to be holy. Everyone is called to be holy and everyone is capable of becoming saints. Jacinta and Francisco, who saw Our Lady at Fatima, were



mere children recently canonized by Pope Francis. There are also a multitude of young people who have been declared saints and blessed by the Church. Our models are Sts. Maria Goretti, Therese of the Child Jesus, John Bosco, Pedro Calungsod, Aloysius Gonzaga, Gundisalvus of Lagos, John Berchmans, Philomena, Pierre-Francois Neron, plus our own two blessed, John Mazzuconi and Peter To Rot. Let us introduce the saints to our youth, and encourage them to read the lives of the saints. To be holy is born the desire to consecrate oneself totally to God as Mary did. Let us say: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners.

To be continued. The full version can be got from the Editor



Is Social Media good or bad?

NICTA has enforced its SIM Card Registration. Some have lined up for long hours in serpentine queues to ensure that they will not have their SIM card deactivated. The Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) smart card containing telephone numbers and other personal identification details are now registered in a data base. They are stored and will be accessed only by authorised personnel if and when needed. All registered users can now use their 'smart phones' and access 'Social Media'. A question that is constantly discussed is, 'Is social media good or bad?' The search for an answer is an ongoing process while we know that it depends squarely on the on digital user. Norman Ali, digital marketing consultant said, 'Social media is what you make of it. Like so many other things in life, you get what you put into it'. I'd like to dwell on a few positive effects and leave the negative ones for our next reflection.

It connects people

People today are mobile and are moving for study and jobs and are often living far away from loved ones and families. Technology has bridged that social gap and given us the possibility to maintain a constant connection with friends, family and those we love. Some of us have even been able to connect with school friends now in different parts of the world. We need other people to truly survive and thrive. Indeed, John Donne reminds us, 'No person is an island'. May we build ever stronger relationships with these people.

It gives everyone an equal voice

Every person is able to create content with no gatekeepers. It is truly a democratized media space and gives everyone the possibility of being heard. It is therefore up to each one of us to inspire our friends with what we believe in and are committed to do.

It offers us more opportunities for education

Social media today provide access to educational opportunities that were not previously available. Videos, documents and photographs are truly changing the way we learn. Our curiosity to understand and gain insights into what we are interested can take us to great heights.

It gives us Real-time news updates

News content is now available 24/7. Whether it's a sports event, an election, a public scandal, war or a natural disaster. News is now there at our fingertips.

Each of us is invited to use Social media for our good and the good of others. Do we fulfil this invitation?

- Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb
- Editor, Catholic Reporter, SOCOM and Youth Secretary

Fr. Adam Samsel MSF
Liturgical Catechetical Institute, Goroka



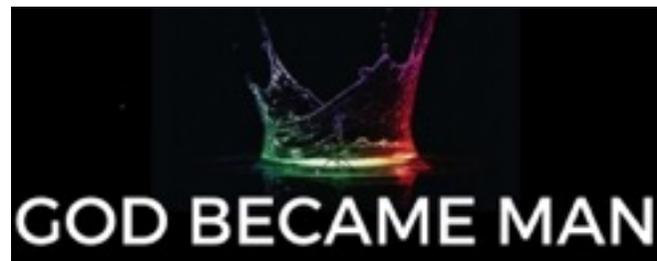
God is looking out for you

*"All this happened in order to make come true what the Lord had said through the prophet: A virgin will become pregnant and have a son, and he will be called Emmanuel, which means **God is with us**" (Mt 1:22-23).*

During the Christmas and New Year period, which is just coming to an end, we often heard the words that our God is Emmanuel, which means *God with us*. And this is the good news, the joyful news that we should constantly contemplate and experience in your life, not only during Christmas. God is already with us, God is already with me. I do not have to look for him. Many contemporary Christians think that they must seek God, they must strive hard and try to find him. The truth is completely different. God is looking for you. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, became a man, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (see J 1:14). All for one purpose: to be with us, to be *God with us*. The greatest desire of God is to be with his children and share his love with them. And although in his imprudence man sometimes turns away from God and even rejects his Creator, God does not stop looking for him. The parable of a good shepherd looking for one lost sheep reminds us that *"it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost"* (Mt 18:14). Unfortunately, the modern Christian, a disciple of Jesus Christ, busy with a thousand important matters, does not seem to notice this constant presence of God in his life. Just as once the inhabitants of Israel did not recognise Elijah in the person of John the Baptist, as they did not recognise the Messiah in the person of Jesus Christ, so often today we do not see God present among us, in our everyday life. Maybe we lack faith that the powerful, almighty God, Lord of heaven and earth, the Creator of the universe, is constantly seeking us to be *God with us*?

At the beginning of the New Year, we make various resolutions. Maybe it is worth deciding to be with God this year. To stay in union with God through the sanctifying grace. Never remain in a state of grave sin, but make use of holy confession regularly, and after falling into a serious sin make confession immediately. Do not let yourself be enslaved by sin, for which the evil spirit really stands, but be a disciple united with his Master. I believe that priests will be happy to help everyone accomplish this resolution through their sacramental ministry. In this way, we will let Jesus act in our lives and through us influence other people. We can become an instrument in the hands of God, through which he will be able to build and strengthen his Kingdom among us. Our good Father wants to reach every person on earth, he has a wonderful plan for each one of his children. Not knowing why, he needs our help, he invites us to implement his plan to be Emmanuel, to be *God with us*.

On behalf of all those working at LCI, I wish myself and all Dear Readers of the *Wantok* newspaper and *Catholic Reporter* so that in the New Year we can constantly see God present in our everyday life, God who always remains with us.



Maritime resistance build up

- Aileen Baretta, Freelance journalist



"We don't know its effects, it has never been tested anywhere else in the world"

Balopa Local Level Government President Ngenge Sasa raised these concerns at the end of November 2017 when he visited the islands of Baluan, Lou and Pam in Manus to gauge his peoples' views on the proposed Seabed Mining in the Bismarck Sea.

Mr Sasa said the islands are a food bowl for Manus Province providing vegetables and fruits regularly to Lorengau town. "The effects of seabed mining could affect our food production" he said. We are just islands that live off the sea."

After community visits Mr Sasa strongly voiced his people's responses with a firm "No to Seabed Mining"

In Madang Province, people are overwhelmed by the support of political leaders to the resistance of seabed mining. Local member for Madang Bryan Kramer has now stood together with the Former Chief Justice Sir Arnold Amet to voice the people of Karkar Island's plea.

These two are among known leaders such as Garry Juffa, Ian Ling-stucky, Catholic

Cardinal John Ribat, Dr Allan Marat and others who have seen reason to raise concerns.

While the Maritime Provinces of Manus, Madang, New Ireland, East New Britain, Central and Oro have communities organised to resist seabed mining, the recent inclusion is Milne Bay Province. It is claimed the people of Suau are organising around this issue.

Meanwhile a press article published by the Guardian on the 12th of December stated Nautilus Minerals as saying they have reached over 30, 000 people from the nearby islands of their proposed Solwara 1 site in West Coast Namatanai, New Ireland Province.

However, Centre for Environmental Law and Community Rights Inc (Celcor) which is currently representing these communities say the communities were not consulted.

The Guardian also reported that New Ireland plaintiff Jonathan Mesulam criticised the company's consultation approach, and said the community at large did not give "free, prior and informed consent" on the company's permit.

Communities are now taking responsible actions to ban seabed mining as the PNG Government continues its deafening silence on maritime communities.

"No one can stand up for us but ourselves" This was the ring out message from Pastor Matei Ibak of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Kulubob Circuit of Karkar Island when he and over 60 youths walked for three days around Karkar Island against Seabed Mining.

Papua New Guinea Mine Watch's website of the community from Riwo, Madang protesting against Nautilus Minerals Solwara 1 deep sea mining project in the Bismarck Sea.



Youth Alive!

In this **Year of Youth 2018**, our young people prepare themselves for several events. Some of them are: Youth and Media Seminars, Youth Convention and the World Youth Day. Our Youth animators and youth leaders will come together for a **Youth Leadership Seminar** in March, 2018. This will help them in their animation of the young. Details will be sent to your Bishops and Diocesan Youth and Media Coordinators.

PATRON SAINTS OF WYD PANAMA 2019

Before beginning their journey; the WYD pilgrims carry prayer intentions for themselves, for their loved ones, and for the whole world. These prayers are often entrusted to the intercessors selected as patrons for the WYD event. The saints and blessed chosen to pray for pilgrims are often known for a commitment to youth, or for a connection to the host country or region. WYD Panamá 2019 has named eight great heroes of the

Church to intercede for pilgrims and their needs. They are:

Saint José Sánchez del Río
Saint Juan Diego
Blessed Sor María Romero Meneses
Saint John Bosco
Saint John Paul II
Blessed Oscar Arnulfo Romero
Saint Martin de Porres
Saint Rose of Lima

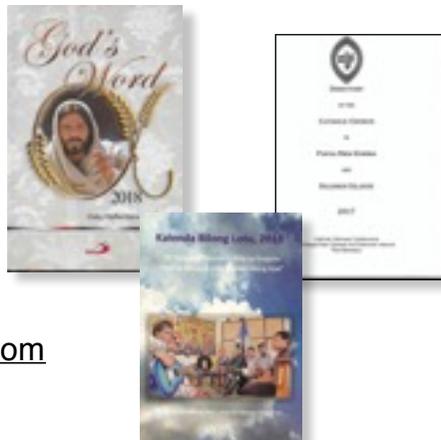


Young people preparing for your journey to Panamá, are invited to spend time learning about each of these intercessors. Ask for their prayers and build a deeper relationship with Christ and His Church.

Daily Reflections: **K 12.00**
 CBNC Directory: **K 22.00**
 Lotu Kalendar 2018: **K 3.00**

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Commentary

- by Fr. Victor Roche, SVD



Law and Order situation in PNG

Last week one of the parish priests in Port Moresby was held up and his car was taken away. This happened at 8.30 am on a Wednesday morning. As he visited one of his parishioners and returned to his car, there were three men: two with guns and one with a stone. As they held guns pointing at his head asking for the key of the car, he shouted for help. No one came for help. They were afraid and/or they did not want to be involved. As he shouted more for help, one hit him on his head repeatedly. So he gave the car key and they drove away the vehicle. He was eventually able to call a friend-priest for help to take him to the hospital. Thank God nothing serious happened to him.

I was once attacked by 'rascals' a few years ago when I was returning from Gerehu. This also involved a gun. When I went to report it to the Police station in Gerehu, the police told me, "We are unable to do anything because the rascals have guns and we do not have guns". It is not an answer one likes to hear from a police as he is supposed to protect the people.

There are similar crimes taking place in the cities of PNG. Some are smaller and some are serious crimes involving injuries or death.

1. We are concerned about the Law and Order situation in the country. It is getting worse day by day. Media is filled with incidences of crimes in the cities.
2. We are giving bad news about PNG to the tourist industry and the people overseas.
3. I call on the police force and the government to check on the production and use of drugs and home brew. Most of our rascals commit criminal activities after taking drugs or home brew. Police also should check on the use of guns.
4. I call on the Government and the people of PNG to reflect why are our young people involved in such thefts and crimes.
5. I call on the Churches to preach about the law and order situation during the Sunday Services. Let the young people know how to be law-abiding citizens.
6. I call on the parents to teach the children good discipline. Children should be taught good values at home!
7. We can have a better and safe PNG.

Yumi Yet Sios

- Bp Rochus Tatamai MSC



Mi tok bikpela hamamas bilong Krismas na blessing bilong nupela yia 2018 i kam long yumi olgeta insait long ol famili, ol ples, ol peris na daisis insait long olgeta provins bilong yumi. Yumi yet Sios em stap olsem bikpela luksave na singaut i kam long yumi olgeta Kristen manmeri bilong PNG na tu Solomon Ailans.

Yumi tenkim God long olgeta blesing yumi bin kisim insait long yia 2017. Yumi bin bungim tu planti salens insait long laip bilong yumi wanwan na tu olsem ol famili na komuniti.

Bikpela hamamas bilong Krismas i mas oltaim strongim yumi em displa luksave olsem God em i Emmanuel tru tru "God stap wantaim yumi". Long namba wan Krismas God yet i soim yumi gutpela pasin tru long lusim olgeta bilas bilong em stap, lusim bikpela glori na ona na biknem bilong Pikinini bilong en Jisas husat i lusim heven na kamap man insait long bel bilong Mama Maria, wanpela yangpela meri long ples graun.

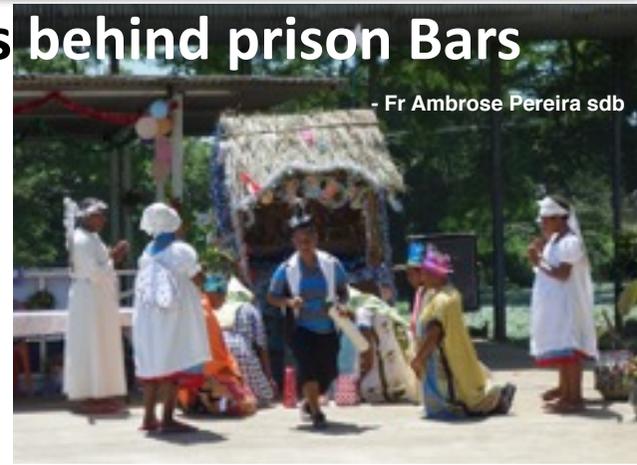
God i mekim bikpela luksave long laip bilong ol manmeri bilong dispela graun. Na em i bihainim gut tru rot yumi olgeta manmeri bilong dispela laip i save bihainim long kamap pikinini. Taim i kamap pinis bilong mama i karim Jisas husat i God tru na nau i kamap man tru olsem yumi olgeta bilong soim yumi olsem God i pas tru tru wantaim olgeta manmeri bilong dispela graun. Olsem na long dispela pasin tasol olgeta laip na pasin bilong yumi ol manmeri bilong dispela plesdaun kamap holi na santu wantaim. God nau i kam insait tru long blut na bodi, tingting, pasin na laip bilong yumi ol manmeri bilong graun na God i blesim yumi olgeta wantaim dispela divain laip bilong God yet. Laip na pasin bilong God i kamap man trutru na laip na pasin bilong ol manmeri bilong plesdaun i ken kamap God trutru. Dispela laip bilong God em nau yumi save kolim "laip bilong oltaim oltaim na laip bai ino inap pinis".

Olsem na taim mama i bin karim yumi long dispela laip yumi save dispela em i laip bai pinis taim yumi dai. Tasol yumi bilip tu long Jisas olsem "Em yet em Kirap bek long laip na Em yet tu Em i laip bilong oltaim oltaim." Dispela kain luksave i mekim yumi mas oltaim tingting olsem yumi yet "ino papa o mama graun trutru." Yumi painim ol dispela bush graun na ol solwara i bilong God wanpela tasol. God wanpela tasol em i papa tru bilong olgeta graun bush na solwara wantaim olgeta kainkain animal i stap long ol en.

Insait long nupela yia 2018 yumi mas wok bung wantaim long mekim dispela plesdaun i kamap trutru ples bilong yumi olgeta na bai God i ken blesim yumi na wokabout wantaim yumi bikos em yet "Emmanuel - God stap wantaim yumi"

Celebrating Christmas behind prison Bars

- Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb



Prisoners enacting the Christmas story

Port Moresby:

PRISON inmates at the Correctional Facility, Bomana, Port Moresby spent a unique day on 14th December, in prayer and entertainment, recalling the birth of Christ the Saviour and celebrating an early Christmas.

It was the first visit for Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal, Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands to the facility. The inmates of the maximum security were joined by the female, juvenile and minimum security. Amongst the inmates, were two refugees present.

The Apostolic Nuncio, representative of Pope Francis was welcomed by Chief Superintendent Commanding Officer Supt. Haraha Keko DCS of the Correctional Centre. He expressed his gratitude for the spiritual benefit received by the inmates through the involvement of Catholic Church. He was especially grateful for the weekly visits and catechism sessions of the Missionaries of Charity. He highlighted the need to offer innovative programs that will prepare the inmates make the necessary adjustments for their return to society. "We believe in giving life a second chance," he said. The atmosphere was relaxed, calm and joyful as the over 700 persons sat in their different sections throughout the celebrations.

The Apostolic Nuncio was joined by Fr. Ignatius Jayaraj SVD, Prison Chaplin, Fr. Emmanuel V. Lapaz, cm, Parish priest and Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb, CBC Youth and Communications Secretary. In his homily, at the celebration of the Eucharist, the Archbishop dwelt on the loving presence of God in the life of each person. He reminded them of the words of scripture, 'Fear not, I am with you'. (Is 41:13). He invited the inmates to place their plans in the God's hands, as God plans their future. Commenting on the experience of the loneliness of Pastor Jim

Bakker, who spent five years in prison, he encouraged the inmates to get to know their God, not be disappointed, but hear the voice of God saying, 'I have brought you here, not to punish you, but to get you to know me.' His strong insistence was to ensure that Christ has a place in each of our hearts and that He is the main focus of Christmas. "It's a struggle, as we are engulfed in materialism and consumerism. Yet, Christmas without Christ, is a mess", he said.

Much appreciated songs, dances and a nativity play by the Juvenile and the female unit then followed. The Nuncio then wished each inmate and personally gave them a Christmas gift packet. Food and drinks were then enjoyed by everyone.

The program was organized by the Missionaries of Charity sisters, coordinated by Sr. Anto Terese mc, the community of Tokarara and Hanuabada, prison officers and the different groups at the prison.

Inmates with the Nuncio and Sr. Anto



- Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb

Gratitude to our three stars

Staff at the Catholic Bishops Conference secretariat celebrated the work and life of three staff members who have been with the organisation for several years. Sr. Mary McCarthy pbvm (8), Paula Gande (10) and Zoilo Agabe (13) conclude their service with the Catholic Bishops Conference at the end of 2017.

"The three of them have served CBC for a total of 30 years with zeal, dedication and commitment", said Fr. Victor Roche svd, General Secretary.

"There have been challenges that Sr. Mary has faced right through her time in Papua New Guinea, but with faith, will power and determination, nothing was impossible for her", said Nyleptha Kenny. She shared her wonderful memories and experiences during her practical work experience over the university holidays and is grateful to Sr. Mary for the opportunity to work in the mission and serve the Catholic Church.

In a very emotional speech, Demoti Magini, highlighted the leadership, support, patience and counsel that Zoilo Agabe rendered to the office. "Thank you for making opportunities

available for me and for being so passionate about our well-being and career growth. Your quick decisions, determination and honesty have inspired", he said.

Speaking about Paula Gande, Michael Ova said, "We admire your energy, passion and unselfish love for Catholic education. In the last ten years you have nurtured, moulded and grown with the Catholic Education Commission. I have admired your commitment, professionalism, firmness to duty and the need to always excel. Your role will be hard to fill".

Zoilo Agabe, Paula Grande and Sr Mary McCarthy pbvm



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 on or before 20th January, 2018 Produced by: CBC SOCOM