

# CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LAE



**THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH**

## Newsletter

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VOLUME 3

# THE SPIRITUALITY OF COMMUNION

**-Bishop Rozario Menezes SMM**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ "A Church having God at its heart", was the last pastoral letter I wrote. This year I have written you a pastoral letter, "Growing Together as God's Children in the Spirit of St. Joseph". It is a fruit of our recent Diocesan Pastoral Assembly. In the pastoral letter, I am reflecting with you on three important themes: the Diocesan pastoral plan, the Spirituality of Communion, and the year of St. Joseph. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you six pillars and three principles which will guide our pastoral plan.

To begin with, our pastoral work need to be guided by the spirituality of communion. The foundation of the spirituality of communion is our faith in God who is Trinity. We believe in one God who is three persons. God is the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

Our faith too needs to embrace the qualities that the three persons of the Holy Trinity live among themselves. These are peace, joy, love and harmony. Just as the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit are united so too should our Diocese be. I am asking all of you therefore to live the same unity, same communion of God in homes and in parishes. If we strive to live among ourselves the relationships of peace, joy, love and harmony, we will be moving towards perfect union with God, the goal of our Christian life and the heart of our pastoral plan (Mt. 5:45).

We all know that Christian life is a journey that calls us to communion with one another and ultimately with God our creator. But, in order for us to walk together towards this union we to embrace the love of God. The love of God is lived and experienced when one embraces the spirituality of communion, which is based on six pillars. They are the following:

1. Equality of relationship: we are all equal in the eyes of God. We are created in the image and likenesses of God. We are all called to fulfill our human potentials as leaders, to give greater service to all.

2. Dialogue: listening with love is the primary requisite of it. The Holy Spirit can be heard in all of us, and He is present and active in all of us, in the world and events.

3. Participation: we are all called to give and share in the life of God; to share in his ministry, in our Church and community. We have to take part.

4. Collaboration: all the baptized have the right and duty to participate in the life and the mission of the Church. Sharing of our gifts, talents and charisms to enrich the our diocese is essential.

5. Reconciliation: we need to care for one another and to be open to mend our broken relationships in order for us to work in solidarity for the common good of all.

6. Holiness: this calls us to move closer to God. It invites us to enter into the life of God and also share God's own life.

In order to strengthen the above six pillars on which the spirituality of communion is based three principles are vital: prayer, discernment and hope.

**"the  
foundation of the  
spirituality of  
communion is  
our faith in God  
who is  
Trinity"**





**FACILITATOR: BISHOP GILLES COTE SMM OF DARU KIUNGA**

## **PASTORAL ASSEMBLY IN PICTURES**





## COMMUNICATION: COME AND SEE

- Fr. Brian Nonde CMM

From 8th to 12th February 27 representatives from parishes in our Diocese gathered for the seminar in Communication at the St Joseph's Pastoral Centre under theme 'Come and See: Communicating and Connecting with Each Other on our Journey of Faith.' The theme was taken from both Pope Francis' message, 'Come and see' (Jn 1,46): Communicating, encountering people as and where they are', for this year's World Communication Day (Ascension Sunday) and last year's pastoral letter of Bishop Rozario.

The goal of the seminar in Lae was to create as we have hoped for years a team that can collaborate with us in our apostolate of the Radio and communication. 27 participants in total attended the seminar and were commissioned by the Bishop, mandated as it were, to be bearers of the 'Good News' through the different platforms of

media at our disposal. The participants came from all our parishes in the diocese. We that together with them we can verify information at first hand and effectively improve our ability to communicate the truth that we experience. The challenge is that not all participants are able to write or report these experiences, they are not journalists but simply members of our parishes.

On Friday 16th April I was in the Archdiocese of Mt. Hagen at an inter Diocesan Seminary for Philosophical Studies (Good Shepherd Seminary). I went there for a talk on this year's communication message of the Pope.

The open lecture at Good Shepherd Seminary was some form of awareness on the Popes' message for this year. 77 seminarians, excluding the staff and the faithful around the seminary attended. Seminarians looked the following issues in the document of the Holy Father:

•a) The context of message of the Pope which is social distance

due to COVID19 pandemic

•b) Credibility in journalist given the fact that many, especially when under lock down or quarantine depend on their reports.

•c) Truthful and ethical journalism.

This year's message calls us to encounter people face to face for preciseness in news reporting. The Popes document is saying: "In communications, nothing can ever completely replace seeing things in person. News cannot simply be created in newsrooms, in front of a computers and or on phones, we have to "hit the streets", meet people face to face, research stories or verify certain situations before reporting otherwise we will be spreading fake news as Pope wrote in the past.

The Pope is calling for ethical, moral, and truthful journalism, especially that now than ever there are more people who due to COVID19 are literally forced to rely solely on news outlets for information.

# ENTER OF MERCY CELEBRATES NURSES DAY

by Janet Kari

**C**enter of Center of Mercy Clinic in Kamukung is among the few most important health centers in Lae. Reverend Sister Dr Pauline Mpongo CPS, who is the secretary of the Health Services in the Diocese, the Sister in charge of the Center had this to share on International Nurses Day:

"Like the first nurse Florence Nightingale's said, a nurse spends time with people so lets take a day off too and spend time with our nurses so that we can reflect on their work and celebrate them, because they work every day."

Every year on 12th May, nurses and other health workers in the Diocese at a day off work, to celebrate International Day for Nurses. "This year our nurses spent their time in prayer reflecting on the burdens they have gone through during the Covid-19 pandemic." Dr Pauline added.

Dr Pauline also said that nursing is a vocation and it is always important for the nurses including doctors to put God first when serving people. "When God is your number priority then everything flows well but when you start your work without God then your work becomes difficult and in the end you fail to carry on through the day, so God must be number one in the life of a nurse so that they can be able to help the people who have faith in them as nurses," Dr Pauline said.

"Like now, nurses are front liners in the struggle against Covid-19, nurses and other health workers don't stay at home, they go to work putting trust and faith in God that the we will overcome the challenges we are faced with," she said.



Vicar General of the Diocese of Lae, Fr Roland Matoyi CMM, said many health workers including nurses globally are risking their lives to serve others, that's martyrdom, they need time to be encouraged and supported in their work so let us celebrate what they do every day. Fr Matoyi made this statement during Mass on the Nurses Day at the Center of Mercy Health Center in Kamukung.

"Nurses like other health workers sacrifice their lives to be front line workers during this pandemic and even when people are at home they are there at the health facilities working. To be a nurse is to be a missionary and as missionaries you must have faith in God in what you do as it will strengthen your work," he said.

"The 2021 International Nurses Day theme; A voice to lead has a big connection with the health crisis that world is facing right now and nurses, who deal with human life that is creation of God must be supported," Fr Matoyi said.

The celebration started off with spiritual reflection on the work of a nurse, a dedication Mass and was followed by activities of creative dances, poems and fun games. The International Day of Nurses started in 1965 and is celebrated every year on the 12th of May to celebrate the work of the nurses and also commemorate the first nurse Florence Nightingale.



# NURSES DAY IN PICTURES



# INCREASE OF SICK PATIENTS AT CENTER OF MERCY



A scale down of operations at Angau Memorial Hospital in Lae has resulted in a number of health facilities in and around Lae experiencing an increase of sick patients in the past few months. It has raised the number of patients that Catholic health workers have to attend to daily. "Our health facility Center of Mercy Health Center in Kamkumung has seen increase in the transmission of sickness such as Tuberculosis." Sister in charge Sister Dr Pauline Mpongo CPS said.

The increase of sick patients is also as a result of lack of attention to other diseases in the country. "When the staff at Angau Memorial Hospital scaled down their services we had to attend to those patients who could not be attended to at the main hospital in Lae." said Sister Dr. Pauline.

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We are really experiencing the increase and our nurses and staff are overburden. There are 22 staff and since COVID-19 started only a few of us have been tested and vaccinated for COVID-19 but have kept receiving all sorts of patients, we are not sure who has the virus and who doesn't," Dr Pauline said.

"In the past few months the number of patients with respiratory disease have also increased and we are attending to them everyday" she added.

*Dr Pauline said TB is one of the top ten diseases at the health center and for every month more than 20 patients are diagnose with TB.*

*"Last year we had 308 new cases for TB and that excludes those on treatment*

Despite the increase of patients with respiratory diseases and the uncertainties of Covid-19, the staff have committed themselves to

working tirelessly, to serving the sick patients. "Our motto is care and compassion and everyday we start with a prayer that reminds of our motto to take care of the sick. We know that in this situation we are the health workers, are risking our lives for the sake of the patients," Dr Pauline said.

Dr. Pauline is urging the government of Papua New Guinea to supply personnel protective equipment and drugs to both church run or government institutions so that health workers can be protected at work. "Health workers are frontliners and they must be protected because if they get sick from Covid-19 this would mean quarantine resulting in a shortage of health care givers thus it is important that the government address this," Dr Pauline said.

*Written by Janet Kari*

# HOW IS CONFIRMATION RELATED TO PENTECOST?

The Sacrament of Confirmation completes the grace of Baptism by a special outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which seals and confirms the baptized in union with Christ and calls them to greater participation in the worship and apostolic life of the Church. Pentecost is day we commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and followers of Jesus Christ (Acts 2: 1-31). In the Sacrament of Confirmation as on Pentecost we celebrate the Person of the Holy Spirit coming upon believers and giving them gifts and fruits necessary to fulfill the great commission - to go out and preach the Gospel to all nations (Luke 24:46-49)

Confirmation, together with Baptism and Eucharist, form the Sacraments of Initiation that are all intimately connected to Pentecost. These three Sacraments of initiation of which Confirmation is part birth us into the life of the Church, the Church which was born on Pentecost. In the sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized person is "sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit" and is strengthened for service to the Body of Christ.

The prophets of the Old Testament foretold that God's Spirit would rest upon the Messiah to sustain his mission. Their prophecy was fulfilled when Jesus the Messiah was conceived by the Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus on the occasion of his baptism by John.



The same Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles and to the entire Church after his death, when He was raised by the Father in the power of the Spirit.

Those who believed in the Apostles' preaching were baptized and they received the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands. The Apostles baptized believers in water and the Spirit. They imparted the special gift of the Spirit through the laying on of hands. "The imposition of hands is rightly recognized by the Catholic tradition as the origin of the sacrament of Confirmation, which in a certain way perpetuates the grace of Pentecost in the Church" (CCC, no. 1288, citing Pope Paul VI, *Divinae Consortium Naturae*, no. 659). Confirmation and Pentecost have a lot in common, they are both about the anointing and gifts that work in the Church.

## **Ephesians 4: 4-13**

*For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all. However, he has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ. That is why the Scriptures say, "When he ascended to the heights, he led a crowd of captives and gave gifts to his people." Notice that it says "he ascended." This clearly means that Christ also descended to our lowly world. And the same one who descended is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that he might fill the entire universe with himself. Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.*

# BISHOPS VISIT TO PARISHES IN PICTURES



Mary Queen of Peace Parish: Confirmation Mass





**PRIESTS WITH BISHOP AFTER CHRISM MASS: #CATHEDRAL**



**CONFIRMATION MASS AT MARY QUEEN OF PEACE**



**NEW CLASSROOM AT MARY UEEEN OF PEACE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES NEEDED FOR LEARNING TO CONTINUE**

The four weeks school break holiday for school children around the country has raised concerns on the need of effective strategies for continued learning at homes. These concerns were raised by parents, teachers, community leaders and others in Lae Morobe province through interviews by Catholic FM team within the communities. The interviews on the education of children who were home during the lockdown took place on 22nd March.

"Increase of Covid-19 has disrupted classes but it is important that we seek other ways of imparting knowledge to them," A teacher at the International Training Institute Eugenia said. Ms Eugenia said creating a comfortable learning environment is important for children. Parents, guardians and the students themselves must ensure this happens. Guardians and parents must be monitoring.

"Classroom and home are two different things all together, when a teacher gives instruction in a classroom, students take them seriously but at home this may be different. At home children are also bound to be distracted and this takes their mind off things but this does not mean studying should stop," Ms Eugenia said.

"Most of these students are in their teenage stages and it is an exciting stage in life and when they are on holiday their minds are already occupied with many things and they'd like to wander so we need a strategy in place to make learning possible," she added.

Several community leaders said, some children were committed to study and learning during holidays imposed by lockdown, community leaders in the settlement areas said homes were not ideal for their study and learning. Children were noticed playing cards and roaming about, some were caught in antisocial activities.

One of the leaders said many students are also busy on social media, a great concern he said.

Other interviewees said the seriousness of the Covid-19 is also the responsibility of parents, leaders and everyone in the community. So we just have to ensure that we create a good atmosphere for students or children during lockdown to work on their assignment.

"Learning at home can be different and difficult at times but it is also important to weigh out the impacts of how much time is lost if the student fails the exam and and is asked to repeat,"

During lockdown the education authorities in Papua New Guinea made announcements through media that urged teachers to provide lessons to students during the lockdown, some students were given work while others were not and others did bother at all.

# BISHOPS VISIT TO ST. MARTINS IN PICTURES



**CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**





Mary Queen of Peace Parish

St. Martin's Parish





## Lae Diocese Communication Team

Fr. Brian Nonde CMM - Director of Communications Lae Diocese

Schofield Mutum - Radio Announcer

Snyder Williams - Volunteer Content Creator and Music Producer

Janet Kari - Volunteer Journalist

