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"We affirm each other as one people of God on a journey"

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What is affirmation: affirmation if to make people feel good because of their good gifts so they can use them for the purpose for which God has given these gifts to them

We are in the theme of building better communities. Speaking to each other and communicating in a better way can help a lot in understanding each other and accepting each other thus forming a better family, small Christian community, a better church. Because of pride, we tend to praise ourselves and to put others down by criticism... 'spoilem piple, ravish tok tok...' and get upset when people criticize us... More often than not the defects we criticize in others are our very own defects... we have the shortcoming that we blame on to others...what we do not like in others are the defects we ourselves hate in us.

The remedy to this is to speak the truth will love...

- by affirming one another, by pointing out the good points we see in people
- The truth is: Each one is a child of God: made in His image...
- with a special gift from God to be shared with others.
- Lets us put aside the defects and point out the good points in people...
- Let us help people discover these gifts, and instead of being jealous,

- because of their good points, let us praise people for their good gifts...by affirming them
- This will make them feel good, they will discover their best qualities and keep developing them

Why affirm each other?

- o The good qualities we have been given are not for us to take pride in them but they are resources of God in building his body to a position of maturity and strength
- o So praising each other, by pointing out the good gifts we received, it is not simply to make us feel good
- o But to acknowledge the gift of the Spirit, to discover it,
- o to be grateful for it and to be able to respond to it by making it grow
- o These gifts are not ours, but given to us to serve the others on their journey;
- o for community building, for the whole body, we are a part of the whole body...
- o We are all parts of the same engine, if we run well the whole engine will go well and we will reach far... to the point the journey will bring us: a new people, with a deeper faith, committed to serve each other as brothers in Christ

May we affirm each other as members of the same body so we may be healthy and put our gifts in common at the service of the community: one baptism, one body, one spirit in Christ

With my best Blessing for a Holy Easter

Your brother and bishop with a solo heart made in Italy

+ Luciano Capelli, sdb/ Gizo diocese

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Diocese Pastoral Message for the month April

"We affirm each other as one people of God on a journey"



“We promote, live and experience in our lives, the Value of DIALOGUE as a way to live Church as Community with our brothers and sisters and the nature around us.”



Relysdam A Malakana
(Media Coordinator, Diocese of Gizo)

The Diocese message for the month of February is **“Come as you are, listen and live your life fully”**. Message encourage us every people of good will; calling us to come and hear the wonderful messages. Its a demanding message demanding us to open our ears to listen.

Listen is a beautiful gift that each one of us have. Listen allows us to communicate the message that someone is trying to put across. And anybody may become inspired and accept the message.

And the pastoral message also asked us the people of good will to live our life to its fullest.

So the January Diocesan message **“together we listen to each other with love and respect”**,

- and to have life to the fullest one may have the heart of love and have the gift of respect for our brothers and sisters and the nature around us.

This month of March the Diocese pastoral message is **“Speak out the Truth with Love”**.

To live our life totally to the fullest with Christ Jesus we must have the gift to speak out the truth with love.

The monthly Diocesan pastoral messages is a kind of communication communicating us to respond to Gods call.

With the diocesan programs coming up for the next 4 years the church is calling us to communicate each other and live and experience in our lives the value of dialogue as a way to live church as community. We will find beautiful experiences within each one of us the people of good will as we journey together in our renewal programs of activities.

This year we also promote the **Year of Faith**, and in the January NL issue on the front page. our Bishop urges us the people of the Diocese of Gizo to renew our faith as our personal commitment for the year 2013. The Bishop calls us to know the faith better so each one of us can love it more.

PROGRAMS COMING FOR APRIL, MAY & JUNE

THE MONTH OF ARIL

15- 19th—Women’s Personal Development Training
Moli Pastoral Centre

THE MONTH OF MAY

- 6-15th- Youth Encounter Formation (Moli Pastoral Centre)
- 10-14th—Sunday School Teacher’s Catechism Seminar (Moli Pastoral Centre and Gizo)

- 24-28th—Priest Spirituality of Communion Retreat (Vanga Training Centre)

A New Pope a Man from almost "the end of the World"

The cardinals of the our Catholic church chose as their new pope a man from almost "the end of the world" – the first non-European to be elected for almost 1,300 years and the first-ever member of the Jesuit order.

The new pope appeared on the balcony over the entrance to St Peter's basilica, dressed in his new white robes as he looked out at the sea of jubilant humanity in the square.



The former Cardinal Bergoglio was not among the front-runners. But he obtained more votes than any other candidate except former pope Benedict in the 2005 conclave, and – although his election came as a surprise – he was certainly not a rank outsider. Bergoglio has a reputation for both political canniness and reforming drive. Among the tests facing the 76-year-old will be the awesome managerial demands of the job.

Jorge Mario Bergoglio, the archbishop of Buenos Aires, becomes Pope Francis – the first pontiff to take that name – an early indication perhaps of a reign he hopes will be marked by inspirational preaching and evangelization.

Newly elected popes are taken to be robed in the Room of Tears, its name an indication of the reluctance with which most approach the task. The last holder of the office, Benedict XVI, introduced a change in the ritual that allows the new pope to pray before he is announced to the world.

Priesthood and Birthday Anniversary for this Month

<p>Birthday Anniversary</p>  <p>10th of this Month. (1955). Fr. Stephen Kamao OP. You turn another year today. May God richly Bless You.</p>	<p>Priesthood Anniversary</p>  <p>18th of this Month. (2009). Fr. Stanis Myint</p>  <p>And 19th of this Month. (2010). Fr. Robert K. Thu.</p> <p>May our Good Lord continue to Bless your Days.</p>
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Happenings in our Parishes

REFLECTION, DIOCESE PASTORAL PLAN 2013

Diocese Pastoral Plan is a special gift to all people of the goodwill in our Diocese, the Choiseul and the Western Province. The Plan is focusing on the growth and the development of our people, and in all aspect according with our Christian Principles and values.

While reflecting on the 4 years plan 2013–2016, I wish to contribute explaining the impact of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan to all the people in our Diocese.

Each year we received programs from the DPTA based on values for each year, distributed to our parishes for implementation.

I believe the heart of the Pastoral plan is to have a special care for life especial the program to help build the families. To live life to it fullest. And this life is the most precious gift to all married couples and single mothers who have the duty to nurse, shape and discipline their children.

Yes, this is the most important role of the Family Life Apostolate (FLA) workers in our diocese. FLA programs is aimed to educate all couples and reminds them of their duty by taking special care for life. Also the program helps preparing the youths towards marriage.

Mum and Dad's program helps to educate the mother and father and reminds them of their duties as co-creator of life. It also helps mothers and fathers of their responsibilities on how to look after their family and all their related family issues that affect the family.

Other pastoral services programs also support the wellbeing of the family and helps shape and discipline their children. Also prepare their children to face challenges that affect our youths today. Their message gives inspiration and strengthen the family to value the importance of life that God gave them.

I therefore encourage the people of God in our Diocese to value the importance of the pastoral plan 2013–2016.

Participate and commit ourselves to these programs is the important thing to do in response to this plan. Only then, will we achieve it's aims and goals.

Thomas Davekana
(St. Dominic Parish, Sirovanga)



The world is as many times new as there are children in our lives.

~unknown Author

—NEWS IN BITS—

PM Join Cathedral to Celebrate Eucharistic Mass.

Prime Minister Gordon Darcy Lilo joined St. Peter's community to celebrate Eucharistic Mass this Sunday 17th of March.



The prime minister was warmly welcomed by the St. Peter parish community, and with his delegation they visited the St. Peter's Urban Training Centre.

This is one of the Joyful celebration for the community as they are rejoice over a new world leader, a Jesuit trained person with a Franciscan heart and a Salesian spiritual of joy and optimism.

Wagina Children, soon to have Classes, New Kindergarten Building.

Wagina children will soon have their classes in their new kindergarten school building. This is a result of a commitment made between the 2 over sea missionaries from Burma, Fr. Stanis Myint and Br. Juvitar, its committee and the community.

"Consultations is very tough though we manage to come this far and the community is doing its best as is seen with the progress

of the project, and we believe we will finished it next month or the following", said Br. Juvitar.

Thanks also to the Bishop's continuous support along with community members who live in Honiara.



The school is likely to accommodate up to 100 children.

Vanga Rural Training Center Prepare for Easter.

"It is a usual thing to prepare the students to celebrate Easter for Vanga Rural Training Centre, and this year with majority of Catholic teachers teaching at the centre we believe we will have a beautiful celebration", said one of the staff, JAH'n Pitubatu.



Every year we have celebrations but this year, and with other students from other denominations, we are involving them to take part and many seems interested.

Especially our Catholic Hymns which brings them together to sing together along with our traditional music, the pin pipe.



EDUCATION 4 LIFE

FOR AN EDUCATION TO VALUES AGAINST HIV/AIDS

GROWING UP

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Cont' from Feb issue

BAD EFFECTS OF HAVING SEX BEFORE MARRIAGE

A Reverend Sister who had worked in a maternity clinic for a long time said that at least half the women who come to consult her for barrenness, find it hard to conceive a child because of diseases caught from casual sex before marriage.

DANGER FOR CHILDREN BEFORE THEY ARE BORN

- It is well known that the parents state of health has an effect on a child before it is born. An alcoholic father or a mother with HIV can bring an already unhealthy child into the world.
- It is out of love for their future children that boys and girls should avoid any risk of damaging their health and also that of the children that may later be born to them. Children can and should be loved by their parents even before they have been conceived.

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CHASTITY

■ **CHASTITY** is a virtue by which a person masters all his sexual drives. It can be lived:

*1.-As a virgin: when somebody makes a free choice of this way of life as a complete giving of self for the service of others.

*2.-Unmarried: Someone who is still single and lives a normal life, while controlling sexual urges and preparing for a marriage based on true love.

*3.-In Marriage: Where husband and wife's sexual relationship is a complete loving giving of self to one other in body, mind and heart

(Many people think that chastity is only for Religious, those who have made the vow of chastity. Although it is not easy, chastity ought to be the way young people live as a preparation for marriage.)

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