



Bishop Monthly Message



MONTH OF OCTOBER

RE: DIOCESAN LAUNCHING OF THE JOURNEY FOR THE SYNOD OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH ON SOLIDARITY TO BE HELD IN OCTOBER 2023

Dear Parish priests, religious and all faithful people of the Gizo Diocese,

Greetings and blessings. I am happy to be finally able to be back with you in communion of service to the Diocese.

On October 10, at St Peter's Basilica, the Holy Father, Pope Francis, has formally launched the work of the Bishop's synod on SYNODALITY, for the Universal Church, to be held in Rome in October 2023. All dioceses are called to participate in the preparation of this SYNOD = a technical word which means journeying together. The diocesan synods will give all the reflections and suggestions to the universal church synod. **Synodality is the key word, the strategy to communion, participation and mission.** We do this by listening to each other as we go through life, together, listening to the Spirit so as to be able to discern His will for us here and now. It is all about journeying, listening to each other & God

Our diocese is at the end of a renewal stage with the establishment of the SCC (Small Christian Communities) where we are focusing on becoming a listening community, discerning God's will in the area we live, so as to be able to respond in a Gospel way to the many challenges of life. Very timely, the next step of our renewal will be a diocesan 'assembly' a diocesan Synod.

I make use of this letter for the formal launching of the Diocesan participation in the Synod on Synodality of the universal Church. I ask all parish priests to circulate the news and create an atmosphere of commitment to the journey in COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION, by following the steps to be prepared and approved in the priests meeting of December 13-17, 2021

Regards and prayerful wishes for a holy season

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Summary of Pope's message for

Mission Sunday (24 Oct 2021) and Mission Month

(Oct 2021):



Theme: "We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20)

Once we experience the power of God's love, and recognize his fatherly presence in our personal and community life, we cannot help but proclaim and share what we have seen and heard. Everything about Christ reminds us that he knows well our world and its need for redemption, and calls us to become actively engaged in this mission.

The Experience of the Apostles and the first Christians: The Apostles experienced the Lord's friendship, watching him cure the sick, dine with sinners, feed the hungry, draw near to the outcast, touch the unclean, identify with the needy, propose the Beatitudes and teach in a new and authoritative way, left an indelible mark on them, awakening amazement, expansive joy and a profound sense of gratitude. This experience inspires us to share a wonderful and hope-filled message: "We have found the Messiah" (Jn 1:41). To be 'in a state of mission' is a reflection of gratitude" (Message to the Pontifical Mission Societies, 21 May 2020).

The first Christians turned their problems, conflicts and difficulties into opportunities for mission. Our own times are not easy. Like the Apostles and the first Christians, we

too can say with complete conviction: "We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). In these days of pandemic, there is urgent need for the mission of compassion, which can make that necessary distancing an opportunity for encounter, care and promotion. "What we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20), the mercy we have experienced, can thus become a point of reference and a source of credibility, enabling us to recover a shared passion for building "a community of belonging and solidarity worthy of our time, our energy and our resources (Fratelli Tutti, 36).

An invitation to each of us: The theme of this year's World Mission Sunday and Mission Month – "We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20), is a summons to each of us to "own" and to bring to others what we bear in our hearts. Because "the Church exists to evangelize" (SAINT PAUL VI, Evangelii Nuntiandi, 14).

On World Mission Day, which we celebrate each year on the penultimate Sunday of October, we recall with gratitude all those men and women who by their testimony of life are joyful apostles of the Gospel. Let us remember especially all those who resolutely set out, leaving home and family behind, to bring the Gospel to all those places and people athirst for its saving message.

Contemplating their missionary witness, we are inspired to be courageous ourselves and to beg "the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest" (Lk 10:2). Today especially in these times of pandemic, it is important to grow in our daily ability to widen our circle, to reach out to others who, albeit physically close to us, are not immediately part of our "circle of interests" (cf. Fratelli Tutti, 97). To be on mission is to be willing to think as Christ does, to believe with him that those around us are also my brothers and sisters. May his compassionate love touch our hearts and make us all true missionary disciples.

May Mary, the first missionary disciple, increase in all the baptized the desire to be salt and light in our lands (cf. Mt 5:13-14).

----- Pope
Francis -----

C N C

Catholic News collections

POPE: WELCOME JESUS AS THE BREAD OF NEW LIFE

Pope Francis calls on us during the Angelus in Saint Peter's Square to be not only concerned about our material needs, but above all to seek and deepen our relationship with God.

Greeting the faithful in Saint Peter's Square on Monday 1st August 2021, the Holy Father offered reflections on the day's Gospel reading which speaks about the crowds following Jesus, after they had witnessed the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves. However, the crowds did not grasp the meaning of what Jesus had done and appeared to be more concerned more about having their fill of material bread.

This same thinking applies also to our human and social relationships, the Pope added, saying we need to be aware when we risk using others for our own interests. In society we need to keep people at the centre of our concern rather than simply interests, he stressed.

The Holy Father stressed the need to "welcome Jesus as the bread of life and, starting out from our friendship with Him, learn to love each other" freely and abundantly.

POPE AT ANGELUS: SHARE AND GOD WILL MULTIPLY YOUR GIFTS

Pope Francis explains the "logic of smallness and giving" and how the Lord calls each one of us to give generously to help our brothers and sisters. Giving and sharing "increases love and allows God to perform wonders".

Speaking to pilgrims gathered in Saint Peter's Square for the Sunday Angelus of 25th July 2021, Pope Francis reflected on the Gospel about the multiplication of the loaves and fish with which Jesus feeds around five thousand people.

The Pope observed how the young child gave all that he had and how it seemed so little with respect to the needs of the moment. But thanks to that small, freely-given and even heroic gift, "Jesus is able to feed everyone".

He said faced with scandals such as these, the Lord calls on us to "Be brave, give what little you have, your talents, your possessions, make them available to Jesus and to your brothers and sisters...if you share, God will multiply."

FMA DREAM BIG FOR THE LADIES

'Dream Big for the ladies' was the encouragement of Sr. Mabel Pilar, FMA (former Provincial Superior) and Sr. Teresita Padron, FMA, the present Provincial, to the sisters in Papua New Guinea. Over the years the Sisters have been dreaming and planning to put up their own Technical school.

Hon. Justin Tkatchenko, Member of Parliament for Moresby South and Hon. Powes Parkop, Member of Parliament and Governor of the National Capital District willingly agreed to help with K270,000 (Euro 65,355). The rest of the local contribution will be sought from other willing benefactors.

Sr. Juliet in her opening speech, thanked the Hon. Justin Tkatchenko and Governor Hon. Powes Parkop for their support to this dream of a new TVET & FODE CENTER.

Fr. Gregorio Bicomong, SDB, Provincial Superior rendered commendation to very positive FMA efforts to begin the institution next year 2022 for the young women who are marginalized and those who are at risk.

Representing the lady-residents of MOH, Adelaide Abkosa year 3 taking up Bachelor in Electrical Technology expressed her sincerest gratitude for extending help to MHCTI that will give advantage to more young people especially the women.

OCTOBER MONTH OF THE ROSARY



Rellysdom A Malakana
Catholic Media Office Gizo

In December 2019 a new coronavirus was identified in China causing severe respiratory disease including pneumonia.

At first, the virus causing the infection has been named - severe acute

respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The disease caused as a result of infection is named - Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). COVID-19 has been categorized as an airborne High Consequence of Infections Disease.

There are vaccinations available. As a viral infection, antibiotics are not an effective treatment but might be effective for other complication diseases (Like Pneumonia).

Since our country started to immunise our nation also faces challenges;

- Many did not or refrain accepting immunization; from their Religious reasons.
- Some from their health status or they don't want to.
- Others from their own scientific knowledge about DNA.

The above following has challenged our government to come up with the "No Jab no Work" policy. This led the Premier of the Western Provincial Government that soon will require only vaccinated market vendors to use the Gizo main market to sell their produce and other food

products. Both moves come while our nation prepares for the reopening of our borders.

Now there are 5 factors that driving Covid19 transmission says Doctors from the WHO.

1. Delta variant with increase transmissibility— which will result in increased numbers of hospitalizations, increase number of people dying, That could put burden on the healthy care system.
2. Vaccine Inequity— The World Health Organization do not have equitable distribution of vaccine worldwide
3. Social Mixing— We have increase social mixing and social mobility. The more contact we have means the more potential exposure.
4. Inconsistent use of public health & social measure—Mask wearing, hand hygiene, physical distances, good ventilation .
5. Misinformation— The amount of misinformation out there seems to be getting worst. That really confusing the public.

Pope Francis has joined his voice to those of Bishops across the world urging people to get jabbed against Covid-19. "Thanks to God's grace and to the work of many, we now have vaccines to protect us from Covid-19,"

He added that vaccines "bring hope to end the pandemic". Pope Francis went on to say that getting a Covid jab that is "authorized by the respective authorities" is an "act of love."

So let us love one another and get immunized to protect our Churches, communities, families and ourselves.

“Forming and building Small Christian Community (SCC) would not only give a new taste but as well as give a new experience to Christian living.....”

This was the highlighted message from the diocesan pastoral coordinator Mr. Jerome Kuibatu during his report on the SCC leaders training held on September 24th – 26th, Sirovanga.

16 participants were trained as leaders purposely to equip them to know and understand their roles and responsibilities.

In addition, a total of 30 plus SCC leaders from Moli and Gizo, now established and implement their SCC activities. The diocesan pastoral coordinator (DPC) urged other parishes to come up with their program (SCC) for their communities.

“To any SCC groups, these three leaders are very important in the new structure that we want to form in our diocese”.

The DPC Mr. Jerome Kuibatu referring his message to the three important people who will be taking up responsibilities as reporters, animators, and facilitators.

During the pilgrimage of the Diamond Jubilee Paschal Candle and the Cross our bishop, stated very clear that one prioritized area which our diocese is looking at is the building of SCC in our parishes. And this is an effort the Church is looking at.

The pastoral office is urging other parishes to take up efforts to carry out their SCC program.

The Diocesan Pastoral Team also thanked pastoral teams in other parishes George, Moses, and other priests who assisted and facilitated the SCC program.

THE CHURCH APPRECIATE THE MONTH OF ROSARY IN PARISHES

The month of October, each year is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary.

... It was instituted to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. The praying of the Rosary by the faithful is an expression of gratitude for the protection that Mother Mary offered.

The Church has appreciated the pilgrimages of the Statue of Mother Mary around the parishes, the perfect time for us to reflect upon the meaning of the Rosary and its significance in our faith and relationship with Christ through Mary.



St. Joseph Moli Parish



St. Peter Gizo Parish

St Peter Parish Gizo Celebrates Fr. Benedict Qelos 1st Anniversary

A plan Priesthood Anniversary for invited friends only for Fr. Benedict Qelo was turn out to be; for the all parishioners here at St. Peters parish Gizo on Sunday 17 October.

For Fr. Qelo, though he cannot make his anniversary with his family members and relatives at home he has extended their appreciation to parishioners throughout the diocese and the bishop for prayers



A beautiful celebration, which commemorated Fr. Benedict Qelo's first Anniversary as priesthood, brought more happiness and appreciation from friends, relatives, and Religious. It started from the beginning with planning, preparations, and the Thanksgiving Mass celebration.

During the Mass celebration, Fr. Qelo gave his beautiful Homily, along with beautiful liturgy from the St. Peters youths, and an inspired offertory from Lauru group.

The Thanksgiving celebration also assisted by Fr. Dominic Soloko, Fr. Steven Tee and Fr. Henry Poroi OP.

and other supports.

Also encouraging speeches from the Religious groups who affirm their brother (In Christ) for the journey he took up through his first year as a priest.

The Anniversary celebration will be a source of Strength, Joy, and courage for Fr. Benedict Qelo with his theme "I AM YOUR SERVANT"

The anniversary celebration was ended successfully with food for everyone and entertainment from the parishioners.

SOUTHERN DEANERY NEWS IN BITS

2021 YE Weekend Program Complete at Noro Catholic Parish.

This year Youth Encounters (YE) Seminar for the Catholic youths in the Diocese of Gizo has finally come to its completion last weekend 10 October.



The year program commenced in July with the facilitators training at Noro and then the YE seminars, which took up 5 weekends commenced in August and to October.

About 160 youths from the five parishes, (Voruvoru, Taro, Moli, Gizo, and Noro) were direct benefited, living out three parishes, (Shortland, Sirovanga, and Wagina) which postponed to next year.

The Diocesan youth office is continuing to involve youths to take up YE, as the program involves the youths to encounter themselves with others and Christ. It also involves them to uplift their esteem

and dares to speak out.

During day 1 sessions many youths cannot have the courage to speak out in front of other youth participants, and they were very shy. However, towards the end of the seminar, their presentations and discussions came alive.

The program also has feedbacks from parents and key people in the communities saying that such a program is an information that benefited their children, and the key feature was to help them during their struggle to say no to sin. Others said that the help could be involving them in activities such as startups for small income-generating projects for youth clubs, or improving their ongoing sports activities.



Many also thanked the bishop of the Diocese of Gizo for the program who continue working with the benefactors from overseas.

The YE program for the year was coordinate and facilitated by Colody Kalemama from the youth office Gizo, and with assistance from other parish priests, the Media office, and the pastoral team.

ST EUSEBIUS PARISH NEWS IN BITS CONTINUE

Mothers group Canaan Noro Continue to maintain timetable.

Mothers group from Canaan community Noro parish continues implementing some of their yearly activities.



Some of the areas they are looking at are their ecumenical programs and their budgets. They also have the privilege to question the Catholic media staff while giving awareness after the Sunday Eucharistic celebration.

One of the highlighted questions is why they are losing the Dominican Sisters in their community.

Dominican Sisters house Canaan rot away



They said that since their establishment their at Canaan a lot has been improved with their teaching and development in their community. Their absence could be more of their wantoks (Gilbertese) were died or some other reasons.

Main while, the mothers appreciated their youths who now continue to benefit from awareness and Catechism programs from their priests after Eucharistic Mass celebrations.

