



## NOVEMBER 2021



### **Pastoral Letter of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands 2022:**

" You are the salt of the earth, but (salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. " (Mt 5:13-16)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In these verses, Jesus presents three metaphors (salt, light, city) that remind his disciples that they do not exist just for themselves but have a mission in the world. They and we follow them, cannot afford to fail in this mission. The work that we are called to do in the world is not for our own glory but for the glory of God.

For the past three years, we have been reflecting on the role of the laity in the church. We spent a year (2019) considering how laypeople become holy in the time and place and situation in which they find themselves. Then we spent a year (2020) reflecting on the kind of formation that our laypeople need in order to take up their proper place in the church and the world. Then in 2021, we reflected on the ways in which lay people are called to service in many different ways. Although the Covid pandemic prevented us from doing all that we had hoped for, many positive steps were taken and much was achieved.

IN 2022 we will begin a new phase of our Conference Pastoral Plan and also take part in the process for the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops (2023), with the theme, For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission. We, therefore, invite all our Catholic people to work together to achieve the goals of planning: the evangelization of the world especially through witnessing to the value of communion, i.e. "to know how to "make room "for our brothers and sisters, bearing "each other's burdens" (Gal 6: 2) and resisting the selfish temptations which constantly beset us and provoke competition, careerism, distrust and jealousy "(Pope John Paul II, *Novo Millennio Ineunte* 43).

We propose to reflect in 2022 on the communion and participation of clergy and laity in the mission of bringing the gospel to the world. Our Catechism for PINGSI states:

We are the universal Catholic Church rooted in the Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands context, struggling still to discover and manifest the face of Jesus. We are the communion of bishops, priests, religious, and laity living and working together in the one body of Christ (Rom 12:4-6; I Cor 12:27). Without the particular contribution of each one of us according to the gifts given to us, the Body of Christ is weakened (Eph 4:15-16). We are Church, not just "members " of the Church. We all have a unique part to play in the Body of Christ. We are "Alive in Christ " (Rom 5:21; I Cor 15:22) when we take part fully in the life of his body (CBC, The General Assembly). (Catechism, 311)

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*From front page; Pastoral Letter of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands 2022:*

The primary mission of clergy is evangelization through preaching and the celebration of the sacraments, collaborating with and empowering the laity for their specific mission, which is to bring the gospel to the family, community, society, workplace, political and economic life, and build the Kingdom of God. We work together to bring about integral salvation, and most especially, to save souls and enable all to obtain eternal life (Jn 3:16). We work together to enable this world to reflect already the life of the Kingdom, always aware that it will be incomplete and entail suffering (Rom 8:22-27). We work together to build a civilization of love.

Since its beginnings in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, the Catholic Church has contributed to the betterment of society by shedding the light of the Good News of Jesus Christ on destructive cultural practices (sorcery, polygamy, warfare, and the suppression of women), by promoting positive cultural practices, and by providing social, educational and health services to all without discrimination.

The Catholic Church has also taken a clear and public stand on more modern destructive trends, all belonging to what Pope Saint John Paul II once termed the "culture of death": corruption, bribery, the death penalty, abortion, and Sorcery Accusation Related Violence.

This culture is actively fostered by powerful cultural, economic, and political currents, which encourage an idea of society excessively concerned with efficiency. Looking at the situation from this point of view, it is possible to speak in a certain sense of a war of the powerful/ against the weak: a life, which would require greater acceptance, love, and care is considered useless, or held to be an intolerable burden, and is therefore rejected in one way or another. A person who, because of illness, handicap or, more simply, just by existing, compromises the we//-being or lifestyle of those who are more favored tends to be looked upon as an enemy to be resisted or eliminated. In this way, a kind of "conspiracy against life" is unleashed. This conspiracy involves not on/y individuals in their personal family or group relationships, but goes far beyond, to the point of damaging and distorting, at the international level, relations between peoples and States. (Evangelium Vitae, 1995, 12)

In promoting a culture of life and addressing the social ills of our time, we draw on the great wealth of the Catholic Church's social teaching, based as it is on the dignity of the human person, the common good, the universal destination of created goods, care for God's creation, subsidiarity, community and participation, solidarity, peace and reconciliation, the preferential option for the poor, and the fundamental values of social life—truth, freedom, and justice. (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 2004)

In recent times we have attempted to provide the best possible advice on what the Gospel has to say about the refugee crisis, the current pandemic, Sorcery Accusation Related Violence, the move to changing the Constitution to declare PING a confessional state, and how the Christian should respond to these challenges using these principles.

Our Church's social teaching has a lot to teach us about political life. Over the years we have provided advice on how a Christian ought to take part in elections, and how they might provide political and other leadership to the nation: We value democracy and human rights greatly and appeal as always to all people in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands to participate in elections (PNG 2022 and Solomon's 2023) honestly and respectfully. We note that in fact there has been little progress on the key issues of tackling corruption, establishing a common role, and taking steps to strengthen the possibility of a free and fair election. In the face of little institutional support for these values, it will be up to the individual to do his or her best to take part in the elections as a Christian, evaluating candidates on the basis of gospel values and exercising their right to vote in freedom while respecting the freedom of others.

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The Church's social teaching also has a lot to teach us about economic life. We value the dignity of human life, labor, and full employment. We promote a just wage, i.e. a fair day's pay for a fair day's work, and the right of workers to organize themselves. Those involved in fast money schemes, the "easy money" attitude, "claim culture", serial compensation demands, and loan sharks, rather than committing to hard work, do great harm to society. On the other hand, those providing employment, decent housing, water, sanitation, electricity, and otherwise strengthening economic life, offer legitimate forms of service to society.

Economic activity and material progress must be placed at the service of man and society. If people dedicate themselves to these with the faith, hope, and love of Christ's disciples, even the economy and progress can be transformed into places of salvation and sanctification. (Compendium 326)

In recent times we have tried to address another important issue of the age: climate change. Pope Francis, following principles laid down by his immediate predecessors, has taken a lead in responding to this issue, especially in his Encyclical *Laudato Si'* which calls for an integral ecology that recognizes the close connection between work for the environment and the option for the poor.

"[Pope Benedict] observed that the world cannot be analyzed by isolating on/y one of its aspects, since "the book of nature is one and indivisible", and includes the environment, life, sexuality, the family, social relations, and so forth. It follows that "the deterioration of nature is dose/y connected to the culture which shapes human coexistence". (*Laudato Si'* 6; *Caritas in Veritate* 687)

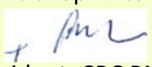
In 2022 we urge our priests and laypeople to work together to make the political, economic, and social life of our two countries reflect more fully the life of the Kingdom of God. To this end, we invite all our Catholic people to:

1. Request your Diocesan Caritas Coordinator to provide some training on the social teaching of the Catholic Church and apply it to the real life situation in which you find yourselves.
2. Dialogue with leaders to let them know that you expect them to conform to Christian principles in their personal and public life.
3. Plan some action (cleanups, tree planting, etc.) for the protection and care of the environment and for the care of the poor in your community and parish.
4. Undertake some activity in your community to promote law and order, such as defending the rights of innocent women and young people, and protecting them from any unjust treatment by courts or police.
5. Make use of traditional and modern means of conflict resolution and mediation to deal with land and other disputes, taking a public stand against any form of violent self-help.
6. Work to promote free and fair elections and take an active part in them with a commitment to electing leaders whose governance will be informed by gospel values.
7. In your own life, do nothing to promote or encourage any forms of corruption, greed or violence.
8. Study the Bible to understand and appreciate the values of the Ten Commandments, love of God the Creator, and our fellow human beings.

Your bishops want to encourage you—priests, religious, and lay people—to work together with us to bring the gospel more fully into the political, economic, and social life of our two countries. May the light of our faith shine before others so that they may see our good works and give glory to our Father in heaven.

On behalf of the bishops of PNGSI

Archbishop Anton Bal

  
President, CBC PNGSI

21 September 2021

# OUR PRE-SEMINARIANS



## PRE - SEMINARIANS OF THE DIOCESE OF GIZO 2021



**Raphael. Kaleava. Voruvoru, Christ the King Yr II NAC**

It is my 2 year in NAC (Nazareth Apostolic Center) and there we were shaped in areas such as academic, spiritual and physical. On the academic side of the formation I learn new things. The academic formation help gain my confidence. I have to say that I am a slow learner but I

see myself gradually moving on into a better learner.

A spiritual formation as daily prayer, recollections, and meditations have enabled me to experience reality or make it clear to understand my faith. I experience the work of God in my life. I come to love praying and I dedicate my time in building my relationship with God. My challenge in the spiritual formation is waking up in the morning at around 5:30 am because it is a good time to sleep, yet we face it, we have to wake up. Another challenge is leading prayer when it comes to your turn, it is challenging.

Physical work at NAC is a total new thing for me, its tough. We have to be on time the time own us, I never felt this at home. There is no man or woman job, everyone shares the work together ranging from gardening, pardok, cocoa, weeding washing the dishes and cooking. I hate weeding but I have to do it with a sincere heart, and as time go by I slowly adopt into the work at NAC.

There is also a time given for sports, so we play volleyball, soccer and we do running. In all I enjoyed the

**Junior. Kolekana Moli, St Joseph Yr I NAC**



In all NAC is a beautiful formation center, it changes my life. Academic is good, I learn computing with other things. I find that my main challenge is to speak in

front of the people. But since we practice morning speech it helps me gain little confidence speaking in front of people. At home I don't pray often, NAC have changed me into a prayerful person because every day we pray. I experience that work is tough yet I work. It helps me see that we must work, in other words work is part of our life. One of my challenge at NAC is to wake up every morning. I was assigned to take care of water in the first semester. In the second semester I was assigned as a timekeeper. It demands waking up on time.

# GIZO PRE-SEMINARIANS

## **Kelly. Micheal. Moli, St Joseph Yr II NAC**

After my secondary education, I spend 7 years away outside of formal education. Entering NAC, personally is a new beginning for me. I question myself whether this is a right place for me. I often share with my trusted formator about that and as time passes by, I see that NAC is a beautiful place to be. I would say that NAC is a step-by-step formation center, shaping us from one stage to another in a gradual process. The 2 hours working session is challenging but we must take up the challenge. English is not our first language and it is challenging when formators pronounce the one word differently. It confused us even more.

In all I would like to conclude that, we need assistance in every areas. At times people talk about us, I don't like others to do that to me in this formation, I prefer to be approached and be



## **Caephas. Derecolo. Nila Parish, Yr I NAC**

Before attending NAC I involve in a lot of social activities outside the church. I see my life mess up not in good management. NAC have formed me and taught me how to manage my life. At NAC I pray, I appreciate the things corrected in me and it bring a lot of difference in my life. Academic is good, I have attended SINU and USP. NAC is much different it forms me in every areas of life, so to say that life become stable or sensible at NAC. Formators have shown explicit concern for learners, they were very helpful. I am shy, but the formation there has enabled me to relate well with others and to talk freely with one another. I don't use to pray regularly but there I adopt into a new prayer life. I was enriched with the knowledge of catechism. The



changed I noticed most is that now I know the outline of the liturgy from the entrance till the recessional. I know more learnings will come.

Working together is what I enjoyed most at NAC.

I understand that people keep an eye on us, what I Need is words of encouragements. It is

better to approach me whenever I go wrong.

## **Mason. Vana. Moli, St Joseph Yr I NAC**



My main challenge in academic formation is English, it is not my mother tongue. I enjoyed working from 2pm – 4pm and on Wednesdays it's a half day work that commence from 8am – 11:55am. Work there have thought me the

importance of community living together as brothers. The presence of catechist at work have supported the fact that community work is important. At the back of my mind prayer is already an important part of my life. Preparing the church morning and evening is a great support to my prayer life. The main challenge that I must put more attention into it is openness to talk and dialogue with the formators especially with my academic problems.

**merry christmas everyone!!!**

## SOUTHERN DEANERY NEWS IN BITS

### St. Peters Cathedral Youths Gizo Complete their 2021 Year Program.

About 40 youths from the St. Peters Cathedral Gizo have completed their youth camp at Nusa Bosco primary school on Gizo Island, purposely to mark their end-year programs.



The weekend youth camp commenced on the 26th to 28th November was described as a successful program as more learned a lot from various speakers. Through the discussions, the youths are been motivated and have the ability to contribute, share, and plan.

One of the speakers, a diocesan pastoral coordinator Jerome Quibatu referred to his presentation on Pope Francis Encyclical message for the youths "Christus Vivit", basing his message on chapters especially on the vocation. He reminds them that Christ traveling in Galilee 2000 years ago calling people to follow him. He challenged the youths that the same Jesus is calling them to follow him.

His reflections on Pope's message were very challenging for these youths as most of them became aware of this current situation in Honiara. He said the pope's message is asking them to keep the light burning in their hearts and urging them to reject Satan.

He also reminds them that their bishop, Bishop Capelli, and other Religious Sisters and Brothers are always with them in prayers and other supports to keep them close to Christ.

During the closing on Sunday 28; the church is celebrating the 1st Sunday of advent. Fr. Steven Terry OP gave his beautiful and challenging Homily saying that the

church is now in a session of awaiting Christ's birth preparing us to renew our life.

He said that it is another opportunity, together with youths and our church to reject Satan's empty promises and all of his actions. He said that only praying would straighten us to avoid us from sins, and said that prayers would keep us awake so we may read signs of times and await Christ's second coming.

Fr. Steven Kerry said that despite what the nation has experienced today, the burning of properties in Honiara is an action of Satan, and he urged the youths to turn away from such behavior.

During the closing, one of the Religious Sister Sr, Regina sdb remind the youths that they are heroes and urges them to stay close to Christ. She said that without Jesus Christ they are zero.

The end-year youth Camp was organized by the Religious Sisters from Salesians, St. Peters Cathedral youth coordinator, and the Catholic Diocese of Gizo youth coordinator.

The program ended with a secret friend presentation in the late afternoon.

### St. Peters Sunday School Weekend Rally

12th to 14th November was one excited Rally for the Sunday school children of the St. Peters Catholic parish Gizo.

A weekend Rally that benefit the children, allows them to develop their self-confidence, independence, and self-esteem.

The Rally commenced on Friday 12 November in the evening where about 70 children turned up to participate.

On day 2 Thanksgiving Mass was celebrated followed by an orientation activity, and groups and their leaders formed for the indoor and outdoor activities for the 3 days.

During daybreak, children awaken by the sound of the bell for washing, and then to a small pray to begin the Zumba dancing exercises along with the sound of the music to waken them and prepare them for the day activities. Highlights were speakers from each group who based their talks on the theme;

**ST PETERS PARISH NEWS IN BITS CONTINUE**



“Come my children, listen to me, I will teach you to honor the Lord” which is the quotation from Psalm 34:11.

The parish priest Fr. Lawrence Kimaere also urged parents to help their children be close to the church and asked the children to pray always.

The second-day program was a physical activity where they were escorted to the JFK stadium for games, and during the night was a king and queen show competition.

And on Sunday they celebrated their Thanksgiving Mass on the island where parents and guidance accompanied them.

Coordinating the Rally are the Religious Sister from the Salesians, also assisted by Sunday school teachers and the Seminarians.

The program ended successful at 5 pm late afternoon.

**2 Year Old Primary School Give Birth to 20 Graduate Students.**

One might say a premature birth for the 2-year-old Primary school at Nusabaruku, but for the emergency education for the isolated ones, the school gave birth to 20 students here in Nusa Bosco Primary school Gizo last Friday 3rd December.



The graduation commenced with the Thanksgiving Mass where the Kindergarten, PPY, and the Primary schools joyously came to attend, mostly mothers who came to witness the closing for the academic year.

During the Mass the Bishop thank God for the gift of the beautiful schools for the community of Nusabaruku.

During his homily, Bishop Capelli said to these students that they should be proud of their school, and let other secondary schools know that they are from Nusa Bosco School.

In his homily message, he also appreciated the mothers for their efforts to be close to their children. But he strongly challenged the father their absence during this 1st graduation and in other school activities.

He continues to remind the parents that these children need education but not just raising and feeding them like animals. He reminds them that the children are from their communities, which include what denominations, and he said they must proud of them and the school.

The bishop said that what background they are from, when it comes to education they are one, and he reminds them that good education, good teacher, a good church can build good new Solomon Island.

During the speeches, and on behalf of the school principal, the deputy principal Sr. Adeline thanked the bishop, teachers, the school committee, and the communities who help support the school with their dedicated services.

She also said that the school offered various opportunities to improve the children's skills and talents, and had 3 clubs, dancing, singing, and art club.

She said that with their constant effort they have achieved the discipline and good attendance of their children in the school.

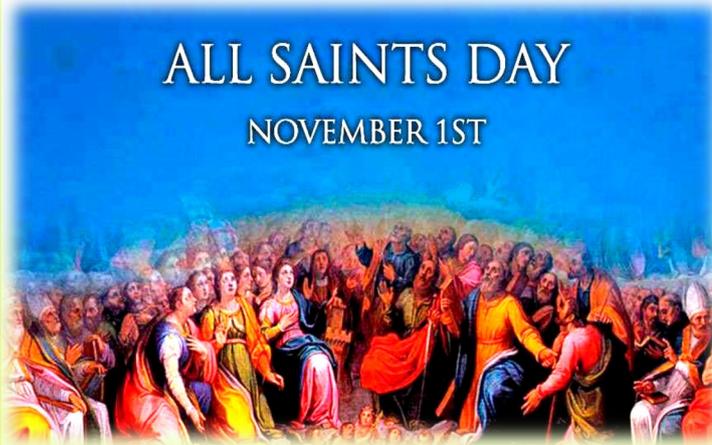
She said despite some of the challenges they face, they thanked God the Almighty for guiding and leading them during this year 2021.

Speeches are also from the school board who thanked the bishop for his dedication and continues support to the school. They also thanked the committee and the community for their fundraising efforts till the closing.

After the speeches, everyone has refreshments and ice cream.

The closing end went successfully at mid-afternoon.

## MONTH OF NOVEMBER FEASTS



Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. ... All Souls' Day follows All Saints Day on 2 November and is also known as the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed and the Day of the Dead. It is a day of prayer and remembrance for the souls of those who have died.

## THE DIOCESE OF GIZO UPCOMING EVENTS 2021

### September

- 3—5 YE Holy Rosary, Nila (Postpone)
- 13—17 Priest Meeting, Gizo (Postpone)
- 17—19 YE St Peter, Gizo (Done)
- 24—26 YE St Eusibius, Noro (Done)

### October

- 1—3 YE, Sacred Heart, Wagina (Postpone)
- 11—15 Justice and Peace Workshop, Nila (Done at Moli on November)

### November

- 4—6 Media Training northern deanery, Moli (Postpone)
- 11—13 Media Training southern deanery, Noro (Postpone)
- 15—19 DTPA evaluation and planning Gizo (Done at Moli)

### December

- 13—17 Bishops cup northern deanery parishes, Moli (Postpone)
- 27—31 Bishops cup southern deanery parishes, Vanga (Postpone)