

# ne Catholic Reporter

Catholic Bishops' Conference of PNG & SI - Commission on Social Communications, P.O. Box 398, Waigani, NCD Tel.: 325 9577 - Fax: 323 2551

August 2017

# Passion, Love and the announcement of the Gospel

The Annual General Council of the Pontifical Mission Socieities (PMS) had for its theme 'Mission at the heart of Christian Faith'. It held its meeting at the Salesianum, from 29th May to 3rd June, 2017. 105 members from all over the world were present for the same.

On 3rd June, 2017, in the Clementine Hall of the Vatican Apostolic Palace, the Holy Father Pope Francis received in audience the participants in the Assembly of the Pontifical Mission Societies.

The Holy Father thanked the participants for the work done for the neediest churches throughout the world. The Holy Father said, "I know that you are looking for new ways, more appropriate, more ecclesial ways to carry out your service regarding the universal mission of the Church. I very much welcomed your proposal to announce an extraordinary time of prayer and reflection on the Ad Gentes mission. I will ask the whole Church to dedicate the month of October 2019 to this theme, because it also coincides with the centenary of *Maximum Illud*, the Apostolic Letter issued by Benedict XV on 30 November 1919 on the missionary activity of the Church".

Pope Francis, "recommends, that an ever-stronger union with Christ and a more convinced and joyful involvement in his divine passion for announcing the Gospel to all, must be loving and employing mercy towards everyone. Men and women, 'distinguished by zeal and

holiness', are increasingly necessary to the Church and to the mission. 'May he who preaches God be a man of God', exhorted Benedict XV (cf. Apostolic Letter

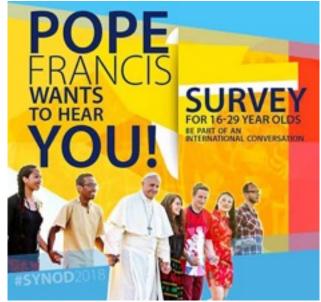


Issue 140

Fr. Valentine Gryk, SVD, Pontifical Mission Director for PNGSI with Pope Francis on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2017

Maximum illud, 30 November 1919; AAS XI [1919], 449). This renewal requires a personal conversion, living the mission as a permanent opportunity to announce Christ, meeting him and helping others to have a personal encounter with him too." May God bless all you ministry.

"It was the great opportunity to share in the mission experiences in different countries and discuss how to make Christians more responsible for the mission of the Church. Our mission is to be self reliant, help others and take the steps necessary to take care for the Church in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, rather than waiting for donations from others", said Fr Valentine.



## Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment

Incoming Synod 2018, Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment, is a great blessing to the Church and to the young. In preparation for the Synod, a questionnaire is sent to all the dioceses along with the preparatory document. Statistics, evaluation of the situation and sharing activities as suggested by the document will certainly be a spring board for our reflection and action in the future.

While the whole Church is moving towards a process of listening to the young, we cannot remain passive, looking at what is happening. As a young PNGSI church the theme is very much relevant for us. The Catholic Bishops Conference together with each Bishop and Diocesan coordinator and animator needs to play a proactive and a significant role in this process. Hence we are asking you to take concrete initiatives to organize youth forums to respond to the questionnaire effectively. The results need to be sent to your Diocesan coordinator by **15th September, 2017.** The Diocesan coordinator will then send the tabulated results to reach the CBC Youth Office by **24th September, 2017.** This will form the basis for a Pastoral Letter. A synthesis of the questionnaire will then be made for our reflection and

There is another opportunity open since June 14, 2017 - ONLINE SURVEY addressed to the young people between 16-29 years of age around the world in view of the next 2018 Synod of Bishops in five languages (Italian, Spanish, English, French and Portuguese). The online survey is open until next November 2017: http://youth.synod2018.va

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- 4. Yumi Yet Sios; Mission completed; Thanks for the harvest; Legion of Mary; Human Resources Management workshop held.

## Care, Protection and Catechesis of Children

The Catholic bishops are concerned about the behaviour of children and young people. Below is a continuation of the Pastoral Letter:



7. Early Childhood Learning

We encourage parents in the villages and the neighborhoods to work together in the community to

educate their children during their earliest years. Mothers are the ones who do this best. This kind of community self-help education program is called "early childhood learning". Early childhood learning centres are all over PNG and Solomon Islands. We urge Catholic laity in the parishes to support this program. This as an ideal ministry for lay people interested in promoting the protection, care and religious formation of children, beginning at the age of two or three, up to five or six years old. "Let the little children come to me and do not stop them," Jesus said, "because the Kingdom of God belongs to them....Then he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on each of them and blessed them" (Mk 10:14,16).

8. Our Catholic Schools - Making them Better Many parents want to send their children to a Catholic school. They think their children will be safe, get a better education and receive a firm foundation in the Catholic faith. Sadly, we are ashamed to admit, this is not always the case. What can be done to improve the deteriorating state of education in PNG and Solomon Islands, even in Catholic schools? Catholic lay people take up this most important cause and find solutions to the problems we face in

The Catholic Agency at the local level, along with the parish pastoral council, the school board of management, parents and the school administration all must promote a strong Catholic identity in your Catholic school with religious and social activities, in which all staff and students participate. Liturgy, Scripture, prayer, religious signs and symbols, along with periods of wellplanned religious instructions, create a Catholic atmosphere at the school. Limit the number of students per class, accept only students who are

age-appropriate to each grade level, deal with bullying in every case immediately and eliminate absenteeism on the part of head teachers and teachers – and the school will make great progress in its mission of educating the young.

#### 9. Conclusion

The challenges of a rapidly changing society have caught us by surprise and temporarily knocked us off our feet. But our faith is strong. We will stand up again. There are solutions to these challenges. The Catholic Bishops address this pastoral letter about Protection, Care and Catechesis of Children to Catholic laity, to the families. Read it, think about it and discuss it in the family, the parish and the community. Most of all, we encourage you to transform your worries about your children and grandchildren into positive action for change and a better world on their behalf in your families, the parishes and communities. God bless you.



#### Reflection

# Follow Me

The Lord started his public ministry by calling his disciples either individually or in pairs. He called two pairs: Peter and his brother Andrew, James and John, sons of Zebedee.

They were fishermen. It was like an invitation..." I will make you fishers of men." Along the way, others followed one by one. They responded to His invitation. No one among them was considered an excellent disciple. Each one was a sinner! All except one, died a martyr's death.

Jesus calls us anytime, anywhere. Each one of us has to listen to his voice. Many have been called yet so few respond. Young people nowadays are afraid of a commitment. Others have the wrong motivations. Still others desire to follow Jesus yet they are so attached to their families, power, position, wealth ... And perhaps the allurements of this world are strong magnets that attract the young. The Lord's invitation is clear: "The harvest is rich, the labourers are few... so pray to the Lord of the harvest to send more labourers into his vineyard..." (Mt 9:38).

Even sinners are called. When Matthew was called, he was sitting on his post collecting taxes. During those times, tax collectors had a bad reputation. Hence, Jesus was called a friend of sinners, especially of the tax collectors. Yet, he looked at Matthew with love (mercy) and he chose him to be one of his disciples. "Follow me!" And Matthew, immediately, got up, left everything and followed Jesus.

Prayer is the first requirement. Even for those who have responded to His call, prayer is of vital importance. No one will survive without prayer, without having recourse to the grace of the Lord. St. Paul says: "Everything is grace!"

Young people, are you ready to leave everything for the sake of becoming Jesus' disciples? Are you ready to be accompanied by Salesian priests and brothers towards this journey? Don Bosco once said to young Michael Rua: "We will go by halves!" And when Don Bosco died, Michael became the first successor of St. John Bosco and he continued Don Bosco's legacy. Are you willing to do the same?

#### Caring, Protecting and Catechising our Children - Nyleptha Kenny

#### Madang, Papua New Guinea:

Inspired by the Catholic Bishops' Pastoral Letter of 2017, a team of six came together for a workshop on Gathering and distributing of resources on the theme: 'Caring, Protecting and Catechising Our Children'. The workshop was held at the Alexishafen Conference Centre, Madang on 27-28th June. The participants were from Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands and also included two Divine Word University journalism students.

The technical working group discussed the theme, created a simplified version and developed resources that can be used by priests, religious,

pastoral workers and lay faithful. The resources can be used to bring about awareness for people at the level of the village and the basic Christian communities within the parish. A panel of four from the Community at Alexishafen were asked to critique the resources and material prepared.

The resources are in the form of a booklet (English and Pidgin), power-point presentation (English and Pidgin), brochures (English and Pidgin) and a video in English. The resources will be launched, printed and distributed to all dioceses to make this theme: Caring, Protecting and Catechising Our Children come alive within the Catholic Church of PNG & Solomon Islands.



## Salesian Educators promote VOCATIONS

#### **Boroko, Port Moresby:**

The Vocation Orientation Dimension is one aspect of the Salesian Educative Pastoral Plan (SEPP) of the institute. A 'Talk Show' to enlighten the students on the different aspects of a vocation, was organized by Ms Christina Paula Delgado. Sr. Ria Versario FMA and Mr. Emil Vake hosted the program. It opened up areas for questions and reflections. The program was held at Don Bosco Technological Institute, Boroko on July 13, 2017.

Ms. Maria Fatima Alipio, Science and Math lecturer spoke on the blessings of the single life; Mr. Noel Kibai, IT instructor and Mrs. Lucy Kibai, Maths and Sports lecturer shared about Married life;

Sr. Annie Saligumba, FMA, Christian Life Education lecturer, Br. Reto Wanner, SDB, Machine Fitting and Machinist instructor and Fr. Clifford Morais, SDB, Treasurer shared about their lived lives as Religious.

The spontaneous questions from the student body allowed the Salesian Educators to share inspiring messages from their different perspectives. The orientation has highlighted the prime significance of being called to 'holiness' irrespective of the variety of possible vocations. Living and carrying out God's will, allows us to know, love and serve God with gladness. The challenges and hardships faced in our lives are overcome when God is the centre of our lives.



#### **International Short Film Festival 2017**

14 short films from across the world dealing with a variety of Youth issues and values. It is organised by the CBC Social Communications Department in collaboration with the Education and Youth departments. Limited copies available @ K 100/- only. Pay to the following AC.

CBC SOCOM, ANZ Waigani, 14438507, BSB 018902 Contact: Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb for details.





# "We are not guinea pigs" - Meshulam

Aileen Baretta, Freelance journalist



Jonathan Meshulam

**New Ireland** Province: "Nautilus Minerals, we are not guinea pigs for your mining experiments. We in the Pacific are custodians of the world's largest ocean," said Jonathan Meshulam, Coordinator for the West Coast

Development Foundation on the 8th of June in Namatanai, New Ireland Province this

Hundreds of people converged at the Stemper Hall to oppose Nautilus Minerals' Solwara 1 project in New Ireland in an open forum with a powerful welcome ceremony using the traditional shark calling instruments of coconut shells rattles and the conch shell. the New Ireland people that links them to the sea that sustains them.

Along with Mr Meshulam were representatives from Caritas PNG, New Ireland Provincial Mining Department, Coastal Areas of Benefit Namatanai, Deep Sea Mining Campaign Australia, Lutheran

representatives from Karkar Island, the Alliance of Solwara Warriors, Namatanai Local Level Government and St Martins Parish Namatanai. Although a representative from the Nautilus Minerals was invited to the forum, he was absent and this was discussed and noted among the populace.

This forum called for a complete ban on seabed mining in Papua New Guinea as well as in the Pacific.

Patrick Kitaun, Diocesan Coordinator of Caritas PNG said in a statement that the Bismarck Sea is not a laboratory for the world to experiment as it is the basic of and for the people and should be protected.

Echoing the same argument Fr Vincent Takin of the St Martin of Tours, Namatanai said that people must be the object of any development and not subjected to it for it to

take place. He also stated that the people have not been fully informed of the impacts of the Solwara 1 project.

On the other hand, by June this year, it was also notable that Nautilus may not be able to meet its 2019 plans because of insufficient funds.

A statement released by the Deep Sea Mining Campaign dated the 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2017 revealed "Nautilus failed to inspire shareholders with confidence in its Solwara 1 venture in Papua New Guinea." And that "Without sufficient funds to complete its equipment build, Nautilus' 2019 mining start date for its flagship Solwara 1 project is unlikely to be met.

Meantime, this year's National General Elections has drawn much more strength for the community when the newly elected member for Namatanai Walter Schnaubelt made a stand that there will be no experimental seabed mining in the New Ireland Province.

Forum being held in the Stemper Hall



Pope Francis and "Viri Probati"

- Bishop Cesare Bonivento PIME, Bishop of Vanimo

Coming back from Italy at the beginning of July, some seminarians asked me if it is true that the Holy Father will ordain married priests in the near future. They put the question to me because Fr. Victor Roche had written in the 'Catholic Reporter of May 2017 p. 3', as follows:

"On 10th of March in an interview with the German Newspaper Die Zeit, Pope Francis said he is open to the possibility of permitting married men to become priests to address the serious shortage of Catholic priests in some countries..... Pope Francis' suggestion is still open for discussion. He wants to find out how people accept this idea. In PNG some people will be in favor of this idea and some will be vehemently against it. I think we need to give serious consideration to the Pope's proposal".

I have read attentively the article of Fr. Victor Roche, and also the media report of that interview of the Holy Father by the Journalist of "Die Zeit". According to the media, the reply of Pope Francis to the journalist who had asked him if 'viri probati' could help overcome the current scarcity of priests, was as follows: "We need to consider if 'viri probati' could be a possibility. If so, we would need to determine what duties they could undertake, for example, in remote communities."

My impression is that Fr. Victor was too hasty in concluding that the Holy Father is open to the Priestly Ordination of married men. I think that he came to that conclusion, because for him the words 'viri probati' used by the Holy Father are synonymous of 'married men'. But that is incorrect.

First of all, Pope Francis never showed any intention to talk about 'married priests' in this interview, and much less about the abolition of the law of priestly celibacy. He was only talking of 'viri probati', leaving their identity very much undefined.

Secondarily, 'viri probati' is a theological formula well known in the ecclesiastical literature. We find the most recent description of 'viri probati' in Vatican II, Lumen Genitum 20. This description is based on what St. Clement wrote about 'viri probati' in his letter to the Corinthians, n. 44, at the end of the first century. In both places the concept of 'viri probati' is not related to the concept of married priests. It indicates only men who are eligible to become Bishops because they have proven their ability to follow the example of the Apostles in everything. Therefore, thinking that 'viri probati' means 'married men' in order to support the idea of married Priests is totally misleading. Especially if we think that since the beginning of the Church, the Bishops (both Catholic and Orthodox), have always been requested to live in "priestly continence". The reason is very simple: if the Apostles

did that (Lc 18, 28-30), the Bishops, who are true 'viri probati', must do the same. The use of the term 'viri probati' is in reality a boomerang for those in favor of promoting the idea of married priests.

The Holy Father is well aware that 'viri probati' is not a synonym of 'married people'. Moreover, he has no intention to abolish priestly celibacy, as he stated clearly in the same interview. He wants only to find the way to assist as much as possible the people living in remote

areas. This is why his answer to the newsman of 'Die Zeit' is extremely prudent. Nobody can conclude from the words used by Pope Francis that he is going to abolish the priestly celibacy. To help everybody, especially the Seminarians, to correctly understand

the words of Pope Francis, we can quote the 'Vatican Insider' whose famous newsman, Andrea Tornielli reported the interview given by Pope Francis to 'Die Zeit' magazine as follows:

"In his first interview with a German newspaper published today by Die Zeit, the Pope reiterated he has no intention to change the ecclesiastical discipline of priestly celibacy in force for many centuries in the Latin Catholic Church. Francis acknowledged that "priests' vocation crisis is a huge problem" and "the Church will have to solve it," but "voluntary celibacy is not a solution, ... It is not by allowing priests or future priests to get married that we will solve the crisis of vocations. The Lord told up to prov. That is what is missing; prover." vocations. The Lord told us to pray. That is what is missing: prayer." The Pope, however, also said, "We need to consider if 'viri probati' could be a possibility. If so, we would need to determine what duties they could undertake, for example, in remote communities." From the words of the Pope we understand that a reform of the discipline of celibacy is not on the horizon and has never even been his agenda, while that of 'viri probati' is an open issue that needs to be treated with caution.... It appears rather obvious that the possible ordination of 'viri probati' would remain tied to certain specific situations and under certain conditions, with the aim of "salus animarum", i.e. the salvation of souls that should be the aim of every ecclesial reform."

I am sure that Fr. Victor Roche did not want to upset the spiritual formation of our seminarians. However, his commentary entitled: "Pope is open to the possibility of Married Men becoming priests" is incorrect and is inevitably causing some raised eyebrows.

Vat. II teaches us that celibacy is not optional for Priests (PO 15, 16); it is rooted in the mystery and in the mission of Christ (PO 16). The Holy Father knows that, and he will never deny that.

## **Yumi Yet Sios**

- Bp Rochus Tatamai MSC



Long mum Julai yumi bin gat planti astingting and festodei lg tingim na selebretim ol wantaim ol bikpela lotu, ol bikpela singsing, na tu ol bikpela bung kaikai. Long Yule ailand mipela itingim ol nambawan misinari ibin kamap long dispela ailand long namba 1 de bilong mun Julai lg yia 1885. Bihain long namba 4 dei long Julai 1885, Pater Henri Verius ibin mekim namba 1 misa long liklik maunten graun bilong long ailan na tu dispel imakim olgeta graun insait long sauten region. Nem bilong tupela MSC bruder ibin stap wantaim em Bruder Salvatore Gasbarra MSC na Bruder Nicolas Marconni MSC. Long dispela yia 2017 yumi tingim nau namba 132 anivesari yia bilong dispela nambawan misa.

Long namba 6 dei bilong mum Julai olgeta yangpela manmeri Ig kantri bilong yumi PNG na Solomon Ailans olgeta ibin bung insait long ol peris na diosis bilong ol wanwan na hamamas wantaim na selebretim festodei bilong Santu Maria Goretti - Vergin na Martir. Em yet iwas-santu bilong ol yuth bilong PNGSI na long laip na dai bilong en olsem martyr, Santu Maria Goretti iskulim yumi olgeta lg pasin bilong respektim gift na present bilong laip olsem ikam yet long han bilong God, na tu moa yet long respektim na lukautim gut bodi bilong yumi olsem haus holi na temple bilong Holi Spirit. Santu Maria Goretti iskulim yumi tu long pasin bilong porgivim ol narapela bratasusa bilong yumi moa yet sapos oli mekim rong long yumi. Dispela yangpela pikinini meri ibin gat 12pela krismas tasol na emi skulim yumi long planti gutpela pasin Kristian na pasin long stap olsem ol disaipel tru bilong Jisas.

Long namba 7 dei bilong mum Julai em bikpela festodei bilong Blessed Pita ToRot katekist na martir. Planti peris na ol katekist wantaim ol pilgrim manmeri insait long PNGSI oli bin bung na mekim ol bikpela selebration lg onarim God wantaim laip na eksampel bilong Blessed Pita ToRot. Pater Henry Paroi OP ibin wokabaut wantaim ol pilgrims bilong Solomon Ailans igo long Rakunai asples bilong Blessed Pita ToRot. Dispela em wanpela special pilgrimage tru bikos olgeta yet ibin redi gut tru long planti yia wantaim planti prea na ol wok sakrifais na penans. Long dispela taim tu oli bin mekim planti samting tru long helpim ol lg bungim inap moni long stretim olgeta wokabaut wantaim kaikai na stap wantaim insait long dispela pilgrimage.

Long dispela taim yumi noken lustingting yet long bikpela wok ol nupela memba bilong Haus Palemen bai mas mekim bihain long oli bin winim ol eleksen o resis insait long ol Provins na Open elektret bilong yumi . Yumi mas stap prei long strong na pawa bilong Holi Spirit long givim ol long gutpela save na yumi mas wok bung wantaim ol long kamapim ol gutpela wok olsem lida manmeri tru insait long ol ples na komuniti bilong yumi. Nupela Gavmen imas wok wantaim olgeta lida manmeri insait long ples, district, na komuniti wantaim yumi tu insait long sios. Long dispela wok bung wantaim na wok sambai long wanpela narapela, dispela tasol bai mekim yumi iken inapim tru luksave olsem yumi Kristian manmeri tru insait long Kristian kantri bilong yumi PNG.

#### **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 August, 2017

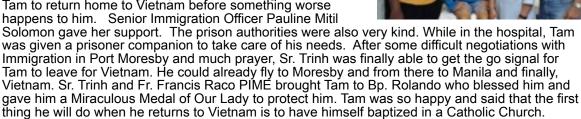
**Produced by: CBC SOCOM** 

#### Mission completed, fishermen repatriated - Bp Rolando Santos, CM

Alotau, Milan Bay Province:

Captain Dinh Van Tam was the last of the Vietnamese fishermen detained at Giligili prison in Milan Bay Province. He suffered from deep depression, became very weak and was put on oxygen at the Alotau General Hospital.

With the help of the medical doctor, Sr. Trinh was able to convince those in charge of prisons and immigration to allow Tam to return home to Vietnam before something worse happens to him. Senior Immigration Officer Pauline Mitil



Due to bad weather Tam was not able to fly to Port Moresby until Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2017. While in Port Moresby, he was cared for and given accommodation by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). On Friday, 28th July, Captain Tam was finally able to fly to Vietnam and be reunited with his family who had been anxiously waiting for him. Sr. Trinh, has once again modelled for us the strength and the love we should have for those who are weak and helpless. With the grace of God, the mission of repatriating the last of the Vietnamese fishermen has been completed", concluded a deeply grateful Bp. Rolando Santos.

## Thanks for the abundant harvest

**Tetere, Solomon Islands:** Five to six tons of rice are expected at the end of harvest. The bumper crop is due to the hard work of the Salesians, staff and students of the Don Bosco Rural Training Centre, Tetere. Heavy rains have watered and nourished the crop, planted over three months ago. All are grateful to the Lord for His abundant blessings and above all for the opportunity for the 80 students to learn the entire process of planting rice.



The Harvest Festival commenced on the 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 and was attended by His Excellency Roger Luo and his wife, the Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to Solomon Islands and guests from other departments of government. The harvested rice crop will be bundled into sheaves. The students will then be engaged in threshing the grain at the Rural Training Centre.

A thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration was held to thank the Lord for the marvellous gifts and an abundant harvest and for the support they receive from the sponsors of the project. The Rural Training Centre runs a two-year program in animal husbandry and agriculture. It has students from all the provinces of the Solomon Islands.

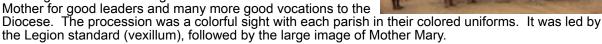
### Legion of Mary celebrates its Silver Jubilee

Fr. Roy Milano, smm

Daru Kiunga:

The Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Legion of Mary was celebrated on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> of July, on the Cathedral grounds, colorfully decorated for the occasion.

The 300 legionaries commenced the celebrations at 3am with a Mass at St John Parish, Matkomnai. They then began their journey for two days. The sacrifice walk, was to implore the blessings of the Lord through the intercession of Our Blessed Mother for good leaders and many more good vocations to the



The distance of around 50 Km to the cathedral was a long, dusty and dangerous one due to the road and the traffic. Completing half of the journey, the group spent the night at a village to rest and refresh themselves. They commenced their journey the next morning. It was reliving the story of the Israelites and their journey to the promised land, and building their faith in God.

Arriving at St Brigid Parish, they were welcomed like champions by the parishioners. They then then completed their walk to the cathedral.

Joy and celebration was obvious as they danced to the beat of the kundus and as they shared food with each other. At least 12 pigs were part of the meal prepared for the celebration.

God is good! All the time. All the time, God is good!!

## Human Resources Management workshop held

A workshop on the "Best Practices of Human Resources Management" was held frm 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> June in the Diocese of Wewak. Catholic Bishops Conference Administrative Manager, Sr. Kumari Pappu FIHM facilitated the workshop. Participants included the Bishop of the diocese together with diocesan staff and commission heads. The workshop was a great help to the Diocese of Wewak now in its 50<sup>th</sup> year of the establishment of the Catholic Church in Wewak.

The main focus of this 3 days' workshop was: Contract agreement, Recruitment and selection, Job Description, Duty Statement, Job appraisal and other related information on Human Resources. These main areas are needed as the



- Fr. Bernard Burite.

Bishop Jozef Roszynski SVD joins participants at the workshop

Human Resources. These main areas are needed as the foundation for a better delivery of services and care to our staff and people in the diocese. The workshop has created an opportunity for the growth and development of the Church in Wewak. It will now depend on Team Work. The participants appreciated this workshop very much and will promote efficiency and participation within the diocesan staff in their respective commissions, departments and groups. The participants are grateful that the workshop has built up the capacity of the diocesan members.