

The Catholic Reporter

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Siassi Regional Catholic Youth conference

By Alphonse Foimai, Jr

YOUTH of the Siassiregion in the Morobe Province, recently held a Youth Conference at Por-Mandok. The week-long conference saw participants, who were mostly parish youth executives, coming from around the region.

The programme which was sponsored and organized by the Catholic Diocesan Youth Desk in Lae, facilitated various sessions based on current issues affecting young people in area, such as HIV/AIDS, gender issues, cultural identities, youth spirituality and other related topics.

The conference was also an historical event for the Siassi Catholic Youth, due to the fact that they had also, with the help of the Diocesan Youth Chaplain, Fr Crespo Lape, MJ, come up with a constitution for Catholic Youth in the area.

The youth were appreciative of Fr Ernest crmm and the parish Council of St Finbar for their support and assistance in making the conference a very successful one.

Hard work appreciated

A LUTHERAN missionary was among those singled out for special words of gratitude in a small Catholic ceremony conducted in Goroka recently.

The occasion was the launching of a new aid to the dioceses of the Catholic Church and to people interested in contemporary issues facing Christianity. Staff of the Melanesian Institute, an ecumenical organization devoted to the study of issues facing the churches and people of Papua New Guinea, have contributed their skills to compiling the views of Catholics from all parts of the country.

Rev Hermann Spingler, a pastor in the Lutheran Church, had been part of a team engaged by the Catholic Church to compile reports from groups of Catholics addressing issues ranging from their identity as Christians to politics and corruption.

The documents of the General Assembly of the Catholic Church, spanning 18 months and involving thousands of people, have now been presented by the Melanesian Institute in the form of a simple computer CD. The format allows pastors, writers and researchers to readily access a variety of views and proposals arising from the General Assembly. Hundreds of pages have been stored in easily accessible computer files after painstaking work by the staff of MI.

Auxiliary Bishop Douglas Young of Mount Hagen told the small gathering how greatly the work of Rev Spingler and his colleagues had been appreciated. "This has been a huge task and a task which has been and will continue to be immensely valuable to the Church and indeed to all Christian communities in PNG", Bishop Young said.

He reminded the group that more than 450 pages of discussion points had been submitted by the people who wished to comment on the Church and its role in PNG. Among other items collated and included in the CD are details of discussions which took place in Vunapope, in July, during a meeting which saw delegates and pilgrims flock into East New Britain.

Bishop Young expressed the thanks

...M.I. presents
General Assembly documents

of involvement by people awakening to the reality that it is the people who are the Church and that the people of Papua New Guinea are Church in a



Lutheran Missionary Rev Hermann Spingler, of Melanesian Institute Goroka, presents the documents of the General Assembly of the Catholic Church to Auxiliary Bishop Douglas Young of Mount Hagen.

of the Church to all the staff of the Melanesian Institute. "The General Assembly has been greatly assisted by people like the institute's director, Fr Nick de Groot, the Rev Hermann Spingler, Fr Philip Gibbs and Sister Jeline Giris. These people brought a sense of professionalism to bear on a very important task and the results of their work will be long lasting". Tribute was also paid to the thoughtful and consistent work of Ms Helen Ovejo, a member of the MI staff.

Rev Spingler presented a copy of the CD to Bishop Young on behalf of MI. He admitted that the task had been demanding and hoped that the

results of the work would be well used by people.

Bishop Young also took the opportunity to introduce guests to a DVD recording of the General Assembly with video footage and music from a range of the activities of the General Assembly. "Thanks to the work of Sr Zelia Cordeiro and Fr Philip Gibbs we have an excellent visual and audio record of the event and of the tremendous experience it gave so many people", he said.

The Saturday ceremony marked the end of the work of the committee established by the Catholic Church to steer it through a remarkable program

unique way. The ceremony also recognized the adoption, by the Church of tasks given to it during the General Assembly.

The institutions of the Church, all the organizations which serve the Church, are asked to assist the people to work together towards realizing the vision and mission, guided by the priorities they established through their delegates in Vunapope.

(See page 4 for details on purchasing the Document C.D and other products mentioned in this article.)



Proud to be associated with The Catholic Reporter

BEEF SNAX CRACKER

TOKSAVE

Sapos yu gat sampela stori o nius yu laik putim long dispela pepa ringim o salim feks i go long Fr Geoff long telipon 479 5007 o email:socom@global.net.pg o go lukim em.

First Profession of Four Melanesian Daughters of Wisdom

LAST MONTH, after a week-long retreat by Fr. Ariel Aquino s.m.m., Victoria Sumbuk, (East Sepik), Veronica Paison and Cecilia Gabriel, (both from Enga) and Gertrude Numbanoko, (Sandaun Province), pronounced their first vows as Daughters of Wisdom.

About fifty people attended the mass, mostly missionaries, and a few lay people with whom the three sisters had worked during their apostolic experience.

The Mass began with Sr. Lois Mathieu, the Regional Superior, welcoming the guests warmly, mentioning that the shelter under which the celebration was to happen was a "Wisdom Cathedral" surrounded by the magnificent gardens of the Noviciate.

The entrance procession was led by the four candidates for profession. The main celebrant was bishop, Bishop Gilles Côté, and four other Montfortian priests. In his homily the Bishop challenged the four to live as religious.

Bishop said: "The call is a call to service...service of Jesus. Continue to do his work, following the plan of the Father. The ones who respond to his call today are Victoria, Veronica, Cecilia and Gertrude. 'I will go. Send me. I will follow you wherever you go' "

Bishop continued by saying that the grace of God needs to be a living factor in their daily life, in their community life, and in their life of prayer and apostolic service.

After the homily came the ceremony of profession itself. The four pronounced their vows, received their cross, their Rule of Life, along with the Letters of Marie Louise, their co-foundress, and finally, the veil.

The celebration in its simplicity helped them, they said, to reflect on the meaning of their religious life.

The four sisters were then joyfully welcomed into the Congregation of the Daughters of Wisdom by their Regional Superior.

At the end of the mass they received their first obedience - to go to Matkomnai for a three-month English course to prepare them for studies next year.

Refreshments were served after the celebration in the noviciate garden while the newly professed greeted all the guests.

In the evening, the Montfortian family...Montfortian fathers, including the Bishop, the Brothers of St. Gabriel and the Daughters of Wisdom, ended the day with a shared meal and a few songs and dances to welcome the new young sisters, into the family.



For these four newly professed Daughters of Wisdom it was all smiles on the big day.

Catholic Theological Institute Bomana Announces:

ONGOING FORMATION WORKSHOP FOR PRIESTS JANUARY 04 - 14, 2005

A. UNIT 1: CONTEMPORARY LIFE ISSUES

- Psychoactive Substances: Their Use and Abuse
 - HIV-AIDS: Pastoral Challenge
 - Environment: Using Nature Justly with Reverence for the Creator
 - Understanding Globalization: UN, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, World Trade Organization and PNG
- Facilitator: Fr David Willis OP

B. UNIT 2: LITURGICAL MINISTRY

- Eucharist - "Redemptionis Sacramentum"
 - Art of Presiding
 - Liturgical Preaching
 - Music for Presiders
- Facilitators: Sr Rose Mary Harbinson RNDM and Team

Cost: K380.00 per participant. (Does not include airfares)

Date: Tuesday, 04 January (arrival date) - Friday, 14 January 2005 (departure).
Wednesday, 05 January will be a Day of Recollection.
Sunday, 09 January is planned as a free day for personal purposes.

For more details contact (Before the 15th December, 2004)

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VATICAN - YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

"Mane nobiscum Domine": Pope's letter on the Year of the Eucharist

by Bernardo Cervellera

The Eucharist, sign of the real presence of Jesus, wins over "dark shadows of blood" cast by terrorism and laicism, enemy of humanity.

Vatican City (AsiaNews) - Pope John Paul II's Apostolic Letter, *Mane nobiscum Domine* (Stay with us, Lord) is a heartfelt plea to rediscover the wealth of the Eucharist in the life of the Church and of the world. Delivered on October 7th, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, this Letter sets itself to introduce the Year of the Eucharist which begins this month (October 10 - 17) with the International Eucharistic Congress (Mexico) and will end with next year's Synod of Bishops (October 2 - 29, 2005). Above all, it is to urge young people to rediscover the Eucharist that the Pope wrote this Letter.

Personal tone

In his Letter, the Pope speaks of the Eucharist with a profoundly personal tone: the "broken Bread" is what "remains" of Jesus, even when it seems that his face has disappeared. His mysterious presence is like a

light that reawakens hope over the "shadows of the declining day" and "darkness" blanketing the soul (no. 1).

The story of the disciples of Emmaus - who flee from Jerusalem and come across the Risen Jesus who breaks bread with them - becomes for John Paul II the icon of the latest years of his pontificate, especially those that date from the Jubilee celebration onward. The Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 was celebrated in its "greatness of grace" (no. 6). But the new millennium has turned out to be a sort of "crude continuation" of the worst events of the past. Nazism, Communism, inter-ethnic wars, hunger, social inequality, persecutions have all seeped into the 21 century, outlining "dark shadows of violence and blood that endlessly sadden us". Like the disciples at Emmaus, "sad thoughts" are conquered by faith in the presence of Jesus Christ, "centre not only of the Church's history, but also humanity's history".

The Pope shows that this "return to the contemplation of Christ's face" has been a constant element of these past years, from before the Jubilee, up to his latest encyclical on the Eucharist. The

Year of the Eucharist - that John Paul II summons with this Apostolic Letter, and which will last from this month to October 2005 - "sets itself as a year for taking stock, a sort of summit of the journey made so far." (no. 10) The Pope asks that all Christians rediscover the Eucharist in everyday life, without doing anything out of the ordinary (no. 2), but placing the emphasis on the "Eucharistic dimension" which characterizes Christian community life (no. 5).

Rediscover the Eucharist

For John Paul II, we need to rediscover the Eucharist as mystery "of light", drawing close once again to the Word of God, depicting it in the homily; rediscovering Mass as a "banquet" and a "memorial" of the "sacrifice carried out once and for all on Golgotha" (no. 15). But above all, we need to rediscover the "real presence" of Jesus in the Eucharist, with worthy liturgies, silence, adoration, the Rosary, processions: all signs that educate us in the certainty that Jesus has remained "with us to the close of the age" (no. 16).

Indirectly, the Pope criticizes those who use celebrations to make their own messages triumph, demeaning the sense of this sacrament to a sym-

bolic (and trivial) level: "The temptation is always present in man to reduce the Eucharist to his own dimension, while it is he who must open himself to the dimension of this Mystery. The Eucharist is too great a gift to tolerate ambiguity and depreciation." (no. 16).

Another dimension to be discovered is the Eucharist as "source and epiphany of communion". The intimacy created by the Lord, that satisfies "the hunger for God in this world" (no. 19), also creates intimacy and unity among Christians gathered around their bishop.

For John Paul II, Sunday Mass must increasingly become a "manifestation" of the Church, unity between bishop and faithful, clergy and laity, groups, movements, associations.

Finally, the Eucharist is "principle and foundation of the Church's mission" (no. 24). The encounter with Christ - says the Pope - gives rise in the Church to the "urgent need to witness and evangelize", and to the commitment to "spread the Gospel message and to imbue society with Christianity" (no. 24).

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VATICAN- YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

...From page 3

Bear witness to "Christian roots"

The Eucharist is above all a witness of "gratitude" before all humanity. The Pope puts into question secularized culture "which breathes the oblivion of God and cultivates the vain self-sufficiency of man" and that tends to marginalize the religious dimension of civic life. Human reality - he states - "cannot justify itself without reference to the Creator". John Paul II thus urges Christians to "not be afraid of speaking of God in the world and to display signs of the faith proudly" (no. 26).

It would seem that the Pope, in these lines, makes reference to the controversies regarding crucifixes in public places, religious symbols banned from French schools, accusations of proselytism in missionary countries, and the elimination of references to God in many American institutions.

One passage is definitely tied to the question of the "Christian roots of Europe": the Pope reminds us that Eucharistic culture is a culture of dialogue and not of intolerance; that Christians are not rooted in the violence that may have been committed through the course of history, but were betrayed by it. "Anyone who learns to give thanks in the manner of Christ Crucified can become a martyr, but never a tormentor" (no. 26).

The Eucharist, for the Pope, is also an instrument for the "promotion of communion, peace, solidarity". This "great school of peace", a place for educating political and cultural figures, helps Christians to face "the spectre of terrorism and the tragedy of war", but also encourages commitment to "brotherly activity" toward "the numerous forms of poverty in our world" (no. 28). The Pope asks specifically for efforts in favour of those who suffer hunger, the sick in developing countries, the elderly, the unemployed, and immigrants. Such activity is the "criteria" for the "authenticity of our Eucharistic celebrations".

At the end of the Letter, the Pope invites every member of the Church to find "new enthusiasm" in their mission, recognizing "in the Eucharistic source and summit" of all life (no. 31).

He invites especially the young - who are preparing for the World Youth Day of Cologne (16 - 21 August, 2005) - to meet Christ in the Eucharist, bringing along with them "all the enthusiasm of your age, your hope, and your capacity to love" (no. 30).

Children, gift of God for the future

A message for the end of the Muslim Time of Ramadan From Archbishop Fitzgerald, President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

Dear Friends,

1. This year again, at the time when you are preparing to celebrate 'id al-Fitr at the end of the month of Ramadan, I wish to offer you very best wishes on behalf of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, the office of His Holiness the Pope for relations with people of other religions. In their prayers many Christians have been thinking about you and accompanying you during this month of fasting, a month which occupies such an important place in the life of your community. At the earliest age possible you teach your children to observe this month of fasting, thus developing in them a sense of God and a spirit of religious obedience, at the same time helping them to train their will and to acquire self-discipline. In this way the family is, par excellence, the place where your children receive their first religious education.

2. Today I would like to call attention to children in general and to the welcome they should receive, at different moments of their life, from their parents, their family and

from society. Every child has an inalienable right to life and, in so far as this is possible, to be welcomed within a natural, stable family. All children have moreover the right to nourishment, clothing and protection, and furthermore to be educated so that they may develop in them, and that later they may develop in them selves, all their capacities. In this perspective the child, when sick or victim of an accident, has the right to receive all necessary care. The life of the child, just as the life of every human person, is sacred.

3. You consider the child to be a blessing from God, in particular for the parents. As Christians we share with you this religious attitude, but our Christian faith teaches us also to discover in the child a model for our relationship with God. Jesus has given us as an example the child's simplicity and trust, docility and liveliness, showing us in this way how we should live in trusting submission to God.

4. On several occasions these last years representatives of the Holy See and of countries with a Muslim majority have defended together fundamental human values. It was often a matter of defending the rights of those who are the weakest, and notably the family as the natural environment in which children are nurtured and their rights are

better preserved.

5. Although the child has benefited, at least in certain parts of the world and in certain areas of life, form progress in respect for human rights, there are still many evils which cause suffering. Too many children are forced to engage in heavy work that endangers their physical and psychological development, prevents them from attending school and thus deprives them of the instruction to which they have a right. Many others are conscripted or involved in wars and conflicts. Children have also been the first victims of the increase in sexual abuse and in prostitution over these last years. Above all children are victims of certain changes in society. When families break up it is the children who are the first to suffer. The increase in the use of drugs and in drug trafficking, especially in poor countries, often involves children, to their great harm. Again, the despicable trafficking in organs concerns children in a particular way and the tragedy of AIDS often means that they are infected from birth.

6. Faced with these evils that affect our children, dear friends, we should unite our efforts, reminding people of the dignity of every human being whose existence is willed by God Himself. We should denounce unitingly

everything that degrades the child, combating with all the force we can muster the 'structures of sin', to use an expression taken up by Pope John Paul II. We are conscious that on the future of children depends the future of humanity. I hope therefore that our common endeavours in favour of children will continue and may in fact increase. In this was we shall give further proof of the benefit that can come from religion for the whole human community.

7. During this month of Ramadan, may your children be strong in accomplishing good works. May they, at the same time, learn to resist illusory promises of happiness and passing pleasures, thus acquiring greater inner freedom and becoming more perfect in their submission to God. May their lives in this way bear witness to the importance of religious values. Once more, I wish to assure you of my prayers to the Almighty and Merciful God for you and for your children. May God pour down on you His blessings. May He strengthen your families and instill in them a spirit of generous service to the glory of His name. May he grant each one of you His peace.

Archbishop Michael L Fitzgerald President

Kala na Kalsa



Oi liklik pikinini bilong Bogenvil i mekimsave long danis na singsing long Kalsa De bilong St Mary's Katolik Skul long Lae, Morobe provins, long tupela wik i go pinis.

Pope appoints Bishop Arnold Orowae, as Coadjutor Bishop of the Diocese of Wabag

His Holiness Pope John Paul II has appointed the Most Reverend Arnold Orowae, until now Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Wabag, as Coadjutor Bishop of the same.

Bishop Arnold Orowae was born in Aiopa, in the Ambum River Valley, Enga Province (then Western Highlands Province), on the 15th June 1955, the last of four children born to Thomas Pulye and Anna Tandakewan. He belongs to the Tambiok sub-clan of the Kunalin clan. On Christmas Day 1965, at the age of ten, Arnold was baptized into the Catholic Church.

He attended primary school at Sikiro parish, before moving on to the Christian Brothers' High School in Fatima, Banz. Having felt the vocation to the priesthood, he sought the help of Bishop Bernarding of Mount Hagen and was admitted to St. Fidelis Minor Seminary, Kap (Madang). After

spending one year in Erave (Southern Highlands) for spiritual formation, he proceeded to do theology at Holy Spirit Seminary in Bomana (1978-1982). It was during this period that he received his pastoral training at Kompam/Pipares parish.

On 14th December 1983, Rev. Orowae was ordained priest in his parish of Sikiro by the Bishop of the newly-erected Diocese of Wabag, Hermann Raich, S.V.D. Soon after he was appointed parish priest in Mariant (1984-1986). Having been relieved of parish responsibilities, he toured the Diocese for one year (1987-1988) conducting retreats in the various parishes. In 1988, he was sent to Rome to study spirituality and formation at the Teresianum, where he obtained his Masters. On returning to Papua New Guinea in 1990, he taught spirituality, first at the House of

Spiritual Formation at Maiwara (1990-1991), then at Good Shepherd College in Fatima (1992-1995). During this period he also carried out pastoral work in the parish of Nondugl.

In late 1995 he returned to Wabag Diocese, and was appointed parish priest in Landor, as well as Diocesan Vocation Director and Chairman of the Diocesan Conferences. Two years later, he was moved to Sangu-rap parish and was appointed Vicar General of Wabag Diocese and Chairman of the Diocesan Council for Pastoral Co-ordination, posts which he was still occupying at the moment of his appointment as Auxiliary Bishop of Wabag on 14th December 1999.

Following his appointment as Auxiliary Bishop, Most Reverend Arnold Orowae received episcopal ordination on 4th March 2000.

"Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you"!

A sermon preached at St. Mary's Cathedral, Port Moresby by Archbishop Karl Hesse on the 26th Anniversary of Pope John Paul II's pontificate.

A few days after the twin-eruption, in September 1994, I went to Rabaul to see the devastation done by the volcanoes. Through heaps of ash I found my way to the Mater Dei Church. The destruction of the church building was almost complete; only two walls were partly standing. To my surprise I found the carved image of the crucified Jesus hanging on one wall: timber beams were lying on his shoulder, his arms were broken. On the other wall I found a picture of the Holy Father Pope John Paul II, covered with ash but otherwise totally intact. To me these were images, in the midst of the devastated town, of Christ carrying our human fragility in his arms and of His Vicar on Earth with us constantly in prayer.

We all know certain facts of the life and the work of the Holy Father. Many of us have seen him here in Port Moresby, during the visit on the occasion of the Centenary Celebration of the Catholic Church in 1984 or during the Beatification of Blessed Peter To Rot. He shook hands with many of us during those visits and was welcomed by vast crowds who remember him well.

Pope John Paul II began his Pontificate on October 16, 1978, 26 years ago. Born on 18 May 1920 he is now 84 years old and has spent 26 of those years as Pontiff. During these twenty six years he has been a tireless witness to the love of Christ, presenting us with 14 encyclicals, 15 apostolic exhortations and the many other writings. In fulfilling the words the good shepherd who never leaves his flock untended and does not fail to look for those who are lost he has made 102 pastoral visits outside Italy and 144 within Italy.

He has addressed the different people and nations during his visits and from his residence. He speaks on many relevant issues and always out of deep faith, concern, conviction and love. Often, during his visits, he has addressed the Youth. We may say "the young are a problem", because we encounter drugs, crime, unemployment and so many other concerns. The Holy Father says of the young, "they are an opportunity".

In June this year he addressed the Swiss Youth, saying: "Dear young friends, know that the Pope loves you, he supports you with his daily prayer, he counts on your collaboration in the cause of the Gospel and encourages you with confidence in the journey of Christian life.

"If you allow yourselves to despair, if the mirages of the consumer society seduce you and

turn you away from true joy to engulf you in passing pleasures, if indifference and superficiality envelop you, if in the face of evil and suffering you doubt the presence of God and his love for every person, if you seek in the drift of a disordered affectivity the slaking of your interior thirst for true and pure love. Precisely in such moments Christ comes close to each one of you and, as with the youth of Nain, addresses to you the word that rouses and awakens: "Arise!" Accept the invitation that puts you on your feet!

"Therefore, I say to you, dear young people: Do not be afraid to encounter Jesus. Seek him also in the careful and willing reading of sacred Scripture and in personal and communitarian prayer; seek him in active participation in the Eucharist; seek him in meeting a priest for the sacrament of reconciliation; seek him in the Church, which manifests itself to you in parish groups, in movements and associations; seek him in the face of a suffering, needy and foreign brother.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ! We are all responsible for the Education of our young people. And from my experience Education is not going too well in our country. Reform had been often times the word of the day. Let us listen to what the Holy Father had to say when he addressed a Symposium of an Episcopal Commission for Catholic Education, in July this year:

"The challenge of education today is to teach men and women the importance of "being," not of having.

"It is necessary that all mobilize and work together for young people: parents, teachers, educators, chaplaincy teams, John Paul II exhorted. They must remember that teaching must be supported by the testimony of life. In fact, young people are sensitive to the testimony of adults, who are models for them. The family continues to be the primary place of education.

Here we touch the role of the Laity in the Church. Some of you are familiar with the sound of a bell being struck in a clock as announces the hours. When the clock is struck you hear the hour arriving. During the Mass marking the climax of the Jubilee of the Lay Apostolate in Rome in the year 2000, the Holy Father announced that "the hour of the laity has struck"! He reminded the laity everywhere that they too are called to action. In his homily John Paul II said,

"To be Christians has never been easy, and it isn't easy today either. To follow Christ means having the courage to make radical choices that often go against the current.

The Pope said that many lay faithful "have understood their own Christian vocation with

greater clarity, which, by its very nature, is a vocation to the apostolate". He emphasized that the laity will be missionaries because "contemporary man hears witnesses more easily than teachers. ... [If] he listens to teachers he does so when they are witnesses".

The laity's mission is enormous. The Pope sketched its main lines: "...think of social conquests and the revolution in the genetic field; in economic progress and in the underdevelopment that exists in wide areas of the planet; in the tragedy of hunger in the world, and in the difficulties to safeguard peace; in the fiber network of communications, and in the drama of loneliness and violence that are chronicled daily.

In this atmosphere, the laity are called to build the Kingdom of God on earth, the Holy Father said. He continues:

"Do not be afraid to accept this challenge: Be holy men and women! Do not forget that the fruits of the apostolate depend on the depth of the spiritual life, on the intensity of prayer, of continual formation and sincere adhesion to the directives of the Church.

John Paul repeated his message from World Youth Day in Rome: "You will be what you must be if you live Christianity without compromises, thus you will be able to set the world on fire.

At the Beatification of three members of the Catholic Action, a priest/doctor, an engineer/politician and a laywoman/apostle of youth, he addressed 250,000 people near the shrine at Loreto, Italy. Let his words speak to us today.

"Holiness is the greatest gift you can give the Church and the world. May his Gospel shine again - through you - as a light of hope for the poor, the sick, those hungry for justice.... It corresponds to the laity to "witness to the faith through the virtues that are specific to you", among them, "fidelity and tenderness in the family, competence in work, tenacity in serving the common good, solidarity in social relations, creativity in undertaking works that are useful to evangelization and human promotion.

"May Christian communities be ever more lively, open, attractive; may our cities be welcoming and livable for all; may humanity be able to follow the ways of peace and fraternity.

My dear friends! We are a Christian Country. We are celebrating this Holy Mass in our Capital, here in Port Moresby. Obviously many good things happen in the city, but one gets the impression that this city and other parts of the country are not welcoming and are not following the ways of peace. The people who can afford it live behind fences, secured by guards, to be protected from criminals. One priest writes:

"A great gap is opening up between the people and their elected leaders. The working people in this city have daily experiences that their leaders never have, and that their leaders never acknowledge, never talk about and seemingly don't care about".

When the Holy Father speaks to the business people, his words may well be directed to many of us. He said:

"It would in fact be decidedly inadequate to limit oneself to pursuing only maximum profit. It is necessary, rather, to always refer to the higher values of human living if one wants to help the true growth and full development of the community...Christian morality must be considered as the most powerful factor in awakening economic energy in peoples.

"Profitability is not the only indicator of a firm's condition; it is possible for the financial accounts to be in order, and yet for the people -- who make up the firm's most valuable asset -- to be humiliated and their dignity offended.

We are, as Christians, asked to be peacemakers and to rid the communities of fear and violence. The Holy Father guides us with the words he wrote in a letter to Cardinal Walter Kasper on the occasion of the Men and Religions meeting, recently held in Milan. He says:

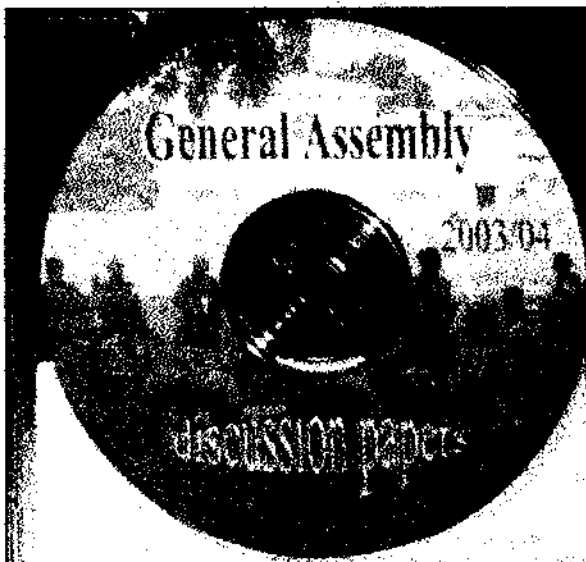
"Peace is possible always! We must always work together to eradicate the seeds of bitterness and misunderstanding embedded in culture and life, we must put all our efforts into eradicating humankind's determination to prevail over the other, we need to work together to erase the arrogance of asserting one's own interests disdaining the identity of the other. These feelings are the harbingers of a world of violence and war. But conflict is never unavoidable!

Violence had happened and was happening in Jerusalem when the Apostles were gathered in fear. Jesus had been scourged and nailed to the cross. There we find the comforting words of Jesus: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give it to you as the world does. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (John 14:27).

This celebration to remember the 26th anniversary of the Pontificate of the Holy Father is not only a moment of gratitude to God but also a moment of deeper awareness of his commitment to Christ and His Church. Let it also be a celebration to deepen our commitment to the growth of the Kingdom of God.

We thank the Holy Father that he demonstrates in his life and in his work following the answer of Peter:

Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you! Amen!



General Assembly Video and Documentation

The Video of the Closure of the General Assembly in Rabaul is now available. You can get it as a Video, a VCD or a DVD. Please specify whether you want it with an English or a Pidgin commentary. It runs for 45 minutes and is available through the Family Life Office, PO Box 592, Goroka (tel. 7321356, fax: 7321356). Cost K25 plus postage

Also there is now a CD containing much of the documentation from the General Assembly including the Discussion booklets in English and Pidgin, the collation of the responses to the questions for each of the topics, the minutes

