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Catholic Church in P.N.G. responds to Pope's Appeal to Generosity and Solidarity with the People of Haiti in their time of tragedy



A woman's suffering cries out to God in the midst of the destroyed Cathedral of the capital city, Port-au-Prince, in Haiti.

THE Holy Father, Benedict XVI has appealed to the "generosity of everyone, so that our brothers and sisters in Haiti receive our concrete solidarity and the effective support of the international community in this moment of need and suffering."

In response to this appeal by the Pope the President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, Bishop Francesco Panfilo, has urged "the people of all dioceses of PNG/SI, as well as all religious congregations", to provide financial assistance to the victims of Haiti.

In view of the above, the office of the CBC General Secretary is ready to receive donations for the victims of Haiti and to send these to the Catholic Bishops Conference of Haiti or other appropriate Church bodies which have been tasked for this. A separate account will be set up for this at CBC.

Since many people

in Haiti are suffering with each day that passes, and the situation is expected to get worse before it gets better, it is of essence that we respond generously and act swiftly with the love and compassion of Christ, said Fr Rolly, General Secretary of the CBC.

Donations can be made by Cheque payable to CBC Disaster Relief and posted or delivered to the CBC, P.O.Box 398, Waigani, NCD or paid into 'CBC Disaster Relief' ANZ account # 13522922. Waigani. (CBC Phone: 325 9577; Fax: 325 2551)

Fr Rolly asked that donations be received no later than the 11th February. The feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, World Day of the Sick.

May we also ask you, Fr Rolly said, to encourage as many of our brothers and sisters in Christ to pray for the victims of this calamity and to respond charitably and generously as well to the calls of Christ who awaits us in the cries of our suffering brothers and sisters in Haiti.



BEEF SNAX

CRACKER

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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.

MAY THE LORD SHOW US THE WAY!

(This article was originally published as a pastoral letter of Bishop Gilles for the people of the diocese of Danu-Kiunga)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
MAY the Lord protect you and give you good health!

It was not my intention to write this pastoral letter but the present situation in our country regarding sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS urges me to give you advice and show you the right direction to go. We are talking here about the use of sex and thus about relationships.

What is happening is that many people think and act as if sex is only for pleasure or for money and thus it is used without responsibility and good judgment. We are in this sad situation because of the letting go of the traditional customs and taboos regarding the use of sex as well as putting aside the will of God and the teaching of the Church regarding sexual relationships.

The result of not following the rules that guided our lives in the past when it came to making use of the gift of our sexual capacity is obvious in all our communities. People think that it is the time for free sex or sex for pleasure or sex for money. Where is that thinking and behavior leading us? First of all it creates a lot of broken or struggling marriages. Secondly it brings the children to treat sex as fun at a very young age. Thirdly people look easily at pornographic videos or photos or 'blue movies' as if it was a good thing to do. Fourthly we have many young girls with a child or two and not married. Fifthly the spread of sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS is on a sharp increase. Sixthly there are many cases of incest in some communities.

My dear friends, what are we doing? And where is that use of sex without any discipline or self control leading us? If we continue in this manner what will be our situation in five years, ten years? I personally think that our future won't be a very happy one. We are like running blindly into disaster for ourselves, our families and our clans, for our Christian communities and our diocese. And then we will regret it for the rest of our lives.

Why should a young girl or young boy or any other Christian go to a disco on a Friday or Saturday evening if there is going to be some alcohol and drugs at the disco. Why go there if there will be many men already married, not there with their wife, but as if they were still single men and looking for another woman or a girl to satisfy their sexual hunger and pleasure. You might have fun at that moment but you are going to cry later on and that is for sure. I know too many young girls with a child who feel that they have been

cheated by men who made them promises and told them that they loved them. But now where are the promises, where is the so called love?

It just cannot continue as it is going. We have come to a turning point where the question is the following: do we want to live a happy life or one of misery?

How can we move out of such an unsafe situation? I think that we need to find the discipline that we somehow lost on the way. It is the only way forward. STOP, THINK AND DECIDE TO DO THE RIGHT THING.

The will of God is clear. Sexual relationship (intercourse) is for married partners only. The Church teaches the same: no sexual relationships before marriage or outside of marriage and once married with your partner only.

The people need to become more responsible for the way they use sex. In the traditional customs there was no sex before marriage and married people were supposed to be faithful to one another. Fornication (which is sex before or outside marriage between two single persons) and adultery were forbidden and punished.

So there is a big need for a change of behavior. It takes strength and courage to change ways of behaving. If alcohol is a problem here the leaders need to call for a ban on alcohol for the sake of the people and their happy lives. If drugs are a problem here the leaders need to find ways to stop the people who sell drugs (the drugs dealers who are involved in such an evil action).

Abstinence (the decision to delay, or not have sexual intercourse at all) and fidelity are not only the best way to avoid becoming infected or infecting others with STI or HIV/AIDS, but even more they are the road to achieve a long and happy life. In the past we had our own positive moral values to protect virtues such as chastity (virtue by which persons makes a proper use of their sexuality according to their state in life) and fidelity. When the Church condemns the use of sex before marriage and outside of marriage, it is neither asking for the impossible nor proposing something altogether contrary to our traditions.

What follows is teaching from the Catechism of the Catholic Church on sexual relationships. What we give you is a shorter and more simple version. This teaching is an expression of the will of God for us.

No. 223: We are made for love and need love. Intercourse (sleeping together) just for sex is not love because true love is expressed in the constant giving of one person to the other. We show this love best where there is unity and faithfulness between married people.

No. 2353: Fornication is having sex between unmarried people. God created our sexuality to give life and love that naturally can produce children. 'Free sex' gives bad example to children at an age when

they cannot understand fully the true meaning of a loving sexual act.

No. 2354: Pornography is to show the sexual act through movies or pictures. It is used intentionally to make others sexually excited and offends the God-given purpose for which he created us. It is mostly used to make money from other people. The sexual act of making love between faithful married partners is something beautiful in the eyes of God. It is the total gift of one person to another, not just with their body but also with the gift of their mind and their heart. It is for the life of the partner and not only for oneself.

No. 2380/2381: Adultery is unfaithfulness within marriage by using the sexual act outside of the married relationship. Adultery is directly forbidden by God in the 6th Commandment. Jesus explains that we can also commit adultery in our thoughts and desires as well as with our bodies and he says that it is absolutely forbidden.

Adultery breaks the contract of marriage and hurts the relationship between the partners that was promised seriously by both of them when the marriage took place. Children need their parents to be faithful so that they feel secure and loved by each of their parents.

No. 2338: Incest is a sexual act between parents and their own children or close relatives. It is sex within forbidden blood relationships where by law they cannot get married. Incest corrupts family relationships and breaks the loving bonds between husband and wife and the children.

No. 2389: Sexual abuse by adults against children is never forgotten even in the deep memory of the children. The adult is using the body of the child for their own sexual pleasure and not for the good of the child. The act is never life-giving for the child.

Sexual intercourse is often called 'making love'. This has a real meaning: the sexual act comes from love; it shows love and it makes love grow. If it does not do this, then it has no meaning. Mating is what animals do. They act from instinct, not love.

People, get together and talk about all this. It is so important to your lives, your human lives and your Christian lives.

And take actions: call on the leaders at all levels to do something about the abuse of alcohol, the black markets, the selling of drugs, the selling and showing of 'blue movies', those who offer sex for money, etc.: call on all the leaders to do something to protect their people: the elected Members of Parliament, the Administrators at Provincial and District levels, the Town Mayors and Wards Elected Members, the Village Councillors, the Police Force and the Defense Force, the various Church Leaders, the Public Servants.

I invite all our Catholic men to wake up to the present situation and stand up together to stop the evil that takes place when sex is used without responsibility.

Men should be protectors of their families. How can men protect their families when they are drunk? How can they protect their families if they go around as if they were single, getting drunk and having fun with girls? Please stand up and take on your responsibility. Protect your families from the evil that can come with discos and sex for pleasure and sex for money. Protect them by showing them the way to respect the will of God, the traditional moral values and the teaching of the Church regarding responsible sexual relationships.

I think that as Catholics we always have to choose life which is a gift from God. We always have to take care of that gift and take the decisions that are needed. By imprinting his own image and likeness upon each human person, God gives the same dignity and unique worth to all, including the human body and human sexuality. We need to think together about this beautiful gift and about the situation we find ourselves in at this moment and then decide what to do and do it. Only a concerted effort (effort of all of us together) will make the tide turn.

This year, in the diocese, we are reflecting on being free to choose True Life. Sex before and outside marriage is not part of True Life. On the contrary it is part of false life as promoted by the evil one. The ones who live True Life live by the Gospel values, the teaching from Scriptures and the good traditional values.

Sin is a choice that goes against God's will, going away from God's way for us. Evil is in the heart. But how does it get there? Through what we read, what we look at (pictures, movies, videos, etc.) what we listen to all the time, what we think about all the time, etc.

We could ask ourselves if our choices are pleasing to God or pulling us away from him. Are our actions pleasing to him and according to what he wants for us? The teaching of Jesus is all about the will of the Father. It is the same with the teaching of the Church. The Church encourages everyone to sexually behave responsibly towards oneself and others, meaning to do so in a way that respects the will of God. Let us work hard at becoming good human beings and faithful Christians.

Let me end by inviting you to read the following passages from the Bible and reflect on them in order not to act out of ignorance but as responsible persons:

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| Genesis 1: 26-27; | Genesis 2: 21-25; |
| Exodus 20: 14 & 17; | Leviticus 18: 7-20; |
| Deuteronomy 5: 17 & 21; | |
| Mathew 19: 1-12; | Mathew 5: 27-28; |
| Mark 10: 9; | 1 Corinthians 7: 10-11; |
| Galatians 5: 16-25; | Titus 2: 1-6. |

Pope Benedict stresses in his New Year Message, "If you want to cultivate Peace, protect creation."

Pope Benedict in his New Year Message to the world has picked up on what is on everybody's lips at this moment, the environment. His Holiness' message entitled, "If You Want to Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation" draws on his encyclical, "Caritas in Veritate, where he noted that integral human develop-

ment is closely linked to the obligations which flow from Man's relationship with the natural environment. The environment must be seen as God's gift to all people, and the use we make of it entails a shared responsibility for all humanity, especially the poor and future generations.

The Pope went on to say the environment must be seen as God's gift to all people, and the use we make of it entails a shared responsibility for all humanity, especially the poor and future generations. The Pope said that whenever nature and human beings, in particular, are seen merely as products of chance

or an evolutionary determinism, our overall sense of responsibility wanes.

On the other hand, he said, seeing creation as God's gift to humanity helps us understand our vocation and worth as human beings. Contemplating the beauty of creation inspires us, he said, to recognise the love of the Creator, that Love which "moves the sun and the other stars".



YIA BILONG OL

PRIS

19 Jun 2009 - 19 Jun 2010



'Little Iron' laid to Rest

The Death of Fr. Ferruccio (Frank) Zuccolo, SVD

They called him Fr Frank here in PNG but his real name was Ferruccio, which in Italian means "little iron". His name describes quite well his character.

He was born in a small village near Udine on the 9th of June 1935 from a poor family of six, who had to struggle to survive especially during and after the Second World War.

After seminary training he was ordained a priest in 1967 at the age of 33. Shortly after he started his work in Papua New Guinea in the diocese of Madang.

He worked among other parishes, in the parishes of Bundi (1968-1972) and Utu (1972-1979), before be-



Fr. Ferruccio (Frank) Zuccolo, SVD

ing assigned to Manam Island, where he spent the greater part of his missionary life providing for the spiritual and material welfare of his people (1979-2009).

In 1999, at the age of 64, he had a heart attack and was forced to go back to Italy for a heart operation, in which he received a triple bypass.

Sickness, though,

was never far from him and increasingly so as he got older.

With the eruption of the Manam volcano, which destroyed so much of what he had built during the years coupled with the evacuation of the great majority of his people, and their struggle to survive in the care centres, often amidst the hostility of the landowners, were also terrible blows to his energetic spirit.

He suffered much in the last few years both physically and spiritually.

The "little iron" who had dug hard in God's vineyard passed away last month.

His funeral mass was celebrated in Alexishafen. Archbishop William Kurtz SVD was the Main celebrant:

The Catechism of the Catholic Church

Bishop Francesco writes: let us continue our study of prayer

THE TRADITION OF PRAYER.

The Church, guided by the Spirit, knows that prayer is of primary importance in the life of the faithful. Prayer helps faith to grow stronger and to understand how God is present in the world

AT THE SOURCES OF PRAYER.

The Holy Spirit, through the Church, is always guiding people who search for God or who want to deepen their faith. There are many ways by which we are encouraged and nourished and guided to the source of our faith which is Christ, the way the truth and the life.

The Word of God.

The Church encourages the faithful to know Jesus Christ by frequently reading the Scriptures. The reading should also be accompanied by prayer in order to understand and contemplate God's ways and be in dialogue with him.

The liturgy of the Church.

The liturgy is the prayer of the Church making present and real the mystery of salvation. Participation in the liturgy is a form of prayer bringing us closer in communion with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The Theological Virtues in the Liturgy.

Participation in the liturgical celebration is an act of faith because we want to be in contact with the Lord; it is the Word of God that we want to hear and keep.

The liturgy educates us to hope. The Lord that we celebrate now in time will come in glory. We are strengthened in hope by fixing our eyes on the Lord.

Love is the real mark of prayer. Prayer unfolding in the liturgy makes us understand the love of Christ for us and we are invited to respond to him by loving as he has loved us.

To pray, "Today".

All events of life may become a moment of prayer by discovering that God is present there. The Spirit within us is praying within us helping us to be in contact with God every moment of the day. We may be working or traveling or doing many other things but all of these can become moment of prayer when we try to live in the presence of God. We recognize that each moment of our lives is in the Father's hand and he is providing for our needs. Our daily prayer must have at heart the ideals of the Beatitudes and of the Kingdom. It is in the today's situations of our lives that we, Christians, are called to pray and be involved so that the kingdom of peace and justice may come about.

Increase in number of missionaries killed

Catholic News

Thirty-seven priests, nuns and missionaries were killed worldwide in 2009, nearly twice as many as 2008 and a record high for a decade, the Vatican's news agency has reported.

The report, published on the Fides website, lists 30 priests, two nuns, two seminarians and three lay volunteers "killed in a violent way" in 2009.

Most deaths occurred in Latin and North America, where 23 of the Catholic workers were killed, 11 died in Africa, two in Asia and one in Europe.

Over the past 10 years, 261 Catholic workers have been killed around the world, including 190 priests and four bishops.

In December, Pope Benedict condemned the recent deaths of four monks in a number of African countries.

Among them was 70-year-old French priest Louis Blondel, who was killed during a burglary at his home in a shanty town north of Johannesburg, South Africa.

Lae Catholics Say Goodbye to their first Shepherd

First Published in PNG Tanget - a newsletter of the Mariannahill Congregation in PNG

THE Catholic Diocese of Lae is mourning the death of its retired Bishop Henry van Lieshout - the first Bishop of the Diocese.

Bishop Henry died peacefully in his chair while preparing to celebrate the Christmas Eve Mass for his parishioners of the St. Martin's parish in the Papua Compound in Lae.

Parishioners had gathered on Christmas Eve for the traditional service when they found that the bishop had not arrived. A search later revealed that the bishop had died suddenly at his home in the Mariannahill House.

Bishop Henry van Lieshout CMM was born in 1932 in Venlo, the Netherlands. He joined the Mariannahill Mission Society in 1954 and was ordained a priest in 1959. When the Catholic Mission in PNG was re-organized in 1959, the mission in the Morobe Province was separated



Bishop Henry van Lieshout - A good Shepherd who laboured 50 years in the Vineyard of the Lord in Morobe. A contribution recognised by the State when he was made a 'Chief' of the Grand Companion of the Order of the Logohu.

from the Madang Mission and became a new Vicariate Apostolic entrusted to the Mariannahill Missionaries. The newly ordained Fr. Henry was part of a team of four who were assigned to Lae to develop the beginnings of the Catholic Church in Morobe

which had been initiated, by the then, Fr. Leo Arkfeld SVD, the first parish priest of Lae, followed by the Passionist Fathers.

Fr. Henry van Lieshout was appointed the first bishop of Lae in 1966 at an age of 34, making him one of the youngest bishops in the church at that time.

Under his pastoral leadership during the past 50 years the Diocese of Lae has grown up from modest beginnings with less than 2000 Catholics in 1960 till up to 30,000 at present. The many churches and schools, a variety of communities, and lay-movements and associations offer an eloquent picture of the activities of a pastor who never felt the urge to make impressive public appearances but preferred to keep a low profile. That was just what made him loved by the faithful and kept him in close contact with the people of all levels.

Several years ago, Bishop Henry encouraged the establishment of a Diocesan radio

station, Catholic FM 103.7. It was a project he took a keen interest in and for which he regularly prepared programmes.

He also played a major role in the development of the Mercy Centre at Omili in Lae which serves the need of the sick in the area.

Bishop Henry van Lieshout retired at the age of 75 in 2007, having served as Bishop for 40 years.

He was succeeded by Bishop Christian Blouin CMM after the celebration of his jubilee on 19 March 2007.

Bishop Henry's services to the Catholic Church in the Morobe Province were recognized by the State in the year of his retirement when he was made a Grand Companion of the Order of the Logohu with the title of "Chief".

At the eve of Golden Jubilee of the arrival of Mariannahill in PNG the diocese has lost a dearly beloved shepherd who will be missed as the key person of half a century of its history.

Priests Retreat in the 'Year of the Priest' a True Blessing



Priests and bishops gather in front on the altar at the Holy Spirit Chapel, Bomana with a painting of St John Vianney, patron saint of priests.

Over 80 priests from all over Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands were blessed to be in a retreat facilitated by Msgr. Peter Jeffrey of Sandhurst diocese, Australia.

The retreat was an initiative of the Catholic

Bishops' Conference during the present 'Year of the Priest'.

Father Rolly secretary of the CBC said, the priests found the retreat a wonderful experience where they could listen to spiritual talks, pray and renew themselves in their

priestly vocation, life and ministry.

Bishop Rochus Tatamai of the diocese of Bereina and Fr. Rodrigo Campilan of the archdiocese of POM, were the heads of the organizing committee. The bishops, the lay personnel of the Archdiocese of Port Mores-

by and the CBC Secretariat worked together to make the retreat a success.

The five-day retreat was held at the beginning of the month at the Holy Spirit Seminary at the Catholic Theological Seminary at Bomana, NCD.



RETREAT COMMITTEE: The Retreat Committee comprising of Priest and Laetry who ensured that things were in order for the week long event at the Holy Spirit Seminary BVomana, NCD.