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IN THE OLD HABIT: Dedicated Catholics who support a lot of the activities of the Catholic Church in PNG, and owners of Lae Biscuit Company, Sir Henry Chow (left) and wife, Lady Collette (right) pose with three nuns, Sr Marie Louis Hau-OLSH – Front row, Sr Janet Ebenel – OLSH and Sr Emma Lapun-OLSH-(Back row) who put on the old habit to display the former dressing of the Congregation of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (DOLSH) nuns from the time of their arrival in 1887 to the shores of Yule Island, PNG. Over the years, the old habit has undergone changes and was done away with about 30 years ago and since then, the OLSH nuns throughout the country have changed their habits to a lighter dressing, less the facial veil and all the heavy clothing which virtually covered most parts of the body, except the face, hands and soles of the feet. Last Sunday, the congregation in the Port Moresby Archdiocese had a Eucharistic celebration to launch their preparation programs of their 125 years anniversary since the first OLSH Sisters arrival in PNG which will fall next year August 01, 2012. See story on Page 2. *Photo & Words: Veronica Hatutasi*

Archbishop Steve Reichert becomes a Chief

...Bestowed the highest award

ARCHBISHOP Steven Reichert, the current head of the Madang Catholic Diocese, has been bestowed with the highest award of the "Grand Companion of the Order of Logohu", and chiefly title as part of the 2011 Independent Day Honours List.

Recently, a ceremony was held at the Government House during which the Governor General and Grand Chief, Sir Michael Ogio, awarded 120 people of PNG in recognition for outstanding services in various areas, rendered to the community and country.

On Thu.24 Nov.2011, the Gov-

ernment House in Port Moresby was well decorated and was full of life. There were about 200 dignitaries, recipients, friends and representatives of the awardees. Many people received awards from the Governor General, as part of the 2011 Independence Day Honors List.

At 2 pm the Royal PNG Constabulary Band welcomed the Governor General Grand Chief Sir Michael Ogio and Lady Esmie Ogio. Then the awardees were seated according to the order of the Honors List. In front was Archbishop Steve Reichert,

OFM (Cap).

The Master of Ceremony announced the recipients of the award. Archbishop Reichert was the first one to receive the award. He was invested with the Insignia of the "Grand Companion of the Order of Logohu" with the title of "Chief" (GCL).

The recitation read: "For service to the Catholic Church and the community of Southern Highlands through many years as a Capuchin missionary priest and later Bishop of Mendi Diocese for 40 years until appointed Archbishop of Madang in Feb.2011".

Xmas Message

As this is the last issue for 2011, The Catholic Reporter acknowledges the support of all its valuable readers and clients throughout the parishes, dioceses and country and wishes you all, "A Blessed Christmas & a Prosperous New Year, 2012". We look forward to your continued support and contributions in news articles in the coming year. From The Catholic Reporter Team.

From now on Archbishop Reichert can be called "Chief".

Among the 120 people who received awards from the Governor General are: Fr.Michael Finnigan, who received "Officer of the Order of Logohu" (OL) "for service to the community and the Catholic Church as a Church worker and

priest in the East Sepik and Western Highlands Provinces for over 50 years".

Sr.Brenda Nash, FDNSC was absent but would receive "Officer of the Order of the Logohu"(OL) "for service to education and the community of Milne Bay Province for 50 years as a religious sister of the Congregation of the

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart".

Fr.Victor Roche, SVD the General Secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands attended the ceremony on behalf of the Catholic Church.

After the ceremonies, there were refreshments for the visitors.



HIGHLY REWARDED: Archbishop Steven Reichert after receiving the highest Logohu Award, poses for a photograph on the grounds of Government House with the Governor General Sir Michael Ogio and wife, Lady Esmie. *Photo: Fr Victor Roche SVD*

A Catholic central system for evangelization

By Terence Aisi Victor

THE Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands (CBC PNG&SI) Office in Port Moresby has taken another step forward in trying to ensure that all the Catholic Dioceses in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands will

one day be connected in communicating with each other, to spread the Good News of Jesus, by using one central system via V-sat technology.

In August this year, The CBC Secretariat office in Waigani, Port Moresby, sent an application for the license to operate, and just re-

cently it was issued an Operator Class License.

In the meantime, the CBC General Secretary and the IT Division of the CBC secretariat is preparing to register all 19 Catholic Dioceses of Papua New Guinea before moving into actually engaging all other engineering requirements to fully operate.



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If you have any news items which you would like to contribute, call Terence Aisi Victor on Telephone Number : 3259577 or Fax: 3232551 at the Catholic Bishops Conference Office or email: aisiterence603@gmail.com or Postal Address: Catholic Bishops Conference of PNG/SI, P O Box 398, Waigani, NCD, Port Moresby- PNG.

OLSH congregation launch 125 years program

...Brief History of OLSH nuns in PNG

By Sr Emma Lapun OLSH,
and Veronica Hatutasi

LAST Sunday, November 11, the Congregation of the Daughters of Our Lady of Sacred Heart (OLSH) in the Port Moresby Archdiocese, launched a program in preparation for the 125 anniversary of the first missionaries here which will fall next year on August 1, 2012.

The launch coincided with the Silver Jubilee or 25 years celebration of Srs Maria Goretti Leison OLSH and Hedwig Malaita, OLSH into the congregation.

St Joseph's Boroko Church was full to capacity with church members who participated in the celebration and the launch of a congregation of nuns who have contributed greatly for 125 years in the spiritual, physical and integral human development of the people and the country, moreso, in the areas of health and education.

Currently, the OLSH congregation has 103 members of which 8 are non Papua New Guineans, while 95 are nationals. They can be found in the Yule Island area of the Bereina Diocese in the Central Province which has a Novitiate House, Veifa'a, Mainohana which also looks after the Daru/Kiunga Diocese and Bema in the Kerema Diocese.

In the Port Moresby Archdiocese, the OLSH nuns live and work in Boroko where they have their Administrative office, at Morata, Badili and Marianville.

In the Rabaul Archdiocese, they

are based and work in Vunapope where they have a postulancy where young girls wanting to become nuns enter the convent, Kabaleo, Paparatava and Uvol, while in the Kavieng Manus Diocese, they are based at Papitalai.

In the Alotau Diocese, they can be found working in Alotau, Hagita and Russel Island while in the Eastern Highland, they are based at Goroka.

Below is a brief history of the OLSH's 125 years in PNG.

Fr Jules Chevalier MSC, founded the Congregation of the Daughters of Our Lady of Sacred Heart at Issoudun, France on the 30th August, 1874. Convinced that the remedy for the spiritual poverty of his time was to be found in the knowledge of the unconditional love of God for each person revealed in the Heart of Christ, he had founded in the year 1854, the MSC, The society of Priests and Brothers who would be Apostles of his love.

THE TITLE OF OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART.

He saw Mary, the mother of Jesus as the first disciple and Missionary of the love of the word Incarnate and was inspired to honor her and cause her to be honored under the title of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart when, then in 1874, he founded a Congregation of the Religious women with the same Christ, Spirituality and Mission of the MSC, He then gave the name, Daughters of our Lady of the Sacred Heart, a title which he envisage as the way of life.

THE BEGINNING - HARDSHIP AND DIFFICULTIES.

The beginnings were very hard for Fr Chevalier as many women entered, but not suitable. Mother Felicite Pirinoli, their superior that time was in opposition to Fr Chevalier. The three Sisters who were very faithful to Fr Chevalier were, Sr Emelie Sassin, Sr Claire and Madelein. In 1876, they were in their temporary vows refused to renew their vows at the hands of Mother Pirinoli so they recommenced their novitiate again in March 25th, 1882 together with Mother Marie Louise.

MOTHER MARIE LOUISE.

On 8th December 1882, Mother Marie Louise Hartzler accepted from Fr Chevalier the role of Spiritual Mother and Superior of the young Congregation. A Woman of faith, courage and prayer, gifted with a genuine human heart, she was drawn by the Holy Spirit to a profound intimacy with the heart of Jesus, especially in the Blessed Sacrament, and a deep love for Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

SHARE THE FAITH VISION OF THE FOUNDER.

We are called in the church to share the faith vision of our founder. Like him we come to know the pierce Heart of Jesus the infinite tenderness and compassionate love of God.

The MSC having accepted the request of Pope Leo The XIII to evangelize Melanesia and that was the joy of the society and events moved quickly, By September,

1882 the first group of the MSC left France for Melanesia. They were Fr Navarre, T. Cramaile and Br Fromme landed on Matupit on New Britain. In collaboration with MSC in implanting the faith among the people of Melanesia, a great and difficult mission the sisters were ready to take the challenge to come to this part of the world.

THE FIRST PROFESSION.

Meanwhile, a handful of the early Sisters were continually their initial formation. On September 9th, 1884, the first profession took place who include Mother Marie Louise and the three faithful and pioneer sisters of the Congregation. These sisters were to leave France in 5 weeks time, and come to the unknown part of this world. There were Srs Madeleine Masselin, Claire Desouley, Xavier Ryan. Two more nuns, Sr Paul Perdrix and Martha Douillard would make their vows on the evening of the departure. The young institute which numbered only seven sisters immediately gave five of them to the work of implanting the faith in a distant pagan land. Those who left at Issoudun were the two professed-Mother Marie Louise and Sr Emelie with the twelve novices and postulants.

THE JOURNEY TO THE MISSION IN MELANESIA.

On the evening of October 17th 1884 in the company of Fathers Henry Verius and Louise Coupe and the three young Italian Brothers Mariano, Nicola and Salvatore and the five pioneer sisters left

France for New Guinea. These sisters were never to see their home land again, but so it was those days.

THE BEGINNING OF THE AUSTRALIAN PROVINCE

The journey was long and eventful one of nearly four months and January 12th 1885, they reach Sydney. There in Sydney, the MSC had accepted Cardinal Moran's offer of the Parish embryo of Botany in which they established a centre to take charge of supplying the material needs of the missionaries in the field. For the time being the sisters found themselves in running a small school beside the Botany Church. This is where they lay the foundation of what would in years to come develop into the Australian Province of the Congregation.

NEW GUINEA AT LAST.

On August 1, 1887, Sisters Liguori, Madeleine, Claire, Martha join with the MSC to New Guinea. These group stayed on at Yule Island.

The second group of Pioneer sisters for New Britain Mission left France in September, 13th 1891 in the company of Mgr Louise Coupe. They were Srs Odilia, Adelaide, Ludgrade, Catherine and Agatha, three France and two German Sisters. They arrived in New Britain on the 21st December, 1891.

This is how the sisters came to Papua New Guinea and spread all through the Country and are in different parts doing different apostolate such as Education, Health, Pastoral and many more.



SATELLITE BROADCASTING: Radio Maria using satellite system to broadcast in Aitape, Sandaun Province.

Radio Maria receives new radio equipment

HELLO readers, it's always nice to have your company at this time, because we've got so many interesting things to discuss with you, and it's always good to bounce off articles on our readers and listeners as you never know what kind of feedback you might get.

Most times, we get very positive comments from our readers and listeners but there have

been instances when we get quite a few criticisms from our listeners, which have helped us to look critically at our programs and their contents.

With all that said, it is our greatest pleasure to inform you all that our long awaited radio equipment from Europe has at long last arrived on our shores.

This means that in the next few months, Radio Maria will be very busy

travelling to other dioceses to install our transmitters so that our people from these dioceses may be able to participate in our programs through our prayers, Holy Mass, etc. It is an exciting transitional period in the life of Radio Maria because this is the first time Radio Maria will use high quality radio transmitters to provide quality audio reception for our

listeners.

With the arrival of this radio equipment, Radio Maria is going to need a lot of money to ship off and install this equipment in the other dioceses. Thus, Radio Maria has gone ahead with a few fund raising efforts in our nation's capital.

One of the fundraising activities that Radio Maria has been doing is, to visit our Catholic schools to distribute coin cans to the teachers and children. We have been overwhelmed by the respond from the teachers and the children and for us, these responses give us hope that despite all the negativism we see all around us, there is still a lot of good among our little people in each community.

Radio Maria will be carrying out a major fundraising event during this month. The fundraising drive will be called "Mariathon."

This fundraising drive invites listeners and readers to call our Studio and make a pledge of financial assistance. Keep your eyes and ears glued to your parish notice boards for more information on this event.

In the mean time, we wish you all God's blessings and happy reading.

LCI Bibliodrama course lets God's Word come alive

"THE Word of God is alive and active" (Hebrews 4:12). 2-7.

Pastoral workers from various dioceses experienced the truth of this word during a biblical course offered by the Liturgical Catechetical Institute (LCI) at Alexishafen/Madang.

A Holy Spirit nun, Sr. Anna Damas, introduced the participants to creative ways of dealing with biblical stories, thus allowing them to become a mirror for each person's life.

Reservations and doubts ("I am not a

scripture scholar; I have nothing to say about the Bible...") quickly melted down.

The participants saw for themselves that the Word of God unfolds its power in everyone - if only we enter into the stories with our own feelings and life-stories. The program comprised an imaginary journey to important places in Jesus' life including the Christmas story told from different angles, encountering the tax collector and pharisee in us, walking from darkness to light with Barti-

maeus and others.

The method used in the course is called Bibliodrama.

This is different from bible dramas where actors perform a biblical story for an audience.

In Bibliodrama, every participant chooses a role in the story and relives it with his or her own feelings and experiences.

This method not only leads to a deeper understanding of the biblical story, but also brings in touch with one's own faith journey and relationship with Jesus.



COURSE PARTICIPANTS: The Pastoral Workers group who took part in the Alexishafen Bibliodrama workshop.

Kefamo hosts diocesan youth coordinators gathering

By James Soli, Diocesan Youth Coordinator, Bougainville Diocese

THE Diocesan Youth Coordinators of the 19 Catholic dioceses of Papua New Guinea recently gathered at Kefamo Conference Centre, Goroka in the Eastern Highlands to discuss issues concerning youths to become active and useful members of their communities, parishes and dioceses. The conference ran from November 13-20, 2011 with all the dioceses participating except the diocese of Daru-Kiunga.

Bishop Rochus Tatamai MSC, Deputy Bishop for the Commission of Youth, Bishop Bernard Unabali, Deputy Bishop for the Commission of Laity, Fr. Victor Roche SVD, Secretary General of Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands and two Highland Regional Women Executives also participated in this gathering.

It was unfortunate that the Solomon Islands diocesan youth coordinators could not make it, due to the high costs of air tickets from their respective dioceses to Goroka.

The gathering was organised by Fr. Shanthy Chacko Puthussery PIME, the Secretary of Commission for the Youth and Laity, under the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands (CBC/PNG&SI).

The objective and purpose of the gathering was to assist the youth coordinators to establish youth groups at every outstations/substations of the parishes of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, and encourage them to make sure that all the youth of the parishes participate in the youth groups regularly.

After the World Youth Sydney 2008, the CBC/PNG&SI have been seriously discussing the context of the young people and appointed Fr. Shanthy Chacko Puthussery PIME as Secretary of the Commission for the Youth and Laity.

He is originally from India and as a missionary priest, arrived in January

2000 to Papua New Guinea. For the first three years, he worked with the youth at Santa Maria Parish, Watuluma, Alotau Diocese and then worked as Diocesan Youth Coordinator of Alotau Diocese for four years from 2003 to 2006.

After four years of his doctoral studies in Australia he began his office as Secretary of the Commission for Youth and Laity from 2011 April. Prior to his priestly ordination, he worked with the late Mother Teresa, helping the street children for six years at Calcutta in India.

As he began his office in April 2011, he visited all the dioceses of Papua New Guinea except the dioceses of Bereina and Kerema.

Due to constraints of available time for this year he could not visit the dioceses of Solomon Islands and he scheduled to visit them in August 2012.

After the visit to the dioceses, he organised this important gathering with the diocesan youth coordinators in order to strengthen the Catholic youth formation program in a systematic organised manner.

In fact he has prepared a year-long formation program called, *DOING BY LEARNING* and *LEARNING BY DOING-2012*, from the first week of February to the end of November.

This learning program's design is based on four areas of formation: human (physical and psychological), intellectual, spiritual and social/pastoral.

These learning materials of 42 pages have printed out 2000 copies of a book-form and they will go to every parish, high/secondary schools, and tertiary/university chaplains, seminaries and to the prison chaplains through the respective diocesan youth coordinator of every diocese.

They will also go to all the major superiors of the different religious congregations of the Catholic Church in Papua New Guinea during their annual gathering at Madang in March 2012.

During these eight days of gathering, all the diocesan youth coordina-

tors were given basic knowledge of these learning materials and thus they are in a position to visit and deliver the knowledge to all the youth of the parishes.

According to the participants, the inputs presented during the gathering were generally aimed at helping everyone to understand his/her vocation, rooted in task, risk, sacrifice and prayer.

It was also made clear that unless four areas of formation appropriately done in a person the adequate qualities of authentic leadership do not take place in a person. Based on the Ericksonian understanding of psychosocial development theory, it was presented that through four areas of formation one can become authentic Christians leaders who may able to build the human community essentially rooted in peace, joy, happiness and justice.

The participants have genuinely appreciated the inputs of the gathering and all other activities which enhanced them to understand the complex responsibility of working with the young people in a systematic way and the need of having adequate qualities attached to it in that role model.

They have also recommended and pointed out the need of having regular formation activities for the men and women groups of the Catholic Church in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

However, all these formation activities of *LEARNING MATERIALS* will be evaluated appropriately and improved upon for the year 2013 during a similar gathering in 2012 which develops each diocese to have their own formation learning materials for the youth by 2014.

According to the schedule of 2012, 13 dioceses will have 8 days of parish youth leaders' leadership training program by Fr. Shanthy.

Several parishes of the dioceses will have parish youth conventions and the other dioceses and parishes will be followed parish youth leaders' leadership training program and parish youth conventions in 2013.

Commentary

By Fr. Victor Roche, SVD



LAST month, a Grade 8 teacher found a man selling the annual question paper of Gr.8 Exams in Port Moresby.

Each subject was being sold for K50.

This is not possible, unless someone in a high position of the Education Department knows about it. Nothing was done to prevent the question papers from being sold in the open market.

Another incident is that, during the Independence Day celebrations this year, each school in Port Moresby was asked to participate in the Students Parade at the stadium.

Each participating school was promised K2,000 each for their travel and refreshment expenses.

After the celebrations were over, the principal of one school was given only K1,500. K500 went to the private pocket of the one who was responsible in distributing those funds.

It is possible that other schools also received only K1,500 each.

We do have corruption in high places. It is like a virus.

Unless we do something about it, the virus will spread.

Transparency International (PNG) has "Ten Commandments for fighting corruption."

Some of them which are fitting for the above article are: 1. People in official positions must be careful with public funds. 2. We must not ask for or accept bribes if offered. 3. We must not pay bribes if asked. 4. We must stay informed about what is happening in our country. 5. We must not accept corruption.



Photo: CBC STAFF RETREAT: Members of the CBC on retreat take time to pose for a photograph. Photo: Terence Aisi Victor

Experience of God in others, nature and self

By Terence Aisi Victor

STAFF members of the Catholic Bishops Conference (CBC) in Port Moresby attended a two days retreat from November 23-24, 2011, at the Xavier Institute, Bomana.

Fr. Victor Disa SVD was the facilitator.

The two days experience by each individual with God was nourishing spiritually, psychologically and consequently, helped each person to restruc-

ture one's life into a life which must have meaning in this busy world of ours, our families, and above all, the realization of each individual's weaknesses and strengths at work, home and with God.

The retreat as usual ended with a beautiful celebration of the Holy Mass with the retreat facilitator Fr. Victor Disa SVD.

He reminded each one on the importance of always remembering God's love in all we do and say in our daily lives.

Nuncio transferred to Africa

ARCHBISHOP Francisco Padilla, the Apostolic Nuncio for Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, is being transferred to Tanzania, Africa.

Archbishop Padilla, the representative of the Pope in PNG/SI, has served the Catholic Church in these two countries in the past 5 ½ years.

He was born on September 17, 1953 in Cebu City, Philippines and was ordained a priest on October 21, 1976.

He has served in the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Austria, India, Japan and Australia. He last served in Australia after which he was ap-

pointed to PNG/SI on April 4, 2006. During his term in PNG/SI, he has visited all the dioceses of both countries.

He conducts consultations among the bishops, priests, religious and lay people before sending them to Rome for the selection of a candidate to become a bishop of a diocese. Then the Pope appoints the bishop.

He has given appointments or transfers for 19 Bishops in his 5 ½ years. He has been very close to the bishops and the people of both countries. He will be missed very much.

Vocation Home of St. John Marie Vianney

By Yohanes Werang, CM

VOCATION Home of St. John Marie Vianney Day this year was a memorable day for the diocese of Daru-Kiunga, Western Province.

Twenty Priests, two Bishops, Bishop Gilles Cote, SMM and Bishop Francisco SVD from Goroka, some nuns and a few people attended the blessing of a Vocation Home in Kiunga, named St. John Marie Vianney.

The purpose of the Vocation Home is to encourage, nurture and form young people who have a desire to be a priest, to give orientation about the life that he is expected to live, to help the young people to reflect on their vocation and to prepare good candidates to go to the seminary.

Bishop Gilles officiating the blessing of the Forma-

tion House, in his homily said that "this is the first vocation home made especially for young people who have the desire to be a priest".

It was a blessing for the Daru-Kiunga Diocese, because the diocese has a vocation home now to prepare young people to nurture their vocation to become priests or religious.

Bishop Gilles went on to say that previously, he sent a lot of candidates to the seminary, but most of them could not survive in their vocation because they were not prepared well.

Because of this, bishop and the priests had this idea to build a vocation home with a priest in charge who would help young people reflect on their vocation.

The focus of the vocation home is to give human formation, make them aware of their vocation, helping

them to commit themselves, self discipline and character building. In order to help them, they follow a set of rules and regulations and a commonly agreed time table.

They have prayer, daily mass and evening prayer, a time for sharing the fruit of their reflection, and introduced to meditation and devotion to Mother Mary.

They also write their daily journal to know themselves and to reflect how God is walking with them in their daily routine.

Stanis Degan, one of candidate who is doing Grade XI at St. Gabriel Technical Secondary School says; "I find this program very good, because it helps me a lot to reflect on my vocation".

He mentioned that at the beginning, he found it hard to follow the time table, but when he got used to it, it was useful for him. Thus,

he decided to continue in the vocation home.

Frank Papa, the other candidate who is doing Grade XII says, "This vocation home is the place where I can learn to discipline myself.

In society, we are taught to do whatever we want, but in this home, we are taught how to follow the rules and regulations in order to build our character."

Formation House can accommodate 9 candidates.

There is a dormitory, study hall, shower rooms, refectory and chapel.

Since the vocation home opened in June 2011, three candidates have been accepted.

Candidates who are accepted are presently doing their Grades 10, 11 and 12.

They were chosen with the recommendation from their parish priest.

Father Donald Lippert named bishop of Mendi

CAPUCHIN friar, Father Donald Lippert, is the new bishop of the Mendi Diocese, Southern Highlands province. The announcement was made on November 22, 2011, that Pope Benedict XVI has appointed Capuchin friar Father Donald Lippert as bishop of Mendi in Papua New Guinea. The 54 year old Capuchin friar will be the third bishop of the Southern Highlands diocese, which was established forty-five years ago.

Bishop-elect Donald was born in Pittsburgh, PA, on June 12, 1957, to Donald and Elaine (Unites) Lippert and was baptized at St. Basil Church in Carrick. When he was a year old, his family moved to Beechview and became members of St. Catherine of Siena Church, where he attended the parish school for his elementary education. He graduated from South Hills Catholic in 1975. He would go on for his college education first at the University of Pittsburgh, then Duquesne University and eventu-

ally St. Fidelis College in Herman, PA.

He was invested in the Capuchin habit in 1979 and made temporary profession on July 20, 1980, at St. Conrad Friary in Annapolis, MD. He attended the Washington Theological Union where he earned a Master of Arts degree in theology. Brother Donald made perpetual profession in 1983 and was ordained to the priesthood on June 8, 1985, after serving as deacon at San Miguel Parish in Utuado, Puerto Rico. After an assignment in vocation promotion, he served as parochial vicar at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Conway, PA. In 1989 he became parochial vicar of the Shrine of the Sacred Heart Parish in Washington, DC.

In 1994, Father Donald was assigned to serve on the formation staff at Borromeo Seminary in Wickliffe, OH. Prior to taking up his teaching responsibilities, he attained a Master of Arts degree in philosophy at the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium. Father

Donald would serve at Borromeo Seminary until 2002 when he was named the Director of the Spanish Catholic Center in Washington, DC. In 2004 he was elected Vicar Provincial of the Capuchin Province of St. Augustine and served as executive secretary at the provincial headquarters in Pittsburgh.

In 2007 Father Donald took up his current assignment in Papua New Guinea, where he became a lecturer at the Catholic Theological Institute in Port Moresby. Until this episcopal appointment, he has also served as guardian and director of post-novitiate formation at the Capuchin Friars College in Bomana. He was elected to the vice provincial leadership council one year ago.

The bishop-elect's mother, Elaine, died in 2004, and his father, Donald, died in 2010. He has two younger brothers, Douglas and Dennis, both of the Pittsburgh area.

The Vatican announcement was made as the Capuchin friars of the

Vice Province of Papua New Guinea were gathered for their annual assembly in Mendi.

The bishop-elect succeeds two Capuchin predecessors: Archbishop Steve Reichert, who was appointed archbishop of Madang in late November 2010, and the late Bishop Firmin Schmidt, who became the first bishop of Mendi in 1965 and served for thirty years. He died in 2005.

The Diocese of Mendi is located in the Southern Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea and was erected as a prefecture apostolic in 1958 and a diocese in 1966. The most recent statistics (2004) show there are 72,000 Catholics in the Diocese of Mendi. Capuchin friars arrived in the Southern Highlands in 1955. Papua New Guinea is the eastern half of the world's second largest island and is immediately north of Australia.

The bishop-elect joins four other active Capuchin bishops affiliated with the Pittsburgh-based Capuchin Province of St. Augustine:

Cardinal Sean O'Malley of Boston, Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia, Archbishop Stephen Reichert of Madang, PNG, and Bishop William Fey of Kimbe, PNG. Archbishops Chaput and Reichert are members of the Capuchin Province of St. Conrad, based in Denver, CO.

No date has yet been set for the episcopal ordination.



MENDI'S NEW BISHOP: Father Donald Lippert

Kefamo hosts Scriptwriters workshop

TWENTY participants from the highlands region have just completed a Scriptwriters Training workshop at Kefamo Conference Center in Goroka recently.

The three day workshop was organized by the National Catholic Family Life Apostolate in Goroka, in partnership with the Population Media Center in Port Moresby, from November 29 -December 01, 2011.

The participants were taught how to develop their ideas into effective, encouraging and positive short radio dramas, or plays based on their experiences in their respective communities.

"The training's objective is to impart scriptwriting skills for radio plays to family life coordinators to carry out awareness on certain issues that are affecting their communities because change is in the heart of the people and not the government," Sr. Gabriella Burgos (SsPS), organizer of the workshop, said.

She said the possibility to write for all and not for a particular sector would change people's mindset in a positive way and radio is the only medium that reaches the most remote areas in Papua New Guinea.

The facilitator of the workshop Vivian Ningis said, as a freelance writer, she had seen that people



SCRIPT WRITERS: The participants with the facilitators (kneeling second from right) and the organizers (standing from the right).

lack skills in this country, and is happy to share her knowledge with the people.

"I am touched by the views and comments that I've received from these people. It's so uplifting what they've grasp within a short time, and I am happy that what I have imparted will go a long way," she said.

Assistant Youth Coordinator of Kundiawa Diocese, Ismael Gul, said so many people do have problems but lack the confidence or are so afraid to speak up.

"Many families in my community find it hard to speak up. So with this training, I am now able to go back and do small role plays that

are related to the issues that my community is facing.

"And I know this will help reduce the common issues like alcohol and drugs and will help parents to control their children because parents are the root of a family and the society," Mr Gul said

One of the participants, Sr. Julie Amaral (SsPS), said the workshop was enriching and had helped her a lot in writing scripts on issues concerning young people.

"Better scripts are written with good ideas. The young and the uneducated are the voice of the voiceless and workshops like this do help in capacity building and enrichment," she said.

TV Spots to Invite Catholics 'Home' at Christmas

From Zenit News Agency, Vatican

A MINISTRY dedicated to bringing fallen-away Catholics back to the Church through media will be getting its message to 250 million people this Christmas season.

Catholics Come Home will air a one-minute invitation to return to parish life and get to know the Church. The spot will run more than 400 times from December

16 to January 8, reaching every diocese in the United States of America.

According to a statement from the ministry, Catholics Come Home hopes to inspire as many as 1 million souls to come home to local parishes. They've based this goal on statistical census results from Catholics Come Home media initiatives that have aired in 30 past partner dioceses: Where these ads have aired, Mass attendance has in-

creased an average of 10%, and helped over 300,000 people home to the Church, just since 2008.

The bi-lingual Catholics Come Home commercials are scheduled to air on CBS, NBC, Univision, TBS, USA, TNT, CNN, Fox News, and other networks during shows such as 60 Minutes, NCIS, NBC Nightly News, the Today Show, Jay Leno, O'Reilly, major sports, and highly rated sitcoms.

Signs of the Times' Research awareness

By Terence Aisi Victor

SINCE the Second Vatican Council used the phrase, "the signs of the times", in the Introduction to its Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (p. 905, Flannery edition), it is often quoted by self-styled "progressives" as they press the claims of some program, or other for radical change.

It is an interesting fact that the phrase is found in only one place in the New Testament. There, in the Gospel of St Matthew (16:1-3), we read: "The Pharisees and the Sadducees came, and to test him, asked him to show them

a sign from heaven. He answered them, 'When it is evening, you say "it will be fair weather; for the sky is red." And in the morning, "it will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening."

You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times'.

In light of the study campaign, Fr. Victor Roche SVD, made a brief introduction of Fr. Roger Purcell who then introduced the subject, 'SIGNS of the Times', and further elaborated for clarification request with real time experiences with our governments' governance, car accidents on road crossings and more

would mean.

He then distinguished the important questions of the study as to: What is the church doing, how do we go ahead in approaching the signs realities and where are we heading?

In response to the things that are happening around us, one of the most important things to remember always in the scope of the study step by step and that is, where is God working, how the Holy Spirit moving in the world in the midst of the situations around us, what might be the solutions towards approaching the realities of today, using the study of the signs of the times.



Sign of the Times study group