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A Message from the President of the Catholic Bishops Conference

THE nation has been through a very uncertain moment. The previous government is not recognizing the election of the new O'Neill and Namah led government. The new government is promising changes. These changes will demand a lot of work, and serious commitment. The fear is that these can be just promises that will remain words.

Corruption is a very serious concern, a disease that has been allowed to grow over the years and has eroded important policies, and mechanisms, that have been put in place to ensure standard practices in government and departments are guided well, respected and con-



Archbishop John Ribat, MSC, Archbishop of Port Moresby Diocese.

tinue to encourage commitment from government officers, politicians for good democratic governance of our nation. If this

could be given first priority and commitment by this government it would be a step in the right direction. This is a killer disease that has practically destroyed the governing systems of our nation.

The many promises being made by the new government are welcomed but our fear is that these are merely promises, and will not result in any practical action. What we need to see from this government is some detailed policy about what will be done and

how it will be achieved. Now is the time for action and not rhetoric.

The announcement of the provision of free education was not accompanied by any detail of how this will be achieved.

Our schools are suffering from lack of adequate building and resources now. How much extra funding will they be given? How many new classrooms and teacher houses will be built by this government? In what districts will this be done? Who will buy the teachers' resources and text books to properly teach our children? This is what we need to be told not just headline grabbing promises.



Archbishop Steve Reichert, OFM(Cap)

Archbishop Reichert receives the highest award

Archbishop Steve Reichert, OFM(Cap) is one of the recipients of the Independence Day Anniversary Honours from the Governor General of PNG. He receives the highest honour of "Grand Companion of the Order of Logohu (GCL) and conferred the title of "Chief". The award recites: "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 February, 2011".

Meanwhile, a religious nun, Sr. Brenda Nash FDNSC receives the honour of 'the Officer of the Order of 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.

We congratulate both of them on behalf of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands and the people of the Catholic Church in PNG.

Benedict XVI Urges Young People to "Love the Church"

...1.5 Million Attend Madrid, Spain World Youth Day

YOU cannot live your faith alone, Benedict XVI told the young people gathered at the Cuatro Veintos Air Base in his homily during the closing Mass of the 26th World Youth Day.

The Pope arrived at Cuatro Vientos at 9:15 a.m. in the popemobile and, traveling along the base's main road, circulated among the young people, which he was unable to do Saturday evening for the vigil, due to security concerns.

Benedict XVI greeted the 1.5 million young people, according to

figures confirmed by the Spanish National Police, who had slept all night on the ground. His first remark was: "I thought a lot about you; I hope you were able to get a little sleep."

Accompanied by the Spanish royalty, the Pope made his way to the altar to preside at the Eucharistic celebration in which the sending of the young people out to evangelize their peers in the world was also celebrated.



Pope Benedict XVI waves on his arrival at Barajas airport in Madrid, Spain, for the recently concluded 2011 World Youth Day (AP Photo/Emilio Morenatti)

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The Catechism of the Catholic Church

Let's continue the exploration of our faith, From The Catechism of the Catholic Church

God comes to meet man

I. CHRIST - The unique Word of the Sacred Scripture

101 IN order to reveal himself to man in the condescension of his goodness, God speaks to them in human words: "Indeed the words of God, expressed in the words of men, are in every way like human language, just as the Word of the eternal Father, when he took on himself the flesh of human weakness, became like men."63

102 Through all the words of the Sacred Scripture, God speaks only one single Word, his one Utterance in whom he expresses himself completely:64

You recall that one and the same Word of God extends throughout Scripture, that it is

one and the same Utterance that resounds in the mouths of all the sacred writers, since he who was in the beginning God with God has no need of separate syllables; for he is not subject to time.65

103 For this reason, the Church has always venerated the Scriptures as she venerates the Lord's Body. She never ceases to present to the faithful the bread of life, taken from the one table of God's Word and Christ's Body.66

104 In Sacred Scripture, the Church constantly finds her nourishment and her strength, for she welcomes it not as a human word, "but as what it really is, the word of God".67 "In the sacred books, the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet his children, and talks with them."68

II. Inspiration and truth of the Sacred Scripture

105 God is the author of Sacred Scripture. "The divinely

revealed realities, which are contained and presented in the text of Sacred Scripture, have been written down under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit."69

"For Holy Mother Church, relying on the faith of the apostolic age, accepts as sacred and canonical the books of the Old and the New Testaments, whole and entire, with all their parts, on the grounds that, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, they have God as their author, and have been handed on as such to the Church herself."70

106 God inspired the human authors of the sacred books. "To compose the sacred books, God chose certain men who, all the while he employed them in this task, made full use of their own faculties and powers so that, though he acted in them and by them, it was as true authors that they consigned to writing whatever

he wanted written, and no more."71

107 The inspired books teach the truth. "Since therefore all that the inspired authors or sacred writers affirm should be regarded as affirmed by the Holy Spirit, we must acknowledge that the books of Scripture firmly, faithfully, and without error teach that truth which God, for the sake of our salvation, wished to see confided to the Sacred Scriptures."72

108 Still, the Christian faith is not a "religion of the book." Christianity is the religion of the "Word" of God, a word which is "not a written and mute word, but the Word is incarnate and living".73

If the Scriptures are not to remain a dead letter, Christ, the eternal Word of the living God, must, through the Holy

Spirit, "open [our] minds to understand the Scriptures."74

World Youth Day...

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THE Pontiff, as he had also done in his address in the opening ceremony of World Youth Day in Plaza de Cibeles, warned the young pilgrims against the danger of individualism, one of the most significant threats that the new generations of Christians face.

"Following Jesus in faith is to walk with him in the communion of the Church. You cannot follow Jesus alone," he explained.

The Pope then cautioned them against the temptation of "going it alone" and "of living the faith according to the individualistic mentality that predominates in society" because in this way there is "the risk of never meeting Jesus Christ, or of ending up following a false image of him."

"Having faith means leaning on the faith of your brothers, and that your own faith in the same way serves as a support for that of the others," he added.

In light of this the Bishop of Rome called on the young people to "love the Church," concretely inserting themselves in "parishes, communities and movements," and "to participate in the Eucharist every Sunday, to approach the sacrament of Reconciliation frequently and to cultivate prayer and meditate on the

Word of God."

"From this friendship with Jesus there will also rise the drive that will lead to bearing witness to the faith in the most different environments, including those where there is rejection and indifference," he said. "It is not possible to meeting Christ and not introduce him to others."

The world, the Pope stressed, "needs the witness of your faith, it certainly needs God," exhorting the young people to be "disciples and missionaries of Christ in other lands and countries where there is a multitude of youth who aspire to great things and, glimpsing in their hearts the possibility of the most authentic values, do not let themselves be seduced by the false promises of a lifestyle without God."

At the end of the celebration, Cardinal Stanisław Rylko, president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, thanked the Pope on behalf of the young people.

"Here before you, Your Holiness, there is a young Church, full of the joy and enthusiasm of faith. They are young people who are proud to belong to Christ and to his Church. ... It is truly a generation that seeks God," he said.

In particular he thanked the Pope for the creation of the You-

cat, the youth catechism that was included in each pilgrim's backpack, and the World Youth Day cross, which the Pontiff blessed at the conclusion of the Mass and symbolically entrusted to five young people.

Pope Benedict XVI also officially announced that the next World Youth Day would take place in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, in 2013. This was greeted with much applause by a delegation of young Brazilians present at Cuatro Vientos in Madrid erupted with applause at The Pope, who would be 86 years old at the next youth day in August 2013 where the Pope told the delegation in Portuguese: "I hope to be able to meet you in 2 years (...) in Rio de Janeiro."

The young Brazilians danced as they listened to the announcement.

Expressing his hopes for the occasion, the Holy Father added: "We ask the Lord that already in this moment he help with his strength those who will organize it and smooth the path of the young people of the whole world that they may again join the Pope in this beautiful city of Brazil."

The young people of Spain symbolically handed over the World Youth Day Cross to the

Brazilians.

Commenting on this gesture, the Pontiff entrusted "to all present this great task: bring the knowledge and the love of Christ to the whole world. He wants you to be his apostles in the 21st century and messengers of his joy. Do not disappoint him!"

Rio de Janeiro, emblematic city of the country with the largest population of Catholics in the world, will be the site of this meeting over which the Pope has presided on 11 occasions outside of the Vatican.

The previous gatherings have taken place in Buenos Aires (Argentina), Santiago de Compostela (Spain), Czestochowa (Poland), Denver (United States), Manila (Philippines), Paris (France), Rome (Italy), Toronto (Canada), Cologne (Germany) and Sydney (Australia).

After Buenos Aires in 1987, the Brazilian city will be the second in Latin America to celebrate this international event.

To date, about 20 million young people have participated in the World Youth Days, initiated by John Paul II in 1984. The first was celebrated in Rome on Palm Sunday on the occasion of the Holy Jubilee Year of the Redemption (1983-1984).

News Snippets the General Secretary of the CBC's Desk:

■ **Sir Michael Somare is back:** Grand Chief, Sir Michael Somare, is back in the country after getting medical treatment in Singapore. He had three heart related surgeries and he was absent from the country for almost 5 months. He arrived on Sunday, September 4th, with a grand welcome from his well wishers. He attended Tuesday September 6th Parliamentary session which had lots of drama. The police were in full force in the city to quell any disturbance. Sir Somare wants to challenge the legality of the present prime minister and the government, while Peter O' Neil holds that he is the rightfully elected Prime Minister. The people as usual will be great passive onlookers. I talked to Sir Michael and his wife, Lady Veronica, on the phone. He sounded very lively and energetic.

■ **2. Bishop John Doaninoel, SM,** posted to the Solomon Islands: Bishop John Doaninoel SM, left for Honiara on Friday, September 9th to take up the posting of the Auxiliary Bishop of Honiara. Archbishop Adrian Smith, Bp. Luciano Capelli and Bp. Chris Cardone will also be there for a meeting around the same time. We wish Bp. Doaninoel God's blessings as he begins his ministry in the Solomon Islands.

■ **Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC):** There was a Pacific Church Leaders meeting held on August 25-29, 2011 in Piula Theological College, Apia, Western Samoa, as well as the Golden Jubilee (50 years 1961-2011) celebrations of the PCC from 30th Aug-4th Sep in the Congregational Christian Church in Apia, W. Samoa. Twenty-three leaders from almost 15 countries attended the meeting. I represented the Catholic Church of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. Actually I was the only Catholic representative in the meeting. The special invited guests were: Olav Fykse Tveit, the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches from Geneva and Oscar Manutahi Temaru, the President of Tahiti among many others. The program of this five-day meeting included: 1. Issues affecting the Churches and the countries in the Pacific, 2. Independence of Tahiti (Maohi Nui) from France, 3. Membership of the Catholic Church in the World Council of Churches, 4. Climate change, 5. Youth Empowerment and engagement in the church, 6. Mining, 7. Ecumenical Sharing, 8. Church and state, 9. Nuclear compensation etc. We came up with a press statement at the end of the meeting.

The meeting was well organised and well attended. The next General Assembly of PCC is scheduled for September 2012 in Honiara.

Concerns on "free education"

HAVE no reason to doubt the sincerity of Prime Minister, Peter O'Neil, in his attempt to improve the delivery of services in the country, and to eradicate corruption in the Government. I wish him well and hope that he will succeed in his endeavours.

But there is something that troubles me and that is, his promise of free education from elementary to Grade 10; his promise of subsidized education (up to 75%) for Grade 11 and 12; his promise that no child will be pushed out of the education system at Grade 8; and his decision to scrap without further delay the out-comes-based education (OBE) system by next January.

Of course, the above promises are like sweet music in the ears of parents, but are they attainable? I applaud the good will of Prime Minister O'Neil and his cabinet; but is he promising something that he and his team will not be able to provide?

I am wondering why no



Francesco Panfilo, SDB
Archbishop of Rabaul
Deputy Bishop for Education
Catholic Bishops Conference
of PNG & SL

one from the National Department of Education has come out publicly and given the prime minister facts and figures which will show that free or subsidized education is not just a matter of finding millions of Kina. There are other issues at stake.

Since no one from the Department of Education has spoken out, I, as Bishop Deputy for Education of the Catholic Bishops' Conference, feel obliged to address

the following questions to the Prime Minister:

Will it not be more correct to use the term "subsidized education" than "free education"?

We all know that the National Education Board (NEB) recommended for 2011 for all Elementary, Primary, Vocational, Secondary Schools and FODE a "maximum school fee limit". Will the government give the maximum school fees or less than the maximum allowed? If the government were to give less than the maximum fees approved, we cannot talk of free education, but of subsidized education, because the parents' will be asked to pay the difference. And if the government were to give it, will it give directly to school accounts early enough for materials to be purchased or will it come with costly and time-consuming political fanfare in every case?

In regard to the promise that no child will be pushed out of the education system at Grade 8, we all agree that education is for all; neverthe-

less I have to ask the prime minister: where will all the students be accommodated and who will teach them?

Prime Minister O'Neil has stated that we could have day classes and night classes where electricity is available. Probably that might be possible in cities such as Port Moresby, even with all the risks that are entailed when we consider travelling at night. But the question is: who will teach these extra shifts in late afternoon and at night? Certainly not the same teachers who taught for 6 hours during the day. Who will correct the assignments of 2 or even 3 shifts of 60 or 70 students each? We lack teachers and classrooms to cater for the children presently in school. Imagine the chaos when even more classes are added.

As for his decision to scrap the "out-comes-based" education system by January, again we agree that this system is less than perfect, but is scrapping it unilaterally the right thing to do? What about all the material that is

presently (finally!) being delivered to all schools?

The "out-comes-based" education was introduced without much consultation from partner-agencies in education and that was certainly a very regrettable thing to do. But the present decision is equally regrettable because once again and as usual no education agency has been consulted. I must remind the Government that a little more than 50% of the unified education system of Papua New Guinea is in the hands of churches and other private institutions and yet no one has thought of asking their opinion. The government has once again acted as if the churches are obedient employees, not equal partners. In addition, were the teachers really ever heard?

Both in the imposition and implementation of the system, as well as now in its scrapping the unwilling victims are again the teachers who have to stand in front of the students with only confusion behind them.

In my opinion, the Govern-

ment would make a much better use of its money if it were to consult with its partners, subsidize education in increasing increments, while allocating more funds for the formation of teachers (i.e. more teachers' colleges and a three year program of teacher education), providing better housing facilities and more classrooms.

I would like to conclude by requesting the prime minister to look into the present so called "free education" for Prep, E1 and E2. In most schools of the country the government subsidy for this "free" education is not enough to cover all the students. For example in a class of E1, if there are 30 students, only about 20 are covered by the subsidy. What guarantee do we have that the same thing will not happen through the whole system next year? Once again it will be the churches which will have to foot the bill for the difference.

In the eventuality that next year the government decides to subsidize 75% of a given amount, we request that all the students be covered and not only some.

Catholic Social Communications chief passes away

By Bishop Christian Blouin CMM
of Lae Diocese

THE CATHOLIC Reporter has lost its 1st Editor of almost 10 years, the late Fr. Geoffrey Stewart Lee, who passed away after a long illness on July 27th in his home city, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Fr Geoff, as he was popularly known, was born in Gore, New Zealand to an Anglican family, therefore he was raised and educated in Anglican schools.

After completing his studies, Geoff felt the call for religious life. He joined the Franciscan Friars, got a degree in communications, and was in charge of publications mainly in the Solomon Islands.

The Franciscan Friars sent Brother Geoff for further studies in Theology at Holy Spirit Seminary, Bomana and it is at this time that he made the discernment to become a priest in the Catholic Church. After fifteen years as a religious with the Anglican Francis-

can friars, Br. Geoffrey was received officially in the Catholic Church on 29th June 1991. Then at the completion of his theological studies, he was ordained to the priesthood by the Bishop of Lae, Bishop Henry van Lieshout who assigned Fr. Geoff to St. Michael's parish, Eriku where he would be pastor for the next seventeen years. It is there that he was able to care for street kids, provide them a shelter as well as provide them with opportunities for education.

The diocesan seminarians would always find an open door at Fr. Geoff's place when coming back from their studies. St. Mary's primary school got his services as R. E. teacher and chaplain for all those years. He represented the churches on the Board of Governors at the National Polytechnic Institute.

His competence in Social Communication was recognized by the Catholic Conference of PNG and appointed him as the National Secretary of the Commission for Social Com-

munications, and President of SIGNIS PNG. For many years, he had the responsibility as editor of The Catholic Reporter that we were able to find inserted in the Wantok Weekly newspaper.

Always in search for a better way of evangelization, Fr. Geoff put on Catholic Radio FM 103.7 Lae on air and served as its Director. On November 17, 2009 Fr. Geoff was appointed Vicar General of the Diocese of Lae, a responsibility that he accepted in a spirit of service for the diocese.

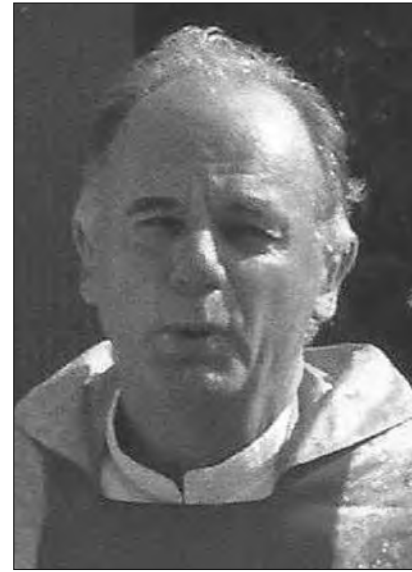
In October 2010, Fr. Geoff was due for a rest, and scheduled his home leave in order to be at home and celebrate his birthday with his family on 28th October. He left Lae on October 10, 2010, ever thinking that he wouldn't come back to Papua New Guinea. During medical test he was discovered with cancer. Radiotherapy didn't get the expected results, and the cancer got its way to vital organs. Fr. Geoff had the consolation to be nursed in

Christchurch not far from his family. Unfortunately, the big earthquake of this year February forced him and thousands other patients to be relocated to other nursing homes in the country. It was then more difficult for members of his family to travel the four and six hour drive to visit him.

Fr. Geoff passed away on Wednesday evening, 27th July, 2011.

A funeral service was held in Christchurch on Tuesday 2nd August and a Requiem Mass was conducted at the same time at St. Michael's Church, Eriku.

Fr. Geoff left behind his family including his father Rex aged 87, who had expressed how it was painful for him to lose his only son, his two sisters, Vanessa and Ennie and nieces and nephews. According to Bishop Christian Blouin CMM, the Diocese of Lae is very grateful for the gift of Fr. Geoff whom the Catholic congregation there say, will be greatly missed and fondly remembered forever.



Fr. Geoffrey Stewart Lee

Consultation between the Churches and government vital

By Archbishop Douglas Young
SVD, of Mount Hagen

THE RECENTLY celebrated National Day of Prayer and Repentance and public holiday is a welcome indication from our leaders that we as a nation cannot continue along our current path if we want to find true peace and joy as a nation.

However, it is also an indication of serious problems that need to be addressed, repented, and prayed over.

One necessary conversion is that we have to do a lot better in the

area of consultation, collaboration, and long term planning. For those churches and institutions that are in the habit of medium and long term planning, the aim of this event is still unclear and there is insufficient notice to plan anything truly meaningful.

At least for the Catholic Church we have been observing a National Day of Prayer on the Sunday before Independence for over a decade. We thought it was even a gazetted National Day of Prayer. It is built into our annual plans already. We also tend to observe Independence Day as a day of prayer for the nation along with the other celebra-

tions. Most dioceses and parishes would begin the day with a time of prayer and celebration of the Eucharist.

With this new public holiday, is the government aware of the extra financial burden they are now placing on churches let alone businesses?

We will have to pay our church employees for an "unproductive" day, in which the routine charitable services of the church will be suspended. We already offer our staff (paid) days of recollection and retreat to deepen their faith and commitment. We don't think we can do this on a "public holiday," certainly

not on short notice. One would like to think that all the people of PNG will spend the day in prayer and acts of repentance that will lead to increased quality of service when they return to work. Let's hope so.

This is another example, along with free education and free health care, where government makes decisions that they want other people to implement without consulting those other people about the idea in the first place. In all such cases the burden of implementing unclear, complex, costly, and demanding policies or ideas is borne by the churches.

Let's hope that as our leaders

also spend the day in prayer and repentance they will discover the importance of genuine charity reflected in respect for others, a respect that includes genuine consultation and collaboration.

In the Catholic Church recently we have been reflecting on Matthew's gospel and Jesus' advice to the crowds and the disciples. He protested that the leaders tie up heavy burdens and lay them on peoples' shoulders, but don't lift a finger to help them.

Very often we feel that it is the churches who have to carry these burdens with little help from those who impose them.

Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima visits the Trobriand Islands

THE Statue of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima (SPV) has been visiting various dioceses in the country as part of an annual journey of faith for the Catholics in the country.

On August 02, 2011, the SPV touched down at the Kiriwina airport at noon. With moving Marian songs, the communities of Bawai (St. Michael Oluweta & St. Francis of Assisi) led the welcome ceremony at the airport.

The Parish priest, Reverend Fr. Sonny, officially welcomed the Virgin Mother on behalf of His Grace, Bishop Rolando C. Santos, bishop of Sideia-Alotau Catholic Diocese, upon whose approval made it possible for SPV's visit. Accompanying Her was Bro. Paul Folley, the custodian of her Virgin Image from Sydney, Lucy Rehneey of the Manus Fatima Family Apostolate and Gerry S. Tokilivila of Marian Commission of Port Moresby and Trobriand visit program co-ordinator.

The Trobriand Islands Catholic community is made up of two parishes and 9 to 10 sub-parishes, with one priest and 5 nuns serving some 8-10 thousand baptized Catholics. Rev.

Fr. Sonny hears confessions and says mass for

every sub-parish once every month. Sometimes he travels on his bicycle with no word of complaint, but only with a smile on his face.

With his help the SPV visited all the sub-parishes, villages and graves as planned.

The 1917 story of Fatima apparitions became, to the Trobriand Catholics, a very moving encounter as all came face to face with Her Blessed Pilgrim Image, reminding all, her requests for the world through the three simple children at Fatima, Lucia, Francesco and Jacinta.

Our Lady's peace plan for the world has been forgotten by the church, been buried by Ecumenism and the Vatican 11 renewals.

The Trobriand Island Catholic community took this special time to honor the Lady of Fatima in the spirit of the famous Kula season to offer their tribe, clans and their families and as Catholic communities, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in exchange for the graces of heaven.

In the right natural season with the right spirit of God, she travelled the main island, visited the parishes and the sub-parishes, the graves of the first catechists and even a visit to the hamlet and home of the tribal paramount chief,

high chief Daniel Pulayasi. On behalf of the high chiefs of the four clans and the various sub-clan chiefs of the villages, the paramount chief welcomed the Mother of Our Lord in Her title as Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima as "Our Lady of Kula". A fitting title, "Consecration of Hearts to Her Immaculate Heart for Graces". Many who have forgotten Her and have erred and many who have being faithful have their own testimonies to tell of their personal encounter as they gazed into Her eyes. The Islands of love witnessed Love through the eyes of the "Mother of Love".

The Pilgrim Virgin has returned to Sydney on August 12th, but will return to the Archdiocese of Port Moresby on the September 17 for the 2011 Parliament Rosary Crusade scheduled on September 24, the last Saturday of the month to honor the feasts of Archangels and St. Michael the Patron saint of PNG, the Queenship of Mary.

All Catholics around the country are invited to join in the National Rosary on September 23 to the morning of the 24th at their homes or parishes. This rosary prayer is for the country, civil leaders in the government, provinces, chiefs and tribes.



By Fr. Victor Roche SVD

WE HAVE a new Prime Minister and a new Government in PNG. We congratulate

The people suffer

late the leaders. But some people have taken them to court for the legality of its existence. This legal battle will go on for some time.

In the meantime, the ministers go to different provinces and institutions promising millions of kina in projects and other economic help. This is like a mother giving lollies to a crying child.

Knowing well that the parliamentary elections are only 9 months away,

they believe in the theory of the 'survival of the fittest'. They take some drastic decisions which will have serious economic and social implications in the provinces and the country.

Do the leaders have a proper and skilled body to give advice to the Government on these issues?

Who suffers from these unplanned activities in such a short-given-time? The people of PNG.



HANDOVER TAKEOVER: Archbishop Hesse hands over to the new successor, Archbishop Panfilo. Photo: Fr Victor Roche SVD

Archbishop Francesco Panfilo is the new Archbishop of Rabaul

Fr. Victor Roche, SVD

MONDAY August 15, was a special day for the Archdiocese of Rabaul.

Almost all the roads led to Vunapope, where the celebrations took place.

People were in their best dress; there were decorations along the road, the grounds and the church; there was a great sense of celebration in the air. Even the volcano was throwing out white ashes out of joy.

At 9.30 am the Mass started with around 3,000 people inside the Sacred Heart Cathedral and around 4,000 people standing outside. 11 Bishops and 75 priests were taken by procession to the altar. The main celebrant was Archbishop Karl Hesse. This celebration had 3 reasons: 1. Archbishop Karl Hesse's 75th birthday, 2. Thank Abp. Hesse for his 33 years as a Bishop in PNG, and 21 years as Archbishop of

Rabaul. 3. Welcome Archbishop Francesco Panfilo as the new Archbishop of Rabaul.

East New Britain Governor, Leon Dion, was among those present.

In his homily, Archbishop Francesco Padilla, the Papal Nuncio, thanked Archbishop Hesse for his 33 years of service as a bishop and 21 years as the Archbishop of Rabaul. He specially thanked him for the many infrastructure brought about in his time.

He then thanked Archbishop Panfilo for accepting the responsibility to become the Archbishop of Rabaul. He also summarized his responsibilities to the people and the archdiocese.

The mass continued with solemnity and beautiful singing.

After communion, Abp. Karl Hesse and the Papal Nuncio brought Abp. Panfilo to the chair of the Archbishop. The chair

has the new logo on it. After he was seated there, the priests, religious and the lay representatives of the diocese came one by one and paid their respect to their new Shepherd.

They also shook hands with the outgoing Shepherd of 21 years. Some literally cried as they hugged Abp. Hesse. He too was moved with emotion and some German tears fell down.

After the mass, there were march-past by the students of different schools in Rabaul. In spite of the scorching heat, the people were given a feast of lots and lots of speeches.

The following day, Aug 16, there was Mass at 7 am by the new Archbishop. In his well-prepared homily in Tok Pisin, he thanked God, his parents, his Salesian Congregation, the people of Alotau Diocese and the people of the Rabaul Archdiocese, his new flock.

Marianville Catholic Secondary benefits from Incentive

THE Incentive Fund again boosted education for many young women by supporting major improvements to another all-girl's school.

Marianville Catholic Secondary School outside Port Moresby last month received over K4.7 million from the Incentive Fund towards improvements to the institution. This is the second all-girls school after Notre Dame Secondary School in Western Highlands Province that received K5.2 million in June this year for its school infrastructure project.

Head of AusAID PNG, Stephanie Copus-Campbell said it was very important to improve education opportunities for young women in PNG.

"It makes good sense to invest in the education of women and girls in PNG. More girls in schools mean more women in the workforce which is ultimately

good for the economy and the future development of PNG," Ms Copus-Campbell said.

The Incentive Fund, a partnership between Australia and Papua New Guinea, through AusAID, is providing to build classrooms to accommodate 90 students, a dormitory for 48 girls, extensions to the dining hall and the home economics facility for grades eleven and twelve students, upgrade existing water system and school administration facilities and build 6 new staff houses.

A spokesman from the Department of National Planning & Monitoring said the department is pleased with the assistance through the Incentive Fund for the rehabilitation and construction of new infrastructure in the education and health sectors. "Marianville is the seventh project in the education sector out of the eleven projects

this year supported by Incentive Fund and gender and education were equally high on the PNG Government's development priorities."

The chairman of the Incentive Fund Management Group, Dr Thomas Webster said, "The Incentive Fund supported those eleven projects including Marianville because they were all well-managed institutions with innovative projects that have a strong developmental impact for the people of Papua New Guinea."

This is not the first time Marianville has benefited from the Incentive Fund. In 2001 the secondary school received K5 million for the construction of classrooms, science laboratories, staff houses and ablution block, extension of the assembly hall and a back up generator. This upgrade allowed for an additional 201 student enrolments.