



# The Catholic Reporter

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

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## STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

Thousands of Catholics such as these braved the heat of the Port Moresby sun on Good Friday to walk the 6 hours journey of faith and devotion which started at 5.00 am from St Peter Channel Parish, Erima and ended about 11.30 am at the St Charles Lwanga Parish, Gerehu. The event staged every year in the Port Moresby Archdiocese attracts thousands of Christians in the city and this year, the youths who came in their thousands, led the event. Prayers and hymns are recited and sung during the 6 hours walk to recall the suffering and death which our Lord Jesus endured to save humanity from sin more than 2,000 years ago. *Photo: Nicky Bernard*

## New Apostolic Nuncio for Papua New Guinea.

THE CATHOLIC Church in PNG & the Solomon Islands have a new Papal representative.

He is Archbishop Santo Gangemi, appointed by the Holy Father on March 24 as the apostolic nuncio to Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

Archbishop Gangemi was born in Messina, Italy in 1961, and ordained a priest in 1986. He entered the Holy See diplomatic service in 1991 and has served in Morocco, Italy, Romania, Cuba, Chile, France, Spain and Egypt.

The double function of the apostolic nuncio is to be concurrently the ambassador of the Holy See to the country of assignment, and the representative of the Pope to the local Church in close working relationship with the local Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Among other duties, the apostolic nuncio oversees the procedures for the appointment of a new bishop when the diocesan seat becomes vacant due to the resignation, impediment or death of the incumbent pastor.

Arch. Santo Gangemi will be arriving in Port Moresby this month as a replacement to Archbishop Francisco Padilla, who served in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands for about five years before being transferred to Tanzania (Africa) in December 2011.

# Towards the National Elections ...Choosing good political leaders

By Archbishop Francesco Panfilo, SDB - Rabaul

IN choosing our leaders in the political community, some might think to look first at the platforms and programs of the different political parties.

For example, in the 2002 elections, the National Resource Party of Sir Mekere Morauta ran its campaign on the promise of "free education", while the National Alliance of Sir Michael Somare opposed such initiative. That was a platform. By and large, neverthe-

less, there are practically no differences in the platform and programs of the different parties.

We need, therefore, to focus our attention on the qualities needed by our elective public officials.

### Competence

The most necessary qualification that a candidate must have is COMPETENCE in relation to the office he/she is seeking to be elected to.

Is the candidate capable of fulfilling the duties of the office he/she aspires to? Does he/she have the physical health, mental ability, and emotional capability

needed to handle the demands of the office? In other words, can the candidate do the job if elected?

The competence of candidates is to be measured from their qualities and their track record in serving the community.

The way a person has served in the past is a better gauge of his/her competence than any academic credentials he/she may hold.

Performance, not promises or popularity, is the test of competence.

### Personal Integrity

The second qualification necessary is the PER-

SONAL INTEGRITY of the candidates.

The candidates should not only be competent. They should also be God-fearing, God-loving and honest. And honesty means first of all an absolute commitment to uphold the human rights and freedoms of others and to handle the rich natural resources of the Province and public funds. Honesty also means truthfulness, and upright conduct in one's private life.

Our political leaders must tell the truth at all times. In the past months, even on the floor of Parliament, too many contradictory state-

ments were heard, so much so that people did not know who was telling the truth and who was lying.

### Commitment to the Common Good

A third paramount quality we should seek in candidates for public office is proven COMMITMENT TO THE COMMON GOOD.

We should elect persons who can go beyond narrow self and family interest and are willing to make sacrifices for the public good. Corrupt persons, or persons with criminal records, do not have this commitment. Neither do those politicians whose actions

are guided only by convenience or the desire to do the popular thing whether it be right or wrong.

The common good of people requires that candidates for office should faithfully uphold the Constitution of the country at all times. What happened, following the Supreme Court decision of last December 2011, set a very dangerous precedent.

In that particular case it was the Constitution rather than numbers in parliament that should have decided what was right or wrong.

■ To page 2



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# Explain why Anthioc... what's the meaning... ...Helen and Timothy, the Gospel for the youth

By Brother Anthony Hollenstain  
SVD

I MET Helen Kamane in 1985 when she was a young teacher at the secretarial school in St. Paul's parish, Mt. Hagen.

Helen had many friends and they would accompany me on my nightly visits to the prayer group fellowships in and around Mt. Hagen town.

These young people with their guitars combined with their beautiful voices made singing in the fellowships even more prayerful and thus enabling faith to be shared.

In the same year, the Co-adjutor Archbishop of Mt. Hagen, Michael Meier, in his role as the parish priest of St. Paul had taken 8 young people and two couples to Australia for them to experience the Antioch weekend with the hope of introducing the Antioch Youth Movement to Mt. Hagen and PNG.

"Youth helping Youth" was the theme. It was aimed at youth to experience God's love for each other and discover how they can use their

gifts and talents to serve the Church.

This small group meeting was held once a week. New members joined and so membership steadily increased.

Two names would be pulled out of a hat in each of these meetings and these would be the pair to lead the next weekend meeting. Helen was one of the first to lead this special group.

I was later invited to attend one of their weekly meetings. I was truly amazed at the Christian Spirit among them: "See how they love each other."

In December of 1985, I again attended one of their Antioch weekends at the Holy Trinity Teachers' College. Helen gave her first weekend talk. St. Paul's youth was slowly reaching out to the parish in Banz, passing on and spreading the Antioch movement.

In 1989, Helen Kamane got married to Timothy Paul in St. Paul's Church in Mt. Hagen. Helen and Timothy became a 'Parent Couple', assisting the leaders of the Antioch

Youth Movement. Helen and Timothy are affectionately referred to as *mummy and daddy*.

They became the role models for the youth; to show Christ-like love and willingness to offer forgiveness again and again and to live up to what it means "One for others".

Helen and Timothy remained faithful in the Antioch Movement for more than 25 years. First in Mt. Hagen, and now in the cathedral parish in Madang. They have been instrumental in reaching out to other parishes in Madang such as Megiar, Yomba, Sissiak and Bogia.

Recently, Helen and Timothy have helped some young men and women to go down to Australia as fruit pickers, enabling them to grow and mature.

Helen and Timothy's home is not only a home for their two daughters Catherin and Christine. It is also home to many young men and women who shared their lives and the love of Christ with the family. They are living the spirit of the Antioch Family – a family of God and for others.



Helen and Timothy

## A revised English version of the Holy Mass ...New words, deeper meaning, same Mass.

By Joel Hamago

THE upcoming Annual General Meeting of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands this month in Rabaul is expected to endorse a revised English version of the Mass.

The new internationally adopted translation is already in use in major English speaking countries since November

last year.

It seeks to reclaim the richness of the original official Latin texts and is replacing the current English version in use since 1973.

The main parts of the Mass will not change and the changes will not affect the readings.

They will instead affect in a particular way the dialogues between the celebrant and the assembly.

The greeting, "The Lord be

with you", for example, is not changing. But we will now reply, "And with your spirit".

Changes will also affect the Penitential Act, the Glory, the Creed and the Consecration words. No changes for the Our Father, while the answer to, "This is the Lamb of God..." will be: "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed". This makes a more direct connection to the

Gospels of Matthew and Mark where the Roman centurion asks Jesus to heal his servant who is sick back at home.

The new English version of the Mass will be gradually introduced following proper orientation and catechesis in the parishes and smaller communities, as we prepare to let go of some of the words that we have said, heard, and sung since 1973. There will be new words to convey a deeper meaning of the same Mass.

### Sunday 29 April, 2012

## 49th World Day of Prayer for Vocations

### 'Vocations, the Gift of the Love of God.'

From the Catechism for Catholics of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands:

**THE LAY PEOPLE.** (320) The vocation of all Christians is a call to holiness... To the lay people is entrusted the task to be engaged in the society in which they live and directing it according to God's will. **They are to find ways of bringing Christian teaching and life into social, political, and economic world.** Their ministry is directly to the world by transforming it according to the mind of Christ

**THE ORDAINED MINISTERS.** (321) the ordained

ministry is at the service of the people of God. The ordained members of the Church are the bishops, priests, and deacons. Their role is to preach the word (*prophetic*), to sanctify through the sacraments (*priestly*), and to shepherd the people of God (*kingly*). They also have a role in the mission of the Church to the world: speaking out on social issues, involvement in programs of human development, and teaching in educational institutions. **But when priests enter politics**

**they deprive the laity of their proper vocation and damage the proper role of the priest or religious.**

**THE RELIGIOUS.** (322) From the beginning of the history of the Church there have been many forms of consecrated life. These are forms of Christian vocation and are known today as 'religious life'. The Church recognizes these men and women who dedicate their lives to God by the public vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience... Consecrated

life with the value of celibacy challenges traditional values in the societies of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands in which celibacy was not appreciated. (323) ... Religious have always played an important role in the evangelization and missionary work of the Church. (324) **This is clearly the case of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands where religious first introduced missionary work. They are still very active today in health, education, and pastoral work.**

■ From page 1

## Towards the National elections

A CHECK ON POLITICAL CANDIDATES

Before deciding on your vote, ask yourself and the candidates about the following:

**HUMAN LIFE.** What is the public stand of candidates in regards to abortion, euthanasia, cloning, capital punishment, etc.?

**FAMILY LIFE AND POPULATION ISSUES.** Where do candidates stand publicly on issues such as marriage, divorce, polygamy, same-sex relationships, the status of women and children, domestic violence, and policies to regulate population growth? Do candidates propose to introduce no tax rebates and no school fee discounts for more than two dependents to keep the family size small?

**HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND CARE.** What is the stand of the candidates in regards to HIV/AIDS prevention? How do they intend to care for victims? Are they willing to make financial resources available to the Churches so that they may be able to prepare educational material for an aggressive campaign on abstinence and marital faithfulness?

**PRESERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES.** Candidates for office should clearly state what they intend to do about safeguarding the natural resources of our Province and, above all, how they intend to have the "Memorandum of Understanding" (MOU) signed and later respected so that our people will get what is just, in order to improve their lot.

**EDUCATION.** What is the stand of candidates in regards to 'free or subsidized education'? How do they intend to reach out to parents and children who can't afford the cost of education? What is their stand on "schools of excellence"? How do they intend to help teachers, especially those who are exercising their profession in disadvantaged places?

**EMPLOYMENT.** Before the elections, candidates for office should not only make promises of creating jobs, but tell us how they propose to create employment and job opportunities.

**SOCIAL SERVICES AND HEALTH.** What do our candidates propose to do to bring health services and clean drinking water to our people?

During the political campaign, we will hear more and more promises from candidates about delivery of services, money, improvement in living conditions, improvements in roads and communications, and so on. The voters must carefully consider the words and actions of candidates, trying to discern what is true and what is just campaign talk.



# First national Vicar General for the Daru-Kiunga Diocese

By Bp. Gilles Cote', SMM  
- Daru-Kiunga

ON Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March Bp. Gilles Cote', SMM of Daru-Kiunga, installed Fr. Andrew Moses, 39, a diocesan priest, as the new Vicar General of the diocese, the first time a national priest is given this position.

Fr. Andrew is from Bolivip village, in the Northern district, Western Province. In June 2011 he returned to Papua New Guinea after three years of studies in Canada, where he also learned how to speak French.

According to Church laws, the Vicar General of the diocese is expected to act on behalf of the Bishop in all matters explicitly delegated to him and to temporarily

replace the Bishop in case of absence, illness or other impediment.

A large number of people gathered at the Cathedral in Kiunga to witness Fr. Andrew's installation as Vicar General. Two busloads of family members came from Tabubil where they work. They led the singing and prepared some dances.

"The amazing love of God" was the theme chosen for the celebration.

In his homily Bp. Gilles mentioned that God has always been good to the local Church by providing persons of quality to take up important responsibilities for the life and mission of the diocese.

He thanked Fr. Edi Prasetyo, CM from Indonesia, the outgoing Vicar General, for his eight years of service.

"You have been a very good companion to me for a long time", the Bishop told him.

Bp. Gilles went on to say that Fr. Andrew, who became a priest at the end of the year 2000, was now ready and willing to take up the responsibility of Vicar General, thus enhancing the process of localization of the diocesan Church leadership.

Father Andrew made his profession of faith and committed himself to serve the people of God in Western province and closely work with the Bishop.

During the celebration Bp. Gilles invited him to come closer and hold his pastoral staff for a moment.

Together they will shepherd the people of the diocese of Daru-Kiunga on their journey of faith.



INSTALLATION: Fr Andrew Moses during the installation ceremony assisted by fellow priests, with Bishop Giles Cote on the side.

## When will PNG schools cater for disabled children?

*Disability is no longer about the persons who live with it, but about the environment that caters for them.*

By Priscilla Winfrey

THE importance of promoting a disability-friendly environment for people with disabilities was one of the main topics of discussion at the *Melanesian Institute and Callan Services Disability Symposium* held in Goroka on March 28-30, sponsored by *Caritas Australia*.

The aim of the symposium was to bring together different NGOs, government groups, individuals and other partners involved with disabled persons in order to share their experiences as well as further enhance ideas to develop an environment that is disability-friendly.

President of the Papua New Guinea Assembly for Disabled Persons, Ipul Powaseu, said people with disabilities had the same rights as anyone else and that the problem was not the disabled person, but the disabling society in which we all live:

"Disabled people have the right to achieve goals. They have basic human rights like everyone else. Our duty is to make sure that an enabling environment can cater for them", Ms Powaseu said.

This included calling on the government to make it possible for children with disabilities to enter and remain in the mainstream education system.

It was stated that in PNG some children with disabilities were able to go as far as Grade 8, but after that it was difficult for them as the education system no



Participants of the Disability symposium

longer catered to their needs.

Ms Powaseu said the Mt Sion School for the Blind was the only school helping children with disabilities to go further than Grade 8, but that was only in Goroka. What about the rest of the Eastern Highlands Province and the country?

It was noted in the symposium that a disability friendly environment is not yet present in PNG. The government is wrong when it still thinks that addressing disability is the work of specialists and specialized schools. It's rather about enabling environment. If this means that all teachers in mainstream education need to learn 'sign language',

then so be it! The government needs to support disability service providers, so they can assist mainstream schools.

The symposium called for more collaboration between the Government, Disabled People Organizations, Disability Service Providers, NGOs, communities and society at large to help people living with disabilities to recognize their rights to equal participation in this country.

It was also mentioned that today the third language in New Zealand is 'sign language' and this showed what an enabling society does. It enables people with disabilities to live and be catered for like any other human being.

## Catholic identity a concern for Secondary Schools

By Bradley Gregory  
DWU Journalism  
Student

THE Catholic identity has become a major concern for Catholic secondary schools in the country, according to the 35 Head-Teachers who attended the week long National Catholic Education Principals Conference at the end of March in Alexishafen, Madang.

The low intake of Catholic students attending the schools and the shortage of qualified Catholic teachers are probably the main reasons.

But the Catholic identity is what makes the Church run secondary schools unique, nurturing students in the Christian faith and shaping them to be good citizens. And more needs to be done at the level of Religious Education.

Condoms also should not be promoted at Catholic schools.

Principal of Bomana De La Salle Secondary school, James Ume, said that if a school gives a biro and a book to a student, the message behind it is simple: "education"; but if a school gives con-

doms to students, the message will be to go out and feel free to do whatever they want.

National Catholic Education coordinator, Sr. Mary McCarthy, reiterated the Church position that human life is sacred and that sexuality is God's gift and should only be practiced within marriage.

She said that sexuality and fidelity are moral values that the Catholic education upholds and they should not be compromised. Promoting condoms as a way to fight HIV/Aids may not be as effective as thought by the government.

## PNG & SI Religious seek way ahead together.

A TOTAL of 92 different congregations of men and women religious are working in PNG and SI in all kinds of ministries for the people.

From March 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> fifty-nine leaders from these congregations of religious Brothers, Sisters and Priests met at Alexishafen, Madang for the annual conference and workshop of the Federation of Religious of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

It was an especially joyful gathering because 2012 marks the

100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate (FMI). These sisters were founded by Bishop Louis Coupe MSC in Rabaul in 1912. Sr. Bosco Tamai who is the Superior General of the FMI Sisters said "We are grateful to God for our vocation as sisters and grateful too for all the people who have worked side by side with us and supported for one hundred years until now."

Each time the religious leaders come together like this, they are able to share what

is happening from all around the country and learn new skills for ministry. This way religious become more able to help the people of God grow stronger in faith and service. The theme for 2012 meeting was *Leadership for Communio*. Federation president Brother Peter Ryan who is a Patrician Brother from Aitape Diocese explained that *Communio* means "all members of the Church working together with one mind and heart for the mission of Jesus Christ".

## 100 YEARS FROM THE BIRTH OF BLESSED PETER TOROT - 1912-2012

Launching of the postage stamps on Blessed Peter ToRot

POSTAGE stamps on Blessed Peter ToRot were launched on Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> March at St. Mary's Cathedral in Port Moresby on the 100<sup>th</sup> year from the birthday of Blessed Peter To Rot. Archbishop John Ribat of Port Moresby was the main celebrant and Bishop Rochus Tatamai of Bereina and a Grand Nephew of the Blessed, was the homilist. He narrated the life of Blessed Peter and shared how strong and faithful he was in carry-



**Peter To Rot**

ing out his duties as a catechist during the Second World War.

Sir Michael Ogio, the Governor General of Papua New Guinea, gave a spirited talk on how the lay people

should be good evangelisers and be faithful to their wives and husbands as Blessed Peter To Rot was. He also said that he likes to see... a black Pope one day in the Catholic Church. The people of Rabaul brought the image and the postage stamps of Blessed Peter To Rot in a procession of their traditional dance. Then the two Bishops and the Governor General officially presented and launched the new stamps.

## PETER TOROT: A SAINT FOR THE FAMILY AND THE PARISH

PETER ToRot is one of the many Catholic faithful who humbly and with great courage devoted their entire life to Jesus Christ, from his childhood to his years in ministry as a parish based catechist. He was born in 1912 in Rakunai, East New Britain and became the youngest catechist in the area at the age of 21. He was always faithful to his daily prayers as a child and was very attracted to the Holy Eucharist. This gave him all the energy to be loyal to his catechistical duties during the

tragic events of World War II, until he was taken into captivity by the Japanese army and asked to deny his Christian faith. Rather, in spite of being in prison, he continued with his religious practices, until he was put to death by the Japanese soldiers by means of lethal injection in 1945.

Peter To Rot was so respected and valued that he was given a chief's burial at the new cemetery next to the church where he had ministered. Although there were a lot of people attending his funeral,

they gathered in silence, fearing the Japanese might intervene if they prayed aloud in public.

Peter ToRot was then officially recognized by the Church as a Martyr: killed in hatred to the faith (*in odium fidei*). He was declared a Blessed by Pope John Paul II in Port Moresby in 1995. A miracle by the intercession of Blessed Peter ToRot is now needed for him to be declared a Saint, as he is widely recognized for the quality of his family life and catechetical ministry.

## Chastity and self control, the bishops challenge the youth

THERE is a need to help young people to understand the right use of sexuality and not to lose the sound traditions and customs. At the beginning of these Centenary celebrations in honour of Blessed Peter To Rot, we, your bishops, wish to address directly all the youth of the Archdiocese:

*"Dear young people, we ask you to look at chastity as something beautiful, as something that will help you to value sexuality. Chastity is not something negative, or a deprivation, but a gift, a call from the Lord to love Him and your partner, totally, exclusively and radically. It is a virtue that*

*develops a person's authentic maturity and makes you capable of respecting and fostering the 'nuptial meaning' of the body. It consists in self-control, in the capacity of guiding the sexual instinct to the service of love and of integrating it in the development of the person. When you engage in*

*pre-marital sex, you are seeking yourselves rather than the good of the other person. Let no one deceive you into thinking that you cannot control yourselves. By calling for 'chastity before marriage (and faithfulness in marriage)', the Church is challenging you to take the less traveled*

*road; a road, to some extent, contrary to cultural practices and habits. But it is the only road you must take if you want to have better families in the future and prevent sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS. This is a call to all young people, but we wish to single out the young teachers*

*and nurses, because of the crucial role they play in our communities, schools, and health centres, to become role models and to take the lead in achieving changes in the lifestyle of the people."*

**Pastoral Letter  
Archdiocese of Rabaul  
7 July 2011**

■ from page 3

## PNG & SI Religious seek way ahead together

A good sign that Communion is really happening is that two Bishops also came to the Conference and joined in all the activities and discussions. The bishops were Bp. Bill Fey of Kimbe Diocese and Bp. Rolando Santos of Alotau Diocese. Secretary-General of the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI, Fr. Victor Roche SVD also attended. He challenged conference members to take the lead and respond well to Pope Benedict's call for a New Evangelisation to renew the Catholic Church and reach out to all peoples.

Together the religious and invited guests participated in sixteen hours of workshop sessions on The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People which are: be pro-active; begin with the end in mind; prioritise - put first things first; solve conflicts by thinking 'win-win'; seek first to understand and then to be understood; creative cooperation; balanced self-renewal.

The workshop presenters were two religious from Australia - Sr. Leone Pallisier and Br. Aengus Kavanagh. They encouraged everyone to participate fully and apply the skills of the seven habits to real-life situations.

Another highlight of the Conference was planning for a special diploma course for reli-



The various Religious who attended the Alexishafen in Madang annual conference.

gious who are pastoral workers. The course will run for the first time next year at Xavier Institute in Port Moresby. This Institute is the International Training Centre for women and men Religious from the Pacific Region.

The conference received a report on the activities of the National Catholic Education Board which included the exciting news of plans for a Catholic Training College for Secondary Teachers. The college will probably open in Rabaul Archdiocese in 2013. Another report to the conference came from the Executive

Director of the Right Relationships Board of the Catholic Church. This board promotes respect for the rights and safety of children and vulnerable adults. It is currently updating Catholic Church policies for responding to victims of possible abuse by priests and religious.

For the religious from overseas and other PNG provinces it was their first time to come to Madang. So after celebrating Mass for the first Sunday of Lent and taking time for prayer and reflection, conference members took the chance to tour Madang Town and the

campus of Divine Word University. But the next day it was back to the business of approving plans and recommendations for 2012-2013.

On the evening of Monday 12th March, the conference honoured Sr. Rosella Lasi MFIC for her six years of dedicated service as the Executive Secretary of the Federation of Religious. A presentation was made to her at the end of the final Mass during which Bishop Rolando Santos of Alotau urged the religious leaders to return home and promote Communion everywhere just as Jesus, our true leader did.

## Peter ToRot still a light for East New Britain

THE Archdiocese of Rabaul opened the celebrations for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the birth of Peter ToRot on 7 July 2011 with a Pastoral Letter drafted by then Coadjutor Archbishop Francesco Panfilo, SDB. It is centered on Marriage and the Family as a place for holiness and personal fulfillment. All communities and Catholic faithful are also invited to reflect each month on a different theme related to family life, from July 2011 to December 2012, when the celebrations will officially close on the Feast of the Holy Family (30 December).

The urn with the remains of Blessed Peter ToRot is also being carried around all the parishes of East New Britain. It travelled throughout the Rabaul area from June to December 2011; it is now

in the Kokopo area; while it will travel throughout Pomio from July to December this year. "This pilgrimage is producing conversions and possibly a renewal of the family", - says Archbishop Francesco Panfilo - "and I hope that at last a physical miracle also occurs leading to the canonization of Peter ToRot". The celebrations will culminate on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July, which is the liturgical commemoration of Blessed Peter ToRot. Archbishop Panfilo has requested for a Papal envoy to grace the occasion.

For the meantime the Catholic Bishops of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands will make a pilgrimage to Peter ToRot's place at Rakunai on the 19<sup>th</sup> of this month as they gather for their annual assembly at Kokopo.

*It has been said that the dysfunctional family is the family that has problems.*

***The dysfunctional family is rather the one whose members DO NOT TALK about their problems.***