



The Catholic Reporter

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WORLD COMMUNICATION DAY: Catholic Youths from Solomon Islands with the Theme of WCD celebrated on May 20 2012. See story on Page 3- From Around the Country-Port Moresby first ever Mass with Catholic communicators.

Arch. John Ribat: Put aside differences and build nation!

By Veronica Hatutasi

CANDIDATES contesting this year's national election have been urged to be good role models, respect others and work together to build this nation.

The head of the Catholic Archdiocese of Port Moresby, John Ribat, made the comment during a combined churches dedication service held at the Sione Kami Memorial Church in Port Moresby on May 14th, just before the issuing of the 2012 national election writs that same day.

The dedication service was the first combined effort made by churches during elections in this country attended by Pastor Joseph Walters representing the Pentecostal Churches, Archbishop John Ribat representing the Archdiocese of Port Moresby and Catholics in

PNG, Reverend Sir Samson Lowa of the United Church as well as other church leaders.

The Governor General, Sir Michael Ogio and his staff, Electoral Commissioner Andrew Trawen and staff plus some members of the government and public were also present at the service.

After stating that PNG's journey was until today marked by trials, uncertainty and a rough road, Archbishop John stressed the importance of leaders to respect, cooperation and being good role models.

"Our joining hands today follow rough and uncertain times full of trials this country has recently been experiencing.

"This is an important moment in our nation's history and we must do it (election) with respect for one another and our nation. It is also very important to listen to whatever the Lord is saying to us: You did not

choose me, but I choose you to go out and bear fruit, and to love one another," Archbishop John said this, citing John Chapter 15: 16-17.

He called on leaders and intending candidates to respect the law and rights of others, cooperate, and to uphold the Constitution.

"Forget your differences and unite to work together to build this nation.

"People are looking up to you as role models. Respect peoples' choices and work towards building this country and make this moment bear fruit. In all that we do, do it well so that it will bear the expected fruit.

"My appeal to all of us is to see this election as an important event in our country's history, so treat it with respect and be prayerful about it. Continue to pray and uphold the constitution," Archbishop John concluded.

No condoms at Catholic school premises

By Fr Giorgio Licini
PIME
CBC Communications

THE Catholic Church in Papua New Guinea will not make condoms available at its school premises for students and teachers as required by a new policy on HIV/AIDS soon to be enforced by the National Education Department.

The decision taken by the recent Annual General Meeting of the Catholic Bishops Conference in Kokopo is final: "Though the document issued by the Education Department is positive in more than one sense, we cannot be forced to follow a policy that conflicts with our philosophy of education", says Archbishop Francesco Panfilo of Rabaul, Deputy Bishop for Education.

The Catholic Church sees the open and wide dis-

tribution of condoms as a go-signal to students for further sexual misbehavior before and outside marriage; "If a school gives a biro and a book to a student, the message behind it is simple, 'education'; but, if it gives condoms, the message for students will just be, 'go out and feel free to do whatever you want', Principal of Bomana De La Salle Secondary school, James Ume, said at a meeting of Catholic School Head-teachers in March. The Education Department instead believes that there is no way to fully control the sexual behavior of a number of students and claims that a high rate of HIV/AIDS infection in recent years has been reported among the school population.

The Catholic Church also believes that PNG Education legislation implies

that families and school boards should be the ones to deal with issues such as HIV-AIDS. "It is good that in this draft, parents are now more than passive recipients in the policy - says Fr. Paul Jennings of St Joseph International College in Boroko; - however, parents are the first teachers and have responsibility for the behavior of children. The policy should do more than 'maintain partnerships' with parents. It could and should empower parents to be active agents in behavioral change."

Questioned about the possibility of the Catholic Church being challenged in court by the government over its decision, Archbishop Panfilo said that "this would be an opportunity for us to prove that the National Education Act is being disregarded by the government."

National Catholic agency school day for Papua New Guinea

By Bradley Gregory
DWU Journalism
Student

ABOUT 25 students with some teachers gathered at the Divine Word University (DWU) Chapel in Madang on May 15 this year "to reflect and pray for our lecturers and other teachers who are serving both urban and rural parts of the country, especially the remotest corners, where access to education is often denied", said second year Communication Arts student Gregory Avira.

Former Lasallian students took the initiative of the gathering as the memorial of St. John Baptist De La Salle, patron saint of teachers, is being celebrated on the 15th of May in Papua New Guinea and other countries of the Pacific.

It was only on April this year that the Catholic Bish-

ops' Conference also formally declared 15 May as a Catholic Agency School Day with activities, debates and prayers to be organized in all Catholic schools throughout the country.

St. John Baptist De La Salle was born in Reims, France in 1651. He became a priest and then was requested to open a free school for the poor in his city. Later on he decided to open his own house for the training of teachers. By 1684 he had donated all his worldly goods and dedicated the remainder of his life to education. In May of the same year, he and twelve others formed themselves into a community, taking vows and adopting the name of Brothers of the Christian Schools. He opened four more schools and several training colleges for teachers. He died on April 7, 1719 and was

declared a saint in 1900 and patron saint of school teachers in 1950.

The Brothers of the Christian Schools (or Lasallians) serve now in 84 countries. They came to Papua New Guinea in 1946. At present they run La Salle Vocational & Technical School (formerly Hohola Youth Development Center) in Port Moresby, the Maimohana Secondary School in Central province and they teach at the Holy Trinity Teachers College in Mt Hagen.

The celebration of the National Catholic Agency School Day every year will help strengthening the Catholic identity of Church schools in the country. It will not be a day of holiday, but students and teachers will organize religious, social and educational activities in their respective schools.

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Aitape Diocese loses two Stars

By Bro. Peter Ryan – Aitape

Albert Komboni

ON March 12, Catholics of Aitape Diocese and the wider community were shocked by news of the murder of the dynamic and dedicated principal of St Francis High School, Nuku. Late Mr. Albert Komboni died in front of his staff and students from gunshot wounds inflicted by a disgruntled former student.

It is tragic story for all concerned. Late Mr Komboni's wife and children are without husband and father. School is disrupted for hundreds of students and the misguided youth was killed on the spot. His family and friends are sorrowing and fearful.

Official investigations are continuing but the background is well known. Late Mr Komboni aimed to restore the great reputation of St Francis High School. He set high standards and the few students who chose not to cooperate were told to apply elsewhere. When other schools refused to accept them, they mistakenly blamed St Francis High School for their problems.

Many observers have praised late Mr. Komboni as a true hero. He defended the rights of students to grow and learn in an environment free of violence, drugs and alcohol abuse. Now his peace-loving spirit inspires Catholic Agency and Government officers to help affected communities reconcile and pave the way for the school to reopen for

classes in 2013.

FR. MATHIAS CONWAY OFM

Franciscan friar Fr. Matthias Conway ofm who died in Melbourne, Australia on 22nd of April was the first Headmaster of St. Ignatius Secondary School, Aitape. Only 5 months after his ordination as a Franciscan priest in 1963, he came to Aitape Diocese and served first as Parish Priest of Yemnu in Sandaun Province. But his previous training and experience as a secondary teacher soon led to his appointment to St. Ignatius School in 1967 as Headmaster. His association with Saints finally ended only in 2010 when he retired as its chaplain. At different times he was a formator for the Franciscans in PNG and a member of their governing council. While Director of the San Damiano Retreat Centre in Kimbe WNB, Fr. Mathias was in great demand for retreats throughout PNG.

Past pupils and former staff-members of St. Ignatius Secondary remember his unflinching optimism and mild manner. He was ever ready to encourage colleagues and students to achieve their personal best. One of the sport houses of the school has the honour of bearing his name.

In 2010, due to failing health, Fr Mathias returned to Victoria his state of origin in Australia and retired to St. Paschal's Friary in Melbourne. He died at the age of 87 years, having spent 47 years as a missionary in PNG.

Open Discussion Paper launched for PNG and Solomon Islands

...Failures in the transmission of faith

WHY do Catholics fail in the transmission of faith to the new generations in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands? This is the question at the core of an Open Discussion Paper recently launched by Fr Shanthi Chakko PIME, Secretary of the Commission for Youth and Laity within the Catholic Bishops' Conference of PNG & SI.

In a small booklet addressed to all Catholic faithful, but particularly to the Bishops and other diocesan leaders, Fr. Shanthi has identified several obstacles in passing on the Christian and Catholic faith to young

people nowadays: lack of prayer, faith, spirituality and formation in the family, declining interest in Church activities and organizations, mass media influence and distorted understanding of personal freedom, lack of role models for the youth... Statistics say that the Catholic Church is losing numbers in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands to religious sects or to outright indifference.

Bishop Bernard Unabali of Bougainville told a youth coordinators gathering last year that, while he was a child and a young boy, he had received appropriate for-

mation in prayer, spirituality and faith from his parents and family members. Now as a Bishop, he has noticed that his own siblings and extended family members do not continue in the footpath of their parents.

Fr. Shanthi's aim is to make his Open Discussion Paper an opportunity for brainstorming and discussion among clergy and lay people as he tries to revive the role of the Commission for Youth and Laity within the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. (pngsibcyouth@gmail.com)

FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY



Card Joseph Zen in Rabaul on 7 July

The Holy Father Pope Benedict XXI has appointed His Em. Card. Joseph Ze-kium Zen, S.D.B., Bishop emeritus of Hong Kong, as His Special Envoy to the celebration on the centennial anniversary of the birth of Blessed Peter ToRot, catechist and martyr of Papua New Guinea, scheduled at Rabaul on 7 July 2012. (*News.va*)

Daru-Kiunga: Bibliodrama as a tool for renewal

The Diocese of Daru-Kiunga is preparing to enter a new stage of its pastoral plan, in which the Bible will play an important role. The diocese, in fact, is currently training 32 men and women for pastoral work in parish teams. As part of their three-month-training, Sr. Anna Damas SSPS, a member of the Diocesan Biblical Committee, has introduced them to basic biblio-drama methods. The participants identify with a character in a biblical story, re-live it and re-enact it. The Bible story thus becomes a mirror for one's life.

The Family a priority for the diocese of Wabag

The diocese of Wabag had its quarterly conference on May 1-4, 2012 at the *Holi Spirit Pastoral Senta* with the presence of priests, religious and all Family Life parish coordinators. The participants discussed both the diocesan and national pastoral plans. We agreed that family is a priority in our pastoral work and programs. Sr. Lorain, SFDP from Mendi Diocese gave us a talk on the "Theology of the Body" in the teachings of Pope John Paul II. On the second part of the conference we focused on electoral education: how to make people aware of the responsibility and duty to elect good leaders who follow Christian values. (*Fr Romeo Yadao SVD*)

First two 'Daughters of Wisdom' from West Papua

On the 7th of May 2012, feast of our co-foundress, Marie Louise Trichet of France, Kiunga saw the first profession of Sr. Beata Ayombe and Sr. Berlinda Yande Kaan, the first two Daughters of Wisdom from West Papua. The ceremony was very colorful with the bird of paradise and cassowary feathers used by the West Papuan community showing their joy on this special occasion. Sr. Berlinda is an elementary school teacher and has been assigned to Mepu school in Kiunga; Sr. Beata is a primary school teacher now assigned to the Matkomnai school, on the Kiunga-Tabubil road. (*Sr. Marie Turner DW*)

Fr. Albert Tuat of Rabaul dies in Manila

Fr. Albert Tuat of Rabaul Archdiocese was suggested to go for medical treatment to Australia in April, but he was refused visa when a panel of doctors in Port Moresby diagnosed him with TB. He began a TB treatment and went back to Rabaul. On Wednesday 2nd May the Archdiocese decided to send him to Manila. He left on the 6th of May accompanied by another Filipino priest. At Makati Medical Centre he was diagnosed with some form of cancer, TB, etc. He died at 3:00 AM on Tuesday, 15 May from heart attack at Zatti private clinic. He was 60 years old and a priest for 34 years, mainly involved in pastoral work, formation of catechists, liturgical ministry and the Church representative in the local Provincial Assembly for several years. (*Arch. Francesco Panfilo SDB – Rabaul*)



Fr Mathias Conway ofm

Country at the Crossroad

She stands frozen and baffled in solitude; Longing for a way out, to save her children. Her eyes fixed at the night sky, leaping from star to star. She listens as her children sob in silence and despair. Filled with anxiety, she cries out; "who shall save us?" She hears a deep whisper, "Welcome to the crossroad!" There she stands irrefutable, surrounded by her children, "O when shall the first dew fall?" she longs She awaits eagerly for the night to fly by; The night is long and cold; Passion grows old as time flies out.

She watches; As crook fairies dance on poles imbalanced; To the song sung by their cohorts. Overshadowed by clouds of greed and pride, For they believed dark-

ness has covered the land. Unaware of the light that permeates through them; They stand in the light. So visible they are watched; As they perform the drama. There she stands alone in woe.

The land is rocked; Cos those fairies are crook. They danced to every beat; Pursued by a band of groundless cliques; They danced by her side; In innocence her children asked. "Where is our destiny? Which road shall we take?". For the rules that hold their land were never played by. She stands helpless and wonders if tomorrow will be a new dawn.

Shane Ailu
DWU student

Domestic violence, an emergency for PNG society

By Bro. Martin Tnines SVD & Sr. Gabriela Burgos SSps

THE PNG National Catholic Family Life Apostolate (NCFLA) is focusing on creating awareness and response to domestic violence.

Forty family life core group members and representatives of twelve parishes in Kimbe attended a five-day workshop on the subject in March. Bro. Martin Tnines from the *Melanesian Institute* and Sr. Gabriela Burgos from NCFLA were the facilitators.

Sexual abuse, wife beating, adultery, forced marriage, offensive language, teenage pregnancy, and fear of sexual assault for woman and girls who walk at night were frequently mentioned throughout the personal sharing and group discussions. The participants attributed these

violent acts to alcohol and marijuana abuse, unemployment, abuse of authority and trust, ineffective communication between husband and wife, lack of family planning, poor upbringing and lack of spiritual formation for families...

The participants also identified ways of coping with violence in the family, the community and the Church: counseling, discipline, religious formation for families, involvement in religious activities, reconciliation and forgiveness, proper financial management, enhancing good communication between husband and wife, proper family planning and education for children...

A few days later Bro. Martin and Sr. Gabriela again organized a workshop on "Pastoral & Prophetic Response to Violence in the Family" at Tsirah Conference Centre in Buka in the

Autonomous Region of Bougainville. There were sixteen participants, some of them young people involved in youth ministry in their parishes and communities.

Participants appreciated inputs and discussions on rights and responsibilities, life and love, abortion, adoption, one's sexual experience, land disputes, counseling, rape, conflict resolution, marijuana and alcohol abuse, wife-beating, domestic violence, caring for the homeless and jobless, and youth and sexually transmitted diseases.

The participants decided to work together to disseminate information from the workshop. Partnership with existing legal bodies within their communities was also identified as an important strategy in combating gender-based violence and related domestic crimes.

Commentary

By Fr. Victor Roche, SVD



New English Missal slowly being introduced in PNG

AGNES lives in Port Moresby, but she is from Vunapope near Rabaul. She went to visit her family back home during the Easter holidays. She was surprised to hear the following response in the English Mass:

Priest: The Lord be with you

People: And with your Spirit (not the usual "And also with you").

She was wondering why the Catholic Church changed these words, which were being followed for almost 40 years since 1973 after the reforms of the Second Vatican Council (1962-'65).

The reason for changing some of the prayers and responses in the new Missal is that the Church saw the need of bringing some uniformity in our responses in different languages. Most of the European languages like German, French, Italian etc. had the original translation from Latin. But the English version did not closely follow the original Latin text.

In Latin, the response is thus:

Priest: Dominus vobiscum (The Lord be with you)

People: Et cum spiritu tuo (And with your spirit).

The Catholic Church has introduced the new missal for Mass with new translation for some parts of the Mass. There are some changes in the prayers that the priest has to say in the Mass. But there are very few changes in the responses of the people. Most of the responses remain basically the same.

In many countries people have started using this new missal from the first Sunday of Advent 2011. Catholics have accepted the changes wholeheartedly. In some countries, they are introducing the new language of the Mass slowly after lots of awareness for the people.

In Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands some dioceses like Rabaul and Alotau have started using the new Missal in English and Pidgin. It is good that Catholics accept these changes with enthusiasm and follow them in the Mass.



Catholic Bishop of PNG and SI gathered for their AGM in Kokopo, East New Britain Province

2012 Call to Action for Catholic Church in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands

COMMUNION THROUGH WELCOMING AND HEALING

The Catholic Bishops of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands issued a pastoral letter at the end of their annual meeting at Kokopo on 24 April outlining the Church priorities for the year 2012. It is basically a call to "making room" for the weakest and the estranged. Excerpts:

"A REFLECTION on communion is very timely... In PNG we are faced with an **erosion of the separation of powers**, the basis of a just democratic social order. We see the state of the economy, the negative effects on the environment of **mining, over-fishing, logging**. We see land disputes leading to violence. The rich get richer and the poor get poorer. There is no change in the situation in the rural areas. We see **families divided over religion and money**, sometimes with violence. We see a **resurgence of regionalism**. Many of these problems and challenges are present in the church also...

"A spirituality of communion requires a welcoming attitude... There is room in the Catholic Church for **people estranged by hurt or insult, victims of sexual abuse**. The church apologizes for any wrongdoing and welcomes these people home. There is room for **those who for various reasons left and joined other churches and returned**. The church forgives and welcomes them home. There is room for **street kids**. The church cares about their welfare and supports programs to enable them to fulfill their potential. There is room for **rascals, criminals, prisoners, and drug and alcohol addicts**. The church calls them to conversion and assists in their rehabilitation.

"There is room for **people living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA)**. While maintaining her teaching of the truth in moral matters, the church rejects attitudes that exclude PLWHA from the life of the church. There is room for **people with disability**. We know that we have to do better in providing educational opportunities suited to the needs of the disabled, with appropriate liturgies and catechesis. We want to empower people with disability to participate and contribute to church and society, starting with disability-friendly churches. A challenging area for all of us at this time is how to respond to **homosexuals and transsexuals**. This is a growing challenge that calls for guidance from church leadership. How can we make room also for **those forced into prostitution** (sex workers)? Here also, the church preaches the truth which makes us free. While unable to condone any practice that endorses or promotes sexual activity outside of marriage between a man and a woman, the church brings the Lord's compassion to those facing these temptations and offers alternatives that are more fulfilling and life enhancing.

"There is room for **broken families, for cohabiting, divorced and remarried couples**. We are aware that many Catholics find themselves in irregular unions and are therefore excluded from receiving Holy Communion. They long for "communion" in both senses of the word but feel trapped in their situation. Sometimes they feel that they have done the right thing or the best that they could do in the situation, and the church is being unnecessarily harsh towards them. We understand their deep suffering and we assure them of the closeness of the church, by inviting them to take part in many church activities... We bishops renew our commitment to ensuring that the avenues available within the church are fully explored and made available to those in need."

Catholic Bishops of PNG & SI
Kokopo, 24 April 2012

FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

From page 2

Natural Family Planning workshop: scientific insights appreciated

Thirty-two participants from twelve Catholic dioceses attended the workshop on Billings Ovulation Method organized by the PNG National Catholic Family Life Apostolate (NCFLA) at Don Bosco, East Boroko on May 7-13. Invited were "those who are dedicated to the cause and that intend to teach the ovulation method", says coordinator and organizer Sr. Mary Anthida SSps. Resource persons were two team members of the Billings Team from Australia, Mrs. Marie Marshall from Melbourne and Mrs. Pauline Feehan from Darwin, who enriched the group with very much appreciated scientific findings and teachings.

The application of the ovulation method allows the planning and spacing of pregnancies. It is also a proven as a diagnostic tool for very early indication of cervical cancer; while women always find it rewarding to observe and learn about the functioning of their own bodies.

At the opening Mass Bishop Anton Ball of Kundiawa, PNG Deputy Bishop for Family Life, referring to the national Family Life team said that "in this time where so many families are torn by difficulties, it is good to see a group striving for the ideal, showing that mutual relationships and deep personal discussions can help to prevent mistrust and violence". At the end of the course instead Archbishop John Ribat of Port Moresby encouraged the group "to keep up the good work and help many families who are ignorant and suffering". (Sr. Mary Anthida SSps)

Port Moresby: first ever Mass with Catholic communicators

Catholic media personnel in PNG have been urged to unite and work together to disseminate information which will go towards educating and informing people. Archbishop John Ribat of Port Moresby made the call during a solemn Mass held at St Mary's Cathedral to celebrate the 46th World Communications Day (WCD) on May 20th. He gave a brief history on the establishment of WCD in 1963 during the Second Vatican Council. He said that about two thousand bishops attending the gathering believed it was important that the Church communicates the best way possible in order to evangelize all peoples. With the theme: Silence & Word- Path to Evangelization, Archbishop Ribat told a dozen of communication officers at a small gathering after Mass that it was important that Catholic media practitioners got to know each other and took time to reflect on what they were disseminating to the people. He also said that by balancing word, sound and silence a person could reflect and communicate better. (Veronica Hatutasi)

Catholic Youth leaders nationwide undergoing leadership training

It is vital that parish youth leaders have the competence to lead their fellow youth in a Catholic and Christian way. This was the purpose of a week-long seminar held in Alexishafen, Archdiocese of Madang at the end of May by Fr. Shanthi Puthussery PIME, PNG and Solomon Islands Catholic Youth Coordinator. The youth leaders from the diocese of Madang learned about the four areas of formation (human, intellectual, spiritual, and social or pastoral) which are vital for the development of the human person. They learned that being a youth leader is a vocation on its own. Diocesan youth coordinator Frank Malin, from the Holy Spirit Cathedral parish in Madang, said that honesty is a quality that a Christian leader must have and it should be observed at all times. The youth leaders said that self sacrifice also is an important attitude in the leadership vocation: to be authentic and genuine Christian leaders, youth must follow Jesus Christ who is the greatest model. The week long program concluded on Sunday, 26 May with a presentation to the students of St. Fidelis seminary in Alexishafen of the skills the 17 participants from 14 parishes obtained from the workshop. The same activity has already been held in Vanimo, Bougainville, Mt. Hagen, Alotau and now in Madang. The other dioceses of PNG will follow suit before Fr. Shanthi takes the same program to the three dioceses of Solomon Islands. (Bradley Gregory - DWU Journalism student)

The vocation challenge in Papua New Guinea

By Fr Giorgio Licini
PIME
CBC Communications

Fr Giorgio interviews Brother Jim Mungovan, OFM, rector of St Fidelis Seminary in Madang about the challenge to religious vocation in PNG.

BROTHER Jim Mungovan, OFM Cap, is the rector of St. Fidelis Seminary in Madang. What challenges are you coming across with your staff in trying to assist in

the formation of young men who are interested in serving God and His people as ordained Catholic priests?

The young men who come to St. Fidelis are in their initial phases of discerning God's call for them in their lives. They have put aside the thought of single life and married life for the time being, and are now prayerfully thinking about dedicating their lives to God in service of the Church as a Catholic priest. Hopefully they

come to the seminary with the full support of their family and friends, but sometimes that is not the case.

What do you stress as different than usual in the life of a Catholic priest?

The candidates to the priesthood must come to know that if they feel that God is truly calling them to the life of a Catholic priest they will no longer have the option to have a girlfriend, a wife or kids since the life of a Catholic

priest is one lived in chaste celibacy. They also must accept the fact that being a servant of God means just that: to serve and not be served.

You mean that poverty and simplicity is a value they need to embrace?

All too often young men think of becoming Catholic priests because they either see or hear that priests get a car, a house, spending money, nice clothes, or the possibility to travel to other countries for higher edu-

cation. Of course, these are all the wrong reasons for wanting to become a priest. The young men must also understand that choosing to answer God's call as an ordained priest means to embrace a life of simplicity and perhaps suffering in imitation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave up His life for us. Our challenge for today's vocations is to make them understand and accept all these things, and more, prior to their ordination.

PNG new deacon in Rome recalls exhilarating soccer tournament

By Christian Sieland – Diocese of Kundiawa.

IN 2007 a football league involving 16 teams from various pontifical universities and colleges in Rome was inaugurated to "reinvigorate the tradition of sport in the Christian community", and to spread the Gospel message of love through sports.

Another motive was to tell the world that another type of sport was possible, a sport without hooliganism and racism, but with a friendly and yet tough competition among more than 300 players from all parts of the world.

The 'Centro Sportivo Italiano', a Catholic Sports association, organizes the league. Only priests and seminarians are allowed to participate at the tournament.

Players come from all over the world, from more than 60 countries. PNG has been represented by only two players since the competition started in 2007.

This year I was the only one from PNG to participate, because my fellow companion Deacon Philemon Korake from Lae Diocese decided not to play anymore.

My team is formed by students from the Pontifical Urban College. Our team has always been one of the most exotic and colorful teams,

with most players coming from the black continent and single players from Mexico, Pakistan or Myanmar and of course the two of us from PNG. Philemon Korake was called "la roccia" (the rock) and was our strong man in the defense, while I was called "il motorino", the small motor of the team. Though our team has always had talented players, we have never been able to reach the finals. Only once we entered the semi-final but were then beaten by the later champions. All the other times we bowed out at the quarterfinals.

This year was not different. We had a strong team and performed well at the first stage of the tournament, having scored the highest number of goals out of the 16 teams.

We qualified for the quarter finals and had to play against the North American College, our neighbors from the Gianicolo Hill overlooking the Vatican. It was a tough and intense derby. Ten minutes before the end of the game the score line was tight 2:2. The Americans lead with 2:1 when I scored an incredible goal from about 35-40 meters, giving our team new hope. But a mistake from our goalkeeper destroyed all our dreams and hopes. The Americans scored two more goals in the dying minutes to win 4:2 and advance to the semifinals.

They made it all the way through to the grand final to eventually win the cup on May 12.

For me personally it was a very disappointing moment, because I played one of my best games and was really convinced that we would have made it to the finals. But there can only be one winner so we accepted our defeat.

The news of consolation for our team reached us almost a week later. Our striker from Ghana was voted best striker for having scored most goals (9) of the tournament and I was voted best player of the tournament.

To me it was really a big surprise; something that I have never expected or would have dreamed of. Out of over 300 players from all over the world, they chose me, the only player from PNG as the best player. I don't know with what criteria they may have made their decision, but I guess they must have had their reasons to vote for me so it is a small recognition and achievement, which I am proud of.

Our team has grabbed two of the four honors that are usually awarded to the most outstanding players and that is also a small consolation for the whole team. My trophy is neither a cup nor a medal, but a green stole. It reminds me that sports will always be an important part of my life, and that I can use it

later as an instrument to lead especially the young people to Christ. It is a reminder that we have to testify Christ on the field as well as off the field because we are in a way "athletes of Christ".

I could not reach the soccer final on 12 May 2012, nevertheless that same day was an important one on my way towards priesthood.

On that special day I was ordained a deacon along with 16 other young men at St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome.

Relatives and friends came from Germany and Austria. My parents tried everything possible to come for my diaconate ordination but unfortunately, they were unable to get their papers on time. Only a sister came all the way from PNG.

The ordination in St. Peter's Basilica has been a very emotional moment. It is hard to describe all the thoughts that rush through your mind at a moment like that. After 10 years as a seminarian, in Germany, in PNG and in Rome I was finally ordained a deacon.

I thank God for the many blessings he has bestowed on me so far. Much has been given to me, and much is expected from me. I ask all to pray for me and all those who prepare themselves for priesthood that they may persevere in their call and become good, worthy and holy servants of the Lord.

Youngest of seven new Deacon for Madang

By Eva Wangihama – Archdiocese of Madang

AS the early Sunday morning showers were gently falling, the Holy Spirit Cathedral in Madang was filled beyond capacity as Catholics gathered for a joyous and tear filled Deaconate Ordination of Seminarian Benedict Yagini on 6th May.

Young Benedict left behind 6 siblings and his elderly parents to answer God's call to become a deacon and eventually, to become a priest.

He is the last born in the family of 7 children. He hails from Mikarew Village in the Bogia District of Madang.

He went through 10 years of training, beginning at St. Fidelis Minor Seminary in 2001.

Over the years, God had guided and led him through to make this promise for life.

The lecturers at the Seminary also commented that he was a dedicated man in doing

anything that was assigned to him. He is a very prayerful person.

He was ordained by Chief Archbishop Stephen Reichert, OFM Cap and was told to "Follow Christ's Teachings in his life daily by loving and caring for those who will be entrusted to his care. And may he be filled with the Holy Spirit like the Apostles as he is going to the harvest field for the Lord and above all to be a servant to others."

As a deacon now, he made a commitment to live a life of celibacy and that is, to stay single. He can assist in the daily Mass, give the homily and distribute Holy Communion and bless the people. He can also give the Sacraments of Baptism and the Anointing of the Sick. He can conduct a funeral.

After the ordination he was assigned to serve at the Alexishafen Parish until the end of the year.

Then he will be called to the Holy Spirit Cathedral until his ordination to the priesthood in 2013.

"I want to be a priest for the youth" Dalzert Awaili-Seminarian for the Diocese of Aitape

"FROM the time I was 17, I've dreamed of being a priest.

I did Minor Seminary Formation at St. John Vianney in Vanimo, and from that time on my only thought has been to be ordained a Catholic priest.

The people from my diocese are in desperate need of priests to administer the Sacraments.

As in other places, some parishes, especially in remote areas, have no priest to say Mass, baptize, hear confessions or bless marriages.

"I'm also motivated to become a priest by seeing the needs of the youths, our future leaders, who so often have no moral direction in their lives and are

driven to drug and alcohol abuse and other illegal activity.

Who besides the parish priest will have the courage and guidance to reach out to these young people?

By becoming an ordained Catholic priest I will help to minimize social problems that plague my diocese and our country.

My desires are not for my own benefit, but for those of the people of my country. I thank God for this Call", Dalzert says.



"The power of healing and consoling"

Frederick Sebie
Seminarian for the Archdiocese of Madang

"MY desire to become a Catholic priest began when I saw a priest standing at the altar celebrating Mass; he seemed extraordinary, and he seemed to have been given extraordinary powers, too.

I also watched a priest in my parish in Bogia anoint a dying old man.

Before the anointing, the old man was suffering terribly and would scream out in pain all night long.

But after the priest anointed him and gave him Holy Communion,

the old man was calm and shortly thereafter, died a peaceful death.

That experience motivated me to want to become a priest.

I am also inspired by the way priests act toward the people; they are very open and loving to all people, not just a select few.

No one told me to go to the seminary, it was a call from God and I answered Him; it is God's plan for me and I must fulfill that plan.



WITH FELLOW DEACONS: Deacon Christian, 3rd from left, with other fellow seminarians in Rome on the day of his deaconate.



THE SOCCER PLAYER: Deacon Christian, 1st right bottom, with his seminary team mates mostly from the African continent.