



The Catholic Reporter

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Population growth not a nightmare

By Fr. Giorgio Licini PIME
Catholic Reporter

THE fact that our national government is aware of the issue of population growth, as in many other developing countries, is certainly reassuring.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill raised the concern while on a visit to West New Britain last June 24th. The opposite trend is taking place in western societies now experiencing an aging population and decreasing number of children after a consistent growth following World War II. It may be interesting to notice how in their time they tackled the issue and what PNG can learn

from their experience. There are at least three areas of interest.

The first refers to a massive development and maintenance of infrastructures. The works must be done properly. Under a mantle of road asphalt in Europe there are 30-50 centimeters of hard rocks. That way it is very hard for the pavement to just disappear and give way to deep pot holes.

In a poorer country like the Philippines most of the roads are cemented. A technique that may be more expensive, but for a solution that lasts forever.

Besides practical decisions, however, what really matters is that infrastructure is funded and really put

in place based on a long term national plan. Massive corruption and diversion of funds is incompatible with national development.

A second area of concern is certainly education. While the western population was growing in the past decades, every child had to be in school.

As often happens, an educated population becomes much less reproductive; to the point that some countries now worry about generation imbalance and decreasing number of children.

Job opportunities and houses also need to be provided. In a modern and urban set up fertility rates decrease when people start en-

gaging in a more meaningful social life and become busy not only with work, but also with cultural, social and recreational activities.

Does family planning, contraception and the tragedy of abortion also contribute to population control? Certainly! But does Papua New Guinea need to rely on such practices to achieve its goal?

It really doesn't seem to be the case. With still limited population and considerable internal resources and external help, PNG can easily plan to be a country of 30-40 million people by the end of the century, with a much stronger and diversified economy, just by

stamping out corruption, instilling a better sense of discipline in its citizens and working hard for education, infrastructural development, and a crime free society.

Papua New Guinea has more natural resources than any European country.

It is slightly smaller than France and bigger than Germany, which have 65 and 81 million people respectively. Papua New Guinea has only seven million.

Population will certainly increase. It will be a problem to address, but not a nightmare!
(www.cbcpngsi.org - giorgiolicini@yahoo.com)

A man of the people

IN his ways, Br Thomas Andrew Simpson cfc, MBE, was a man of the people.

For "Br. Andrew" as he was affectionately called, seeing people overcome obstacles and succeed in education and life was what he stood for and assisted in his engagement with students and parents.

"You were there for me when I needed help; it was because of you that my son graduated," a sobbing mother "whispered" to his body at the Modilon General Hospital morgue in Madang the day after his sudden death on 12 June 2013.

"I would have not gone back to my Tourism and Hospitality studies at Divine Word University if it wasn't for Brother Simpson and I am deeply sorry", a student also said.

Br. Andrew was born on 30 August, 1948, in Sydney, Australia.

He received his education in Catholic schools and obtained his Teacher's Certificate in 1968. He then obtained his Bachelor of Arts (Education) from 1973 - 1978 and completed his highest qualification



Late Br Thomas Andrew Simpson cfc, MBE, was a man of the people.

in Master of Arts (Teacher Education) at Macquarie University from 1981 - 1987.

He was a member of the Christian Brothers of the Schools and worked mainly in education holding a number of positions in Australia over a period of 20 years.

In 1987 he moved to Papua New Guinea.

He worked first as a teacher and then Principal of St. Paul's Teachers' College in Rabaul (1987-'90);

Principal of St. Benedict's Teachers' College in Wewak (1990-95); Regional Leader of the Christian Brothers of Papua New Guinea in Goroka (1996-2002); and Vice President-Academic and then Vice President-Student Affairs of Divine Word University in Madang (2003-2013).

Br. Andrew was also Chairman of the PNG National Catholic Education Secretariat and Chairman of Callan Services for disabled persons.

He helped develop the rugby league code in Papua New Guinea.

For his contributions to both education and sports, he received an award as 'Member of the British Empire' (MBE) a few years ago.

He worked tirelessly serving many students and the general community. He has touched the hearts of people and is greatly missed.

Br. Andrew's final resting place is at the mission cemetery of Alexishafen outside Madang among the people he loved and served with utmost dedication. (dwu.ac.pg - G.L.)

World Youth Day

Rio de Janeiro, 23-28 July 2013

"Go, make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28:19)



THE Logo of World Youth Day 2013 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil this month (July 23-28) attempts to capture the image of Jesus and the meaning of being a disciple. The theme "Go, make disciples of all nations" is a command proclaimed by Jesus himself. For this reason the logo has the image of Christ the Redeemer in the centre of the picture. Together, the elements of the logo resemble a heart.

This is because the heart has become the centre of faith among the nations.

In the logo, the arms of Christ the Redeemer go beyond the border of the heart as an allusion of the welcoming arms of God waiting the youth from the whole world. It represents Brazil's cordial and generous welcome.

The upper part (in green) was inspired by the lines of the Sugar

Loaf, universal symbol of the city of Rio de Janeiro, and the cross reinforces the meaning of the Brazilian territory known as the Land of the Holy Cross.

The bottom part (in blue), represents the Brazilian shore, and the green and yellow represent the colours on the Brazilian flag.

The Logo was designed by Gustavo Huguenin a 25 years old from Brazil.

"For me is a great joy to know that my work will be used in the biggest Catholic event in the world and it will be associated with a personal meeting between the youth and God himself", he said when his project was selected.

Pope Francis will be travelling to Brazil and join about two million youth expected to take part in the event.

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7 JULY: Feast of Blessed Peter ToRot

A personal testimony from East New Britain

By Augustine Malana
Iatapal, ENBP

PETER ToRot was known as a catechist from Rakunai village in the Gazelle district of East New Britain Province.

He was a pious young man who had an intense prayer life and received Communion daily. Peter became a lay catechist at the age of 18 and ministered to his own people of Rakunai Village.

The Bible was his frequent book that he never forgot to carry around and from which he frequently quoted.

At the age of 24 he got married to a lady who is from the same denomination (Catholic) and from the same place. He was faithful to his wife and children despite his demanding work as catechist at Rakunai, now St. Augustine Parish.

Missionaries and their staff were arrested by the Japanese when they invaded the island of New Britain in 1942 and were housed in concentration camps.

He continued to lead the village as best as he could, in being accountable to his responsibility as a catechist caring for the sick, baptizing and teaching the faithful, helping the poor and also assisting other catechists who were frightened by the Japanese invasion.

He had the courage to continue on living and serving his community.

The locals were prevented by the Japanese from worshipping, fearing that they would pray for their defeat.

That's why they tried to get the people back to their pre-Christian ways, even enforcing polygamy. Those who were resisting the law were punished.

Peter was one who was openly opposing their instructions and was arrested for his work in conducting religious gatherings.

He was imprisoned in a cave, but still supported and loved by those who knew him.

He became a source of strength to his people and of annoyance to his captors. On July 7, 1945 Peter was murdered by his captors and died as a martyr for the faith.

Inspiration for East New Britain

"I am here because of those who broke their marriage vows and because of those who do not want the growth of God's kingdom", is one of Peter ToRot's quotes in jail.

The historical life of Peter ToRot still has a great influence on the life of the youths, individuals, leaders, families and the communities of East New Britain. Our life has been shaped and inspired by his life as a true model in strengthening our faith in the Church and in our family life in the communities.

According to the history of Peter ToRot, he was tortured for strengthening the faith of his people, caring for the sick, conducting religious gatherings and fighting polygamy in society.

Iatapal village is one of the Catholic communities in East New Britain Province, few



Catholics at Rakunai celebrate Peter ToRot's feast day.

kilometers away from Rakunai Parish.

That is the place where I come from, on the north coast road of the Gazelle district.

It is a sub-parish under the main parish of Vunavavar.

The community of Iatapal is known in East New Britain for their participation during big celebrations at Vunapope Catholic headquarters through choirs, culture and dances that showcase both local traditions and Church rites and practices. Iatapal is an entirely Catholic place.

Our Family

Going for church and praying the holy rosary is a normal daily activity for our families. Traditionally our families, with their cultural and traditional background, also help in providing the basic native ethical conducts for all members.

Usually our parents always encourage us to carry around our rosaries and to pray the five decades of the rosary each day.

Church people usually encouraged us with a familiar quote which says, "God always responds quickly to children's prayers".

We were so inspired by that say that most of us children used to lead prayers during the month of Mary and other religious gatherings.

Our life as children was dedicated to prayer as inspired by the life story of Peter ToRot.

The norms of conduct in place at that time, regarding relationships between our families and different clans, ensured a positive outcome in any case.

Nuclear and extended family members grew up and lived in harmony within our family, clan and the environment.

In whatever we do as a family or clan, traditionally or customarily, prayer is always the first step, whether we deal with bride price ceremonies, marriage ceremonies, initiation, reconciliation and other traditional activities in our society.

Youths and Vocations

Since our culture and traditions are still strong in our society, the youths work in unity with others in ministerial groups such as the Youth for Christ, Divine Mercy, and Legion of Mary. Not only the youths make up these groups, but also a number of adults, men and women, including parents, church leaders, employees or students.

Some young people every year join religious congregations and become priests, religious brothers or sisters.

The youths are very committed to their responsibilities in providing comfort and treating their parents with great respect.

Those with ministerial responsibilities play their part in being accountable for healing the sick, the poor, and visiting and conducting programs from clans to clans or even meeting with congregations from other parishes in Rabaul in big gatherings like the youth days.

This also positively influences the life of the couples. Peter ToRot has a great influence on the life of the youths.

Peter ToRot healer of the sick

People have been healed by using soil taken from the tomb of Blessed Peter ToRot and water taken from the cave nearby Rakunai parish which is known to be the cave where Peter ToRot was kept imprisoned before he was tortured.

I for once had an experience, being given the holy water from the cave of Peter ToRot in the year 2007. I was doing my Grade 11 in St. Mary's Vuvu Secondary School during that time. I was very sick and was shivering having sleepless nights and with an increase in body temperature.

What happen to me is that I was totally healed the next morning when I woke up after drinking from the water of Peter ToRot.

It was a total and complete miracle for me which was extraordinary. It was unbelievable and I do trust that it was Peter ToRot that healed me through my belief in him.

The holy water was given to me by one of the leaders of the Legion of Mary.

Some members of my family have experienced the same healing power from the soil and water of Peter ToRot. My mother also was suffering from backache and head. She applied the soil on her back and drunk the holy water and was healed after some days.

Marriage life

Most of the couples in Iatapal have a marriage life that is faithful and filled with the true love of God. Some of the broken marriages have been mended because of the calling of the members of these families to Peter ToRot in their meditation and prayers to rebind their marriage life to faithfulness.

Because Peter ToRot was strong in faith in his marriage life and was fighting against polygamy, most marriages in East New are not polygamous.

I actually come from a family where my father divorced my mother and got married to a new wife leaving us behind.

This marriage broke up because my father was so serious about running his business and not intending to attend church every Sunday or even other religious gatherings.

When Church leaders or even his brothers and sisters would talk to him, he wouldn't care. Now he has nothing left, because everything has gone down the drain.

Through our prayers to Peter ToRot to strengthen the faith of our family, he is now trying to come back to us his sons and daughters with our mother.

I believe that Peter ToRot will strengthen him and bring him back to our family life; and he will be filled with the grace and faithfulness of God.

To the people of East New Britain and Papua New Guinea as a whole, Peter ToRot is like a true role model in our religious life.

Life in the Church today is weakening because of the weakening of the family. Our life in our families is the backbone of true and faithful Christian life.

Parents are not taking their responsibilities in shaping their children by passing on the religious tradition onto their lives.

Many nowadays disregard the principles of the Church and choose the future of their children to be rich with money and not in faith for the Church and the will of God.

Many problems are arising every now and then, caused by the youths; these problems are experienced nationwide as well as in the global scene: killings, rape, criminality, failed marriages, and other acts that are against God's will.

We must continue to pray and ask for peace, faithfulness and unity in the families of the world today, that they should listen to the Word of God, attend the sacrifice of the Mass, persevere in prayer, bring up their children in the Christian faith, cultivate the spirit, practice penance and thus implore God's grace in their lives.

DWU to host national debate on capital or corporal punishment

DIVINE Word University is staging a "national debate" on capital and corporal punishment from the 8th to 10th August, 2013. The University is inviting interested speakers to debate the issue by posing the question: "Is Capital or Corporal Punishment the answer to law and order challenges in PNG?"

The DWU has invited speakers through paid advertisements placed in the two national daily newspapers, Post Courier and The National.

"This event (debate) provides an avenue to explore and debate issues relating to increasing law and order problems in the country, and if capital or corporal punishment will get us the results we want," the DWU statement reads.

Further information can be obtained from Ms Stephanie Susame or Mr David Wapar on telephone numbers 422 2937 or on

Email: events@dwu.ac.pg (dwu.ac.pg)

From Faithful to Evangelizer Towards the Catholic Church General Assembly

Madang, 5-11 Nov. 2013

By Fr Roger Purcell MSC
National Director,
Community Animation Service

AT this time our Journey of Faith takes us on the road to our General Assembly for the Catholic Church in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands (Madang, 5-11 Nov. 2013).

With Jesus we ask, "Give me something to drink".

Together we set out to drink deeply again of our faith, so that we may evangelize the world.

In the document *Porta Fidei* (the door of faith) Pope Benedict called on us to "rediscover the journey of faith":

"I have spoken of the need to rediscover the journey of faith so as to shed ever clearer light on the joy and renewed enthusiasm of the encounter with Christ.

During the homily at the Mass marking the inauguration of my pontificate I said: "The Church as a whole and all her Pastors, like Christ, must set out to lead people out of the desert, towards the place of life, towards friendship with the Son of God, towards the One who gives us life, and life in abundance." [PF #2]

- The Samaritan woman came to the well to get water [Jn 4:5-42].
- In talking to Jesus she found there were many other things in her life that



What future for the Church in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands?

she needed

- In the end she had begun a journey of faith, finding answers to her questions, joy and fulfilment.
- She took the Good News of meeting Jesus to her own village; she became an evangelizer to her own people.

Scripture;

- "Jesus had now finished what he wanted to say, and his teaching made a deep impression on the people" (Mt 7:28)
- "They were overcome with awe and said to one another, 'who can this be?' (Mk 4:35)
- "The seventy-two came back rejoicing"

Our faith is a source of hope and consolation, strength and courage in our lives. What are 10 great joys, strengths and experiences of your faith?

- Write them down for yourself
- Discuss them in your family, community, clan
- Share them with others
- Write down a final list.

Now look them up in the CATECHISM; study them; discuss them; pray about it.

Let us celebrate our faith together as a community in prayer, song and liturgy.

- As a family
- As a community
- As a parish

[In the diocese take 3 of these items and bring to the General Assembly]

Commentary
by
Fr. Victor Roche,
SVD



PNG Religious not up to their task?

THERE are 1,798 Religious men and women (736 Male Religious and 1062 Female Religious) working in Papua New Guinea.

Most of them are involved in Education, Health, Evangelization and other ministries.

Some of their Congregations were started in another country with a particular purpose or a specific charism and are working in PNG. Some of them were begun within PNG.

Although there are many expatriate missionaries, the majority are Papua New Guineans.

Gladly, there is an increasing number of local vocations.

The Religious Group in PNG is well structured and the Women Religious are better organized than the men. They have regular recollections and meetings.

Do these Religious men and women really live up to the charism of their Congregations?

One of the charisms is the prophetic role in the society and in the Church.

I am also a religious and I am guilty of not playing my prophetic role.

We have not heard the voice of the religious in PNG recently. Perhaps, we are not ready to go out of our comfort zones.

There are many issues in the Church that need to be challenged.

There are many issues in the country that need a prophetic voice to challenge them.

There was the issue of Sorcery related killings and Death Penalty.

Where are the religious men and women?

Where is their voice?

Prophets of hope, speak up!

New education opportunities for Solomon youth

By Fr. Ambrose Pereira SDB
Honiara

HONIARA will soon avail of its own Australia-Pacific Technical College (APTC) campus following the launch of a A\$1.9 million partnership program between APTC and Honiara's Don Bosco Technical Institute on 29 May.

AusAID Director General for Solomon Islands Mr. Peter Baxter joined hundreds of students, staff and community members to launch the partnership.

Mr. Baxter said the partnership will give more Solomon Islanders the chance to learn new skills and secure a job.

"Up to 300 students will now have the chance to gain internationally recognised qualification in automotive repair and construction over the next three years," Mr. Baxter said.

"They will join more than 490 Solomon Islanders who have already graduated from APTC and now have the skills, training and confidence to take advantage of job opportunities, either in the Solomon Islands

or in the region."

Mr. Baxter said the partnership will fund the enrolment of students and support upgrades to Don Bosco facilities.

"I am pleased that we are partnering with Don Bosco – an important institution of teaching, learning and training in Solomon Islands," Mr. Baxter said.

Supporting investments in training and skills development is a key focus of the Solomon Islands – Australia Partnership for Development, and for AusAID more widely in the Pacific.

The A\$150 million APTC scheme was established in 2007 to increase skilled workers in the Pacific and improve employment opportunities for Pacific Islanders. More than 4950 Pacific Islanders have already graduated with new skills from the APTC four campuses in Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea. Solomon Islanders will continue to have access to the APTC's four other regional campuses and a range of courses including hospitality, engineering and community services.

... With Blessed Joseph, her Spouse...

IN the first decree of a liturgical nature of this pontificate, Pope Francis has decided that the name of St. Joseph should be added to the Eucharistic Prayers II, III and IV, as they appear in the third typical edition of the Roman Missal, after the name of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The prayers, therefore, will now sound as follows: "...with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,

with Blessed Joseph, her spouse, with the blessed Apostles...". Below please find the text of the decree issued on Wednesday, 19 June by the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments:

DECREE

Exercising his paternal care over Jesus, Saint Joseph of Nazareth, set over the Lord's family, marvelously fulfilled the office he received by grace.

Adhering firmly to the mystery of God's design of salvation in its very beginnings, he stands as an exemplary model of the kindness and humility that the Christian faith raises to a great destiny, and demonstrates the ordinary and simple virtues necessary for men to be good and genuine followers of Christ.

Through these virtues, this Just man, caring most lovingly for the Mother of God and happily dedicating himself to the upbringing of

Jesus Christ, was placed as guardian over God the Father's most precious treasures.

Therefore he has been the subject of assiduous devotion on the part of the People of God throughout the centuries, as the support of that mystical body, which is the Church.

The faithful in the Catholic Church have shown continuous devotion to Saint Joseph and have solemnly and constantly honored his memory as the most chaste spouse of the Mother of God and as the heavenly Patron of the universal Church.

For this reason Blessed Pope John XXIII, in the days of the Most Holy Second Ecumenical Council

of the Vatican, decreed that Saint Joseph's name be added to the ancient Roman Canon. In response to petitions received from places throughout the world, the Supreme Pontiff Benedict XVI deemed them worthy of implementation and graciously approved them.

The Supreme Pontiff Francis likewise has recently confirmed them.

In this the Pontiffs had before their eyes the full communion of the Saints who, once pilgrims in this world, now lead us to Christ and unite us with him.

Accordingly, mature consideration having been given to all the matters mentioned here above,

this Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, by virtue of the faculties granted by the Supreme Pontiff Francis, is pleased to decree that the name of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary is henceforth to be added to Eucharistic Prayers II, III, and IV, as they appear in the third typical edition of the Roman Missal, after the name of the Blessed Virgin Mary...

From the offices of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, 1 May 2013, on the Memorial of Saint Joseph the Worker. Antonio Card. Cañizares Llovera *Prefect*

DWU students in Rome pray and learn

By Abrial Wille
DWU student

GOING to Rome for us appeared to be a dream come true when the Chaplain of Divine Word University, Fr. Giorgio Licini PIME, announced in September last year that a pilgrimage there was to be organized to mark the Year of Faith (11 Oct. 2012 - 24 Nov. 2013).

The target was for a group of 10-15 students to travel during the school Semestral break in June 2013. The final number was 14.

After assembling for a couple of days at St. John's Parish in Port Moresby and securing the necessary travelling documents, the group left on 13 June to arrive in Rome the next day via Singapore and Doha with Qatar Airways.

The PIME General House in Rome (Fr. Giorgio's missionary society) was our welcoming home away from home.

Some priests there had been in Papua New Guinea and shared their experiences with us.

Deacon Christian Sieland from



DWU students with Chaplain Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME at St. Clare Basilica in Assisi, Italy – 18 June 2013

Simbu, Fr. Paul Sundu also from Simbu, Fr. Justin Ain from Enga, and Sr. Basilia Logasae MSI from Central province, all studying in Rome, were very happy to be with us and facilitate our visits when free from their studies and exams.

We visited many archeological and religious sites: the Coliseum, the Roman Forum, St. Peter in Chains, the Vatican Museum, the National Roman Museum, the Four Major Basilicas, including St. Paul Outside the Walls and the nearby place of the martyrdom of the Apostle of the Gentiles, where according to tradition St. Paul's beheading brought about three water springs (*Tre Fontane*). This spot inspired me so much!

We also spent one day at Nettuno, the place of martyrdom and burial of St. Maria Goretti, patron saint of the youth in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands; and one day in Assisi, the birth place of St. Francis.

I was impressed to see his tomb there and in other rooms clothes and shoes that belonged to him and St. Clare nine hundred years

ago.

We spent half day in prayer and recollection at Centro San Lorenzo, a welcoming place for young people just next to the Vatican, after attending the papal audience in the morning of Wednesday 19 June. To the Pope we donated a PNG flag.

Our country and university were mentioned several times by the Pope himself and his aides during the audience.

In St. Peter's Square we experienced the universality of the Church with pilgrims coming from all over the world amidst a sea of different flags.

At Centro San Lorenzo in the afternoon we had Mass and prayed silently at the feet of the original copy of the Cross of World Youth Day: the very cross that Pope John Paul II donated to the youth after the Jubilee Year of 1983 and that has since then been taken to all corners of the world. It was probably the pick of our pilgrimage; something that we will treasure for the rest of our lives.

PNG seminarians become aware of social media

By Pama Kinoi
Port Moresby

"SOCIAL Networks: Portals of Truth and Faith; New Spaces for Evangelization" was the theme of a two-day Symposium for diocesan and religious seminarians of the Catholic Theological Institute of Bomana (Port Moresby) on 3-4 June.

It was organized by the Commission on Social Communications of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

Future deacons and priests had a chance to appreciate the relevance of social networks today especially for young people and the pastoral implications of the new media scenario.

In spite of the fact that internet access is still expensive and limited to urban areas, at least 150,000 people in Papua New Guinea are now on Facebook. Pages of current issues such as *Sharp Talk* and *The PNG News Page* have recently reached 12,000 and 10,000 members respectively.

The urbanized and educated population in the country does not exceed the figure of

500,000.

Church Catholic Communications Secretary Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME stressed the fact that pastoral workers for Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands now need to operate on a double lane pastoral highway not to neglect the majority rural bulk of the population, while being aware of the new culture shaped by media for students, professionals and urban residents.

Media education, however, becomes urgent everywhere as mobile phone signal reaches the remotest villages and people are able to connect to the internet through smart phones.

The digital divide with neighboring Australia, where 80% of the population regularly access the internet, was made clear by the presentation of Ms. Mary Elias from the Catholic Communications of the Archdiocese of Sydney.

For the participants, however, it became clear that the online world, regardless of its extension and availability, is a real one.

On line people really meet, chat, learn, discuss, trade, decide, or-

ganize themselves, shape their views, even flirt and love... Advantages and disadvantages, positive outcomes as well as risks are the same as those of the offline world and life.

It was Fabian Hakalits, a Year 4 Journalism student of the Divine Word University in Madang, who outlined the ethics of the online world, the evil of cyber bullism, the practical absence of privacy on the net and the need for good behavior.

The social media are our soul on display. It is up to us to reveal the best or worst of ourselves.

The Bishops' Commission on Social Communications organized the Symposium also with the aim to inform the seminarians on the status of *Catholic Communication* in Papua New Guinea.

In spite of all limitations due to costs and scarce human resources, different contributors to the Symposium showed that we can boast of a small presence practically in all sectors: information (monthly printed Catholic Re-

porter, www.cbcp-ncsi.org website home page, social media and contributions to the international Fides new agency); Radio (few diocesan radios, Voice of Peter ToRot and Radio Maria PNG); Television (programs on public Kundu TV); social media by individuals and blogs even by a few bishops.

"The future on media, however, belongs to you - Fr. Giorgio Licini told the young seminarians-; not to the Bishops, who already have to worry about so many things; not even to my generation; we are in our fifties and we were trained for media at the dawn of the computer age".

For the new generations instead there is a chance to be on social media and participate into the public debate without limitation of sort.

"Don't ask your Bishop to allow you to be on social media or to organize an office for that purpose - Fr. Licini said -; do it yourself in a constructive and positive manner.

It is certainly an important part of modern youth apostolate and even more than that".

Fighting violence against children

By Fr. John Glynn OL
WeCARE Foundation

WE CARE! has been visiting Maria for a couple of years now, providing her and her mother with food, cash, diapers, and other needed support.

She is a young girl, about 14, living with her mother in a single rented room in one of our more remote and dangerous settlements in Port Moresby.

Maria is very severely disabled. She does not have the use of any of her limbs and cannot speak.

She lies all day on a mat on the floor of their room while her mother sells fish in the market place.

Often Maria is all alone; sometimes there are a couple of smaller children with her; normally there is no adult to care for her.

A few days ago we received a report that a young man had entered the room and raped Maria while she was all alone.

We at once tried to confirm the truth of this story and began getting conflicting accounts.

First we were told there was no rape. The young man had been interrupted and the child suffered no harm.

Then we were told that it was all a mistake - there was not even an attempt at rape - it was a story made up by a mischief maker.

There was stiff resistance to getting the Police involved.

Maria and her mother are coastal people.

The family from which they rent a room are highlanders. The young man who allegedly attempted to abuse Maria is a member of this family, and the worry is that if the police are brought in Maria and her mother



Severely disabled Maria lies on a mat the whole day.

might be put out of their room and will have no place to go.

Up to now Maria's mother has only accepted *We CARE!* support passively, without any enthusiasm or cooperation.

She has been refusing our repeated requests to take Maria to hospital for evaluation.

Cheshire Disability Services does not work in this settlement because in the past their people have been attacked and their mini bus hijacked by criminals in the area, so we cannot get their help in this matter.

However, whatever is the truth about what happened, Maria's mother has received a severe shock, and she has now - just today - agreed to allow *We CARE!* to take herself and Maria

to the Police to make a statement and then to be taken to the General Hospital for Maria to have a complete check-up. (*We CARE! News* -