



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

August 2014

ISSUE: 108

SAVE MT HAGEN CHILDREN NOW!

By Jenny Mek
Mt Hagen

The Catholic Archdiocese of Mt Hagen is fast moving towards the setting up of a family home for neglected children. At a planning meeting on the 30th of July chaired by Archbishop Douglas Young and attended by experienced people active in social work, family life ministry, child protection and health services a few guidelines were identified to respond to the deteriorating situation.

Five main elements of social change are considered to be responsible for the current abandonment of children: parents contracting or dying of HIV/AIDS, marriage break ups, urban drift, unemployment, and inter-cultural marriages.

Society's rejection of orphans is quite alarming. Though there is awareness of orphans, yet there is no acceptance.

A participant at the meeting, someone already working with orphans, revealed being herself over-looked, stigmatized and discriminated against for taking care of the orphans.

"People call them bastards", she said.

Two main reasons are believed to be behind the rejection of orphans in the PNG Highlands. The first is land. There is a land shortage.

People think that what is available should go to the biological children and not adopted orphans. Sangumaor sorcery related killings of one or both parents also negatively impact upon the children, who may be suspected of having inherited sorcery powers.

For these reasons orphans are left to fend for themselves.

THE RESPONSE HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED IN TEN POINTS

Provide family life support and counseling.

Provide housing: separate arrangement for boys and girls.

Promote nutrition programs.

Work with the Justice Department and Child Welfare.

Have clear guidelines for the Centre.

Establish a drop-in Centre.

Involve researchers on the team.

Put emphasis on spiritual guidance.

Consider age limitations to avoid conflicts.

Appoint a case manager for the Centre.

Archbishop Douglas Young strongly stressed the importance of working in collaboration with the Government and with NGOs that promote Children's Rights and welfare.

Malnourished and dying

By Fr John Glynn
We Care Foundation

The Post-Courier published United Nations statistics last month which are terrifying in their implications.

One revealed that 45% of Papua New Guinea's children have stunted growth. This means that, because they are malnourished from birth, almost half of PNG's young people do not grow to reach their proper size and strength. It also means that their brains are undernourished and so do not reach their full level of mental ability.

A report published last year by Australian and PNG researchers showed that about 80% of Papua New Guineans are functionally illiterate and uneducated. Now we are told that almost half of our children are growing up physically and mentally retarded.

Of course, the children who are suffering from malnutrition are not "our" children. They are not the children of the blessed 20% or so of the population who are educated, employed, and able to take care of themselves and share in the increasing wealth of this lucky country.

The one child in 13 who dies before the age of five; the 14 in every hundred who suffer "wasting" diseases and die by the age of six or seven, and the rest who grow up mentally and physically retarded are the children of the 80% of the population who are illiterate, uneducated, and in many cases suffer from extreme poverty.

This situation should be completely intolerable and unacceptable to every thinking citizen of PNG. There should be an outcry from every corner of the country for a war on poverty and ignorance. But, of course, it won't happen. The poor have no voice.

This 80% of the population have little or no access to radio or television, and cannot read the papers - which are not written for them in any case. And you will not meet any of them on Facebook or Twitter. It is so easy to ignore them, and to live our lives as if they didn't exist.



From POST COURIER 24 July 2014 p. 10

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FR ZDZISLAW "ZIGGY" KRUCZEK CSMA 1945-2014

Fr Ziggy passed away on 1 of August at a hospital in Doha, Qatar to which he had been admitted on 8 of July while traveling home from Papua New Guinea to Poland for medical treatment. He had been diagnosed with suspected

cancer of the blood. He was a member of the Michaelite Congregation and was Associate Professor working in the Post-Graduate and Research Department of Divine Word University in Madang.

Fr Ziggy was 69 and worked for 37 years in Papua New Guinea. Above is the last photo of Fr. Ziggy at Port Moresby airport departing Papua New Guinea for sick leave on 7 July 2014.

Photo: Fr Zdzislaw Mlak SVD



Big Koko's Kona



Children have Rights and... Responsibilities too!

G'day Mate. Was hoping to see you again! Want to show you a letter I received from a lady named Mama Lisa. She's worried about her young son's attitude towards doing any kind of work! Here's her letter and my answer:

Dia Big Koko,

Mi bin narimyu PNG Kokomo bilong bikpela save long lukautimolpikinini o-18. Pikinini man bilong mi, Pita, spela krismas, em I bin tokim mi olpikinini I gat Raitsnau. Taim mi laikemihelpim mi wantaimliklik wok long gaden, emitok, "Nogat, Mama, mi bin lainim, nau mi gat Rait long stapnating!" Plisgutpela Mista Big Koko mi nidimhelpim bilong yu. Milaik save: Tingting bilong Pitaemistret o nogat? Tenkyutrulong bekim. Mama Lisa

Dear Mama Lisa, you must not worry too much; good that this problem has come up. It is VERY true that Children have Rights, but soritumas, Pita's understanding of one of his Rights is krankiliklik.

NO, Pita does not have a Right to "stapnating;" but neither do you nor I nor anyone else. Each of us, ac-

ording to our age and capabilities, must make his/her contribution to building a better, more loving, more peaceful, more child-safe world. We must all, in our own way, contribute to our family and community well-being.

Some years ago (2004), UNICEF PNG published a little booklet entitled: "Children's Rights and Responsibilities. This UNICEF booklet explains very well that Children's rights are about what children must be allowed to do and what the people who are responsible for children have to do to make sure that children are happy, healthy, and safe. And also, the same booklet explains that Children too have responsibilities towards other children and adults.

And so, while it's true that Children (in this case Pita) have the Right not to be forced to do hard work, likewise it is true that according to their age and capabilities, children have the responsibility to help others who have a lot to do. At age 8yrs Pita can help Mama Lisa do a little work in the garden, unless he

lives with some disability.

UNICEF PNG has said it well: "All children, girls, boys, small and big, short and tall, have rights and responsibilities in their community. It is up to each of us, (big people), to promote the rights of children and support them to be responsible".

As Christians we know that we have a Commandment from God (#4) to honour our parents. Helping our parents with their work, when they need us and we can do it, is one way of showing them our love, respect and gratitude.

Thanks, Mama Lisa, for your letter. If any of you also wish to write to me with stories, questions, comments about children, just use my secretary's email: smc-gadd@gmail.com and address your letter to: Dia Big Koko!

Cheerio, Mate. Stapgud! See you next time.

Big Koko

Child defender

AGAIN ON MASS CONTRACEPTION

Where we disagree with Prof. Glen Mola

By Bishop Rolando Santos CM
Alotau

The article of PNG gynecologist Prof. Glen Mola in *The National* a couple of months ago (Doctor responds to bishops - June 4, p. 44) and other similar approaches contain a series of considerations which are only partially substantiated.

However, it affords us the opportunity to clarify further the Catholic position and teaching on contraceptives, particularly the use of the hormone implant. We certainly share Prof. Mola's concern for providing the best possible health conditions for mother and child.

We are all aware of the hardships poor people face in remote areas and burgeoning cities. We know that Papua New Guinea is too wide a terrain and too rough to ensure quality of services to a population whose number is insignificant compared to other countries, but which poses a real concern in our particular situation.

NOT ONLY FOR DOCTORS

We differ, however, in the way we understand and address the problems. We believe that medical discipline itself does not hold all the solutions. It needs the support of education and economics, politics and ethics, sociology and the wisdom which comes from religious beliefs, particularly the Christian tradition.

The recent "Ensuring human rights in the provision of contraceptive information and services", by the World Health Organization (March 2014) seems to rely only on the medical field of expertise and is a questionable approach. It misses the broader horizon and prevents one from reaching a fair and lasting solution to the problem.

The opinion of some "pro-choice" Catholics cannot either be the basis for ar-

gumentation against the position of the Catholic Church. These so-called Catholics subvert what the Catholic Church teaches and should not call their position Catholic.

There are many more Catholics who uphold the Church's position, like Human Life International, which is the largest Pro-Life organization in the world.

THE ORDER OF NATURE

Let me first clearly reiterate that based on stringent ethical considerations we consider human life a gift of God, and therefore, sacred and inviolable.

Human life is not to be unnecessarily manipulated or exploited by man or science to satisfy one's utopian or self-serving ends irrespective of God's plan.

This is not to under-estimate the value of medicine or science. We believe that these serve the good of man and the good of humanity whenever they respect and serve the plan of the Creator.

Whatever is done by medicine or science to heal, promote and save life is always considered a good because it is consistent with the plan of God who wants us to care for the whole of creation.

On the other hand, whatever is done by science that goes against life and unnecessarily tampers and arbitrarily changes the physical and biological laws of nature is always immoral.

It is for this reason that the Church considers the use of artificial contraception and abortion as objectively immoral. Contraceptives prevent the natural and beautiful process of conception from happening and treat it as though it were an aberration or a disease.

Every act of sexual intercourse should be open to life because this is its natural purpose as ordained by God.

To do otherwise is to go against the plan of God and to play God to satisfy one's selfish

ends.

Intentional abortion is always an evil and a more serious one because it violates and kills human life itself which is the summit of creation, and an ultimate value which science and medicine are called to serve. The use of contraceptives, such as the implant, is equally objectively wrong.

Contraceptives are different from heart surgeries. Heart surgeries are done to facilitate and promote the health which God intends for man. Contraceptives, on the other hand, are done to contravene and frustrate what God intends for the human body.

Contraception and abortion regard a biological process that is beautiful and sacred as though it were a cancer that harms the human person. The opposite is true. We should be careful with tampering and changing the laws which God has placed in the human body.

Unnecessarily tampering with the laws of nature can have its own undesirable side effects and can prove detrimental to the overall health of the recipient, especially that of the woman and society in general.

RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD

While the Church maintains that every act of sexual intercourse should be open to life and done only within the context of married love, the Church is not impervious to the fact that it can be a burden for couples and society to have too many children which they are incapable of raising.

In this situation, the Church calls for responsible parenthood. This demands first of all that husband and wife understand and respect the biological laws of their bodies.

This calls for self-mastery which is the ability to dominate one's sexual instincts and passions with the use of one's reason and will. For this reason moral education is a must for responsible parenthood to happen.

If for a serious reason and with due re-

spect for the moral law, a couple deems it appropriate to avoid for the time being, or even for an indeterminate period, a new birth, then, as Paul VI said in *Humanae Vitae*: "they must conform their activity to the creative intention of God, expressed in the very nature of marriage and of its acts." In this case, the only moral way to proceed is through sexual abstinence, or the use of the natural method of family planning which respects the laws of God and nature.

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE

In many or all of our Catholic Agency Health Centres in the Diocese of Alotau, there have been few, if any, maternal and/or child mortalities.

Our observation is that if pregnant mothers are given the proper education and care prior to childbirth, and if we have sufficient health care centres, then childbearing can be a safe and dignified process that promotes the plan of the Creator and the good of humanity.

We also believe that aside from responsible parenthood, there is also need for responsible governance. It is the task of government to serve its people and not to attack its own people.

Government should do its best to provide the people with proper livelihood, education and health care.

This is not always that easy and there is always the temptation to do a short cut which may be practical, but injures the dignity of the human person. Government cannot just use whatever means to achieve its ends. The end does not justify the means.

Both the end and the means should also be morally good and right in the eyes of God. They should be consistent with the laws of the Creator and the law of Christ who came that "we may have life and have it more abundantly." (30 June, 2014)

I am a responsible young man

The parents of my girlfriend placed their trust in me. I will not betray it.

I will respect my girlfriend as I would expect other men to respect my own sister.

I will respect womanhood because my mother is a woman; I will not ask my girlfriend to do something that I will be ashamed of, if my finds out.

My girlfriend has given me the honor and pleasure of her company. It is wrong for me to expect more in return for this friendship.

My girlfriend will be a wife and mother someday. She will have to be an example to her children and the pride of her husband.

I will help her be as pure and decent as I would like my wife to be.

Manhood means strength of character as well as body. Lack of self-control is a sign of weakness. I want my girlfriend to know that I am a gentle-man.

God is everywhere, sees everything, and knows everything. Darkness may hide me from people, but it cannot hide me from God.

If through my lack of self-control, I should get a girl pregnant, I will not put pressure on her to kill our unborn child.

I pray for the grace of inner strength and self-control.

I am a responsible young lady

I am worth more than a party or a night's entertainment.

My body is the temple of God and not a playground.

My first "NO" may be difficult; after that it will be easier.

Virginity is still a virtue; lust is still a sin.

The way I dress, act and speak may become a temptation to my boyfriend. I will observe modesty for his and my own protection.

My parents have done so much for me. I wish it to be a credit to them.

My boyfriend will be a husband and a father someday.

He must be a hero in the eyes of his wife and children. I will do nothing in my friendship with him to prevent that from happening.

I want to be a wife and a mother.

I will preserve my purity and affection for my husband and my children.

If through my weakness, I should get pregnant, I will not take "the easy way out" through abortion, thus killing the unborn child.

I pray for the grace of inner strength and self-control.



Rita Wawaneya

BIBLE MONTH – AUGUST 2014

In PNG we have Bible Sunday on 3rd August this year. In other countries Bible Sunday is celebrated on a day chosen by the Bishops' Conference of each country. It is good that we promote this day to make it as fruitful as possible.

- Catholic Women,
3. Bible Story Writing
Students, School Children etc.
4. Bible Quiz
5. Basic Bible Seminar
6. Bible Drama

YOU CAN HAVE ALSO A BIBLE WEEK OR A BIBLE MONTH.

Bible Sunday or **Bible Week** or **Bible Month** will:

- Stimulate the faithful to read the Bible.
- Help the people understand the biblical dimension of the Church, Sacraments and other activities.
- Fortify the faithful against the propaganda of the sects and increasing fundamentalism.
- Offer nourishment for the spiritual life of the communities.
- Help towards a better understanding of the Liturgy of the Word in the Mass.

Suggested activities for Bible Sunday or Bible Week:

1. Bible Song Competition
For different groups such as:
2. Bible Poster Competition
Parents, Youth Groups, \

Special activities for the Bible Sunday Mass:

- ⇒ Entrance procession with the Book of the Gospels/Bible and traditional dance.
- ⇒ Bible Enthronement.
- ⇒ A father, mother and a child of a family can bring the Bible in a traditional way and they can read the first and the second readings to highlight the importance of the family.
- ⇒ Bible drama or mime.
- ⇒ Well-prepared homily on the 'Word of God'.
- ⇒ Prayers of the faithful by people representing different sections of the people.
- ⇒ Bible collection (which goes to support the Catholic Biblical Apostolate in PNG/SI)

"Easy access to Sacred Scripture should be provided for the Christian faithful"
(Dei Verbum 21)

Suggestion for schools Bible enthronement

A "Bible Enthronement" reminds us all of the importance of reading the Bible as the "Word of God".

This is suggested as a class activity or for the whole school. It may take place in the classroom or in a church nearby.

You will need four groups with different tasks:

1. Prepare the liturgy and the program
2. Prepare to read a passage from the Bible (or dramatise it if you wish)
3. Prepare music and songs
4. Prepare the place where the Bible will be enthroned for the whole month of August and proper decorations

When all groups are ready let them practice the liturgy.

Invite special guests to join the event.

Set a date (the sooner in August the better) for the actual celebration.

Encourage young people to lead their families in Bible activities.

MELANESIAN SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES



"The pastoral strategy of the *Small Christian Communities* is the only way to keep alive our Melanesian values of community life in these changing times" according to Mr Robert Thomas of the diocese of Daru-Kiunga. He was one of sixteen (pictured) prayer leaders, communion ministers and Parish Team members, who successfully completed a formation program at St. Louis de Montfort Parish, Daru, from 9-27 June, 2014 to strengthen their knowledge and commitment in ministry.

(Photo: Sr Wilhelmina Sundu FMI)

Religious respect and sincerity

Dear Catholic Reporter,

Today on KunduTV we had 60 minutes of sustained Seventh Day Adventists (SDA) attack on the Catholic Church over the Sabbath, including gross misrepresentations, distortion of facts, quotations of obscure people as if they were spokesmen for the Church and all taken out of context. The upshot was that our national broadcaster depicted the Catholic Church explicitly as the Antichrist!

I think we should complain to Kundu TV and ask for some sort of right to present our own view, which would of course be much more charitable than theirs.

Abp. Douglas Young – Mt. Hagen
22 June 2014

This may be the first time it happens on media, but not in the schools or in the streets.

Some of the other Christian denominations attack the way we honor Our Lady, the way we pray the Our Father and the Rosary, and the way we go to Church on Sunday.

In the past as a student at De La Salle Secondary School I heard them say strange things like, "the Pope is the leader of the so called 666 gang," or "gladiators are hiding under the Vatican in Rome to be let out in the last days to force people to have the mark of the beast on their heads."

I really can't understand where they get all this false and absurd information.

I think it's about time someone tells them to just preach the truth of the Gospel and not vilify other Churches that never talk against them.

John White - Port Moresby
6 July 2014

I am not surprised to hear of this, especially from the Seventh Day Adventists (SDA) as well as from some new "apostolic churches" which question important components of the Catholic faith such as the Virgin Mary, the Holy Eucharist and so forth.

Our Church leaders tell us to forgive and pray for such people, but they don't refrain from spoiling the Catholic Church and the Pope.

I am doing my final year univer-

sity research titled, "Is social media a tool for evangelization in PNG?"

As part of my study I joined several Facebook evangelical groups. I find all of them correct in their relationship with other churches, except for the SDAs.

In one post and following comments, for example, they strongly attacked Pope Francis for underlining the importance of Sunday for Catholics in one of his visits to Southern Italy.

Why did Kundu 2, the so-called Nation's voice, allow such a show to be televised?

We are a Christian nation. Are we all forgetting about our Christian values and putting money first?

I pray that all these people come to their senses, stop wasting time talking against other Churches and

start praying for forgiveness for their own souls, as all Christians should be doing.

Gemma Ford - Alotau
8 July 2014

I am not against any Church or their doctrines, but we should not consider our Church traditions and doctrines as more important than Jesus Christ and drive people away from God's truth.

Jesus preached only one message that is the Kingdom of God and not an organized religion.

Christ is not a president or a prime minister. He is a king.

Time for religious politics is over.

Sonny Peter – Madang
10 July 2014

Sabbath or Sunday?

By Fr Giorgio Licini

"Now on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw the stone had been taken away from the tomb" (John 20,1). This sentence and other similar ones ("the first day after the Sabbath") in the New Testament explain the origin of Sunday. It was, in fact, on the first day after the Sabbath that the tomb of Jesus was found empty and that He was seen alive first by a few women and then by a number of his disciples on different occasions.

There is evidence in the New Testament that Peter, the leader of the Apostles, and the other Christians of Jewish origin, continued to go to the Temple and observed many of the traditions they had been brought up in.

They probably also kept the Sabbath. In the Letters of Saint Paul, however, and elsewhere, we have mention of the communities gathering for prayer and the breaking of bread late at night that same day up to daybreak at the hour of the Resurrection of the Lord.

As soon as the new Christian converts came less and less from the Jewish people and more from the Romans, the Greeks and other smaller ethnic groups around the Mediterranean coast, the Jewish traditions lost their appeal and significance.

Gradually, the Sabbath was abandoned as a day of worship in favor of "the first day after the Sabbath" which came to be called in Latin "dies dominica", literally "The Lord's Day", because of his Resurrection. In the modern languages of Southern Europe such as Italian, French and Spanish the name is still the same (domenica,

dimanche, domingo). German and English instead have adopted the ancient Egyptian style of naming the days after the planets. But actually it is not surprising that the "Lord's Day" has been attributed the name of the largest and most luminous of the planets, the sun.

"Some religious organizations (e.g. Seventh-day Adventists, Seventh-Day Baptists, and certain others) claim that Christians must not worship on Sunday, but rather on Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath. They claim that at some unnamed time after the apostolic age, the Church "changed" the day of worship from Saturday to Sunday. However, passages of Scripture such as Acts 20:7, 1 Corinthians 16:2, Colossians 2:16-17, and Revelation 1:10 indicate that, even during New Testament times, the Sabbath was no longer binding and that Christians were to worship instead on the Lord's day, on Sunday." (catholic.com/tracts/sabbath-or-sunday)

The Christian Sunday, therefore, is rooted in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, which took place on "the first day of the week." The early communities made it a habit to gather on that day for the sharing of the Word of God, the Sacrament of the Eucharist and the collection for the poor as we see in the passages mentioned above.

Down the centuries the Sunday has completely replaced the Sabbath, becoming also the day of rest, community service and works of charity.

The Sabbath faded among Christians like other Jewish religious traditions such as the circumcision and their traditional festivities; while the Passover was given a completely new meaning with the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Books from Australia to Aitape

By Angela Sowai Gizoria

While acquiring a Bachelor's Degree in Special Education at the University of Southern Queensland (Australia) from 2010-14, Secondary School teacher Angela Sowai-Gizoria put together a full container of books for her native village school of Pes, Aitape, Sandaun-Province. She recently told the remarkable story to Catholic Reporter:

Angela, can you briefly explain how the books became available?

Through the help of private citizens, teachers and especially the Rotary Club. I have been given a variety of books both fiction and non-fiction. There are children's picture books, novels for kids, young adults and also mature readers. I have also collected lots of atlases, dictionaries, world books (encyclopedias), educational video tapes, DVDs, two TV screens, two DVD players and two VCRs. Also in the collection are teachers' resource books and folders of worksheets donated by teachers for teaching all subjects. There are also puzzles and games for kids. The women of Pittsworth sewed up 150 library bags for children to carry home their borrowed books.

Where are the books to be shipped and for what purpose?

All these materials will be shipped to Wewak and then taken by road to St Joseph's Pes Primary School in Aitape, Sandaun Province. The materials will go into a library building and will be organised in such a way that teachers can use them to enhance their teaching.

The main purpose is to give students the opportunity to read. There are lots of books to read for everyone from beginning to intermediate and also the accomplished readers. There might be a borrowing system set up for adults from the community to borrow as well because there lots of books for adult readers too. However, we will set up the place so there is a sort of AV corner where classes can go in to watch educational videos and then go to do related activities based on them. Later on we might add computers to this section. We will also have a fiction section for factual research and project related work for especially the grade 7 and 8 students. Then there will be the non-fiction section which will have all the novels and story books that kids can borrow and take home for reading. There will be books from this section that teachers can use to run reading programs.

Can other similar projects be implemented to benefit other schools on PNG?

I believe similar projects can be

implemented to benefit many other schools in PNG. It will be easier for schools in Port Moresby and Lae as they are main ports of call. It is harder for Aitape and it costs more in terms of freight charges because of the distance. I decided to do this for Pes, Aitape because I wanted to give something back to my own people and my community.

I could have easily done that for a Port Moresby school, but I feel that my own people will trust me more and I needed that trust because collaboration and cooperation are needed to pull this off. It is not too difficult to get donated books, but money is required for freight and this is where that trust is very important. The biggest part of the freight expenses have to be paid by the school. What I did was to organise the container and everything else and then send through the invoices to the school's Board of Management to fund it. This meant that there was prior planning and negotiating with my people in positions of authority.

It was also a laborious and time consuming project. People doing this sort of project need to be fully committed to use their own time and also spend some of their own money to pull it off. The biggest thing is that someone has to be on the ground managing and executing the jobs. This can't be managed from far. (GL)

JERRY GINUA Journalist 1964-2014

I grew up with my eyes fixed on him, The guy in the middle of the boxed shaped television set, With a fancy little moustache, dark skinned.

I never thought I would one day meet him personally. But I walked into the Kundu2 newsroom two years ago for my practical. No experience in television reporting. He was there, with his big body but not threatening: Paps Jerry as we fondly called him.

"Son, everybody is finishing from university with degrees,

But to be in media, you have to be committed."

And again, "Never use words ordinary people don't understand; They don't need your fancy English; it's the information they want." Finally, just before going back to school last February, he said to me "Son, you must come and work with me when you finish." Sadly, that's not possible; you are no longer with us, Paps Jerry! May your soul rest in eternal peace!

Bradley Gregory – DWU Journalism Student

