



# The Catholic Reporter

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

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## Twenty years with Blessed Peter ToRot

1995 - 17 January - 2015

By Bishop Rochus  
Tatamai MSC  
Bereina

I HAVE fond memories of the first pastoral visit of Pope John Paul II to Papua New Guinea in May 1984 in Port Moresby and Mount Hagen, then to Honiara in the Solomon Islands.

I sang with the seminarians, who formed the papal choir along with the students of other institutions in Port Moresby and members of the lay faithful, who were all proudly dressed with papal colours of white tops and yellow-gold laplaps.

The visit was on the occasion of the centenary celebrations for the foundation of the Catholic Church in PNG. The first Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) in fact arrived in Rabaul on 29 September 1882 and at Yule Island on 4 July 1885.

But that successful pastoral visit was just a spiritual preparation for a second one, even more significant, for the beatification of Blessed Peter ToRot – Catechist and Martyr 11 years later at the Sir John Guise Stadium – Port Moresby.

Such a historical event definitely introduced a new dimension of excitement to the life, contribution and presence of the Catholic Church in Papua New Guinea.



THE Basilica of Blessed Peter ToRot in his native village of Rakunai, East New Britain Province.

The beatification itself was the culmination of the work of evangelisation that had begun with a first unsuccessful attempt by the French Marists and the Foreign Missions (now PIME) of Milan, Italy in 1847-'55, followed by the arrival of the MSCs and the SVDs (Society of the Divine Word) later in that century. Since then the Religious Congregations have made a significant contribution to the evangelisation and integral human

development of the people of PNG and Melanesia, particularly in terms of education, health, pastoral care and infrastructures.

The beatification ceremony was also a confirmation of the mutual collaboration between the missionaries and the new indigenous leadership, the time of harvesting of the fruits of a long labour of love.

Peter ToRot is the first Melanesian to be beatified, a layman and just a second generation Catholic.

The Holy Father had a special message for everyone on that 17 January 1995.

He addressed the Catholic faithful, all the other Christians, those who are suffering, and he made a special reference to the Constitution of the country and appealed to all people of good will.

Everywhere he made a continual reference to Blessed Peter ToRot as the model for family life and an outstanding witness in difficult circumstances to the love of God and

neighbors.

I heard and still remember the following words of Pope St. John Paul II: "As you are aware, the central event of my visit is the beatification of Peter ToRot, Catechist and Martyr. You can be truly proud of your Melanesian brother.

He has brought distinction and honor to your people. Peter ToRot is an outstanding example of family man, a Church leader, the person who is prepared to lay down his life for God and neighbor."

## CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE NEW YEAR MESSAGE Education, Health and Corruption

By Fr Victor Roche SVD  
General Secretary



Fr Victor Roche SVD

THE year 2014 has been very good for Papua New Guinea.

In education we got closer to achieving Number 2 of the 8 United Nations Millennium Development-Goals, which is Universal Primary Education.

It is still a challenging task, however, for the Government and other NGOs to reach the target.

About 500,000 school aged children are not going to school yet. But we are getting there.

In 2014 the Government also helped the Churches with K25 million through the Department of

1.6 million cases are recorded annually and about 650 people still die every year from the disease.

But the figures are significantly decreasing thanks to the successful support of partners.

There are other developments in the country: better roads; more schools and health centres; more and better equipped human resources.

The LNG project and other natural resources bring in wealth to our economy. The government is better focused with regard to development.

Papua New Guinea, however, is still ranking second among 37 countries of the Western Pacific re-

gion in tuberculosis prevalence and death rates.

About 14,000 people are affected annually and more than 4,000 people die every year. We have a long way to go.

With regard to corruption, PNG ranked number 145 out of 174 countries worldwide in 2014 (Corruption Perception Index collated by Transparency International) while it ranked 154 in 2011.

It is good to know that a number of prominent leaders, who were involved in corruption are now behind bars and others are facing justice.

There is a slight improvement, but a lot remains to be done.

Law and order is still a big problem for the country.

Even the Police and Defence Forces recently clashed in Port Moresby and the brawl is not solved yet. Violence against women and sorcery-related crimes are on the rise.

The results of the 2011 census were published in 2014.

PNG has a population of 7.24 million and 96% are Christians.

I pray that God bless the leaders of our country, of the Churches and of other religions in PNG.

I wish everyone a very Happy New Year 2015.

Port Moresby, 1 January 2015



# AWARDED

FROM the New Year's List of Logohu Awards

by His Excellency The Governor General of Papua New Guinea

**BISHOP CESARE BONIVENTO PIME**

*Grand Companion of the Order of Logohu (GCL) "Chief"*

**BROTHER ANTHONY HOLLENSTEIN SVD**

*Officer of the Order of Logohu (OL)*

**SISTER SOLANGE ARU FDNSC**

*Member of the Order of Logohu (ML)*

**SISTER ANTONIETTE VAGU'U FDNSC**

*Member of the Order of Logohu (ML)*

**BROTHER STANISLAUS KOSZUTA SVD**

*The Logohu Medal (LM)*

## The blessing of a media training

By Bomai Witne  
*University of Goroka*

I am thankful to the diocese of Goroka for supporting me to attend the two-week Basic Media Course at Divine Word University in Madang on 18-30 Nov 2014. I would also like to thank the Commission on Social Communications of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of PNG & Solomon Islands for organizing the activity for the second year in a row and Missio Aachen (Germany) for sponsoring it. The presenters were active scholars and practitioners of the different media and social communication fields. It was an intensive course with so much information given. I was able to make sense of some and still need time to read and understand more. I look forward to using the basic knowledge and skills I acquired in the pastoral activities at the parish level and possibly at the diocesan level as well. I will also be using it in teaching and research here at the University of Goroka. I was blessed with a certificate in Media Training at the end of the course.

# Letter on the Basic Media Course

By Fr Leo Kartika

*Kamusi, Western province*

*FR Leo Kartika SMM, parish priest of Kamusi in Western province was one of the 31 participants in the Basic Media Course organized in Madang on 18-30 November 2014 by the the Commission on Social Communications of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of PNG & Solomon Islands (CBC). Here he shares his experience with his Bishop Gilles Cote' SMM of Daru-Kiunga:*

Dear Bishop Gilles;

I hope that you are fine and in good health. I am in Kamusi already. My travelling was nice.

For the first time I saw clear skies over the Western province. Usually it is so tick with black clouds.

I want to express my gratitude to you for allowing me to attend the Basic Media Course. I really enjoyed it although I got a bit tired. The topics were good and the participants were full of enthusiasm and very open.

We started with understanding the Catholic Church teachings on social commu-

nications.

The main idea was that communication is the soul of evangelization. The Church should actively use every available medium to proclaim the love of God.

We continued our discussion considering the most recent and influent means of communication such as mobile phones, internet and social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.).

A few people in the Church reject the new media; most accept them, but that doesn't mean they know how to use them effectively. The positive and negative effects of social media were in fact a topic of discussion.

We had two days of inputs on writing for media, but no time unfortunately to learn about basic layout for newsletters and newspapers.

Basic radio communication also was only allotted one day, but it was the most interesting topic for me; perhaps because it was new to me.

We learned the strengths and weaknesses of radio; we were given basic information on how to handle a recorder, make an interview and deliver news on radio.

Media awareness and education was the other topic which opened our minds about the need to help individuals and communities to properly select and evaluate information and entertainment.

The last three days were spent with basic video language and production: how to handle a camera, taking pictures and make a simple movie with cheap and ordinary tools in everybody's hands such as mobile phones and small cameras. The 31 participants came from across Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, from the cities and from the bush; most of them young men and women, media and pastoral workers, teachers and religious.

There were three priests attending from the first week.

Four more priests came for the second week, including Fr. Martin We-en, the first Director of Radio Maria PNG.

A few religious sisters also came from Rabaul and Alotau.

Some of the participants already had a media background, but most of us were

like elementary student.

Bishop Rochus Tatamai MSC, Deputy Bishops for Social Communications came to encourage us on Sunday, 23 November.

Fr. Victor SVD, CBC Secretary General also came for the closing Mass on 30 November and challenged us not to sleep on the knowledge and skills we acquired.

What's in my mind after this workshop?

I am really thinking to produce short programs that we can offer to Radio Fly in Tabubil or Daru.

That way the bishop's pastoral letters and our journey of faith will more easily reach the people.

Most of our people are illiterate. They can't read and write, but they can listen and understand.

They understand simple English and Pidgin.

I believe that we can really improve our pastoral work if we increase our efforts in social communications.

I only need to learn more about making a radio program the right way.

I hope to have further opportunities of training and experience.

## 975,000 persons with disabilities in PNG

By Gabriel Kuman  
*Melanesian Institute Goroka*

GOROKA marked International Disability Day on 5 December at a public event at the city's National Park with the theme, "From exclusion to inclusion – realising the rights of persons with disabilities".

The World Health Organisation

estimates that about 15% of the world's population is affected by some form of impairment.

In Papua New Guinea it is estimated that about 975,000 persons have disabilities.

Of this group only about 2% have access to some form of services such as health, education and employment.

This means that the bulk of



PARTICIPANTS in the International Disability Day activity in Goroka on 5 Dec 2014.

the population with disabilities is not receiving any form of government services.

With the lack of monitoring, evaluation and proper statistical database systems it is difficult to know the exact distribution of people with disabilities throughout the country.

Deep terrains, mountains, fast flowing rivers and thick bushes as well as scattered islands and islets, make it nearly impossible to bring needed social services to most of the disabled people.

In a very emotional speech at the Goroka event one of the disabled persons said, "It has been a long struggle for us. We were left out in the dark, suffering silently and not knowing when to come out of our hi-

bernation. Who will come to help and relieve our pain? Who will assist us to reach our destiny in life; we are all created equal in the image and likeness of God; we are co-creators and co-partners to enhance a better living and build a better society that is free from all violence, stigma and discrimination."

There is a felt need for more resources, advocacy and awareness initiatives on disability rights in the country.

This will increase the likelihood for persons with disabilities to actively participate in community life, develop and demonstrate individual capabilities. People with disabilities need support to enable them to express themselves and to stand up for their rights.



BASIC Media Course participants in Madang on 18-30 November, 2014.

# What to do with the parish youth? Please, read below!

By Fr Shanthi Chacko  
Puthussery PIME  
National Catholic Youth  
Coordinator

**THE Diocesan Youth Coordinators from 14 Catholic dioceses of Papua New Guinea gathered in Port Moresby on 23 -30 November 2014.**

The primary focus of the meeting was the implementation of the New Youth Policy by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of PNG & Solomon Islands (CBC).

The new policy defines Catholic youth as aged fourteen to twenty five, single, and active members of the parish and its outstations.

The purpose of a youth group, according to the new policy is to empower the young people, to draw them to responsible participation and to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each person. The components of this strategy are community life, catechesis, prayer and worship, leadership development, pastoral care, evangelization, service and advocacy.

The new policy articulates a comprehensive formation program covering four areas: human formation and development (further di-



STUDENTS at Divine Word University in Madang.

vided into physical and psychological); spirituality; intellectual growth; and social/pastoral involvement.

The policy and guidelines insist on every parish to organize the four areas of formation and development for their young members. Physical formation demands awareness and educational programs about obesity, overweight,

diabetics, cholesterol, malaria and HIV/AIDS; the effect of smoking, alcohol and drugs on one's physical body.

It demands also awareness and educational programs of healthy sex education.

The psychological formation needs educational programs to assist the young people to overcome

the fear, anger, pride, insecurity, superiority, inferiority and emotional immaturity in order to have a balanced life in their future.

Moreover it suggests courses and seminars on personal growth, psychosocial developments, psycho-sexual integration and personal integration.

Spiritual formation requires educational programs on prayer, meditation, spirituality, Bible, sacraments, Catechism of the Catholic Church, Christian morality and ethics, social teachings of the Church and the history/biography of the saints to every young person in the parishes.

Intellectual formation is fostered by parishes setting up a library with newspapers, journals, magazines, public radio and TV for the young people so that they may be able to acquire the necessary skills to address daily challenges.

It also suggests the parishes to join or organize distant education programs, capacity building, skills learning and Integral Human De-

velopment programs.

The social and pastoral area of formation consists on reaching out to others, in an organized way through compassionate and charitable activities, assisting the poor and needy of the community, educating the children and visiting the sick.

It also includes meeting and cooperating with other Churches, Christian denominations, sects and followers of other religions.

The new CBC Youth Policy and Guidelines require the diocesan bishop to appoint a Diocesan Youth Coordinator responsible to organize and assist the youth groups in the parishes liaising with the parish priest, the local bishop, the CBC Youth Office and the CBC Youth programs.

The new CBC Youth Policy and Guidelines have marked a "Youth Sunday" between 7-13 July every year, honoring St. Maria Goretti, the patron saint of youth in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands and the feast of Blessed Peter ToRot.

Hence, from now onwards every parish youth group has a strong sense of direction for the pastoral care of the young people.

## Hela youth build alternative to tribal fights

By Bishop Donald Lippert  
OFM Cap  
Mendi, Southern Highlands

RECENTLY I was invited by Fr Mathew, an Indian priest from the Congregation of Saint Therese, to come to his parish for the blessing a new Youth Center which was built by the people themselves in the Porondaka outstation of the Margarima Parish.

It is a large building with two large rooms to accommodate boys and girls who will gather there for regular meetings, retreats and religious formation.

We drove as far as we could and then we began the walk through the characteristic beauty of the Papua New Guinea countryside.

Before we were even close, we were greeted by an enthusiastic group of young people who came to welcome us and "march" us to the place where the Holy Mass would be celebrated and the blessing would take place.

The joy you could see on the faces of the young folks was contagious! I was not kidding when I said "marching"!

I joined the line of people in their traditional attire and to the sound of drums and traditional chants of the people we marched to the place where the people had gathered.

A bit closer to our destination, we were met with even more people who lined the route to the Porondaka out-

station.

The young people had prepared a beautiful Song of Welcome and some flowered necklaces for us.

It is a big celebration when the bishop comes to visit.

I am humbled by the simple yet profound faith of the people.

In these occasions, I always remind myself that it is not about me, but about Jesus and His Church. When we finally arrived we found hundreds of people who had gathered for the celebration... Some had walked as much as 14 hours to be there...

It was a beautiful day, in the midst of a week of constant rain! The people took their places on the green grass under blue skies and we prepared to start the Mass.

The people are very proud of their cultural heritage. Some Churches forbid their members from wearing their traditional attire and singing their traditional chants...

The Catholic Church sees in these forms opportunities to incarnate the Gospel in a faithful and profound way. Young and old find meaning and identity in these cultural expressions and are happy to bring them celebrate our one Catholic faith.

Saint Joseph's Parish, Margarima is in the Hela Province of PNG.

It is the largest parish in the



BISHOP Donald Lippert of Mendi with young people in Hela

diocese.

It has over twenty outstations.

There are two major cultural groups in the parish, the Huli and the Obene.

They have completely different languages and traditions.

The territory of the diocese is still plagued by tribal fighting.

Here, members of different tribes show the unity that is the prayer of Jesus Himself and the mission of the Church.

After the Mass, the procession was led once again by our youthful drummers to the nearby Youth Center, which

we blessed and inaugurated.

The young people of PNG have many challenges not faced by the youth of other places.

Still, they have the same hopes and dreams for themselves and their families. In words directed to them I said something like this: "Many say that 'young people are the future' and that is true. However, I would like to say that here in the Diocese of Mendi, we cannot wait for the future, we need you today!"

We need your joy, your talents, your strength, your initiative, your light... and we need them now, today! We need you today!"

## PNG youth thrilled by Melbourne conference

By Gene Carlasio

THE 'Deeper and Higher' conference in Melbourne, Victoria on 5-7 December 2014 was a spiritually filled weekend celebrating the 10th anniversary of the 'Jesus Youth Movement' in Australia.

The conference was run in four separate streams for families, youth, teens and the kids. The days were filled with amazing talks and sessions given by internationally acclaimed speakers like CC Joseph, the current international coordinator of the Jesus Youth Movement.

CC travels extensively around the globe and is a highly sought after speaker for youth retreats and seminars. Sam Clear, a Catholic missionary, walked 15.600km around the world to foster awareness for Christian unity.

His presentation and seminars are visually stimulating, action packed and highly engaging. Alphonse Joseph, a very committed Jesus Youth Movement member, is a leading guitarist, vocalist, music director and one of the founders of the gospel music band, Rexband.

Vincent Numbos, Eunice Kuaningi, Francis Hairai and Peter Haurama from Port Moresby were four young participants from Papua New Guinea. "When I was asked to go for the 'Deeper and Higher' conference I was just happy to travel to Australia", said Francis Hairai, "but attending the conference has really changed me.

It made me realise how much God loves me and cares for me no matter how much I have sinned against him; He will always take me back."

Eunice was thrilled with the singing and talks given by the speakers; something, she said, was very inspirational and life changing.

"The Conference was spiritually and mentally satisfying for me", said Peter Haurama. "I had many unanswered questions, but in Melbourne I found the answers.

During the conference I could really feel that God was present, he was speaking through the songs, the talks and during the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament."



# SORCERY KILLINGS: ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

## Bishop thanks police for stopping murderers

**THE President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, Bishop Arnold Orowae of Wabag, made headlines last month as he strongly condemned sorcery killings in his native province with this letter to the Enga provincial chief of police on 9 December and an interview on the daily Post Courier on 31 December.**

Bishop Arnold put on the table possible excommunication with deprivation of Sacraments and exclusion from Church membership for unrepentant witch hunters who call themselves "Catholics".

On behalf of the Catholic Church in Enga Province and Papua New Guinea I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your policemen.

You confronted the people of Teremanda in the Enga Province and saved three defenseless women who were accused of sorcery or sanguma.

You have rightly mentioned on December 1<sup>st</sup> Post Courier that the people of Enga knew no Sanguma nor did they practice sorcery before. Where does this come from?

It is either pure jealousy, or it is used as a means to accuse people for revenge. People are still ignorant and would not want to accept that people can die any time through sickness or damage done to their body. Even healthy people can die of sicknesses.

The best place to seek an answer is from a postmortem at the hospital. There are evidential reports from many parts of Papua New Guinea of sorcery or sanguma related accusations, tortures and killings. The accused are often women who are vulnerable and defenseless. People live and run around aimlessly and take pleasure in accusing, torturing and even killing them. No one is there to defend these defenseless women. It is saddening to hear and experience such brutal killings. In this age and time we cannot continue to act and behave like barbaric people who have no respect for life and kill to protect their territories.

We have laws of the country that govern us. We have the Christian faith that also determines our way of life in following Jesus: proclaiming his truth and living his life. Respect for life should be in the conscience of all people regardless of whom that person is. Torturing and killing innocent and defenseless people is exactly like crucifying Jesus on Calvary for nothing. God has given us this life as a gift and we should respect it and only God can take it back. He does not give us the permission to take away the lives of others, even the unborn, the disabled, the criminals, the unwanted, the sick, and even those who have no cure, etc.

I encourage all our citizens not to get into this bad habit of accusing innocent and defenseless people of sorcery, resulting in torturing and killing. This is a moral evil that should not be practiced. It also gives a bad image of this country and its people. We are seen and regarded by many as a good and warm hearted people living in this part of the world. So let's promote the good side of our lives and country and do away with the bad practices.

**Bishop Arnold Orowae President, Catholic Bishops' Conference of PNG & SI 9 December 2014**

# Rising from the Bougainville crisis

**"Rights and obligations go together"**

By Raymond Girana  
Buka

CATHOLICS in Bougainville received the Bougainville Diocesan pastoral plan, *Renewal into Balanced Life*, and a booklet entitled *Framework of Formation* as gifts from their parish priests last Christmas.

The distribution of the documents was announced by the Bishop of Bougainville, Bernard Unabali, at a recent press conference at the diocesan headquarters at Hahela in Buka.

The pastoral plan is the outcome of a diocesan senate held at Tsiroge in north-west Bougainville in July and August 2011 as a result of a survey of all 33 parishes following the Bougainville crisis.

The senate included representatives from the entire diocese who endorsed 55 statements based on the priorities of the plan.

The 12-year plan is Bishop Unabali's program for a healthy society in

post-crisis Bougainville.

The bishop uses the Panguna pit as symbolic of environmental and civil war destruction.

The rainbow coming out of the pit symbolises the hope for a better life in Bougainville in this post-crisis era.

It is timely that Bougainville Catholics received the plan at Christmas as the Diocese looks forward to implementing it in 2015, Bishop Unabali said: "To help Bougainville after the crisis, the priorities of the plan show a way of preparation for action. The plan will be the voice of the Catholic Church in Bougainville.

"The post conflict era is challenging for Bougainville with politics, development and social concerns taking centre stage and making us question our values as Bougainvilleans as we embark on renewal as Church and autonomy as a political community," he said. "It will be implemented at all levels - families, Christian

communities, early childhood, primary and secondary schools, youth, marriage preparatory stages, priests, the laity and the elderly".

Bishop Unabali said prayer and spiritual life is a number one priority as the core work of the Church is to help people grow in faith.

"The Church will focus first on prayer and spiritual life before implementing the other priorities," he said.

"People need to understand development and projects in the light of faith. In the Church, good development comes when we put God first and man at the centre of development.

In our modern time, people should not put more emphasis on rights and less emphasis on obligations. Rights and obligations go together."

"Catholics in Bougainville are to be clear on their roles and responsibilities as citizens. Catholics will be formed to be responsible citizens because citizenship is both



BISHOP Bernard Unabali of Bougainville (centre).

earthly and heavenly."

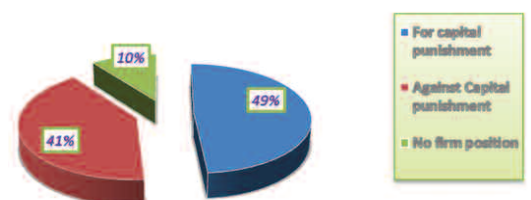
Bishop Unabali said that people also have to understand the media as a positive tool for communication and evangelisation to build healthy relationships. He said they also need to make good judgment about

the impacts of media and social networks and not to be controlled by them. Bishop Unabali strongly believes in the formation of the human person. "Forming a person is forming a nation," he said.

"Familial communities which form the basis of a political community are products of individuals who are citizens and Church members.

"It is our hope that through this renewal our hearts and minds be enlightened by

Chart showing the percent age of participants views on Death Penalty



A research by DWU Faculty of Arts graduating student Emil Kumed Bieb in 2014 found a majority of tertiary students in Madang favoring the implementation of capital punishment in PNG as per chart above.

## True hero of charity, Sr Lorraine Garasu

THE amazing work of Sr Lorraine Garasu, from the Congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth, has been captured as part of a documentary. *Voice of Change* was directed by Ms Llaine Munau from Pariro Village in South

Bougainville and Kupe Village in Central Bougainville.

The film tells the story of the life of the Bougainvillean nun, with a particular focus on her efforts during the crisis to alleviate the suffering of mothers and children, a

topic close to Ms Munau's heart. "Sr. Lorraine Garasu is a household name in Bougainville because of her tireless fight for peace during the Bougainville conflict," Ms Munau said.

"As a child growing up

through the Bougainville crisis, I witnessed firsthand the effects of the crisis: the killings, betrayals and struggles people had gone through and the disaster the civil war had brought on the people and the environment." ([bougainville24.com](http://bougainville24.com))