



The Catholic Reporter

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Abp. John Ribat is elevated as the Cardinal

By Fr Victor Roche SVD

ON Saturday, 19th Nov.2016, the ceremony to elevate the 17 new Cardinals took place in the Vatican, Rome.

There were long queues at the entrance to St. Peter's Basilica already at 8 am. There is a strict security scanning for all who enter St. Peter's Square or the Basilica. We who are delegates of the new Cardinals were able to get special seats.

The Basilica was full and the Ceremony started at 11 am with the Latin hymn beautifully sung by the Vatican Choir. It is a time-honoured ceremony to elevate new cardinals.

The new Cardinals dressed in red robes as "Princes of the Church", after reciting the Creed and taking an oath of fidelity to Pope Francis and his successors went up to Pope Francis and knelt before him.

The pope gave each one a three-cornered red hat, telling them that the colour symbolizes "your readiness to act with courage, even to the shedding of your blood" for the Catholic Church.

They were also handed a gold ring of their high office and a scroll attesting to their appointment as cardinals and containing their "titular church" in Rome. The assignment of a church is a sign they now are members of the clergy of the Pope's diocese.

Then each one walked to the place where some 150 cardinals were standing and greeted each of them personally with a fraternal embrace.

In his homily, the Pope said, "In God there are no enemies. There are only brothers and sisters to love. All people are embraced by God's love. We



New Cardinal, Sir John Cardinal Ribat pictured with Governor General Sir Michael Ogio and the Apostolic Nuncio, His Grace, Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal, after the thanks giving Mass. Photo: Nicky Bernard.

are the ones who raise walls, build barriers and label people."

"Just as God loves and forgives the pope and the cardinals for their sinfulness", he said, "so they must love and forgive others, undergoing "the conversion of our pitiful hearts that tend to judge, divide, oppose and condemn."

"We come from distant lands; we have different traditions, skin color, languages and social backgrounds; we think differently and we celebrate our faith in a variety of rites. None of this makes us enemies; instead, it is one of our greatest riches," he said.

The 17 new cardinals come from 14 countries. Pope Francis is famed for wanting to reach out to far-flung dioceses

of the periphery.

Only 16 of the new Cardinals were present for the ceremony. Archbishop John Ribat of PNG was also one of them. The Vatican said Cardinal Sebastian Koto Khoarai, 87, the retired bishop of Mohale's Hoek, Lesotho, was created a Cardinal although he was unable to travel to Rome.

Thirteen of them are under 80 and therefore eligible to take part in the next secret

conclave to elect the new Pope, the head of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics. They are known as cardinal electors.

After the consistory, Pope Francis and the new Cardinals hopped in vans for a short ride to visit retired Pope Benedict XVI in the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery, his residence in the Vatican gardens.

The retired pope greeted each cardinal, thanked them for stopping by, and assured

them, "My prayers will accompany you always."

After the ceremony His Eminence John Ribat came to the waiting PNG delegates in St. Peter's square for photo sessions. Among them were priests, sisters and lay people living in Rome. There were special visitors: Mr. Max Rai, the Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations, Ms. Winnie Kiap, the High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Mr. Joshua Kalinoe, the PNG Ambassador to Belgium and to the Vatican.

Among the Church Representatives, there were: Archbishop Francesco Panfilo of Rabaul, Bishop Rochus Tatamai of Bereina, Fr. Ben Fleming, the Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Port Moresby, Fr. Mark McDonald, the Superior General of the MSCs and his team, Fr. Rozario Menezes, the President of the Federation of Religious of PNG/SI, Fr. Victor Roche, the General Secretary of Catholic Bishops Conference of PNG/SI, Ms. Zita and Mr. Blaise Kuemlangan of Manus but living in Rome and many sisters, brothers, priests who study or serve in Italy.

In the afternoon at 4 pm, there was a gathering of the new Cardinals in Paul VI hall in the Vatican for meet and greet. There was an opportunity for photo sessions and for the media.

Public Notice

This is the last issue of The Catholic Reporter for this year and the team would like to send its Christmas Greetings to all its valued readers from the dioceses and the general readership throughout PNG & Solomon Islands.

Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year 2017.





Election Matters

with
Fr. Roger Purcell
msc

Look to the future with "Active Hope"

The coming National Elections, 2017, really do matter. They matter to the Nation, to all the people, to families and communities; they matter to every level of life, society and government. They matter to each one of us. In the coming months let us reflect together on the matters of the Election, what matters to us in these Elections, and what matters to all of us in our lives.

Let us begin with HOPE. We all hope for a good life, for a better future, for security and peace. We have great hopes for our children, for our culture and society. Hope is one of the great Christian virtues. Sometimes we look at our situation of politics, leadership, government, the economy and social issues, and feel hopeless. Hope looks to the future, but sees the present and how to transform it. This is "active hope" that seeks to change things, to achieve the best possible here and now, not just to sit and wish for something better.

While we have hope in God, God also has hope in us; hope that we will be the people God wants us to be, to continue our journey. In matters of the Election we are called on to have hope; hope in the system, in the leaders, the candidates and the people: hope in ourselves as electors, as actors, as citizens with rights.

What do you hope for from this Election? What makes you feel hopeless about this Election? What can you do to change this situation? Bartimaeus wanted to see, and insisted on meeting Jesus; Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus so he climbed a tree. They did something about what they were hoping for.

Let us HOPE in this Election, but let us put our hope into ACTION, because this is what matters.

Port Moresby Catholics welcome new Cardinal

...Celebrate 50th foundation anniversary

By Veronica Hatutasi

THE beating of the Manus garamuts accompanied by dancing youths from the Port Moresby Archdiocese escorted the new Cardinal, His Eminence Sir John Cardinal Ribat to the makeshift altar built temporarily for the Archdiocese 50th foundation anniversary and for the welcome and thanksgiving Mass for the new Cardinal.

About 20,000 Catholics from the 14 parishes in the Archdiocese as well as a few from the rural areas who thronged the Jack Pidik Park on November 27th and gave a rousing welcome as the Cardinal accompanied by the Apostolic Nuncio, His Grace, Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal and 49 priests walked up the red carpet laid out to welcome him by all Catholics in the Archdiocese.

The scorching sun did not deter the spirit and enthusiasm of the congregation who went through the 4 hours



Mary Eriko from St Peter Chanel Erima Parish receives her recognition award from Sir John Cardinal Ribat. Photo: Nicky Bernard

Mass, with a beautiful liturgy which had input from the various dioceses, a magnificent combination of male and female choir, speeches by the various dignitaries and church leaders and representatives and the awarding of the lay men and women who have committed themselves to the work of the church within their individual parishes.

A delegation from Townsville Diocese in Australia who have forged a sister diocese with Port Moresby Arch-

diocese several years ago were present to witness and share in the celebration of two joyful occasions.

Cardinal Ribat stressed for unity and cooperation in building the church and the country as well.

"Today we are uniting to build the church in all areas in cooperation with our sister churches, the government and others," Cardinal Ribat said.

He acknowledged the work and sacrifices made by the early missionaries who came and planted the faith in the archdio-

ocese which was part of the Bereina Diocese until 1966 when it was established as a separate entity.

He said Port Moresby Archdiocese is a young diocese with just 5 bishops who had been at the lead so far, but the dedication and contribution of the chosen few lay men and women has seen the work of the archdiocese progress forward.

This was also a timely occasion when during the celebrations, the archdiocese awarded about 28

lay church workers from 9 parishes for their commitment and generous contribution towards building the archdiocese.

The Cardinal also expressed his joy at seeing more families coming out to receive the sacraments and urged Catholic families in the archdiocese to forgo "change and allow room for Jesus to come into our lives."

Meanwhile, Nuncio Archbishop Kurian congratulated Cardinal Ribat whom he referred to as "a simple and humble person", for his contribution in the work and development of the church in Port Moresby and the country.

He said "we are the torch bearers of the Catholic faith which we must pass on to the next generation."

He said that the appointment of Cardinal Ribat is a sign by Pope Francis of his love for this country, the people and the church, and recognition of the work of the church in this part of the world.

Churches urged to network in ecumenism

By Veronica Hatutasi

CHRISTIANS including Catholics have been challenged to network in ecumenism and work for peace, unity and to spread God's word.

Bishop of the Port Moresby Anglican Diocese, Bishop Denny Bray Guka made the challenge at the thanksgiving mass to celebrate 50 years of the Port Moresby Catholic Archdiocese, the end of the Year of Mercy and to welcome the new Cardinal, Sir John Cardinal Ribat.

Sir John Cardinal Ribat and Bishop Denny are executives of the PNG Council of Churches (PNGCC) for some years now and have a very good working relationship and understanding on many issues affecting the church and country.

Both have been vocal on issues such as the Manus Asylum seekers detention centre and rights of refugees, and other social issues in PNG.

Bishop Denny represented the 7 members of the PNGCC including the Anglican, United, Evangelical Lutheran Church of PNG, Catholic, Baptist Union, Salvation Army and Gutnius Lutheran, in congratulating the new Cardinal whom he referred to as "the symbol of ecumenism."

He stated that he was happy to be at an important celebration and as a symbol of ecumenism where both Cardinal Ribat and himself stand for, and prayed that "all may be one."

He said that God has recognised the work of the church in PNG, and the new cardinal was not only for Catholics, but for all churches in PNG.

He urged everyone to rise up and listen to what God was saying and questioned why such a resource rich country like PNG still had many of its people going hungry, thirsty and lack the basic amenities in life.

He urged churches to form a wider network and continue their spiritual and social programs in the country.

He said that the Anglican Diocese in Port Moresby was 11 years behind the Port Moresby Archdiocese and will celebrate its 40th anniversary next year.

He acknowledged the good relationship between the Catholic and Anglican Churches' forged in the last 50 years, at the highest level which he said he was a part of the celebrations recently at Canterbury, England and Vatican, Rome.

The Governor General, Sir

Michael Ogio and Lady Ogio represented the prime minister and government of PNG at the occasion also acknowledged the good relationship and cooperation between the Anglican and Catholic Churches and urged all other churches to follow suit.

"I am always impressed by the working together of the now Cardinal and the Anglican bishop which is an example of what churches can achieve by working together," The GG said.

He represented the government and people of PNG to congratulate the new Cardinal whom he referred to as "the light of our church, the catholic people and believers of other denominations" as well.

Meanwhile, Fr Mike Peter's who led the Townsville Diocese delegation of 7 to witness and participate at the celebrations

said that the new "Cardinal is a light to us."

He said that as the sister diocese to the Port Moresby Archdiocese, the Townsville Diocese was very proud to be at this occasion and bring its congregation's greetings here.

"In the Townsville Diocese, we are all praying for our sister Port Moresby Archdiocese and we share in the happiness and joy especially of the new Cardinal, John Ribat," Fr Mike said.

Since the passing away of their bishop three years ago, he acts as the Diocesan Administrator in the absence of a new bishop.

"I convey the prayers and joy of our sister diocese and our presence here is a sign of our delight and the bond we have, thus Cardinal Ribat is also our Cardinal," Fr Mike said.

An interview with Sir John Cardinal Ribat

From Vatican Radio, Rome

PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S first ever Cardinal, Sir John Ribat, received the red hat from Pope Francis with the humility and simplicity that befit truly special people.

The news of the Archbishop of Port Moresby's appointment spread like wildfire through the Pacific region where Ribat serves as the President of the Federation of Catholic Bishops of Oceania.

Visiting Vatican Radio just two days before the Consistory, Cardinal Ribat (who by the way was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II this year) said that although Papua New Guinea is geographically as far as you can get from the See of Peter, Pope Francis' appointment makes him feel very close...

"It gives me a great feeling of closeness, in the sense that when we have issues or things that need to be attended to we will have someone who will be our voice representing the Church in PNG, Solomon Islands and the neighbouring countries as well" Cardinal Ribat says.

Speaking with passion of the work he spearheads – as Chairman of the ecumenical movement in Papua New Guinea - to promote ecumenical dialogue in a region where a large percentage of the faithful belong to protestant denominations, the Cardinal said they too "share this feeling of closeness".

Cardinal Ribat also talks about his personal, very deep, experience of dialogue and sharing with other communions as he comes from a family where many of his relatives are from the Methodist tradition.

He speaks of the pain both Catholics and Protestants have to live with as they cannot share Holy Communion



John Cardinal Ribat

during Mass but says that for the moment this is what they all have to live with as they push towards full Christian Unity, a pathway that leads to lasting peace and friendship especially at this moment in history which is seeing so many divisions and conflicts.

Cardinal Ribat concedes that perhaps his ecumenical commitment is one of the reasons Pope Francis chose him to be part of the College of Cardinals.

"While we are saying that the Catholic Church is the mother church, then we have to be true to our name and embrace all" he says.

Regarding other issues that he feels are particular challenges he is called to address, the Cardinal speaks of the relationship his Bishops' Conference has with Muslims – who are a minority in his geographical area – but whom have been invited to share their concerns with representatives of other faiths in this very difficult time.

"To go this way together means the building of peace, the building of unity, and that extends to all aspects of our life", so this relationship, he says, is something I really value.

Cardinal Ribat also speaks of the need to give the right kind of spiritual and moral guidance to the people of a small nation that are dealing with exploitation and human trafficking.

He says that possibly

in a moment in which the Pacific region is suffering first-hand the devastating effects of climate change, with rising sea levels that force island populations to abandon their homes in search of new environment to settle down, the Cardinal thinks that the experience of the Church in PNG can provide a precious contribution to Pope Francis' call to "care for our common home".

He also links this issue to the current migration issue that is affecting the entire globe and calls on the United Nations to redefine refugees and consider those being deeply affected by climate change on a par with those fleeing persecution and conflict.

Commenting on the fact that Francis has "sort of broken the protocol" of the way Cardinals are appointed by reaching so far out to small countries across the globe (countries that are not seen as world players when it comes to taking significant decisions and making investments), Cardinal Ribat said this speaks not only of the

Pope's will to promote inclusion for all, but also shows how the Church today is shifting its focus from the center to the peripheries.

And he says, developed nations have much to learn from smaller, underdeveloped nations regarding lifestyle and the protection of the environment.

Asked what he is going to say to Pope Francis when he meets him for the first time, Cardinal Ribat said he brings the greetings and the invitation to visit Papua New Guinea not only from the Catholics of the nation, but of all of its inhabitants!

Sir Cardinal Ribat, is 59-years-old. He was ordained in the Congregation of the Sacred Heart Missionaries in 1985. He was appointed as the auxiliary Bishop of Bereina in PNG in 2000 and became the bishop there in 2002. He became Archbishop of Port Moresby in 2008.

Not only is he the first Cardinal from Papua New Guinea, his appointment marks a first for the religious order of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

CBC Youth Convention - Jubilee Year of Mercy

Fr. Shanthi Chacko Puthussery PIME, Secretary of Commission for Youth and Laity, CBC PNG-SI

YOUNG people from 15 dioceses of Papua New Guinea gathered at Don Bosco Technological Institute, Boroko from 6th to 13th November 2016 for a Youth Convention, to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

The 330 people were divided into different groups to give participants a chance to interact with each other as they participated in the activities of the Convention.

An hour of meditation set the tone for the day. A Gospel passage and meditation points gave every person the ability to learn about this important spiritual activity.

Visiting the prisoners at Bomania Prison and the sick at the Port Moresby General Hospital highlighted "compassion" in this 'Year of Mercy.'

A Bible Quiz on the Gospel of Matthew and an assignment on the Saints were opportunities to reflect and be inspired.

The best reflections and assignments were awarded with prizes.

Intense moments of prayer were organized all through the convention. The '24 Hours Adoration Chapel', the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Inner Healing, 'rosary prayer walks', a pilgrimage to the cathedral and a walk through the Door of Mercy, etc., gave the participants occasions to deepen their spirituality as they prayed for needs of the young and the world.

Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Kurian Vayalunkal met the young people on several occasions during which time he spoke to them and answered questions. In his homily at the Eucharistic

Social Media Awareness Seminar held

By Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb

OVER 320 students of Jubilee Catholic Secondary School were delighted to be part of the inspirational and educational Social Media Awareness Seminar. The intense hour session was animated by Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb at the invitation of school principal, Mrs Bernadette Ove.

The seminar was held on the 28th and 29th November, at the school and was coordinated by Religious Education teacher Ms Sheryll Extra-Isoaimo.

Year 9 and 11, students set aside decorating their classrooms and preparing for their

year-end party for this very relevant issue that touches their lives. "It has showed us our weakness that we see and ignore," said a year 11 student, while another added, "It has helped us understand our online behaviour".

The Seminar opened the eyes of the students and gave them the opportunity to evaluate their online presence and use of Social Media. The following topics were dealt with at the seminar: Spheres of activity, Selfies, Ethics in Media and Do's and Don'ts of Social Media.

The students will now evaluate their ethical use of Social

Media, formulate commitments that will be signed by the class captains and displayed for all to see. Uppermost in their minds is the need to think before any post is uploaded. Secondly, the need to use Social Media to build and enhance relationships.

Ms Joan Eoe was among the teachers present for the sessions. "The sessions have been very informative. It is necessary that staff, parents and the community are given a Social Media awareness session. It will enable them better understand and help their students and their children", she said.



Students in discussion on Media Awareness.

celebration, he highlighted the love and mercy of our heavenly Father.

An evening entertainment and a picnic to Adventure Park gave the participants an opportunity to relax and enjoy each other's company.

A concluding mass and a delicious dinner brought the celebration to a close.

Fr. Shanthi, thanked Fr. Louie Castaneda SDB, the Rector of DBTI, Sr. Pamela Vecina FMA, Mr. Francis Banania and the staff and volunteers for venue, logistics and coordination of food. A 'Memorial Plaque' will be unveiled by the winning diocese in November 2017.

He expressed his gratitude to the Missionaries of the Sacred Sisters, Vunapope who prepared the bags, scarves, t-shirts and other items with the Convention logo.

Sr. Caterina and the Cavani sisters, Bereina prepared the

posters, booklets, certificates, image of Maria Goretti and other material for each participant. The convention mugs for prizes and cakes were prepared by Sr. Yolanda and the Sisters of San Jose, while Mr. Joel Bermudo prepared plaques for the Bishops and the resource persons. The Adoration chapel was animated by the Missionary of Charity sisters.

The cooperation and support of priests and parishioners contributed greatly to the success of the Convention.

The event was also covered by Radio Maria and NBC TV. Newly arrived, Fr. Brian Nonde CMM sent in reports to Vatican Radio as well.

Several Bishops were part of the convention while the constant presence of Bp. Bernard Unabali, Diocese of Bougainville was much appreciated by the participants at the convention.

St Joseph's Vocational School's Open Day

By Bomai D Witne

ST Joseph's Vocational Technical School in the Diocese of Goroka had its open day on Wednesday, 16th November, 2016.

Parents and members of the public were invited to see what the students learnt and produced in the different trades they studied.

"This school is two years old. It is the commitment of the Catholic Church in educating young people of this province and country", said Bomai D Witne, Chairman of the school. "Together with the government, the church is committed to developing 'Vision 2050', which talks about creating a knowledgeable, skilful and smart workforce", he continued. The school creates opportunities for young people who are out of the normal school system. They are branded as

'drop outs or failures' in this country.

Students and staff prepared well for the event. They assembled furniture and other products to show case their school to the public. Metre-boxes, single, double and family sized beds, coffee tables, bookshelves, dining tables, single and double arm rest chairs, scrappers, chopping boards, coffee trays, tool boxes, bedside cabinets and many other products were displayed.

Parents and the public were amazed at what they heard and saw at the school. People bought the furniture and even wanted to purchase those on display.

In addition, two new classrooms for the auto mechanic trade are almost completed by second year students as part of their practical sessions this year.

Mr John Kaupa, teacher at

the school, expressed with joy that his students acquired invaluable experience in building classrooms that cost over K200 000. "They are now ready for the workforce", Kaupa said with a smile.

The school which is located about three kilometres towards the west of Goroka town, has eight staff members and over seventy students. It offers carpentry and woodwork, plumbing, basic electrical, tourism and hospitality. The Auto Mechanic trade will be offered in 2017.

Parents could not believe that their child could build the classrooms and the public were amazed to see two female students in hard-yaka uniforms among 28 second year carpentry students.

In his final remarks, the chairman told the public that educating a child requires the partnership between parents,

community members, churches and government.

The Catholic Church is doing what it could with financial support from kind hearted friends from abroad. However, it could do more with financial and material support from the community and the government.

The government's continuous budget cuts to churches and delay in releasing tuition fees under its Tuition Fee Free policy threatens the wellbeing and effective delivery of teaching and learning in schools.

The public were surprised to hear that the St Joseph's Vocational Technical School did not receive its share of the tuition fee from the government during the last two years of its existence.

Rather, it was the Catholic Diocese of Goroka with help from kind hearted friends from Italy funded the projects and operations of the school.

14th Graduation day at Don Bosco Henderson

By Deborah Saru

Henderson, Solomon Islands:

107 STUDENTS from 7 trades graduated at DBTI Henderson in the Solomon Islands on Friday, 14th October 2016.

20 others are expected to graduate privately before the end of the year, when they complete the requirements of the OJT (On-the-Job training).

The trades of specialization: Automotive, Construction, Electrical, Machine Fitting and Maintenance, Life Skills, Information Computer Technology and Fabrication-Welding.

The theme chosen for this year's graduation was "Keep your head held high".

The day's program commenced at 9.00 AM with the thanksgiving Eucharist sponsored by the graduating students and presided over by Archbishop Chris Cardone op, Archbishop of Honiara.

Concelebrating with him was Archbishop Emeritus Adrian Smith sm and 7 other priests.

The school students combined with the graduands made the singing loud and solemn.

The Archbishop, in his homily, emphasized the efforts that

DBTI was making to help young people become good Christians and honest citizens, and to prepare the students in skills and knowledge as well as attitudes needed to join the industry and business.

Prominent guests of honor were: Archbishop Chris Cardone, Archbishop Emeritus Adrian Smith, H.E. David Ward (British High Commissioner), Mr. Michael Hasset (Deputy H.C. of Australia), Mr. Tommie Angau (Deputy H.C. of PNG), Mr. Calvin Yen (Deputy Ambassador of Taiwan), Mr. James Bosamata from the MEHRD, the appointee of the Hon. Minister to give the keynote address, since he could not be present.

The graduands marched-in with the solemn music, followed by the school leaders marching in with the National flag and School flag.

This was followed by the singing of the National and School Anthems led by Dickson Ramo and Lydia Maeitorana. Fr. Simal, the Principal presented the candidates for graduation to the School Rector who accepted them as the graduating batch of 2016.

Fr. Dominic, the Rector, in his

speech, highlighted the challenges the graduands had to face during their 2 years in school and almost 1 year in industry.

He also highlighted the important events of the academic year. "It is on days like today that DBTI holds its head high", he said. He also quoted St. Paul to highlight "You are our pride and our joy".

The long-awaited march up to the stage to receive their certificates was emotional. For the first time DBTI students wore a 'gown' prepared by the Life Skills Department. Memorable clicks were made to capture the cherished moment, and at the photograph booth.

The 2nd year students and the EOSDT (Employment Oriented Skills Development Training) students who completed the SALT (Servant Leadership Training) were presented their Certificate of Achievement, on this auspicious occasion.

Mr. Bosamata in his speech highlighted the role DBTI played in catering to the non-selected students of the country. He was happy with DBTI's partnership with APTC

The ceremony concluded with a speech by Moses Tahitorea representing the graduands. The graduands sang with gusto "Today my life begins" by Bruno



Assembly of confreres

PGS Vice-Province concludes Assembly of Confreres

By Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb

Port Moresby: THE Assembly of Confreres of the Vice-province of Blessed Rinaldi (PGS), that brought together 21 confreres from Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, concluded with a thanksgiving mass on 9th November, 2016.

Fr. Peter Baquero sdb celebrated the Eucharist thanking the Lord for the intense moments of prayer, personal reflection and shared fraternity during the days of the assembly. Fr. Louie Castañeda, during the homily, dwelt on the need to be attached to the wine to bear fruit. "We need to be witness and give good example rather than give in to temptations", he said. The confreres were delighted to have Bishop Patrick Buzon sdb, join in the celebration. Earlier, as he celebrated the Eucharist he stressed that the priesthood is a call to serve rather than be served.

The Assembly of Confreres is an important time of prayer, reflection and sharing. Decisions will serve as a guide in all the houses of the vice-province for the next three years. The assembly commenced on the 4th November and every day during the moment of prayer a specially composed 'Hymn to Don Rinaldi', by Fr. Angel was screened. Every confrere implored this spiritual master and patron to guide us in our work for the salvation of souls.

The Implementation of GC27, Over-all Provincial Plan, SEPP-Situation Analysis and Reshaping of Salesian presences were discussed in groups. These were then presented to the entire assembly and voted upon. Discussing the situation analysis and reflecting on it, necessitated a deviation from the planned program outline. Thus the presentation and discussion of the Provincial Directory will now be done at the Rector's meeting in February, 2017.

Discussions were passionate and intense on several topics. Stability of confreres, vocations and a formation plan, a planning mentality that has the approval of local and provincial council, sustainability of houses and the need to take radical decisions to set the vice-province on firm foundations were constantly expressed. Buzz words such as: 'ad experimentum', 'unnecessary', 'planning mentality' were constantly mentioned during the sessions, group discussions and personal interactions. "These sincere expressions of confreres express a reality and a concern, a contribution and an involvement for the radical growth and direction of the new vice-province", said Fr. Peter Baquero as he commented on the proceedings of the assembly.

As the proceedings drew to a close, Fr. Peter thanked the moderator Fr. Angel, and his team - Fr. Ariel and Fr. Pedro for the work put in to organize and prepare for a well-executed assembly.

Several confreres shared on their positive experience during the days of the Assembly. Here are a few comments:

"It has been a great time to come together to pray, reflect, share and enjoy the company of each other, while we work together to come up with a document for our common mission" - Fr. Pankaj Xalxo sdb, Rector Savio Haus.

"I have been enriched by the sharing in terms of ideas and experiences in our two countries of PNG and SI" - Fr. Isidore Maramun, Araimiri.

"The obvious disagreement of confreres is a deep manifestation that although we are coming from various cultures and countries, our mission for the young in the vice-province is very much alive" - Fr. Albert Lenon sdb, Rector, Tetere.