



The Catholic Reporter

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Climate Change a big Issue in the Pacific-Cardinal Ribat

By: Louise Mary Kodor
CBC Administrative Associate

CLIMATE change is not a new topic. Every day, we hear of how icebergs in the Northern and Southern hemispheres are melting, the unusual change in our weather pattern and the many tiny islands in our Pacific region facing the threat of completely disappearing under the ever rising sea.

Francis Laudato Si' which was launched last year is based on this issue as well. It expresses the concerns of the environment and the consequences of our actions. Sharing the same sentiments was Cardinal John Ribat.

Speaking as the President of the Federation of Catholic Bishops' Conferences of Oceania (FCBCO) at the recent media conference on Climate Change, he said it is really a big issue for the Pacific Region. The results are the sinking of our

islands the obvious ones being the remote Carteret Islands in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. Other island nations facing the same dilemma are Tuvalu and Kiribati.

"Here in Papua New Guinea we have the Carteret Islands that is being washed away by the sea. Some people are still living on the island while others have left for the mainland," he said.

One of the other effect of climate change as highlighted by the

Cardinal is the migration of people. He said as a result of climate change, people are forced to leave their homes and move to higher grounds. It is difficult as these people are not seen as refugees.

"Those forced out of their homes are not recognised as refugees", he said.

He urged the United Nation to look into this and recognise them as lawful refugees as they face difficulties settling down in new places with the locals.

Meanwhile, the FCBCO which is made up of representatives of the Catholic Bishops Conferences of Australia, CEPAC (the Pacific Island Nations), New Zealand, PNG and Solomon Islands will have a meeting in 2018 in Port Moresby where 85 Bishops from Oceania will attend to discuss the challenges of climate change in the region and look for solutions to better tackle this issue.

A new Cardinal for PNG Catholics

CATHOLICS in PNG have been much elated at the elevation of Archbishop John Ribat, msc, to become the first Cardinal to over two million faithfuls in this country as well as the Solomon Islands.

The news was announced by Pope Francis, the world's leader of about two billion Catholics last month on the news of 17 new cardinals from 5 continents to the Catholic Church throughout the world.

An investiture ceremony will be held in Rome next Sunday to officially install the 17 new cardinals to their new positions.

A cardinal is a senior leader of the Catholic Church, considered to be a Prince of the church whose primary role is taking part in electing the pope when the see becomes vacant. Other duties include attending the meetings of the College of cardinals and making themselves available individually or in groups to the Pope as requested, leading a dio-

cese or archdiocese or managing a department of the Roman Curia.

In congratulating the new Cardinal, Prime Minister Peter O'Neill stated that the recognition given to one of PNG's sons by the head of the world's Catholic Church is something to be proud of by people of all faiths in this country.

Mr O'Neill said that the new Cardinal will help in the development of this country as the leader and teacher of faith, and will also strengthen the good relationship PNG already has with the Vatican.

Archbishop Ribat was surprised at the news of his appointment when notified by the Apostolic Nuncio of PNG and Solomon Islands, His Grace, Kurian Mathew-Vayalunkai, but was pleased that Pope Francis has recognised the Catholic Church who are the people of PNG.

"I am happy with this new appointment and so should all people of this

country, and take it as a blessing for all," the cardinal elect said.

Archbishop Ribat hails from Volavolo village in the East New Britain province. He was born on February 9, 1957 and attended schools in East New Britain before proceeding into the seminary at Bomana outside of Port Moresby. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1985, but also attended further studies in Fiji and the Philippines.

He was the bishop of Bereina before being made the Archbishop of the Port Moresby in 2008 after the retirement and exit of the former, Archbishop Sir Brian Barnes.

The Port Moresby Archdiocese will hold a double celebration on November 27th for the 50 years on the establishment of the archdiocese and as well, the welcoming of the new cardinal after his investiture at the Vatican on November 19th along with his other 16 comrades.



Archbishop John Ribat, msc, to become the first Cardinal.

Port Moresby Archdiocese to celebrate Golden Jubilee

THE Catholic Archdiocese of Port Moresby will celebrate its Golden Jubilee of the Foundation Anniversary as well as the welcoming of the new Cardinal, Sir John Ribat msc, on Sunday, November 27th, 2016, at 9:00 o'clock in the morning with a Holy Mass.

The date has been moved from Sunday November 13th to the 27th in order to have a joint jubilee and welcome celebration after the new Cardinal's installation in Rome on November 19th, and his subsequent return to the country on November 23rd.

The venue for the celebration is "Jack Pidik Park," 5 Mile Hubert Murray Highway, Boroko, NCD, where Catholics from the 17 parishes in the Archdiocese will congregate to celebrate the event.

His Grace, Archbishop Sir John Ribat, MSC, DD, KBE will be the main celebrant.

Port Moresby became a diocese of its own in 1966.

The Theme of the celebration is - *"Living God's Mercy Through Relationships."*

A brief history of the Catholic Church in Port Moresby

The Vicariate of Melanesia was established by Pope Gregory XVI on 16th July, 1844. The Vicariate was first entrusted to the Society of May (Marists) and then to Pontifical Institute of Foreign Missions (P.I.M.E.).

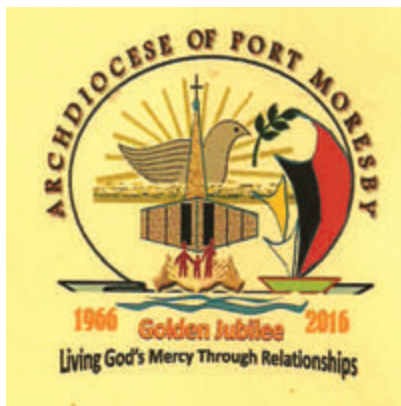
For a number of reasons both groups withdrew from Melanesia and from 1855 there was no mission activity in the area. It is most likely that any of these early missionaries visited the place now called Port Moresby.

In July 1885, three Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) visited Yule Island and on 4th July 1885 Father Henri Verjus MCS celebrated Mass for the first time in Papua. It was the beginning of a permanent Catholic presence. In 1887, Father Andre Navarre MSC was appointed Vicar Apostolic of Melanesia.

He had his headquarters in Yule Island. In 1889, the Vicariate of Melanesia was split up. Bishop Navarre became Vicar Apostolic of British New Guinea (raised to the dignity of Archbishop) and Father Verjus was name Vicar Apostolic of New Britain responsible for all of the colonial German New Guinea.

After a few months it was decided that Bishops Verjus would remain at Yule Island as assistant bishops to Archbishop Navarre.

The Church began to grow, mainly into the Mekeo-Roro area and into the Goilala area. But the French Missionaries often did visit Port Moresby. The first baptism in Port



Moresby was performed by Father Verjus shortly before he became a Bishop in September 1889. Bishop Verjus died in 1892 and 1899 Archbishop Navarre got a new assistant, Bishop Alain de Boismenu.

The first resident priest in Port Moresby was Father Denis Elliot. He was ordained for the Vicariate by Archbishop de Boismenu in March 1914, and appointed Parish Priest in August 1914; he died of the black water fever on 11 September 1914. After Father Elliot's death, several Australian and French priests worked in Port Moresby.

On 7th October 1923, the Parish Church of Our Lady of the Rosary was dedicated by Archbishop de Boismenu, on site of the present Cathedral. A convent was built in 1925, adjacent to the church.

St. Michael's School Hanuabada was opened on May 1926.

At Koki (in the area now called Badili) a convent and school for boarders was built. Bishops de Boismenu celebrated the first Mass in the Sister's Chapel there on 29th January, 1928. At that time Koki was considered to in the bush!

The present church land at Bomana was bought in 1929 to provide food gardens for the Koki boarders.

In 1922 the name of the Vicariate was changed from "British New Guinea" to "Papua" and 1946 changed again to "Port Moresby." But the headquarters of the Vicariate remained at Yule Island. By 1960 the Port Moresby area and the Daru area were considered important enough to be separated from Yule Island. Bishop Virgil Copas MSC was appointed to take charge of the new Vicariate and became the first bishop to reside in Port Moresby.

During the 1960's the city begin to grow rapidly, due mainly to a large influx of migrants from all parts of PNG and from overseas, many of the newcomers being Catholic.

Until then there were only 3 Mass centres in Port Moresby: Town, Koki and Hanuabada. After the arrival of Bishop Copas, St. Joseph's Hall in Boroko came to be used as a Mass Centre and a school.

The Hohola Parish began in 1962, Boregaina in 1962, Six Mile in 1967,

Cape Rodney in 1967, Erima, Waigaini and Tokarara in the early 1970s, Gerehu in 1973, Sogeri in 1978, Kuriva in 1979, 9 Mile/ Brown River in 1989.

Popondetta in Oro Province has a fair number of Catholics in the town itself and on some of the plantations in the local area. A parish to cater for these people was established in the 1960s.

On 15th November, 1966 the Hierarchy of Papua New Guinea was elected and Port Moresby was raised to the status of an Archdiocese, with Most Rev. Virgil Copas MSC as the first Archbishop. The country became independent on 15 September 1975 and in January 1976; Archbishop Copas resigned to allow the appointment of a Papua New Guinean as Archbishop. Most Rev. Herman To Paivu was appointed Archbishop and installed on Easter Sunday, 25 April 1976. Archbishop To Paivu died on 12 February 1981. In October 1981, Most Rev. Peter Kurongku was appointed and he was installed as the Archbishop of Port Moresby on November 1981.

It is estimated that there are about 70,000 Catholics in the Archdiocese. There are 17 parishes, 6 Chaplaincies, 16 community schools, 1 International Primary School, 3 Youth Development Centres, 1 Vocational School, 2 Provincial High School, 1 Pastoral Centres, 1 Technical School.

Below is a prayer specifically for the event and also, a general prayer in this year of mercy and relationships.

Prayer of Relationships

Loving Father, you created us in your image and likeness, and your desire for us is not to live alone,

but in community of relationship through love, mercy and compassion.

Lord Jesus you teach us that you are the vine and we are the branches.

Being in you and you in us, we bear much fruit, but apart from you, we can't do nothing.

You are our sole Master and Head, in which we live, move and have our being.

You have made us male and female, status, creed and so unique and diverse in talents, gifts, race, cultures, languages, skin colour. Yet we are one in you.

You made us as social beings with dignity to relate to one another in relationships, with mutual and strong relationships and concern for the wellbeing of others. May the poor, neglected and the marginalised find a place in our hearts, and share in the goodness of every relationship as witnesses of our obligatory corporal works of mercy.

Blessed Trinity model of the perfect relationship, lead us to live our vocation of holiness, witnessing the church of communion, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

US 2016 presidential elections getting interesting

From The Tablet

DONALD Trump's antics have left conservative Catholic leaders who backed the Republicans in a jam. Can a new generation of churchmen make peace with the Democrats?

There is an ancient Chinese curse: "May you live in interesting times." The 2016 presidential campaign, now entering its final two weeks, has been very, very interesting. While all prognosticators point to a victory for Hillary Clinton, no one is exactly sure what the political landscape will look like after this ugly, bruising battle.

The campaign has been dominated by personalities, much to the chagrin of those who care about important issues like immigration or climate change. Each week seems to bring more women alleging that the Republican Donald Trump groped them – and more evidence that Clinton was less than candid about her handling of classified information.

There is no moral equivalence between the two, to be sure. The video of Trump bragging about using his power to assault women, and specifically noting twice that a particular woman was married, making the attempted conquest all the more desirable, contradicted basic moral norms in a way that nothing any previous presidential candidate had done. The video joined a long list of unprecedented things that Trump has said or done, making his character more of an issue than his proposals

Fr Arturo Sosa elected Superior General of the Jesuits

From Zenit news agency, Vatican

LAST week, Pope Francis received in audience Venezuelan Jesuit Father Arturo Sosa, recently elected new Superior General of the Society of Jesus.

The announcement of the newly-elected leader came Oct. 14 in the Vatican, as the Jesuits were meeting in Rome for their 36th General Congregation. Fr. Sosa succeeded the 80-year-old Fr. Adolfo Nicolas, who, in 2014, announced his resignation.

After days of prayer and discernment, 212 electors representing the nearly 17,000 Jesuits working around the world chose Fr. Sosa as their leader.

Born in Caracas on Nov. 12, 1948, Arturo Sosa would go on to obtain a doctorate in political sciences, before entering the Jesuits and, in 1977, being ordained a priest.

This week, Fr. Sosa met with press the first time in the Vatican and said he is ready to respond with joy to his new role, that he does not like being called 'the black pope,' and that reconciliation and dialogue are among his most important priorities.

50th Year of Golden Jubilee of Diocese of Mendi

The people of the Southern Highlands (SHP) and Hela (HP) have been here thousands of years.

Not one single person from the outside, so to speak, had even gone into the mountains of this area.

The SHP and HP people were kind of imprisoned in their own area. Mountains and rivers as well as constant tribal fighting prevented the people of the SHP and HP from going to other areas.

They never left their own areas or went to any distant places to meet other peoples. But about 90 years ago, outsiders like Mick Leahy and his brother Dan and the Australian Patrol Officers, Jack Hides and Jim O'Malley came to SHP and HP. They found that the Southern Highlands and Hela were very beautiful places, populated with local people.

They found that the soil was very fertile and that the mountains, rivers and forests were really wonderful.

The Catholic Church came to the Southern Highlands in 1954. The first Catholic Missionary to come to the Southern Highlands was Fr. Paul Joseph Taphanel in July 8, 1954.

He came with another diocesan priest from the Diocese of Bourges of France in Europe, but stayed very short time in lalibu and Pangia areas.

The actual evangelisation in SHP and HP began with the Sacred Heart Missionaries, Fr. Alexis Michellod and Br. Jean Delabarre.

Both landed in Mendi in the afternoon of September 9th, at 2:30pm. In the Government Patrol Officer's house on September 10th Fr. Michellod celebrated the first Mass ever in the Southern Highlands with Br. Delabarre.

Due to shortage of manpower with MSCs, The Capuchin Franciscans of St. Augustine Province of Pennsylvania, USA took up the challenge to evangelise the People of SHP and Hela.

The First Six Capuchin Franciscan Missionaries from the Province of St. Augustine Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania USA, who first landed in Tari on the 23rd November 1955 were: Fr. Berard Tomassetti OFM Cap., +2003. Br. Mark Bollinger OFM Cap., +1996. Fr. Paul Farkas OFM Cap., +2000. Fr. Henry Kusnerik OFM Cap., +1990. Fr. Stanley Miltenberger OFM Cap., +1994. and Fr. Otmar Gallagher OFM Cap., +2012.

It was through them and other Capuchin Friars who came afterwards, that the Catholic Church came to stay as it is now in the Southern Highlands and Hela Provinces. People of Hela and SHP will never forget them for ages to come.

Since education was a demanding need of the time, St. Francis Sisters of Oldenburg accepted the invitation to join the Capuchins in 1960.

These women were seen as angels by locals, did tremendous ministry in education, pastoral and formation. Another group: Franciscan Sisters of Divine Providence (FSDP) from Switzerland came in 1969. They involved heavily in health and Pastoral ministries.

Since 1954, other male and female religious congregations laboured in the SHP and Hela. They were: Our lady of the Missions Sisters, Mercy Sisters, Missionaries of God's Love, Missionaries of the Holy Family Fathers, Heralds of Good News Fathers, Congregation of St. Theresa Fathers, Missionaries of Sacred Sisters, Missionaries of Charity, Franciscan Clarists Congregation Sisters, Handmaids of the Lord (AD) Sisters and Daughters of Immaculate Mary (FMI). Local congregation, Franciscan Sisters of Mary and local diocesan clergy were also instrumental in the expansion of mission activities.

Not only religious, there have been numerous lay men and women from Australia, USA, Ireland, India, Philippines, and Poland who have been a great agents of evangelisation in SHP and Hela.

Lay catechists from Simbu, Wabag and SHP and Hela itself were part and parcel of our success story in building God's Kingdom.

Through their labor, Mendi became Prefecture Apostolic in November 13, 1958. Fr. Firmin Smith,

OFM Cap headed the mission in 1959.

In July 13, 1964 Mendi became part of the Vicariate Apostolic of Port Moresby. In July 16, 1965 Mendi became Vicariate Apostolic of its own and Monsignor Firmin Smith headed as bishop. In November 15, 1966 Mendi became a diocese of its own, comprising the whole of Southern Highlands and Hela Provinces.

In November 15, 2016 will be our 50 Years Golden Jubilee as a Diocese. We now have 32 parishes and pastoral areas with over 300 small outstations. Of the 500,000 people in SHP and Hela, more than 80,000 have been baptised as Catholics and many are listed as catechumens.

About 14 SHP and Hela men have answered a call to priesthood, and more than 20 women entered various religious congregations in the country. Though evangelisation took place 60 years ago, the message of Christ has not sunk well into the minds and hearts of SHP and Hela People.

With God's grace, we will continue to promote and proclaim the Message of Christ that was started by those who have gone before us. May the Lord bless those early missionaries, both living and dead.

To commemorate this 50th Year Golden Jubilee, we are organising Five Days Celebration here in Kumin Mendi, SHP. It is a great time to gather together and rejoice for the Lord's Blessings upon us.

We ask all our Catholic sons and daughters in the two provinces and throughout nation to come for the celebrations.

You can be present with us either in person or in prayers.

The general invitation and programs are as follows:

INVITATION TO OUR JUBILEE CELEBRATION

We, Bishop Donald Lippert, OFM CAP., priests and religious, Diocesan Events Committee and the Faithful of Mendi Diocese would like to invite you all those missionaries here and abroad, both laity and religious, and those interested persons or groups who have been part of our history. In the Year of Mercy, we are celebrating 50th Golden Jubilee of Mendi became its own diocese. We are grateful to many expatriate and local missionaries who have evangelised our people over these 50 years. We wholeheartedly invite you all to celebrate with us in person or in prayers.

Venue: Kumin Mendi, SHP.

Date: 6-11 December 2016

General Program

- Tuesday 6th Dec—arrival in Kumin Mendi
- Wednesday 7th Dec—Opening Mass at Momei Oval by Bishop Dairus Kaluza, new bishop of Goroka.
- Thursday 8th Dec—Rededication of Cathedral and Thanksgiving Day. Presider: Rev Bishop Donald Lippert, OFM Cap., Bishop of Mendi.
- Friday 9th Dec—Acknowledge long serving missionaries. Presider: Archbishop Stephen Reichert, OFM Cap., Archbishop of Madang.
- Saturday 10th Dec— Priesthood Ordination of Deacon Peter Mondo.
- Sunday 11th Dec—Closing Mass by Apostolic Nuncio to PNG.

For those who are coming for this celebration, please let these people know:

1. **Fr. Isaiah Timba,**
Email: timbaisaiah014@gmail.com
Ph: +675 71227753.
2. **Sr. Monika Pia, FSDP.,**
Email: sr.monikapia@gmail.com
Ph: +675 72760760.



Commentary
by
Fr. Victor Roche
November 2016

New Cardinal for PNG

POPE Francis has appointed Archbishop John Ribat as the first Cardinal of Port Moresby and of Papua New Guinea. He is one of the 17 Cardinals that the Pope announced during the Sunday Angelus on 9th October 2016.

On 23rd April 2015, in their Annual letter to the Pope, the Bishops of PNG/SI had requested the Holy Father to appoint a Cardinal for PNG. The Bishops suggested to the Pope that PNG is in the periphery as he has been appointing Cardinals for the countries on the periphery. The Pope has heard the plea of the Bishops.

The roles of the Cardinal are: 1. Election of the new Pope: Almost 120 Cardinals are called to the Vatican to elect a new Pope if a Pope would resign or die.

2. A Cardinal is appointed to a Committee or a Commission of the Roman Curia such as Evangelization, Laity, Communication, Climate Change etc. He will serve as a consultor to the Pope by being a member of one of these commissions.

Abp. John Ribat will be made a Cardinal on 19th of November 2016 in the Vatican. In that ceremony of the Consistory of Cardinals, the new Cardinal is given a Baretta (Cardinal's Cap); Cardinal's ring; and he is given a parish in Rome. The tradition is that Cardinal was usually a parish priest of Rome, although he can reside in another country.

Abp. Ribat will reside in Port Moresby and continue to be the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Port Moresby. He will not be asked to reside in Rome. He may have to travel a few times a year for meetings in Rome. He will also have the privilege of having a Vatican Passport.

He was Knighted by the Governor General of PNG on 20th of October. So, he will be officially addressed as: His Eminence Sir John Ribat, MSC, DD.



MI hosts PCC consultation

By: Lorraine Basse

PACIFIC Conference of Churches gathered at The Melanesian Institute (MI) in Goroka from October 18th - 21st, 2016 for a Churches Consultation on Ecumenical Renewal.

With the theme "Rethinking Ecumenical Relations and Cooperation in Papua New Guinea", the 4 day consultation brought together church leaders and relevant church figures in PNG (United Church Papua New Guinea (UCPNG), Catholic Bishops' Conference of Papua New Guinea (CBCPNG), Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELCPNG), Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea (ACPNG) and Papua New Guinea Council of Churches (PNGCC)).

The Consultation's aim was to set a foundation upon which future consultations and or conferences can be designed from and draw their legitimacy, specifically to;

- Reflect on the contextual social realities and on the ecumenical context in PNG, articulate a renewed ecumenical focus and orientation to guide ecumenical relations and cooperation, and an implementation plan.
- Design and agree on strategies that the churches in PNG can meaningfully contribute towards in light of the changing context and a renewed ecumenical relations vision, and to which the PCC and the partners can also contribute.

ELCPNG Head Bishop, Bp. Jack Urame said in his keynote address that the more we become sensitive to the challenges in our societies and the needs of our people we begin to realize the need to work together as a Christian community.

"As we identify ourselves as a

community of God's people connected to each other through the body of Christ, dialogue and cooperation become possible. It is the sense of belonging together to the universal Christian family that encourages us and drives the spirit of ecumenism," he said.

Bp. Urame concluded by saying that the church leaders could overcome much of the social issues through a collective approach and asked them to be the prophetic voice to speak against the negative forces for the common good of humanity.

PNGCC General Secretary, Rev. Roger Joseph urged the church leaders to come and work together as people representing each church and as an ecumenical body.

"Love of neighbour requires no justification. Justification not only prevents us from marginalizing ourselves but stops us from being a good neighbour. We must ask ourselves to whom am I a neighbour? Then and only then will we achieve the common good." Rev. Roger said.

PCC General Secretary, Rev. Francois Pihaatae stated that PCC

found out that the churches in PNG were not coming together as one voice to address so many issues that were affecting the people of Papua New Guinea.

"It is also our failure to do our work of accompanying our churches but we were confident enough in the leaders to be more confident in themselves to take initiative to come together. But I know that they are facing a lot of challenges between themselves as well as the cultural aspect of their society," said Rev. Pihaatae.

"I am really happy because this (the consultation) happened because there was already a visit in May to all the respective churches. We (PCC) organise it but the ownership of the conference is with the churches. So that's why I came in May and ask for their opinion," the General Secretary added.

The consultation ended with the signing of The PNG Church Leaders Statement on Rethinking Ecumenical Relations and Cooperation in Papua New Guinea by the Heads and Representatives of the Churches present at the conference.



Participants listening to PNGCC representative Rev. Roger Joseph.



Welcoming the delegation by the MI staff members.



Signing of the statement by the Church leaders and relevant church figures. From left to right; Fr. Victor Roche SVD (Catholic Bishops' Conference PNG&SI), Rev. Bernard Siai (United Church Papua New Guinea moderator), Bp. Nathan Ingen (Anglican Church Mt Hagen), Rev. Francois Pihaatae (PCC General Secretary), Bp. Jack Urame (Evangelical Lutheran Church of PNG) and Rev. Martin Krieg (Association of Protestant Churches and Mission in Germany).



Participants of the 2016 PCC Consultation.