



The Catholic Reporter

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The reality and challenges facing Catholic youths in PNG

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THE data collection from the 330 participants of the Catholic Bishops Conference Youth Convention – Jubilee Year of Mercy in November last year at Don Bosco Technological Institute has revealed the actual situation of the formation of the young people in the Catholic Church of Papua New Guinea. 282 from 330 could participate in the survey.

These participants of the survey come from 137 parishes of 16 dioceses in Papua New Guinea and

were 148 male and 134 female. The majority of the participants' are age between 14 and 25 – that was 80.62%.

A questionnaire was prepared with 32 questions and distributed to each individual to answer.

The approximate time for the answering was two hours. After answering objectively 'yes' or 'no' each participant of the survey could write four or more reasons in order to justify his/her own position. As a result a wide variety of concerns have come out. There were no noticeable differences among the answers between male and female participants. In order to be brief, the most common findings are listed in this report.

1. Common emerging perspective

Basically, almost all the participants (91%) unambiguously agree that no proper regular formation activities are organised at the parish community level. However, 16% of them have said that a sort of 'liturgical singing practice' takes place when youth group animates the Holy Mass during the week for the following Sunday by the youth themselves in the parishes but it's not guided by the parish priest or any other Catechist or Church leaders. The participants of survey has recognised 'singing practice' or 'choir practice' as their regular formation activity, and 89% of them have said that the Diocesan Youth Coordinator organizes some workshops once or twice a year at the diocesan level and at the same time they have also expressed that the dissemination of those workshops at the diocesan level are not brought to the parish level due to various reasons. The other 88% of them have reported that parish priests are not interested and cooperative, and 80% have said that the youth themselves are not interested to lis-

ten to those who participated in the workshops at the diocesan level. Other reasons they have stated were that the parish community is not supportive (75%), adult population of the parish do not support (75%), parents are not much interested (70%), lack of financial support (66%) and lack of leadership and organisation skills by the youth in the parish (87%).

2. Youth themselves are not able

When they were asked about what could be the possible reasons that the youth are not able to organize something for themselves at the parish level, several reasons emerged which among others include: No leadership and support among the young people, no interest among the young people, peer pressure, lack of self-confidence/courage, no organizational skills among the youth leaders, give priority to sports/social activities, lack of self/personal interest and no support from the elders/leaders of the communities.

Comments

These reasons demonstrate why the young

people are not able to do something for themselves and these above-mentioned reasons implicate the true challenges and struggles of the pastoral care of young people in the parishes. If they are sincere in their identification of their reasons 'what are the possible solutions the parents, elders, parish priests and the dioceses have' are another area to be looked at seriously. Are they ready to recognise these factors and respond to them in an effective way? – a great challenge.

3. Formation at home

Interestingly, when the participants of the survey were asked whether they have received any formation at home from their parents or from the family members, 140 of them have answered 'yes', 97 of them have answered 'no' and 45 of them have answered "sometimes". In order to clarify the answer 'yes' they were asked a further question 'what are the best qualities for your life which you have learnt from the family', variety of answers were given; and the common answers were: learning faith (69)*, love (56), care (55), taking care of the

other (51), living together (47), helping each other in the family (42) prayer (33) and helpful to the others outside of the family (24).{* In the bracket one may find the number of youth who agreed up on}.

To clarify the answer 'no' they answered with the following reasons: the parents do not know what to do with themselves (39), ignorance (36), not educated (32), not worried and interested about the children (31), arguing and fighting (31), family related issues (29), different denominations (26), alcohol (26), separation or divorce (25) and land dispute issues (16).

Comments

In the light of the above answers regarding the formation at home by the parents and the family members, the young people of the survey underlines the source of problems/issues which young people are facing today. Amoris Laetitia – outlined these similar issues in a more authoritative and appropriate way. Are the Church authorities and the leaders of the Church ready to do something for the families?

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New Bishop for Kerema Diocese



Fr. Peter Baquero sdb Pope Francis, the Holy Father.

By Louise Mary Kodor

YEARS of being without a Bishop is a thing of the past as Pope Francis appointed Reverend Father Peter Baquero, SDB as the Bishop of Kerema Diocese on Friday 20th January 2017.

Fr. Peter was born in Manila, Philippines on September 15, 1970. He was ordained priest in 1999 in Paranque. He did his practical in PNG (Port Moresby, Gabutu and Araimiri) where he followed the missionary vocation ad gentes. He spent almost 10 years, in the mission in Gulf Province (Araimiri and Lariau, Diocese of Kerema) then in Port Moresby (Don Bosco Technical School Gabutu). In 2014 he was the superior Delegate of Papua New Guinea – Solomon Islands.

Last year, the Rector Major of the Salesian Congregation, with the consent of his council appointed Fr. Peter as the first Provincial Su-

perior of the Papua New Guinea – Solomon Islands Vice-province.

At present there are already two other SDB bishops in the PGS vice-province countries – Mons. Francesco Panfilo (Archbishop of Rabaul, PNG) and Mons. Luciano Capelli (Bishop of Gizo, Solomon Islands).

Congratulatory messages, prayers and support have been send to Bishop elect Peter Baquero to accompany him in this new stage of his Salesian life!

He celebrated the Eucharist on 24th January in the Shrine of Mary Help of Christians.

Meanwhile, his appointment as Bishop is a welcoming news for the Catholics and other Christians in Gulf Province who waited 3 long years after late Bishop Patrick Taval's passing in 2013.

For Pauline Dai, who is a Pentecostal and works for the Catholic Bishops Conference, it is an over whelming

feeling as a Christian to have a Bishop to lead the Catholics from the province.

"They have been without a shepherd for too long, it's good they finally have him, praise God!" she said.

She added that it is also a good thing as Cardinal Ribat can now concentrate on his own Diocese and his duty as a Cardinal.

A satisfied Catholic, Agnes Harihi from the Gulf province thanks the Pope for seeing the need in the Diocese and appointing Fr. Peter to the post.

"Thank you for the appointment, I am very happy. The Diocese needs the shepherd to lead the flock." She said.

She further added that the people of the Diocese need to cooperate and work as a team with him for positive outcomes as there would be many challenges.

Fr. Peter's ordination as Bishop will be in three months' time.

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The reality and challenges facing Catholic youths in PNG

4. Education – a centre of formation

Education in the primary/high/secondary must form every student to have a better character, behaviour, attitude, relationship and communication. Therefore, in order to obtain answers the question was asked “Does your primary/high/secondary education help you to cultivate good qualities for your life?” and 202 of them have said ‘yes’ and 80 of them have said ‘no’.

What could be the possible reasons for answer ‘yes’ they said the following; could read, write and speak (189),

learn to listen and obey (176), learn to adjust with others (169), learn some technical skills (163), learn some practical skills (159), learn some life skills (123), respecting the other (86), sharing with others (72), self-confidence (67), socialising with others (62), sports (52), music (45) and self-discipline (26).

The possible reasons for the answer ‘no’ the common responses were: peer pressure on negative things (72), favouritism (69), boy-girl relationship (63), school fights (61), lack of good teachers (57), land disputes (54), cult-practices (51), drug and alcohol (49), watching porno-

graphic materials (48), mobile phones (46), family problems (43), concentrate too much on subjects to be learnt but not on good behaviour (34), no good examples by the teachers (26), absence of teachers in the class-room (23) and tribal fights (21).

Comments

Given the fact that the young people themselves are not able to organise the formation activities and the primary/high/secondary education did help them to some extent but not much for their actual life. Does the Catholic Education Agency make any difference? It was not enquired by this survey. However, this question could be seriously looked at for the better understanding.

5. Parents’ interest in the formation of the young people

Further question was asked whether their parents are interested in organising any formation program for them at the parish level. The answers were that 174 of them have said ‘yes’ and 108 of them said ‘no’.

What could be the possible reasons for the answer ‘yes’ they said the following reasons. According to the participants, the parents support them for retreats (143), workshops (126), organising the sports activities (121), fund raising activities (113), community service (92), traditional cultural activities (79), talent show competitions (62), prayer group’s (41) and for some charitable activities (34).

The possible reasons for the answer ‘no’ they brought out various reasons. They were: parents do not trust the youth leaders (97), worrying about boy-girl relationships (94), unwanted pregnancies and related problems (85), ignorance (81), lack of education (78), jealousy (63), no communication between parents, parish priest and youth leaders (54), not listening to the

parents (46), bossy type of parents (36), very strict parents (24) and lazy parents (21).

Comments

The above-said answers demonstrates a level of ‘superficiality’ or ‘lack of seriousness’ about the formation of the young people. It could be argued that this is the almost, the same approach of the parishes and the dioceses doing with the young people. There is a strong approach of ‘maintenance’ but not genuinely ‘serving’ the young people in terms of the pastoral care of the young people at the parishes and at the dioceses. Unless such frameworks and attitudes are not truthfully changed nothing much can happen to the young people at all.

6. Catechists’/Church leaders’ interest in the formation of the young people.

Then the next question was that what about the Catechist/Church leaders in the communities; whether they are interested in organizing the formation activities for the young people. 159 of them have said ‘yes’ and 123 of them have said ‘no’.

The possible reasons for ‘yes’ they have stated the following answers. Try to teach something on Sacraments (119), Bible (82), liturgy (67), Catechism (41), prepare youth to receive the Sacraments (36), teach youth to lead Rosary and Novena prayers (26), encourage youth to lead the Liturgy (23) and encourage youth to be part of the youth group (21).

The possible reasons for ‘no’ they have said several reasons. They were: Catechists are too old (94), Catechists think that they have nothing to do with the young people (93), Catechists are not interested in young people (92), they pretend that they are very busy and ignore young people (86), they have no vision (78),

many times they are part of the division in the community and do not do their job proper (73), mismanagement of money (65), Catechist does not like the attitude and behaviour of the young people (51), Catechists do not know what to do with the young people (46), they preach a lot but nothing in practice (41), not socialising with the young people (36), not appreciate the young people (31), some Catechists are interested only in personal gains (26), Catechists are isolated in the community (22) and Catechists do not possess proper leadership qualities.

7. Expected outcome of proper formation of the young people

To sharpen the focus of the survey more deeply the question was asked “what are your projections about the current young people if they do have proper formation activities – what would happen to them after ten years’ time?” Variety of answers were given and they include: role-model for their children and their family, anti-social behaviours will come down, use of drugs and alcohol will come down, proper marriages will increase, good and proper leaders will come up, Parishes will have better youth activities in the future, less problems in the communities, more vocations proper in the Church, more respect to the people in the family and community, violent activities will decrease and Catholic Church will be more attractive..

8. Negative consequences as the result of absence of regular formation

When they were asked another question “what are your projections about the current young people if they do not have proper formation activities – what would happen to them after ten years’ time?”

The answers given include: Catholic Church will be with more old people and may not find

young people, illegal activities will increase, no proper marriages in the Church, division among the Catholics will increase and more groups will come up, anti-social behaviours will increase, consumption of drug and alcohol will increase, the number of pornography watchers will increase, no control on young people, Life becomes meaningless, teen-age pregnancies, abortions, etc will increase, reception of the Sacraments will come down, Catholics will move to another sects/groups, mentally affected people will increase, more disorder will be experienced in the communities and no care attitude will increase.

9. Suggestions to the parish communities

The final question was asking the survey participants about their own suggestions to the parish community regarding the formation activities for the young people. They have expressed their suggestions and they include: That every parish and community must take ownership of youth, every parish must have consistent regular formation activities in place for the youth, parents of the youth must encourage parish to organise the regular formation activities for the youth, ‘CBC Youth Policy’ – ‘Four Areas of Formation’ should be implemented at every parish, Parish priest with the PPC must give priority to the regular formation activities for the young people in every parish, Parish community must avoid the judgments on negative things what the young people do and assist them to overcome from those negative things, every parish community must have regular spiritual activities for the young people, everyone belongs to the parish must work

together for the formation activities for the youth, parents of the young people to be responsible for the formation activities at the parish, every parish community must have its own financial resources for the formation activities of the young people and Parish priest, parents and the youth must discuss together the formation activities for the youth and implement them at the parish level.

Conclusion

The participants of the CBC Youth Convention through this survey could articulate their actual situation of the day regarding their experiences of the formation activities. Generally, there are wide-range of complaints/criticisms about the young people from every corner but hardly anyone heard about what formation are given to them. The responses of this survey analysis brings out explicitly that some effects of the formation that the young people received at home and from the primary/high/secondary schools but not much from the parishes or from the Catholic Church. Unfortunately, the regular formation activities for the young people are truly do not happen at the parishes of the dioceses.

However, in the section 9 of this presentation, the young people themselves proposes their suggestions. Surprisingly, they recommend strongly the ‘ownership of young people’ by the parishes and proposes ‘consistent regular formation activities.’ In fact the participants of this study suggests the implementation of the ‘four areas of formation by the CBC Youth Policy and Guidelines’ (almost 83.69%) if parishes are willing to take up the task. The teachings of the Amoris Laetitia could be looked at further assistance is needed in order to make a proper pastoral care of the young people in the parishes.

Election Matters

with

Fr. Roger Purcell msc



Created in the image and likeness of God, as sisters and brothers, we are all equal in the sight of God. St Paul reflects this, “... neither Jew nor Greek, ... slave nor freeman, ... male nor female, ... all are one ...” [Gal: 3:28]. Here is the challenge for us all, as we can each be guilty of looking down on others, or putting ourselves higher. We do this on the basis of many things; clan/tribe, race, language, education, wealth, position, gender or even opinion.

From this comes a multitude of social issues; domestic violence, wife-bashing, tribal fighting, child abuse, gender inequality in schooling, employment, sharing of goods and election to office, nepotism and the wantok system. We can see each other merely as a resource, an opportunity to be used, as a means to an end, using people for our own benefit. However, if we saw each other as equals, with equal rights and dignity, much of this would disappear from our society. We would see the good of others, their strengths, talents and gifts, and promote their growth and participation in community life.

When you think of the National Elections, how do you think you will be seen by candidates asking for your vote? Also, how do you see the candidates? Simply as a means to a free hand-out, as a means to get a school, a road or health facility? Perhaps as a way to get a big name for yourself, to build up your reputation in the community?

A strong aspect of Melanesian culture is the “big-man” thinking, which is very political, right down to the village situation. It means “I am better than you; I am more important than the others”. It is clearly reflected in the current political situation where people in Government, in Ministries can often put themselves above others; where those with wealth and power can easily see themselves as greater. To be a true “big-man” or chief is to be at the service of others, to serve the good of our people and the common good of all.

Sisters of Mercy offer scholarship to students in Eastern Highlands Province

By Bomai D Witne

SISTERS of Mercy have more than 11 000 members worldwide and have been committed to initiate and promote education of young people around the world. This congregation of Catholic nuns started in Ireland in 1831 and moved to many countries including Papua New Guinea.

The Sisters take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. They live a life of prayer and serving people through establishing schools from early childhood to universities, caring for refugees, homeless, livelihood programs and offering scholarships to students. The Sisters of Mercy strongly believe in taking small steps to help minimize poverty among the peoples of the community they live and work with.

The zeal and commitment of Sisters of Mercy is evident in many provinces in PNG. They play an influential role alongside other congregations of the Catholic Church, government and communi-

ties in initiating and promoting programs that shapes people's minds, attitudes and actions to improve their wellbeing and that of the community. Prisons, hospitals, women, school drop outs and students benefitted immensely from services and programs offered by Sisters of Mercy.

Last week, Sister Agnes Murphy, representing Sisters of Mercy in Australia and Papua New Guinea was in Goroka to offer scholarship to students attending Vocational and tertiary institutions including universities. The recipients of the scholarship gathered at Young Christian's (YC) centre in Goroka on the 21st of January to

sign acceptance and agreement. The scholarship covers tuition fees and living allowances for the duration of studies. The recipients are expected to study hard, score good marks and make positive contributions to the institution of studies, families and communities.

Sister Cathy Jambet and Maryanne Kolkia of Goroka Catholic Diocese will coordinate recipients of scholarships attending Universities of Goroka, Papua New Guinea, Divine Word and tertiary institutions in EasterN Highlands, Madang and Morobe provinces.

In congratulating and encouraging the scholarship recipients and

parents, Sisters Cathy and Maryanne asked students to study well and score good marks to maintain scholarship. Regular meetings would be organised to monitor students' academic performance and general behaviour. Students are expected to meet the coordinators, show them transcripts and other required information. They have to learn and embrace what it takes to be responsible citizens, develop positive attitudes and contribute meaningfully to institutional organized activities and commit more time to participate in church activities and community service.

Sister Maryanne concluded, "be different

from others. Leave a legacy at your institution of study and make your parents and sponsors proud of your achievements. Strive to be a light or a salt among your peers and community. Do not fall into the temptation of getting drunk, illicit drug and pregnancy. If you don't do well, you will pay back the amount of scholarship awarded to you so the money can be used to help other students who may need it more than you".

Parents and recipients were overwhelmed with joy. A mother thanked Sisters of Mercy with tears for such generous assistance and encouraged recipients to strictly follow the guidance of the scholarship.

Commentary



by Fr. Victor Rochel

IT is the month of February and is the time of going back to the schools. The present government has introduced free education. It is a welcome initiative and has to be commended. There are more students going to schools now than ever. Even older students who had lost their opportunities, have returned to schools. The rate of literacy is going up in the country.

Now the question is: Do the students get good education? Do they learn good moral and Christian values in the schools?

If you ask these questions to retired teachers, they would say that the standard of education has come down. A student of grade 12 today does not know as much as a student of the same level knew 20 years ago. He/she may know more about computer, internet and cell phones.

Some classes have 50-60 students per teacher and the teacher can not pay personal attention to weaker students. If he/she spends time with the weaker students, there will not be quantity and quality of learning in that class. If it happens in many schools around the country, the standard of education comes down on the whole. The Government and the Department of Education need to address these issues. We need to have more but better trained teachers in the country.

What about the values? It would depend on the agency in which the students study: Government or Church agencies. Some church agencies are very strict and give special religious education. But the students of Government do not get that opportunity as much.

It also depends on the families the students come from. In many of our cities of PNG the rate of broken marriages are increasing. The children of such families do poorly in the education and their behaviour. Then we have more dropouts from schools and they end up as 'rascals and criminals'.

In order to have better education in our country, we need to have more and better trained teachers in our schools.

If we want our students to have good moral and Christian values, we need to have at least 4 hours of Religious or Moral Education in a week in our schools. The churches need to play their role in educating the families in Christian and Family values.

Good Education with good values bring good citizens! Good Families make up a Good Country! Gutpela Famili - Gutpela Kantri!

Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy Closing Mass

By Sr. Mary of Corpus Christi, SOLT

THE overflowing blessings and graces on the Jubilee Year of Mercy this year at the Mt. Hagen Archdiocese, graced with the Shrine of "Divine Mercy" in Ruquis, Kuli Parish in Jiwaka Province as pilgrims from different part of the Highlands provinces and other parts of Papua New Guinea and in the Archdiocese itself, visited the Shrine for this Jubilee year.

On the Solemnity of Christ the King, the Archdiocese of Mt. Hagen also closed the Extraordinary Jubilee year of Mercy. The

whole Archdiocese gathered in Holy Trinity Cathedral in Rebihamul for the Eucharistic celebration. The whole Archdiocese celebrated only one Mass for the closing of the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Parishioners from four Deaneries came for the celebration by walking. Some pilgrims walked and stayed overnight in parishes nearer to the town area.

Parishioners from distant parishes such as Ambullua, Kol and Rulna walked for three days or more to the Divine Mercy Shrine in Ruquis, and together with the people from Jiwaka, they arrived on Saturday afternoon,

19th November, 2016.

On the Nebilyer side, the Kiripia and Koibuga parishioners came down on Saturday to stay in one of the nearby parishes. The other parishes such as Sinopia, Kuruk, and Tabaga

they hit the road as early as 1.00 am on the morning of Sunday.

The "multitude" of almost 20,000 people gathered on that day for the celebration of Christ the King and the closing of Extraordinary

Jubilee Year of Mercy on 20 November. Archbishop Douglas W. Young, SVD, D.D. graced the Eucharistic celebration together with all the priests of the Archdiocese at 10:00 o'clock in the morning.



Hundreds of Catholic faithful from the Mt Hagen Archdiocese ready to celebrate the closing of the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Filipino community celebrate Santo Nino feast day

By Louise Mary Kodor

SANTO Nino de Cebu is a Filipino term for Child Jesus whose Feast day is celebrated on the third Sunday in January each year in the Philippines and Filipino Catholic community in other countries.

The Filipino's in Port Moresby on Sunday (15/01/17) marked this special day with a Mass celebration at St. Joseph's Parish, Boroko.

The origins of Santo Nino dates back to 1560's when a priest Father Pedro Valderama from the Spanish expedition gave Santo Nino

image as a baptismal gift to Queen Juana who with her husband King Humabon warmly welcomed explorers and embraced Christianity into Cebu city.

History has it that throughout the years, the image of the Holy Child has done miracles for families in the Philippines and those who hold Him dear to heart. And so the yearly observance is to venerate the child Jesus and commemorate the beginning of Christianisation into their land.

Apart from the Feast day itself, Santo Nino in the Philippines is liturgi-

cally celebrated during weekly mass, novenas and Christian holidays.

For the community in Port Moresby, the occasion is only celebrated on the Feast day and Sunday drew in many devotees who packed the church again to honour the Holy Child.

The Eucharistic celebration highlighted with the theme "Loving the Child Jesus in the Children and Youth of Today" was a day for many faithfuls to entrust their "ninos" and youth to the protection and guidance of the Holy Child and to love them as he does.

NO MORE SECRETS

By Chris Maunder of The Tablet

THIS year, Pope Francis will visit Fátima in Portugal, where 100 years ago, Mary appeared to three shepherd children. Chris Maunder explains why such events are unlikely to occur in the same way again.

With its great basilica and pilgrimage square, Fatima is the most celebrated of twentieth-century Catholic pilgrimage sites.

It was built following the six apparitions of the Virgin Mary to three shepherd children 100 years ago, between 13 May and 13 October 1917.

Only Guadalupe and Lourdes rival Fátima as apparition shrines in the global Catholic consciousness.

In the 1920s and 1930s, it became Portuguese Catholicism's most important shrine, integral to the continued self-understanding of Portugal as a Catholic country, an identity which had been threatened during the First Republic (1910-1926).

Fátima represented a renewal of Marian devotion both nationally and regionally; nearby shrines such as Nazaré and Santarém had been popular for centuries, but Fátima eclipsed them.

Raising funds and awareness for cancer continues

By Bomai D Witne

'Raising funds and awareness on cancer is everybody's business'
Fr Christian Sieland of Kundiawa Diocese told over three hundred Walk the Talk against Cancer participants on Saturday, 12th November, in Goroka. Christians from different churches gathered for a retreat to prepare for a walk from Eastern Highlands to Simbu Province through Kuraglba pass and Gembogl District to raise funds and awareness for cancer.

Cancer victims fight a silent battle for life in rural and urban societies in Papua New Guinea. The victims themselves know how painful it is and the family members join their battle to keep them alive.

Many health services throughout the country lack equipment and medication to treat cancer. The Christian community in Eastern Highlands sees the need to raise funds and

awareness for cancer as a perfect opportunity to extend God's mercy and reach out to current and future cancer victims.

Fr Christian told the gathering that self-help initiative to reach out to others is the call for Christians. 'It is a call to put a smile on someone's face. It is a call to make a life changing difference'. This was the way of Jesus during his walk on earth. He met, lived, shared and dined with people of different ages and races. He touched and made life changing differences in them.

Fr Christian described God's mercy as 'contagious'; it must be spread and passed onto others. Make the cancer fund raising and awareness contagious. The message should be embraced and understood by all Papua New Guineans. It is not an issue confined to the churches. It is everybody's business.

God demands greater justice and mercy

among his people. People's creativity and labour must be directed towards this end. The organisers of Walk the Talk against Cancer and supporters are exemplary reflection of God's mercy. The donations from individuals and private organizations reflect the heart to share and reach out to others. The state should share the joy and struggles of the organisers and commit funds to support this worthy cause. It is about touching someone, being a salt and light to others.

According to the organisers, Ms Babra-Toiya and Mrs Angela Kaupa, many individuals, families, private and public organizations came forward to donate funds and offer assistance. They are thankful and look forward to more support to raise the target amount. The success of this self-help initiative depends on every citizen, family and organization in this country.

Keeping Latin up to Date

Latinitas Foundation, Now on Internet, Modernizes an Old Language

VATICAN CITY
(Zenit.org)

What is the equivalent for "computer," "terrorist" or "cowboy" in Latin?

A Holy See agency, now also on Internet, responds to the problems Latinists have in dealing with modernity. "Instrumentum Computatorium" is the way the Latinitas Foundation refers to computers. Those who sow violence and terror are called "tromocrates (-ae)"; while the characters in Westerns are called "armentarius."

The Holy See's Web page introduces this academic institution which, among other things, offers online a

brief Italian-Latin dictionary of neologisms.

The foundation has coined 15,000 new words, although it only presents some of the more common ones on Internet. To consult them fully, one must obtain a copy of "Lexicon Recentis Latinitatis," a reference dictionary sold in some specialized bookstores. Instituted in 1976 by Pope Paul VI, Latinitas is concerned with the use and growth of Latin, the official language of the Catholic Church, through the publication of books in Latin and through other means.

Among its main activities is the publication of the Latinitas quarterly review, founded in

1953. Written in Latin, it covers cultural topics such as literature, philology, history and the sciences. Among its features is the Diarium Latinum, which covers current events in a journalistic style.

Latinitas also organizes the Certamen Vaticanum, an international competition of Latin poetry and prose, established in 1953. The awards ceremony takes place toward the end of every year.

The foundation organizes classes in Latin with the same method of teaching of modern languages -- namely, Latin in Latin. It also organizes debates, congresses and conferences on Latin culture.

Goroka Diocese celebrated its Golden Jubilee

By Bomai D Witne

CATHOLICS in Eastern Highlands Province gathered at its provincial capital, Goroka in November last year to celebrate the Diocese's 50th Jubilee and closing the door of mercy on the Feast day of Christ the King.

'This is a day for all of us to meet and rejoice as we celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the church, proclaim Christ as Saviour an King and end the Year of Mercy with the symbolic closing of the door of mercy,' Bishop Darius said at the start of the mass. 'God's mercy is infinite and with his mercy, we can do many things to extend God's mercy,' he continued.

In his homily, Bp. Darius highlighted the qualities of the biblical figure of David, who became the leader of Israel. He was a good guardian and protector of his people. He did what he could to protect his people and his son

Solomon continued his legacy. The celebration of the feast day of Christ the King reminds Christians of the life of Jesus and the Cross. The leadership qualities of Jesus differed from the established government, traditions and norms during his time. His words, deeds and miracles were extraordinary. Jesus wanted his followers to seek the Kingdom of God through him.

It was difficult for people to imagine God's kingdom. For Jesus, God's Kingdom was his journey to the cross. His journey revealed God's infinite mercy. The symbol of God's mercy to mankind is the cross.

The cross is the Chair of Jesus. It is a place where Jesus gave everything to mankind including his last breath. On the Cross, people wanted Jesus to help himself. There was no mercy and forgiveness from the people.

The two strangers crucified alongside Jesus had the opportunity to seek God's mercy. One of them joined the crowd in demanding Jesus to help himself and him. The other accepted his crime and punishment and knew Jesus was the Son of God and asked him to think of him when he became King. Jesus told him, 'You will be with me in Heaven'. This was the greatest act of mercy and God's forgiveness. Jesus revealed he was already King.

People of different cultures embraced God's mercy, love and forgiveness in different ways. Some through family and professions they choose and others through missionary work. The prisoners, warders and people from different walks of life shared the joy of the Gospel.

Eastern Highlands Province received and embraced her share of Catholic missionaries in

the 1950s. This was the period when most parts of highlands region of Papua New Guinea had very little or no contact with expatriates.

The SVD missionaries established mission in Goroka town and built missions in rural areas such as Tafeto, Watabung, Namta, Kamaliki, Kainantu and Pundibasa. The missionaries built community halls, health centres, schools and other livelihood programs to support and improve the lives of local people so they can understand the word of God better. These activities continue today. Some of the first educated people in the Highlands Provinces were educated in Catholic Schools.

Bishop Francesco Sarego and Fr Mathew Landu facilitated and guided the people in understanding history of the Church in Eastern Highlands Province.

Graduands encouraged to make good use of the knowledge and skills gained

GRADUATING students have been encouraged to make good use of the knowledge and skills they had learned and developed for the two years of schooling.

They were also reminded to uphold the values of work and respect.

The principal of St Peter Urban Training Centre in Gizo, Western Province of the Solomon Islands, Fr. Stephen Te'e, made the

encouragement at the graduation ceremony of 12 Year Two students of the school.

This school was established by Bishop Capelli sdb and comes under the Catholic Church Diocese of Gizo.

There were 12 students who had managed to complete their 2nd year. Some of them did not make it to the end. The 12 students who had made it were graduated, 11 males

and one female.

School Principal, Fr. Stephen Te'e talked highly of the graduated students for their performance during the school years. He encouraged the graduating students to make use of the knowledge and skills they had learned and developed for the two years schooling. He also reminded them to uphold the values of work and respect.

These values he said

were the identity of the school which formed and developed them to a person who can do something better for his or her life in the future. A lot of happy memories in the school were shared and acknowledged.

Congratulation to the out-going students and we assure you of our prayers in your future careers.

The day ended with a feast and entertainments.

St Peter Parish celebrated Kingship of Christ

ST. Peter Parish in the Catholic Diocese of Gizo in the Solomon Islands celebrated the Kingship of Christ and as well as the closing of the Holy Year of Mercy.

A great number of parishioners attended the Mass. In other parishes of the diocese of Gizo, they also celebrated this very important day.

In the Eucharistic cel-

ebration twenty six children plus two adults received their first Holy Communion. It was a really moving celebration. This day was a happy and joyous moment for all.

Fr. Angelo, a priest from Italy is helping out in St. Peter Parish in the absence of the Bishop Luciano Capelli, sdb, celebrated the Holy Mass.

He encouraged the candidates to stand firm in their faith and in the Holy Eucharist.

Receiving Holy Communion, means yes to God's ways of life.

He also reminded the people to visit the Blessed Sacrament in the church more often. This he said, will help them to change their attitudes that are not inline with God's ways.

"Because we cannot do it alone we need His Spirit to experience and live his message of love and mercy. Congratulation and may you be Christ for others," he said.

The day ended with a feast which marked the three events that we have celebrated. The participation of the community made the day enjoyable.