



The Catholic Reporter

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

March 2017

ISSUE: 135

BAN "EXPERIMENTAL SEABED MINING" IN PNG – Caritas

THE Caritas Co-ordinators of the 19 Catholic Dioceses in PNG in their recent Annual Caritas PNG Forum 2017 in Madang made the following statement to express their concern on the negative impact of the emerging Seabed Mining in PNG, now located in the waters of New Ireland province;

"We, the Caritas Coordinators of 19 Catholic Dioceses of PNG at the Annual Caritas PNG Forum 2017 in Madang in solidarity with Alliance of Solwara Warriors, Bismarck Ramu Group, and concerned organizations, resolved to speak out on behalf of the silent majority affected by the proposed –"Experimental Seabed Mining"- of Nautilus Minerals Ltd in PNG waters.

"We demand the Prime Minister, Hon. Peter O'Neill and the Mining Minister, Hon Byron Chan to issue an immediate BAN on Experimental Seabed Mining. We call on all Provincial Governors and Open Members of Parliament of all Maritime Provinces, too, to support this call on behalf of their people.

"We note with grave concern that the PNG Government has been ill-advised resulting in granting mining licenses for an unprecedented project. We



Group Participants at the Caritas PNG Forum, Alexishafen Conference Center, Madang February 2017 with (1) Fr. Victor Roche, General Secretary, PNG/SI Catholic Bishop Conference, (2) Bishop Chief Christian Blouin, Chairman of Caritas PNG Board, (3) Brother Adrian Smith, Pacific Program Manager, Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, (4) Bishop Jozef Roszynski, Bishop Deputy Caritas PNG, (5) Mark Mitchell, Pacific Disaster Program Manager, Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, (6) Felicity McCullum, Pacific Program Manager Caritas Australia, (7) Milton Kwaipo, Disaster Management Coordinator, Caritas Australia (PNG), (8) Dennis Uba, Country Director, Caritas Australia (PNG), (9) Raymond Ton, National Director, Caritas PNG.

understand that the PNG national Government has already commissioned independent reviews of the IES whose copies are hard to obtain, hence lacking transparency. There also, has been a lot of consultation – ie: the Government and Nautilus Minerals Ltd going out to

communities to tell them how the project will proceed without obtaining the communities consent.

We warn that PNG stands to be the greatest loser. The coastal and island people whose daily lives are wholesomely dependent on the marine resources will be gravely

deprived. "In the economic and social realm, too, the dignity and complete vocation of the human person and the welfare of society as a whole are to be respected and promoted. For man is the source, the center, and the purpose of all economic and social life." (No. 692

Compendium of the Catholic Church). Government decisions involving our natural resources must be guided by our own constitution, accordingly, "wise use to be made of our natural resources and the environment in and on the land or seabed, in the sea, under the land, and in the air, in the interests of our development and in trust for future generations" (National Goal and Guiding Principle No. 5.1).

We the undersigned demand the Government to BAN experimental seabed mining because:

1) Nautilus Minerals Ltd failed to demonstrate that seafloor resource development is commercially viable and environmentally sustainable.

2) The already commissioned Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report is not fully available and accessible to the stakeholders concerned.

3) Nautilus Minerals Ltd failed to provide documented and proven evidences of successful projects in other parts of the world.

4) The local communities have not consented to the project going ahead.

5) The high level of unknowns makes it a high risk project.

Apostolic Nuncio visits Noro, Solomon Islands

Fr. S. Tony
Noro, Solomon Islands:

APOSTOLIC NUNCIO to Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, Archbishop Mathew Kurien Vayalunkal presented his credentials to the Governor General of Solomon Islands on Thursday Feb 9th, in Honiara, Solomon Islands. He was accompanied by Archbishop Chris Cardone OP, Archbishop of Honiara.

The Nuncio then visited the three dioceses and spent time in each of them.

While in the Diocese of Gizo he visited the Parish of St. Eusebius, Noro. The priests and parish pastoral council prepared well for the visit of the Apostolic Nuncio on Saturday 11th February. He was

accompanied by Fr. Angelo Fazzini sdb, Fr. Jacob Qutobatu, Episcopal Vicar General; Fr. Stephen Te', Parish priest of St. Peter the Apostle parish and volunteer Ms Paola.

In true Kiribati style he was honoured with floral wreaths, speeches, dances and gifts at the 'Maneaba' in Canaan.

This was his first stop. The people have been resettled by the British from the Gilbert islands several decades ago.

After a prayer in the chapel and spending time capturing the beauty of the ocean, the Nuncio and those accompanying him went to Noro where he was welcomed by Mr Augustine, PPC chairman amidst the cries of warriors and the beat of an energetic dance.



Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Mathew Kurien at the Parish of St. Eusebius, Noro, Gizo Diocese, Solomon Islands with the priest and parish council members.

The Eucharistic celebrated on this World Day of the Sick, 25th anniversary of Our Lady of Lourdes was coordinated by Bro Dominic.

It included a Bible Dance, hymns in different languages (Kirbati, Are Are, pidgin, Choiseul and shortlands), the Gospel read by Fr

Mathias Sdc. In his homily, the Nuncio stressed a filial devotion to Our Blessed Mary.

The parish has 234 families on its six islands with a total population of 1326 persons. Fr Chris Cardone OP (now an Archbishop) was parish priest at Noro in the late 90s.

The Nuncio then blessed the statue of St Luigi Guanella, placed in the recently completed grotto. He prayed for the bishop and imparted his blessings on all gathered.

The parish is presently run by the Guanellian fathers who belong to the order of the Servants of Charity (SdC) founded by St Luigi Guanella. They accepted the invitation of Bishop Luciano Capelli, Bishop of Gizo and took up the parish in June 2016.

Social Media in schools today

Social Media as a means of connection is on the rise and our secondary schools. Students, the 'digital natives' who belong to the 'Net Generation' are fully immersed in this powerful tool of communication.

They belong to the 'tech savvy' generation and in a short while, despite most students coming from the rural areas, they are able to use this marvellous information and communications technology sharing their posts, photos, comments and even videos. These are regularly uploaded on to Face-



Social Media session at Jubilee Catholic Secondary School.

books for students are being organized on the first Saturday of every month. It brings together interested students from Secondary and Tertiary Catholic institutions to give students the basics of the different media. At the end of the session they will have creative productions that can be displayed, broadcast or screened at their school.

The program promises to be engaging and will channel the talent, energy and resources of the participants to present hope as the young encounter different issues.

The students will form the core of a Media Club at their school and ensure that their school have a place in mainstream media.

Social Media sessions for teachers have already been held at some catholic schools during the Orientation week, while other sessions are planned. The first Media Education Seminar will be held on the Saturday, 4th March at Don Bosco Technical School, Gabutu and will bring together representatives of students and teachers from six different catholic institutions of Port Moresby.

Teachers Sheryll Extra-Isoaimo, Ian Juf Zusula, Cecilia Amala, Fr. Ambrose Pererira sdb and main stream media personnel will animate the different sessions.

Election Matters

with
Fr. Roger Purcell msc



Dialogue; the art of listening and speaking

It is said that we have two ears and one mouth, so we should listen twice and speak once. Our topic this month is DIALOGUE in which listening and speaking are the two vital elements.

We need to listen attentively with complete interest in what the other is saying, without thinking of what I want to say; not simply waiting until the other is finished. When we speak we must speak the truth, as best as we know it, and as completely as we can.

During this time of Election there will be a lot of talking by candidates and leaders, who will expect that we listen. This is all very well, but will they allow the voters to speak, and will they truly listen? In other words, will they enter into the process of dialogue? For the voters, will they speak up, and will they speak the truth as best they know it?

For the dialogue to be possible there are some things that must be present before we can begin. Firstly, we must have true respect for the other person as a human being, and a child of God. If this respect is not present, then we will not be prepared to listen to them, and to respect what they are saying. Secondly, this respect must be for the dignity of the other person.

The dignity as person and as child of God, equal to all in the community of humanity. We all have God-given dignity regardless of our race, nation, gender, religion, culture or education.

As we approach the National Election we need the conviction that each person has this dignity, and a right to our respect; each woman and man, leaders and followers, voters and candidates, grassroots or educated, village or city person.

There will be a great need for discussion, debates and arguments, and all this is right and proper. All must be done in the true spirit of dialogue, listening with attention and speaking the truth. There should be more discussion, less speeches; more debating, less telling; more asking of questions and less demanding of results.

book, Instagram, twitter and other social media platforms. Born into a world of digital media, our students are unable to imagine a world devoid of social connections and networking. Social media is making inroads into all fields and education is no exception. Our students are able to research, complete assignments, request peer help and gain deeper insights into what they have been taught in class.

However, this latest wave into the world of social media is not without its limits and dangers. Innocent and inexperienced they are gradually lured into sites that are harmful and dangerous. They are

invited to open up pages that are morally and spiritually destructive. While some parents are able to control and monitor the use of the digital media the majority are unable to guide their offspring in the right use of social media.

A large majority of students are living with 'wontoks' away from home and family, with parents blissfully unaware of what their child is about. The onus is then left to the school or the educational institution, the principal, teachers and the instructors to offer guidelines on the use of this powerful tool.

Sensing this need, Catholic Communications (Catholic

Bishops Conference and the Salesians of Don Bosco) have put together two programs for the benefit of the teachers and the students. The programs are: Social Media Sessions for Teachers and a Media Education Seminars for students.

The Social Media Sessions for teachers are sessions that enable the teachers understand the presence of the digital media today. Its potential, use, advantages and disadvantages are dealt with. A practical outcome will be the formulation of a School Media Policy and Social Media Watch Cell at the school.

The Media Education Semi-

Pope's Morning Homily: 'Christians: Slaves of Love, Not Duty'

Posted by Deborah Castellano Lubov on 6 February, 2017

According to Vatican Radio, Pope Francis made this clarification to faithful during his daily morning Mass at Casa Santa Marta, as he reflected on the theme of Christian freedom.

In his homily, the Pontiff stressed that those following Christ could be considered 'slaves,' but not of duty, but of love, and also encouraged faithful to not to hide in the "rigidity" of the Commandments.

Drawing inspiration from the Responsorial Psalm, 103 (104), about a "song of praise" to God for His wonders, the Pope stressed that the Father works to make this wonder of creation and with His Son to accomplish this wonder Son of re-creation. In addition, the Holy Father recalled an episode in which a child asked

him what God was doing before He created the world: "He was loving," was the response.

The Motive

"Why then did God create the world?" Francis asked, responding, "Simply to share His fullness. To have someone to whom [to give] and with whom to share His fullness."

In the re-creation, God, Francis stressed, sends His Son to "set things right."

"When Jesus says: 'The Father is always at work: I, too, am always at work,' the teachers of the law were scandalized and wanted to kill him for this. Why? Because they could not receive the things of God as a gift! Only as Justice: 'These are the Commandments: but they are few, let's make more.'"

Open hearts

Francis lamented that instead of opening their hearts to the gift, they hid, have sought refuge in the rigidity of the Commandments, which, he noted, had multiplied up to

500 or more.

"They did not know how to receive the gift – and the gift is only received with freedom – and these rigid characters were afraid of the freedom that God gives us: they were afraid of love."

Slaves of love, not duty

That is why today, he said, we have praised the Father: 'You are great, O Lord! I love you so much, for you have given this gift. You saved me, you created me.'

This, he stressed, is the prayer of praise and of joy in our Christian lives, rather than "the closed, sad prayer of the person who never knew how to receive a gift because he is afraid of freedom that always carries with it a gift."

"Such a one knows only how to do duty, but closed duty. Slaves of duty, but not love: when you become a slave of love, you are free! It is a beautiful bondage that, but such men did not understand that."

The Pope encouraged faith-

ful to ask how they can receive the gift of redemption and forgiveness of God.

"How do I receive the redemption, the forgiveness that God has given me, the making of me a son with His Son? Lovingly, tenderly, with freedom? Or do I hide in the rigidity of the closed Commandments, that are more and more "safe" – with emphasis on the scare-quotes – but that do not give joy, because they does not make you free."

Each of us, he stressed, ought to reflect on these questions, and on how they experience these two wonders: the wonder of creation and "even greater wonder" of re-creation.

Pope Francis concluded, praying: "May the Lord make us understand this great thing and make us understand what He was doing before creating the world: He was loving."

"Let us understand His love for us, and may we say – as we said today: 'Lord, you are great! Thank you, thank you!' Let us go forward like this," he said.

Only God, 'Dio Solo'

Celebrating 50 years of Priestly Service

Article written by: Arlene Abital

Photographs by: Arlene Abital and Karl David Valmonte

Fr. Valeriano Barbero sdb, pioneer Salesian missionary and builder in Papua New Guinea for 37 years, celebrated his Golden Anniversary as a Salesian priest, on 25th February, with being the main celebrant of the mass in the Shrine of Mary Help of Christians, Boroko.

His Excellency Mathew Vayalunkal, Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands; Sir John Cardinal Ribat, msc, Archbishop of Port Moresby; Sir Archbishop Francesco Panfilo, sdb, Archbishop of Rabaul; Fr. Peter Baquero, sdb Bishop-elect of the Diocese of Kerema, together with 16 priests concelebrated at the Eucharistic celebration. The joyous and momentous event was witnessed by close friends of Fr. Valeriano, different religious congregations, staff, students and other guests.

Reflecting on the Gospel of St. Luke, Fr. Valeriano expressed his heartfelt gratitude to God and his many friends for the countless blessings he received during the past 50 years of his priestly life. He said, "Thank you Lord for choosing me to become a priest." He reminisced the 60 days he was in the hospital in Italy and considered them as blessings of what God has chosen for him. "The Spirit of the Lord has come upon me and I will continue to be a Priest Forever!" said Fr. Valeriano. "God has called us for special purposes in life and I will continue to serve the church and the people of Papua New



The Apostolic Nuncio presents Fr Valeriano with wishes from the Holy Father.

Guinea. 'Dio solo,' Only God," said the calm and relaxed missionary as he recalled the words of the first Provincial Superior and Servant of God, Fr. Charles Braga, sdb.

The liturgy was prayerful with a harmonious choir. The Don Bosco Haus boys and some teachers of Don Bosco Technical School, Gabutu sang under the baton of Ms Rica Lavilla. At communion, they beautifully rendered 'Tu es sacerdos' composed by Fr. Angel Sanchez, sdb, Rector of the school.

The Apostolic Nuncio presented Fr. Valeriano with the warm greetings and message of the Holy Father, Pope Francis. Before the final blessing, Fr. Louie Castañeda, sdb Vice Provincial and Rector of Don Bosco Technical Institute, Boroko projected a video clip as a tribute to Fr. Valeriano. It included photographs of the missionary work of Fr. Valeriano in Papua New Guinea. Cardinal Ribat, the Apostolic Nuncio, Salesians and friends shared their insights and wished him Gods abundant

blessings on this special event.

Guests were then directed for a reception to the newly-renovated multi-purpose hall at DBTI. Archbishop Panfilo shared high points of the 50 years they have known and worked together not merely as confreres, but close friends, who never once fought.

He also mentioned that the Risen Lord and Our Blessed Mother have always been prominent features in the churches and shrines built by Fr. Valeriano, both in the Philippines and in Papua New Guinea. In thanking the gathering, Fr. Valeriano recalled the words of one student, 'Every time I think of you, I feel joy in my heart'.

Highlights of the life of Fr. Valeriano Barbero sdb.

Birthdate:

August 31, 1938

1st Profession:

16 August 1956

Ordination: 18 March 1967

Official Arrival in PNG:

June 14, 1980, Rector of the 1st Salesian community

The Salesians took over the St. Peter's Vocational Centre,

Araimiri, and in 1985 renamed it Don Bosco High School, Araimiri. In 1989, he started the Salesian Presence in Orokolo Region, Gulf Province. He developed the Mission Station and Primary school in Lariau and was the Parish Priest of Mary Help of Christians parish, Lariau.

In mid-1994 PNG was made a Delegation and he was appointed the 1st Delegate Superior at the start of 1995 until the end of 1997.

In 1995, he started developing the East Boroko Area (Savio Haus, Caritas school, DBTI and Emmaus Conference Centre)

In 2001 (up to 2004), he was asked to be Delegate-Superior once again while remaining Delegation Economer, after Archbishop Francesco Panfilo was made bishop.

In 2011, he started working in the Archdiocese of Rabaul while being a member of the Vunabosco Community.

In 2013, he was asked to be Administrator of the Diocese of Kerema.

Commentary

by Fr. Victor Rochel



Noise Pollution

I want to write something about Noise Pollution and in particular about Loud Music.

It can happen in a village, small town or in a city. It is a common sight that in the villages, some men gather together in a common place on a pay week Saturday and drink beer during the whole night.

They would have a music player with blasting music which can be heard throughout the village. Families living nearby will not be able to sleep well.

This is noise pollution which disturbs others. It is OK if they have music just for the group but not too loud disturbing people in the community.

There are some night clubs for dancing in Port Moresby with loud music throughout the night especially during the week-end. I am very close to one of those night clubs.

It is very difficult to sleep with such a loud music with loud speakers directed to all directions of the city.

It is OK if they play the loud music within the night club or dance club and not for the whole world to hear.

The clubs may claim to have a right to play loud music. But the people living close by also have a right to sleep without the disturbance of noise pollution.

In some countries there is a ban on loud speakers after 10 pm. If they do not adhere to that ban their licences are taken away. Why don't we introduce it in PNG?

The night clubs we have in the city with loud music attract young boys and girls, students and teens to alcohol and late night dancing. These students and teens are also tempted to be involved in other social evils such as stealing, prostitution and other crimes.

I appeal to the government and to the Police Commissioners to put a ban on loud speakers after 10 pm. It is for the benefit of all citizens of PNG especially the clients who use the night clubs and the public who live close to such clubs.

Holy Spirit Seminary Diocesan College starts year with Recollection

By Fr. Andrew Billy Rosi, Spiritual Director

Holy Spirit Seminary, Diocesan College at Bomana, started its school year for 2017 with a time of a week-long Recollection.

The person in charge of Radio Maria, Rev Fr Paul Kote was happy to be with us to guide the event of Recollection for individual seminarians and staff to reflect on their lives.

The main them of the recollection which Rev Fr Paul Kote based on was Vocation or the call of the Lord Jesus

to the ministry of Priesthood.

The Recollection started on the 6th of February and it ended on the 10th.

There were 49 Seminarians from the Holy Spirit Seminary, Diocesan College present at this time of Recollection which is 5 more than the number who participated in the last year, 2016's Recollection.

They came from all Arch Dioceses and Dioceses all over Papua New Guinea; Rabaul Arch Diocese, Diocese of Bougainville, Dioceses of Kavieng and Kimbe, Arch Diocese of

Madang, Diocese of Lae and Wewak, Mt. Hagen Arch Diocese and Dioceses of Mendi and Wabag;

Port Moresby Arch Diocese as well as Dioceses of Alotau and Daru-Kiunga.

The Seminarians were very happy and thanked Rev Fr. Paul Kote, and also us the Staff of the Seminary appreciated Rev Fr Paul Kote for his willingness to respond to our call and to come and walk along with us and the Seminarians during this one week of Recollection.

With this I want to say thank you



Seminarians during the Recollection time.

to all the bishops and Arch Bishops for sending their young men to the Holy Spirit Seminary, Diocesan Col-

lege and their care for their Seminarians.

Catechists Formation and Commissioning

Your Vote is Your Power! Your Vote is Your Children's Future

By Elizabeth Gavuri



His Eminence, Cardinal John Ribat celebrating Mass at Holy Name Parish.

Daisy Maritua Bomana, Port Moresby:

The Catechists of the Archdiocese of Port Moresby numbering 85 gathered at Siverai Namona Pastoral Centre from Friday 17th to Sunday 19 February for their first quarter updating for the year.

The programme began with a day of Prayer and Reflection facilitated by Sr. Margaret Ani, AD. In the evening, Sr. Josefa Sayson, OND facilitated the orientation of the Pastoral theme for the apostolate of 2017.

'Our Children: Caring, Protecting and Handing on the Faith', was facilitated by Sr. Mary Mc Carthy, PBVM during the session on Saturday.

The theme of the Missionary Childhood Program, 'Children helping children' was then explained by Mr. and Mrs Paul & Esthel Ihaura of Waigani Parish. They shared on the activities they had done in their parish.

In the second half of the afternoon teachers from St. Therese Elem (Alice Maroa) & Primary School

(Vincenia Patimos) gave a class demonstration using the new textbook. Later, Sr. Imelda Mission, OND explained the Praxis Method which is the methodology used in the Religious Education Textbooks.

The Catechists were commissioned by His Eminence Cardinal Ribat during the Mass at Holy Name Parish. Fr. Martin Wrobel, CM concelebrated at the Eucharistic celebration.

The Catechists came from the following parishes: Holy Name, Holy Family, Holy Trinity, St.

Stephen, St. Peter Chanel, Holy Rosary, Sacred Heart, St. John's, Christ the King, Mary Help of Christians, Mary Queen of the Pacific, St. Paul's & St. Charles. A separate commissioning of St. Joseph's Parish Catechists was also held on the same day presided over by parish priest Fr. Francis, CP.

Before the Catechists departed, they were given teaching materials for their parishes. The Catechists will gather once again on the 24th-26th of May for their second quarter updating.

His Excellency, Archbishop Francesco Panfilo (Archbishop of Rabaul, PNG), with the theme "Your Vote is Your Power, Your Vote is Your Children's Future", advises citizens of Papua New Guinea to choose their political leaders wisely as your votes today will affect your day-to-day life and well-being of your own community and family.

As stated by his Excellency in a pastoral letter to the people of Rabaul, voting is a serious responsibility and it is important to choose good candidates who really have a heart for the people and who will try to improve the lives of the people.

The PNG National Elections 2017 will take place on the 24th of June to the 8th of July, therefore, according to Archbishop Francesco Panfilo, he urges all the people to vote leaders carefully as they owe it to themselves, to their families and most importantly to their children.

The National Elections is an opportunity to improve the current state of our country and people should take advantage of this opportunity and decide for what is good for the wellbeing of the people, he said.

He said that people must not vote for the sake of a can-

didate's personality, instead, they must vote for a candidate with the qualities of a good leader and someone who has a listening heart rather than money or a big business.

His Excellency added that leaders with a listening heart will understand the difference between right and wrong and will do what is right for the people.

During the election campaign, there will be a lot of promises made by candidates, however, voters must look carefully at these promises and work out what is true and what are just campaign talks, he said.

Furthermore, His Excellency also stated that voters must choose a candidate who is able to do the job, a leader who is honest, truthful, loyal to the people and a leader who is concerned about the well-being of all the people.

Voters must remember that their vote can make a difference in the community, province and the country as a whole, he said.

Therefore as we are approaching the campaigns and elections, Bishops and Priests are there to advise the people and voters on what things to consider when choosing the best candidate in order for everyone to have a better future, he added.

Pope Francis' Invitation to "Take Full Personal Care"

Posted by ZENIT Staff on 6 February, 2017

The XXV World Day of the Sick will take place in Lourdes, France, on Saturday, February 11, 2017. For the occasion, Pope Francis has sent a letter to Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, papal legate to the celebration of the event.

In the letter, written in Latin, Francis greets the sick around the world and expresses the heart of closeness to those who are suffering.

The Holy Father stresses that "it is good to take full care of the person," referring to "the soul, mind and body." He cites the Book of Wisdom, remember that God cre-

ated everything for existence: "He did not make death, nor evil, and not delight in the destruction of the living."

"God" – writes the Pope, quoting the Book of Sirach – "has given men the science so that they could boast about its wonders." Hence, the Pontiff invites pastors, doctors and patients themselves, to pray the Lord to guide them to alleviate disease and heal.

The Holy Father, therefore, asks the faithful to invoke the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, for the health of the sick, to obtain from the Son "abundant graces: especially patience in tribulation, trust in God, gratitude for the benefits received and a great love towards all."



Pope encourage all to take care of their health.

Finally, Pope Francis encouraged all to imitate the faith of Peter who, even when he did not understand Jesus, stated: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."