

# CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LAE

## Newsletter Volume 1/2024

- Pastoral Plan, A Journey of Renewing the Church
- In the World of Fake News, Future Dangers
- Bishop Opens New TB Ward at Center of Mercy
- Parish Visits and Celebrations
- New Catholic Churches in Lae Diocese



VOL-1/24



## Media Influencers

Some alternative words for "influencer" could be "content creator," "digital creator," or "online personality." These terms focus more on the creation aspect rather than the impact of the messages that they created.

*"So justice is driven back and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey"* Isaiah 59:14-15

Lorem Ipsum

Future dangers that threaten the truth in the world are prominent. No one knows who to trust anymore, legitimate sources of news and information are getting more and more compromised and shunned. We wish to take this opportunity to therefore remind our readers and even those who listen to our radio Catholic FM 103.7 Radio station in Lae Diocese, Papua New Guinea of the dangers that authentic truth face in our society. The Holy Father, Pope Francis prophetically spoke to us of the impending challenges ahead of us. These are the messages of Pope Francis in recent celebrated World Day of Communication, they are very relevant as technology continue to advance and shape the truth:

YEAR : Message

2017: Fear not for I am with you, Isaiah 43:5

2018: The Truth will set you free, John 8:32

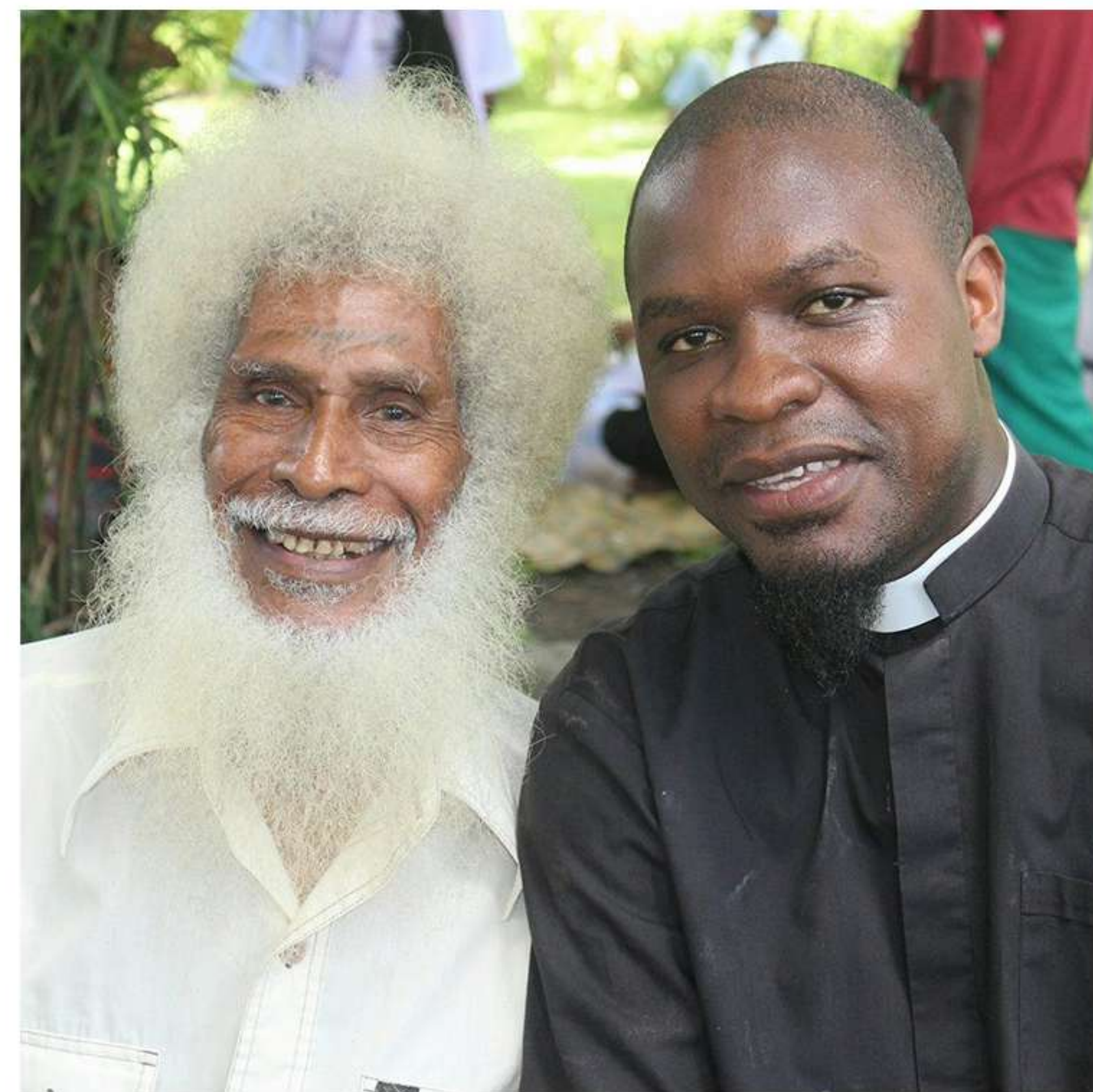
2019: We are members of one another,

Ephesians 4:25 2020: That you may tell your children and grandchildren, Exodus 10:2 2021:

Come and see, John 1:46 2022: Listening with

the ear of the heart 2023: The Truth in Love, Ephesians 4:15

This year 2024, the Church is explaining the situation in which we are now; topics of Artificial Intelligence and Human communication are at the center of the conversations. Please find time to go through these documents, they are available on the Vatican press website.



## Who is a Sensationalist?

-a person who presents stories in a way that is intended to provoke public interest or excitement, at the expense of accuracy.

*adjective:*

presenting stories in a way that is intended to provoke public interest or excitement, at the expense of accuracy.

Heavenly Father  
bless and protect  
all my Facebook  
friends, especially  
this one  
in Jesus' name,  
Amen.





His Lordship, Bishop Rozario Menezes SMM was born in Virajpet, Karnataka India on August 30, 1960. A 55 years old bishop comes from a family of 8, he is the 7th born in the family of 2 sisters only. He is the current Bishop of Lae Diocese and has been its shepherd for six years. He was inspired through his devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary to join the Company of Mary which is also known as the Society of Montfort Missionaries (SMM).

His mother had also great influence in his upbringing. He describes her as someone that never gives up and very hardworking. "Early in the mornings she is already in the garden picking vegetables and then she goes to the market. She always keeps the family intact. My siblings and I always thank the Lord for giving us great parents, they did a great job keeping us together from childhood to adulthood" said Bishop Rozario.

Recalling his first days at school, Bishop Rozario shared that it was a challenge. On two occasions his mother took him to school but he returned with her to the house, crying. His father then told his mother that he was going to take him to school. When they got to the entrance of the school his father pointed to the Grotto and told him that he was at home with his mother, meaning the Blessed Virgin Mary. "My father told me: When you are at home, your mother looks after you and when you are at school or anywhere, Mama Mary will always look after you so don't be scared to go to school". Bishop Rozario recalls. A typical day in their family outside of school was always busy. "My father would wake us up at 5am,

we had many cows, chickens, gardens etc and we would go clean their sheds and feed them and go to the paddy fields to work, we would work until 7.30 am and rush back to the house to get ready for school. In the afternoon before coming to the house the sisters would take us to the convent so that we could finish our school homework and then allow us to go home. Once we reach home, we would go to either to the paddy fields during the rainy season or the coffee plantation to assist our parents.

**"his only dream is to build a Church where God is at the centre."**

After working, we used to have prayer moments, especially the rosary, have dinner and then sleep." Bishop Rozario recounted. "My father is someone that loves our family, so we were all expected to do everything together from house chores to eating and he made sure that we always prayed before we eat and sleep so that's why nobody came late because we knew that others were waiting." Bishop recalled joyfully.

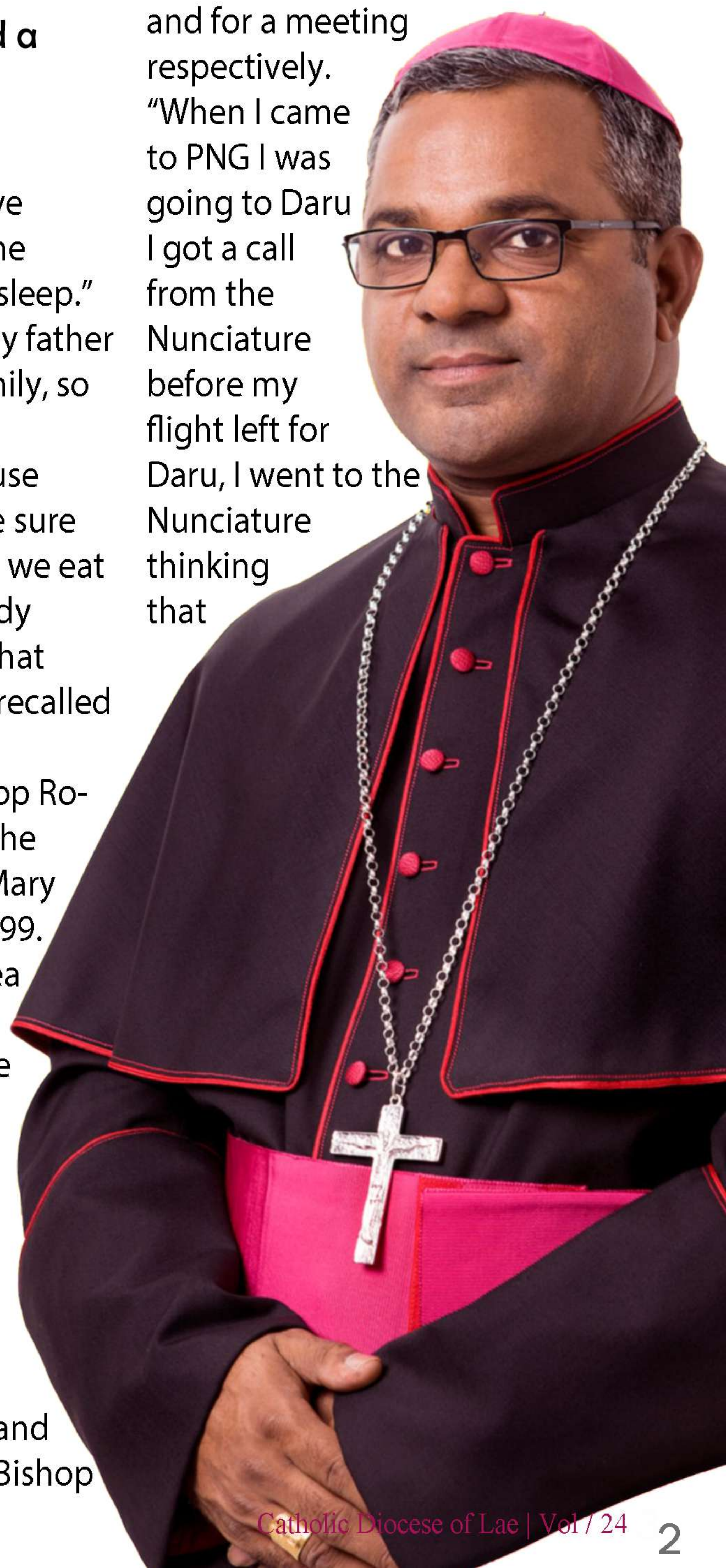
At the age of 22 in 1992, Bishop Rozario made his profession as the member of the Company of Mary and was ordained priest in 1999. He came to Papua New Guinea in the year 2000, and worked in Daru Kiunga Diocese, as the parish priest at St. Brigid's Parish Kiunga. He was also at the same time looking after St. Pauls' Parish Nomad and serving as the youth Chaplin for the Diocese. He was appointed as Bishop of Lae diocese on October 10, 2018 and was consecrated as the third Bishop

of Lae on December 15, 2018.

Bishop Rozario was the parish priest for Morata in the Archdiocese of Port Moresby for 7 and half years.

"In 2017 I was elected to be the Assistant General in our congregation, and I was a parish priest for Morata for 7 and half years and at that time since I was just starting to build the church and I had to tell my parishioners that after 6 or 7 months I will be leaving PNG for good." Bishop Rozario said. In 2018, he was on the trip visit to Vietnam and PNG for the possibilities of starting a new mission for the Montfort Missionaries and for a meeting respectively.

"When I came to PNG I was going to Daru I got a call from the Nunciature before my flight left for Daru, I went to the Nunciature thinking that





I will be bringing a package only to be told by the Nuncio that the Pope had appointed me Bishop of Lae."

Trusting in the providence of God and maternal care of Mother Mary Bishop Razario prayed long about it and accepted to the appointment,

When asked about his Diocese, he said even though living among 80% of Lutherans, the diocese is seeing progress. In the beginning there were only 10 priests and there will soon be 21 priests coming to serve the church.

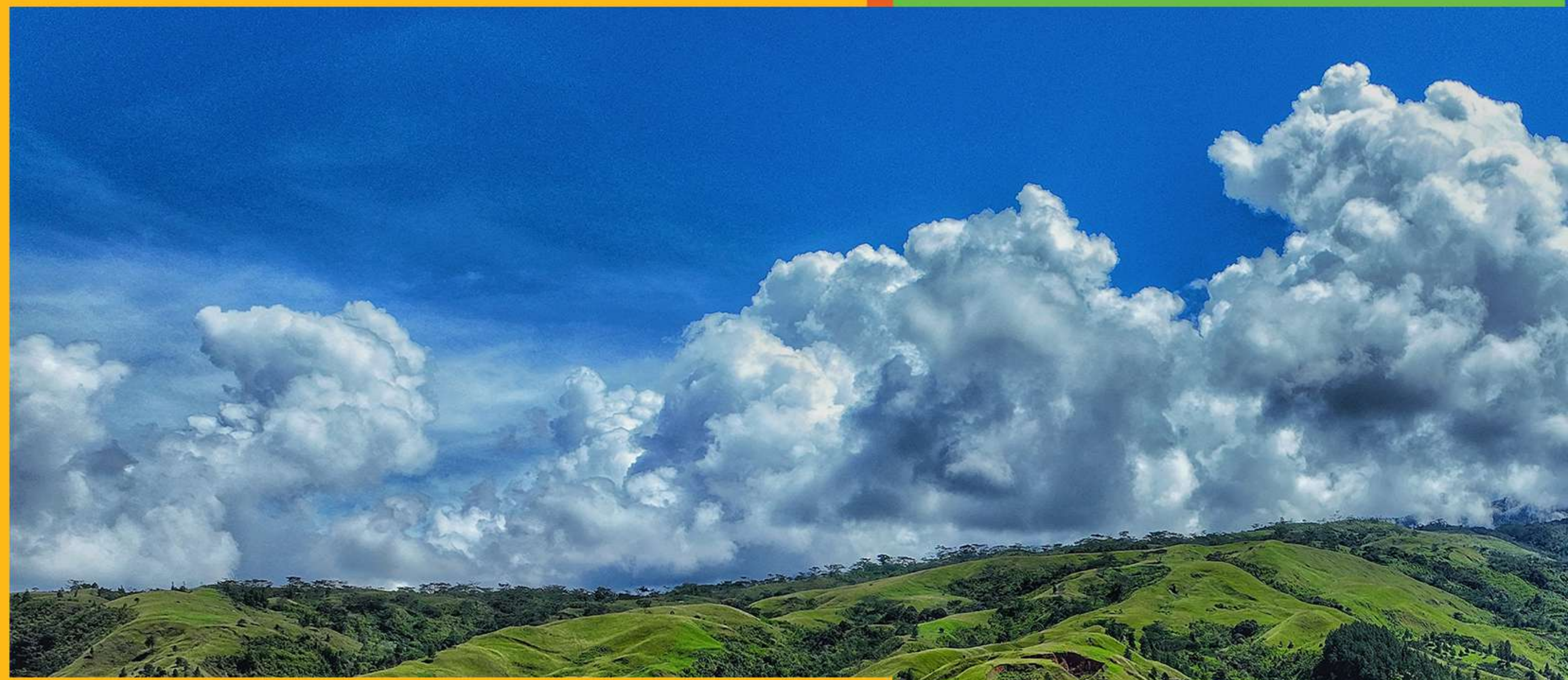
"There was one lady making host, she used to make the host twice a week but now she's making the host every day. This means that the number of people going to the church has increased. It's amazing to see that the churches are full now. This shows that our priests are working so hard among the people", he added.

When asked about his plans for the diocese in the future, he said that his only dream is to build a Church where God is at the centre.



**"To Jesus through Mary".**

Episcopal Motto of the Bishop of the Diocese of Lae.



## NEW CATHOLIC CHURCH IN MUMENG



On Sunday 19th November 2023 the Bishop of Lae Diocese, His Lordship Bishop Rozario Menezes SMM opened a new church building in the rural area of Mumeng for the growing catholic community. The new church was consecrated to Our Lady of Fatima.

During the opening the Bishop reflected on the parable of talents and questioned why one among the three gifted individuals failed to use his money to improve his livelihood. Bishop explained that many of us do not make an effort to improve ourselves. Bishop Rozario went on to say that many of our faithful do not make an effort to verify the truth about the Church too. Some baptized Catholic Christians have left the Catholic Church because they think the Church worships Our Lady the Mother of Jesus. Bishop encouraged the people to learn more and to always verify the truth before they react.

The opening ceremony began with the Eucharistic celebration in which the Bishop consecrated and blessed the new church. Two Catholic and an Anglican priest accompanied the Bishop during the opening ceremony. The District Administrator, Joe Paru, the Counsel Manager and the President of Women for Mumeng also attended the ceremony. Representatives from parishes in Lae attended the event. Lutheran and Anglican Church members were among the guests that graced this event. A great number of the people from around Zeneng in Mumeng witnessed the opening for their new church.

One of the elderly women, Rebecca Kari said that during her time in the 1990s, they usually celebrated the Eucharistic Mass under the trees. She said that sometimes they used to walk for almost a half a day to Bulolo for Mass just to receive the Eucharist. Rebecca said that her dream had come true, a Catholic Church has



# ST. HENRY: 25TH ANNIVERSARY. MUTZING

been built on her very own land because she does not have to travel a distance to look for the house of God. The faithful of Our Lady of Fatima, the people of Zeneng in Mumeng were all happy to witness the consecration of a new church. **from page 3.**

**H**is Lordship Bishop Rozario Menezes SMM celebrated 25 years of existence of St Henry's Church, a small catholic community in the Markham District in Mutzing on the 3rd of November 2023. The Bishop talked about the church as the body of Christ. He told the people of Mutzing to be pure in spirit when doing God's work. The Bishop gave an example of Saint Henry who is their patron Saint and explained that Henry sacrificed his life even though he was a king. The Bishop stressed that the first Sunday of advent is the Sunday of hope. He explained that hope signifies that there is a future regardless of the challenges we are facing in Papua New Guinea and in the world.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist was led by the Sepik Community of St. Henry's Catholic community. The meal was prepared by the people of the Markhams valley in their traditional style and was served to the Bishop and the guests. The Chairman, Gordian Landime, gave an appreciation speech and a brief history of the small church. "The church was at first made up of mostly public servants and has expanded since its beginnings. We used to pray usually under the house of the former District Administrator, John Nicholas" said Mr Gordian Landime.



He said that the parish building started off with the 200 Kina contribution from an elderly catholic woman. Faith and providence of God has seen us built this Church and we are thankful to the faithful Christians of this church who though without much continue to put hands together to meet the needs of the church. The small celebration at St. Henry in Mutzing ended with creative dances from the parishioners. The day was joyful and cheerful; people shared the love of God with another as they embraced their 25 years of existence.

**"parish building started off with the 200 Kina contribution from an elderly catholic woman "**





# PASTORAL PLAN: A JOURNEY OF RENEWAL

The Diocese of Lae is on a journey of renewal. This journey includes on going discussions on the best and most suitable pastoral plan for th Diocese in this era.

From November 27th to December 1st 2023, a Diocesan Pastoral Assembly was held at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre in 8 miles under the theme 'Journeying Together in Synodality'. The one-week workshop was facilitated by Fr Roger Purcel MSC from the Sacred Heart Missionaries in Australia. His Lordship Bishop Rozario Menezes SMM described the one week long meeting as a moment of deep listening to one another.

A total of 50 participants attended the workshop. Participants were representatives from all the pastoral organs of the Diocese. Parish priests with their representatives from all the parishes in Lae Diocese and all the Diocesan Service Coordinators attended. The Assembly was organized by the Diocesan Pastoral Animation Team. The Facilitator, Fr Roger explained that the purpose of the pastoral assembly was to help facilitate the implementation of the diocesan pastoral plan for the desired renewal. Fr Roger reflected on the Pastoral Plan and on the Spirituality of Communion with the assembly.

The Engine room of the Assembly, the Diocesan Pastoral Animation Team, presented a big picture of the plan in three stages to the attendants and who then in turn approved the plan. Currently the team is working on the guidelines and the action plans and that are yet to approved by the same Diocesan Pastoral Assembly in the comming meetings.







The longest serving priest and the new missionary priest, Fr. Edward Suakau and Fr. Christudass





# ALL SAINTS CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

The parishioners of All Saints Parish in Bumbu settlement celebrated the Golden Jubilee feast day of the parish on Sunday 19th of November 2023. All Saints Parish started in 1973 when Fr Henk Jansen CMM became the first parish priest. It was separated from St Mary's Parish, the Cathedral Church today during the same year.

The parish priest, Fr Wilfred Salhun CMM asked parishioners to always think of all the everyday and tune in to the radio so that they can be always learn some things from the lives of saints. He explained that the Saints are God's chosen people and they play a very important role in the kingdom of God. The parish priest went on to say that saints are known for the simple but good and miraculous things they do here on earth. He added that the parish is blessed to be called All Saints. He encouraged everyone to walk the life of holiness and urged the faithful to act like the saints.

During the celebration of the Liturgy of Mass, Fr. Wilfred baptized seven young adults who also received the First Holy Communion at the same time. The four Basic Christian Communities in All Saints Parish are: St Peter's, St Paul's, Blessed Peter Torot and St John. These communities presented their thanksgivings offerings on this special occasion. The chairman, Rudolf Sikoko who is the tenth chairperson of the parish said that some of their former parishioners left the Church and moved on to other churches. The population is small and has resulted in limited

number of people attending Mass on Sunday and during week days. He encouraged the leaders of parish to be creative and innovative in order to attract inactive members of the church.

Parishioners of All Saints parish celebrated their 50th anniversary with the visitors from St. Martin's Parish and the radio staff. The celebration was marked with creative dance and band performances presented by the four basic Christian communities of parish. The people of Bumbu settlement witnessed this occasion and were very cheerful.





**PICTURES: Fr. Wilfred Salhun CMM with the faithful of All Saints Parish in Bumbu**



## **NEW TB WARD: Center of Mercy**





# INCREASED NUMBER OF TB CASES

The nurses, community health workers and health extension officers of the Center of Mercy Clinic took a march with banners and placards in the drizzling rain on Friday 22nd March 2024. The march was an awareness on the increase in cases of patients with Tuberculosis virus. Cases are frequently reported at Center of Mercy from those who live in Kamkumung and Awagasi compounds in Lae City have increased.

Sponsored by Trukai industries, the march was an outreach to inform people about the dangers and give preventive measures that can curb the spread tuberculosis. According to Theresia Amato - a Community health Worker the march was prompted by data survey of the TB cases in Morobe. Statistics obtained from Center of Mercy show the following: From 2018 the cases recorded were 690. In 2019 they were 960 cases. A drop was seen in 2020, the record was 492 cases due to restriction of movements during the covid-19. In 2021 it increased again to 1,159, in 2022 to 1,113; in 2023 it was at 1,613. Currently in 2024, the cases stand at 1,690.

Theresia said that in the past there was no TB clinic in Kamkumung area and patients used to go to Buimo Prisons clinic. But because of the increase in TB patients as the data shows, Buimo clinic cannot treat all the cases. "Majority of these cases are from the Kamkumung/Awagasi compounds" she said. The number of cases has increased dramatically since the new TB clinic was set up at the Centre of Mercy Clinic in 2018. At the beginning of this year Bishop Rozario Menezes SMM opened and blessed an extension of the new TB ward at Center of Mercy.

*"Though we are commemorating the World TB day", Theresia added "there are no drugs and many facilities in Lae to treat TB patients and it has been like that for years and for the last four weeks patients were sent back home without medicines or treatment".*

## New TB ward at Center of Mercy in Kamkumung Lae





# PHOTOS: January 4, 2024. New TB Ward





# PHOTOS: January 4, 2024. New TB Ward



FOLLOW AND LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE: **CATHOLIC FM 103.7 PNG**, FOR THE LIVE STREAMING OF THE LITURGY OF MASS AND FOR MORE INTERESTING STORIES FROM LAE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Lae Diocese Communication Team  
**Fr. Brian Nonde CMM** - Director of Communications Lae Diocese  
**Br. Jorge Andrade CMM and Fr. Wilfred Salhun CMM**  
**Nolan Pandau** - Radio Announcer  
**Dylanney Meckle, Lian Taplan and Kristal LengLeng** - Volunteers





## SIXTY YEARS: St. Joseph's Technical School

St Joseph Catholic Technical students with their teachers and the ancillary staffs at 8mile in Huon Gulf District of Morobe Province celebrating the feast of saint Joseph that marked its 61st years of existence. The main celebrant was Fr. Roland Matoyi CMM, Superior of the Congregation of Missionaries of Mariannahill and Vicar General of the Diocese of Lae. The concelebrant was Fr Tommy Thomas Harrell the School chaplain. The liturgy was led by the students. In his homily, Fr Roland highlighted two most important characteristics (pasin) of Saint Joseph: responsibility and faith in God. Fr. Roland encouraged the students to follow the footsteps of St Joseph, to not be afraid of the responsibility they have and to have faith in God. "The Students of St Joseph's Technical School look up to St Joseph as their role model" said Fr. Roland.

After the liturgy, the Papua New Guinean flag was raised and the National Anthem sung. The School President Eddie Wale gave then a welcoming speech. The School Manager Mr Kepusu Gedisa acknowledged the presence of everyone and gave a special word of appreciation to the invited guests. The theme for the day was "Strive for the Highest". This them sought to encourage the students to always aim high and do not be ashamed or have any negative thoughts but to always trust in the Lord. The students participated in the celebration with devotion and honor of St Joseph, their patron saint. The celebration ended with drama performance of the life of Mary and Joseph and the famous East New Britain traditional whip dance. Fr. Wilfred ended the day with a word of prayer.

## PALM SUNDAY: St. Michael's Parish Eriku

Palm Sunday commemorates the day when Jesus entered into Jerusalem riding on the donkey and it's the beginning of the Holy week. The Catholic parishioners of the St Michaels Parish in Lae Eriku Morobe Province commenced their Holy Week with the Live Facebook feed of the Liturgical celebration on Palm Sunday. The parish priest Fr Jomi Chaneparambil in the company of Fr Alphonso and Fr Brian Nonde CMM acknowledged and welcomed the presence of Catholic FM Radio workers during the announcements. The Palm Sunday procession began at St Mary's Primary School Hall. Fr Jomi blessed the palm leaves and the parishioners. After the blessing, the parishioners sang harmoniously with joyful hearts headed to the parish in procession. Fr Jomi explained to the faithful the meaning of three significant feasts of the Jews: Peace-passo, Shavuot-Pente, Sukkot-Feast of Tabernacles. Fr Jomi then went on to encourage everyone to humble like Jesus and to always pray. "Humility will teach us one lesson 'God's grace' and will make us understand that we need God every day. Jesus is the real example of humility." Fr Jomi said in his homily. Fr Alphonso Voorn CMM, the eldest priest concelebrated .







## THEY WALKED WITH HIM THE CRUCIFIED

On 29th day of the month of March 2024 the youths of the Catholic Diocese of Lae were joined by hundreds of believers in Lae as they walked the Stations of the Cross. They walked through the humid heat of the sun carrying the cross from 05am to 12pm. The whole City witnessed how the Diocese recalled in action the 14 stops of Jesus on the road to Calvary in Jerusalem. His Excellency, Bishop Rozario Menezes SMM, the clergy and the religious accompanied them in this Good Friday spiritual exercise. The procession began from Saint Therese Parish in Kamkumung and ending at Saint Mary's Primary School Hall – where they reflected on the Fourteenth Station, received words of encouragement and blessing from the Bishop.

Hundreds who attended experienced this day as a significant spiritual exercise. Each parish was assigned a station to reflect on. Reflections and prayers that were said at each station of the cross reflected the political, socio-economic problems that are currently affecting the society of Papua New Guinea, in particular Lae City and other urban populated areas. The prayers were prepared by each delegated parish. In the spirit of ecumenism the Anglican Church was also assigned a station of the cross, their priests and faithful too shared the word and reflected on the challenges the country is facing.

The youths of today need freedom from social, economic and political problems said the youth Chaplain of the Diocese of Lae, Fr. Jomi Chaneparambil. "In Lae the youths decided to come in numbers and walked with Him the crucified in prayer as an act of penance for all pain they continue to face today" said the chaplain. Participating youths on that Good Friday felt and identified their lives with that of Jesus their savior on the way of the cross to Calvary.



# EASTER SUNDAY AT HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

Fifteen children received the Sacrament of Baptism on Easter Sunday at Holy Spirit Parish. Fr. Brian Nonde CMM the concelebrant and homilist of the day instructed the God-parents and explained the significance of the candles that they held for their god sons and daughters. The candle he said symbolizes the light of Jesus Christ. He told the God parents to walk with their children in the light of Christ.

Fr. Brian, furthermore reminded the church members that we are living in a society where people add to salt, tomato, onion and sugar to the actual truth. "Do not give information that you are not clear about; God knows everything, he sees everything with precision, he is the alpha and the omega. He is the omniscient God." Said Fr. Brian. He went on to encourage the faithful of Holy Spirit to always find out for ourselves. Reflecting on the Gospel of the day about the witnesses of the resurrection Fr. Brian said "if you don't have the interest to find out for yourselves, you will be cheated by those who spread fake news. Experience is the best teacher, especially in Church." He summarized his homily by saying "you cannot talk about resurrection without talking about suffering and death. This is true experience Jesus and indeed all of us in life, through hardships then we come to know that he is always there living and saving as always." Fr Brian ended the homily with the question, which grave I am or are you in right now and what is your experience of that grave?

Solemn Easter Eucharistic Mass was celebrated by Fr Anthony Pradeep the parish priest of the Holy Spirit Parish in Boundary road. The Chairman of the parish acknowledged the presence of Fr Brian and Catholic FM 103.7 radio team. He thanked everyone for attending Mass. He applauded the Choir Group and Fr Anthony for his hard work, especially for the Masses celebrated during Holy Week.

Saint Bartolomeo Basic Christian Community led the liturgy. Fr Anthony Pradeep the parish priest took off right after Mass to Christ the king Parish another Mass.



In the Photo on Holy Thursday, His Excellency Bishop Rozario Menezes SMM, kneeling before all the lay faithful leaders of St. Marys Cathedral as he washed their feet, the faithful of St. Marys Cathedral witnessed this gesture of Christ the humble servant.



# Bishop Sends Communication Team to Bulolo Town



The parishioners of the Holy Family Parish in Bulolo Urban LLG, Morobe Province, celebrated 3rd Sunday of Easter with Fr. Brian Nonde CMM, Director of Communications and Catholic FM Radio in the Diocese of Lae on the 14th of April, 2024.

In his homily he encouraged the faithful to courageously spread the Word of God. Fear and shame he said are hindrances to spreading the Gospel. Fr. Brian said that when we are trying to teach the word of God we should work together for it is not just the missionary's work but the work of all the faithful. Explaining to faithful of Bulolo he said that the main reason of their visit is that the Bishop of Lae Diocese wants all of us be a family that shares our faith stories and encourage each other. Catholic FM Radio Team is here to find out how best we can evangelize together, especially through media. "2 Timothy 1:7 states that, for God did not give us a spirit of fear but a spirit of kindness and love and most importantly courage" explained Fr. Brian. Fear is something that stops us from experiencing peace, from making progress especially in our country PNG he added. Women and many young girls especially are not free even to go to some markets. Fear (pasin blo poret em stap hap olgeta). Fr. Brian concluded by urging Christians to cast out this demon of fear in their communities and allow love and freedom to prevail for true evangelization and development to take place. "You are no longer slaves but free children of God" said Fr. Brian to the parishioners of Holy Family Parish in Bulolo.

In the company of Fr. Brian to Bulolo was Br. Jorge Andrade Dussan CMM, Br. Martin (Seminarist) and the Catholic FM 103.7 PNG Radio Team. The liturgy was led by the Holy Family Parish youths with processions. After the Eucharistic mass, the Chairman, Anton Laulai, acknowledged the presence the Radio team, active participation of the parishioners and all those who made efforts in preparing and decorating the church for Liturgy.





**from page 15 .** An elderly parishioner named Michael Panap in an interview with Catholic FM 103.7 PNG team gave a brief history of the parish. He said that in the past when the Charismatic Renewal Movement group came into the parish it helped bring the parishioners together and the number of parishioners increased. He also stated that in the past, in order for their parish to grow, they had to submit and work together with the missionaries.





# PHOTOS: Ariel view of St. Patriscks and Holy Family







## FACE LIFT OF ST. JOSEPHS CHAPEL





# IN THE PHOTOS: Chrism Mass and Confirmation



Photos of the Chrism Mass from St. Marys Cathedral and Confirmation from St. Pauls Chaplaincy Igams Barrack.

**Expect the second Edition of 2024 Newsletter from us after three months. Blessings and thankyou, pray for us.**





Green Mountains on the Way to Bulolo

**Lae Diocese Communication Team**

**Fr. Brian Nonde CMM** - Director of Communications Lae Diocese

**Br. Jorge Andrade CMM and Fr. Wilfred Salhun CMM**

**Nolan Pandau** - Radio Announcer

**Dylanney Meckle, Lian Taplan and Kristal LengLeng** - Volunteers

