



PNG TANGET

News Leaflet of Mariannahill in Papua New Guinea

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Mariannahill College Bomana
P.O. Box 54 Gordons, NCD

Dear friends,

Here comes an update about our life and work in Papua New Guinea. With Christmas we'll be back.

CMM and CPS in LAE AND BOMANA

Fr. Frans Lenssen returned to the Netherlands, after having been "on loan" from the Dutch Region for nearly a year. He left PNGn the 22nd of June. In the Netherlands he has taken up the task of being the chaplain of the CPS convent of Heilig Bloed in Aarle-Rixtel. He has also started publishing a newsletter for the Dutch CMM region, called HELLO. It is published in Dutch, English and German.

With **Fr. Anthony Mulderink** still in the Netherlands, we are in Lae at the moment only 4 Mariannahill Missionaries, including Bishop Christian Blouin. Fr. Sido v.d, Werf is at St. Joseph's Station, Fr. Arnold Schmitt at the St. Mary's Presbytery and Fr. Krzysztof Zacharuk at Mariannahill House in Eriku.

Anthony went originally to the Netherlands for the renewal of his passport, at the beginning of the year. The red tape took long enough for him to discover that one of his hips needed operation. That has now successfully been done on the 11th of September and we expect him back in Lae before Christmas.

When he comes back he will find the city of Lae visibly more affected by the changes caused by the industrial activities around the Liquid Natural Gas project. More companies have established themselves along the highway leading to the Highlands. The most visible "icon" of the industrial hub is

the immense collection of containers which occupies the old airport. The message that comes from this modern Mount Sinai is: "wealth and abundance are poured out over the country. Come and have a share!" And people come indeed. Sharing in the wealth is, however, a different thing altogether.

On the 22nd of August we celebrated with **Bishop Chris** his Golden Jubilee as Religious. There was a festive lunch at the Diocesan Offices with all the Diocesan Staff and CMM and CPS invited and in the afternoon we celebrated the Eucharist in the confession chapel at St. Mary's.

On this occasion I may remember Bishop Chris' curriculum in PNG. Being born on the 1st of November and having gone through his formation in the Canadian CMM Province, he was ordained a priest in 1969.

In 1985-86 he had his first missionary experience in Lae. He returned in 1989. He served first in the All Saints parish, Bumbu, and then in St. Patrick, Tent City. He was also chaplain of the Charismatic renewal movement.

With him the formation of candidates for Mariannahill in PNG was taken serious. In 2002 he moved with them to Port Moresby. Under his supervision the Mariannahill College at Bomana was built and inaugurated in 2003.



The then Fr. Chris was its first rector. In 2005 he returned to Lae

and became parish priest of St. Martin.

On the 5th of may 2007 he was installed as Bishop of Lae, succeeding Bishop Henry van Lieshout, who had been Lae's first Bishop for 40 years.

Also our CPS Sisters had this last summer a special celebration. On the 2nd of June, Corpus Christi Sunday, two Golden Jubilees shook hands, the one of **Sister Clemence Klever's** religious profession and the one of **50 years CPS presence in PNG.**

Bishop Chris presided the Eucharist. Remarkable was the singing of the choir, having entered really into a new choir experience under the guidance of **Sister Mary Pascal.**

Afterwards there was ice cream for the kids and a festive lunch for the invited guests. A beautiful pig adorned the table.

Present at the feast was **Sister Thecla Ndegwa** of the CPS General Government, who on the 10th of June flew back to Rome. At the moment our CPS Sisters outnumber us, CMM in Lae, with six of them working in the diocese. In the health and pastoral sector they do a great job.



OTHER CHURCH EVENTS

On June 18 one of the Lae diocesan priests, **Fr. Edward Sakau**, had together with a visiting priest, the Vicar General of the diocese of Wewak, a more than unpleasant experience on the ecumenical level. Seventh Day Adventists had already for three weeks been holding noisy meetings - with as usual a lot of anticatholic rhetoric - next to the Catholic church in Kamkumung. The Catholic Mothers of the parish had a meeting and wanted to do something. The youth wanted to fight. Fr. Edward, the parish priest, told him to leave it to him.

When on that day, together with the visiting priest, he walked up to the leaders of the SDA meeting to talk with them, they were beaten up by the attending crowd. The visiting priest, Fr. Lawrence Tanum, had his jaw broken. Somebody cut Fr. Edward's lips with the slash of a knife while another one left him with a black eye.

Let's hope that the incident teaches the SDA leaders to restrain their preachers, who love electrifying their audience with their attacks on the Catholic Church, so that their faithful may not see in every Catholic the evil beast of the Apocalypse!

THE MISSIONARIES OF JESUS (MJ) 10 YEARS IN LAE

On Sunday August 4 the Missionaries of Jesus celebrated their 10 years presence in the Diocese of Lae with the theme: "MJ Family Celebrating Faith through the Eucharist". One of their members, recently ordained **Fr. Kirby G. Bagaslao**, presided. Bishop Chris was concelebrant. The event took place in the newly constructed Diocesan Hall at St. Mary's Primary School - Eriku, Lae. **Fr. Crespo Lape**, MJ who first arrived in the Diocese "alone but not lonely" was the homilist. He reminisced his arrival and the arrival of the first MJ team. In his homily, he thanked late Bishop Henry van Lieshout, CMM for the opportunity to journey with the PNG people.

During the festive shared meal later on the day Bishop Chris gave a speech congratulating the MJ as a whole and welcoming Fr.

Kirby as an addition to the priests in the diocese. Bishop Chris, in his message, challenged the faithful to continue working together as one family of Christ in order to achieve the vision of the Diocese as a Church alive in Christ.

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, BOMANA Another Golden Jubilee

The Catholic Theological Institute at Bomana (CTI) is the academic institution where our Mariannahill candidates and confreres do their philosophical and theological studies since 2002. On Friday, 28th of June CTI celebrated its Golden Jubilee electrify

Today the number of seminarians and clerical religious enrolled at Catholic Theological Institute is 120. Another 130 are enrolled in seminaries in other provinces of the country and in the Solomon Islands: Vanimo, Ropollo, Banz and Honiara, Solomon Islands.

PNG AND ITS FOCUS IN THE LAST FIVE MONTHS

A major and central point of attention in the country has been the most famous prisoner in PNG, the bank robber William Nanua Kapris. Kapris was serving a 30-year jail term in the Bomana prison for a Bank South Pacific robbery in Madang some years ago plus other crimes such as the theft of gold bars in Port Moresby.

Kapris had walked out of the prison's main gate with two other "high risk" criminals.

A few weeks later he was caught and killed by the police. Some family members asked for an investigation, but the issue disappeared from the news.

Kapris' case was famous because some national VIPs seemed to have been involved in his operations. His death meant his silence and was for some people the best solution.

Another point of attention and national debate has been and is still

the ban imposed by the Governor of the National Capital District, Powes Parkop, on the sale of betel nut within the boundaries of the national capital Port Moresby. With that measure he wants to reduce the chewing of betel nut in the capital, in the hope that with this reduction also the red spittle which goes with it will not stain anymore footways, squares and walls in town.

Most people agree that the red spittle everywhere is an eyesore and doesn't make the city attractive for tourists. The discussion is, however, how best procure its disappearance. The betel nut is a social drug and part of social life. Its eradication seems in PNG virtually as impossible as that of smoking in the West.

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