



PNG TARGET

News Leaflet of Mariannahill in Papua New Guinea



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Mariannahill Eriku
P.O. Box 3, 411 Lae, PNG

Dear friends of Mariannahill PNG!

We are already at the end of the second month of this year 2021, and this being the first issue of *Tanget* this year, I guess I should begin by wishing you all a very happy and fulfilling year 2021. We are grateful and appreciative of the positive feedback we received from many of you over the layout of the last issue of our news leaflet. We hope this one will make an impression too. Thanks to Fr. Brian Nonde CMM, Fr. Alfonso Voorn CMM, and the rest of the team for the great work.

I am sure you will agree with me that last year, 2020, was very challenging to all of us and to many around the globe. This year seems more less a continuation.

Covid-19 has become a threat as well as an enemy to human life. It has created fear and anxiety among the people. We do not trust each other now in matters of health. Mere coughs and colds are treated with suspension, so that we even squeeze normal coughs down the throat when preaching, on Holy Communion queues and in many other public places, for fear that it could be considered Covid-19.

Compared to other places, we here in Papua New Guinea should be grateful. I have faith that God has kept us safe since the beginning of the pandemic. We have records of less than a thousand cases of Covid-19 and less than 10 Covid-19 related deaths, since the beginning of the pandemic. We are in solidarity and in prayer with all our CMM units and those who have suffered great losses during the pandemic. We hope that the vaccines already found and those yet to be discovered, will be effective and that they will reach each one of us in due cause in order that we may all win over this common enemy.

In the midst of all this, the Holy Father, Pope Francis reminds the Church and all the faithful, in his Lenten message that the season of Lent is a time for renewing faith, hope and love. As simple as this message may seem, the words of the Holy Father resonate with our experiences today. The challenges that humanity is experiencing need first and foremost faith in God. And not only faith as a spiritual entity, but faithfulness in our endeavors. Secondly, in our world today where humanity is rendered hopeless as a result of many painful experiences, brought about by pandemics and socio-economic and political calamities, humanity needs hope. Lastly, in a world where love has been reduced to mere utterances and acts without sacrifice and self-surrender, we need true love.

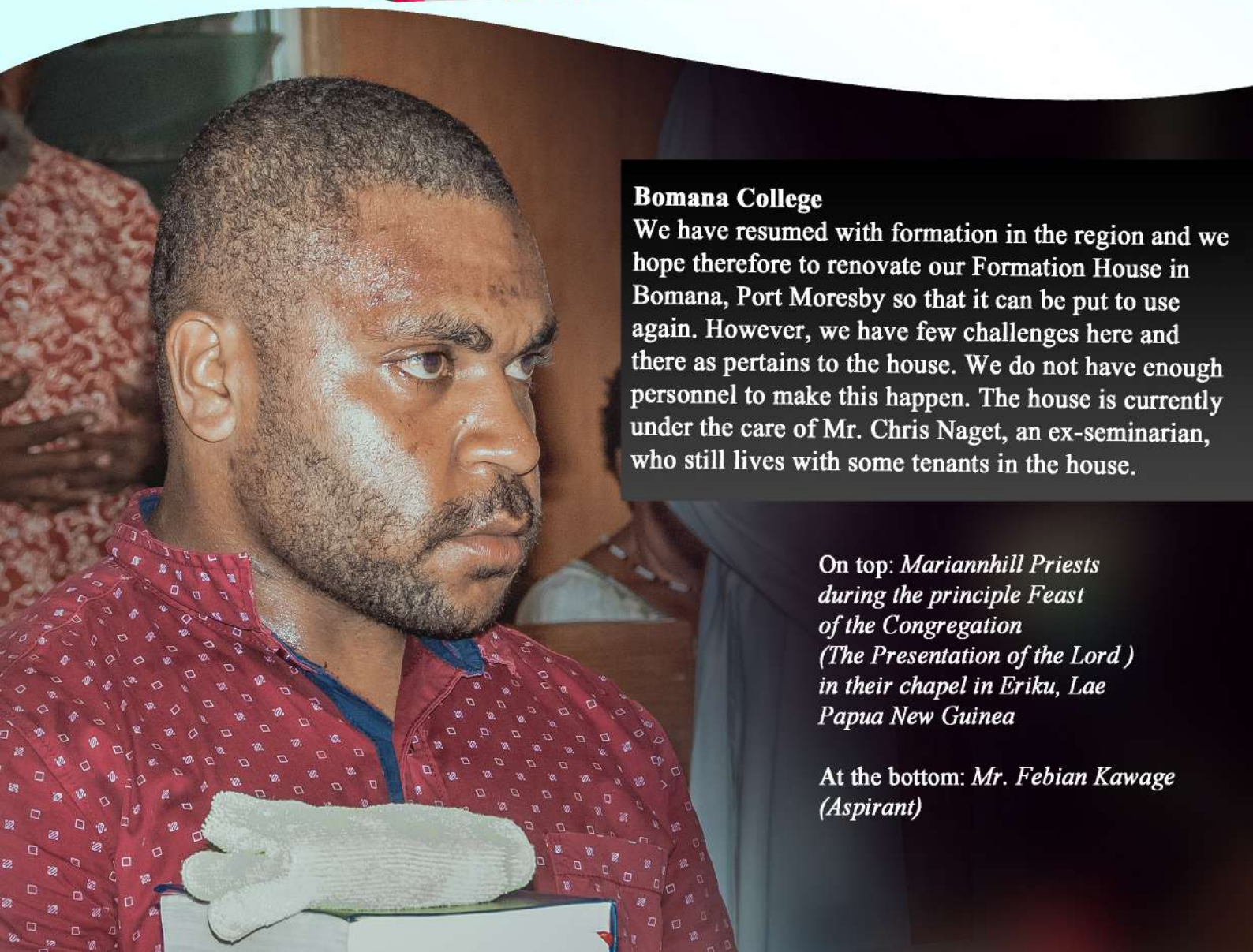


Fr. Roland Matoyi (Regional Superior)

With this in mind, I wish you all a fruitful and meaningful Lenten season, where we shall all strive to renew our faith, our hope and our love. As pertains to specific news from the CMM region of Papua New Guinea please do read on:

Formation: Aspirancy Program

As we communicated in the last Issue of the *Tanget*, we have decided to begin formation again as a region after quite a long time. We are therefore pleased to inform you that we received two young and energetic Papua New Guineans, Mr. Lea Juphil and Mr. Fabian Kawage, into the Aspirancy program of the Region. This happened during Holy Mass on the 2nd of February as we celebrated the main Feast of our Congregation, the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. The two are being accompanied by Fr. Brian as they aspire and desire to become missionary priests in the Congregation of the Missionaries of Mariannahill. To foster a formative community at Eriku where the two candidates are residing at present, all community members have been tasked with the responsibility of offering a course or two to the candidates, as part of their formation program. Considering the challenges we foresee, which range from lack of personnel in the region, to the depth of Christianity in this part of the world, and the quality of education, we have decided to hire a private teacher of English and re-enroll them for distance learning in a nearby Secondary School. We ask for your fervent prayers and God's blessings as we and they embark in this endeavor.



Bomana College

We have resumed with formation in the region and we hope therefore to renovate our Formation House in Bomana, Port Moresby so that it can be put to use again. However, we have few challenges here and there as pertains to the house. We do not have enough personnel to make this happen. The house is currently under the care of Mr. Chris Naget, an ex-seminarian, who still lives with some tenants in the house.

On top: Mariannahill Priests during the principle Feast of the Congregation (The Presentation of the Lord) in their chapel in Eriku, Lae Papua New Guinea

At the bottom: Mr. Febian Kawage (Aspirant)



Mariannahill Partner with World Vision in Papua New Guinea

Our Constitutions reminds us of our endeavour for the Local Church and Society. Abbot Francis Pfanner, Fr. Bernard Huss and all our forefathers keep challenging us every day to read the signs of the time and pursue new ways, attitudes and activities in our work. (See 2016 Chapter; CMM Const. 110 & 111). With this in mind, we have not only taken interest in using social media to communicate some important pastoral activities we do with children and the youths in the settlements areas where we are working, but have seriously engaged ourselves in fostering their well-being. World Vision, seeing some of these activities, expressed their intention to partner with us in reaching out to the children and the youths in the settlements areas in Lae. After lengthy discussions with World Vision in PNG, we have reached an agreement about what we and they should do or can do, in order to work towards the creation of the safe, caring and loving environment for children in the settlement areas where the three of us are currently working i.e. (Fr. Brian: 2-7 Miles, Fr. Roland: Kamkumung and Fr. Marco: Bumbu settlement).

The agreement is going to enable us implement a positive Christian model adapted from Africa and contextualised in Papua New Guinea. "*Celebrating Families*" is the name of the model that seeks to educate community units especially families in positive parenting and child wellbeing.

The initial work ad-experimentum started off with funds that came last year from our benefactors in Austria. It was exclusively limited to the children in 2 - 7 miles where Fr. Brian works. We are glad that a non-denominational Christian Organization, World Vision, saw the need too and have come on board to offer the Missionaries of Mariannahill help in terms training facilitators of the activities already in place in a very small way. We hope to be of positive impact in our communities. We hope this marriage which is expected to last for three years will give birth to tools that parents, youths and faith teachers in the communities can use for the common good, for positive change, and wellbeing of children in the mentioned settlement areas.



Mrs. Veronica Kaupa lives in 3 miles settlement area in Lae. She is a mother and Sunday Teacher at St. Stephens Parish. She along with others from the three settlement areas where we work have been trained as faith leaders under the partnership which we have established with World Vision in PNG. The partnership is aimed at delivering the Child Well Being services through improved parenting and caregiving practices in the communities where we work: Bumbu Compound, Kamkumung and 2 to 7 miles settlement areas in Lae Papua New Guinea



Traditional Bilas and Singing. St. Therese Parish in Kamkumung





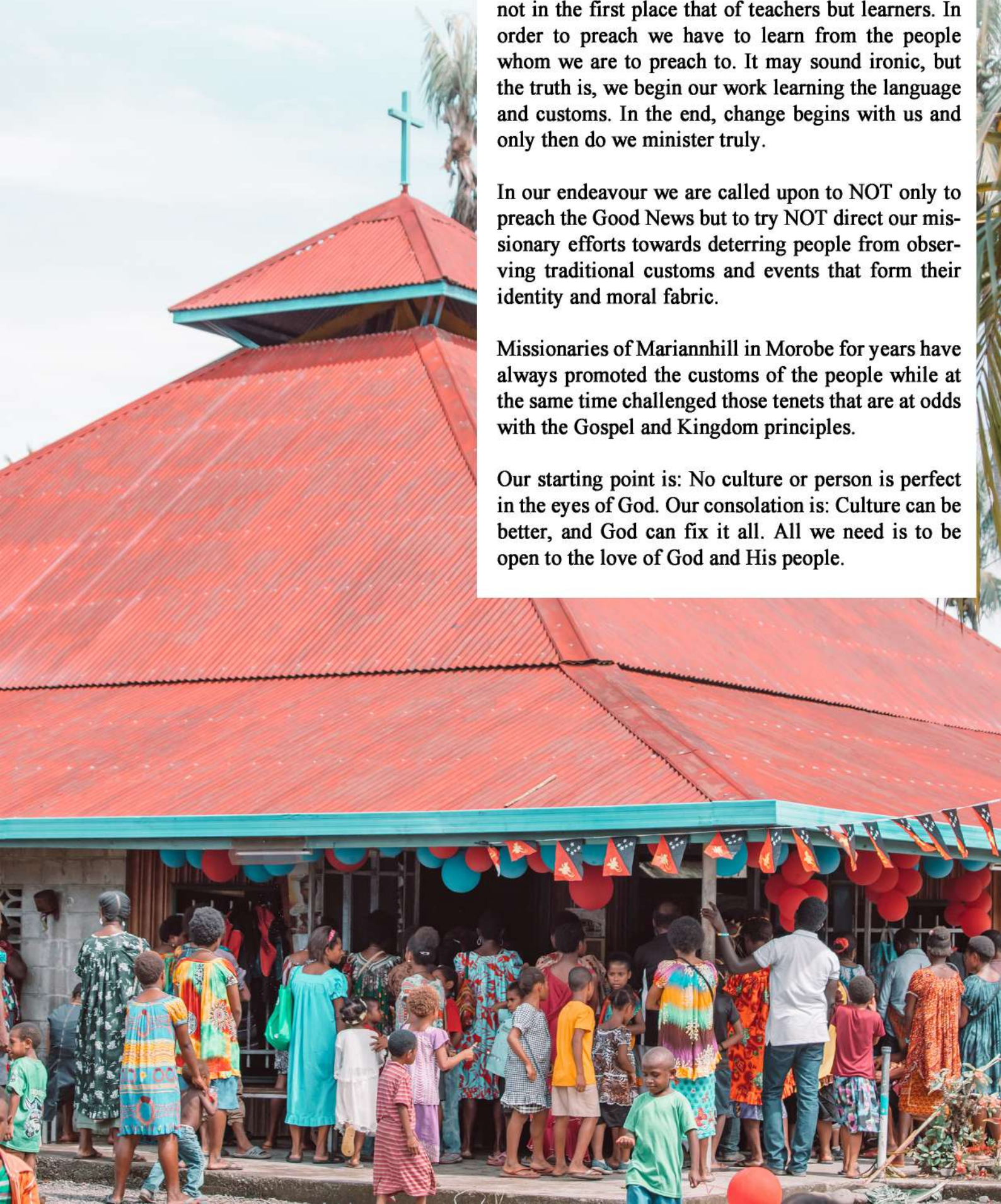
A Missionary Approach

We understand fully that our task as missionaries is not in the first place that of teachers but learners. In order to preach we have to learn from the people whom we are to preach to. It may sound ironic, but the truth is, we begin our work learning the language and customs. In the end, change begins with us and only then do we minister truly.

In our endeavour we are called upon to NOT only to preach the Good News but to try NOT direct our missionary efforts towards deterring people from observing traditional customs and events that form their identity and moral fabric.

Missionaries of Mariannahill in Morobe for years have always promoted the customs of the people while at the same time challenged those tenets that are at odds with the Gospel and Kingdom principles.

Our starting point is: No culture or person is perfect in the eyes of God. Our consolation is: Culture can be better, and God can fix it all. All we need is to be open to the love of God and His people.



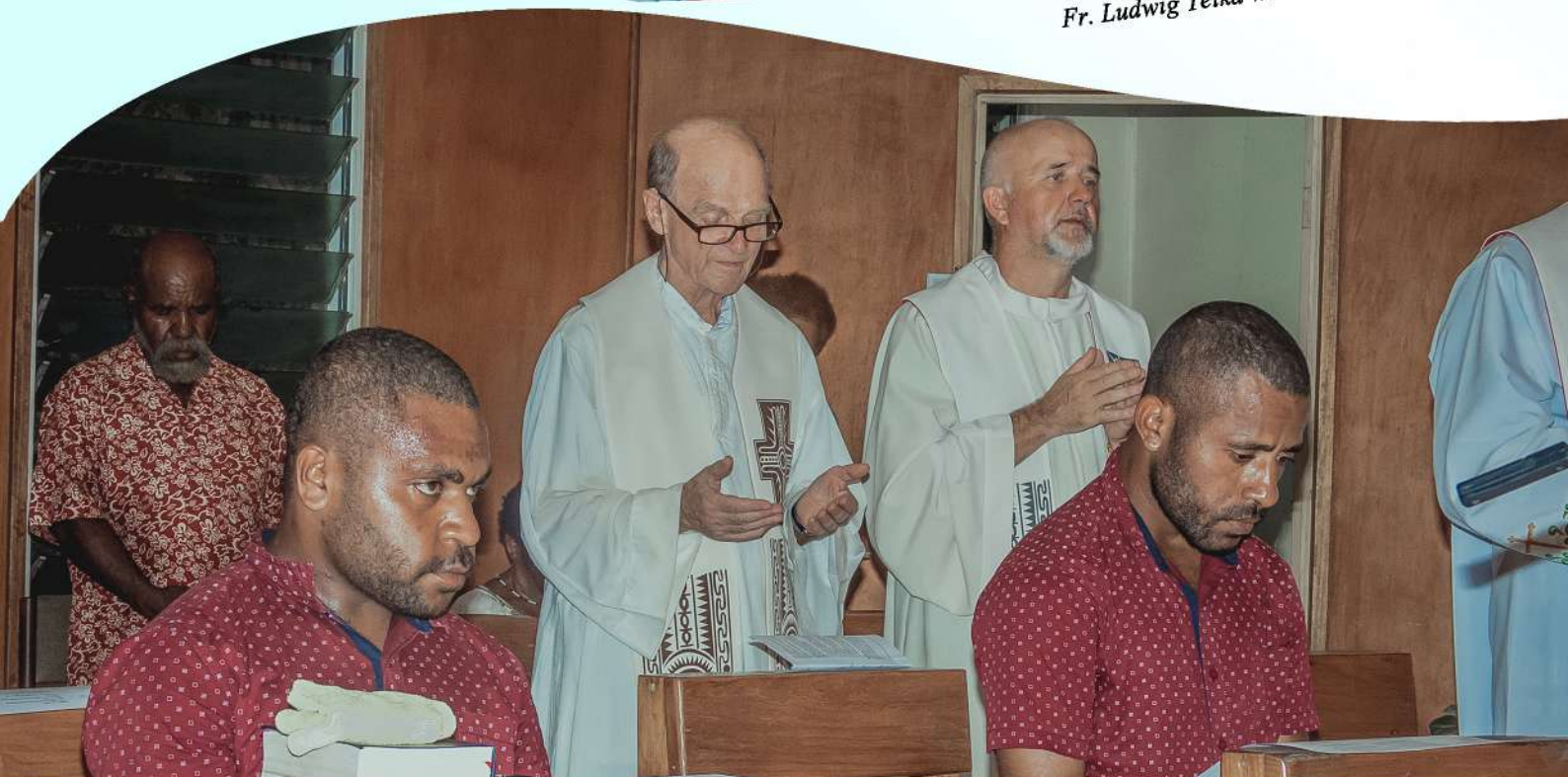


Altar servers. St. Stephens. 2-7 Miles Settlement Areas





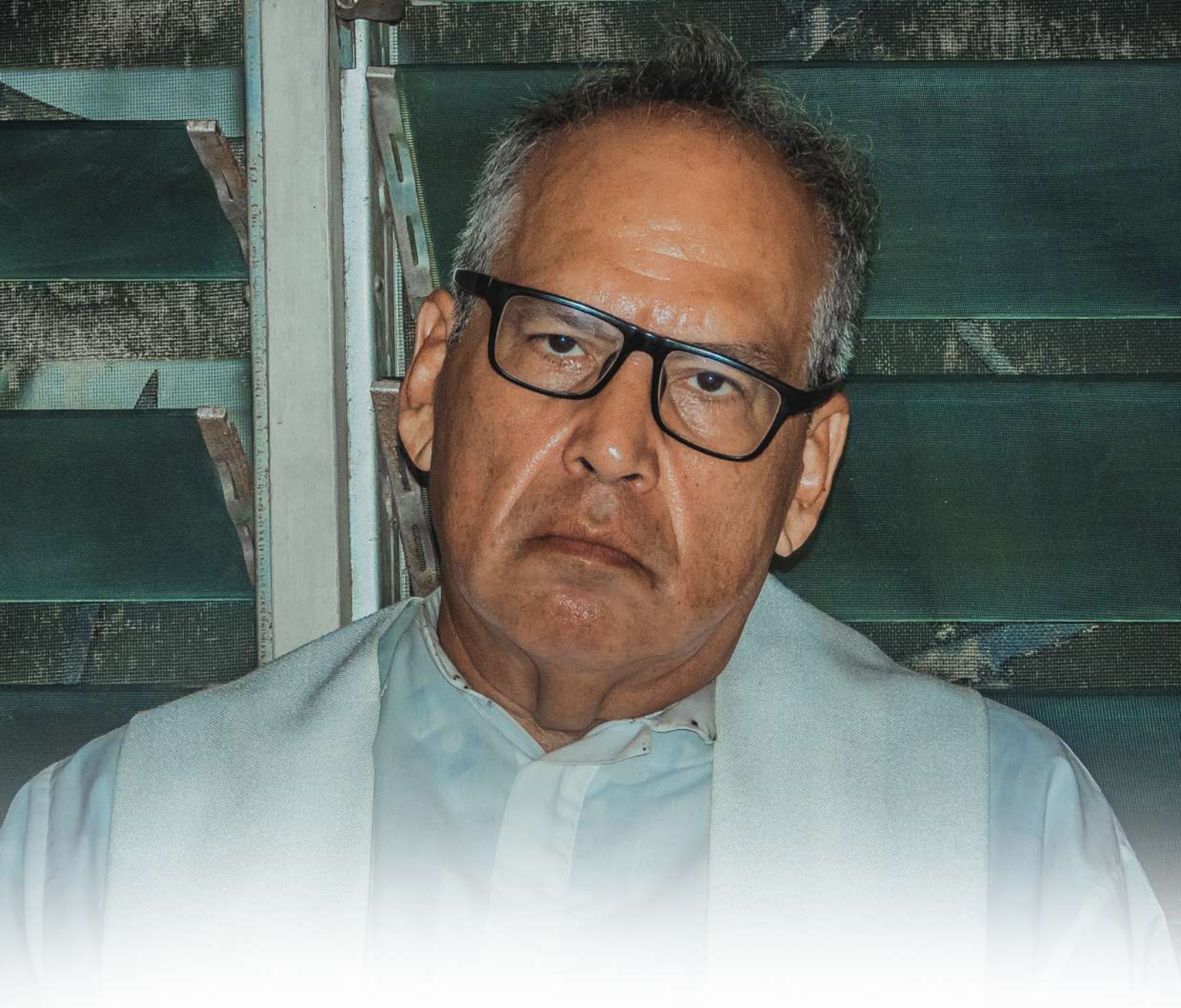
Fr. Ludwig Teika with the youths



Febian Kawage

Juphil Lea

*“Our presence in Papua New Guinea is not limited to providing pastoral workers for the Diocese of Lae, but also to promote our Charism and localising our Congregation in that Country”
(CMM General Chapter 2016 Faithful to My Call)*



A Priestly Journey of 25 Years

Fr. Marco Antonio Saavedra Quiel is celebrating his 25th priestly anniversary this year on 24th June. Below is a vocation journey of Fr. Marco:

Marco Antonio was born on 15th July 1961 in Panama City of the Republic of Panama and was baptized at San Juan Bautista de La Salle Parish in Ciudad. He attended his primary school training at Simon Bolivar Primary School. From 1974 to 1976 he was at Instituto Fermin Naudeau for his secondary school training. In 1979 Marco obtained a Bachelors in Commerce from Escuela Profesional I.H.O. From 1980 to 1984 he studied Business Administration and Accounts at the University of Panama. During his studies, Marco Antonio found himself as a job at Corporacion Internacional de Ingenieria in 1982 and at CALOX PANAMENA from 1983 to 1987. The two jobs seem apparently not satisfying enough for him. So he left to join the Missionaries of Mariannahill in order to serve God.

On 2nd February 1988 in Leon Spain, Marco was welcomed into the community of the Missionaries of Mariannahill as a postulant. After his postulancy, he went into the Novitiate and made his first religious profession on 8th of September 1989 in Leon, Spain. Fr. Marco will thus celebrate his 32nd anniversary as a religious this year. He made his final profession on 19th March 1994 in Salamanca.



Fr. Marco Antonio and Fr. Krzysztof

Marco Antonio studied both Philosophy and Theology at the Instituto Teologico de San Esteban (Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca) in Spain. He was ordained a Deacon on 8th July 1995 and a year later a priest on 24th of June in Salamanca.

Fr. Marco Antonio Saavedra Quiel has served in different places and capacities. While in Salamanca as a student priest, Marco worked with the Youths and the Legion of Mary at Saint Mathew Parish. He also served as a Catechetical instructor for those preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation at Parish of the Ascension, a job which he enjoyed until his diaconate ordination in 1995. He served as a deacon at Our Lady of Fatima in Salamanca.

In 1997, the then newly ordained priest Fr. Marco was sent to Ireland to study English at Lingua Viva in Dublin in preparation for mission work in South Africa. In South Africa, he was at Mount Nicholas Mission in Mthatha, Eastern Cape Province from 1997 to 2000.

He returned to Spain after three years of missionary work in Mthatha and became the Procura in the Mission Office in Leon, from 2000 to 2008. He became a member of the Missionary Animation Team (SCAM) from 2000 to 2008. In 2008 Fr. Marco went to Colombia and served at Montañas del Totumo until 2011. From 2012 to 2015 he worked in the Diocese of Soacha, at Our Lady of Nativity Parish. Between 2015 and 2018 Fr. Marco Antonio was in Rome and Spain, serving helping at the Generalate of the Missionaries of Mariannahill and working as chaplain to the sisters in Madrid respectively.

On 20th November 2018 Fr. Marco Antonio came to Papua Nueva Guinea. He has since then been helping in different parishes in the Diocese of Lae. He has been giving a hand when needed at Saint Martins, Saint Agustines, Saint Joseph's Chapel, Saint Therese, Saint Michael. He is currently the caretaker of All Saints Parish in Bumbu Compound. He is also a chaplain in charge of the Precious Blood Sisters in Eriku. He celebrates Mass daily with the sisters in Saint Ann Chapel at 6:30 am. Keep Fr. Marco Antonio Saavedra Quiel in your prayers as he prepares to celebrate his 25th priestly anniversary this year.



St. Stephens Altar Server's Soccer Team



To the Benefactors,

Thank you so much for the contribution to the apostolate of the Missionaries of Mariannahill in Papua New Guinea. Our words cannot fully express our gratitude to you. Thank you for coming to our assistance even amidst hardships of the global pandemic.

Your assistance has helped so much as it has allowed us to minister not only in the radio apostolate but reach out to more people in need who live in the settlement areas where we work, namely: Bumbu, 2-7 Miles and Kamkumung where All Saints Parish, St. Stephens Parish and St. Therese Parish are located respectively. With your help we were able to conduct training workshops aimed at changing minds for the child wellbeing. Some of our programs were aired on air for the wider audience within our coverage. The aim was to contribute positively and to improve parenting methods. World Vision PNG came in to partner with us. So we hope to continue on this path for the next three years also. We have been able to pick up positive messages from our outreach programs that we conducted in the communities, their real life stories are inspiring testimonies for possible social transformation.

We managed to get a determined team of volunteers, together with them we were able to visit families, pray with them and share. We seem to be settling well in the settlements and villages around us. Fr. Krzysztof is in the village in Siassi Island, he is always on water, puddling from one village to village and trekking on foot. Fr. Marco walks, yes, he doesn't drive into the most notorious compound in Lae, Bumbu. With no means of transport, he gets to know more people and that is his security. Fr. Roland has perhaps the most populated settlement area in Morobe. His nickname in Lae "Wosera" is surely part of his way of being one with the majority settlers. I am equally enjoying my work in the settlement area that stretches from 2 to 7 miles along the Highway Road. I have too much to do sometimes but it's Ok. So all in all we are literally never short of inspiring stories and not so good stories whenever come together.

So once again thank you, with your help we manage to do what we do every day. As I write to you, am looking back and asking myself, what would have happened to us had the help not come to us. The pandemic has literally locked us away from the rest of the world, we don't know for how long, God only knows. Thank for being close to us and for enabling us. We are praying for you.

Thank you,

Fr. Brian Nonde

*Regional Bursar, Vocation Director, - Catholic FM 103.7 (in the Diocese of Lae)
Parish Priest, Stephen's Parish, 2-7 Miles Settlement Areas, Lae.*

Missionaries of Mariannahill Currently Working in Papua New Guinea: Fr. Roland Matoyi from Kenya, Fr. Arnold Schmitt from Germany, Fr. Brian Nonde from Zambia, Fr. Krzysztof Zacharuk from Poland, Fr. Alfonso Voorn from Netherlands, Fr. Marco Antonio Saavedra Quiel, Fr. Ludwing Teika from Papua New Guinea (Sepik) and Fr. Wilfred Salhun from Papua New Guinea - (Tolai)



1. **PRAYER** is justice towards God
2. **FASTING** is justice towards self
3. **ALMSGIVING** is justice towards neighbour

**WISHING YOU
A BLESSED LENTEN
SEASON**





*The Mother of Juphil Lea
(aspirant)*

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