



PNG TARGET

News Leaflet of Mariannahill in Papua New Guinea

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St. Joseph's Mission,
P.O. Box 3, 411 Lae, PNG

Dear friends of Mariannahill PNG!

Greetings from Lae with some of the more visible news about our daily life in the last few months. Permit me to go through it, following the calendar.

On the 16th of July **Sister Henriqueta Muchate, CPS**, came back from home-leave in Mozambique. But her hope to go back to her daily work with the sick at the Mercy Centre was shattered by her worsening physical condition. Returning to Mozambique seemed the best solution, although it must have been a painful decision for her to leave Lae, where she had been so close to the people for 10 years, leading the Mercy Centre in Lae, founded by late Bishop Henry van Lieshout, cmm. Sister Henriqueta left us on the 12th of August. Thus she was in Mozambique when Pope Francis visited the country in September. She actually was so lucky and blessed to meet him.



Sister Henriqueta meeting Pope Francis in Maputo

On the 16th of July in the Netherlands a former confrere and missionary in PNG, **Jan Klijn**, died at the age of 78. As Br. John he had been 17 years in Lae Diocese, from 1968 till 1985, being part of the building team and giving classes at St. Joseph's Technical School. After going back to the Netherlands, another vocation lighted his path and he became a good husband and family father.

On the 24th of July **Fr. Roland Matoyi Masima, cmm**, arrived safe at Lae airport Nadzab after a well deserved home-leave.

On the 26th of July, day of St. Anne, one of our Mariannahill Feast Days, we had a kind of welcome celebra-tion. Fr. Roland is our new Regional Superior, office which he took over from Fr. Alfonso Voorn, cmm, on the 1st of August.



F. Roland Matoyi Masima,
Regional Superior CMM, PNG

Since 29 July and till November **Sister Pauline Mpongo, CPS**, was working in the paediatric department of the Angau Hospital in Lae, as an orientation in the sanitary environment of Lae. She has joined now the team at the Mercy Centre in Kamkumung.

On the 30th of July we had a priest-meeting with **Bishop Rozario Menezes** at the Pastoral Centre at 8 Mile, Lae. A kind of stock-taking was initiated and all parish priests received a stack of papers with questions, the answers to which should provide the necessary data. **Fr. Vinod D'mello**, a Montfort Father, incorporated in the Diocese of Lae since June and the actual chancellor of the Diocese, gave the introduction.

At the end of July **Fr. Brian Nonde** travelled to Bougainville in order to participate in a Radio and Media Seminar. The Seminar was designed to equip the Bougainville Diocesan Staff with media skills, as the diocese is launching a new radio station. Fr. Brian was the main celebrant in the opening Mass and instructed the participants of the seminar.



Fr. Brian facilitating a session on 'Media Education', highlighting the nature, techniques and impact of the media.

From August on **Fr. Alfonso Voorn, cmm**, started taking care of the Buimo sub-parish, which till now was looked after by **Fr. Apol Dulawan, MJ**, who will be away for a year, having a sabbatical year in the Philippines.

On Tuesday, the 27th of August we, CMM, came together to elect the members of our new Regional Council. Elected were, in the following order, **Fr. Arnold Schmitt, Fr. Brian Nonde and Fr. Krzysztof Zacharuk**.

Fr. Arnold became thus the Vice-Regional Superior. We wish our Regional Council vision and resolve to give shape to our presence and commitment in Lae in the next future and under the new Bishop.

On the 29th of August **Bishop Rozario** had a meeting with the managers and principals of the Catholic Schools of the Diocese. A kind of crisis has come up, because the Government has not paid the subsidy due. Certain services can therefore not be delivered. It is part of the consequences of the reigning corruption. According to the latest information, given by the actual minister of Police, billions of Kinas have disappeared from the treasury in the last years. Nearly half of it seems to have arrived safe on private bank accounts in Australia! (The National, Nov 12, 2019) No wonder that the ten richest men of the country are or have been politicians.

Friday, the 30th of August, **Bishop Rozario** celebrated his 50th birthday and we with him. The Couples for Christ movement had organized a festive dinner at the Morobe Hotel. Invited were all close cooperators with the diocese.

On Sunday, the 1st of September, Bishop Rozario went to Bulolo in order to inaugurate and bless four new class rooms in the St. Peter Korona's Primary School. The St. Peter Koronas Primary School opened in 1973, being one of the first schools in the region. Honoring late Bishop Christian Blouin, cmm, who had made possible the start of the construction of the new classrooms via a loan from the Diocese, the new class rooms received his name.

In September the crisis of schools tightened at St. Joseph's Tech at 8 Mile. There was no money anymore to buy the food for the boarding students. They had to take refuge at relatives and wantoks in Lae or return home.

On the 5th of September Bishop Rozario accompanied our confrere **Fr. Krzysztof Zacharuk** to Siassi and got acquainted with the Catholic communities there. He returned on the 18th of September.

On the 8th of September several feasts coincided: It was the CPS Founding Day; St. Mary's Cathedral's Yearly Feast Day; Fr. Brian Nonde's 33rd birthday; Fr. Marco Saavedra and Fr. Alfonso Voorn celebrated 30 and 60 years Profession respectively.

Thus we had a lot of celebration finishing with the usual evening party in the haus win of our Mariannahill House at Eriku.



Church bells for St. Mary's Cathedral, inaugurated on its feastday, the 8th of September.

On the 5th of October our local deacon **Nicholas Radei** was ordained a priest by our Bishop Rozario Menezes in the Cathedral of Lae. A beautiful celebration with festive aftermath, strongly supported by the Bougainville community present in Lae.

Vocations are scarce and towards the end of October our Bishop went again to his home country, India, to contact Congregations that are willing to cooperate in the Lae Diocese. Let's hope he is successful.

In October the Amazon Synod took place in Rome, causing a lot of discussion. Some topics would also be applicable to PNG, after the Amazon one of the biggest forest reserves of the earth.

Sometimes it looks as if the task of maintaining law and order, normally in the hands of the police, is also felt by soldiers as part of their mission. Some even being too zealous in teaching peaceful citizens how to behave. Here a recent example:



A bus driver was forced to lie on the ground face down. The "defence" boots did the rest. Consequence: a "bilas" (adornment) of the face quite different from the traditional one.



Traditional "bilas"
Somehow preferable, isn't it?

Till Christmas! God bless!

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