



Voice of Hope

*From Holy Spirit Seminary,
Bomana, Port Moresby, PNG.*

1st Year September 2022 No. 6



Voice of the Rector



UNEXPECTED VISIT TO BOUGAINVILLE

On 7 July 2022 (the feast of blessed Peter to Rot) I got an unexpected invitation on my WhatsApp. A former seminarian at Holy Spirit Seminary invited me for his priestly ordinations. Usually I would not be not going for the ordinations except those in Bereina Diocese (reachable by car), above all because of the costs of the air tickets.

One month later, at the beginning of August, during the free time of the second term break, I felt that I needed to go somewhere out of Bomana, to refresh myself after a long time of staying in the seminary. Before the pandemic time 2020-2021 I was traveling more, for holidays in Poland, US, conferences in Rome, Paris, Auckland, and Melbourne. But for nearly 3 years of the pandemic time I was staying only in the seminary in Bomana, except for short visits in Kimbe, Alotau and Mt. Hagen.

When I re-discovered the invitation to Bougainville during my free time, the insistent idea came to my mind to go there. When I called Bougainville Bishop Darius Kaluza, he immediately convinced me to come because of the triple occasion: 1) to visit him, 2) to go for 5 days trip visiting many places on the island with four Holy Family Congregation priests and one lay cameraman who would professionally document our visit and 3) to witness the priestly ordination of deacon Methodius Maniarah.



For the first time ever, I took PNG Air to go there, and again it was a positive surprise. I flew on a new plane, had excellent service and a pleasant flight, and in the booklet magazine on board I found an exciting article about our Bomana parishioner Albert Ipu, an internationally recognised painter, unknown in Bomana as a great artist. On Sunday 14 August I left Port Moresby and in 3 hours landed in Buka. Immediately from the airport I was brought to Hehela parish during a great

feast of the Assumption: lunch and traditional dances until 6PM

Next morning, after morning Mass in one of the chapels in Buka our group of 5 travelers left Buka to Bougainville Island in a small boat, and then started a long drive along the Island via: Tinputz, Arawa until we arrived in Buin. As a place of first importance, we visited the Marist Brothers pastoral centre in Mabiri, Here we prayed at the tomb of the missionaries and late bishop Bernard Unabali. Then we went to St. Paul's Parish in Tunuru where Fr. Patrick Baria showed us the two items of the burned church that resisted the fires: a Bible and statue of the Virgin Mary. Afterwards, we went to the great attraction of the region of Arawa (the former capital) and visited the Panguna mine of gold and copper. Accompanied by Mrs. Celine Gorotoa, a landowner, we were able to visit all the details of the ruined mine. During the crisis 1988-98 all the infrastructure was devastated and is still not rebuilt. Only some local families extract the gold from the sand in a simple domestic way. During one day, from 15 bags of sand they are able to wash and receive the gold valued K 1,500.

After the night in a very hospitable pastoral centre in Arawa, we continued our trip visiting the cathedral in Arawa and churches in Koromira, Tabago, Piano and Tokaino, and finally we came to Turiboiru parish where we were welcomed by Fr. Ambrose Kakatai SM. The next day, from the pastoral centre Patupatuai, we went by boat to the Shortland Island in the Solomon Islands, visiting the parish and school in Nila. We met Fr. Stanis from Myanmar and local priest Fr.



Tomas who studied at the Holy Name of Mary Seminary in Honiara. Then we had a surprising encounter with a local immigration officer accompanied by two policemen. Many local people are coming there from Bougainville, but five white faces attracted their attention. They instructed us that in the future we have to fill a form and have our passports. They were gentle and didn't deport us as refugees. We also went back to PNG territory.



In the evening of the same day we had dinner in the house of the former president of Bougainville and former student of the Holy Spirit Seminary, Mr John Momis and his wife Elisabeth. Mr John gave us an interesting and thorough story of the history and current situation of Bougainville. Coming back to Buka, we had a short visit to St Mary's School in Asitavi assisted by the vice-principal, Ms. Valerian Muso.

We returned to Buka and the next day went to Gagan in the centre of Buka Island for the priestly ordination of deacon Methodius. Bishop Dariusz ordained his new priest in his family parish. Afterwards we had a reception and artistic program in a very comfortable haus win. There I met many of our seminarians, now priests: Giles Itamari, Anthony Kavelo, Wilbert Apunu, Basil Sango and Charles Panau.

On Sunday, after celebrating Mass in one of the chapels in Buka, I was brought by the parishioners to the airport to go back. But, another surprise, I was informed that today we will fly only to Rabaul and continue on Monday, so my flight was 24 hours including the afternoon and night in Rabaul. This was a providential award, because I could visit Vunapope, a pastoral centre of the Archdiocese of Rabaul, hosted by Fr. Joseph Mgalsos, I also met 3 deacons: Godwil Kolu, Patrick Taroro, and Clarence Amut, who had a workshop preparing them for the priestly ordination. In the early morning Fr. Paul Kote dropped me at the Tokua Airport and via the airports in Kimbe and Lae I landed safely at Jackson after 24 hours of traveling.

I am very grateful to the Divine providence to have a surprising and amazing opportunity to have one week excellent experience of Bougainville.

***REV. FR. JACEK TENDEJ C.M.
RECTOR, HOLY SPIRIT SEMINARY.***

47TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

Year 2022 is another special and significant year for Papua New Guinea (PNG) as an independent state. The country celebrated 47 years old as the nation since 1975 without blood-shed. We thankfully remember the founding fathers of this beautiful nation who immensely



contributed their tireless and collaborative efforts to make sure that we gained political independence from the colonial administrations. May God give eternal rest to our founding fathers who passed on from this life. On Friday 16th September 2022 the Catholic Theological Institute gathered to celebrate the 47th anniversary of PNG's independence. It was very joyful moment since we were not only celebrating the PNG's birthday but also giving special recognition of Catholic Church's contribution towards the nationhood. In fact, some of the very key people who drafted and synthesized the country's first Constitutions were the pioneering students of Holy Spirit Seminary like Sir. John Momis and Sir Ignatius Kilage are to name just





few. On the same note, this independence celebration is a unique because the world is in total chaos. A classic example is Ukraine-Russia War that affects the humanity resulting in global economic crisis.

In conclusion, Independence Day should help the Papua New Guineans to think on how best they can help progressively contribute in nation-building. The famous saying of American President John F Kennedy echoes, “I must not ask what should my country do for me, rather I should ask, and what can I do for my country?” Therefore, the celebration in itself should help us to look deeply into our hearts to reflect on the depth of current social-economic and political situations of Papua New Guinea as whole. Our country is so diverse and complex with the pluralistic practices and beliefs in the spirits that influence our cultures and the way we live and think. The way the societies are operating that all depend on our cultures and traditions. Perhaps, we must ask ourselves as the country has celebrated the 46th years, are we really matured and stabled spiritually, economically, politically and socially?



BY KESKALA JACK JNR

“We live in Jesus Christ through the death of Jesus Christ, and we must die in Jesus Christ through the life of Jesus Christ, and our life must be hidden in Jesus Christ and filled with Jesus Christ and in order to die as Jesus Christ, we must live as Jesus Christ”

- St. Vincent de Paul

Institution of the Ministry of Lector and Acolyte



The seminary formation for priesthood study is a privilege to discern the real meaning of life to follow Jesus to continue his mission. It becomes even more pleasant when there are changes in the stages of formation that draw us closer to the priesthood. The two minor ministries that bring radical changes in

the mind and the heart is the ministry of Lector and acolytes. Lector is the first stage of minor ministry that is to proclaim the Good News of our Risen Lord and then followed by the Acolyte is the service of the Alter. After these two minor ministry seminarians are looking forward to become a deacon and later a Priest.

On 21st of September 2022, we have 23 brothers from different Religious Congregations joined Holy Spirit Diocesan Seminarians who were instituted into the ministry of Lector and Acolyte by His Lordship Bishop Justin Ain Soongie of the Diocese of Wabag. From 23 brothers; 7 were



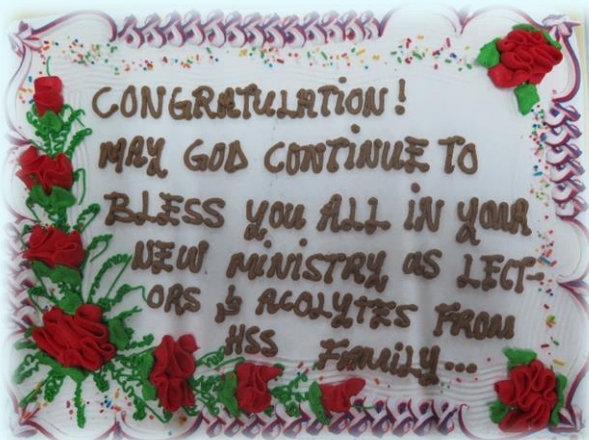
instituted Acolyte and 13 were Lectors witness by the seminarians and Priest from different religious Congregations. It was the greatest joy for us who have been instituted into the ministry.

My personal reflection from the ministry of Acolyte was a great pleasure after 4 years of being in the seminary formation as a seminarian. But after instituted to the “Lector Ministry” on the 2021 and then to Acolyte this year (2022) was a great joy in my heart which I felt so close to the clerical state. I felt at this moment I am uplifted closer to the “Ministry of Deacon” and priest to serve Jesus on the Alter. It’s like dream for me to take another step closer to the Alter which I wish for as I discern my journey to follow Jesus for almost six years of formation. Being instituted to the ministry of Acolyte is like entering into a greater responsibility into the Church which needed commitment with deeper relationship with God.

I am so grateful to my Archbishop Anton Bal from the Archdiocese of Madang who positively allowed me to be intuited to the ministry of Acolyte. My true shepherd Fr. Jacek Tendej (Rector) who is very supportive and encouraging us that makes the events successful. Who is also an inspiration to me not only by what he says but in what he practically shows us. We pray for each other so that the stages of life in the formation to the mission of proclaiming and serving Christ to others will be grow deeper in the love of God. The visible changes in the stages of formations encourage growing a little deeper in the personal relationship to the Supreme Being.



Bro. Jeffrey Ossom
Archdiocese of Madang





***THE FEASTS OF
ARCHANGEL ST. MICHAEL
&
SAINTS VINCENT DE PAUL***



On the 29th September 2022, the grand celebration was held to commemorate the saints Vincent De Paul and the Archangel Michael in the Holy Spirit Seminary Dining Hall with variety of food, speeches, quizzes and entertainment. The actual commemoration of events was held separately with the Eucharistic celebration in the Holy Spirit Seminary Chapel. Our cooks with the help of some seminarians prepared the excellent menu which straight after the prayer, the priests, and guests and the seminarians served the delicious meal. The dining hall was well arranged in oval shape by some Seminarians with the colorful decoration.



Fr. Solomon Akaiya, the Vice Rector Student Affairs blessed the food and officially opened the ceremony with prayer. The Master of the ceremony maintained the flow of speeches afterwards. Our Student representative, Br Steven Pup CSMA gave remarkable talk about *zeal* and *commitment* which was commonly shared by the founders of the Vincentian and Michaelite Congregations that coexist with the Diocesan Seminarians in the Holy Spirit Seminary. Among



Welcome to Papua New Guinea



the guests were a couple from the Archdiocese of Madang who were guardians of Fr. Solomon and Vietnamese Vincentian Deacon and they were acknowledged by the Master of the Ceremony during his initial welcome. I conducted oral quizzes regarding Saint Vincent de Paul and later the winners were awarded with miraculous medals. Then I thanked everyone for their tireless



effort and hard work in the preparation. And then I did not talk much, I gave a quote from St. Vincent De Paul, “*What must I do or what must be done?*” Then Br Victor CSMA gave speech on the brief history on Congregation of Saint Michael’s presence in Papua New Guinea and the membership (both the local and international), particularly in the Archdiocese of Mt.



Hagen. The mouth-watering desserts were served afterwards with the nicely decorated cake and ice cream which Fr. Jacek CM (the Rector) read an inscription written on the cake, “*Happy Feast Day to St Vincent De Paul and St Michael the Archangel*” before the actual cake cutting ceremony. All the CM and CSMA brothers stood behind the Rector while everyone sang: *Happy Feast Day to you . . .* and that was already the climax of the celebration.

Soon after the desserts, the presentation of items took place. Kundiawa Diocese Seminarians Douglas and Joseph performed a drama titled “Suspect”. Seminarian Martin Maka a final year theology student of Lae Diocese sang a song and finally the Seminarians from Bougainville Diocese combined with other seminarians entertained us with the creative dance. Fr. Peter Silong, the Vice Rector Pastoral Affairs gave remarks on behalf of the formators that he proposed a question, “Why did Late Michael Somare choose St. Michael the Archangel as the patron of Papua New Guinea?” The Master of the Ceremony replied that “Papua New Guineans worshipped many spirits so Michael Somare chose the Archangel Michael to defend us from all the kinds of evil spirits.” Finally, the Rector challenged everybody that the *zeal* and *commitment* were two common elements shared between with two founders of Vincentians and Michaelites which we are obliged to imitate from them. He wrapped up everything and concluded with the final blessing.

BRO. SEAN MAUSING
(Congregation of the Mission)

Clinic in the Holy Spirit Seminary

My name is Sean Charles Mausing, I am put in charge of the Department of Health in the Holy Spirit Seminary. Within Holy Spirit Seminary, there are several other areas of responsibilities such as the Sacristan, Dining Hall and health is my area of expertise.



Moving on, in the first half of the year, I was assisted by Seminarian Douglas Peter. For the remaining months of the year, I am currently working as a clinician with Seminarian Eugene Sakat. Basically what do we, is that we care for those brothers who are sick.

If a brother is sick, we normally carry the brother's food from the Dining Hall to their room. Most of the time, other very hardworking brothers do bring the plate of cooked food to those who are ill. I am very grateful and thankful for such instrumental brother. For those whom need medicines, I do administer it to them. For those whom have sores, we usually dress their sores as well. Otherwise, in short that is what we do generally. Basically, we care for those brothers who are sick.

SEAN CHARLES MAUSING

(Congregation of the Mission)

Holy Spirit Seminary Organizes Excursion to 9-Mile Farm

It was on the 23rd of September 2022, the seminarians and the formators of Holy Spirit Seminary went to the Agro-Industry farm at nine mile to have a glimpse on the food crops grown with the innovative technology. It was very exciting time to see the economic partnership between PNG government and Israel Agro-Industry for direct consumption as well as for the domestic trade. Particularly for those who live in the Nation's capital on high demand due to population increase. The company that runs the whole operation of the farm is from Israel. The Agro-Industry provides the spin of economic opportunities for the locals as they grow spectacular

cash crops such as tomatoes, capsicum, broccoli, cucumber, strawberry, cabbage, lettuce and beans of every kind. They take care and protect every seedling from different types of vegetables until the harvest season. Then the company workers are sent to collect and pack the vegetables in the big container trucks with in-built refrigerators. They brought them to the supermarkets to be sold to the customers or exported elsewhere.



According to my point of view, we are here not to study only for priesthood but to see the life in many different dimensions. Priestly life is to be with the people and to know about their culture, land and beliefs because there are no free handouts. Nevertheless, I must sweat the guts to put something on the table for survival. Looking back to the land is what we are going to do since our forefathers got everything on the land and in the soil. The philosophy of life is work

which is the wisdom of living a successful life by that we inherited from our ancestors who came directly from the land as they knew each other well. Even though, we only spent an hour during our excursion but we learnt about the modern farming on to produce a healthy and fresh vegetables for our people. Despite being attached to different cultural or ethnic background, we thank God that He has blessed us with a very fertile land, food crops, and tropical climate so that we can sustain our livelihood.



BRO. STEVEN PUP

(THE CONGREGATION OF SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL)

IT'S A TEAM WORK DONE BY

BRO. MATTHEW TIMBALU – TH2 (ARCHDIOCESE OF PORT MORESBY)

BRO. PETER KOIT – PH1 (CONGREGATION OF THE MISSION)

FR. JOSEPH EMMANUVEL AMITH C.M. (Vincentian missionary)

