



# Liberos .....

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**My dear confreres, friends and family.**

Greetings of JOY from Papua New Guinea.

Life is full of decisions. Do they make any difference to our life? Yes they surely do. Even to postpone them is to make a decision. Events, major and minor hinge upon them. one reason is that we can not completely shake of our past, and our future is not ours to see. Decision help us to face mystery of the future.

The angle Gabriel gave Mary some clue but not enough to explain the mystery of the annunciation. He promised her the shadow of the Holy Spirit. "The power of the most high will over shadow you." God more than once showed His people His power, protection and presence under a shadow. For Mary this was a new experience and it tested her faith and helped her most of all to take a decision. A decision that shaped the history of humanity.

Believing the unbelievable was not easy for Mary. Joseph was on the verge of breaking their engagement. She did not even have a place to give birth to the Son of God. Once He was born she had to flee to Egypt to save the Savior. Amidst all these to think that her decision was right was not easy. But one thing she was sure of, that the one who chose her, will be with her in her decision to be the hand maid of the Lord.

Many times when God's design breaks into my life, i become speechless and puzzled! Mary's experience should encourage me on my journey of faith. "let what you have said be done to me." a decision to offer my whole self with out any reservation, trusting fully in the divine providence.

May the mystery of Christmas lead us all the more deeply away from our own petty plans. May we join Mary's unconditional response to the mysterious ways of our God, who has shown His love in the gift of His Son. From Mary our Mother we need to learn how to place our trust in God. If we do so, impossibilities will certainly become possibilities in our life too, through the power of the Most High.

On behalf of all the confreres working in Papua New Guinea, I wish you all our valued readers, our benefactors, well-wishers and all you who accompany us through your prayers, MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A JOY FILLED NEW YEAR 2015. May God made man bless you all.

Fr. Rozario Menezes s.m.m

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SMM confreres from 5 different countries presently serving in PNG Mission



## TRAVELING THE LAND OF PARADISE



My predecessors Frs. Piet Derckx, Ignatius Widodo and Dwi Watun have talked a lot about PNG, especially the Daru-Kiunga Diocese. Since then on I have been dreaming of coming to PNG, the country known as “paradise”. My curiosity increased after the visit of Bishop Gilles to Indonesia. The sharing of Bishop Gilles really inspires the Indonesian confreres both students and priests to face the challenge. Everyone was saying “I am ready” to come and work in PNG. The opportunity comes when I become provincial superior but finding the timing among other businesses as provincial somehow is quite a problem, especially when Fr. Masjon suggested that coming for one or two weeks is not enough to get sufficient picture of the mission in the Western Province of PNG. Finally, here I am, visiting my confreres from various countries.

After flying for 5 hours from Indonesia (Bali) I landed at Jackson International airport in Port Moresby early morning on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014. Fr. Rozario, the Delegation Superior of SMM PNG came with Fr. Mateus Juang to fetch and bring me to Morata. It was so nice in Moresby enjoying Indian flavor food cooked by Fr. Victor Diaz but my real destination was the Western Province. I flew to Kiunga on 18<sup>th</sup> Oct. I was so surprised for the warm welcome of our confreres in Kiunga. Imagine! Four cars went to the airport, including Bishop Gilles. Our confreres from Madagascar Bro. Nerina), India (Frs. Vinod+Rosan), Indonesia (Fr. Masjon), the Philippines (Fr. Roy) and Hilton (our postulant) are really hospitable hosts. They entertained me so nicely that made me fell at home in Kiunga. I spent exactly 3 weeks in the Diocese of Daru-Kiunga.

It was a very impressive experience. I had the opportunity to have fraternal talk with Bishop Gilles, shared experience with confreres at Liberos community, visiting all parishes ministered by the Montfort missionaries within the diocese and spent some hours with the couples at St. Montfort Parish of Daru-Kiwai. Visiting Tabubil Parish was a great experience for me. It is really a mining city with an international atmosphere, a clean and neat. We were blessed to visit the mining site. The people of Tabubil really love Fr. Aloï. They expressed their hesitation to let him go from their parish. I think Fr. Aloï should say, “I have to go to other places, because I have to bring Good News to them also, that is the intention of my presence here” (Mark 1:38).

From Kiunga I visited Daru with Fr. Masjon. Although Frs. Doris and Lanto were not around, everything was well prepared. The generous sisters of Our Lady of Sacred Heart provided for us delicious meal every night. From Daru I went to Balimo, the place of Fr. Mateus, a missionary with great ideas for the sake of the people but we need to wait for its fruit, don't know when. Fr. Leo took me from Balimo to accompany him for 4 days.

It was really a touching experience. We spent more than 6 hours on boat (dinghy) to travel from Balimo to Aniadaï. I was quite nervous to pass through heavy waves, strong wind and big rain along Bamu River. I looked at the skipper who was just relaxed and calm, and then I was sure everything would be alright. My heart really wept to see the extremely poor but faithful Catholics at Aniadaï and Bimarameo. Half naked and under-nourished children with their simple parents attended mass piously. This territory is really challenging. It is really a neglected part of the paradise land. Fr. Leo is not only alone but isolated from the rest of the confreres because he has no network for internet or telephone. Without underestimating my encounter and experience with other confreres in PNG, I would like to confess that it was a blessing for me to join Fr. Leo at his mission. I could see the real mission and the real life as missionary. I do admire and i am proud of Fr. Leo.

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**EVANGELISATION BEYOND BOUDARIES...**

On 9<sup>th</sup> of May I left for United States for the annual mission appeals for our diocese here in PNG. Fr. Rosario did take some pain for organizing my Visa and the travel arrangements for me. With no much preparations for how to go about during my stay in the States I began this journey which took almost a total of 25 hours. Fr. Jose welcomed me at John F Kennedy airport in New York as I reached there on 11<sup>th</sup> May in the morning. And a different world was before me as I travelled to my destination in Long Island.



I began my mission appeals after a rest of 2 weeks during which I took time to settle and get to know the people around me. I took rather a little time to settle with the people of the area and the environment. The spring is almost gone and the summer is ready to make me feel at home. I had a total of 13 mission appeals during which our Bishop Gilles, Fr. Rozario and Fr. Jose did involve themselves in the remaining missions. For 2 months I stayed in the shrine of Our Lady of the Island and for the rest I, along with Fr. Jose moved his new Parish of St. Peter and St. Paul in the neighborhood within Long Island.

My mission appeals were in 7 different dioceses which helped me meet people who were not the same. The one thing that inspired me in all the parishes where I visited was that the people were very welcoming and kind. There were a few parishes which were rich and many of those which I visited were not so rich too. As I did my appeals, I could understand the need of new evangelization to the people and their thirst for it. It is God whom they thirst for and his Word. The hearts of people are open and ready to receive God message when it comes from a mission field of experience. At the end of my appeals I came to believe that it is their desire for the Word of God which would ultimately melt the heart of God for his mercy on them. Beside all these reflections for my own life I never missed the opportunities to go places and enjoy the beauty of USA; a weeklong rest in George island beach in Miami, visit to the St. Louis arch in St. Louis, Manhattan in New York, a good time out fishing with friends and family visits for meals etc. I thank God for this beautiful experience as I continue to serve the Lord in whichever way I can. Before I could end this short write up its good to thank Fr. Jose for all his help; for the time and energy that he has spent esp. for organizing the time for the appeals. Without that effort my experience would have remained just a dream.

***Delegation Assembly in Kiunga.....***

The SMM conferrers gathered at Kiunga for the annual SMM Assembly. It was indeed the biggest gathering that we had in our own home ‘Liberos’; with the latest arrival of Fr. Laurencius from the Indonesian Delegation who joined us in the PNG mission.

The assembly began on 29<sup>th</sup> October and it lasted for 3 days. We were 13 of us in total from 5 countries. We discussed various issues, we specially spent a lot of time discussing about “protecting the vulnerable.” we have discussed about coming up with a policy for our use here in PNG. we went through the model policies presented by the general house and the policies prepared by the CBC of PNG/SI and the government. We also discussed about our commitment to move to the South. The zeal and passion of Montfort echoed as the conferrers showed a greater signs of commitment and interest for the option for poor people. We also gave final touch of correction to the statutes of our delegation.

After the SMM meeting the confreres continued their Diocesan assembly and priests meeting....

**Fr. Roshan Pinto SMM**

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“Awake the world! Awake the world!” How? Put Christ at the center of your existence. The essential norm of your life being to “follow Christ as taught by the Gospel.” (PC,2), consecrated life consists essentially in personal adherence to Him. Seek Christ constantly, dear consecrated, seek His face, may He occupy the center of your life in order to be transformed in “living memory of Jesus’ way of living and acting, as Incarnate Word before the Father and before the brothers. Let yourselves be touched by His hand, led by His voice, sustained by His grace.  
Pope Francis



## CELEBRATION AT MORATA

Parishioners of St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church, along with the representatives from others churches, Morata was jubilant on Sunday 9 November 2014, it was their annual parish day, celebration of the feast day of St. Martin de Porres, the patron saint of the parish.

This year it was special with the presence of the Apostolic Nuncio His Excellency Archbishop Michael Banach, representative of Holy Father, Pope Francis to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

Thousands of people gathered at St. Martin de Porres parish, to celebrate the day with melodious singing and liturgical traditional dances from all 4 regions of PNG. Welcoming the Papal Nuncio, the parish Priest Fr. Rozario Menezes s.m.m said, that the parish is so privileged to have the presence of Nuncio, he represents the leader of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis, and therefore he brings to message and blessings of Pope to the people of Morata.

During the homily, which was given in tok pidgin, Nuncio explained about his work as the representative of Pope in PNG and Solomon Islands. He also encouraged people to follow the example of Saint Martin de Porres, who did small things with great dedication to help the sick and the poor of his society.

After the Eucharistic prayer Apostolic Nuncio blessed the newly built multipurpose community hall and declared it open for the use of the church and its activities.

The day concluded with a sumptuous meal and variety entertainment by the parishioners and youths from other churches.

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After exactly 4 weeks in PNG, I went back to Indonesia. Visiting around the Diocese of Daru-Kiunga convinces me that this diocese is really in need of priests. It was a Providence for me to visit PNG (Daru-Kiunga). It opens my mind and widens my horizon on how to be a missionary. There are a lot of challenges for the mission of the Montfort Missionaries in PNG. But I believe that God will show us the way to face them. I hope the Congregation through the Superiors of Indonesia, India, Madagascar and the Philippines do support this mission by sending some more missionaries. I would like to thank Bishop Gilles for your warm welcome, Fr. Rozario for your hospitality, Fr. Masjon for arranging everything very well for my visit, all the Montfort confreres for your friendship and good work. I am sure the congregation is so proud of you.

Fr. Kasmir, smm



1. After serving in PNG for almost 2 years, Fr. John Victor Dias left for India on December 2, 2014. The delegation of PNG is grateful for his service and wish him all the best for his future ministry.
2. We welcome Fr. Laurentius Ola from the province of Indonesia, who joined the PNG delegation to work as a missionary. As we welcome him we wish him all the best in his mission as he offers his service to the people entrusted to him.
3. Two of our candidates, James and Hilton will be continuing their formation program in Madang St. Fidelis minor seminary, we wish them all the best. We are also happy to welcome 4 new candidates who will be joining us on February 11, 2015. we request you to pray for them.
4. We wish Fr. General and his council, Superiors of Provinces and delegations and all the confreres, friends and family, a MERRY CHRISTMAS AND JOY FILLED NEW YEAR 2015. We pray that God may bless you and your ministry and may He walk with you each day of the coming year as we celebrate the year of consecrated life.

