

LIBEROS



Montfort Missionaries INC
August 2015- Issue 06, volume 2

Editorial

August 2015

My dear friends:

Greetings from Papua New Guinea. The country celebrated 40 years of independence on September 16. Papua New Guineans took time to thank the Lord for the gift of a resource rich country with its many languages, cultural diversity and good people. The Missionaries brought the Good News to PNG more than 130 years back, as Matthew (4:16) acclaims in his Gospel, “people that lived in darkness have seen a great light.” The Word of God brought light into the life of people of PNG, and every citizen is proud to call PNG a Christian country. This year’s 40th Independence Day celebration gave us a moment to think “ARE WE TRULY CHRISTIAN?”



As we wish PNG happy Independence Day, we pray that we embrace the true spirit of Christ and imitate Him in our daily lives. Happy Independence Day PNG!

THE LAUNCHING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR OF THE DEATH OF FATHER DE MONTFORT



The launching of the Jubilee Year took place on APRIL 26, 2015 at St. Martin de Porres Parish, Morata, in Port Moresby and 5th of July in St. Gerard cathedral in the diocese of Daru- Kiunga. While there was launching of the Montfort Associates at Port Moresby, in Kiunga Sr. Maria made her final profession in the congregation of Daughters of Wisdom. The day was filled with joy and enthusiasm. The celebration was filled with a lot of traditional colours and costumes, which made it unique and memorable.

It was an opportunity for the people to remember the past missionaries and witness the spirit of St. Montfort in the places where Montfort missionaries serve.

During the launching the logo of St. Montfort was brought in a grand procession by all the members of the three congregations who were present on that day in the cathedral. The bishop in his homily talked about the responding to the call of God. The bishop reminded the people that St. Montfort is the patron saint of the diocese and he called on young people to make wise decisions that would help the growth of the local church. The young local church was encouraged to be more participative and active.

The celebration was indeed a memorable one and the day was indeed meaningful. We hope that more and more would join to walk in the footsteps of St. Montfort.

I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain...

Sometime ago, at the beginning of this year, I was wondering and pondering if it's really my vocation to commit myself entirely to Jesus Wisdom, from time to time I would reflect on my vocation.

What gave me the strength to move on were two things :in 2003. I came to do my pre noviciate in the Western Province, my first memory of the sisters, how they welcomed me, enabled me to treasure the goodness of Wisdom and her unconditional love, helped me to keep focus, no matter what situation I

went through. Secondly my favourite scripture from 1Cor12:7-9“*my grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness, for I will boast gladly of my weakness in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me*”. These words came alive in me when I faced challenges. The Lord spoke clearly to me through these scriptures, “*my grace is enough for you, for I choose you and appoint you to go and bear fruit that will remain*”.



Before my final vows the Regional leadership team gave me a wonderful gift of 30 days retreat in Goroka. Where I had time to reflect on my vocation, and see the loving hand of God. I was enriched with the retreat.

During my final vows I had an honour of having some of my family members with me, especially my mother, my big sister and my cousin brother. It touched me so much during the ritual when my cousin Andreas presented me a billum containing food, before handing me the billum he explained” when a young girl leaves her home and family, the parents give her a billum with the food to share with the people whom she will be living with, likewise they remove the food inside the bilum and replacing it with the bible, they asked me to take the word of God and to the people with whom I will be living and working.

I was very grateful for the availability of Bishop Gilles he was the main celebrant for my perpetual vows. It was a lovely surprise for me, the liturgy was simple and well prepared by MCM 1, the dancing and singing were magnificent and well done. I thought to myself who am I that all these nice things are done, yes indeed I am nothing but a simple servant of the Lord for once in a life time let it be for the greater honour and glory of God.

My family members were very happy to stay with the sisters; they stated that they enjoyed the unique friendship, nice and peaceful atmosphere among the missionaries. They thanked all the Daughters of Wisdom in the Region of PNG and appreciated the simplicity of our bishop.

With grateful heart I thank all my sisters for their support and help.

All for the greater honour and glory of God.

Sr .Maria Yur dw

I am working at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre. We, as diocese of Daru-Kiunga are in Stage Two (2013-2024) of our Journey of Faith. This Stage is more centered on Evangelisation and Inculturation. I would like to share with you how our parish teams have experienced inculturation as essential for evangelization. Here is a short experience of it. 25 parish pastoral team members from three parishes of Kiunga Region of Daru-Kiunga Diocese took part in the Annual Parish Regional Meeting and Bible course training which was held from 9th – 20th March, 2015. The theme of this meeting was “The Word of God directs us to serve”.



The participants were led to look at the priorities of the Conference Pastoral Plan of the Catholic Church of PNGSI in relationship with our Diocesan Pastoral Plan. One of the area of concern which reflected very strongly in both was the strengthening of the Small Christian Community to deal with the challenges that people face in our changing society (Con. PP pg17).

Mr. Joseph Uhoi from Yenkanai village under St. John Parish shared, “Many people of my community are confused as they struggle to adjust their way of life to all the new things coming their way. They feel a loss of their traditional community values”. He continued, “One of the best place I find to deal with is our monthly Small Christian Community meetings.” Mr. Daniel Celsius a chairman of the Bosset Primary School from St. Peter Parish, Bosset, affirmed it and said, “It is very important to follow the SEE-JUDE-ACT (praxis) method in leading our meetings. Firstly we look at one concern of our community. Secondly we look at the Word of God in line with our community concern. Finally, come up with a simple and concrete action to deal with it.” Mr. Lawrence Dwang St. John Parish, Matkomnai shared his success of using this method saying, “My Small Christian community faced shortage of food. Our parish priest was part our monthly meeting. He suggested that we can make use of our land which God has given us and gave us rice seedlings. We planted it and by the end of the year our community had 40 bags of rice.” He concluded, “The Word of God is really active in our Small Christian Communities and help us to face our daily challenges.”

During the second week, the parish pastoral team members were trained to give a Bible Course on our Journey of Faith in the New Testament to the people in their parishes. The parish team members felt strengthened in their understanding of the Word of God as some were challenged by the other churches. Mrs. Teresa Sagi from St. Brigid Parish, Kiunga town said, “Now I will go and tell my friends from other churches that 666 is not the Pope but Emperor Nero. I will also tell them that Pope Francis invites us not to criticize each other but journey together in sharing the Joy of the Gospel” (Evangelii Gaudium 244 and 246). Fr. Andrew Moses, Parish Priest of St. Gerard Parish said, “The course is simple. It will help our people to use the Word of God for our everyday living.” The meeting concluded with the Holy Eucharist presided by Bishop Gilles Cote smm. He concluded the Mass by commissioning the parish team members saying, “Go and share the joy of the Gospel with others.” All responded, “Thanks be to God.”

Continued on page 5.....3

Here are our four future Montfort Missionaries sharing their experience of being with the SMM

This is my second year of seminary life. It is a privilege for me to learn the different parts of the seminary program and discern the call of God. My prayer life is the central part of my preparation for the priesthood. I am trying my best to perform well in my studies. The manual work and sports adds to my self-discipline and to develop skills.

All in all I am committing myself to prayer life, schoolwork, manual work and sports. Though I encounter difficulties and problems yet I try not to give up. I believe that through my devotion to Mother Mary by praying rosary every night I would get strength to continue. It is through the Holy Mother that my vocation came to be and she keeps me safe.

James Godfrey

It is a challenging year for me at St. Fidelis seminary. It is crucial time where I discern to understand my priestly vocation and witness to my faith as a seminarian. I was given a good advice on a piece of paper by Fr. Roshan and now I know that it is true in the seminary. However I have enjoyed the first 3 months of this year. I value self-discipline and staying focused on my priorities. The formation that I underwent in Liberos house helps to cope up well with the seminary timetable.

One of the things that I remember which was taught by our English teacher is that I must be in good health, perform well in academics and be holy (The three H's: Head, Holiness, and Health).

Michael Hilton

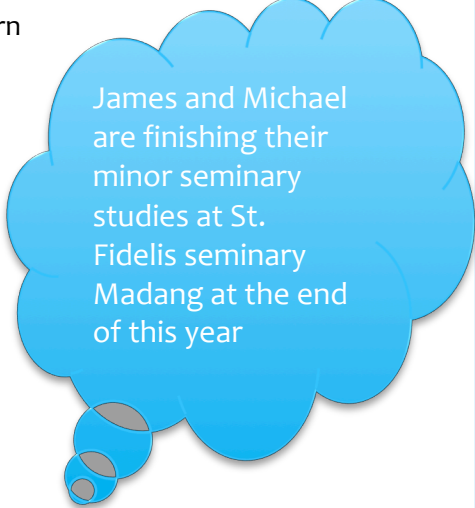
It is with great pleasure that I would like to share my experiences of being with the Montfort Missionaries. First of all I am grateful to God for bringing me to be with the SMM.

I enjoy being in the community along with our hard working missionaries and the students aspiring to be priests. Life bring lots of challenges but along with the challenges there are moments God shows his presence, especially in time of community prayers, studies and other activities.


Montfort Fathers are trying their best in spite of having limited number of priests serving in the diocese, they give their best so that I can become a good Montfortian and I am thankful for this.

At the moment I am doing my best in upgrading my marks and learning many new things. I trust that Mary our Mother to whose company we belong will guide me through out my formation years to reach my goal.

Godwin Dalle



James and Michael are finishing their minor seminary studies at St. Fidelis seminary Madang at the end of this year



Godwin Dalle and Luke Kombas are finishing their one year formation at Kiunga

We had the privilege of having Fr. Dwi amongst us for almost a month. He spent a week each in our communities. We appreciate very much his time and effort in listening to us, giving us courage and inspiration to continue our mission most of the times lived with utmost difficulties yet with passion and dedication for the people entrusted to us by our heavenly Father.



1. **Montfort Associates:** we have started a small group (42) Montfort Associates at the St. Martin de porres parish Morata. They are very enthusiastic about the journey they are going through at the moment.
2. **Tercentenary:** As part of the tercentenary celebrations we have decided to translate the TD into Tok pidgin and print special jubilee year calendars and prayer leaflets.

I have been working with Frs. Jose and Rozario and the Mission Team in the United States since 2002. During this time I have written letters, conducted mass mailings, driven missionaries, and represented the Diocese of Daru-Kiunga at the annual Mission Mass at the St. Louis Cathedral. At the cathedral I always feel privileged to represent the good people of Papua-New Guinea and help people here learn more about your beautiful, vibrant faith. I carry my bilum and have pictures, lap-laps, masks, etc. and use all these items to attract interest.

In 2007 I visited Papua-New Guinea for the first time and was beginning to truly enjoy the hospitality of the good people when I broke my ankle while I was going to see the lovely Birds of Paradise. I had to return to the states for surgery on my ankle but vowed to return. I was privileged to be invited by Bishop Gilles to help celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the founding of the Diocese of Daru-Kiunga in 2009. At that time I was treated to more wonderful hospitality and able participate in the liturgies and celebrations.

Of all the things I learned in Papua-New Guinea the most exciting thing is the vibrancy of the faith of the people and your involvement in the formation of that faith. The sharing and care you have for each other while on this “faith journey” is so very commendable and I am proud to say I know many of you and your priests and sisters. Your faith on the journey has truly enlightened my journey and for this I say a big THANK-YOU.

Jo Ann Perkins

Continued from Page 3..... The parish pastoral teams members will continue their ministry of sharing the Word of God with the people in their parishes by organizing Bible Courses on the New Testament for the people and helping them to live their life in the light of the Word of God through the Small Christian Communities and accompany them in building a truly Melanesian Catholic Church. Hence, the process of evangelization is not possible without inculturation. The Word of God come alive when it is reflected in the life of the people.

