



Liberos

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Dear Confreres: We have just entered the season of Advent. It is the season of waiting for the Lord. The best way to wait is to be ever prepared for his coming. One of the ways to be prepared is to repent for our sins, in other words it is bearing appropriate fruits as a result of sorrow for our sins.

Fruitlessness results due to lack of repentance. The cause of fruitlessness is self-determined. Fruitlessness may result from the refusal to change or still worse from non admission of sin. The consequence of fruitlessness are many; fruitlessness invites disaster. A rod that lies useless invites rusting, a book that is unread for long invites bookworms, a house that is uninhabited invites dilapidation, a life that is fruitless invites condemnation.

True repentance has a double aspect; it looks upon the past with a weeping eye, and upon the future with a watchful eye.

Christ by His love and mercy has given us a privilege, which even the greatest of the prophets was denied. We have seen the great love of God manifested on the Cross. May we appropriately respond to this love of Christ with a worthy preparation as we await His coming at Christmas.

May I take this time to wish you all a blessed Christmas and a fruitful New Year 2013.

In Jesus, Mary and Montfort

Rozario Menezes s.m.m



Grotto at Morata Parish

A GOOD MONTFORTIAN VENTURE

Since the beginning of the work of evangelization and human development in the Western Province of Papua New Guinea the Montfort Missionaries have been at the forefront, well seconded by the Daughters of Wisdom and the Brothers of St. Gabriel. The other congregations that joined us over the years have always expected of us to play a key role in all the missionary efforts and strive to build up a family spirit among all the missionaries.

The Daughters of Wisdom and the Brothers of St. Gabriel were the first to venture into taking young Melanesians as members of their Congregations. The Montfort Missionaries admired their courage and their great faith but didn't seem in a hurry to do so.

Finally the Montfort Missionaries have now decided to go ahead with their Formation Program and are slowly planning the road to take on vocations and nurture them. This is not a short term commitment but a long term commitment. It takes thorough and precise planning. It takes funding and support from overseas. But most importantly it demands Montfort Missionaries who are willing to walk all the way with that project, meaning that they are ready to spend many years in PNG for that.

As Bishop of the Diocese this decision and commitment of the Montfort Missionaries give me a feeling of security and the assurance that the three Congregations will continue to be at the forefront of the Mission in the Western Province. I am grateful to God for this and ask him to always provide us with a group of good Montfort Missionaries who do not put their own interest before the interest of others and always walk with Mary in order to, like her, discern the will of God and put themselves totally at the service of his plan for them and the Congregation.

Bishop Gilles Cote smm.

As Bishop of the Diocese this decision and commitment of the Montfort Missionaries give me a feeling of security.

Food for the body, faith for the soul - Missionary task

I gave some seeds to Balimo Vocational Tec-high and the community had planted the seedlings as pilot project, but the rats ate them up.

Since I arrived in this country in 2001, I have been promoting Agriculture because the soil is generally so fertile, especially Western Province.

When i was at the Refugee Camp in Iowara, East Awin, North Fly District, I launched the Year of Agriculture from 2003 to 2005 by encouraging schools and community to plant rice, i provided them

with 4 movable rice mills. After the first harvest, I gave 4 kg seeds to one of my priest friends at Nomad, because of his hard work and commitment more than 11 villages have rice.

When I was transferred to Kiunga January 2005, we launched the Year of Agriculture on Bible Sunday, 31st August 2005 to 2008 in St. Gerard’s Parish Church. Since then I have been

promoting agriculture and challenged people through awareness on agriculture. In March 2008, I gave 20kg rice seeds to a priest working in the Mountain villages and now harvested 2 or 3 times in 5 villages. Since 20th December 2008, I was transferred to Daru to serve 2 Districts, South Fly and Middle Fly for spiritual care, but still promoting agriculture projects for the whole Province. We launched the Year of Agriculture in Daru and in Balimo. I gave some seeds to Balimo Vocational Tec-high and the community had planted the seedlings as pilot project, but rats ate them up.



Now, I am introducing both **“dry and wet paddy field”**, especially wet paddy field, because we have large swamps and lagoons area. Besides that I am doing awareness on **“Sago Flour Project and probably Sago Biscuits and Sago Noodles”** to improve and sustain local people lives.

Why are we Promoting Agriculture?

1. Agriculture promotes “Back to nature” way of living. Compensation has been creating “disabled Society” in many ways. Compensation makes people have no respect for the dignity and value of the land. In Melanesian society, land is highly respected that is the reason that people never sell their land.
2. It promotes equality where men and women, young and adult, husbands and wives can work together. It reduces women’s burden in providing food. This also supports the Christian values that we promote this year: FREEDOM “To be Free to Walk Together in Christ.” Women and men are working together.
3. It creates more jobs for our people, especially the young ones and people in the remote villages.
4. The proper explanation and understanding of agriculture can reduce:

- Domestic violence and many other moral and social issues.
- Addiction to alcohol
- Production, consumption and distribution of marijuana that kills life, agriculture gives life to the people.
- Respect for other’s properties.
- Agriculture promotes “Positive Living” in many ways and improves the economy.
- It changes dependent community/society to independence society.



Fr. Mateus Juang is our confrere from Indonesia, he came to PNG in 2001. Where ever he goes he gets himself actively involved in the community development . Presently he is working in Balimo in a recently established parish.

Fr. Mateus Juang SMM
Parish Priest of St. Joseph’s Catholic Community,
Balimo.

Flooding in Kuem

Very often few villages of our parish, St. Peter's Parish, Bosset, in the Western Province, is flooded due to torrential rains. People live a very difficulty life due to flooding, their gardens destroyed, houses leak, children sick and life becomes very gloomy.

To get help from outside it is not so easy due to the communication problem. The way to communicate from these villages is via two way radio system, but most often due to the mishandling of the equipment it does not work.

One of the worst affected village was Kuem where water was very high. I tried to get help from one of our sisters who



was making her health patrols but since we did not have the accurate report of the situation we could get ourselves organized.

The parish team made a patrol to the affected villages, to give whatever assistance possible to those who are suffering.



We first went to Kuem, it is a village in the eastern side of Agu River, it flows about 300 miles to reach fly river. We used 40hp and 23 long foot dinghy. It took us about 2 1/2 hours to reach the village. As we were travelling we could see the destruction that the flooding has done to these villages. The stable food of the people is sago, They also plant banana, sweet potatoes, yam, taro, tapioca and greens in their garden. For the protein, they go fishing or hunting, the nature provides it for them.



When I saw the situation of the people in the village I could not hold my tears. Many houses were under water, all the gardens destroyed, people had no place to stay. Without food and drinking water, people were helpless. Few people had their crocodile farms, due to flood all the crocodiles either died or washed away in the flood

Another worst affected village was Waigini. It is a refugee camp at the bank of Fly Rive. There were about 35 people living in this camp. When we arrived at the village, there were no people,

everyone had left the village as it was not safe to stay since the Fly River was very high and water was entering their houses.

As we were looking around, we heard a baby crying, and we found a mother with 3 children in one of the houses, one baby was only 3 months old, she was also very sick.



We did whatever we could to help people, since we had a nurse with us, she could also help few people who were in need of medical attention, I was able to share some of the food items that I took with me.

When the Mother Nature causes destruction, there is nothing much that we could do other than be alert and take precaution.

Fr. Leonardus B.C Kartika SMM

When the Mother Nature causes destruction, there is nothing much that we could do other than be alert and take precaution.



Elderly woman displaced by the floods

Fr. Leo is one of our confreres from Indonesia, who came to PNG in 2008, he has been the Parish Priest of St. Peter's Parish in Bosset. At present Leo is on holidays. We wish him restful holidays.

MY LIFE HERE IN SMM FORMATION HOUSE, KIUNGA

I am one of the candidate joined to become a Montfort Missionary, i have been living in Wisdom House where Montfort Fathers have their residence. I came about two months back to do under go formation to become a missionary priest. It helps me to see how I have grown as a person of faith through the life experiences. I thank God for giving me this opportunity to be with the Montfort Missionaries. One of the important thing that I see in this community is; how priests and brother from different countries have grown into one community to know each other in solidarity.

It is also an enormously grateful thing for me to know, how much time we spend in prayer. We pray, we share the Word of God and give God important place in our community as well as in my life. This helps me and encourages me to start my journey towards my dream of becoming a priest and also to answer the call of God.

It is a challenge for me to live with different people from different countries in this community. One good thing that changed my life here is the feeling of solidarity. When I first entered the Wisdom House, I really admired the spirit of solidarity which was lived here in all the aspects of life by the community members, e.g., work, prayer, sessions etc. That brought a great change in my life.

Therefore, I thank God for His guidance and protection along with the intercession of our blessed Mother, towards my journey and I believe he will continue to guide and protect me to achieve my dream and to answer his call. I dream that some day in the future, Montfort Missionaries will grow more in numbers as priests and brothers here in Daru-Kiunga Diocese.

James Godfrey



*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
2013*

News updates:

1. We have invited two young men from Papua New Guinea to live an experience of our community life. James is from St. Andrew's Parish in the Mountains of Western Province, Daru-Kiunga Diocese. Francis is from Kerevat, Rabaul arch diocese. Both of them have completed their studies equivalent to grade 12. we pray that they discern and decide to live a Montfortian way of life.
2. Fr. Victor Dias one of the confreres from India has decided to join the missionaries in PNG to offer his service. He will be part of the formation as well as the pastoral teams. We thank him for his initiate and pray that his presence here in PNG may bring newness and new vigor among the people whom he serves.
3. Two of our confreres from Madagascar have arrived in Philippines to upgrade their English language, they will join the PNG mission as soon as they have their travel documents ready. We thank the community in Madagascar for offering us the much needed help in carrying out our mission here in PNG.
4. The Formation House at Morata, Port Moresby is getting its shape, as I write, the workers are busy trying to finish the work before Christmas. We hope and pray that the Lord may plant the first seeds of vocation through this house.

The PNG community wishes you all a Happy Christmas and a blessed and fruitful New year 2013.

May God bless you all.