Communion through Communication

TAVUR

July, 2017
a monthly publication

Vice Province of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, P. O. Box 7579, Boroko 111, NCD, Papua New Guinea

From the Provincial

July, 2017

Dear Confreres,

July is again the time when we, as a Vice Province, gather together for the retreat. It is a privileged moment for us to listen to the Spirit, reflect on our personal project of life and examine our progress on our lifelong journey towards holiness.

This year I have committed myself to preach the retreat as part of my task of animating the Province. Let us spend these days of the retreat in prayerful discernment for the biddings of the Spirit for each one of us and for our Vice Province!

Welcome also to our Province the two members of the 148 Salesian Missionary Expedition whom the Rector Major has assigned to our PGS vice-province: Cl. Jeevan Lewis and Br. Enrique Chorro. Blessings on your mission.

Fr. Alfred Maravilla SDB
Provincial*, *Vice Province of PNG and Solomon Islands

SIGNIS World Congress 2017

Promoting Stories of Hope

- *Fr Sebastian Koladiyil sdb and Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb*

The SIGNIS World Congress 2017 took place at Laval University, Quebec City, Canada from June 19th to 23th, 2017. The theme of the Congress was, "**Promoting Stories of Hope"**

Among the 250 participants from across the world, there were four Salesians, involved in the ministry of Social Communication in their provinces and represented their countries. They were Fr. Ambrose Pereira, Papua New Guinea, Fr. Michael Mendel, USA, Fr. Leos Rysak, Czech Republic and Fr. Sebastian Koladiyil, Kenya.

Fr. Ambrose facilitated a session on" Voices of Hope from the Traditional Culture", Fr. Leos, the founder and director of TV Noe, presented a short Documentary for the session on Television and Fr. Sebastian facilitated the session on Television, promoting stories of Hope, in which a Video by BEAMS on the theme, stories of Hope, was shown. This was the only video from the third world that was presented at the Congress. Fr. Michael was requested by Fr. Filiberto Gonzalez SDB to represent the Salesians.

The main topics dealt with during the Congress were: Communicating Hope, Hope in the Future, Building Hope and Peace in a world of Cultural and Religious diversity and the New Generation of Catholic Communicators: Experiences and Challenges. After the presentation of these topics there were breakout sessions, panel discussions and meetings.

WELCOME

Missionaries to PGS

In the coming 148th Salesian Missionary Expedition the Rector Major has assigned to our Vice Province 2 young Salesians. They are now preparing their documents to attend the course for new missionaries in Rome and Piedmont from August 28-Sept 24. The members of this missionary expedition will receive the missionary cross in the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians on Sept 24, 2017:

Cl. Jeevan Lewis, 22 years old from India of Panjim Province (INP)
"I am eagerly waiting to share my life with the people there. I hope and pray that God makes me a beautiful instrument of his love for the people I meet. I was very glad and thrilled at once to know my destination. I hope and pray that this same joy lives forever in me. Thanks once again for the hearty welcome!"

Bro. Jorge Chorro, 31 years old from El Salvador of Central American Province (CAM)
"I feel happy to be part of this mission. Although I do not know anyone of you yet, I hope to know each one of you soon. With the help of God I hope to contribute to our mission with the boys, young people and all others, my little bit of sand in the building up of the kingdom of God in the PGS Vice Province where the Lord has called us. I commend myself to your prayers that I may remain faithful to this missionary call of the Lord".

A pilgrimage…a journey…a commitment

- Fr. Roger Miranda sdb

Our batch decided to have our retreat pilgrimage to the Holy Land from the 14th to 28th of May to celebrate our Silver Jubilee. We started in Nazareth, South of Israel and journeyed to the different holy sites like the Basilica of the Annunciation, Sea of Galilee, Mt. of Beatitudes, Megiddo, Dalmanutha, Taghba, Capernaum, Mt. Carmel and Mt. Tabor. One wonders how the Lord choose simple places and ordinary people to transmit his message of salvation. Mary's 'Yes' is an example for all of us.

The answer of Joseph, the first disciples' response to the call of Jesus in that coastal road of Galilee's Sea has left an imprint in my heart. The deserted area towards the South of Isreal, reminded me of the journey of the chosen people in the past. We were on a bus, they were walking under the heat of the sun and cold breeze during the night. Yet, the Lord never abandoned them. Just as he continues to guide us in our ministerial service to his people as his priests.

I found peace in Jerusalem. I spent a lot of time in prayer at the Empty Tomb. Here the Lord proved his divinity. He conquered death and evil. He rose again! Later, we passed by the Garden of Gethsemane and made our Way of the Cross. I pondered, "Am I part of the Jewish crowd, enthusiastically welcoming Him and a little later shouting, 'Crucify him!'" Jerusalem is very clean and its inhabitants are well-disciplined. Christians, Jews and Muslims live together in one land respecting each other. Despite the on-going conflict between the Jews and Palestinians over land disputes, there is still peace and harmony among them. Journeying through the holy sites, I found myself privileged. Not only did I see, but I also touched the very place where the Lord was born, where he died and where he rose again. Mary accompanied me in this journey. We began our pilgrimage in her humble and simple house of Nazareth and concluded it in Ein Kerem, the place of her visitation to her cousin Elizabeth.

Our priesthood becomes very significant because of her example of humble obedience to the will of God. As I celebrate my Silver Jubilee, I commit myself therefore to remain faithful and always move forward. God has called me to this ministry, and despite my weaknesses and frailties, will never abandon me in my journey. I count on your prayers for my perseverance till the end.

Effects of smoking highlighted

- Mrs. Alphonsa Vipin

Dr Yoahn Gabriel, addressed 450 students on 31st May at the Don Bosco Simbu Technical College. Dr. Yoahn spoke to them about the 'Effects of Tobacco on the Human Body.' "Smoking is one of the most serious problems the world has been struggling with. It kills more than 7 million people a year, affecting both the person who smokes and the people around them. It also lead to oral and lung cancer" Dr. Yoahn Gabriel said.

The programme commenced with a video presentation on "the mental and physical effects of tobacco". With the guidance of Mathew Asue, Vipin Vincent and Tony Siune and Social Awareness club members a mime depicting how young people fall in to the clutches of tobacco was staged.

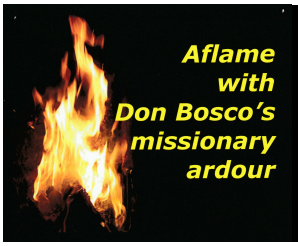
VOCATION STORY

Name: **Thomas Bwagaaro**
Nationality: **Solomon Islander**

Early beginnings: Joining the Knights of the Altar has helped me attend Mass as often as I could throughout my high school days. This has helped me in my vocation journey. In 1999, Fr. Luciano Capelli sdb, now the Bishop of the Diocese of Gizo, came to our home and told us about Don Bosco and what his sons are doing in Solomon Islands. That encounter was an inspiration for me. However, ten years passed before I read about the life of Don Bosco. While at home for a year, I became more active in the parish and started reading about the Catholic Church, the saints and other religious books. The life of Don Bosco rekindled my desire to follow the priestly vocation. In 2011, I was accepted at Don Bosco Rural Training Centre Tetere in Solomon Islands. I owe this to a fervent decade of the rosary I offered Our Lady. In 2013, I was sent to the Savio Haus Aspirantate, Papua New Guinea to continue as an aspirant.

My Choice: During the four years of discernment, with the help of my formators and the support of my family, I have freely made the choice to continue on to the pre novitiate in pursuit of my vocation.

Message: I make my own the words of Bishop Cagliero, "Monk or no monk, I'll stay with Don Bosco".



Annual Spiritual Retreat 2017
July 2 - 7, 2017
for Confreres

PGS Day
July, 8, 2017
for Salesians and Aspirants

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Send your news items to: ambrose.pereirasdb@gmail.com on or before the 24th of the month.