



PNG-SI Delegation Office, P.O. Box 7579, Boroko 111, NCD, Papua New Guinea



February 2012

Dear members of the Salesian Family,

Wishes for a happy and prosperous New year 2012 !

During the feast of our founder St. John Bosco, we celebrated it with solemn prayers in Boroko. I was happy to join in the meaningful moments of oneness and solidarity with all those who came from the city. I feel that Don Bosco is very much alive amongst us. Although many others are far away, I feel the closeness of all of us, salesians and members of the Salesian Family.

By this time, classes have already started and we go on with the ordinary routine of life. We need to look at the challenges that lie ahead of us and see how we can face them. I would like to invite each and everyone of us to contemplate and spend ample time reflecting on the Strenna of the Rector Major for this year 2012. It gives us a direction and a focus for our life of active service as we prepare for the Bi-centennial of his birth in 2015.

We will try to copy the DVD presentation and give to our communities and the members of the Salesian Family. I would like to encourage the leaders and members of the Salesian family to give time in viewing this presentation and reflect on the challenges and the direction of life that our Rector Major presents to us. All this will be for the benefit of our young people.

Let us truly make the young our programme of life. Let us continue the music of life, the music of the heart, God's music, to fill the young with meaning and lead them to discover the joy in their heart.

God bless you all.

Fr. Raffy Galve sdb, PNG-SI Delegate



“Let us make the young our life’s mission by coming to know and imitate Don Bosco”

2012 Strenna of the Rector Major, Fr Pascual Chávez sdb



Delegation House – Araimiri –
Savio House – DBTI, Boroko –
Gabutu – Kungi – Vunabosco –
Henderson – Tetere



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New Chances

Female Prison Inmates visit Don Bosco Tech. Kumgi for a Computing Course

By Fr. Robinson Parappilly SDB



The New Year summer holidays began with new group of students coming to Don Bosco Tech Kumgi. They wore a new brand of uniforms, of course blue in color, but with red stripes. It was a joy for the Salesians to see six of our neighbours join many others in the week long short course on Basic Computer Skills. The door of Don Bosco Tech was opened for neighbors and students who are on holidays to learn computing skills. The course was animated by our only Co-operator Mr. Napoleon Sanchez, affectionately known as Mr. Naps. He has been a lay missionary in PNG for the past 12 years. Mr. Naps has spent his precious years of adult life in teaching young people Auto Electrical mechanisms and Computing. Mr. Naps was full of smiles when he heard that at the invitation of our Veteran Fr. Angelo Fazzini, some of the convicted prisoners of Correctional Institute Services (CIS) were coming to Don Bosco to learn computing skills.

Five women dealing with life imprisonment, together with their warden, came regularly and punctually for the program. Out of the five women, three have been in the prison for six years; the other two for less than two years. They were very enthusiastic about the short program since they have no accessibility to the outside world and no other chance to learn a skill. They touched the computer and fiddled with key board and mouse for the first time in their lives. Tough Mr. Naps found it very difficult to make them understand basic terminologies of the computer, but their enthusiasm kept him going. After one week of intense study they learned Microsoft Word, Word Art and bit typing.

It was an opportunity for the Salesians to spend some time with these young women and learn about their life in the prison. Though they are bound by walls they have their routine of work, prayer and other activities in the prison. We found them very happy and at peace in their minds. One or two expressed their desire to go home and to be with their children. Most of them have been brought to their imprisoned state from circumstances of domestic violence. Most of them have undergone torture at the hands of their husbands and lack care and protection. Many of their husbands are involved in polygamy. This is one of the major problems the common folks face in PNG. The situation of buying a woman with cheap money and not taking care of them is a common phenomenon, as is the attitude that accompanies such actions. Marital stability, faithfulness in marriage and marriage preparations are some of the most important topics of discussion for young people at Don Bosco during their personal development classes. Most of the young people are happy to learn not only a skill but life values as we continue to tell the story of Jesus to them.

Thanks to Mr. Naps for sacrificing his holidays and rendering free service in empowering these women with a skill.



Participants at the computers

DB GABUTU

New Beginnings



A new school year is well underway at DBTS!

PNG-SI Social Communications Commission

- Fr. Charles Casper was welcomed as a new member of the community while Fr. Albert Swer sdb was thanked for his years at Gabutu.
- The New Scholastic year commenced on 30th January with the teachers reporting for a week of in-service training. It was disappointing that some of the new teachers who had promised to report were absent and had accepted other appointments.
- Don Bosco's feast was spent as the spiritual day of the in-service. The day started with an hour long session on the Preventive system, followed by a recollection talk by Fr. Luciano Odorico sdb, on the spirituality of the Preventive system, followed by time for personal reflection, confessions and Holy Eucharist. A festive lunch was followed by relaxing time with a variety of games.
- On Friday, 4th February the teachers joined the Archdiocesan teachers for Eucharistic celebration at the Shrine of MHC East Boroko.
- BOSCO HAUS, the home attached to the community has the maximum capacity of 26 Catholic students. There is a long waiting list. Many hope that the selected ones will not turn up, thus they will get a place. Such a great demand for a boarding!! A dream for DBTS, hoping many young men will join the Salesians as brothers and fathers to carry on the good work for the young.
- Enrollments are still open, since school fees are a problem for most of the continuing students. Being a permitted school, the 100% free education for Junior Secondary and 75% subsidy for Senior secondary does not apply to DBTS. Yet, we have a rush for admissions is surprising.



Photographs Left: Students at Don Bosco Technical School

Above and Right: Boys at the BOSCO HAUS - a home for future Salesians



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Christmas *at* Kiriwina

Trobriand Islands



Photos:
Fr. Robinson Parappilly sdb with the people at Guzaweta

The little angels of Kiriwina Island sang glory to God in the Highest and peace to people on earth on the vigil of Christmas night and joined the angels of the world in welcoming Child Jesus. I experienced three weeks of peace, joy and serenity on this Island of Love. The Salesians have two main parishes (St. Mary's Parish at Wapipi and St. Anthony's parish at Guzaweta) with eleven sub-stations. I reached Guzaweta on December 20th and on the same day Fr. Sunny, the only Salesian priest in the whole island, invited me for the healing ministry. Additionally, we began visiting the substations and spent hours in hearing confessions.

On the second day we went to a village for 'Sakali', meaning 'Feast for the Dead'. This is one of the colorful, traditional festivals of the island to honor the dead person. The family members of the deceased invite their relatives, friends and neighbours to join them. The people walk kilometers carrying 'Doba' (skillfully and specially made from banana leaves) for an

exchange of gifts with the host. They bring this in huge baskets and decorate it with colorful cloths in the place of the festival, usually near the tomb. In gratitude the host gives few kinas (PNG money), food and clothing to the guests. The young and old women wear traditional bilas like grass skirts and coral ornaments. It's a whole day program which ends up with a grand meal.

I had the privilege of celebrating the Christmas vigil mass in the little town ship of Kiriwina, known as Losuia. It's a small harbor town with fishing canoes, vegetable and fish market, a couple of shops, a government administrative building and a hospital. Although the group was small (most of the people belong to United Church), the whole celebration was particularly meaningful because the place of celebration was not church, but a small hall that serves as the hospital maternity ward. We were privileged to have a real manger and bless that place with the birth of Jesus. After the solemn high mass the children sang many carols to express their love for the child Jesus.

On Christmas day I celebrated mass in the main parish of Guzaweta. The people decorated the place with natural flowers and leaves. Many people brought their children and relatives for the mass. We had 56 baptisms on Christmas day. Usually the babies are baptized only on two occasions, Easter and Christmas. After the mass we went to Wapipi parish to celebrate. The people were traditionally dressed for the solemn occasion of bidding farewell to Fr. Sunny, who had spent three years in these parishes. There was a delicious festive meal prepared by the parishioners who brought pots of food, garden fruits and many delicious items to share their Christmas joy. The most interesting item of the day was the traditional circle dance by young boys and girls.

The following day we had a visit to one of PNG's most beautiful beaches – Kaibola. Its beautiful panoramic view of crystal clean water, reefs and corals make it one of the most beautiful coral beaches in the Pacific.



Above: Fr. Sonny at Wappi

The next day all the missionaries working in the parish took a day off from the routine work and had a picnic on the island of the spirits which is called 'Tuma'. There is a traditional belief among the Trobrianders that after the death and judgment of a person they would retire to this island for their peaceful living. Most of the Trobriander islanders visit this island and pay due respect to the spirits and hear their cries and joys. It was very relaxing day.

The feast of the Holy Family was celebrated with special Novena for nine days, with solemn high mass for the families presided over by Fr. Sunny. It was also a special occasion for the parish of Gusaweta to wish him farewell.

The New Year celebrations began with night mass, Eucharist and thanksgiving that lasted until midnight in the Wapipi and Gusaweta parishes. At 12'O clock the church bell rang and the young people sang their traditional songs to welcome the New Year with joy and serenity. After wishing each other a happy and prosperous new year all retired to their own families.

On 3rd January, Sr. Nathaniel of the Reparation sisters (who looks after the altar boys and girls) held an outing to an uninhabited island called Bwemapu. We paddled for two hours in a dinghy, singing gospel songs, enjoying the shallow waters

of the bay, eating sea weeds, collecting colorful starfish and walking on white sands. The children had very good time catching fish, picking shells and swimming. The picnic was very joyous and it was an occasion for building up friendship with Jesus and one another.

I call this island 'the miracle of love'. The children in the island of love are like the multiplication of loaves. You can see them everywhere like red ants. They are very friendly, smiling and lovable. Every tiny tot wants to shake hand with us and feel the touch of the priest. Whenever we pass through the village we could hear them greeting us, 'bwena kaukwau'(good morning), 'bwena lalai' (good day) 'bwena kwayai' (good afternoon) and 'bwena bogi (good night) father'. I think this is one of the best Christian practices in the whole of the island handed over by the early missionaries.

The sisters of the Reparation and MSI involve themselves in the parish and village apostolate and health care. Their work is extended to the primary and high schools and hospitals of Kiriwina. The young people of the island need much care and health education since the rate of sexually transmitted diseases is very high. People tend to become sexually active at a very young age and many are getting married when they are teenagers. There is a great need for personal help and increased awareness of the health and human development issues for these young people.

It is a missed opportunity for those who have not visited this place. We will miss the star filled skies, the chirping of the birds and above all the beautiful, friendly and loving people of Kiriwina. May the good Lord bless the people of the Trobriand Islands.

Fr. Robinson Parappilly and Fr. Sonny at Wappi. The people and children of Wappi



A Picture of Peace

Author Unknown

Submitted by René Ciofani

There once was a King who offered a prize to the artist who would paint the best picture of peace. Many artists tried. The King looked at all the pictures, but there were only two he really liked and he had to choose between them.

One picture was of a calm lake. The lake was a perfect mirror, for peaceful towering mountains were all around it. Overhead was a blue sky with fluffy white clouds. All who saw this picture thought that it was a perfect picture of peace.

The other picture had mountains too. But these were rugged and bare. Above was an angry sky from which rain fell and in which lightning played. Down the side of the mountain tumbled a foaming waterfall. This did not look

peaceful at all. But when the King looked, he saw behind the waterfall a tiny bush growing in a crack in the rock. In the bush a mother bird had built her nest. There, in the midst of the rush of angry water, sat the mother bird on her nest... perfect peace.

Which picture do you think won the prize?

The King chose the second picture. Do you know why? "Because," explained the King, "peace does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble, or hard work. Peace means to be in the midst of all those things and still be calm in your heart. That is the real meaning of peace."





COME, LET US CELEBRATE... IT'S

DON BOSCO'S FEAST!

On 31st January 2012, Vunabosco celebrated the Solemnity of St. John Bosco. Fr. Roger Miranda, our Rector, celebrated the Holy Eucharist with Fr. Clifford Morais, the Principal, as concelebrant. Some boarders were already around, together with the teaching staff. The Mass was animated by the Grade 12 boarders. Although we were still having enrolment days, preparations for the festive meal in the evening were done with the supervision of the two practical trainees: Bros. Stephen Musya and Peter Mac Khai Le.

At 6:00PM, we had the Evening Prayers in honor of St. John Bosco. Archbishop Francesco Panfilo, Fr. Valeriano Barbero, priests and different religious sisters from the Archdiocese were present. The teachers and ancillary staff were part of the celebration too. Fr. Rector gave welcomed everyone before the Vespers started. The festive meal followed after the Vespers. During the meal, some songs were played. Each class of boarders also presented an item to entertain our guests. At the end of the program, Archbishop Francesco Panfilo sdb gave the Good Night talk. **HAPPY FEAST DAY EVERYONE!**



A GIFT FROM THE MADONNA

Smiling Don Bosco, anecdotes and episodes from the life of St. John Bosco compiled by Fr J L Chiavarino

Shortly before the Ordination of Don Bosco, which was scheduled to take place on 5th June 1941, his mother had climbed a tall mulberry tree in order to pick some leaves to feed her silkworms. Suddenly, the branch upon which she was resting broke and she fell to the ground with a heavy thud. As though that misfortune was not enough, the broken branch, in the process of falling, struck her in the forehead leaving a scar which she bore for the remainder of her life.

Quickly she rose and as though nothing had happened, hurried home to feed the hungry worms!

When Don Bosco discovered what had happened he said, "Do you see how good the Madonna is? The devil attempted to take your life in order to prevent you from kissing your son's hand when he becomes a priest, but not being successful he decided to leave a scar so that you would remember his roguery for a long time". They both had a good hearty laugh.



- Penny Chilton



the **future** belongs to those who
dream

Orientation for staff and students

Photos:

The Staff pose for group photo.
Orientation in progress.

Students, parents and guardians attended a morning of information and orientation at Don Bosco Technical Institute, Henderson (DBTI), on 28th January, 2012. Also in attendance were: Mr Collin Ruqebatu, Chairman of the School Board; Mr. Bernard Rapasia, TVET representative and school board member; Archbishop David Vunagi, Church of Melanesia; Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb; Rector; Madam Camari Bainivalu, Principal and all the staff of the school. Representatives from the Ministry as well as Industry were also present.

The morning commenced with song and prayer and a strong reminder of the home values of DBTI. All the guests and potential students were invited to feel 'at home' on the campus. The speakers highlighted the opportunities provided at DBTI - excellent training in a range of technical disciplines, develop as a person and an effective worker.

The school's philosophy, based on the 'Preventive System of Don Bosco' has as its pillars - Reason Religion and Rapport. The Principal emphasised the qualities looked for in a Don Bosco student - a readiness to work hard, follow rules, persist in the face of adversity and explore new ideas and patterns of behaviour. The Rector challenged the applicants to consider what they would do in the face of opportunity. The Chairman of the Board encouraged them with the words of Eleanor Roosevelt, "The future belongs to those who dream beautiful dreams", urging them to be idealistic and single minded. He also encouraged the parents to support their students by engaging with the work and ideas they were learning about. He stressed understanding of the demands placed

upon those undertaking such a rigorous course. Mr Bernard also encouraged each of the young people present to be the best they can be and to "work hard, learn hard and pray hard".

Competition is stiff and all the young people present were encouraged to try their hardest in the tests, to speak up in the interview and to really consider what they wanted to do with their future. "There are many jobs and positions available in the Solomon Islands for those who are qualified, dedicated and hardworking", emphasised Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb. The rigour of the Don Bosco program aims to produce such qualities in its graduates.

Earlier, the staff had a week of Orientation and preparation for the New Academic Year. Emphasis was laid on the mission and aims of the organization and to ensure that staff are working together to achieve the goal of offering the best possible training, vocational and pastoral opportunities to the students of the school. All were encouraged to "make the young our life's mission to know and imitate Don Bosco". Goals were identified and programmes inserted in the SEPP. There was a unanimous desire to help empower the young people who study at DBTI to build up the Solomon Islands as well as their own lives. The staff were encouraged to treat students as a whole person, not just a brain for information, but also a being with emotion, ambition, physical needs and developing will. They hope to enable the students to explore new parts of themselves and develop their talents in order to equip them for the life ahead.

Youth Leadership Workshop

St. Peter Parish, Gizo Diocese

- Hilda Anihoniara, Animator

A youth leadership training workshop was conducted in St. Peter Parish, Diocese of Gizo, from 2nd to 5th January, 2012. Twenty young participants attended the program which was presented by Fr. Srimal Priyanga sdb and Hilda Anihoniara. The workshop was an inspiring one. "I have learnt and experienced so many new things about Youth Leadership. It has given me ideas and strengthened me to enable my youth members reach out to other youth members in the other parishes of our Diocese", said May Thugea. "We thank our two animators and we are looking forward for more programs like this in our diocese".

Domitila Vengo said, "This youth leadership program was inspiring. As a youth leader this is my first youth leadership training. I feel that I've learnt a lot. We learnt about our identity, leadership qualities, effective leadership, community building, and youth development through participation. The program broadens our knowledge and understanding of what we need to do as leaders of the parish. It will be nice that we have more programs in our parish to enable us youth leaders manage our youth groups".



My Heart is Still There...

Cl. Moise Palaku sdb

We are back. After a beautiful time in the Delegation, especially in the Solomon Islands, I am already feeling unwillingly a sentiment of nostalgia. May God bless the little we have planted in the heart of those young people. As we commence the new academic year, I am sure other confreres have the same emotion. "My heart is still there".

On the 19th of December, I stepped again on the soil of my native country, The Republic of Congo. Truly I found enormous changes, but also a large thirst for peace. On the 23rd of December, I presented myself in the house of my parents. Unfortunately, there was no more room for me; all my belongings were parked in a steel case in the corner. I understood. I now belong to another family, the Salesian one. I was guest in my own home. I had a wonderful time at Christmas and New Year with my parents, brothers and sisters and friends, although in the following day of New Year, my mother collapsed in a serious sickness. United as a family and with the prayers of many friends, she now gives praise to God. She is under medication and needs the support of our prayers.

During my holidays, I shared a lot about my mission. People are interested to know the unfamiliar PNG-SI world. After my trip, many were interested and started researching the maps and showed a special concern for missionary work.



Br Moise Palaku sdb with family members



Br Moise Palaku with his mum

On the 26th January, I started my route back to Asia which became for me a sort of station of the Cross. I was refused boarding on my last flight to Manila and had to stay in the airport of Bangkok a day and two nights. Thanks to those who intervened. It was a sad adventure, something I would not want to experience a second time.

On the 29th January, a meaningful date for me, being the anniversary of my first arrival in PNG, I landed in Manila and I met the community of Seminary ng Don Bosco celebrating the Feast day of St. John Bosco. My tiredness vanished as I joined in the celebrations of our Father, Teacher and Friend – Don Bosco.

Have a wonderful commencement of the School Year for 2012.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

JANUARY
3 Fr. CASPA, Charles (1982)

FEBRUARY
16 Fr. MORAIS, Clifford (1967)

MARCH

- 1 Fr. KACHIRA, Dominic (1954)
Fr. NGOC, Anthony (1976)
- 2 Cl. SHOHJI, Mathew (1977)
- 8 Fr. CASTAÑEDA, Luis (1956)
- 14 Fr. MACATANGAY, Ariel (1964)
- 17 Fr. TOLENTINO, Darwin (1977)
- 28 Fr. LENON, Albert (1966)
- 30 Cl. ADDIS, Gebrekidan (1979)
Fr. SANCHEZ, Angel (1980)

APRIL

- 2 Br. GARCIA, Jesus (1961)
- 4 Fr. TRAN, Francis (1972)
- 9 Cl. NGUYEN, Quoc Dai (1981)
- 10 Fr. PRIYANGA, Srimal (1980)

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