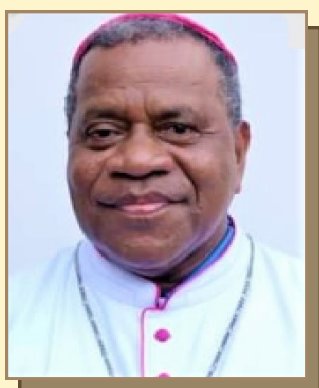




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Bishop Peter Houhou

PASTORAL MESSAGE FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2024 VOCATION FOR PRIESTHOOD AND RELIGIOUS LIFE IN OUR DIOCESE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in our Diocese of Gizo. Grace and Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Before we enter and journey into the month of September, let

us thank God our Father and Creator for his protection and guidance. Also let us thank each other and congratulate each other for all that we have done during the month of August in whatever form of service we render to our people.

Beloved Brothers and Sisters, for this month of September, we will be reflecting on the question of "What we can do together to promote "VOCATION" to the Priesthood and Religious Life in our Diocese?"

At present we have 14 priests working in the Diocese; Diocesan; Six (6) Priests, Religious; OP. Dominican, Three (3) Priests. IVE. Incarnate Word; Two (2) Priests, Servants of Charity; Two (2) Priests, and Fidei-Donum; One (1) priest. All together we have Fourteen (14) priests.

In our Diocese we have Eight (8) Parishes. As Bishop Shepherding the Diocese, I feel very, very sorry indeed for the parishes that they have only one priest trying his very best to serve the parishioners and at the same time shepherding the entire parish, making sure they are protected from all dangers in all forms that will endanger their faith.

To update you on how many Seminarians do we have in the Holy Name of Mary Seminary. We have

Nine (9) seminarians: they are numbered according to the years in the seminary: SJMV: We have only one (1), Year 1: We have only one (1), Year 2: We have two (2); Year 4: We have only one (1), Year 5: We have only one (1), Year 6: We have only one (1), and Year 7: we have (2). Again, all together we have Nine (9) seminarians who are currently doing their study at the Holy Name of Mary Seminary (HNMS). In addition to that, we have another four (4) candidates who are also attending a Pre-Seminary Program at Nazareth Apostolic Centre (NAC).

Beloved Brothers and Sisters, reflecting on the number of priests we have and are currently working in our Diocese, and number of Seminarians we have and who are doing their studies at the Holy Name of Mary Seminary, and the number of Candidates we have at Nazareth Apostolic Centre who are attending the Pre Seminary Program, the question I want to pose before us now is that; "who is responsible for all these 3 groups?"

If you are living in one of the parishes in our Diocese, I humbly ask you to work together with your Priests. When they are lonely, encourage them; when you see them following another path apart from the path a priest should follow, be their companion and show them the right path. Above all pray for all our priests.

Again, if one of our seminarian is from your family, community, or parish, I humbly ask you to support him in whatever way you can. As a young man who is following the journey to the priesthood, when you see him not living according to the life of a seminarian, do not discourage

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This Publication is from the Catholic Media Office

Diocese of Gizo PO Box 22, Gizo Western Province Solomon Island.

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POPE FRANCIS TOUR PNG

BP message cont..

...him but encourage him to be strong. Again, above all, pray for all our seminarian. Again, if one of our pre seminarian is from your family, community, parish, I humbly ask you to support him in whatever way you can. As a young man, they need your encouragement to keep them going. Above all pray for all our pre seminarian candidates.

As Bishop shepherding our Diocese, I am fully aware that there are many young sons and daughter out there in our families, communities, parishes who are thinking of joining priesthood and Religious Life, but no one is listening to them. Again, I humbly ask us all to listen to them, to guide them, to encourage them, to show them the way to follow, and to pray for them and with them.

To conclude our reflection on vocation, I want to encourage all our parishes to create a FUND TO ASSIST

OUR SEMINARIANS and PRE-SEMINARIANS who are responding to God’s Call to Priesthood and Religious Life. For your information, the Amount for One (1) seminarian is \$20,000.00 for One (1) Year. Contributing your ONE DOLLAR into Seminary Account, and supporting our seminarians in whatever way you can, and praying for them is answering the question of “What can we do together to Promote Vocation to the Priesthood and Religious Life in our Diocese?”

Brothers and Sisters, thank you for your attentive listening, understanding and working together to make visible the Mystical Body of Christ and to promote vocation in our Diocese.

May the Blessing of God our Father be with you all.

Your Servant Bishop Peter Houhou

Highlights Popes Message, Papua New Guinea.



On September 8, more than 30,000 local Catholics gathered at Sir John Guise Stadium for Sunday Mass with the Holy Father, marking Pope Francis' second full day in Papua New Guinea.

When the Holy Father arrived, their excitement turned to joy, which they displayed with singing and traditional dancing.

The Pope reflected on the gospel story from Mark during homily, which describes Jesus healing a deaf man who had trouble speaking. Even though they might feel far from God, he reassured the faithful that they "are at the center of His heart."

He stressed that “the most important thing is to open ourselves to God and our brothers and sisters, and to open ourselves to the Gospel, making it the compass of our lives.”

The Pope reiterated that evil and witchcraft do not positively change lives, but lock people up “in lies and fear.”

Following the Mass in the afternoon, the Pope boarded an Australian military transport aircraft for the two-hour flight to the coastal town of Vanimo, which is located near the border with the Indonesian province of Papua. Vanimo is a coastal town on a peninsula in north-west Papua New Guinea.

There the pope told an estimated 20,000 local Catholics to be missionaries where they live: “at home, at school, in the workplace, so that everywhere — in the forests, villages and cities — the beauty of the landscape is matched by the beauty of a community where people love one another.”

He said, “In this way, we will increasingly form a great orchestra,” Francis added, “able with its notes to ‘recompose’ rivalries, to overcome divisions — personal, family and tribal, — to drive out fear, superstition and magic from people’s hearts, to put an end to destructive behaviors such as violence, infidelity, exploitation, alcohol and drug abuse, evils which imprison and take away the happiness of so many of our brothers and sisters, even in this country.”

He heard testimonies and expressed his appreciation for the missionary work being done in the region. He challenged everyone in the neighborhood to help the Church in her endeavors by becoming missionaries in their own homes, places of education, or places of employment.

He said that by loving one another they would be able to overcome personal, family, and tribal rivalries and divisions, drive out fear, superstition, and magic from people’s hearts, and put an end to destructive behaviors, such as violence, infidelity, exploitation, and alcohol and drug abuse.

CALL FOR HUMANITARIANS.

Pope Calls for Prayers for Humanitarians Risking their Lives.



Rellysdom Aaron Mala
Catholic Media

On World Humanitarian Day, Pope Francis asks for prayers for humanitarian workers who demonstrate fraternity while risking their lives to assist others.

Popes said “especially for those who have died or been injured while helping people affected by wars and disasters.”

Since 2008, the UN has held a global observance of its International Day to

honor all volunteers who risk their lives to deliver humanitarian aid to people all over the world and to remember those who have passed away or suffered injuries while assisting with humanitarian needs.

Pope Francis stated on Monday that: “Humanitarians show that we can be ‘fratelli tutti’ by taking care of others.”

2024: the deadliest year for humanitarians:
As armed conflicts escalate in various parts of the world, the death toll among humanitarian workers rises dramatically.

2024 is likely to be the deadliest year on record for humanitarians, particularly those working in their home countries. This year, 192 humanitarian workers have been killed, including 119 locals.

Record deaths of humanitarians in Gaza:

As noted by the Catholic Church's charitable arm, Caritas Internationalis, at least 274 humanitarians have died in the last ten months, the majority of whom died in Gaza after Hamas launched an attack on Israel's southern border on October 7.

Caritas urges US and EU to uphold International Humanitarian Law:

Therefore, by withdrawing their military support from entities that breach international humanitarian law, certain EU state members were urged by the Catholic charitable network to

“live up to their values as principled humanitarian actors and to avoid being complicit in international humanitarian law violations.”

Need for effective measures to protect humanitarians:

However, compared to international humanitarian workers, national humanitarian workers' deaths receive far less media attention. This is because many of them are employed directly by or in close collaboration with foreign donors and organizations.

Therefore, Caritas Internationalis appealed to the EU for stronger financial support, practical steps to guarantee their safety, responsibility for the deaths of those killed while performing their duties, and “heightened media and political attention for the situations of local humanitarian workers.”

Call for action:

The bombing of the Canal Hotel in Baghdad, Iraq, in 2003 claimed the lives of 22 humanitarian aid workers, including Sergio Vieira de Mello, the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq. Five years later, the World Humanitarian Day (WHD) was created.

This year's observance has “Act for Humanity” as its theme, which is a call to action.

“We must act to protect civilians and humanitarian workers from violence; we must act against impunity for the perpetrators of attacks on humanitarian workers and civilians,” said Mr Lemarquis. “When we fail to protect civilians and humanitarians, we fail to uphold the fundamentals of human rights; we fail to relief the people in distress.”



CELEBRATING MARY'S ASSUMPTION

Women's Group Moli Joining Global for Mary's Assumption.



Women's group from St. Joseph Moli have joined the Universal Church to commemorate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

According to Anthony Telo of that parish, the celebration began on the 14th and 15th of August and commenced with the Thanksgiving Mass, spiritual games, and talks given by their two priests and other Religious sisters.

Anthony stated that the night program was one of the more entertaining nights, featuring concerts, dramas, and action songs.

And finally, they have their feast and final blessing.

The St. John Bosco CWC Group Commemorates Assumption Successfully.



CWC group at Taro St. John Bosco parish successfully commemorated the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Sunday 18th of August at Taro parish Chapel.

Expressed gratitude to Fr. Jacob for his report

from that parish, which he stated that the program started with the CWC women bringing Mother Mary in a procession from outside and to the Chapel. A lovely procession that led every parishioner to the Chapel was led by the Langalanga custom dancing boys, who seized control of the entrance.



Fr. Joseph's Homily, which urges all mothers to have the gentle and humble Heart of Mama Mary, is highlighted by a beautiful celebration.

Fr. Jacob stated that after the Mass a short talk about "WHO AM I" was for everyone, and then followed by feasting with entertainment by the Langalanga custom dancers.

Nusabaruku Commemorate our Lady Assumption to Heaven.



Catholic communities from fishing village and Nusabaruku get together on August 16 to commemorate the solemnity of Our Lady's assumption into heaven at Nusabaruku.

The celebration started off with a beautifully organized procession headed by our Lady to the chapel, where everyone took part in leading the liturgy; and it was Sr. Alice's responsibility to get the kids on the move.

During the Mass celebration, Bishop Peter Houhou gave a beautiful homily in which he talked about the importance of honoring Mary and the relationships we have with Her, the Church, God, and the community.

Dinner is enjoyed by all, along with cake cutting, dancing, giving gifts, and entertainment from various dancing groups.

To conclude the occasion, a blessing from our bishop, Bishop Peter Houhou.

VORUVORU, SIROVANGA & TARO NEWS IN BITS

Voruvoru Priest Salute.



More parishioners have praised and saluted their parish priest for making an effort to connect with the

parish's outlying areas.

A one week pastoral, which commenced on the 3rd week of September and ended successful on Sunday 25th.

Notwithstanding the inclement weather, some people commended their parish priest, saying it's a wonderful mission reaching out to other remote communities.

Fr. Tomas also expressed gratitude to everyone for their assistance and availability in continuing to support the community mission.

85 Candidates Receive Sacrament of Confirmation.

Eighty-five candidates from the Sirovanga Parish received their Sacrament of Confirmation on August 27, at Sirovanga Mission Station.

Reporting from that parish, Mr. Chris, the parish media volunteer thanked Bishop Peter



Houhou for ministering the occasion, Fr. Ben Rivichibatu, the catechist, and other significant parishioners for planning

and spearheading the celebration.

And commends these teenagers for their dedication, and their parents for making the event a success one.

Divine Mercy Heads to October Congress.

Divine Mercy Provincial Executive members have successfully had a day meeting on the 10th of August at Taro.



The executive members are from Moli, Taro, Sirovanga and Voruvoru parish, which they have time to discuss the occasion that would bring 300 hundred members including priests and other guests.

Holy Rosary Parish Highlights some of their Events

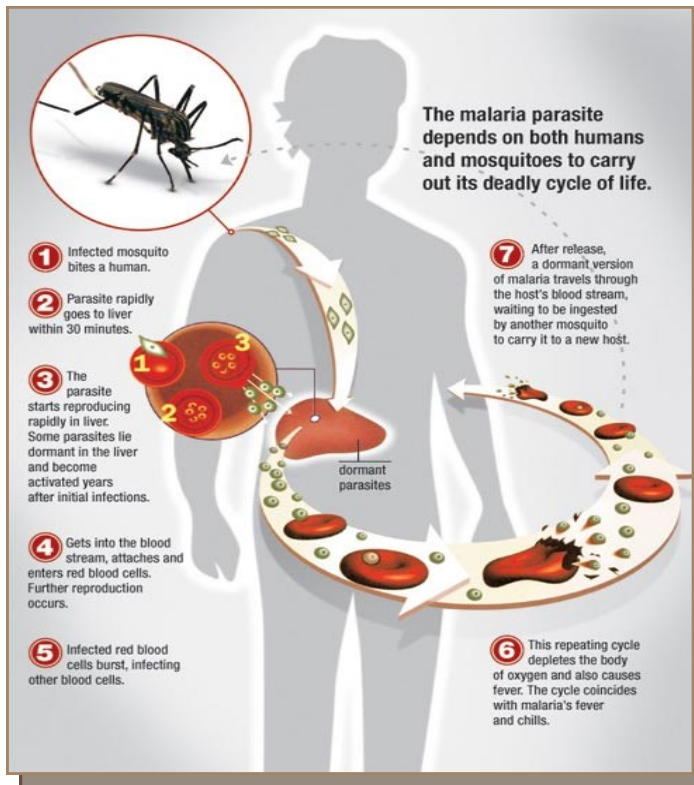


HEALTH TIPS & NEXT EVENTS. (MAYO CLINIC)

Causes

Malaria is caused by a single-celled parasite of the genus plasmodium. The parasite is transmitted to humans most commonly through mosquito bites.

Mosquito transmission cycle



Malaria transmission cycle
Malaria spreads when a mosquito becomes infected with the disease after biting an infected person, and the

infected mosquito then bites a non-infected person. The malaria parasites enter that person's bloodstream and travel to the liver. When the parasites mature, they leave the liver and infect red blood cells.

Risk factors

The greatest risk factor for developing malaria is to live in or to visit areas where the disease is common. These include the tropical and subtropical regions of:

- Sub-Saharan Africa
- South and Southeast Asia
- Pacific Islands
- Central America and northern South America

The degree of risk depends on local malaria control, seasonal changes in malaria rates and the precautions you take to prevent mosquito bites.

Risks of more-severe disease

People at increased risk of serious disease include:

- Young children and infants
- Older adults
- Travelers coming from areas with no malaria
- Pregnant women and their unborn children

In many countries with high malaria rates, the problem is worsened by lack of access to preventive measures, medical care and information.

Immunity can wane

Residents of a malaria region may be exposed to the disease enough to acquire a partial immunity, which can lessen the severity of malaria symptoms. However, this partial immunity can disappear if you move to a place where you're no longer frequently exposed to the parasite.

To be continue next issue

▪ **UPCOMING FEAST DAYS FOR OCTOBER 2024** ▪

The Month of Rosary and Month of Mission



OUR LADY OF ROSARY

7th of October

