



PAIA NUSLETA

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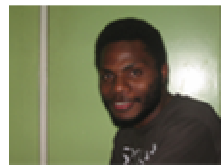
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Dear Readers,

Though this is the third month of the New Year, I wish to sincerely wish everyone the best of 2010. This is the first edition of the 2nd Volume of Paia Niusleta, 2010, and all of us are looking forward to hear more stories of our adventures with Edmund and Our Lord Jesus Christ during this New Year.

There is one thing that we should always keep in mind that as *brothers* We Walk Together, as The PAIA Niusleta Theme has it that "Yumi Wokabaut

Wantaim". This will always be a reminder to us as we journey with Christ through this New Year and beyond. Wish You All Happy Reading and May God Bless Us All...



TOLIMAN Francis - Editor

TOK KLIA

Brothers Back in PNG

This year we welcome three of our Brothers who had done ministry works overseas and are back here in PNG.

We welcome Br. Andrew Demane and Br. Paul Kikisi who returned from the Cook Islands in December last year and have joined the Vunakanau Community in Rabaul. Br Andrew Demane will be working with Callan at Vunakanau, and Br. Paul Kikisi has started teaching at St. Paul's Primary School, Vunakanau.

We also welcome our brother, Br. Gerry Buzolic, who has now joined the Erima Community this year. After being away for two years, Br. Gerry is very pleased and very excited to be back here in PNG. He has started teaching at the new Teachers College at Bomana. ■

PNG Cluster Bursar - Holiday at Last!

After tireless moments of going to and fro every morning and afternoon to the Australian High Commission and Dove Travel to secure passports, visas, work permits and tickets for our holiday trips, and early morning drives to the airport for pick up and drop off, our Bursar, Br. Charlie Smith is finally on holidays!

We should all thank him for committing his time and energy to serve us before leaving for his holidays. He also had to postpone his flight to Australia several times!!!

Br. Charlie left Port Moresby and headed to Australia on the 14th of February 2010 for his two months break. He then traveled to New Zealand on the 28th of February. We hope he enjoys his break and comes back to PNG afresh! ■

NCD - Erima

SACRED HEART TEACHERS' COLLEGE, Port Moresby

By Br. Gerard Buzolic

Sacred Heart Teachers College, Bomana, has started well. We have 101 students, with 80% coming from the Southern Region and 20% from other parts of PNG, and equal balance of males and females. Each has promised to teach in some remote village for three years after graduation. It is a privilege to teach people with such high ideals.

Painters and builders are still going through the place. Only yesterday (Wednesday 03rd Mach) five weeks after the staff signed on, we moved out of the staff room to let the painters in.

We have Bernie Cooper fsc, our principal, picking up scones each day for the students' breakfast and lunch. He keeps hoping the European Union scholarship money will come through soon, as do we all. Right now we have K4000 (\$1600) left in the bank. Bernie teaches Agriculture, and when the students' gardens finally get planted after all the grass cleaning you can expect to see him out there at night sprinkling them with holy water and saying "Grow! Grow! Grow!". Businesses have been very good to us in the meantime.

Our college is in the Death Adder, Papuan Black and Taipan country, and so last principal's assembly all were given a lesson in how to deal with snakebite. Charlie rolled into coma position on top of several desks. George wrapped a pressure bandage around an imaginary snakebite on his foot using the nearest

material to hand – bubble wrap covering an overhead projector. The rest of the college nearly died laughing. Everything is so green. Neem trees line the drive, and a family of bowerbirds visits us frequently. The college is beautiful.

Most of all the students enjoy their practice teaching. Six of us staff teach groups of seventeen, then they teach the same lesson to each other in groups of six. They are learning that teaching can be fun. We are very blest. ■

The Province Leader's Letter

CIRCULAR LETTER TO BROTHERS OF PNG CLUSTER

Dear Brothers and Candidates,

It has been good to be with you during the past week. I have found welcoming, prayerful and reflective groups of Brothers and candidates in each place I have been. I regret that time did not allow me a visit to either Rabaul or Madang on this occasion, but I have very much enjoyed the opportunity to be with communities in Erima, Wewak and Goroka, and also a visit to **Liam Sabak** at Kofena Community School (near Asaro, about 50 minutes drive from Goroka). The previous weekend I was with **Iggy Kalok** and **Cosmas Pulkapo** at Amberley in Melbourne as they settled into the early days of their *Siloam* course at the Heart of Life Institute, and a few weeks before that I was with **Andrew Mara** and **Willie Paruka** for a week in Balmain before they set out for their two years of novitiate in Lusaka Zambia.

A question: Do you ever contact our overseas Brothers? Iggy, Cosmas, Andrew and Willie all have email addresses!

My main purpose in being in PNG at this time was for a meeting with the cluster leadership team of **Alfred, Herman and Fidelis**, and also to attend the annual conference of the Federation of Religious (Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands).

Cluster Leadership Meeting (not a full set of minutes or notes, but some of the issues discussed and my reflections on them)

1. Vocations: We decided to use the word "**candidate**" for those coming close to eligibility for novitiate - often meaning those living in one of our communities. We will use the word "**aspirant**" for those who express interest, but who may still have a lengthy path ahead of them as they complete their education and fulfill their obligations to their families. Fidelis as Vocations Counsellor is keeping contact with candidates and aspirants.

A question: We often hear "every Brother is responsible for vocations" - what do you do about this?

2. Province Review: You may have noticed in recent newsletters to the Province that we will be undertaking a review of Oceania Province later this year. For the Brothers in the Papua New Guinea cluster this will be the first real chance to look again at the decision made in 2006 that the Edmund Rice Region would cease to exist and Papua New Guinea would be one of the clusters of Oceania.

A question: What are your thoughts now on the advantages and disadvantages of being a cluster, as compared with being a region? As you answer this question for yourself, or in discussion with others, I would encourage you to think of "big picture" issues rather than just personal preference - think of our cosmos, our country, our church, our mission, our community living.....

3. Leadership in PNG: Gerry Buzolic was cluster leader for a while until health reasons suggested that he resign. **Alfred Tivinarlik** was

then appointed to the position, but his full-time role at Divine Word University made it difficult for him to put much time into the role, especially visiting communities. **Herman Wagira** and **Fidelis Toatahi** were then added to form a leadership team.

A question: Is this arrangement satisfactory, or is there a real need felt for a full-time leader? If so, we need to initiate a process later in the year to identify this leader (who may still have a team to support him). By the way, we decided that all cluster leaders across Oceania would initially be appointed for a three-year term, so all clusters in Oceania will be consulted later this year about their leadership.

4. Renewal and Study: Our Province policy would see almost every Brother having a substantial period of renewal about every 10 years. Xavier Institute (about which more later) offers some very good programmes within PNG, and you will see other possibilities advertised by **Br Ted Magee** or elsewhere from time to time. All Brothers, but especially younger ones, should be alert to possibilities for study that will keep them up-to-date and fresh in their current ministry or prepare them for a change of ministry. I am convinced that we all need periods of renewal or study (preferably both) from time to time if we are to stand any chance of being the religious person that we are called to be.

Several questions: When was your last renewal? When did you last undertake serious study? When will you next ask for a period of renewal or study?

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Federation Of Religious Meeting

There were about 45 Congregation/Province/Region leaders or their delegates at Kefamo Goroka this week.

I found it an excellent week, far better than I experienced in earlier years (about 2002 to 2007; the Christian Brothers did not have representation in 2008 or 2009). There was a real sense of hope and enthusiasm and joy as leaders shared their present situations and grappled with problems great and small. The theme for the week was;

Spiritual Leadership - Called to Inspire.....

The Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Francesco Padilla, addressed the conference on this theme on the first morning, and Sr. Veronica Lawson RSM conducted a two-day workshop on the same theme later in the week, with a third day added and opened up to all Religious and Priests of the Goroka Diocese. The input delivered and processes used by both Francesco and Veronica were excellent.

Some of the issues discussed during the week that remain with me as I type this letter are. **Please note - these issues arose from many and various places across PNG, so you need not try to fit them to Christian Brothers, however tempting that might be!!!:**

1. Right Relationships in Ministry: This book has been revised and reprinted, and every Brother is to receive a copy. More to the point, every Brother must read it and know and understand it, and in the next assembly of Brothers and candidates this will be a major item on the agenda.

You could hardly fail to be aware that abusive behaviour by religious and priests has been a major issue throughout most of the world for the last 20 years or so. PNG has been relatively free of negative publicity so far, **but not free of abuse (sexual, physical, psychological)**! You can expect that abuse by priests and religious will become a major item in newspapers, TV and radio news in the very near future. We all know that sexual and physical abuse of women and children is rife throughout the country, and has been for many years, even if there has often been denial or cover-up. This is a statement about PNG society at large, not just about priests and religious. The same of course is true

of Australia and New Zealand and probably most countries. Our concern here is how we live our religious life in our own country.

Abuse of others in any way goes against all that we profess to believe. If the Church in PNG now comes to a very difficult period, as seems likely, our response must be first of all one of compassion for those who have suffered abuse, and for those who have committed it. There can be no place for denial of what has happened nor attempts to "cover up" or pretend it has not happened.

The PNG Parliament has recently passed legislation called *Lukautim Pikinini*, for the first time guaranteeing the rights of children to be protected from abuse. There are very severe penalties in place for those who violate these laws, going as far as life imprisonment for really major crimes. From what I have heard it seems that *Lukautim Pikinini* is good legislation, aiming to ensure that the most vulnerable members of our society are given the respect due to everyone and anyone. One thing I have learned this week is that when this legislation is gazetted (probably within the next month), I as Province Leader will be required to report to the Child Protection Officer in the police force of a Province any instance that I learn about where a Brother is involved in the abuse of a minor (somebody under 16 years of age).

The Catholic Bishops Conference and the Federation of Religious have jointly set up a Right Relationships Board, and it is just now starting to function as intended. At our meeting we were given brief details of the types of cases they are currently dealing with, and an interesting fact to emerge is that **every case currently being investigated is of sexual abuse alleged against a priest or religious who was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the abuse.**

A question: What does all the above mean for us Christian Brothers in Papua New Guinea?

2. Mobile phones: When I left PNG in June 2007 mobile phones were relatively uncommon. Now it seems that almost everybody has two, BMobile and Digicel! The advertising campaign based on "I love my Digicel" and "All I need is my Digicel" seems to be very persuasive for many - do we allow such money-driven attitudes to swamp our own values?

Some religious leaders here in Goroka suggested that mobiles should be banned for all religious, others that they should be banned for young religious! This I think is not the way to go. The older ones amongst us will remember a time when TV was "banned" for religious, and in an earlier time still a ban applied to travelling by air or owning a radio. Was there a time when travelling by car, or even travelling on horseback was "illegal"? Or having an electric light?

I think it could be good for every community to discuss this matter of mobile phones, and talk about the implications of their ownership for community life, for a life of simplicity, for a life of vowed poverty.....

A mobile phone can be a very useful device. I do not have problems just because a Brother or candidate has a mobile phone. I see that problems may arise in such cases as the following (mentioned this week by various leaders):

- reliance on family or wantoks to buy the phone or pay for calls - this should be a matter for the community and its budget. "Common life" goes out the door if those with wealthy families have them and others cannot.

- spending inordinate amounts of time on the phone, or inappropriate times on the phone (at the dining-table during a meal, during ministry time)

- making abusive calls or text-messages, even when it may be intended as a joke. It was reported here that quite a few Sisters receive many calls of a sexual nature, sometimes from priests or religious. **This is seriously abusive behaviour.**

A question that each of us could ask ourselves: Does my use of a mobile phone promote "fullness of life" (in the Gospel sense)? Does it make for better relationships and better communication, or just wasting time and money?

3. "Workaholism" This seems to be a serious problem for many religious, and in fact for quite a few educated people from all walks of life. Examples were given (from Fiji - how does it compare here?) where the average age at which well-educated professional people in quite a few fields of employment are dying is 45. This is being put down to stress, lack of the traditional supports of village life, and failure to ensure adequate diet or exercise.

A question: How do I measure up here? - Adequate rest and relaxation? healthy diet? How about the potentially deadly trio of buai, smoking, alcohol?

4. Xavier Institute and Rohanoka Institute: These are two of the major works of the Federation of Religious. Xavier Institute offers (over a cycle of three or four years) a range of renewal and formation courses for different groups: pastoral workers, community leaders, those preparing to be formators, those preparing for final vows, business managers, and religious near "retirement" (Does a religious ever retire?)...

Rohanoka Institute offers programmes of rehabilitation and therapy for those who suffer from various addictions or conditions such as alcoholism, gambling, sexual problems, some psychological disorders...

Both Institutes are seen by all leaders as **essential** arms of the Federation of Religious, but It is becoming increasingly difficult to find adequate staffing to keep them functioning. Many of our Brothers have attended one or other Institute at some time. Most recently, **Fidelis Toatahi** attended a course in December/January for vocation counsellors and prenovitiate formators. For some positions it would be necessary to be a qualified psychologist or formator, and that of course disqualifies most of us. But many of our Brothers could be considered for some of the other positions, such as **community leader at Keaga House for male religious doing Xavier Institute courses. This position is vacant right now, and a religious man willing to offer his services is being sought with some desperation! Anybody interested????**

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Conclusion

A few quotes from the week that you might like to take to your prayer, either personal or community:

*The religious wants to be where the cry of the poor meets the ear of God
 Religious Institutes are not simply a source of committed workers for the cause of justice, but are rather a spiritual resource for the struggle*

Think too of the words that the Congregation Leader of another Congregation spoke at their last Congregation Chapter. **How closely do these words describe us?** They went something like this - I don't have the exact quotation:

For years we have talked about "the cry of the poor". Most of our men have gone nowhere near hearing it!

Brothers, I thank you for the privilege of being amongst you this week, and for your hospitality, cheerfulness and commitment. I single out especially **Alfred, Herman and Fidelis** who exercise their ministry of leadership on top of other full-time commitments.

Let us keep **Kevin Ryan** in our prayers that his present chemotherapy treatment brings him back to full health. During the time of Kevin's absence from PNG I have appointed **Mr Augustine Koroma as the Acting Director of Callan Services.**

**Your brother
 Vince Duggan
 PROVINCE LEADER**

Notices

Online Course in Social Justice and Advocacy Awareness Developed By Edmund Rice International (ERI)...

From Br. Brian Bond in Geneva - SWITZERLAND

Whilst the access to a reliable internet connection may be difficult in much of PNG perhaps there may be some members of the Edmund Rice Network who may be interested in the online course in Social Justice and Advocacy Awareness developed by Edmund Rice International.

“Would you like to learn more about how you can take effective action for justice at a global level?”

Want to know more about the work of Edmund Rice International (ERI) and how you can be part of it?

Then why not sign up for the ERI online course which aims to raise awareness about more effective global action for justice at <http://erisj.org.au/course/>

No prior knowledge is assumed, and whilst it is meant to be informative and interesting it is not an academic course. Best of all it is free and you can work through the material at your own pace.

It is designed for busy people who would like a basic understanding of how organizations such as ERI can work within the UN system to bring about improved outcomes for the most vulnerable people on our planet and for our earth itself.

The course is divided into eight topics containing material for reading and reflection, some questions for discussion and an opportunity for chat with like-minded people around the world – (an optional feature), some suggestions and guidelines for engaging in a simple exercise in advocacy of your own choosing and some quizzes to test your own understanding – (there are no marks or grades associated with the course)

You are welcome to sign up and work through the course individually (each topic takes about two hours to work through) or better still to form a group and work through it together!”

Edmund Rice International also produces a regular newsletter. You can receive the newsletter by visiting the ERI website at <http://www.edmundriceinternational.org/> and clicking on ‘**Subscribe to our newsletter**’ towards the bottom left of the homepage. ■

Birthdates; Jan-Mar

JANUARY

19th January WINNIE Adrian
25th January ELLIS Peter
05th February STALLARD Vin

FEBRUARY

08th February KIKISI Paul
21st February TIVINARLIK Alfred

MARCH

03rd March WAGIRA Herman
08th March TOLIMAN Francis
09th March PINIAU Victor
13th March SABAK Liam
17th March MARA Andrew
30th March ANDERSON Peter

Live Jesus in Our Hearts

... FOREVER!!!