



EDITORIAL

Dear benefactors and friends,

I greet you all on behalf of the people of Daru-Kiunga diocese and hope you are having a good year 2019.

At this far end of the world we keep on walking together our Journey of Faith and this year the value we live and promote is CARE. We make efforts to follow the way of Jesus in his caring attitude and we try to better care for one another, for nature and for our environment. This will bring us closer to one another and make more life-giving the communion among ourselves.

One thing interesting is that we always have new projects going on to help our people. We also constantly have new missionaries and volunteers living and working with us in the diocese. In this issue of LES NOTRES the Daughters of Wisdom share about one project they started last year to assist young girls with their education. The aim is to come to the assistance of girls coming from far away and from poor families. A new group of Missionary Sisters from India has been with us for one year and now sister Celine writes about their stay in the diocese and their presence at our Secondary School. We also have a volunteer from Austria, responsible for the Financial Management Program for our teachers. She writes about how important this program is for the good management of our schools. I have also asked a Fidei Donum young priest from India to share his experience with us. Fr. Kiran is presently parish priest of St. Brigid parish in Kiunga.

As some of our buildings (convents, presbyteries, churches, etc.) have been built 30, 40 and 50 years ago the need for maintenance is increasing and that keeps our carpenters very busy and it is very costly. The Montfortian Families were blessed with the visit of their Superior General, father Luiz Augusto Stefani. The Montfort Missionaries held their assembly with him in December and he was in Kiunga for Christmas. The people were very happy to welcome him and make him feel at home.

I am very grateful to each one of you for your on-going interest in our Mission here in Papua New Guinea. Your support began in the early sixties and has played a vital role in the establishment of the Catholic Church in this neglected and forgotten region of Papua New Guinea. We are still in the process of starting our Church in some corners of the Western Province as it is so big and there are practically no roads for travelling.

Please keep on praying for us so that the missionaries of today will have the same love for the people and the same zeal for pastoral ministry as the first courageous missionaries had. They had a strong faith and always put the interests of the poor people before their own. I also invite you to keep on being generous as the needs seem always greater and the resources getting smaller. Do not be shy to talk about us to some of your friends and invite them to join our big family of missionaries, some living in Canada and some working here in Papua New Guinea.

At this end you are not forgotten as so often we talk about our benefactors and every day we pray for them. We truly feel you are part of us.

I am very grateful to one brother of St. Gabriel, Ronald Brissette, who, a few years ago, has taken on the responsibility of editing LES NOTRES. He is working in team with Sr. Violaine Gagnon, dw and Father Richard Larouche, smm. Translation in French and English supervision is done by Sr. Pierrette Gagnon, dw. Many thanks to this group of former missionaries in our Country.

Your friend and bishop,

† Gilles Côté, smm

“IF WE DON’T TAKE RISK FOR GOD, WE WILL NEVER DO GREAT THINGS FOR HIM!”

Dear Sisters, Brothers and Friends, warm greetings from Kiunga to all of you!

The celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the beatification of our Blessed Marie Louise was held at La Sagesse Girls Hostel on May 7th 2018 with the Montfortian Family, the Friends of Wisdom and all missionaries residing in Kiunga. Bishop Gilles Côté was the main celebrant since all the priests were on retreat. This celebration brought us great joy with the renewal of vows of Sr Beata, the official blessing and opening of our “La Sagesse Girls Hostel”

This is the 1st ministry of our own as Daughters of Wisdom after 55 years of presence in Papua New Guinea! I was inspired by the words of Montfort as he said:”If you do not take risk for God, you will not do great things for Him”. Yes with faith and courage, we took the risk to start this new ministry to answer the needs of our girls and young women who are from the remote areas and studying in Kiunga but they do not have a proper and safe accommodation. During the introduction of our celebration, I mentioned that several times we tried to rent this La Sagesse House but it did not happen and we were wondering and questioning ourselves! Today we got our answers, it was not a mistake, it had its purpose to bring us back to our Charism and to practice the recommendation of our Blessed Marie Louise to “TAKE CARE OF THE POOR”

She wants us to keep the flame alive and burning as we entrust this new ministry of La Sagesse Girls Hostel to her guidance and protection!



Yes, God is good to those who strive for their best. The three girls of last year have returned for 2019: Ruth, from lowara, who completed her Grade twelve studies in 2016, was accepted to do two years of training to become a nurse. Lina is doing her grade seven in Matkomnai Primary School, and Florine doing Grade Nine at St Gabriel Technical Secondary School. These three girls have courage and energy to continue their studies and show great interest to work hard between times to do gardening.

They come from a Christian family so mingle very well with the sisters and the people around the mission area.

At this time, we have extended the house to welcome ten girls; seven came and some are still struggling to be admitted at the school. The sister in-charge takes time to be with them to know them as well to help them in many ways

We are thankful to our General Leadership Team for allowing us to start this new ministry in spite of diminishing in number and lack of vocation! We have a strong faith and hope that the La Sagesse Girls Hostel will be a source of inspiration for the young women to join us in the future as we commit ourselves to love without borders in our daily lives and in our ministries! May our Holy Founders Montfort and Marie Louise be with us in our journey!

Sr Rasoazananoro Julienne, DW

**“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me”
(Mt 25: 40)**

The Congregation of the Seva Missionary Sisters of Mary (SMSM), one of the Indian indigenous Congregations, was founded by Rev. Msgr. John Kottaram, a diocesan Priest in 1974 in the southern part of India. His Charism: “To make Christ known and loved where ever He is not”. At present we exceed 200 in number. Our Charism is actualized through various ministries revised according to the signs of the time and need of the people. Currently we serve through our Family apostolate (visiting the families), formal and non-formal education such as conducting special School for the dropouts, child laborers, day care for mentally challenged children. Formation and empowering of women through multiple training programmes, such as Small scale industries, agriculture, sewing, embroidery and computing. We also provide health care and take active participation in all the activities of the parish, preparing for sacraments and meaningful celebration of the liturgy wherever we are .We have also started stepping out to other countries wherever our service is needed today.

We, Srs. Benita and Celine SMSM with immense joy and happiness take this opportunity to share our experience in this land of unexpected, the land of paradise. Thanks to the Almighty, to Bishop Gilles Cote, to the Montfort Brothers of St.Gabriel for accepting us in this mission school where we are given the opportunity to serve the people of this country through their younger generation, the future of this nation.



After one year in Kiunga, we can say with Mother Mary: “Our soul magnifies the Lord and our spirit rejoices in God our savior” for bringing us to this promising land amidst the people who are really in need of our presence in many ways. Needless to say that we do experience real satisfaction and fullness of life.

We feel that our call and commitment to this religious life is becoming more and more relevant and meaningful

day by day. Though the differences in the culture, customs, traditions, and way of life, food

and weather condition place before us a very tough challenge, we find that none of those can really become a barrier to our mission if Jesus and His mission become our priority and we can recognize His image in the face of this simple people.

To be a teacher in this mission school is a rare privilege that is gifted to us, because this is the greatest opportunity to see Jesus face to face. Yes, every day in our own limited classrooms we have many



opportunities to encounter the poor, the suffering, the rejected, the abandoned and the hungry Jesus in our children. We also see the young ones who are affected by the most terrible poverty. That is not really material poverty but the loneliness and the feeling of being unloved. We are convinced that when we become the cause of a smile on their faces we become living Jesus to them.

There are times we are down in spirit and feel emptiness, discouragement and keep asking ourselves questions: Why should we sacrifice many things to come to this foreign land? Can we make any change over here? Can we alleviate the life conditions of this people? Then, the words of Mother Teresa comfort us, “Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love”. It makes a lot of sense to us that we are not here to change everything and everyone or to do great things but to accept the reality and do small things with great love. Those in need find in us support, comprehension and attentive listening. Is this our job? The answer is in the words of St. Thomas Aquinas, ‘To one who has faith no explanation is necessary, to one without faith, no explanation is possible.’

We would like to conclude this short sharing of our rich experience in this beautiful part of the world with the words of our beloved pope Francis, “In imitation of our master, we Christians are called to confront the poverty of our brothers and sisters, to touch it and to make it our own and to take practical steps to alleviate” it. May the Lord continue to be with us in our faith journey strengthening our footsteps.

Sister Celine and Sister Benita, smsm



School Management Programme Western Province

The School Management Programme (SMP) in the Western Province has started as a service of the Catholic Education Agency (CEA) in the Diocese of Daru-Kiunga in 2012. The goal of this programme is to improve Primary, Community and Secondary schools Financial Administration and School Management through increased co-operation between the head teacher and

recording and reporting. The Agency currently operates 29 Primary/Community Schools and 35 Elementary Schools and wants to ensure that all schools run properly and the students receive good education.

The local training coordinator and the technical advisor from HORIZONT3000, the Austrian organisation for development cooperation, are responsible for organising and facilitating financial management trainings in schools and for visiting them to help head teachers and the Board of Management to improve their school



management and their school learning improvement plans. Some of the schools are in very remote areas and not easy to reach. Travelling to the schools includes long rides by dinghies (motorised boats), dug-out boats, walks through the bush and car rides on potholed roads. Some schools in the mountains are only reachable by plane.

A yearly activity of the SMP-Team is the Head Teachers Conference where the teachers are given the possibility to share experiences, reflect on their work and update each other on current issues. This conference is highly appreciated amongst the head teachers and also supports the Agency to build a good relationship with its teachers.

The School Management Programme will continue over the next years to offer adequate services to the Catholic Agency Schools towards a better quality of education in the Western Province.

HOW? NOW!!

Wonder.... Wonder.... Everything is Wonder!

One fine evening, blinking stars in the sky, under the moon light, sitting at the sea shore I saw a person looking deep into his 'sea of life' wondering!

In his school time he wanted to become an engineer but now he is a priest. He used to stand outside the Church to peep through the windows to see what was happening inside. But now, he stands at the altar and faces the world with the " Word".

As a diocesan priest, he prepared his mind to serve peacefully within his diocese. But now he opened the doors for Mission as First Missionary from the Diocese of Vijayawada, India.

In spite of hardships his feet accompanied him in a "one man journey - one man army" from home to Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea

His service brought him in a new world, new atmosphere, new life with new people, to start his journey in St. Brigid parish as Parish Priest appointed by visionary Bishop Gilles Côté. As he adjusts and walks on his new way of life, he faces the hard road and feels not really fit for this life journey. But later, he realises that the stone which seems hard to you can also be ascending step to move you further.



Admiring the colourful nature, he questions himself: who said PNG is poor country? It is wonderful to see the richness of this Christianity, rich in faith, rich in resources, rich in love, rich in freedom, and rich in excellent diocesan structure to promote "One Vision, One People".

Looking at the sky, he smiles at the drastic changes and reality in life, during his long patrols staying months in the bush where there is also "life in life" even without electricity, mobile, money, laptop etc. He also finds joy in the challenges that become channels of grace in his ministry.

In silence, he asks himself: how is it possible to move with the people without knowing their language, how can they respond? The answer given to his silence is the fact that he is already with them and has achieved a lot by giving the sacraments to the catechumens, appointing Communion Ministers and building churches in many remote villages... etc.... Suddenly he hears the sound of the church bell, comes back to reality, smiles in the moon light and rushes to the church to celebrate the Eucharist.

My dear reader, you may ask, who is he...?

He is none other than Fr. Kiran Kranth Jyothi, I saw a person into myself no other than 'God's Presence'. The life in depth mentioned above is not of mine but from His Care for everyone. My mission in PNG is awesome and full of wonders.

Yes, dear friends, in His presence, what is impossible becomes possible. Live in His presence and show Him to the world and He will work for you. As St. Paul says: "it is not I who live, but Christ who lives in me" (Gal 2:20). Everything is possible in God. Life is wonderful! Let us love it, and live it! Sincere thanks for giving me the chance to share what I experience in my ministry. Your Priest in Him, Father Kiran Kranth Jyothi.

BROTHER BERNARD CHABOT, sg.

Brother Bernard has gone to the Father's Home on 16 February 2019, at the age of 90. From 1960 on, he worked in mission lands. He first worked in Singapore, but he dreamed of a more



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demanding mission and was sent to Papua New Guinea. He is one of the three founders of the Brothers of St. Gabriel's mission in Papua. He took up various tasks, both in Daru and in Kiunga. He added Motu and Pidgin to his knowledge of other languages. This was very useful in his Priestly Ministry (1995), in his work of formation of catechists, and on the patrol journeys that he undertook. He leaves us the testimony of a fully committed religious, of a grand devotee to Mary, of a vibrant singer, and of a Brother who was always happy and cheerful. We need other people like Bernard to extend the Lord's Kingdom through Mary.

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