

CATHOLIC PROFESSIONALS PNG

A LIGHT AND VOICE OF CATHOLIC FAITH IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 1

October 30th, 2023

Dynamic Deacon Harold Visits PNG



Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers dubbed the “Dynamic Deacon” made a historic evangelization visit to Port Moresby from Monday 10th July 2023 to 14 July 2023. It was the first visit by a world-renowned Catholic Preacher and Evangelist to PNG.

The three-day event was organized and hosted by the Catholic Professionals Society of PNG (CPS) in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Port Moresby and Parousia Media of Australia with the generous support of private and public sector donors, Catholic faithful and volunteers mostly from the Catholic Police Chaplaincy services, youths and families.

The event ended with the Mass Celebrated by Cardinal Sir John Ribat, CBC President, Bishop Otto Separy, 17 priests and Deacon Harold.

Deacon Harold was accompanied by the founder and Director of Parousia Media Australia, Mr. Charbel Raish who helped arranged for the Deacon’s visit. CPS is grateful of its partnership with Parousia Media. Deacon Harold so passionately and powerfully talked around the theme “Re-Awakening of the Faith” for the civil and political leadership, Church leadership, youths and young people and the nation. The event was televised live on EMTV and live-streamed on social media. Deacon expressed his love and gratitude to the people and country and hope to return in the future. Charbel also expressed his gratitude for Parousia’s partnership with CPS in the evangelization mission in PNG.

Police Chaplaincy Affiliation

The police Chaplaincy was a major support unit for the successful staging of the Deacon Harold visit to Port Moresby. The Chaplaincy is now an affiliate of CPS for ongoing collaboration and pastoral animation. CPS attended a Chaplaincy event at the Police Training College Bomana on 08 October 2023 to witness the Confirmation of 98 candidates by the Apostolic Nuncio, Msgr Fermin Sosa Rodriguez. It was a joyous occasion for the candidates, their families and the Chaplaincy, also attended were the Police Commissioner David Manning, deputy Admin Joanne Clarkson, deputy Operations Philip Mitna, police Chaplain Fr. Michael Lau, CPS President Paul Harricknen, Board members Esther Igo and Michael Varapik.



CPS Strategic Planning Retreat

CPS held its strategic planning retreat on 1-3 September 2023 at the Sivarai Namona Pastoral Centre, Bomana. It was facilitated by Ms. Esther Igo and Mr. Kila Ai. It was attended by CPS Executive and members including the police Chaplaincy. The last 5 years plan 2019-2023 was reviewed for the next 5-years strategic plan for CPS.



Chief John Momis Lecture



Chief John Momis gave a moving lecture on the Constitutional vision and the leadership for PNG on 01 August 2023 at the St Joseph's parish Boroko Church. It was organized by the CPS and attracted interest from many people who came from among the learning institutions, schools and the public to hear from the living icon of the Constitution. Momis was the deputy Chair of the Constitutional Planning Committee (CPC) which went throughout the country consulting the people of their views and thinking on what they wanted for PNG as an independent nation. He spoke of some key issues and principles that guided the CPC consultative process in shaping PNG as an independent constitutional democracy.

According to Momis, the kind of society the people of PNG wanted is enshrined in the National Goals & Directive Principles of the Constitution. The Constitutional Planning Committee (CPC) conducted a comprehensive consultative engagement with the people to find out the kind of society they wanted. It was quite clear that the people wanted to maintain their rich cultural diversity in a united nation. They further wanted to be liberated and empowered to become both Subjects and Objects of development. The people wanted to participate in the socio-economic & political process in accordance with the Principle of Subsidiarity and not be made victims of the dependency syndrome. The five national goals & directive principles advocate integral human development, equality and participation, sovereignty & self-reliance, natural resources & environment, & PNG ways.

Having democratic process and structures is important and it is just as important to have quality of leadership hence the importance of the Leadership Code which is a moral code and not a criminal code. The Leadership Code which applies only to leaders stipulates that leaders must not only behave in an upright way, but they must also be seen to be behaving in an upright way. If they misbehave they should resign from office. The PNG Constitution is quite unique in having the constitutionally mandated National Goals & Directive Principles which should help us to create a just society

Mission Sunday Expo



CPS participated at the St Joseph's Boroko parish Mission Sunday Expo on 22 October 2023 among other religious congregations, ministries and apostolates which displayed their various ministries and apostolates in the parish and the Church. CPS was attended by President Harricknen, Vice President Paraide, Board Members Esther Igo and Kila Ai, and the Admin team of Nyleptha Maino and Benildus Sosori.

CPS Visitation to its Seniors

CPS started a visitation programme for its senior members and those who are sick and home-bound. We started with Mr. Camillus Narokobi and his wife Cathy at their Boroko home on Sunday 29 October 2023. It is a small reminder that we are in this together, our prayers, thoughts and support. We place our trust in the loving hand of God always.



DCA Campaign

CPS joined the civil society in the campaign against the Defence Cooperation Agreement between PNG and the USA. The campaign sparked a nation-wide uprising from students of UPNG, Unitech and other learning institutions. PNG government was accused of blindly facilitating the geo-political interests of the United States without clear benefits for the people and country. The two governments went on to sign the agreements on 22 May 2023 despite the popular opposition.

Campaign Against Constitutional Amendment for PNG as Christian Country

The national Government is bent on amending the National Constitution to make PNG recognized as a Christian country by law. The Constitutional and Law Reform Commission (CLRC) under the directives of the NEC conducted a 6 weeks consultation in few selected town forums and provided the report to the NEC. The proposed amendment is already in the Parliament to be tabled, hopefully debated and voted on by the MPs.

CPS with the support of the Catholic Bishops have publicly opposed the proposals since 2021 arguing that it is not necessary. The proposals are against the freedom of conscience, thought and religion and the freedom of assembly provisions of the Constitution, and the UN Declaration of Human Rights. The proposal will politicise faith and create disunity among different churches and people. It is not right to legislate on faith and belief, which is a matter of one's life and deeds.

The preamble of the Constitution already provides the recognition and adoption of the Christian Principles, the National Goals and Direction Principles, which sufficiently provide the moral foundation of the nation and its people. Nothing more is necessary.



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