



GOODBYE, TIMBUNKE!

On 25 June 2017, Fr Michal Tomaszewski, SVD, celebrated his last mass as parish priest with the people of St Paul's Parish, Timbunke. This day also coincided with the feast day of St Paul in the parish. The festive mood of the celebration was evident in the solemn expression on the faces of the parishioners.

Fr Michal had served as parish priest of Timbunke for almost five years. He was a parish priest of Timbunke, Kaningara and



Amboin. After the departure of Fr Peter Vasko, SVD, Fr Michal assumed the responsibility of looking after all the five parishes in the middle Sepik River.

During the time that Fr Michal was parish priest, he began a kindergarten school. Fr Michal said it was very difficult and challenging. The idea of this kindergarten did not go down well with many of the parents. For these parents, the presence of the kindergarten school meant that their children would

have to go to school instead of going to the river for fishing. There were some parents who were obviously against the kindergarten and were suspicious of their parish priest. However, things changed with time. And on 24 June, on the eve of the parish feast day, the kindergarten school kids put up a cultural show to the amazement and appreciation of everyone. This cultural show was also in commemoration of this "Yia bilong ol Pikinini." A number of parents admitted that they did not know that their children had these talents in them. As for Fr Michal, he said " Today I am very happy and I leave Timbunke with a contented heart because I see all the kids displaying their gifts and talents."

On Monday morning, on the day of departure, the church was unusually full with parishioners. Most of them had come to see their outgoing parish priest for the last time. After mass, when we were finally ready to leave

for the speed boat waiting for us, the parishioners formed a long queue from the door of the haus patre to the waiting boat - everyone wanted to shake hands with their parish priest. Just before Fr Michal began his descent to the boat, the people, like a choir, all at once burst into a loud cry. Fr Michal could not even hide his emotions. He, like everyone else, also cried out loud. As I was watching, it dawned on me the deep and intimate bond we missionaries form with our members of the community without knowing it until moments like this happened. How blessed are the feet of him who bring the good news (Is 52:7).

Fr Michal left Port Moresby on 12 July for Manila, the Philippines for a six-month month course in formation. This was my first trip as a district superior to Timbunke and it was a privilege to to learn and know about our outstanding and pioneer missionaries who have paved the way for us.

Valuing our Cultural Heritage through Collaboration

The title of this article was the theme for 27th Cultural Show at Divine Word University that took the place on 19th day of August. The celebration had started the previous evening with a Parade Evening at SVD Memorial Auditorium. The program started with an opening prayer and devotion by Mchpee Tai and welcome remarks by Jerimiah Kanawi. After that Ms. Annette Sete (DWU 2017 Alumna of the

year) gave her speech using her own experience from her time as a student and appreciated the value of the University.

During this evening the students of DWU explained aspects of their own culture through the traditional clothes, accessories, dances and songs. It was a real mix of faces, costumes, language and sounds. On this evening visitors could see representatives from almost all of the provinces of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands who were not only wearing their traditional costume but at the same time they were explaining the names and meanings of each part of what they wore/ This performance continued for hours and finished around midnight.

On Saturday, the SVD field near the Central House was so

crowded because of the Cultural Day celebration. In the morning many sing-sing groups of students from different provinces came and prepared themselves for performance. About midday, Fr. Pat Gesch said the prayer and afterwards the show started.

Big groups of students and staff were dancing, singing and shouting for long hours. At this time it was really hard to find free space for viewers or photographers. Later Brian Kramer MP, the guest of honor came and gave a speech in which he mentioned about his studies and life at DWU, his own experience from the business and politician's life. At the end of his speech he said a few sentences about his program and some ideas for the future of Madang and PNG.



DWU Foundation Day

One day after the Cultural Show, 20th day of August, staff and students from DWU started to celebrate DWU Foundation Day. At the chapel Fr. Philip Gibbs, Acting SVD Provincial said a special mass. In his homily he said the history, chapter and main idea of a higher educational institution came from the Chapter of the Divine World Institute that was written by the founding congregations (SVD and SSPS). Fr. Philip also mentioned that the Christian ethics, collaboration, friendship, equality of the men and women are taking an important part in the studies at DWU.

During the mass there was a procession accompanying the Bougainville group. In one of them students and staff of DWU brought gifts to the altar. Among them were the logo of the University and flags from each province of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

At the end of the mass Ms. Annette Sete gave a testimony of her life and studies at DWU. She also mentioned the 'special spirit' inside the campus and good differences between DWU and another universities. After the final blessing, all participants of the mass were invited for the coffee, sandwiches and cakes at the students' dining room where all of us continued the celebration.

DWU Alumni day

The 21st of August at DWU was celebrated as the 21st anniversary of Foundation of the University and the Alumni Day. The official program started at 8:30 with the introduction by Fr. Philip Gibbs, Acting SVD Provincial and Vice President Research & Higher Degrees. Afterwards Sr. Miriam Dlugosz, SSpS, guided us into the prayer during which she repeated a few times that each of us is an unique person and the image of God.

After that Professor Pamela Norman, Deputy President of the DWU, had a welcome address. She reminded participants of the history of creation from the Bible (1st chapter of the Genesis) and nd connected this story with the foundation of the DWU. Professor Pamela added a few jokes and made all of alumni and guests laughing.

Later, Archbishop Douglas Young, SVD, Chairman of DWU, gave his speech which covered the past and the present of the University with the charism of the Founding Congregations (SVD and SSpS), and the influence from their own Fr. Founder – Saint Fr. Arnold Janssen. Speaking to the alumni and staff of DWU, Archbishop Young encouraged them to be excellent like our God. It means to be the best students, the best professors and the best university in Pacific. He added that excellence required autonomy and responsibility, giving own way to develop each department of the university. Afterwards Archbishop Young mentioned about some important characteristics of the catholic university such as: collaboration with each other, faithfulness to the value of the Gospel, morality of human rights, honesty, integrity and openness for other dominations and non-believers.

Afterwards Professor Pamela Norman talked about the Distinguished Alumnae Award. She gave the background about the idea and criteria of the award, the foundation of the award and two first recipients of this award (John Taka and Andrew Mclymbee Tipi Peke). Professor Pamela pleasantly stressed that Ms. Annette Sete will be the first female recipient of the DWU Distinguished Alumnae Award. Then Sr. Anna Damas, Provincial Superior of the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit and the University Council member, announced the 2017 DWU Distinguished Alumnae of the year. Sir Peter Barter, GCL OBE Kt then presented this Award to Ms. Angelica Sete, mother of Ms. Annette Sete, the recipient. (Ms. Sete had left the previous day for a commitment in Australia). Later Ms. Annette Sete's response was played through the video that was recorded by the students one day before.

At 10 a.m. all of the participants moved to Alumnae Park where the plaque with name of Annette Sete was unveiled by her mother. Fr. Philip Gibbs and Professor Pamela Norman said a few words as closing remarks and a common photo of all the alumni and DWU staff was taken. At the end of the ceremony there was a reception at the Staff dining room.

Fr. Steven Tcergel



Happy Birthday

September

01	Fr. Francis Koimb	(1958)
02	Br. Larry Kiefer	(1935)
03	Bp. Henk te Maarsen	(1933)
	Fr. Elias Aiyako	(1964)
04	Fr. Wojciech Niscigorski	(1966)
07	Fr. Jose Orathinkal	(1962)
09	Br. Szymon Porwol	(1983)
14	Fr. Fredy Jehadin	(1960)
18	Fr. Arnie Steffen	(1929)
19	Br. Hermann Specht	(1944)

02	Fr. Henry Buschhoff	(1916)
04	Br. Gonzaga Schniederger	(1982)
05	Fr. Joseph Reiber	(1907)
06	Br. Pontianus Hennecke	(1923)
07	Br. Kurt Hufnagel	(2003)
08	Fr. Henry Renk	(1996)
10	Fr. Francis Vormann	(1929)
	Fr. Willi Blank	(1966)
11	Fr. Theodore Schlueter	(1908)
12	Fr. Leo Meiser	(1985)
13	Fr. John Schwab	(1990)
15	Fr. Rupert Hittenberger	(1940)
17	Br. Camillus Kaerkes	(1967)
	Fr. Lawrence Mey	(1985)
19	Fr. Francis v.d. Bekerom	(1977)
20	Fr. John Nilles	(1993)
21	Fr. John Feeley	(1995)
22	Fr. Bruno Pehl	(1989)
24	Fr. Ignatius Schwab	(1947)
	Br. Salvius Appenzeller	(1998)
	Br. Tom Granfield	(2000)
25	Fr. Bill Kelly	(1998)
26	Br. Ferdinand Nienhaus	(1927)
29	Br. Werner Jansing	(1999)

October

01	Fr. Benjamin Bosili	(1975)
02	Fr. Stach Kilarski	(1952)
08	Fr. Robert "Itzo" Duka	(1975)
12	Fr. Michael O'Donovan	(1947)
14	Fr. Benjamin Seda	(1978)
15	Br. Martin Tnines	(1965)
19	Abp. Michael Meier	(1928)
20	Fr. Adam Sroka	(1969)
21	Fr. Carlos Alcaraz	(1963)
	Fr. Clement Daimas	(1981)
24	Fr. Joseph Repelewicz	(1931)

01	Fr. Karl Juenemann	(2001)
02	Fr. Herman van Burgsteden	(2002)
04	Fr. Maximillian Lohmiller	(1911)
05	Fr. Arthurus Schenker	(1970)
07	Fr. Basil Aerni	(1991)
08	Br. Wendalin Becker	(1967)
	Fr. Paul Plutta	(2006)
09	Bp. Hermann Raich	(2009)
11	Br. Bonaventure Marcinek	(1981)
	Fr. William Lachenicht	(1988)
13	Br. David Brunner	(1993)
15	Br. Sylvester Scherm	(1971)
19	Fr. Andreas Puff	(1938)
22	Fr. Ivo Schaefer	(1964)
	Fr. Philip Jaeschke	(1911)
	Fr. Joseph Holken	(1959)
	Fr. Willi Morman	(2000)
	Br. Michael Helsper	(2002)
25	Br. Lucian Greitzke	(1983)
	Fr. Henry Herget	(1935)
	Fr. Hugo Schulz	(2004)

Call to help
people facing food
shortag in Goilala
The National

**SOCIAL
CONCERN
august**

How are we going in
educating our kids?
Backwards

A PRIEST in Central is appealing for help after noticing the food shortage experienced by people living near his parish. Father Thaddeus Hoem from the Fane parish in Goilala told The National that people were becoming sick because of the lack of food. He said nurses in the parish clinic were having a hard time attending to the sick people. Hoem, who has been serving there for a year and three months, said it was hard to grow crops

because the land was dry. "I visited families and their food gardens and noticed that the place was all dried up and not much food crops have grown," he said. Medicine supply will also become a problem if the situation is not addressed quickly, he added. "I call on responsible government agencies like the National Disaster Centre to go there and have a look and assess themselves what I'm saying.

One of the positive trends of globalisation is the mass mobilisation of human labour beyond people's cultural or ethnic demarcation and Papua New Guineans educated in PNG do – and increasingly will - live and work elsewhere in the world.

This thought leads me to consider the kind of education have we provided for our young people over the last 20 years and whether we have the best education plan for this country.

How do we measure and evaluate the success rate of PNG education policy over the last 20 years?

It may be unpatriotic to raise my voice on the shortcomings evident in national policy but the declining trend in educational quality is appalling and it demands the attention of all of us who care to find an alternative and more successful model as a priority matter.

I want to share with you the first-hand experience of a PNG classroom teacher.

Everywhere you go in PNG, classrooms are full to the brim. We do not have the ability in such crowded classrooms to adequately supervise individual students. So what we do is stand in front, deliver the lesson and walk out of the door when the bell rings.

Textbooks are almost non-existent in each of the departments. Those of you who went to school prior to education reform will recall that we were issued textbooks at the beginning of the school year.

But over the last five or six years, my school has not receive any new textbooks under the government's tuition fee free policy.

So my students do not have textbooks. They come into class, sit down and listen to what the teachers tell them. They copy what teachers write on the blackboard even if it is erroneous or irrelevant. They believe it to be the truth because there's no other source by which they can find out.

Students' understanding of the world beyond is limited. If you ask them to name five cities in Australia, they can't. Moreover, the English language is too much for them to grasp. In many cases they have given up trying. Some students cannot do simple arithmetic or write a simple sentence in English and yet they are in the classroom because that's where the government says every child must be. There is lack of motivation among students to excel academically because they know they will still move to the next level of schooling regardless of their capability. In these conditions, teachers lose enthusiasm. This leads to attitude and behaviour problems with some students. We spend much time trying to control errant behaviour. And, it should be noted, teachers are educators, not law enforcers.

Teacher absenteeism is high in some schools because headmasters themselves may not be committed – getting drunk and socialising using school funds and failing to monitor their staff or the operations of the school. If the current education policy is not working to the advantage of our children, we have to discard it. We must come up with an alternative model that is best for Papua New Guinea.

And it is my view that we have to do this soon.