



Christmas message from Fr. Provincial Josef Maciolek

Dear Confreres,

We are led through the Advent time of waiting towards Bethlehem, the House of Bread, to look at our life experiences through the story of Nativity.

Emmanuel is born, God is with us, but hidden in a manger, among the poor shepherds and animals. He is to become food for those on a spiritual quest for living water. He is born of the Virgin, he is born of what is the most pure in us, deep down in the cave of our hearts.

Our longing for justice, goodness and love recognizes what is already there, hidden from our willpower, pride and ambitions. It is revealed to the little ones, the child each one of us once was; it is alive in our memory and the store of our emotions.

Last night in Madang I went to a concert of Christmas carols being sung at the Holy Spirit Cathedral. There were many groups from different communities and other Churches. The atmosphere created by those songs was that of joy and peace. Those songs contain the clue how to find the God born unto us.

May the Christmas time be blessed to all of you. May you allow yourselves to rest and relax from the daily run. May the glory of God shine in the silence of the night and in your rest. Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

In the Beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was Gad

John 1:1



Life Story of Fr. Andrew Masy, SVD



I was born on 30th May 1974 in a village called Branda, in Queen of Angels Parish, Biwat, Angoram District, East Sepik Province, Papua New Guinea. I am the fourth born in the family of Steven Masi and

Rita Masilong. My mother was a religious mother and my father was a community health worker. I grew up in a religious atmosphere. My mother was religious, and she used to tell me to pray rosary every day. Where us my father.

I started my primary education in Biwat Primary School in 1983 – 1987 and continued to the High School in 1988 – 1992. In 1994, I went to School of Nursing in Raihu, Aitape, Sandaun Province.

I was serving as a nurse before I got my vocation. While attending to a sick patient, I got my vocation. He was asking me to find a priest to come and give him the sacrament of unctio. As I was

searching for a priest, a strong thought came to my mind: “Why don’t you become a priest and administer the sacrament to the sick people?” I paused for a while and asked : “Why me, Lord, why me? OK, I’ll give a trial and see if I am called to be a priest”.

I never regreted my decision. I gave up my career as a nurse and entered the seminary. In 2005 – 2006 I was in St. Fidelis Minor Seminary in Madang. In 2007 I continued to SVD postulancy in Mt. Hagen. After that I went to Bomana Catholic Institute and studied there from 2008 – 2015. On 17 November 2015 I professed my final vows to be a religious in the Society of the Divine Word (SVD). In the same month I was ordained a deacon.

During my formation, I never pretended. I strived every day to see the will of God in my life. Finally I was ordained a priest on Tuesday, 31st October 2017 in Wirui. I feel really grateful and I am ready to serve God as an SVD missionary. I thank God for the gift of priesthood which He gave me. Many thanks to you all my formators, to the SVD Provincial Council members and to all SVD confreres for your support.

Priesthood Ordination

Andrew Masi at Wirui Sound Shell on Tuesday, the evening of 31 October 2017.





Missionary gets Logohu Award



Fr. Joseph Bisson, SVD, a Divine Word Missionary received a Logohu award of “Star of Melanesia” from the PNG Governor General on Thursday, 16 November 2017. He received this award “For service to the Catholic Church and the Highlands community as a Divine Word priest for over 53 years in the areas of education, health and pastoral care”. He was one of 59 other recipients of Logohu awards. He is grateful to the Government of PNG for having recognised his service to the people of PNG.

Fr. Bisson, from the USA, was ordained a priest in 1963 and came to PNG in 1964. He began his missionary service in Sari, Enga. He was in Koibuga to learn the Melpa Tok ples and preached in Melpa language as the people did not know Pidgin or English. He then served in Mun for 22 years and in Kiripia for 29 years. He had worked with missionaries like Fr. William Ross, SVD, Fr. Arnold Steffan, SVD and Fr. Jerry Bus, SVD.

He had a Masters’ Degree in Education and was the vicar for Education in the Diocese of Mount Hagen for many years. He started the secondary school in Kiripia which has 1500 students from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

He had served in the remote parts of PNG for the spiritual, social and material development of the people for the past 53 years. He had worked in primary evangelisation of people. He shared the bible reflection every Friday for 20 minutes through Catholic Radio “Trinity FM” in Mount Hagen. He was involved in the renewal programs in the Archdiocese of Mount Hagen through ‘Movement for a Better World’. He was the Chairman of the National Charismatic Service Committee in PNG for many years.

Now he is retired in Miramar SVD House in Massachusetts, USA.

For their services to the country

November 2017 was a special memorable occasion for a number of our Arnold Janssen Family who were given recognition for their services to the country. November 18 was the Awarding Ceremony for the New Year Awards and November 30 for the PNG Government's Logohu Awards.

On November 18, Fr. Joe Bisson received the award of 'Star of Melanesia'. On Thursday, the 30th of November Fr. Kazi Niezgoda and Sr. Jeannette Matela, SSpS received the 'Order of Logohu'.

The Awarding Ceremony was held at the Governor's House in Port Moresby.



Happy Birthday

December

02	Fr. Romel Porillo	(1975)
04	Fr. Vincent Wasaring	(1973)
09	Fr. Tony Somhorst	(1933)
11	Fr. Zenon Szablowinski	(1965)
12	Fr. Ryszard Wajda	(1958)
15	Fr. Zygmund Szmidt	(1954)

January

04	Fr. Joseph Bisson	(1936)
15	Fr. Paul Hadjon	(1981)
	Fr. Vincent Agbeyome-Akpah	
23	Abp. Douglas Young	(1950)
27	Br. Abdon Simanullang	(1965)
	Fr. Dennis Nyaura	(1971)
28	Fr. Garry Roche	(1946)
	Abp. W. Kurtz	(1935)
30	Br. Rajesh Kullu	(1962)

The death Anniversary

December

01	Br. Symmachus Stiller	(1932)
04	Fr. John Gehberger	(1931)
	Fr. Ferruccio Zuccolo	(2009)
06	Fr. Ralph Wiltgen	(2007)
08	Fr. Elmer Elsbernd	(2001)
	Fr. Frank Mihalic	(2001)
10	Fr. Ivo Ruiter	(1991)
12	Br. Firmatus Weddeling	(1943)
	Fr. Patrick Murphy	(1978)
	Bp. Raymond Kalisz	(2010)
14	Fr. Jacob Ziegler	(1956)
	Fr. Claire Risse	(1998)
	Br. Amandus van Neerven	(2008)
15	Fr. Joseph Erdweg	(1925)
16	Fr. Karl Morschheuser	(1934)
	Fr. Nikolaus Kuhn	(1998)
17	Fr. Anton Roesler	(1980)
20	Br. Heribert Stimmler	(1961)
21	Abp. George Bernarding	(1987)
	Fr. Alois Siegel	(1997)
22	Fr. Theo Tersteeg	(2012)
23	Br. Cunibert Cebulla	(1966)
	Fr. Clarence Howard	(1985)
	Fr. Frederick Girards	(1935)
	Br. Edelfried Pohl	(1965)
	Fr. William Kemmerling	(1989)
	Fr. Francis Scherer	(1911)
	Fr. Steve Palinkas	(1995)

January

01	Fr. Michael Clerkin	(1983)
	Fr. Theo Neumann	(1987)
	Fr. Ben Jansen	(2002)
06	Fr. Edmund Kunisch	(1959)
07	Fr. Konrad Wenzki	(1994)
08	Br. Alcuin Glass	(1942)
	Br. Sarinus Hofbauer	(1942)
	Br. Ambrose Nicke	(1995)
	Fr. Gerard Bus	(2007)
09	Fr. Hilarion Morin	(1997)
	Fr. Otto Shelly	(2007)
10	Br. Silvester Langer	(1934)
	Fr. Paul Blasig	(1999)
12	Br. Ignatius Di Santo	(1997)
17	Fr. Clemens Voss	(1999)
19	Br. Bernardin Leidlmayr	(1932)
	Fr. Matthias van Stijn	(1959)
	Br. Gerhoch Eder	(1980)
	Fr. Mike Hughes	(2001)
	Fr. Steve Toth	(2010)
21	Fr. William van Baar	(1981)
	Br. Karl Lochbuhler	(2014)
22	Fr. Anton Cruysberg	(1978)
	Fr. Daniel Driscoll	(1997)
23	Br. Eugene Frank	(1935)
	Fr. John Kolnik	(1987)
24	Fr. Ferdinand Mitterbauer	(1994)
27	Br. Hubert Frese	(2014)
28	Br. Hyginus Noessemes	(1932)
29	Br. Berchmans Langenkamp	(1972)

SOCIAL CONCERN november

Hospital needs 350 bags of blood weekly: Nurse

The National

PORT Moresby General Hospital needs about 350 bags of blood a week, says the hospital's blood bank manager Sr Damaris Penias. "We need a lot of blood in the hospital, and those who need blood most are those who have been involved in accidents," she said. "They come to the emergency ward – those are trauma cases from all types of injuries like after a car accident or knife wounds. "We have pregnant women who need blood, children with chronic illnesses. We make sure there is blood reserved for these children.

"Blood is required for patients undergoing surgery." Penias said people who donated blood benefitted from

having free health tests such as blood sugar, haemoglobin count, blood pressure and become aware of their blood type. "We know that this blood is life so by donating a bag of blood, you are not saving just one life. If your blood is separated into three components like the plasma, red cells and platelets, you know that your one bag of blood is able to save up to three lives," she said. "Port Moresby General Hospital is one of the biggest hospitals in the country and as a referral hospital, we receive patients from all over the country, and so the demand for blood has increased over the years. "We appeal to the public to donate blood so that we are able to maintain our supply."

Measures Needed to Address Sorcery

Post Courier

Given recent media attention on sorcery related killings, Minister for Justice and Attorney-General, Steven Davies, has acknowledged that the absence of a comprehensive judicial response to the threat of sorcery may promote further violence against alleged sorcerers. Mr Davies also asserted that Parliament's reforms on sorcery-related killings were in response to a measurable, physical threat of violence against alleged sorcerers.

"Everyone needs to appreciate that the Constitution guarantees each and every citizen the protection of law. That is outlined in section 37.10 of the Constitution. It

matters not where we stand in terms of our beliefs or philosophies, but once a person has committed a crime then that person must be processed through the processes of the law," he said.

"Parliament has passed these amendments to emphasise the point that taking someone's life or punishing them for alleged sorcery is not right. In due course, hopefully we can come to a point where we can legislate. What is clear and evident are the victims; and the fact that if we do not stop it we are going to allow a situation where, by default, we will accept that killing of persons accused of sorcery as the right thing to do."

Village birth attendants hailed as death rate drops

The National

Village birth attendants (VBA) in Eastern Highlands have saved many mothers and babies, provincial health authority (PHA) chief executive officer Dr Joseph Apa says. "The infant-to-maternal mortality rate in the province has dropped because of the efforts of VBAs in the eight districts of Eastern Highlands," he said. Apa commended local non-governmental organisation

"Touching the Untouchables (TTU)" for providing basic training to VBAs who are helping village mothers and midwives to deliver babies in inaccessible rural areas.

"I am grateful to VBAs who have worked hard over the years as volunteers to assist the local village mothers in labour for successful deliveries of babies," Apa said.

Care's Domestic Violence Leave Sends a Message In PNG

Post Courier

CARE International in PNG has strengthened its stand against domestic violence by introducing a range of measures aimed at supporting staff who experience violence in the home. The measures include a new category of Domestic Violence Leave that allows for nine days paid leave annually for staff who experience domestic violence. It is believed that CARE is one of the first employers in the country to introduce paid

Domestic Violence Leave. The leave is discretionary and will be given on the understanding that the survivor of violence seeks some form of assistance, whether that is talking to someone, seeking care, legal advice or other measures that the person feels is appropriate for them. The leave is a recognition that violence in the home has an impact in the workplace, at school and in all areas of a person's life.