



## + Fr. Joe Krettek, SVD Remembrance Day

Monday the 13th of March 2017 was a special day for the Enga Diocese. It was a Day of Remembrance and Celebration of the Life of Late Fr. Joe Krettek, SVD . Fr. Joe died on the 6th of March 2017 in Poland and was buried on the 11th of March in the SVD Cemetery at Nysa, where he started his missionary journey 65 years ago. He died in Poland but his spirit was very alive in Enga. Many people from different parishes from Enga (Par, Pompabus, Pumakos, Sikiro, ect..) and many priests (29 of them) from Enga and Mt. Hagen gathered together to celebrate his life here. The Holy Eucharist was presided by Bishop Arnold Orowae with a long homily from Fr. Joe's friend and companion, Fr. Casi Niezgoda, SVD. Fr. Casi shared many episodes from their missionary life, since they were very much connected.

Fr. Joe spent all his mission life in the Highlands. The Hagen/ Enga Dioceses were the only dioceses he ministered . His whole life was connected with the Enga people. He was the parish priest in many parishes: Pompabus, Pumakos, Pina, Sikiro, Sangurap, Par, etc... In some of them he spent many years (Pompabus, Pumakos, Sikiro), in others just a few years. In all those parishes he left remarkable memories and many good changes. He was a good and dedicated shepherd to his flocks. However, his mission life was not so easy. There were many problems and dangerous situations. During his time, the Pumakos station was burned to the ground, and many people lost their lives but those difficulties did not "burn" his missionary zeal. He worked even harder to change people's hearts. For some people, they opined that he himself became an Enga man. He was strong, determined, and knew everything and was trying everything.

According to some, he was really persistent and strong in his points of view. He had to be always the first to try new things, new approaches, new ideas, new food, etc... So, he was always the first to introduce many "innovations" in the pastoral field. He was very strong in talking, sharing, planning with people all new ideas and pastoral matters. He always fought for Enga as he used to say " SVD Enga district priority". He did not speak Enga tokples very well but he knew the Enga spirit very well. His whole heart was there.

He was a very good and spiritual priest. His day always started with a prayer at 5.00am. He was in the chapel ahead of others. He was a very hard working missionary. He wanted to work more and more and that was the reason why he decided to go to Poland to get treatment and come back to Enga to finish his journey here. But God's ways are not our ways. His body is in Poland but his spirit in Enga. May he rest in peace!



### SHORT STORY OF MY LIFE

small farm and after a year my brother was born, followed by my youngest sister.

Just before the end of the war, on 28 May 1944, I received my first Communion. At that time I was the youngest one from the whole parish, not yet eight years old. That day and the example of my parish priest who was in the parish for a long time, and my parents, were the inspirations for me to become a priest and a missionary.

After finishing my primary education, first in Sławików, later in Grzegorzowice, I entered the minor seminary in Nysa. After the seminary was closed by the Communists, some of us were asked to join the Novitiate in Piniężno. I wanted to be a missionary, but the times were uncertain and the pressure of the communist regime was strong. It was a big temptation not to join but I never regretted my decision.

I was born on 23 July 1936 in the village Lasoki, Kreis Ratibor, in Upper Silesia, then Germany, now Poland. I am the first in a family of four of Johann Krettek and Hedwig Samson-Krettek. With my sister Theresa, who is a year younger, we grew up in a religious atmosphere. As far as my memory goes, we prayed the rosary together with my grandfather, my uncles and aunts every evening for the return of my father, who was drafted to the German army. During the Second World War, thanks to my mother who was very industrious, we had a relatively good time. It all ended once the Russian army came to our village in the beginning of January 1945. We had to leave our village and go to the neighboring one. When we returned after three months, we had to start from the beginning. My father was released from Russian captivity before Christmas 1945. He started a

# SHORT STORY OF MY LIFE

continuation...

After I pronounced my first vows on 8 September 1954 we went back to Nysa for our Philosophy studies. We were located in the remaining parts of our confiscated minor seminary. An agricultural school occupied all the other main buildings. It was a trying time. There were many of my classmates who left us. For Theology studies we went back to Piniężno. There I pronounced my final vows on 8 September 1961 and was ordained to the priesthood on 28 January 1962. Then I did my pastoral year in Bytom.

We did not get our mission appointment because the communist regime did not allow any missionary to leave the country. We were assigned to pastoral

work in different parishes. To my surprise I got my appointment to be an assistant in a parish I did not like. Years afterwards, while working already in PNG, I realized that that was a time which prepared me for my mission work. It helped me to overcome many of the difficulties during my 47 years in PNG. I worked in two more parishes as an assistant priest, and I started to enjoy it. The temptation was strong not to leave for missions. During our first general visitation after the war, Fr. Provincial and Fr. von Spretti, visited us and brought the good news that there was a possibility for us from Silesia to work as missionaries in Papua New Guinea. They assured us that all the ones who put their names will be granted permission. I put my

name on the spot and in September 1961 went to Australia for English studies. It was a very interesting time. Leaving Australia, we arrived in Alexishafen on the 10th of May 1967. I was assigned to the Diocese of Mount Hagen to the part called Enga. In 1982 this part became a separate diocese, the Diocese of Wabag. I was working in many parishes, was holding different positions and I am still here till now. There have been many occasions where I experienced the Guiding Hand of God. In Nemi there will be opportunities to share them with others.

*Fr. Josef Krettek, SVD*

*Written in 2013 in preparation for Nemi Course of Lapuns*



# Annual Meeting of Major Religious Superiors

**Alexishafen 4 - 11  
Mar 2017**

## **Reflection on Laudato Si and Apostolic Nuncio's Address to the Religious**

The 2017 Annual Meeting for Religious Superiors from PNG and Solomon Islands was held in Alexishafen Conference Centre last March 4-10, 2017. It was participated by more or less 30 Superiors and Religious Leaders of different congregations and convents from PNG and SI. Fr. Jozef Maciolek SVD represented our congregation.

On March 5 to 6, Sunday and Monday, was the reflection of "Laudato Si" and was attended

not only by the participants but also some religious within Madang area and the three SVDs from the Central House, Br. Anthony Hollenstein, Fr. Pierrot Namboninarivo and Fr. Stepan Tcergel.

This two-day reflection commenced with a Mass at 8:00am on Monday, 5th of March, which was celebrated by Fr. Jonathan Williams, OFM Cap. In his homily he talked about the beginning of Lent and preparation for Easter. Afterwards, Fr. Rozario Menezes, SMM, President of the Federation of Religious PNG/SI, started our reflection with

three different videos about the current ecological situation and the effects of climate change in relation to the message of the Holy See.

After lunch, two Bishops came: Bishop Donald Francis Lippert, OFM Cap, from the Diocese of Mendi and Bishop Bill Fey, OFM Cap from the Diocese of Kimbe. Bishop Lippert made a very good discourse on his reflection of "Laudato Si" with reference to some excerpts from each of the six chapters of the said encyclical letter in the context of PNG and SI. He has spoken of the connection between each of



the religious with our fellowmen and all the creation in the world and our responsibility for that.

The following day, Monday, 6th of March, Bishop Donald continued our reflection and the group was given time to form into small groups to discuss different questions among themselves. After the group activity, each group shared the outcome of the activity which comprises of proposals and the group's point of view.

It was a good time for prayer, reflection and camaraderie with other religious groups in PNG and SI.

On Tuesday, 7th of March, there

was another special guest, His Excellency, Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal, Apostolic Nuncio to PNG/SI. We had an 8:30 am Eucharistic Celebration with the Nuncio. His homily started with a reflection on the Lord's Prayer by Sts. Matthew and Luke and he spoke of the seven main aspects of this prayer and after that, he emphasized on prayer in religious life. It was a very good homily with important thoughts like : "Prayer is the backbone of religious life... We should dedicate our life in prayer".

After the mass we had a group picture and had a short coffee break. At 10:30 the Nuncio gave an address to leaders and religious about his experiences and observations of the community and religious life. In the beginning, the Archbishop gave a few questions for our own reflection about our work and mission.

During his address the Nuncio pointed to some problems and challenges of religious life in a community. First of all, he encouraged the religious people

"To go out of the convent or parishes to meet with people and to listen about their situations, problems and needs." And later he said: "All of our activities must be based on love for Christ and one another. We have to put Christ in the center of our life, not ourselves." The Nuncio had also talked about relations with Christ in our life and prayers. "Does he have a place in our crazy schedule, between all of our crazy activities?" he asked. Later the Nuncio spoke about community life and our daily cross, which we have to carry every day. And he continued: "Communication is the most important thing in each convent... Try to share your problems with others and your life will be easier... Please communicate with confreres who are around you, neither with your smart phone nor the Internet... Please, give time for your community".

We finished those meetings with lunch and came back to our daily life with new inspirations.

*Fr. Stepan Tcergel*

**Frs. Mlak and Szmidt in front of the SVD House in Michalowice, Poland, after arriving from tropical PNG into cold and snowy winter of February 2017**



# 35th Graduation Ceremony

**Divine Word  
University**

On the 12th of March 2017 the 35th Graduation Ceremony had taken place in the Divine Word University, Madang. It was a very important event for students, their families, lecturers and professors. On this day Madang had hundreds or thousands of visitors, who had come from around all the country to witness this special

occasion. The University itself was so crowded by people, cars and buses.

However, the official program started the evening before with the Graduation Mass at St. Joseph Freinademetz Chapel. Archbishop Douglas Young, SVD, Chairperson of the Divine Word University Council, presided the mass with a good number of confreres from the University and SVD Central House. In his homily, Archbishop Young addressed all the students of DWU and preached about the Transfiguration of Jesus Christ and its meaning in the lives of all people. At the end of the mass, Archbishop Young gave a special blessing for the young graduates.

Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology presented the Keynote Speech.

When the applause had subsided, the presentation of special awards and diplomas began. First of all, special DWU Awards were given to five best students in recognition of their outstanding leadership and skills, and then medals for academic excellence were handed out: 2 gold, 2 silver and 11 bronze. Later, more than 900 graduates received their diplomas and certificates from the four faculties of the University. Among the new graduates were our two SVD confreres: Br. Jerzy Kuzma and Fr. Philip Gibbs, who received Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education Teaching and Learning. One SSpS sister, Sr. Louis Marie Mareanu SSpS, received her Master of Educational Leadership. And two ex-SVD seminarians received their awards as well: Geoffrey Ronny got a bronze medal and Bachelor of PNG Studies and International Relations, and Samuel Gena Bin received a Diploma in Project Management.

The program commenced the next morning at 8:30 am with the procession of the University Council, representatives of the founding congregations (Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit and Divine Word Missionaries), official guests and academic staff. They were led by the Huli singing group, from the tribe of the graduating President of the Student Representative Council.

Towards the end of the ceremony, Mr. Max Manimba Jnr, Vice President of Madang Campus 2016, gave his Valedictory Address. His speech was very optimistic, interesting and short. After that program, the celebration moved to the Staff and Student Dining Halls where the, new alumni and their, academic staff and invited guests were feted with a sumptuous lunch.

The master of ceremony, Fr. Philip Gibbs, SVD, welcomed the University Council and special guests by their names. After the National Anthem of Papua New Guinea was sung, Archbishop Douglas Young, SVD, Chairman of the University Council gave the Welcome address. Professor Cecilia Nembou, President of DWU, spoke next. After that, Hon. Francis Marus, MP, Minister of

*Fr. Stepan Tcergel, SVD*



**Hon. Francis Marus, MP and Archbishop Douglas Young, SVD on the way to the graduation venue.**



**Br. Jerzy Kuzma, SVD receiving the Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education Teaching and Learning.**



**Sr. Louise Mary Mareanu, SSpS receiving her degree in Master of Education Leadership.**



## The death Anniversary

### March

02	Fr. Joseph Tran	(1987)
04	Fr. John Bere	(1974)
	Fr. Francis Hungan	(1981)
06	Br. Rudi van Lier	(1932)
	Fr. Samuel Kokut	(1966)
	Br. Victor Kanarski	(1967)
08	Br. Tony Hollenstein	(1939)
12	Fr. Ignatius Jeyaraj	(1959)
19	Fr. Thomas Ottarackal	(1939)
22	Fr. Andrew Falat	(1983)
26	Fr. Jozef Maciolek	(1955)
	Fr. Yosep Mesa	(1960)
27	Fr. Andreas Neansugel	(1974)

02.	Fr. Nicolaus Spoelgen	(1901)
	Fr. John Roelofs	(2015)
03.	Br. Leonard Althoff	(1997)
	Br. James Wilkins	(2010)
06.	Fr. Reinhold Stefanski	(1991)
07	Br. Seraphicus Schmale	(1969)
	Fr. Heinrich Lehner	(1993)
10.	Fr. Joseph Much	(1964)
	Fr. Albert Olah	(1997)
11.	Fr. Piet Hesen	(2007)
12.	Fr. William Tropper	(1975)
	Fr. William Saiko	(1990)
13.	Br. Magnus Bauknecht	(1969)
14.	Fr. Alois Kasprus	(1978)
	Fr. Anton Mailander	(2012)
15.	Fr. Otto May	(1943)
	Fr. William Reif	(1943)
17.	Fr. Joseph Kotrba	(1943)
	Br. Raphael Schwarz	(1943)
	Fr. Matt Lunzer	(2008)

#### Killed on board the 'Akikaze' in 1943:

**Bishop:** Joseph Loerks,

**Fathers:** Georg Bernd, Gerard de Bruyn, Paul Hansen, Arthur Manion, Henry Meyer, Andreas Mueller, Gerard Prinz, John Romanski, William Waechter, Francis Winzenhoerlein.

**Brothers:** Ananias Posmik, Andreas Matyl, Ansgar Warnke, Augustine Wolf, Melchior Bukkems, Bartholomew Kubitza, Benignus Franken, Ephrem Pint, Fabian Brockhaus, Heldemar Berg, Hyacinth Budde, Raphael Schwarz, Rupert Ganahl, Siegbert Komar, Victor Salois.

18.	Fr. Aegidius Boeven	(2000)
19.	Fr. Peter Ladener	(1966)
20.	Br. Bonfilius Kloesters	(1946)
	Fr. Henk van Wissing	(1999)
22.	Fr. Christ. Schleiermacher	(1900)
	Fr. Louis Luzbetak	(2005)
23.	Fr. Anton Jaworsky	(2002)
24.	Fr. William Hagan	(1987)
25.	Br. Peter van der Wiel	(2015)
27.	Fr. John Bartoszek	(2011)
28.	Br. Odoricus Aldegoer	(1927)
	Br. Jacob Montag	(1968)
30.	Br. Emmerich Roderhoff	(1986)
	Fr. John Labor	(1990)
	Fr. Jim Franks	(1992)

### April

01	Br. David Nikins	(1981)
	Fr. Peter Kim	(1967)
04	Br. Jerzy Kuzma	(1961)
05	Fr. Marian Faliszek	(1944)
06	Fr. Francis Pisztoro	(1990)
12	Fr. Lukas Tiala	(1979)
13	Fr. Joseph Durero	(1968)
	Fr. Wilson Jacob	(1975)
	Fr. Cosmas Kombla	(1976)
15	Br. Paulus Boli	(1964)
20	Fr. Gabriel Kokon	(1969)
25	Fr. Peter Wiagolu	(1986)
26	Fr. Grzegorz Kubowicz	(1960)
28	Fr. Paul Liwun (1959)	

01	Br. Ben Seng	(1981)
	Fr. August Schwarz	(2004)
02	Fr. Ernst Ferlej	(2000)
03	Fr. August Becker	(1959)
	Fr. Michael Bodnar	(1989)
04	Fr. Leo Brouwer	(1994)
05	Fr. John Hannaher	(1983)
	Fr. Werner Shadeg	(2006)
06	Br. Florian Leissing	(1942)
	Br. Edelbert Wasner	(1944)
07	Fr. Albert Aufinger	(1960)
	Fr. Dominic Sary	(1956)
	Br. Cherubim Kaufman	(1994)
11	Fr. Michael Langan	(1998)
13	Fr. Joseph Niedenzu	(1939)
15	Abp. Adolf Noser	(1981)
	Fr. John Daly	(2001)
16	Fr. Ricard Kunze	(1959)
	Fr. Vito Romani	(1978)
18	Br. Gregory Zimmet	(1950)
21	Br. Josef Wort (Wieczorek)	(1995)
	Fr. Werner Angenent	(2002)
	Fr. George Miozga	(2007)
23	Fr. Joseph Jurczyga	(2009)
24	Fr. Charles Boehm	(1986)
	Br. Aventinus Holzbauer	(1976)
	Fr. Paul Tryba	(1993)
28	Fr. Paul Hesse	(1937)
29	Fr. Rudolf Jischke	(1971)
30	Br. Aufridus Muurlink	(1944)

## Red Cross kits sent to Enga

The National

## SOCIAL CONCERN

### February

## Manam settlers facing problems

The National

## Baisu inmates face starvation

Post Courier

THE International Committee of the Red Cross has carried out its first distribution of relief items at Pilikambi LLG in Enga last week. The items issued are essential tools to hundreds of families displaced by tribal fighting. A total of 757 kits were distributed to 527 households from the three clans (Talyul, Sikir and Andati) that were involved in a recent tribal fight that lasted almost six months and saw more than 500 houses burned and 20 lives lost. Each kit also contained a set of tools intended to help families rebuild their homes. Head of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) office in Mt Hagen, Kakhaber Khasaia, said he was delighted with the success of the operation, which was carried out with the help of the Papua New Guinea Red

ABOUT 15,000 Manam Islanders who are living in care centres are faced with land problems, according to Manam Resettlement Project caretaker Paul Akuram. The islanders were evacuated from Manam when the volcano erupted in Dec 2004 and Feb 2005. Akuram said the people were currently living in the Asuramba and Topdam care centres in Bogia and the Nangen care centre in Sumkar.

He said 3000 Baliau villagers who had been living in the Bon Kelawa care centre in Bogia returned to Manam in 2009. Akuram said they were facing a lot of problems. "Shortage of land, the land they are using now is useless because they use the same land over the last 12 years," he told The National yesterday. He said they also faced

Prisoners at the Baisu jail in Mt Hagen, Western Highlands Province, have been without food for the past five days. The company contracted to supply food ration to the jail stopped its operation over non-payment of services by the Correctional Services (CS). This was confirmed yesterday by the Baisu jail commander Timbi Kaugla. Mr Kaugla said the supplier discontinued its service on Friday, February 17, but the jail managed to use its own funds to buy food for the prisoners until Monday. "We were able to cater for food for the prisoners last weekend but we fell short as of Monday and the prisoners have been without food," he said. But a senior warder at Baisu, who requested anony mity, gave a different story, saying the prisoners, numbering more than 170, had been without food since the weekend. "The prisoners were fed with biscuits at the weekend and some of us concerned officers decided to contribute money from our own pockets to go to the

Cross Society. "We spent almost five months in preparation, which resulted in a very good distribution," he said. The ICRC, which is working to protect and assist victims of tribal fights in the Highlands, began operations in Enga in Sept last year.

The distribution is one of the largest the Geneva-based humanitarian organisation has carried out in PNG. The ICRC's mandate is to protect and assist victims of armed conflict. In PNG, it provides assistance to victims of tribal fights in Southern Highlands, Hela and Enga. It also provides first aid training in areas affected by fighting and works to ensure people in these zones have access to health care and clean water.

food and water problems, run-down schools and health facilities.

Akuram said the people could not afford school fees because they did not have cash crops or ways to earn an income. "They can't afford school fees at all levels from primary to secondary to tertiary institutions," Akuram said. He said the food supply from the Government and donors had stopped after six months when they moved in and they had been surviving on their own. "They plant taro, banana and other food crops on the land given to them by land owners but they had confrontations with land owners and fight with them sometimes," Akuram said.

market and buy kaukau (sweet potato) for the prisoners," the officer said. He said the situation required immediate attention from the CS management. Several attempts to get comments from the Correctional Services Commissioner Michael Waipo since Monday were unsuccessful. The Correctional Services media unit could not comment because it had not been briefed about the Baisu jail food shortage. Berry Maip, who is the managing director of Whisky Fresh Ltd which supplies food rations to the Baisu prison, said yesterday when contacted that he stopped the food supplies due to non-payment of his services. "My company was not paid for three months - from December to February. How can I go on supplying rations when I am not paid for my services." He said he needed funds to run his company operations and he could no longer sustain it when payments were not forthcoming.