

DOV *Nius* Bulletin

Vanimo Diocese, Sandaun Province Papua New Guinea

March 13-31 2006

DAY FOR THE DISABLED

The National Disable Day, which falls on the 29th of March was celebrated on the 31st of March in Vanimo. The Provincial Community Development Office and the St. Gemma's Senta Bilong Helpim along with the School Teachers in Vanimo Town organized the event.

The participants, made up mostly of school children and the disabled children of St. Gemma's Senta and some parents and other interested persons, marched around Vanimo town and assembled at the town oval grand stand.

The Governor of Sandaun, Mr. Carlos Yuni was present and made the opening speech. The children of the St. Gemma's Senta Bilong Helpim presented items and showed to the public that they are also able to do things that a normal child or person can do. This year's theme was 'Your ignorance is my disability'.

According to Brother Ben Telu, CP, the Director of the Senta, all activities went well and they were happy that the programs ended on time.

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

Women from Parishes in and around Vanimo Town gathered for a two-day briefing on the theme 'Leadership in the family, church and community'. The 70 women, mostly from Pewi, Town, Lido and Baro Parishes gathered at the Diocesan Family Center on the 29th of March and finished on the 30th.

Bishop Cesare Bonivento opened the meeting with a moving talk on women in 'Christian Leadership' roles. The women later told the Bishop that his talk really touched them as it reflected their situation at home and the communities.

Facilitator/organizer of the workshop and the Director of the Diocesan Family Center, Sr. Lucy D'Souza said the aim of the workshop was for the women to know their roles as leaders in the family, church and communities. She said another aim was to bring the women together so that they will learn to mix and co-operate with each other and to learn to speak up when they are in the company of men.

Sr. Lucy said a similar course for men and for the youth will be held later in the year.

PARISH CELEBRATES FEASTDAY

St. Joseph's Parish, Pewi was a hive of activity on the 20th of March as it celebrated the Feast-day of its Patron Saint. Bishop Cesare Bonivento, with the help of care-taker Parish Priest Fr. Prakash, celebrated Mass in the evening. The Parish Choir provided beautiful music during the Liturgy.

After Mass everyone gathered for a 'bung kaikai'.

SR. MATARA LEAVES

Sr. Maria Divina Peregrina, known to everyone in Vanimo as Sr. Matara, was wished with heartfelt farewell as she boarded the plane on 25 March. Sr. Matara was the youngest and one of the first four Sisters Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara (SSVM) who came to Vanimo in 2002.

She leaves after four years of Pastoral work that involved mostly the Sunday School children of Lido Parish. She said she was very happy working with the people here in Vanimo and was sad to leave.

She will be going to Brazil where she will be the superior of a formation house for young girls.

FR. TOMY IS BACK

The people of St. Therese Parish, Lido, are happy to welcome back their Parish Priest Fr. Tomy Thomas, HGN, after he has been on a medical leave to India for some months.

Fr. Tomy arrived in Vanimo on the 16th of March via the PNG-Indonesian border.

NOTICE Hello everyone! This is the first edition of DOVNius published in English. DOVNius was a monthly newsletter published in Pidgin and distributed within the Diocese. But now we have decided to change the layout and make it into a news bulletin which will be published every two weeks both in Pidgin and English.

In this publication we try to bring to you as brief as possible every activity that takes place within our Diocese. We hope you enjoy reading about our Diocese as we try to keep you informed. Happy reading!