

DOV *Nius* Bulletin

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FR. VINCENT LEAVES HIS MARK

Fr. Vincente Guardados of the Mission Society of the Philippines (MSP), left Vanimo Diocese on the 1st of May for his country after working for five years in the Diocese. Fr. Vincent will be remembered by the people for his hard work and his love for working with the people from the most remote parishes of the Diocese. He was first assigned to work in the Idam area where he made it into a parish. Another Parish that will not forget him is Leitre where he worked after Idam. After three years as a parish priest, he was appointed as the Vicar General of the Diocese. Before he left, the Diocesan staff held a small gathering to bid him farewell. Fr. Vincente said he had to leave because his term was up but his heart is still with the people in the Bush. He said he loved working with the simple village people and if there is any chance for him returning, he will gladly come back to Vanimo.

THE NEW VICAR GENERAL TAKES OFFICE

Bishop Cesare Bonivento announced on the 1st of May that Fr. Tomy Thomas, HGN, Parish Priest of St. Therese Parish, Lido was the new Vicar General after Fr. Vincente left. While announcing the news to the Diocesan staff, Bishop said he appointed Fr. Tomy because he is the most senior priest in Vanimo Diocese and he had experience in this job because this is his second time to be the Vicar General.

Fr. Tomy arrived in Vanimo in January 1996 and was first posted to Wasengla where he worked till 2001. Then he was tasked to pasture one of the hard parishes of Vanimo, St. Therese Lido. While being the as made the second in-charge of the Diocese when the former VG left. Fr. Tomy left for further studies in Rome in 2002 and after three years away, he came back to his old Parish and is again the VG of the Diocese.

DOVAIR ON COURSE

The Diocesan Air Service, DOVAIR, halted its daily flights from the 1st to the 5th of May when eight of its staff attended a course on Dangerous Goods. Of the eight participants, four attended Awareness Course on Dangerous Goods while the other four, two pilots and two operations supervisors, attended an Acceptance Course on Dangerous Goods. The course was conducted by Mr. Martin Tugano, a Dangerous Goods Instructor with MAF in Mt. Hagen. After this course, DOVAIR will now be strict on its cargo regulations. Any item which comes under Dangerous Goods category will not be allowed on the plane.

WOMEN LEADERS MEET

The leaders of all the Parish Catholic Women's Group of Vanimo Diocese gathered in Wutung for their Executive Meeting on 3rd of May. Also present during this meeting was their Spiritual Director, Fr. GT of Holy Cross Parish.

On the 7th of May, the Catholic Women Executives met again at Wutung for their monthly formation program. On this occasion Fr. GT spoke to them about environment conservation and what effect it will have on the future of their children. Another person who spoke to them was a policewoman involved in creating awareness on issues affecting women and their families. Mrs. Colette Yourin, a police officer with the Vanimo Police spoke to the women on how to avoid and to deal with violence against women.

VICAR GENERAL ON FIRST VISIT

FR. Tomy, the Vicar General of Vanimo Diocese went on his first official visit to Yapsi on the 7th of May to install Fr. Xavier, HGN, as the Parish Priest of Yapsi. Fr. Tomy traveled on behalf of Bishop Cesare Bonivento who was away in Port Moresby. Fr. Tomy told the people who gathered for the occasion that in order for them to have development in their area, they must work together with the public servants and other officers stationed at Yapsi.

Fr. Tomy came back to Vanimo on the 9th of May.

14 YEARS AS SHEPHERD OF VANIMO DIOCESE

The Diocesan staff presented Bishop Cesare Bonivento with a bilum (traditional bag), woven from rare tree barks and dyed with traditional colors to mark his 14th Episcopal Anniversary on the 10th of May. According to local tradition, as their leader, he carries all his people in that bag. The staff congratulated the Bishop and pledged their commitment in the coming years to work with him. Later in the evening, all religious and seminarians gathered with the Bishop for a Mass and dinner at the St. John Vianney Minor Seminary.