

## ***Kundu News July 2011***

### ***Jubilee Year***

We are half way through our Golden Jubilee year of celebrating our presence in PNG: a presence of yesterday, today and tomorrow in Wisdom's love; truly an occasion to reminisce, to give thanks, and to live in hope. Our celebrations in Kiunga were special since most of us were present and we had visitors from Rome: Srs. Louise and Jacqueline, from Canada: Srs. Violaine and Anizette as well as some religious women leaders from PNG to share our joy. Also in Matkomnai the Jubilee was a major event for many.

The generosity of the people with whom we were celebrating was very touching; likewise their enthusiasm, joy and appreciation were tangible. Personally I was very touched by the way the people identified with their SCC rather than corner or village – that is surely a growth in understanding church.

Our celebrations will continue as teams go to Boset, Bamu, Samari, Daru, Iowara, Bolivip and Tabubil and then we will draw all to a close in December 2011.

In the excitement of the jubilee, the change of Government seemed to fade into the background. However, the discernment was a rich experience for us all and I invite you to re-live those days to savour the intense moments to see where Wisdom was inviting us to open wide our space to let others in.

A big thank you to Srs Denise H and Denise R for their collaboration during the last team, to Sr. Julienne for accepting a third term and to Srs Veronica and Philomena for taking on a new challenge for the common good of the Region. Please continue to pray for this new team and let us all from time to time recall our personal commitment to this term.

***Sr Marie DW***

### ***Transition and the Spirituality of Waiting***

At the end of last year I applied to Veifa's school of nursing. As the months drew near I was anxious to get the answer but it seemed impossible. I said to myself, "I will accept any decision my leaders will make." I felt peace within and didn't worry much. When others would ask me about my school, I said I am just waiting.

Finally I received an acceptance letter. I said my magnificat but still I felt insecure about leaving the known for the unknown. I really felt the ache of leaving my sisters and community life. However, I accepted wholeheartedly my future, by seeing the love and care my sisters showed. This gave me the strength to accept the reality of isolation.

Before leaving the house, Sr Jeanne asked me, "How do you feel?" I told her I don't feel anything but when I saw the school truck my throat became dry, no words of goodbye came out, only hot tears filled my eyes. I just hugged the sisters and got on the truck..

Upon arrival the students were very welcoming and friendly. I was surrounded by boys and girls. I was bit shy so I just moved out of the group.

As the days passed, I grew to like the surroundings and the people. The students asked me some personal questions, which irritated me. They knew who I was and I am a public person now. I am exposed to all. I will receive support and strength from them, but also challenges and criticism.

***It's about time for me to face the world with the sufficient grace and love that I received from the Lord.***

*Sr Maria DW*

## *Sharing with the Novices*

With grateful heart, I thank the Lord for making it possible for me to come once again to PNG to share with the novices on **Mystical and Prophetic Dimension of Religious Life and of our founders, Montfort and Marie-Louise**. I thank the General Council through Sr Jacqueline for giving me this mission which I do with joy. I thank sincerely Sr Marie and the sisters of Providence Community for their warm welcome and hospitality, and also for adjusting their program to accommodate me. They made me feel at home and I feel proud of belonging to the congregation of the Daughters of Wisdom which is open to Internationality, a source of enrichment to one's life.

Giving this session to the novices, I am also challenged to live what I proclaim. We are called to receive and give love through our personal intimate and loving union with Jesus Christ. We are called to seek and contemplate Jesus Incarnate Wisdom and be prophets of hope in the world where men and women are bruised by violence, wars, poverty, famine and so many other attacks on their dignity who cry out and appeal for help. We are to echo God's compassion, God's divine energy and presence to the world. We are to denounce evil and sin and promote life.

In order to achieve all this, we need to create space and inner oratory for silence and solitude in the depth of our heart to be with Jesus, to listen to him, to remain in his love and do what he tells us to do.

I go back to the Philippines full of joy and gratitude for every thing I have received through the sisters and the novices. I will always cherish the good memories and all the encounters I have had during my short stay in the country.

Let us keep each other in our prayers. May Christ Incarnate Wisdom grow in us everyday so as to reveal His love and compassion to wounded humanity and creation.

Thank you for everything. God bless you all.

*Sr Mary Immaculate Makina.*

## *Jubilee Celebration*

It was a pleasure for me to be with the Sisters and the people of PNG for these Jubilee Celebrations. The Sisters of the Province of Canada express their congratulations on your 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and their gratitude for the way that all of you continue to walk with Wisdom.

During the celebrations, I was touched by the people remembering the sisters and naming them with love and appreciation. For me, it is a living proof that Wisdom is in the hearts of our Sisters of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

During my stay in PNG, I had the answer to my question: what makes the Sisters from outside of PNG want to stay, to come back, to dedicate themselves to the population: the people, the place, the land? There is something in the air that talks about the goodness of the people The Sisters were and are appreciated, loved...and for that I say "thank you" ... yes, thank you to the people for the faith that they have placed in the Sisters.

Thank you Sisters of PNG for having given a chance to Wisdom to grow in your hearts, in my heart during my stay with you in PNG. *Sr Anizette Bélanger DW*

## *Vocation Camps*

This year 2011 is the **Golden Jubilee year for the Daughters of Wisdom in PNG**. We are celebrating with our people throughout the year. One of the activities is with the young people. We are sharing our experiences, talking about who we are and what we do as Daughters of Wisdom. We had our first Youth Camp in Matkomnai, 13-15th of May 2011. There were forty-two youth from Kiunga; twenty girls and twenty-two boys plus four Daughters of Wisdom, Srs Benita, Imelda, Paula and Veronica.

We started the programme on Friday, the 20th at 5:30pm. All the youth were so excited and they came on time. Bishop Gilles Cote welcomed them with some inspiring words and shared a bit of his experiences of his Call to the Priesthood. The camp was the first of its kind, organized by the Daughters of Wisdom in collaboration with the SG Brothers. Since this is our Jubilee year we wanted to tell the young people about our founders and our congregations. These meetings were different from other vocation meetings done with other religious. There were different people who talked about their life and how God called them to choose between different vocations. A married couple (Miriam and David) Sr Pierrette, Fr Pinto, Br Gabriel, Srs Benita, Paula and Br. Greg, the seminarian.

## *What about you?*

### *Have you been thinking about your Vocation?*

These were the reflection questions on the board during the Vocation Camp, so most of the people who gave witness were referring to these questions to make them think deeper.

Each person mentioned the challenges they face in different vocations they chose, but the one who calls is God and we should answer in freedom.

God calls through persons, through nature, particularly through our brothers and sisters who are suffering. He calls through words, and Sacraments, the events of our society and through our innermost desires. He call every one of us to participate in his mission. When God calls, **he creates, saves, forgives, transforms and gives strength and courage in the choices we make.** A vocation is always a call to be happy even though the cross is present for us; it is a sign of love. Vocation is God's call to all people and it is an invitation to offer our life as Jesus did. Let us thank God for calling us.

***May we love and treasure our vocation.***

*Jubilee Vocation Team.*

## *Giving thanks for yesterday, today and Tomorrow*

This is the theme chosen by the Daughters of Wisdom (Montfort Sisters) who celebrate throughout 2011 their Golden Jubilee- 50 years since their arrival in PNG. In 1961, three sisters - Sr Isidore, Sr Laurette, and Sr Jacques- arrived from Canada to open the first community of DW in PNG. Having spent some time with the OLSH in Port Moresby and Yule Island to learn about mission work in this country, they finally reach Kiunga in Western Province on December 9, 1961.

The DW sisters, in preparing to celebrate this year of Jubilee, decided that they would return to all the places they have worked during the last 50 years, or where they are still working, to celebrate with the people in each parish. In January, our sisters in Port Moresby, though they are the most recent community to open... (2008) celebrated with the people of St Joseph Parish in Boroko. On May 1<sup>st</sup> and May 8th, the people of the remote villages of Tarakbits and Kungim, Western Province, where the sisters worked for many years, also joined in the festivities of this Jubilee year; and this will continue throughout the whole year.

On Sunday, June the 12<sup>th</sup>, it was the turn of St Gerard Parish, joined by St Brigid parish in Kiunga to commemorate the 50 years of the DW. The evening before, a prayer vigil was held to

open the celebrations...half an hour of adoration, followed by a slide presentation on the history of the DW sisters in PNG.

Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, the continuous rain could not dampen the joy of the sisters and participants. Bishop Gilles Côté, smm, himself a member of the Montfortian family, presided the 3-hour long Eucharist during which both the sisters and the people expressed in prayer, song and dance their gratitude for these 50 years.

After the liturgical celebration, the people divided into their Small Christian Communities (SCCs) for the food sharing. The DW sisters, who are also members of these SCCs, joined them for the meal.

At 2 pm, the rain stopped in time for the social activities... dances, songs, drama, which lasted until 10 pm. During this time also, some senior members of the parish who were children or young adults at the beginning of the mission, gave witness of how the sisters had touched their lives in one way or another. This part of the celebration was organized by the **Friends of Wisdom**; a group of laypeople who live the same spirituality as the Daughters of Wisdom and who serve the poor and needy. There are presently seven Melanesian Daughters of Wisdom among us. On this Jubilee year, we send a challenge to all generous young women, who want to give their lives to Jesus our Wisdom, and who have a heart for the poor, the needy, the sick...Welcome to join us.

The Daughters of Wisdom express their gratitude to Jesus our Wisdom and to all with whom they have lived and worked in PNG for these last 50 years.

***Sr Denise Hamann DW***

## *Celebration at Mepu Elementary*

On the 10th of June, Blessed Marie Louise Elementary School had the occasion to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the presence of the Daughters of Wisdom in PNG. It was a magnificent and memorable event that occurred in the school. The celebration was well organized and prepared by the staff, parents and students.

We invited Sr Louise, our congregational leader, Sr Jacqueline, her vicar and extended our invitation to our sisters, missionaries and a few other people in Kiunga. It was a joyous celebration!

This celebration made an impact on the life of the parents of our students, as well as the people of Mepu. Many people expressed their gratitude for the work and challenges our sisters

have endeavored to live in this remote part of the world. I was pleased to see the parents' support and active participation in our Jubilee celebration at the school. I realized the parents concern for the growth of the school and their children's education.

Blessed Marie Louise is a role model for me in my ministry. I am filled with joy and give thanks to the sisters of yesterday for their endless love for our people, the sisters of today for continuing to express Jesus Incarnate Wisdom. I pray for vocations for the Daughters of Wisdom of Tomorrow. The sisters have shown the light and revealed the love of God to our people. Let Montfort and Blessed Marie Louise walk with us always. Let us continue to give thanks to God in the different parishes where our sisters have worked in the past and where we are working today.

***Sr Imelda..DW***

## *Called to be Witnesses*

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of June, 2011, we the Daughters of Wisdom celebrated our Golden Jubilee at St. John's Parish, Matkomnai. The parishioners were very excited preparing themselves for Sunday. The celebration began at 9.30am with a traditional dance outside the Church, led by St. Mary's Christian community. This was followed by an entrance procession dance.

In his homily Fr. Edi, CM said that ***we are called to reveal God's love in our everyday lives***, just like the Daughters of Wisdom who came and worked for many years and are now celebrating their Golden Jubilee. The procession dance was led by different corners. After the Mass, there was entertainment and the presenting of gifts to the Sisters. Most of our Sisters who had worked at Matkomnai, like Srs. Violaine, Marie, Denise R, Denise H, were happy to be there to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with the people. Finally, we give thanks to God, for the gift of the lives of all the Daughters of Wisdom in PNG, past, present, and those who are to come!

***Sr Paula. N***