

## CATHOLIC PRIESTS HONOURED

William Toli

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at St. Augustine's cathedral, priests in the Catholic Diocese of Auki were honored to commemorate World Priest Day.

The programme began with a mass hosted the Marriage Encounter Movement of Auki. Bishop Chris Cardone Op. was the main celebrant with fifteen priests present and a deacon assisting.



Priests who had passed away were also remembered. These included; Bishop Gerald Loft sm, the first Bishop of the Diocese of Auki, and pioneer priests Fathers Michael Aike and Donation Hite.

A highlight during the mass was the "Hands of the Holy Order" session. Coleman and Elizabeth Holi recited, whilst members of ME Movement members knelt in front of the altar and the priests.

The priests and Bishop Chris were presented with T-Shirts with an image of St. John Vianney, the patron of parish priests, printed on the back.

After mass, the programme continued outdoor with a candle and moon light dinner outside the St. Augustine's popular Wind house.

The cutting and sharing of the World Priest cake wound up the memorable and enjoyable occasion that priests of the Diocese of Auki are still talking about.

The ME Movement was fundamental in the initiative to honour their priests.

## THE CLERGY MET IN AUKI

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From Monday 21<sup>st</sup> to Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2009, priests in the Catholic Diocese of Auki gathered in Auki for their final meeting for this year.

The meeting which took place at Fanualama conference room was attended by Bishop Chris Cardone op, Bishop of Auki, fourteen priests and a deacon. Three priests were unable to join the gathering as they were away on overseas missions.



According to Fr. Peter Kevin, secretary of the meeting, the four day meeting was a fruitful one which ended successfully with a number of resolutions agreed upon and passed. "One major outcome", said Fr. Kevin "was the appointment of two priests to be posted to the Diocese of Gizo, in the coming year. They are FRS Boniface Liliu, who is currently assistant parish priest at Rohinari parish, and Gabriel Matotewa, parish priest of Usu'usue parish in Northeast Malaita.

The two priests who had been serving in Western and Choiseul provinces in the Diocese of Gizo will be rejoining their own Diocese of Auki in 2010. They are fathers Albert Kalu and Jeffrey Puritau of Dala and Rohinari parishes respectively.

Other priests' postings for 2010 were also announced at the meeting.