

PRESS RELEASE

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Passionately Yours

Once upon a time there was a mouse that had a crippling fear of cats. A magician took pity on it and turned it into a cat. But then it became afraid of dogs. So the magician turned it into a dog. Then it became afraid of panthers. So the magician turned it into a panther. Then it became afraid of hunters. At this point the magician gave up. He turned it back into a mouse saying, "Nothing I do for you is going to be of any help because you have a heart of a mouse!"

Dear friends,

To be a follower of Jesus, we need the openness, courage, zeal and the heart of St. Paul. His Pastoral Work brought him into constant danger, but his deep experience of Jesus' love challenged and transformed him not only to endure all pain and sufferings but also to fearlessly proclaim Jesus' love.

The mouse in our story could not be helped because he continued to be fearful. If we are to be full of passion for Jesus, we need to open ourselves and allow ourselves to be challenged and transformed by His love and His working in our lives through our daily circumstances and the people He sends us.

We bring to you different aspects of St. Paul's pastoral ministry. May it be for us an encouragement as we face difficulties and trials in our daily lives. Yes indeed, the heart of a mouse will not suffice. One needs a brave heart filled with the openness, courage, zeal and love of St. Paul.

We congratulate Archbishop Adrian Smith sm, Archbishop of Honiara as he celebrates his Silver Jubilee as Shepherd of his flock. He too gives us an example of zeal, openness and commitment, despite the difficulties and trials of life. We also honour Fr. Michael Lomiri, RIP, who served in several parishes of the Diocese of Gizo for 27 years.

Over 400 youngsters are preparing themselves to join the nearly 500,000 youngsters at WYD 2008. It's been a time of intense preparation as each pilgrim prepares for the journey of a lifetime. We look forward to an enriched living out of Christian life as these youngsters open themselves to Jesus' love and return to share their experiences with others and live out their commitment to Christ.

May each of us too be open to the loving and transforming presence of Jesus within and around us and have a deep experience of Jesus' love so that we may be on fire for Jesus. May the blessings of the Lord be upon you all!

Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb, Editor

