

The Challenge to be the Fragrance of Christ

- *Joseph Lalaubatu, Diocesan Pastoral Coordinator- Catholic Diocese of Gizo*

The challenging message and theme reflected upon, lived, experienced and discussed at the training of the Diocesan Team of Pastoral Animation at Sivarai Namona Pastoral Centre, Bomana, PNG, from 23 August to 12 September, was from 2 Corinthians 2:14-16.



“It is fitting and challenging for all of us to remind ourselves that we are the fragrance for the goodnews of Christ for a better world. In so doing we have to fulfill our baptismal roles and responsibilities as prophets, priests and kings and be a true witness and live the life of Christ.”

A total of 38 participants from 8 Catholic Dioceses in PNG & Solomon Islands, consisting of priests and lay people, attended the training.

The training was facilitated by the National team of Community Animation Service of Movement for a Better World, based in Rebiamul, Archdiocese of Mt. Hagen, PNG.

The three weeks of training was the opportunity to live an experience of spirituality and communion together in order to deepen their personal faith and a commitment to the renewal of the church.

Participants were taught that the fundamental challenge and the step towards a renewed Church is one’s own personal conviction about personal renewal and conversion.

The challenge to be the fragrance of Christ is to respond faithfully to our calling and to be Prophets in action. This means to love our local churches as they are, to remember what the Lord has done for each one of us and to initiate personal conversion.

The training concluded with a pilgrimage journey to Yule Island and Kubuna mission station, the birth places of the Catholic faith in the Papuan region. It was an experience that gave strength and encouragement to all.

Participants were also able to share each diocese’s experiences in the work of renewal with the staff and students of Catholic Theological Institute, Bomana and celebrated holy Eucharist, highlighting the challenges to be the fragrance of Christ in the world.