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Bishop Peter Houhou
Catholic Diocese of Gizo

"JOURNEYING IN COMMUNION WITH THE YOUTH IN HOPE"

Greetings to you all in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, AMEN! As spiritual father shepherding our Diocese, it is a great joy in my heart for the journey we have taken together with our youth in our:

1) families, 2) communities, 3) parishes, 4) deaneries, and 5) Diocese at large, since the beginning of this year 2025.

As we begin our journey for this year, we have experience that everything is okay; the sea is fine and smooth as if we are travelling in the Marovo Lagoon. But as we journey on, unexpectedly the weather changes, according to our different contexts and locations; we started to experience strong wind, high waves and heavy rain, and also there was a total darkness building up that we almost lost our direction. Our boat was tossed about in the high waves, our boat was at the point of sinking, just like what the disciples of Jesus had experienced when crossing to the other side of the lake. Mt. 8: 23-27

Despite the little ups and down, and challenges that we have experienced and encountered for the last few months, still we have the courage and strength to keep us going and moving forward, towards reaching our destination and Goal; "journeying in communion with the youth in hope".

Reaching halfway through the year as we are now in the month of July, reflecting on the journey that we have taken with our beloved youth for the last few months, now is the time to come together to reflect and to evaluate our journey, to see what our weaknesses are, and where we have failed our responsibility, in our family, community, parish, deanery and diocese.

Identifying our weaknesses and failures does not mean that we have lost our way to where we are going. Do not be discouraged and "crying over a spilled milk," as the saying goes. Our message of encouragement here now is that our failures and weaknesses are our strength and compass to guide us through stormy weather, to where we are going in our journey in communion with the youth in hope for this year 2025.

As a Diocese, together let us thank our Bishop's Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands for giving us the above theme for this year 2025. It helps all our families, communities, parishes and deaneries to put us on focus to see the importance of the theme, guiding and journeying in communion with our youth in hope.

During the meeting, held at Alexishafen, Madang, dated 29 April to 9 May 2025, Bishop deputy, Bp. Pedro Baquero SDB and his assistant Bishop deputy, Bp. John Auram for the Youth Commission CBC, encourages all Bishops and Archbishops to inform and encourages; Parents in our Families, Leaders in our communities, Parish Priests and Parish Council Executive Members in our Parishes, and Deans of our deaneries, to start organizing ourselves, planning, drawing programs in-line with the Theme for this year and working together with our Youth Coordinators to see what we can do together to help youth programs in our diocese alive and active once again.

There are times, our beloved youths of our families, communities, parishes, deaneries and Diocese, have experienced so many challenges, difficulties, and above all, they could see that they have no hope for the future. They see that life has no meaning for them; they feel that no one loves them and above all, they feel that there is no place for them. If this is a true story then who are we to blame?

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BISHOPS PASTORAL MESSAGE CONTINUE

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Bp's PM cont'

.....Who is responsible? Brothers and sisters, let us not repeat the Game of Blaming One Another as in the Book of Genesis 2: 12-13. BUT, let us raise our heads high above the water, take a deep breath and start your journey again, working together with one another, and continue to journeying in communion with the youth in hope.

In brief, we will dive into the circle of our families, to see the important responsibility parents (fathers and mothers) are shouldering as they journey in forming and training our beloved youths and preparing them for the future. Let us journeying, and work together with them to see what we can do to assist them in this formational program for our Youth.

FAMILY:

A family is generally defined as a group of people united by marriage, blood or adoption, forming a single household and interacting in various social roles, such as spouses, parents, children, and siblings. Family is considered as the foundation of society, playing a crucial role in the development and well-being of each individual member of the family.

Family is where the young youth begins his/her journey of life. Within this beautiful circle or home, every training began. In the Pocket Ritual Book for Baptism: During Baptism, The Priest speaks to the parents in these words: "You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him/her in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him /her up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us,"p. 4, number: 11 Here we see that parents are the first teachers, and formatters of the youths in our families to prepare them as they will enter the community, parish, deanery, diocesan and even the inter-diocesan circles or level.

Therefore, as heads of the family; parents (fathers and mothers) you have a big responsibility; to teach, form, mold, shape and train our young sons and daughters for the future. The Holy Family

of Nazareth supposed to be a good model for all our families.

To conclude, I want to salute all parents in our families, Leaders of our communities, Diocesan Priests, Religious Priests, Brothers and Sisters who are working so hard and serving in our parishes, Deans of our two (2) deaneries North and South. I humbly pray that these remaining months before the year comes to an END, as a Diocese we will be

"JOURNEYING IN COMMUNION WITH THE YOUTH IN HOPE".

May Almighty God Bless you all in your good works, in the name of the Father, Son and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN!

Your servant Bishop Peter HOUHOU

SOLOMON ISLAND INDEPENDENCE DAY



July 7 - It is an annual celebration to commemorate the independence of the country. In 1978, the Solomon Islands gained self-governance and became a sovereign country.

BLESSED PETER TO ROT



Blessed Peter To Rot, Celebration of his Anniversary of Beatification and Death. July 8, 2025, remembering the Beatification of Peter To Rot on 17 January 1995, planning is set aside a celebration of his death, 80 years ago.

POPE LEO—JESUS CAN HEAL US!



**VATICAN
NEWS**

**Let's go to Jesus, our
hope! He can heal us!**

During his weekly General Audience in the Vatican, Pope Leo XIV reflects on two miracles which demonstrate that the Lord can always heal us when we go to Him in trust and faith, for "Jesus is our hope" and will make us new.



"In life there are moments of disappointment and discouragement, and there is also the experience of death. Let us learn from that woman, from that father: let us go to Jesus: He can heal us, He can revive us. Jesus is our hope!"

Pope Leo XIV made this invitation during his Wednesday General Audience in the Vatican, as he continued his catechesis series on the Jubilee theme of "Christ our Hope," reflecting this week on two miracles that reveal the healing power of having faith in Jesus.

Two miracles born of full faith in Christ

The first miracle recounted in the Gospel according to St. Mark involves a woman who, after suffering from an illness that had led her to be shunned by society as unclean, trusts that Jesus has the power to heal her. Thus, she reaches out to touch Him amid the crowd, and because of her faith, Jesus heals her and says to her, "Daughter, your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

In the second miracle, St. Mark recounts, Jesus raises a young girl from the dead, responding to the faith-filled plea of a distressed father, who had received the news that his daughter had died. Jesus said to him: "Do not be afraid; only have faith," goes to the man's house and, seeing everyone cry-

ing and wailing, says: "The child is not dead but sleeping."

The two episodes, Pope Leo XIV suggested, reveal that when we turn to the Lord with trust and faith, nothing is beyond His capabilities.

"Jesus' act shows us that not only does He heal from every illness, but He also awakens from death," Pope Leo stressed, noting, "For God, who is Eternal Life, death of the body is like sleep. True death is that of the soul: of this we must be afraid!"

Transforming our lives from within

Pope Leo also underlined that after bringing the girl back to life, Jesus tells her parents to give her something to eat, pointing this out as another very concrete sign of Jesus' closeness to our humanity.

The Pope said it enables us to understand this in a deeper sense and makes us ask ourselves a question, "When our children are in crisis and need spiritual nourishment, do we know how to give it to them? And how can we, if we ourselves are not nourished by the Gospel?"

The Holy Father reflected on each miracle, underscoring how they did not allow anything to get in the way of their faith in God to resolve their dire situations.

"Sometimes," the Pope marveled, "we are unaware of it, but in a secret and real way, grace reaches us and slowly transforms our lives from within."

He will make us new

Often times, the Holy Father suggested, many are slow to catch on.

"Perhaps today too," he said, "many people approach Jesus in a superficial way, without truly believing in his power. We walk the surfaces of our churches, but maybe our heart is elsewhere!"

These two Gospel accounts, the Holy Father marveled, show that nothing is too great for Jesus to heal, and that we are to go to Him, for He will make us new.

PRIEST RETREAT & CHURCH ON CV

Priest Retreat Successful to its Completion.



Thirteen of our priests from our various parishes completed their week-long retreat, which began on June 15th at St. Joseph's Parish, Moli.

One of the Indian priests who served at Noro Parish expressed his gratitude, saying that it was their time to recharge their spiritual lives, distance themselves a bit from their ministry, and spend time with the Lord.

Fr. Charles remarked that the venue was an excellent choice, a very quiet place they discovered, surrounded by beautiful nature.

He also noted that the location helps create the mood for the retreat, enhanced by the hospitality of the parish community, who generously catered meals with cheerful hearts.

The retreat was led by Fr. Henry Paroi, who continually reminded the priests of their identity and purpose. It focused on reflections, prayer, meditation, and more.

And the gathering provided an opportunity for the parishioners to observe and feel the presence of all the priests from different parishes.



Rellysdom Aaron Malakana
Catholic Media
Diocese of Gizo

In the month of June 2025, a team from the Health Ministry led a Cervical Cancer Awareness Campaign in Gizo, which drew over 30 participants, including teachers, community leaders, representatives from non-government organizations, church leaders, and other healthcare professionals.

The Catholic Diocese of Gizo was represented by the Diocese Media Officer.

The five-hour presentation covered a variety of critical themes, including the current state of cervical cancer in our country. This includes global, Pacific, and our nation's data.

We are grateful to the team that briefed the participants about the diseases, its consequences on women, and how the disease spreads.

One of the purposes of this gathering was to promote awareness about the necessity of immunizing all females aged 9 to 14, as well as to encourage all women over 25 to have regular cervical cancer tests.

The researchers also noted that frequent health checkups can help discover early signs of cervical cancer, allowing for treatment before it's too late.

It has been noted that the Church, which formerly opposed the HPV vaccine, is now urging its members to support cervical cancer prevention measures that can save lives.

You should be aware that the Catholic Church has made a significant change and is now advocating for cervical cancer screening and HPV vaccination.

The Catholic Church, which previously opposed HPV vaccination due to concerns about sexual promiscuity and fertility issues, has made a dramatic change that could save thousands of lives. It is now a strong advocate in the fight against cervical cancer, which kills thousands of women each year despite being largely preventable.

"The church cannot remain indifferent to suffering. Healthcare is not just a service; it's a mission of love and dignity," said Reverend Philip Anyolo, Archbishop of Nairobi.

ST. EUSEBIUS NORO & YOUTH ACTIVITY**St. Eusebius, Noro Celebrates Corpus Christi.**

St. Eusebius Parish in Noro had the grace to host a simple yet meaningful celebration of the procession of the Blessed Sacrament, the Body of Christ, in Canaan and Noro.

According to Fr. Charles Antony, the procession in Canaan was accompanied by believers who walked with Jesus in the Eucharist along familiar roads, including difficult and slippery land.

He explained that these are the same roads they used to visit families, go about their daily lives, and share both pleasures and burdens.

In Noro, the parade led through the public street, where the celebration began.

The Diocese (Catholic Gizo) celebrated Corpus Christi with our Churches around the globe to profess and adore our Eucharistic Lord.

Jesus is truly present in Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in the Eucharist. At every Mass, we partake of the Lamb of God, the New Covenant Passover sacrifice. Not only that, this feast highlights the sacramental and sacrificial reality of Christ's presence.

Additionally, it affirms the Church's teaching on transubstantiation and invites the faithful into deeper Eucharistic devotion.

**YE Success in Sirovanga.**

About fifty youth from St. Dominic Parish have completed their 3-day Youth Encounter seminar at Sirovanga Parish station from 13th to 15th June.

This was one of the privileges to have them involved in parish activities, aiming to have them encounter Christ through all the sessions provided by the facilitators.

The seminar was facilitated by Chris Leuku, Sr. Leonie Meqoqole, Sr. Claudina P, and Principal Jude Kole from Pirakamae CHS.

8 Girls Candidates for Come and See

The parish also involved 8 interested girl candidates for the Come and See program at the parish station.

Through the discernment call, they had the chance to ask questions about the vocation, learn about the mission, and meet and pray with the Sisters.



NORTHERN DEANERY NEWS IN BITS**Catering Shows Support from Parish.**

Moli Parish (St. Joseph), which catered, showed excellent support for our priest during the priest retreat last month, on June 15th.

This was the consequence of a well-organized program that provided meals to our priests as part of their parish contribution.

In earlier years, following the implementation of diocesan pastoral programs in parishes, a type of contribution became prevalent, simplifying the communion of the Body of Christ.

This serves as a reminder to every parish that the God we serve is a God of unity who desires His church to be united and harmonious, established on the foundation of Jesus Christ.

Kindy & PPY Establishes at Maqatata.

With the help of 2 retired teachers, Emelda and Sr. Leanie, they have a heart for the little children by establishing their third kindergarten and PPY classes in the parish.

They were happy to have 25 kids enrolled in the newly established school, the St. Anthony Kindergarten and PPY.

**Seven Receive SM, Calls More for Matrimony.**

Seven couples from the Vachu zone who received the Sacrament of Matrimony (SM) on June 7th at Sirodana served as positive examples for others who are yet to receive their Sacrament of Matrimony.

Many people thanked Fr. Ben, Deacon Nicholas, and Fr. Jacob for bestowing the Lord's blessing on these spouses, and three children received baptism.

The Church continues to urge those without SM to reach out to their Catechists or priests for instruction. Importantly, our Church regards the Sacrament of Matrimony as symbolizing the union of Christ and the Church.

The sacrament gives spouses the grace to love each other with the love with which Christ has loved the Church. The Sacrament of Matrimony perfects the human love of spouses, strengthens their indissoluble unity, and sanctifies them on the path to eternal life.

The free consent of the man and woman celebrating the sacrament is the foundation of marriage.



KIDNEY INFECTION (PYELONEPHRITIS)**PYELONEPHRITIS (KIDNEY INFECTION)**

(The urinary system includes your kidneys, ureters, bladder and urethra. This system filters your blood, removing waste and excess water. This

waste becomes pee).

A kidney infection is a type of urinary tract infection (UTI). A kidney infection may begin in the tube that carries urine from the body (urethra) or in the bladder. The infection can travel to one or both kidneys. A kidney infection is also called pyelonephritis.

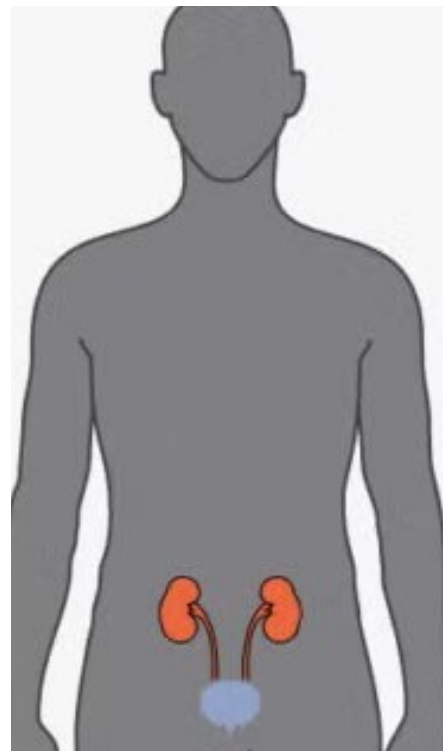
A kidney infection needs prompt medical treatment. If not treated properly, an infection can cause lasting damage to the kidneys. Or the bacteria can spread to the bloodstream and cause a dangerous infection.

Kidney infection treatment often includes antibiotics, which might be given in the hospital.

Symptoms

Symptoms of a kidney infection might include:

- Fever
- Chills
- A burning feeling or pain when urinating
- Having to urinate often
- A strong, lasting urge to urinate
- Back, side or groin pain
- Nausea and vomiting
- Pus or blood in the urine
- Urine that smells bad or is cloudy
- Belly pain



To be continue next issue

▪ UPCOMING FEAST DAYS FOR AUGUST 2025 ▪**The Transfiguration of the Lord (6 August)**

The Transfiguration of the Lord is a significant event in Christian theology where Jesus is transformed and revealed in divine glory.

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

commemorates the death of Mary and her bodily assumption into Heaven, before her body could begin to decay.

(15 August 2025)

**The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary (22 August)**

honors Mary as the Queen of Heaven and Earth. This feast emphasizes Mary's exalted role in salvation history and her continued intercession for the Church and humanity.

