



### Month of August

Bible Month  
Our Golden Jubilee UNITY Retreat 2

“WE UNITED in DYNAMIC FIDELITY”

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### The Month of September



Communication Skills Training



## BISHOP'S PASTORAL CHALLENGE FOR EVERYONE

(For Our "UNITY" Communitarian Retreat #2)

Dear People of the Catholic Community of the Diocese of Gizo in ALL respective parishes.

My best greetings from Gizo as we start the last quarter of the pastoral year. This year we had a good number of programs for the deaneries and parishes. Family life, youth, women, daddies, catechists, prayer leaders, bible groups, vocations. The priests had their retreat, renewal of commitment, reflection and planning sessions. We will soon evaluate the seriousness of the commitment of the participants and the effectiveness of all programs conducted in the various centers and parishes. That will help us grow.

Through this letter I would like to make two points:

**Firstly** I want to congratulate the pastoral team, the parish priests, the PTPA, DTPA and all those who took active part in the pastoral programs with passion for the kingdom of God.

**Secondly:** Allow me to share with you a **4 point challenge** that can help us take our pastoral program seriously from August to December.

**1. We have adopted the spirit of the "RENEWAL MOVEMENT"** we all know that the Change brought by Christ is something that must always start from the heart: PASTORAL CHARITY is the center and focus of our pastoral action: to LOVE as GOD urges us; passion for his Kingdom challenges us to fight the enemy: sin. **Pastoral Charity, the heart of the renewal, has two elements: the first is the PASTORAL SENSE.** Why are we doing pastoral programs, what for? What is the sense of doing this? Nothing will be renewed if we do not do it as a response to the grace from above, change of heart, conversion, change of mind, change of attitudes are not possible if we try alone: God's grace alone can help us change and conform our lives to Christ and to become another living Christ for others to see and follow.

**ALTIUS (higher)** is the name of one of the first star in the bishop's coat of arm and the first word of the motto of the Olympics. We need higher reasons for change, higher inspirations, and values: Fidelity to God, Holiness of life. Without Pastoral sense, our programs will just be a free excursion to Gizo to enjoy cold beer (or lots of them)... the program becomes an excursion... and an occasion of sin.... This happens when we have no PASTORAL SENSE and HIGHER REASON AND MEANING is totally absent.

**2. The second element of Pastoral charity after the Pastoral sense** is the element of **PASTORAL ABILITY**, of what we do and how we do it. While the first element (pastoral sense) is a theological value, this second element is a technological one. It deals with the mechanics of the skill in handling the program in a clear and effective way so that all participants may also know what to do and how to do it back in their own village, family, group or organization.

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## Message from the Pastoral

**"THE FUTURE OF EVANGELIZATION DEPENDS IN GREAT PART, ON THE CHURCH OF THE HOME." (fam.) Con.52)**  
***(Sister Rita Pitavavine op)***



### **The Family, Center for Evangelization.**

Lumen Gentium calls the Domestic Church. (11). This expression is again taken up in Evangelii Nuntiandi meaning "in each Christian family the various elements of the whole church should be found in the family should be the place from whence the Gospel is transmitted and its message radiated." (71).

Familiaris Consortio calls upon the Christian family to be a "Sign of Unity.... And to exercise its prophetic role by bearing witness to the Kingdom and Peace of Christ...." (21, 48)

The Christian family is then more than an image of church. It is church by reason of its mission and Ministry. It is the centre where Christ is present, where the Gospel is lived, Celebrated and proclaimed.

### **The Christian Family as Evangelizers.**

Families need to be enabled to live their Evangelizing role. They must be empowered to face the challenges of the gospel in all levels of life. Faith formation focusing on Conversion, repentance, and Christian patterns of relating needs to be planned and facilitated. Evangelization challenges the Christian family to recognize the implications of their baptismal call, to commit themselves to reconciliation, and to share their faith.

What does this mean for the family? Basically it means that the total life of the family, all the countless interactions which occur between family members each day, can be Embodiments of Good of God's Word, God's love. The daily life of the family is the called to be Evangelization. Each member is called to be evangelized and to be an evangelizer.

### **Criteria for Family and Evangelization.**

Jesus in the encounter with the disciples on the road to Emmaus reveals five Criteria for Evangelization: Accompaniment, Interpretation, Celebration and witnessing.

Let us now look at these in relation to the family as evangelizing and being evangelized.

### ***Presence;***

Jesus walks with his disciples and is present to them. Family living is calls for presence to persons. Presence is listening, accepting, understanding and loving. It is a basis for Evangelization.

This is the second star in the bishop's coat of arm and the second word of the Olympics motto: **CITIUS (faster)** skillfully, in a better manner, more effectively, with better fruits.

A third point I want to make is **SYNERGY**: we must do things together... Unity builds strength. "Vis unita fortiori" The Latin people used to say "two strengths united make a powerful force greater than the two". Renewal is NOT a job we can do alone: the chain is the unity of the strength of all links... the strength of the chain is that of the single links.... That is the third star in the bishop's coat of arm and in the Olympic motto **FORTIUS** (stronger power) (full engine).

Just like the plane in order to take off must give all its strength, so the church cannot be renewed without the full power and participation of everyone. At the end of run way of Nusatupe there is the ocean... a lazy plane not giving it's full power will end in the bottom of the ocean just as our church if only some will be committed and only part time....

### **The last challenge is about the retreats of the month of August.**

Retreats are part of our regular activities in the renewal movements. If they are done without pastoral sense and ability, without passion for God and his church... they will be fruitless... I wish to start with myself, I believe a retreat can renew a person deep inside, I then want to be first to show it to you by attending one month retreat totally isolation and solitude alone with God....I believe that this will make me a better bishop and leader in building **Pastoral Charity: sense and ability.** If we all do the same, all other pastoral plans will fall in place if we become holier ourselves.

**LET US GIVE GOD THE CHANCE TO SPEAK, LET US LISTEN TO HIS WORD IN THIS BIBLE MONTH.** This will empower us and impassion us to give the rest of our lives to a **new priority**, we live for the kingdom of God: yes to His Kingdom of justice, peace truth and love, no to the kingdom of sin and Satan: lies, deceits, corruption greed, and sin. Yes to renewal

May we all be renewed by his grace through our pastoral renewal programs.

### **With the love of the Good shepherd**

Your bishop

**Bishop Luciano Capelli, SDB DD**

*Bishop's Pastoral letter from page 1*

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**"We give & re-give ALL the sense of the value of SOLIDARITY by promoting our being in UNITY with our brothers and sisters and with the nature around us"**

Relationships and Partnership are the basis for UNITY, and Unity is the basis for both of these: as we grow in relationship and partnership our unity develops and grows; it reveals to us in our experience the reality of our unity as humans, as Christians and as citizens of our nation



***Accompaniment:***

Jesus accompanied the two in their search. In family living, parents accompany each other and walk with their children. Children likewise accompany their parents. The process of evangelization is a life-long journey. The invitation is journey towards 'fullness of life' – complete personhood in Christ.

***Interpretation:***

Jesus led the two disciples to discover little by little the meaning and understanding of the events they had witnessed. Families are called to read life, to interpret daily living in the light of the Gospel. Dynamic and vital challenges to enter into the mystery of the other.

***Celebration:***

Jesus celebrated new life with the two disciples. Celebrations are central to living. Birth and growth, joy and suffering, success and failure, life and death root ones relationship with God. The sacraments celebrate the significant moments of life. Every true, celebration of sacraments is supported by numerous family celebrations which marked the lives of the family members.

***Witness,***

Having encountered Jesus, the two men returned to the community to share the good news. Family as the domestic church is essentially missionary spirit opens the family to other families, to the parish community and to society. Families are called to be come one and form groups to build more human, more just, and more honest and free society.

These 5 criteria are rooted in the very action of Jesus for whom service and witness are more important than teaching, persons more important than institutions. To build and strength en the domestic church, all of these criteria are essential. The family is then not an object 'out there' to be evangelized by the church. As the domestic church, the family enables each members to live a gospel way of life, supports, and empowers authentic response, celebrates and pray in a way the parish cannot. The church is called to support and celebrates family life through scripture, church teaching, liturgy and prayer. Family and church are partners in evangelization.

*From page 2*

**2010–Pastoral Services Programs.**  
**focus: Training of Trainers.**  
**" To strengthen the Pastoral Services & Structures of ALL our Parishes."**

**Family Life Apostolate Program**

1. Marriage Enrichment & Commissioning Training
2. Ovulation Method & Moral teaching of the church training

**Pastoral Training & Formation Program.**

1. Catechists training for prayer leaders
2. "Hey Dad Program"
3. Liturgical Ministers training
4. Basic Bible Seminar
5. Christian Leadership Seminar
6. Come & See Program
7. Call to be a Catechist training

**Women's Program**

1. Women's Health Management Training
2. Women's Literacy training of trainers

**Media & Communication's Program**

1. Basic Media Education Seminar
2. Listening Skill Training

**Education /Teachers Program**

1. Teachers Retreat
2. Education Conference

**Youth Program**

1. Youth Leadership Seminar Workshop.
2. Youth Encounter.

## Reflections Around Our Diocese



**Arnold Arabatu, Youth President  
(Choiseul Province)**

**"Youths today are Leaders for tomorrow"**

We are bound together by similar traditions and believed that we will make community for years to come. So my fellow youths we are here ready to be elected for the next people to participate developing our community/parish.

Today it was a sad thinks to see that many youths cannot escaping criminal activities and many were disturbed by other youths. This was one of the major problem need to be address. We have a lot of helps from the diocese but yet we still find our self stubborn. It is believed that majority of our young people are left ignored. So lets invite them and motivate them with suitable activities that might involve them into our program.

Take not that what we practiced today may not fade away tomorrow but it will be left our identity. Remember, we will make leadership our self in the future with our own family. So please every youths lets catch cope up the years with good dignity for the good leadership for tomorrow.



**Br. Joseph Tanive op, Loga Island  
(Diocese of Gizo)**

**"The Church is one United in Christ"**

The Church is one because of her source. The highest example and source of this mystery is the unity, in the Trinity of persons, of one God, the father and the Son in the Holy Spirit. The church is one because we have our founder; who is Jesus Christ, "the word made flesh, the prince of peace, who reconciled all people to God by the cross and restored the unity of all in one people and one body.

As body of Christ every Christian individual is a fellow traveler to the father when we walk towards him it is never alone. He gives us a special gift in our Christian community, but even as we walk with our fellow Christians, we cannot ignore the rest of humanity who were created to walk this same path, and, in their own way, do so. We have always recognized a special communion or bond among ourselves. It is rooted in Christ. Like all the members of a body we are one, and the head is Christ. When we are united in Christ all barriers are removed. Christ is the peace that brings all people together. The common bond in Christ gives to each of us believer a special relationship to others to whom the father has given a similar share in his life through his son.

A human person cannot exist to the full without other persons for it is dialogue with them that we develop as a person. The individual person is part of all humanity; our bond with the rest of the people does not rest simply on a surface interest, but rather on a common ground, a common sharing, a common vocation.

## HIV Positive Mother Urged Every Mothers to Stay Calm

This year the Diocese of Gizo HIV/AIDS program have its privileged to participated in the 4 days Seminar which included NGO's, Ministries and Denominations. And for the first time for every participants to witnessed a mother who is living with HIV virus.

She declared publicly that she is a HIV positive mother. She said that we ought to be brave and come out and response to HIV virus, "the virus is killing our generation." She urged every mothers to take up their role as mother for the children and father. She said communication between listening and understand each other plays the biggest role in which may develop trust between wife and husband. She further explained that the HIV virus is a preventable disease in our community if every HIV carrier help our response to the virus.

She also urged mothers to stay calm. ...."One cannot transmit the virus to her fetus (baby) if she lives positively. But she may transmitted the virus to the fetus if she's lowing her health status."

She got the virus from her husband and went through challenges and discrimination. At first she felt stigmatized and thought of nothing but felt death inside her heart. The answers which echoed in her ears were nothing but want to die. But the conscious that penetrated her was the story of a woman who touched Jesus cloth.

She said, ...."with the support from "O" clinic, friends and pastoral workers I managed to make a positive living. With me, is my negative child, these were the good examples for us mothers who may have the virus.....We have a lot of changes to stay alive so there's nothing to worry of but stay calm and enjoy our days..... The virus wont catch us if we have faithful husbands." She said that we (HIV carriers) may encountering discrimination and been stigmatized but through prayers, counseling and declaring our self a positive carrier will totally make a different for our life long.

Every participants declared her as a champion. A mother who went through great effort to survive her child during pregnancy.

She pray Rosary but condemned by her husband who was a Baha'i faith, but she continue to pray for forgiveness, peace, reconciliation and directions.

She asked the Diocese of Gizo to look forward in response to the virus. She is now employee at the Health ministry giving awareness around the country. She also appreciated the catholic church for their role in response to the Virus.

### The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



**(15th August 2010)**

# News In Bits

## More Dads Involved in the "Hey Dad's" Program.

More father's were involved in the "Hey Dads" program since the beginning of this year.

Since January, more than forty daddies were trained in three separated programs. This may enable them to facilitate their own Hey Dads program in their own parish level. The Parishes in the Diocese were engaged into the Hey Dads program which many fathers have privileged to renewed their own life. The program began on the 26th of July, and was carried out for 4 days.

In Gizo parish about 23 fathers participated in the Hey Dads program which commenced on the 29<sup>th</sup> to the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, also in the Sub-Parish in Noro 23 daddies actively participated in the Hey Dad program which went on from the 27<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> of August. .

The Hey Dad program has eight different sessions with activities to go with it. The enthusiastic daddies were really involved into discussing some of the problems they encounter within their families and they tried to identify some solutions that can best help their families both physically and spiritually.

The Hey Dads program was strongly recommended by the mothers during the Women's Rally in 2009. Many wives are believed to cover up some of the assaults made by husbands, The cry from the women in the Diocese really lead up to involve and help the fathers by initiating the programs for men in the Diocese of Gizo.

for the gift of the school. "School never ends... it is an everyday process and in this school you are privileged to learn something more important also to discover your gifts and talents and build up this opportunity." The young girls were also encouraged to be creative and build resources themselves. Their life and skills will also be beneficial for their community and family.

The St. Peter's Vocational School for girls may cater for 30 to 40 girls purposely to help them to become productive or preparing them to enter upper standard. 18 girls were privileged to enroll for free classes for 3 months.



The class teacher said they will spend most of their time in basic home economics but they will include sessions like literacy, health, basic book keeping, Christian Education etc.



A guest who spoke during the ceremony challenged the elders that such good practice gives us some communication about togetherness and teaching for our children. The guest further elaborated on making use of such celebrations to bring up gender balanced, communication, and changes in our community and through celebrations we met Jesus speaking through our hearts.

## Assumption Day Brings Change in New Sotiwa.

For Gilberts culture, when it comes to serving food only elders (men) are served first and the left over food are kept for the children and women. Apparently, during the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, it was the opposite. Mothers were served first regarding them as mothers for the Church.

The celebration began late in the afternoon from the 14<sup>th</sup> till 15<sup>th</sup> August.

Many people joyously witnessed the gathering that brought the community to commemorate the solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

## Moli Youths Successes its July Activities- (Arnold Arabatu)

Moli youths had a really successful time with its activities during the month of July. There were about 4 different programs been organized by the youths and the parish priest—The youths had Fund raising (bring & buy) which more than \$2,000 was raised, The Youths generously involved themselves in doing charity work, The other program for the youths was 'Youth Serving Youths awareness and Knowing your self for Community High School'.

The purpose for this program is to motivate and keep on involving the youths to cope and get prepared and ready for coming events.

## St. Peter's Vocational School Opens.

The Catholic Diocese of Gizo is blessed and happy to open a life skills school for young girls around Gizo. The school commenced on the 16<sup>th</sup> August 2010 here in St Peters Cathedral Gizo.

During the opening the students were welcomed and encouraged by the Diocesan staffs, Parish priest and Religious sisters.

They reminded them that God is very good

FOR AN EDUCATION TO VALUES AGAINST HIV/AIDS

Sexuality and God's Will

GOD'S PLAN STILL HOLDS GOOD

Love can be made cheap and "killed" by lust, so it has to be kept and protected. That is why God gives these commandments:

*"You shall not commit adultery"*

*"You shall not do anything impure"*

These are the ways in life by which we follow God's plan.

Sexuality remains a gift and a blessing from God; it is beautiful and good, bringing happiness and full development. This is why it leads into the mystery of God's love.

The body deserves the greatest respect, always, because it is made for love. It is sacred (1 Cor 3:16; 1 Cor 6:12 — 19).

THE DIGNITY OF WOMAN AND OF MARRIAGE

THE DIGNITY OF MARRIAGE:

God demands faithfulness and respect in marriage.

*"...you have broken your promise to the wife you married when you were young."* (Mal 2: 10; 2; 14 -15)

*"...if a man divorces his wife, even though she has not been unfaithful, he is guilty of making her commit adultery if she marries again."* (Mt 5; 32; Mt 19; 4ff)

*"But in the beginning, at the time of creation, 'God made them male and female,' as scriptures says. For that reason a man will leave his father and mother and unite with his wife and the two will become one."* (Mk 10:6-8)

THE PRAISES OF WOMAN:

The Bible proclaims the praise of woman for bringing happiness to man by her beauty but above all by her goodness.

*"How hard it is to find a capable wife! She is worth far more than jewels! Her husband is well known, one of the leading citizens... Charm is deceptive and beauty disappears but a woman who honours the Lord should be praised."* (Prov 31, 10 -31; 5,18-19; 11,16;

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