



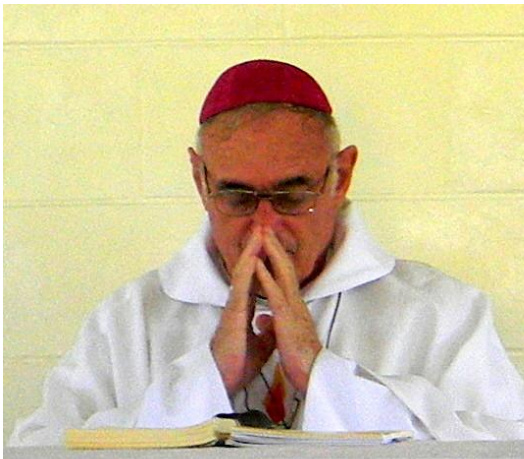
NEWSLETTER

DIOCESE OF RAROTONGA

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BISHOP PAUL DONOGHUE, SM.



Evangelise...by accepting God's call



Vincent Peters publicly announces to the Bishop and to the diocese his intention of becoming a priest at the end his seminary studies.



Sr. Celine's Farewell



St. Paul's Church



...by loving

St. Joseph's Cathedral



...by living well a vocation

Welcome back Sr. Emma Kaitara
Congratulation on your
Golden Jubilee!

A CALL FROM YOUR BISHOP EVANGELISATION



Thank you to the retiring Trust Board Members –
Mr. John Kenning and Mr. Randolph George

...by sharing one's gift

EVANGELISATION – 2014. by BISHOP PAUL DONOGHUE, SM.

At the chrism mass, I attempted to highlight Evangelisation, a theme I have proposed for the diocese for 2014. Evangelisation is about sharing the Christ we personally have come to know during the Year of Faith. How can we attract others to be involved with this Christ?

I quoted Pope Francis, who preached on this subject, using the story of the man who had been paralyzed for 38 years. (John 5: 1- 16) For 38 years this man had been going daily to the pool to be healed, and someone had beaten him into the water each day. Jesus reaction was to ask the man did he want to be healed, and when he said “yes”, the act of healing got Jesus into trouble with the authorities, because he healed the paralysed man on the Sabbath.

This led Pope Francis to speak on two spiritual illnesses of our times which affect sharing of Christ with others.

Christians who hang out the “Please do not Disturb” sign.

The first illness is the one afflicting the paralysed man. He had become resigned to his sickness. Perhaps he said to himself, “life is unfair,” or “others are more fortunate than I am.” There is resignation in these expressions , but also bitterness. This is an attitude of many Catholics who lack enthusiasm to make Christ known, and who are bitter, and who repeatedly say to themselves: “ I go to mass every Sunday, but it is better not to become involved! I believe for my own sake, but I don’t feel the need to give the Christ I know to others: if I get involved there is the risk of being rejected or hurt.”

This is the illness of sloth or indifference, the Pope explained, and it cripples apostolic zeal and causes Christians to come to a standstill. They are “peaceful, but not in the good sense of the word; they are people who do not go out to proclaim the gospel. They are people who are anaesthetized”. This spiritual anaesthesia leads one to believe it is better not to get involved. The result is no evangelisation takes place.

Formalism.

The Jews upbraided the man whom Jesus healed only because he carried his pallet (mat) on the Sabbath. It mattered nothing that he was happy, so happy that “he danced in the middle of the street” because “he was finally free of his physical malady and also free from sadness”. The response of the Jews is stark: “This is the way things are here, and you must do this!”. They were only interested in formalities: it was the Sabbath and it was not permitted to perform miracles on the Sabbath! The grace of God cannot act on the Sabbath!”. This, the Pope remarked, is the attitude of “Christians who are hypocrites, and who allow no space for God”. For them, the Pope observed, “the Christian life is a matter of having all one's documents in order!”. However, in doing so “they close the door to the grace of God” in others. And, he added, “we have many of them in the Church!”.

Here in the Cook islands there are many, I would estimate at least 800 lapsed Catholics, who have been wounded in some way by the church or by someone in it. 800 people we could attract back to Christ if we attempted to reach out to them like a brother or sister. First it would mean removing the do not disturb notice from my door. And in doing something, love and mercy would be my guideline and not judging and condemning. - Happy Easter to all.



...by listening



...by participation



CHRISM MASS: Renewal of Commitment to Priestly Service, Blessing of the Oils



Matavera Parish



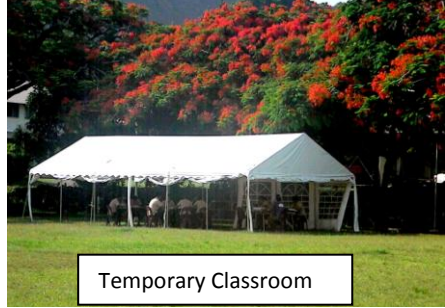
St. Paul's Parish



Tereora Catholic Students ..by sharing one's faith



...by praying



Temporary Classroom



**New Teachers at Nukutere
Mr. Max Hoegh and Mr. Clark Williams**



After Mass at Cathedral



Never too young to start...by one on one conversation



New Pre-school Centre Blessed