

Theme: **MISSIONARY DISCIPLES FOR A NEW WORLD**



Celebrating 50 Years

of dedicated service in Papua New Guinea
1971 to 2021

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Message of the Superior General



"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news." Isaiah 52:7

The above quote seems a very apt one with which to begin this message acknowledging the 50 years of presence of the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny in Papua New Guinea.

A mere twenty-one years after the foundation of Melbourne, Australia, by twelve sisters from Ireland and 16 years after the profession of the first Australian sister, three young Australian sisters were missioned to Kanabea, a village on a mountainside in what is now the Gulf Province of PNG.

Collaboration, a concept which is at the forefront of our reflection on mission today, was a feature of this venture.

The Sisters went on mission to Kanabea as members of the Melbourne Overseas Mission team—lay missionaries, priests of the Archdiocese of Melbourne and Cluny Sisters—supported by the people of the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

Much has changed over the 50 subsequent years: Papua New Guinea has experienced great political and social change including assuming the status of an independent nation. While the mission of sharing the Good News remains a focus for the Sisters, the ministries have had to be adapted to changing circumstances. The priests of the Archdiocese Melbourne have been replaced by priests of the Diocese of Kerema and there are no longer expatriate lay missionaries. Cluny Sisters are still present, although they are from India and Papua New Guinea. The continuity of our work in PNG has been a result of the generosity of the Provinces of India in sending Sisters to the Region. Many of our projects in PNG are still supported by the people of the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

Over the years I had stories of our Cluny mission in PNG, but was in 2008, in the role as referent Councillor for the Region of Australia & Papua New Guinea, that I had the opportunity of visiting the country. I was able to experience first-hand the rugged beauty of the land and to experience the welcome of the Kamea people who are so close to your hearts. The realities of the difficulties in travel and communication came into stark focus. I could reflect with wonder on the courage and commitment of the Sisters who came 50 years ago and could appreciate that same commitment in the Sisters who had followed them.

God brought you to a place where there was, and still is, "a little good" to be done. We give thanks that for 50 years this same God guided and supported you, beginning in Kanabea, then in Bema and most recently, in Port Moresby, allowing you to share the good news in this corner of the world.

I wish you every blessing as you take the time to reflect and celebrate the past fifty years with the people you have been called to serve. May our loving God keep your hearts open to the call of the Spirit into the future.

Sr. Claire Stanley

Sr Clare Stanley, Superior General

Message of the Region Leader



**On this day of joy, we acclaim with the Psalmist and say:
"O Give Thanks to the Lord for He is good!"**

We the SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF CLUNY in Papua New Guinea, are a small group of religious women, based in the Diocese of Kerema, working among the Kamea people in one of the remote areas of Gulf province and in the Archdiocese of Port Moresby. It is very likely that we are not much known in the rest of the country. Today we come before you to thank God with the wider community and the wonderful people of PNG.

On the occasion of the 50 years of our presence in the country, in this golden jubilee year, we the Cluny Sisters wish to celebrate our spiritual fellowship and deep human experience that we shared with the Kamea people and the people of Port Moresby. The spirit and charism of our religious congregation come from the apostolic tradition to **'liberate and empower all persons and the whole person'**.

Our Foundress, Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey, who worked for the emancipation of slaves in the 19th century, is our guiding force for the mission. Our pioneers from Melbourne arrived in the Gulf Province in 1971 and began the ministry of education and health and it continues up to this day.

Among the Kameas the modern life has not made much in roads and transport and communication continues to be a haphazard system, as it was earlier days. In spite of lack of modern facilities and other challenges, our Sisters persevere in doing whatever little good they can, and follow the legacy of our dear Foundress Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey who was indeed a valiant missionary. We inherited from her our missionary commitment and strive to fulfill "The Holy Will of God" in daily life. Our recent chapter invites us to become missionary disciples for a new world.

I myself arrived as a young missionary in 1989. I recall with gratitude all the fellow missionaries who guided and challenged me to become acquainted with the Melanesian culture and grow in the deeper understanding of the gospel message through life experience. I am grateful for having been immensely enriched by every experience of my missionary life among the Kamea people and in the country and in turn have become sources of divine blessings. I think of myself as a missionary called and sent to this beautiful country of Papua New Guinea. May God continue to bless this country and its people!

Sr. Rachel Arputham, Region Leader

Message from Bishop of Kerema



50th Anniversary of Missionary Presence of the St. Joseph of Cluny Sisters

I would like to greet the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny on their 50th anniversary of presence in Papua New Guinea. It coincides with their Year of Prayer for the canonization of their Foundress, Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey.

Fifty years ago with humble beginnings, the Cluny sisters started their presence and work at Kanabea Catholic Station in Kerema Diocese. It was a very courageous and heroic decision that they have taken. Now, as we celebrate their Golden anniversary

of missionary presence in this country,

we recognize the Grace of God working through our Cluny sisters. With rich history, they truly are the embodiment of God's loving and faithful Presence.

Certainly, the Kamea region in Gulf Province, even up to now, presents itself as a very challenging place to develop. The people have very limited opportunities given their geographical location and features. These are the people in the "peripheries" even in the modern world. With their great desire to empower and promote the dignity of these less privileged people of Gulf province, the Cluny sisters continue to care and evangelize with audacity of these people.

On behalf of Kerema Diocese, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and admiration to the Cluny sisters. We truly value their precious contribution in the development and evangelization of our people. I believe that despite the great challenges, sometimes even with frustrations, they remain to witness His Loving Presence and Fidelity to God's flock. I have personally worked closely with some of them and I can attest to their simplicity, dedication and boldness to reach out to the people.

I wish all the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny a true Jubilee year in 2021. May they carry on contributing to build God's Kingdom according to the ways and spirit of Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey. May they continue to discover and love God's Call and Will wherever they may be sent.

+Pedro Baquero sdb
Bishop of the Diocese of Kerema



IN THE RADIANCE OF BLESSED ANNE MARIE JAVOUHEY

May God be glorified! In all things and everywhere may His Holy Will be done! This was the consuming desire of that zealous daughter of Burgundy, Anne-Marie Javouhey, who later founded the Order of the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny. Her loving response to God who had chosen, prepared and sent her to live the Gospel and to make known His love in the far corners of the world doing a little good, also propels her daughters to venture into doing a little good in a missionary endeavour.

When missionaries are inspired to offer themselves for service in remote places they have only a vague notion of what awaits them or indeed sometimes why they are going in the first place except they have a call to mission. Without a missionary sense of Church and an awareness of the wider world and its needs, the early disciples would never have left Jerusalem. So here we were, a small group of Sisters at the request of His grace Archbishop of Melbourne at that time Bishop Knox made our first journey in 1971 into the "Land of the Unexpected" as it is known.

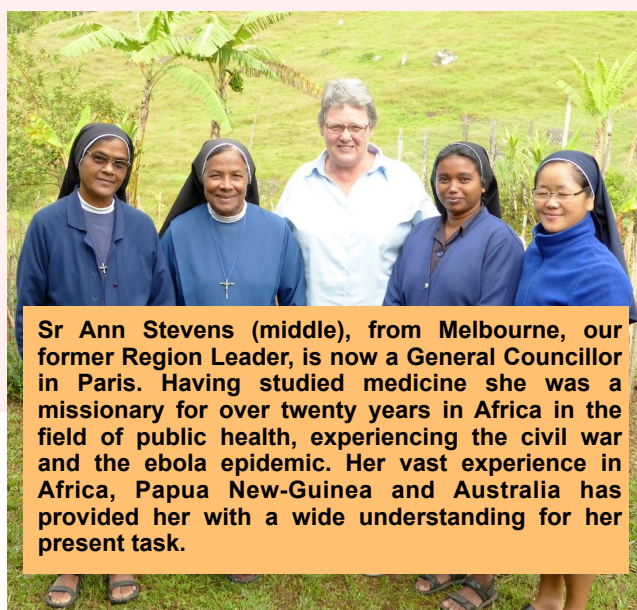
We had been preceded by Fr Jean Besson MSC from France, in 1966 who arrived at Kanabea via Kerema 20 minutes by plane, although at that time air transport was still a dream. Kanabea sits in the clouds most of the time, at 4500 feet. A very beautiful place with very endearing people scattered in multiple villages. They had been almost untouched by the outside world, and amazed even by the sight of cows, bush knives, white people not to mention a small fair boy wandering all over the station.

The Australian priests; Fr Cyril Blake, Fr Maurice Adams, Fr Peter Cullen, and Fr Peter Fulton, then Fr John Flynn. All of these now deceased, having gone to God, either through plane crashes, illness and other causes, later in Melbourne. Two lay

missionaries also lie in the small Kanabea cemetery, Vin and Ann Cafarella.

Missionaries have paid a high price for the service they gave the mountain people. Once the Sisters put their hands to the plough, they never looked back. They went about doing a little good wherever God inspired and directed them in any ministry. Education had already existed in some areas of the mountain region then. Because of the remoteness and villages scattered here and there, children had to walk long distances to get proper education.

The growing need of further education saw us venturing into Bema in 1997. Bema been the only High School for the mountain people, the Sisters under the management of Sr Alice Vivien took on after the OLSH Sisters left.



Sr Ann Stevens (middle), from Melbourne, our former Region Leader, is now a General Councillor in Paris. Having studied medicine she was a missionary for over twenty years in Africa in the field of public health, experiencing the civil war and the ebola epidemic. Her vast experience in Africa, Papua New-Guinea and Australia has provided her with a wide understanding for her present task.



Picture 1: Fr John Flynn during Mass with locals
Picture 2: Fr Maurice Adams with locals

Priests in Kanabea

Melbourne Overseas Missions was established by the Archbishop of Melbourne, Cardinal Knox, in 1968. Dr Knox had been the Pope's Nuncio in India before being appointed to Melbourne. He had been involved in missionary work for many years and decided that there should be an opportunity for the Melbourne Diocese to become involved directly in missionary work.

Volunteers were called for from the diocesan priests and initially, three priests were sent to South America and three were sent to Papua New Guinea. Fr Maurice Adams, one of the original three sent to PNG, died some time ago. Having seen the extreme need for a medical doctor for the Kamea people living in the highlands of the Gulf Province of PNG, Fr Adams was asked to attend a medical course at the Port Moresby University. He became qualified and returned to serve the Kamea people until ill health caused his return in 1995. He built up health services.

MOM has sent priests, religious sisters and lay missionaries to many other countries including

Africa, Peru, Chile, Venezuela, and the migrant camps of Hong Kong. Basic needs of disadvantaged people are being addressed. Schools, medical outposts, a hospital, accommodation and of course churches have been built. Other work has involved the building of airstrips, roads and hydroelectric power generation. Some of the missionaries have indeed given their lives in the service of God's people. Examples are Fr Besson, Fr Cullen, Vin and Ann Cafarella who were killed in air crashes in PNG. The main activity of MOM, is now concentrated in the Highlands of the Gulf Province of PNG. There is still much work to be done. Fr John Flynn, has come across a village where he was the first white man to penetrate in the remote area of the Swanston District in the Gulf Province PNG. Some 40 to 50 thousand Kamea people live in these highlands, many still await to hear the Word of God. These Mountain People are forgotten by their own government who are more intent in meeting the needs of the people in provincial capitals in Port Moresby and Lae.

Article extracted from www.mom.org.au



Fr Cyril Blake



Fr Pat Harvey



Fr Besson with children



Fr Peter Cullen, a priest and pilot died in a plane crash



Fr Peter Fulton (middle), a priest in Kanabea



L-R: Sr Bernadette Gauthier, Sr Claudia Mendes, Sr Josephine Aleanta, Sr Tresa Jose and Sr Josephine O'Kelly.



Sr Gwen Margaret Daw with local families

READY FOR MISSION

A story of courage and dedication

In 1971, at the request of Bishop Knox, to support the mission of the Melbourne priests in Kanabea, Papua New Guinea, two Sisters Sr Gwen Margaret Daw, a nurse and midwife, together with Sr Josephine O'Kelly, a teacher disembarked on Yule Island. They were later flown over to Kanabea in an army helicopter that were carrying fuel for the building of an airstrip. Here are reflections and experiences shared by pioneers and other Sisters.



POSTINGS TO PNG

By Sr Bernadette Gauthier

In December 1971, I joined Sisters Josephine O'Kelly and Gwen Daw at Kanabea. At that time I stayed two years, as I was called back to Melbourne to complete Diploma of Education. I wept a lot before leaving. Already Kanabea had won my heart. I was replaced by Sr Pauline Staples.

The second call for me came in 1991 twenty years later, replacing Sr Carmel McMaugh. I joined Srs Rachel Arputham and Claudia Mendes. When it became clear that we could not send anyone else from Melbourne, we turned to our Indian Provinces. A whole programme came to be developed, including the Family Life Apostolate, Women's Groups, Literacy schools, the College of Distance Education in the schools. Regular village patrols were organized also; I think three weeks per month on the station and one week out became the norm.

Another initiative was born of a spontaneous observation of Sr Tresa Jose coming back from patrol, exclaiming; "there are hundreds of children out there, and no teacher." We undertook basic training of our students who did not go on to tertiary studies, and they became

our barefoot teachers; if a village wanted a literacy teacher and they did not have one of their own, they provided accommodation, a classroom and food and a 'teacher' would be provided. I believe about 25 Literacy Schools were thus provided in the villages around Kanabea and Bema, and many still run are supported by the present Sisters and Melbourne Overseas Mission (MOM). The Bishop of the time asked me to assist Religious Education in the schools; so this was attempted both in the mountains and on the coast involving very adventurous patrols, on foot and by dinghy on the coast. I think it was a great initiative for the teachers to be visited, and I know Sr Roshni is continuing this mission in her own way right now. Great to know, that she conducts retreats for teachers and students among other initiatives.

I was invited to return to PNG in 2012, this time to Port Moresby to assist at Xavier Institute in on-going formation of priests and religious. Sr Rachel Arputham had already spent some time there. There was a mix of national and expatriate staff. When my three year contract was finished, I moved back to Boroko for a time offering some formation and spiritual direction and then for health reasons at the end of 2016 .

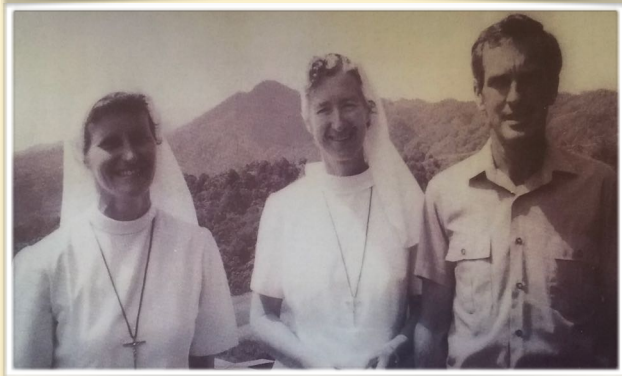


KANABEA MEMORIES

By Sr Carmel McMaugh

In this picturesque setting on God's Holy mountain, I found myself submerged into his grace and splendour of the natural beauty of His creation. I loved the simplicity of the people and built a relationship with them. In building this relationship, it became a lot easier for me to do patrols. The ladies taught me a lot, young girls would accompany me on patrols to other communities and assist in the kitchen. The trained men like Catechists, teachers, workmen for the airstrip and road maintenance, builders, cowmen and parishioners to name a few all contributed to building this little faith community.

The love and acceptance of the families welcomed me into their home to share the love of Christ over fresh greens cooked in bamboos and some kind of carbohydrates roasted over the fire. Thank you to the fellow missionaries who shared my joys and sorrows. Their support gave me the confidence to continue my 11 years in this Paradise.



Picture 1: Sr Carmel with children in Kanabea

Picture 2 L-R: Sr Carmel, Sr Mary of the Cluny Sisters and Fr Dr Maurie Adams in Kanabea

REFLECTIONS



"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation".

This was the spring from where I drew my strength to revive my drooping spirit. Every Cluny Sister should be like a bird on a branch ready to fly at the first signal of obedience.

And so there was I. From the mountains to the coast and then onto the city were all different experiences. In the mountains, I walked for hours in the cool and peaceful jungles, on the coast, I had to be assisted to

cross fast flowing creeks on a log and in the city, I had to hassle with the traffic and the fear of safety. In spite of all the difficulties I encountered, there was always joy in meeting the people who waited eagerly to hear some words of ease and comfort.

Quarter century of my life spent in PNG has taught me these: "People will forget what you said and what you did but they will never forget how you made them feel".

- Sr Tresa Jose

"Oh how I love Africa" -Bl. AMJ

As an aspirant, I was greatly struck by this words of our Bl Mother Foundress. I always wondered why she said this but having spent my novitiate days there, I realised that, it was in Africa that she was called to do more little goods.

Inspired by her, I wish to carry on doing the little good wherever I am missioned to.

- Sr Sylvian Aua



Celebrating



Sr Claudia Mendes



Sr Alice Vivian



*Year of Prayer for Canonization
of Anne-Marie Javouhey
August 15 2020 - July 15 2021*



50 Years



Sr Ann Stevens visits Kanabea in 2015



Sr Ann Stevens as General Councillor in Port Moresby in 2019



Anne Forgarty, a lay missionary in Kanabea



Education



2020 graduates of Sacred Heart Teachers College, Bomana. These students went through the Literacy School and onto Bema High School.

As our first missionaries who arrived from Melbourne 50 years ago began the education ministry. We have continued and now provide education from literacy school level up to Grade 10, and provide partial help and support for tertiary education.

Our first mission located in Kanabea in the Diocese of Kerema sits in clouds much of the time, at 4500 feet. A beautiful place with very endearing people scattered in multiple villages. In the Mountain of Gulf province, majority of children have to walk two hours to school, with no lunch. Many were able to board on main stations and with some help mainly had to look after themselves.

Formal Education: Our sisters got into the primary school education before the country got Independence in 1975. In 1972 the first girls were admitted at Kanabea primary school. Some of these students were ready for High school and went to the Diocese of Bereina where they were trained as teachers, nurses and other professions. In early 1990's, the Bema High school was built by Fr. Patric Harvey. Sr. Rita Grunke OLSH was principal, and then the sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny took over with Sr. Alice Vivien appointed as principal of Bema High school followed by Sr. Annette Lepcha. At present, Sr. Joyeeta Biswas is the principal.

We also help the students through FODE studies which enables young people to go for further training for teaching, nursing, accountant and other trades.

Literacy school: Sr. Tresa Jose, a social worker, had the idea of the literacy schools because in the Kamea area with thousands of children, there were no teachers. Hence, grade 10 graduates were trained and upgraded to become literacy school teacher. The teachers are regularly given in service and provided learning materials and learn the teaching skills. This school is still providing education opportunities for the children who live far from the main station. This program is funded by Melbourne Overseas Mission.

Informal education: The sisters are involved with the women's groups. This program gives them the skills to sew and learn about basic health and nutrition. There is also School Life or Pidgin literacy school for the young girls especially who miss out on formal education learn some basic pidgin literacy, hygiene sewing, knitting etc.



Sr Gina Delmar with her Kamea family in Bema

Last year, 2019, Sr Gina Delmar retired from her teaching post at Bema High School where she had been deputy principal.

Sr Gina has spent 32 years in Bema, originally coming as a lay missionary with the Religious of the Virgin Mary and then making her novitiate with the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny. We appreciate her selfless dedication to the school and Kamea people.

Sr Gina was a logistics expert using her skills in arranging food supplies for the students and materials for buildings. She excelled in her teaching capacity, and many of her past students have gone onto tertiary education. Sr Gina has returned to the Philippines for medical treatment.



Sr Joyeeta at Bema High School



Sr Pawithra at Bema High School



Street Ministry in Moresby with Sr Angela, Sr Tresa and Sr Ann



Sr Annette at Bema High School



Evangelization



We have a community in Port Moresby and two communities in remote areas of the mountains. Our mission of evangelization takes place through our ministries of education along with social, pastoral and health care.

In Kanabea, the sisters go to the village and stay with the people and help the catechist and the literacy school teachers. Village patrol is one of the most significant for those who done the patrol for hours in a day.

Pastoral work in Kanabea:

Sr. Pia goes on foot on Sundays to conduct communion service to nearby villages. When sisters are on patrol they take the Blessed sacraments and service with people. When the priests or catechist are not there in Kanabea, the sisters conduct the Sunday service. Sisters help the catechists in preparation of sacraments. Sr. Roshni gives retreat for the teachers, nurses, and high-class students. She is the Catholic education Coordinator in the Diocese.

Bema: The sisters formed Cluny associates in Bema and every month, faith formation is given. The catholic students are encouraged to receive the sacrament like confirmation and confession.

Boroko: The sisters help in Sunday catechism and preparation of the sacraments. Participate in the Basic Christian community activities.



Pictures above: Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny working in the Diocese of Kerema.

Pictures from <https://sj-cluny.org>



Sr Beula raising awareness to students of Kamea on HIV/AIDS

The health ministry began with our pioneer Sister and has encouraged the young people of Kamea to become health workers.

Now 99% of the health workers in the area are locals. We have more than 150 health workers including two Health Extension Officers (HEO).

For the past twenty years our Sisters have been counselling and testing HIV/AIDS patients in the diocese. Patrols on foot in the mountains, as well as on the coastal areas provides health education in the schools and communities.

Sr Beula works full-time as a lab technician with patients coming from afar for TB treatment. This ministry has improved the life span of the Kamea people. Pre and antenatal care has cut down the infant mortality rate.



Sr Dorothy testing a patient for HIV



Extended Ministry



In Port Moresby, since 2011 we have been involved with the Street Children's Ministry, working with two other Congregation Sisters in the Archdiocesan program. This involves assisting the children from shanty settlements to go into mainstream education, as well as educating the parents on Child Protection and responsible parenthood.

The Street Ministry is an initiative by the Archdiocese of Port Moresby. It has centres located in Morata and Boroko. At each centre, 40 students attend classes three days a week. The program motivates the children to continue their education by providing them with school materials, meals and other necessities.

Sister Tresa Jose to Papua New Guinea from India in July 1994. She worked as a Social Worker in the Street Ministry for 12 years and left for her home in 2019.

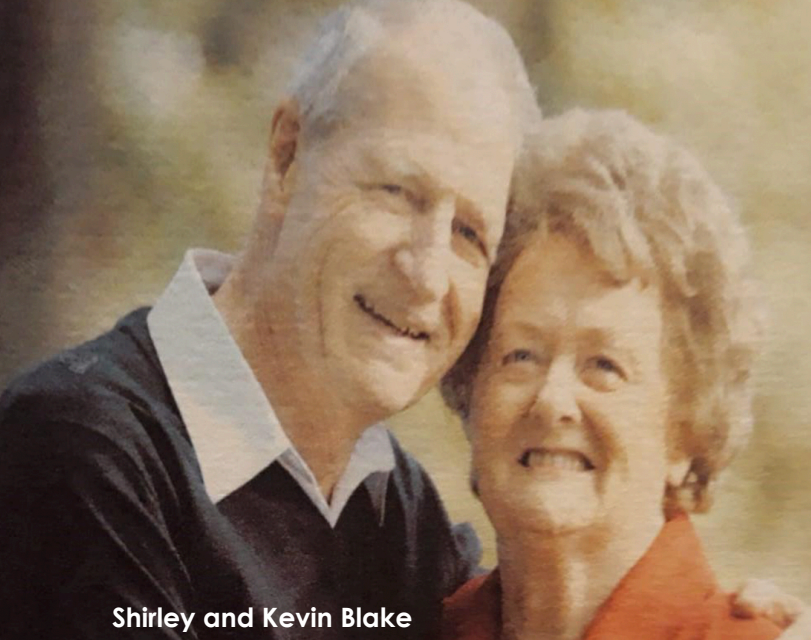
Other ministries in Port Moresby have been School Counselling at the St Joseph's International Catholic College, being on the staff at Xavier Institute, involvement in the Parish Sunday School program and Basic Christian Communities.

In the recent years we have been supporting the refugees who arrived in Port Moresby from Manus Island. We open our house at times for them to cook their own country

food and celebrate their feast days with their countrymen.

All our ministry small or big is geared towards our Charism, ***"to liberate and empower in order to give life in abundance."***





Shirley and Kevin Blake



Rosemary and Maurie Morrison

In appreciation of our Benefactors

The fifty years of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny have been very much dependent on the generosity of the people of the Archdiocese of Melbourne. The early years saw the sisters as members of the Melbourne Overseas Mission team, instigated by Cardinal Knox following on the Second Vatican Council.

Over the years Melbourne Overseas Mission has financed many of the sisters' projects, in Kanabea, Bema and Boroko, providing finance for health, education and development projects. We thank the people of the Archdiocese of Melbourne for their generosity. In particular we thank Shirley and Kevin Blake and their family for the time and expertise they have given to Melbourne Overseas Mission for more than fifty years. We also thank Rosemary and Maurie Adams.

Brief history of the Benefactors

Shirley and Kevin Blake are a Missionary couple who do humanitarian work around the world.

According to the MOM Report 2016, they were awarded the Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice medal in March 2016 in celebration of their distinguished service to the church through their work with MOM.

This is the highest medal awarded to lay people by the Pope. Throughout their 50 years of volunteer service to MOM, Kevin and Shirley have also been honoured as Members of the Order of Australia.

Rosemary and Maurie Morrison spent their time in Bema from February 1998 to August 2001. These were enjoyable years for them with Rosemary teaching in the High School and Maurie doing everything from sorting the hydro and power distribution, fixing tractors, anything mechanical and repairing houses. He also co-ordinated the building of AUSAID classrooms and libraries in Bema, Hawabango and Kanabea.

"All people, both local and expatriate were so easy to get along with. We often felt it was like living in a postcard - it was such a beautiful place. It was with mixed feelings that we decided to leave. We have very fond memories of the Clunys and Bema. All the best for your celebrations for 50 years in PNG - may the Lord continue to bless you all and your work in PNG."

With Gratitude



Recalling the challenging life I would have encountered if it weren't for the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny through whom I received help from MOM as well as their love and care shown to me and the others. Coming out of the jungle with no knowledge of the outside world, I had the opportunity to benefit from the service of the Sisters through the Literacy School. With a heart full of gratitude I thank each of them who have moulded me in every way.

OSCAR MAINA, HRM Graduate, UPNG

In appreciation, I sincerely thank the Cluny Sisters for their tireless effort with the assistance and support from Melbourne Overseas Mission (MOM) in providing education, health and social services in the Kamea area since 1971. My heartfelt gratitude to all the missionaries including St. Joseph of Cluny Sisters and lay people who came to assist in building education and health services for us and the upcoming generations to advance in the modern society.



PETER DAVID, ACCOUNTANT, SACRED HEART TEACHERS COLLEGE



On behalf of the parishioners of Kanabea, I'd like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the Sisters that passed through Kanabea while administering the love of God through their acts of love and charity. The Sisters have tremendously offered their service without reserve. Over the years, I have seen the outcome of their love and sacrifice through Education, Religious programs, Basic house skills (sewing) for the mothers and young girls, Tireless patrols to almost all the look and corner of the jungles in the quest of reaching out to the poor. And of course giving spiritual and moral support to those that needed them most. They have left the legacy of their sacrifice and commitment in the hearts of all the Kamea people. With the support of the Melbourne Overseas mission (MOM) through the Sisters, some of us have become Health Extension Officers, Politicians, Nurses, Priests, Teacher to name a few.

PETER YAKAM, KANABEA PARISH COUNCIL

St Joseph of Cluny Sisters have worked in the Kamea Region of Papua New Guinea as early as 1970s and would have been working in the region and country for 50 years by 2021. Their work has been so much into the life and needs of the people that work towards more vocation, many times, has been neglected. St Joseph of Cluny congregation sisters will have been in the region for 50 years but there are nil local vocation (apart from the three outside Kamea Region) into the congregation to continue this work. Benefactors of SJC efforts have to participate/encourage vocation in the congregation. This is the earnest desire and need after 50 years and onwards.

I thank expatriates who have given their life to serve the people of this region, trying their level best to bring students/people into this technological era and beyond, living and

teaching standing social ethics, in an independent state where people know very little of independence, people who tend to be so much educated when we are not, people that are cultivated by the colonial free -handout mentality, people with expectations to gain greater things with little or no effort and at no cost.

Thank you for the formation of students, teachers and other people who choose to learn from you I thank you all for your tolerance and understanding.



**Cecilia Sembo
Bema High School Teacher & Cluny Associate**

With Gratitude



SJC making valuable contributions to the betterment of PNG

Anne Marie Javouhey, now Blessed, founded her Congregation of Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny in 1806. The addition of the city name "Cluny" was intended to distinguish them from Sisters of St Joseph of Lyons. The foundation members, which included her own three younger sisters, took their vows of poverty, chastity and obedience on 12th May 1807. They took a fourth vow: to devote themselves to the Christian education of youth. They are therefore a teaching congregation, devoted to competent education in religion, basic literacy, handicraft and other manual skills. How do the Sisters live this charism in St. Joseph's Parish where they have established a community for 11 years?

To answer this question, one has to go back to their first arrival in the Diocese of Kerema in the 1970s. While they made a considerable impact on the life of the youth on the coast there, they made an even greater impact on the lives of the boys and girls in Kanabea since 1996. Until the 1960s most of the coastal people had heard very little of the cold mountainous hinterland, divided by steep valleys and cut by deep gorges, and hiding a relatively large population living in

Kanabea, Kaintiba, and Bema in Gulf Province, and Menyameya and Aseki in Morobe Province.

It was here in 1996 that the Congregation set up a Bible School which became a preschool and later a Literacy School with a branch at Bema. Over 1000 students had passed through this evolving institution. Some of them have undertaken Law studies while others have become Health Extension Officers (HEO) and Primary School teachers.

Over the last 10 years at St Joseph's Parish, members of the Congregation pursue with the same dedication the education of street children in Port Moresby, and thus contributing to the Street Ministry of the Archdiocese of Port Moresby. They devote as much effort also to assisting with preparing children of the parish for receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Confession, Holy Communion and Confirmation.

The Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny, whose founding and early growth was threatened by the French Revolution, clerical opposition and stone walling and internal schism, has made and continues to make a very valuable contribution to the betterment of the life of the young people of Papua New Guinea.

Sam Kaipu, OBE

Sisters of Saint Joseph of Cluny, you are truly a remarkable and inspiring people. Your presence in Kanabea (PNG) over the past 50 years have transformed the lives of many local people not only in spiritual development but in all aspects of human life.

Every heart, past and present that you have touched over these years of your presence, surely owe you a million thanks. Your arrival has truly liberated us, and your presence have continued to give us assurance of a better life - a life full of meaning and one that will bring us closer to Christ our Saviour.

My family and I are very grateful to you for everything that you have done for us. Thank you so much. Every blessings of success we have received and will continue to receive are truly the fruits of your labour. We will remain dedicated to keeping the spirit of "St Joseph of Cluny Sisters" alive in us and inspire every soul we touch.

May God bless you and I wish you all a Happy 50th Anniversary.

Eric Morova, Performance Auditor Analyst, Auditor General's Office of PNG



HER LIGHT LIVES ON



1807



Sr Gwen DAW



Sr Josephine O'KELLY

1970's



Sr Claudia MENDES



Sr Rachel ARPUTHAM

1990's



Sr Fatima MAFU



Sr Sylvian AUA

2000's



Sisters of
St. Joseph of *Cluny*

A missionary heart open to the world

