



Bishop Gerard County, C.S. Sp with Sr. Mary- Ann De Shong and Sr. Dieon Mc Coy at their final profession.



Final Profession

**SEE STORY
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GARIFUNA BAKERY IS 25!

A bakery in North Windward is celebrating 25 years of existence.

A Mass was held on Mission Sunday, October 21 at the Catholic Church in Sandy Bay to celebrate the 25th year since the Garifuna Bakery opened its doors officially on July 27, 1993.

Diane Crozier, who currently oversees the operations of the bakery, said it was established as part of a mission under the then Commission for the Development of People (CDP) and leadership of the Fr. Callistus St Louis.

Garifuna Bakery celebrates its 25th anniversary "Its primary concern then and now was to provide fresh bread, cakes et cetera to Sandy Bay and its surrounding areas at a cost affordable to the local inhabitants," Crozier said. "In responding to such

a humanitarian need it was expected that the bakery would provide economic activities within the area by providing employment opportunities for a number of persons."

The products made by the bakery include bread, cakes, sweetbread, doughboy and pudding.

Garifuna Bakery celebrates its 25th anniversary And Crozier said that these products are distributed to Sandy Bay, Owia and Fancy in the North and Magum, Overland, Orange Hill and Georgetown. She also took the opportunity to thank the workers of the bakery and all those who contributed to the bakery in the last 25 years.

Area representative, Montgomery Daniel congratulated the Garifuna Bakery for maintaining a successful business for such a long time.

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Diocese of Kingstown Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER 23-25

Harvest Thanksgiving Weekend
Cathedral of the Assumption

NOVEMBER 25

HARVEST
Our Lady Queen of the Universe
Layou

DECEMBER 2

Harvest
Sacred Heart, Rillain Hill

DECEMBER 2

Harvest
St Theresa's, Gomea

DECEMBER 7

Fundraising BBQ
St Mary's RC School

DECEMBER 9

Harvest
Corpus Christi Community
Villa

DECEMBER 14

Diocesan Christmas Festival

what's inside...

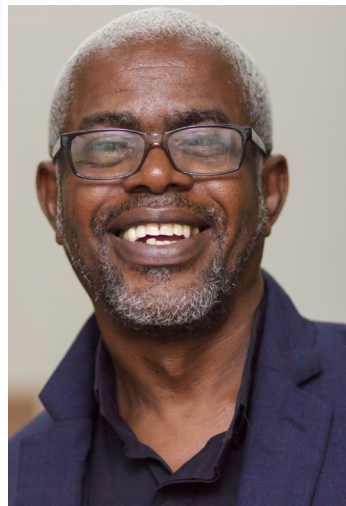
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Update on Fr. Andrew Roache and Fr. George Bardowell

Fr. Andrews's health has improved tremendously since leaving St. Vincent in an air ambulance on May 4, 2018. He now celebrates Mass on Sundays at a parish in Grenada. It is our hope to have him returned to the Diocese by the end of December, 2018.



Fr. George continues to improve in health. He is now able to celebrate Mass at the Chapel at the Pastoral Centre. We continue to pray for his continued improvement in health.



Catholic Diocese of Kingstown
Christmas Festival
• Local, Indian + Filipino Food •
Salt Ham + Bread • Cakes • Sweets • BBQ •
• Cultural Showcase • Color Board •
• Bottles + Cans • Dips • Santa's Table •
ADMISSION
ADULTS: \$5 KIDS: \$2
ST. JOSEPH'S CONVENT KINGSTOWN | 6PM
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2018

continued from FRONT...

"I recall very much the very day when the operation started. I believe that I'm the closest neighbour to the Garifuna bakery. And so, over the last 25 years, I have delighted myself in all of the products that Garifuna Bakery have produced and I want to thank you very much for my own sustenance with bread and cakes," Daniel said.

The area representative said that reaching the 25-year milestone is no easy task, particularly in a small community. And he expressed belief that the Garifuna Bakery may be one of the longest surviving businesses in the area.

Bishop Gerard County presented tokens of appreciation to some of the current workers of the bakery.

He said that they were fundamental to the bakery's existence and he asked workers for their continued loyalty and dedication for more years to come.



Diane Crozier



Montgomery Daniel



Bishop Gerard County expressing gratitude to some of the current workers at the Garifuna Bakery

Say Hello to... **Fr. Niño Eugenio T. Mirandilla**

A new priest has arrived in St Vincent and the Grenadines. Fr. Niño Eugenio T. Mirandilla is from the Archdiocese of Caceres, Philippines. He was ordained a Priest on June 11, 2009. Fr. Niño arrived in St. Vincent and the Grenadines on August 15, 2018. Prior to coming to St Vincent, he was a parish priest of St Anthony the Abbot Parish, Tapayas, Balatan, Camarines Sur.



Fr. Nino

Message of Pope Francis for Mission Sunday 2018

Dear young people, I would like to reflect with you on the mission that we have received from Christ. In speaking to you, I also address all Christians who live out in the Church the adventure of their life as children of God. More than anyone else, young people feel the power of life breaking in upon us and attracting us. To live out joyfully our responsibility for the world is a great challenge. I am well aware of lights and shadows of youth; when I think back to my youth and my family, I remember the strength of my hope for a better future. Each one of us is called to reflect on this fact: “I am a mission on this Earth; that is the reason why I am here in this world” (Evangelii Gaudium, 273).

Dear young people, do not be afraid of Christ and his Church! For there we find the treasure that fills life with joy. I can tell you this from my own experience: thanks to faith, I found the sure foundation of my dreams and the strength to realize them. I have seen great suffering and poverty mar the faces of so many of our brothers and sisters. And yet, for those who stand by Jesus, evil is an incentive to ever greater love. Many men and women, and many young people, have generously sacrificed themselves, even at times to martyrdom, out of love for the Gospel and service to their brothers and sisters. From the cross of Jesus we learn the divine logic of self-sacrifice (cf. 1 Cor 1:17-25) as a proclamation of the Gospel for the life of the world (cf. Jn 3:16). To be set afire by the love of Christ is to be consumed by that fire, to grow in understanding by its light and to be warmed by its love (cf. 2 Cor 5:14).

This transmission of the faith, the heart of the Church’s mission, comes about by the infectiousness of love, where joy and enthusiasm become the expression of a newfound meaning and fulfilment in life. The spread of the faith “by attraction” calls for hearts that are open and expanded by love. It is not possible to place limits on love, for love is strong as death (cf. Song 8:6). And that expansion generates encounter, witness, proclamation; it generates sharing in charity with all those far from the faith, indifferent to it and perhaps even hostile and opposed to it. Human, cultural and religious settings still foreign to the Gospel of Jesus and to the sacramental presence of the Church represent the extreme peripheries, the “ends of the earth”, to which, ever since the first Easter, Jesus’ missionary disciples have been sent, with the certainty that their Lord is always with them (cf. Mt 28:20; Acts 1:8). This is what we call the *missio ad gentes*.

The most desolate periphery of all is where mankind, in need of Christ, remains indifferent to the faith or shows hatred for the fullness of life in God. All material and spiritual poverty, every form of discrimination against our brothers and sisters, is always a consequence of the rejection of God and his love.

Let me repeat the words of encouragement that I addressed to the young people of Chile: “Never think that you have nothing to offer, or that nobody needs you. Many people need you. Think about it! Each of you, think in your heart: many people need me”.

Dear young people, this coming October, the month of the missions, we will hold the Synod devoted to you. It will prove to be one more occasion to help us become missionary disciples, ever more passionately devoted to Jesus and his mission, to the ends of the earth.

FRANCIS

A visit from the **PMS DIRECTOR**



**Fr. Esteban Kross
and Bishop Gerard
County at the AIA**

Fr. Esteban Kross, the Regional Director for the Pontifical Missions Society (PMS) visited the Diocese of Kingstown from September 25 to September 30.

Fr. Esteban, who is from Suriname, was met at the Argyle International Airport by Bishop Gerard County, C.S.Sp. and it was his first time visiting St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

As part of his visit, Fr. Esteban met with the local clergy and did a sharing on Luke's Gospel. He also took the opportunity to discuss the PMS.

A few of the institutions that directly benefit from PMS funding were visited, namely St. Mary's RC School, St. Josephs Convent, the Bread of Life Home and the St. Benedict's Infant Hospital. This was done a day later than scheduled due to the closure of schools the day before because of bad weather conditions.

On Saturday, September 29, a session with all stakeholders who benefit from the assistance of PMS was held in Edinboro at the Pastoral Centre.

Stewardship and Development Commission *What have we been up to?*

We have been up to becoming a more welcoming Church. There are greeters and ushers at the door of the church wearing the signature blue collar. We hope to see this ministry expanded to all the parishes before the end of this year 2018. Of note is the enthusiasm of the youth in this ministry of hospitality.

We have been up to mission visits, bringing the stewardship message, promoting greater involvement in the life of the Church including participation at Mass. Again the interest of the young people is noteworthy, so too are the efforts of those who offer training for altar servers, music ministry, or any other ministry.

We have been up to disaster relief. Thanks to you, last year, we were able to assist our brothers and sisters who were affected by Hurricanes Irma and Maria, with cash, food items, toiletries, clothing and stationery supplies. Thank you for

your overwhelming generosity in responding to the call. You are, indeed, good stewards of God's gifts.

We have been up to radio programmes where you can hear all that is Catholic, so tune in to NICE Radio 11.55 a.m. on Sundays and to NBC Radio for Catholic forum Mondays and Thursdays after the 6 p.m. news and obituaries.

You are invited to be a part of the stewardship experience. Make a commitment to discover what part of the Body of Christ are you, take the first step to becoming a functioning member of the Body of Christ, or recommit to sharing your gifts and talents from God. Make the bold decision to give back to God in gratitude for all He has given you. Remember, stewardship is a spirituality – a way of life that calls us to receive God's gifts with gratitude, share them lovingly and give an account to God of how His gifts were used.

An *HISTORIC* day for the Church in SVG

by Sr. Clare Harris, SJC

The early twentieth century history of the St. Joseph of Cluny Sisters in the West Indies, records a Sr. Wenceslaus Spratt from St. Vincent. Then in 1989 Sr. Jacinta Wallace made her first profession as a Cluny sister. Almost thirty years later, we celebrated on Saturday, August 25, at the Cathedral of the Assumption, Kingstown, the Solemn Final Profession - the perpetual vows of two Vincentian fairly young ladies Sr. Mary-Ann De Shong from Rose Place, Kingstown and Sr. Dieon Mc Coy from Sandy Bay, both past pupils of St. Joseph's Convent, Kingstown. This wonderful event was the culmination of ten years of Religious Formation.

At 10:00 a.m. the traditional procession of cross bearer, acolytes, deacons, priests, seventeen Cluny Sisters and Bishop Gerard County entered the Cathedral. They were preceded by young liturgical dancers swaying gracefully to the music of Richard Ho Lung's "Rejoice My Soul", led by the melodious voices and instrumentalists of the Jubilee Choir. The families and friends of both Sisters and other faithful filled the church which was beautifully decorated with flowers in abundance... each pew also had its own sprig. Two well crafted banners hung at the back walls which read respectively: CALLED TO SERVE and LAUNCH OUT INTO THE DEEP. The cover of the artistic programmes carried this same motif.

Many remarked that the ceremony was like an elaborate wedding. A true comparison as the ceremony of Religious Profession includes a request "Sisters, what do you ask of God and of his Church?" Then follows "The Examination of the Candidates" to questions such as "Are you resolved by the bond of perpetual profession to make this consecration even more total? Are you resolved, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, to participate in the mission of Christ our Saviour, generously spending your life in the service of the People of God?"

A day before the ceremony Bishop County met with the two 'brides', and shared



his heart with them in his homily. He encouraged them to always walk closely with their spouse, reminding them of the chorus of the recessional hymn on the programme: "I know nothing of tomorrow except the love of God will rise before the Sun, the love of God will rise before the sun." After the homily and the Examination of the Candidates, the two Sisters prostrated as the Litany of the Saints, which included Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey (1779-1851) our foundress, was sung. The last four petitions were: "Make Sr. Mary-Ann and Sr. Dieon more like Christ the first born of many/ Give Sr. Mary-Ann and Sr. Dieon grace and strength to persevere in their purpose/ Give your special blessing to their parents and relatives whose devoted love has brought them to this day/ Bless all those who have helped them to respond to your call to follow you in the religious life - their mistresses of Formation, their companions who shared the journey with them, those who collaborate with them in our ministries. Finally came the solemn moment... the act of Profession of Sr. Mary-Ann and Sr. Dieon. All stood as the Provincial Superior, Sr. Maureen Alexander, in the name of the Congregation received the vows, which they pronounced... Vows of Obedience, of Chas-

tity, of Poverty... forever. "In the name of the Church, I receive the Vows you have pronounced in the Congregation of St. Joseph of Cluny. May God unite your offering to the sacrifice of Christ and enable you to live it in its fullness." Srs. Mary-Ann and Dieon then signed the document of their profession on the altar, as well as Bishop County and our Provincial. The newly professed then knelt for a long blessing ending with the words: "Lord, Holy Father, guide the steps of Sisters Mary-Ann and Dieon and guard them in their pilgrimage. At the judgment seat of the King of heaven, let them not fear Him as their judge, but hear the voice of the Bridegroom inviting them to the wedding feast of Heaven". Gold rings were then presented (with temporary vows within Cluny silver rings are worn) "RECEIVE THIS RING FOR YOU ARE BETROTHED TO THE ETERNAL KING. KEEP TRUE FAITH WITH CHRIST SO THAT YOU MAY COME TO THE ETERNAL WEDDING FEAST OF JOY". Each Cluny Sister present (we did have Carmelites among us) then filed to exchange a Hug of Peace and Joy with the newly professed. At the Prayer of the Faithful, as we prayed for the deceased, the mother of Sr. Mary-Ann was remembered. Symbols presented at the Offertory Procession included a boat symbolic of "launching out into the deep" and our Constitutions. The Meditation Hymn was a beautiful solo rendition of Richard Ho Lung's Magnificat sung by Penola Ross. The ceremony and its rich symbolism was well explained and animated by Sr. Jacinta Wallace. This was Bishop Gerard County's first time ever, presiding at such a ceremony. Let us pray that during his tenure as Bishop of St. Vincent and the Grenadines it will not be his last. Refreshments followed for all in the courtyard. To God be the glory!

A report on the Antilles Episcopal Conference (AEC) Regional stewardship meeting *by Catherine Lewis*



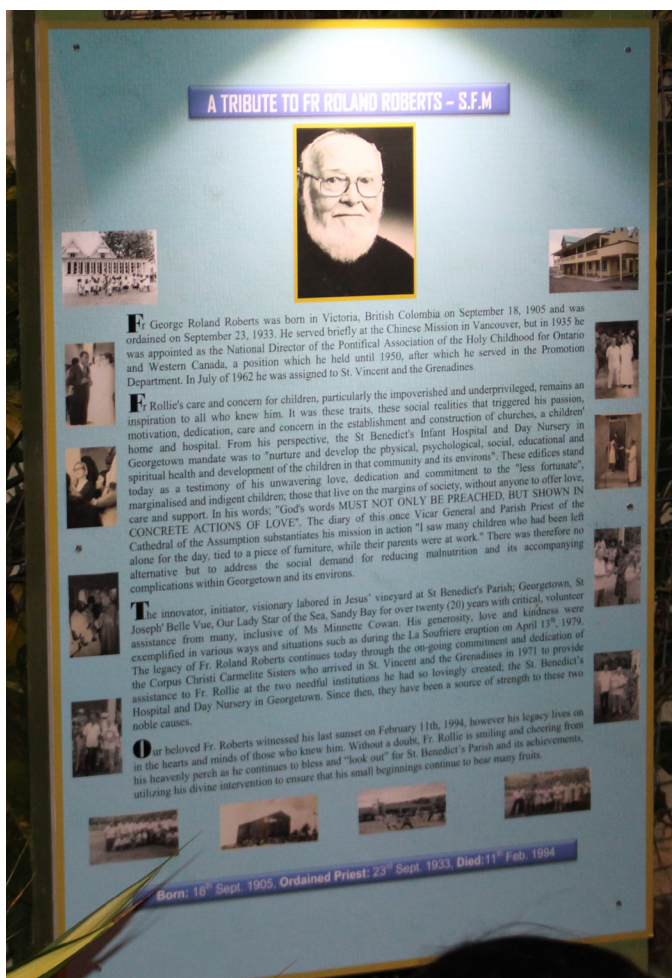
The AEC Regional Stewardship meeting was held at the Seminary of St John Vianney and the Martyrs of Uganda in the archdiocese of Port of Spain from August 7th to August 9th, 2018. Present were representatives from fourteen archdioceses and dioceses of the AEC.

This meeting was a follow up to those held in Atlanta and Castries in 2017 to introduce or revive stewardship and development in the regional dioceses.

After a warm welcome, participants listened to presentations on how to become a stewardship diocese, how parishioners can take ownership of the Church by their active involvement, how other well wishers can be included, and how to harness and build on

the talents and gifts of everyone for the wellbeing of the diocese. Some of the more successful dioceses shared their stewardship and development programmes and methods, there were various interactive sessions and a quite interesting role play utilizing what we learnt in the sessions. The importance of accountability was stressed throughout the three-day meeting, since people should be made aware of the results of their sacrifice of time, talents and treasure.

We took the time to visit the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, Queen of Peace, at Curepe, and ventured further up the mountain from the seminary to the peaceful and serene ambience of Mount St Benedict Monastery.



Parish pays **TRIBUTE** to Rev. Fr. Roland Roberts

A plaque was erected this year as a tribute to Rev. Fr. Roland Roberts in appreciation for all the hard work he has done for the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and more specifically, the community of Georgetown.

The erection of the plaque was done by the parishioners of St Benedict's on March 14 at the Ash Wednesday celebrations. Acknowledgement and sincerest gratitude were extended to the

Scarborough Foreign Mission Society for sending Fr. Rollie to this part of the world to share his Time, Talents and Gifts.

The parishioners are "certain that this small tribute would go a long way in showing our appreciation and love for all that this generous man-of-God has done in helping to build the local church here in St. Vincent and the Grenadines."

COR

back after 9-year hiatus!

After a nine years hiatus, a COR (Christ in Others Retreat) became a reality on the weekend of August 3 2018. Over 40 participants attended the three-day retreat, which was held at the St Joseph's Convent in Marriagua.

COR is a planned weekend that benefits an individual both spiritually and psychologically. With this in mind, our young people were able to enjoy the elements of Christian life where the following were evident: reflection, prayer, recreation, sharing, relaxing and apostolic involvement.

Though the schedule was a packed one, it was the hope that each individual gained the utmost from the weekend. A few adjustments and changes had to come in for the sake of convenience however it must be noted that each COR has its own spontaneity and uniqueness. The coordinators of COR; Fr Alando, Yohance Gibson and Juliana Persaud, are extremely grateful for all the hard work and dedication displayed and offered before during and after COR. Participants took part in a follow-up activity – ENCOR- on Saturday, September 22nd, 2018 at the Pastoral Centre.

What makes it all worthwhile to participate in a COR retreat – well it is very simple – God lives, that is his Spirit is in charge of your life, you can reach out any time and touch Him as he passes and his love is faithful until the end of life. Be guarantee that you will experience fully the love of God and in return you will be dying to share that love with your brothers and sisters.. remember... IT ONLY TAKES A SPARK...



New bus for Bread of Life!

Fr Ronald Knott donated a new van to Bread of Life on September 26, 2018.

“When I asked Sister Zita last January what she needed for her Bread of Life orphanage, she told him she needed a starter for the van. She said that the kids were pushing it to get it started,” wrote Fr Knott on his blog. “I was not convinced that was all she needed so I asked her to send pictures of the van. When I saw its condition, I said to her, “You don’t need a starter! You need a van! That thing is too dangerous to be driving kids around in! Let me see what I can do!””

In his blog, Fr Knott wrote that he had been working all year to secure a van for the orphanage in order to meet his goal of handing over the van by Christmas. However, it appeared that the orphanage’s need for alternative transport was great. Luckily, he was able to hand over new van keys before Christmas.

“Bishop County blessed it and I made sure the kids had a little after-school party to celebrate! ...I can’t thank my friends enough who helped me pull this off!” Fr Knott wrote.

Excepts taken from Fr Knott’s blog revjrknott.blogspot.com

the power of CHOICE

The weekend of June 1 to 3 witnessed the re-emergence of the CHOICE retreat for young adults in the Diocese of Kingstown. Although the programme that debuted in June is different in structure to the home-grown initiative masterminded by Msgr. Michael Stewart and Sis. Ivy Pacheco in 1990, the goals and objectives remained the same - to provide an opportunity for discernment and decision making among young people who are single and between the ages of 20 and 35.

Members of the DYC, along with 36 handpicked participants from various parishes throughout the Diocese journeyed over the three days. Among those who joined the team at the Spring Garden Resort in Argyle, were Sr. Lystra Long, the spiritual

director for CHOICE Trinidad, who served as the main facilitator for the weekend, as well as Gabrielle Bibby and Kerisha Charles, Coordinators of CHOICE Trinidad, both of whom made contributions to what has since been dubbed a “cathartic experience”.

This team of 40, in addition to the trend setters of the 1991 programme, hopes to merge the two initiatives and fashion a programme that meets the specific needs of young adults in our diocese; to equip them with the tools to love the word of God and to make decisions based on the teachings of their Catholic faith, morals and values.

Don’t miss out on being part of our 2019 programme!