

NUNCIO VISITS

*A recap of His Excellency
Archbishop Fortunatus Nwachuku,
the Apostolic Nuncio's visit to SVG*

by Orlando John

The Apostolic Nuncio to the Antilles Episcopal Conference (AEC), Archbishop Fortunatus Nwachukwu, visited St. Vincent and the Grenadines for the first time in May, 2019. His short visit spanned from May 25 to May 29 and it's main purpose was to present his credentials to the Government. A papal nuncio (officially known as an Apostolic nuncio) is a permanent diplomatic representative (head of diplomatic mission) of the Holy See to a state.

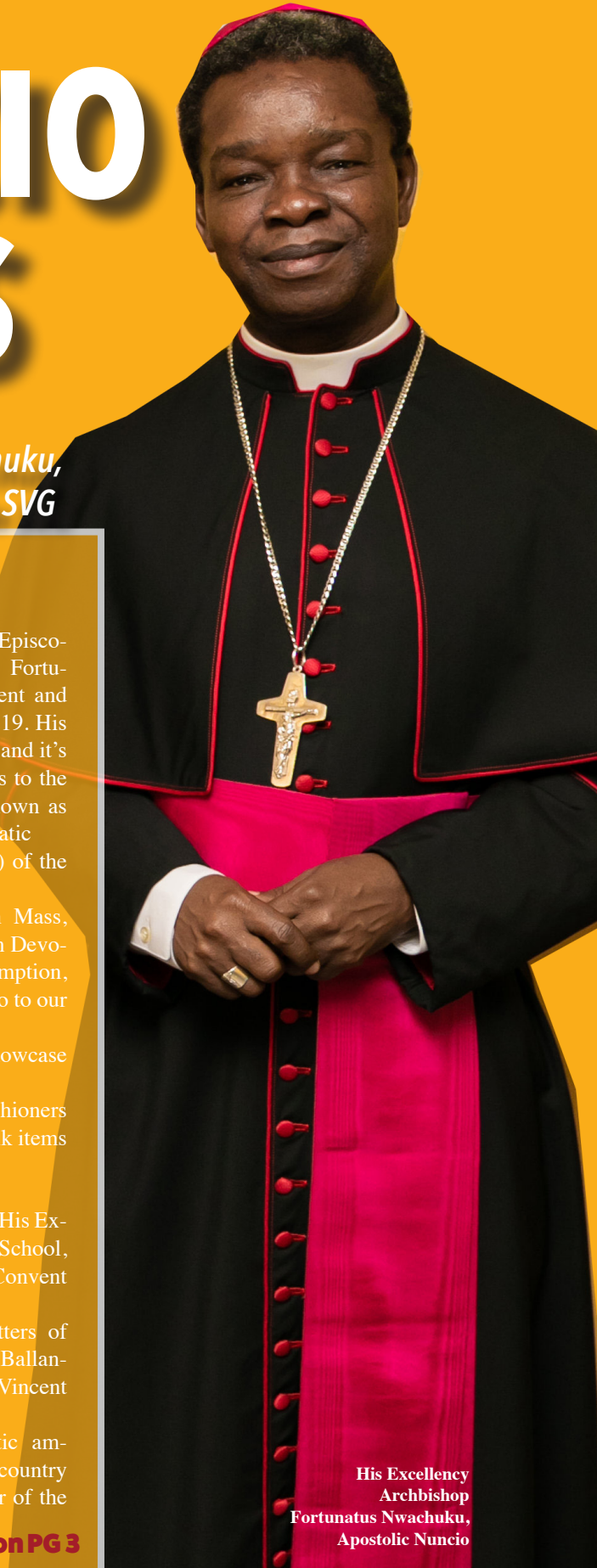
On Sunday May 26, a Diocesan Mass, which coincided with the opening of Marian Devotions, was held at the Cathedral of the Assumption, Kingstown to welcome the Apostolic Nuncio to our shores.

Following the Mass, a cultural showcase of talent took place on the grounds of the St. Joseph's Convent, Kingstown with parishioners throughout the Diocese performing local folk items in the presence of His Excellency.

During the next days of that week, His Excellency visited the St. Martin's Secondary School, St. Mary's RC School and St. Joseph's Convent Mesopotamia and Kingstown.

In addition to presenting his Letters of Credence to His Excellency, Sir Frederick Ballantyne, the then Governor General of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; His Excellency also visited various diplomatic ambassadors and government officials of the country including the Prime Minister and the leader of the Opposition.

Continued on PG 3



His Excellency
Archbishop
Fortunatus Nwachuku,
Apostolic Nuncio

Catholic SVG



what's inside...

- 4** St. Joseph's Church, Bellevue Celebrates 25th Anniversary
- 5** Opening of Gazebo and Paved Pathway for the St. Benedict's Children's Home
- 7** Deacon Candidates Receive Ministry of Acolyte
- 8** Stewardship update!

The 'I Care Trust fund' is now active.

Parishioners can now make financial contributions to account #22072 at the BOSVG. This fund has been set up for the specific purpose of assisting with the critical medical needs of active and retired priests and also to provide for all aspects of life after retirement from priestly ministry.

Continued from PG 1

The Apostolic Nuncio is resident in Trinidad and Tobago and also has concurrent accreditation to Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Barbados, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname and St. Lucia, Dominica, Guyana, Bahamas and Belize.

As Apostolic Nuncio for the AEC, His Excellency’s main duties are to maintain relationship between the Pope, the Church, the Government and the Peoples where he is accredited.



The clergy and altar servers with the Nuncio after welcome mass



His Excellency is presented with a gift basket by a student of the St Joseph’s Convent Marriaquia during his visit to the school



WELCOME MASS AT THE CATHEDRAL



St. Joseph's Church, Bellevue celebrates 25th Anniversary

On March 19, 2019, the St. Joseph's RC Church in Bellevue celebrated their 25th anniversary with a special Mass celebrated by Fr. Callistus St. Louis.

Fr. Callistus initiated the reconstruction of the church in March, 1994, which was built in 1974 by Fr. Roland Roberts. Fr. Callistus explained that there was need for a larger structure to accommodate the growing congregation and to cater for the neighboring communities. Fr. Callistus who now resides in Domi-

nica expressed his joy being back in the community to celebrate the anniversary with his former parishioners.

During the Mass, Bishop County who was also present expressed his gratitude to Fr. Callistus for his work in the parish and jokingly reminded him that he was still incardinated into the diocese of Kingstown and that he hopes that he will consider returning to continue the good work.

After Mass there were light refreshments and parishioners got the

chance to greet their former parish priest, some of whom had not seen him for over 20 years. Parishioners Elsa De Freitas and Ella Payne, two women who were present 25 years ago when the church was built, recounted stories of the journey of the church in Bellevue and spent some time sharing these stories.

Fr. Callistus shared some of his experiences. His work with the youth at the time has now produced some of the leaders of the church. He is also enthusiastic about the thought of returning.

VIRTUS WORKSHOP: Protecting God's Children

by Catherine Lewis

The Catholic Church introduced the Virtus programme in response to the child sexual abuse scandal which has plagued the church for some years.

The programme is designed for pastors and pastoral agents of the church especially those who interact with youth and young children.

A Virtus workshop was held in St Vincent and the Grenadines on March 21st and 22nd 2019 at the Pastoral Centre, Edinboro, under the theme "Protecting God's Children."

Participants included priests, deacons, Catholic teachers, volunteers and staff at Catholic institutions.

After the opening prayer, welcome remarks and introductions, participants were briefed on the history of Virtus and given an overview of the workshop.

Facilitators – Mrs. Carmille Belgraves, Fr. Ignatius Cetoute and Deacon Jeremy Joseph educated participants on proper conduct and guidelines to control the risk of abuse. During the course of the programme, two eye-opening videos were shown featuring experiences from the abused and abusers in their own words, which generated emotional discussions.

At the end of the session, participants would have learned to spot warning signals in perpetrators, recognize signs of abuse in victims, follow best practices as laid down by the Church in order to mitigate risk situations where abuse can occur and communicate concerns to designated persons.

Participants are expected to complete online follow-up sessions which complement the Virtus programme.



Fr. Ignatius Cetoute



Deacon Jeremy Joseph

Opening of Gazebo and Paved Pathway for St. Benedict's Children's Home



His Excellency and a child from the St. Benedict's Home cut the ribbon to the new gazebo and pathway

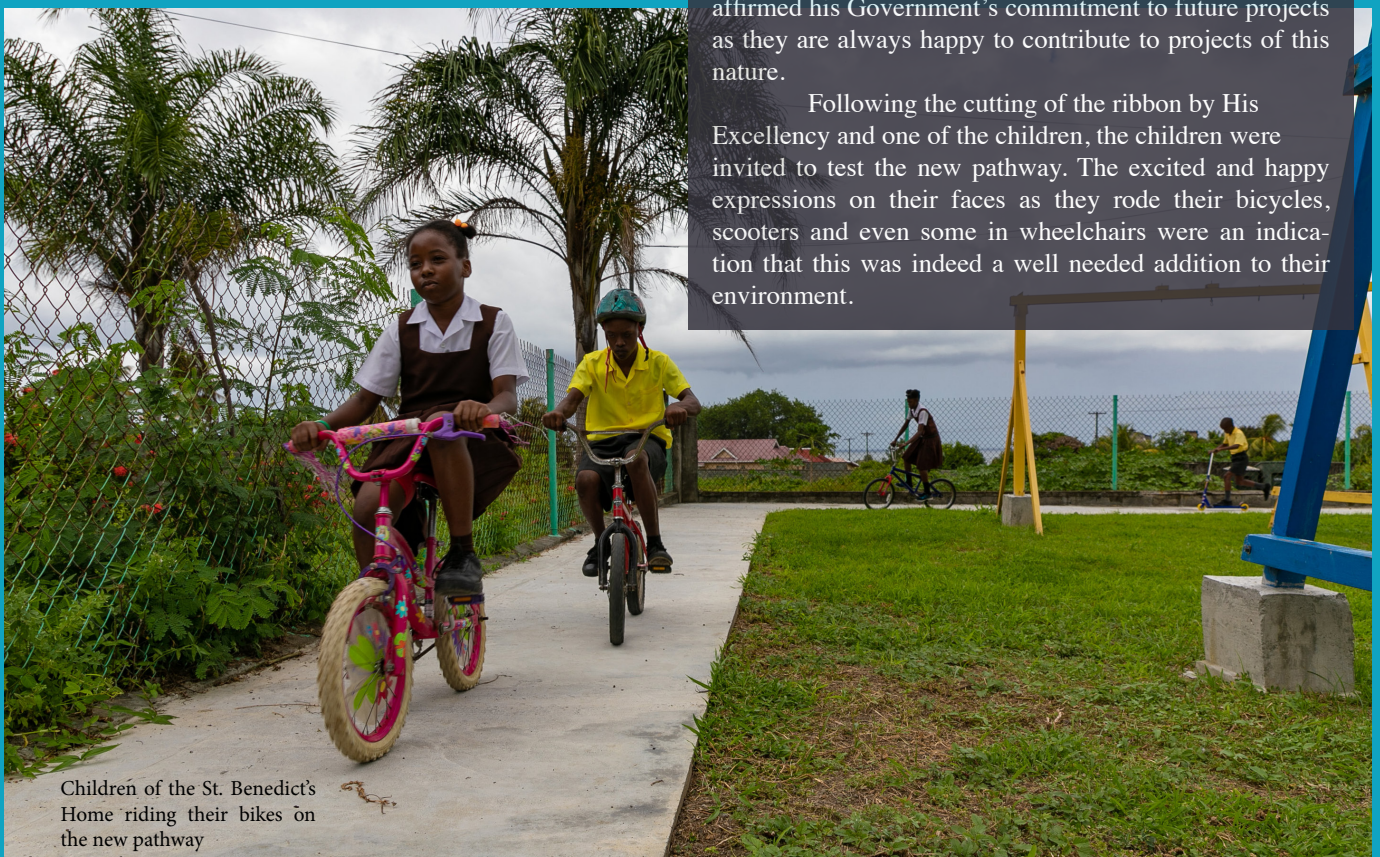
The dream of a gazebo and paved pathway for the children of St. Benedict's Children's Home became a reality when the official opening ceremony took place on June 11, 2019.

The project which was funded by the Government of Australia, through the Direct Aid Program, was officially opened at a small ceremony on a day which most Vincentians would go to the beach or a picnic.

Present at the Ceremony was His Excellency John Pilbeam, High Commissioner of the Australian High Commission, Monsignor Michael Stewart, Vicar General, Sr. Nyra-Anne Pajotte, among other well-wishers. After an opening prayer and a rendition of both the anthems of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Australia on pan by one of the children; Sr. Nyra-Anne gave the welcoming remarks. She thanked the Australian Government for their commitment to the project and their financial contribution towards its completion. She also expressed her hope for their assistance in future projects.

His Excellency's address, which was very brief and witty, saw him expressing satisfaction with the completed gazebo and paved pathway. He was also pleased to see the turnout of the gathering on a public holiday. He affirmed his Government's commitment to future projects as they are always happy to contribute to projects of this nature.

Following the cutting of the ribbon by His Excellency and one of the children, the children were invited to test the new pathway. The excited and happy expressions on their faces as they rode their bicycles, scooters and even some in wheelchairs were an indication that this was indeed a well needed addition to their environment.



Children of the St. Benedict's Home riding their bikes on the new pathway

Consecration of New Altar for St. Michael's



by Dacia Lewis

On Sunday June 16, 2019, the congregation from the parish of St. Michael's had many things to be thankful for. It was the celebration of Pentecost, Father's Day and the consecration of a new altar and baptismal font.

The service began with the hymn "Enter Rejoice and Come In", for it was indeed a joyful day, as we were accompanied musically by Joe Sheridan and Nicholas Sandy. The atmosphere was filled with a feeling of happiness and God's love.

Bishop County delivered the homily, touching a bit on Father's Day and Pentecost. He spoke about his experience with the love he received from his parents especially his father; that solid unconditional love and a love that should never be wavered, and it's the same love God has for us and that is why he sent the Holy Spirit to be with us when Jesus had gone back to be with Him in heaven.

I was given the opportunity to sing the Litany which was new to me as I have never experienced anything like that; it was long and I was almost out of breath.

The altar was anointed and it was such a sight to behold as the incense was burned on it and we as sang "As the Incense Goes Up So Our Praise Fills the Temple". It made everything that morning

come to life. What a day to give thanks as our new altar, lectern and baptismal font fitted right in with the whole aesthetic of the church.

The Mass ended with a vote of thanks to everyone who helped and to Bishop for being with us, and a blessing on all the Fathers in the congregation. We then went on to celebrate with a sharing at our parish hall.

Moments like this don't come along too often; as Bishop said "some people only experience the consecration of an altar only once in their lifetime because usually altars last for many lifetimes."

Extraordinary Mission Month



October
2019

1st PMS Mission Congress
of the Antilles Episcopal Conference
September 19-22, 2019
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO



CALLED TO HOLINESS



**EVERY MEMBER OF THE CHURCH
IS CALLED TO HOLINESS**
(LUMEN GENTIUM, CH V).

**THIS MEANS WE ARE CALLED TO LOVE:
TO LOVE GOD AND TO LOVE EACH OTHER.
THE PARTICULAR WAY THAT YOU LIVE OUT THAT CALL
TO HOLINESS IS YOUR VOCATION.
HOW AM I CALLED TO LIVE OUT MY HOLINESS?**



Diocese of Kingstown

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Deacon candidates receive Ministry of Acolyte

The feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the feast which refers to the Blessed Virgin Mary being assumed — body and soul — into heaven at the end of her earthly life is celebrated throughout the Church on August 15.

The Cathedral parish, which falls under the patronage of the assumption celebrated the feast on Sunday, August 18 with a special Mass.

It was also at this Mass that the three deacon candidates; Eustace Francis, Ancel Knights and Eardley Martin were instituted in the Ministry of Acolyte. This ministry is conferred by the bishop of the diocese and is the next step on their journey to

becoming permanent deacons.

During his homily Bishop County encouraged the congregation to learn about the saints: the saints of the country and the saints from which they were named. He urged that they be used as models. He also encouraged them to see Mary as a true model; to reflect on her if they are to become a model of a Christian society. He shared that the bravery of Mary was rooted in her faithfulness and that “our faithfulness must make us available as disciples of Christ.”

As he addressed the candidates, he thanked them for coming forward to be of service and reiterated that “it is all about service”. He explained the ministry

of acolyte and the duties they are expected to perform. The explanation, which was part of the Rite at the ceremony, was also for the edification of the congregation. The Bishop encouraged them to “be not afraid, let Mary be your guide”.

After being presented to the congregation Bishop congratulated them and officially announced that they would be ordained permanent deacons on November 1, 2019.

After Mass there was sharing of a light breakfast in the Cathedral’s courtyard. Let us continue to pray for these three men as they continue their journey towards the diaconate.

A recap of School of Liturgy 2019

by Juliana Persaud

The Diocesan School of Liturgy 2019 was held at the Pastoral Centre, Edinboro from Friday, August 2 to Sunday, August 4 under the theme “Celebrating the Real Presence”. There were 32 participants present and all parishes were represented, with the exception of the Southern Grenadines. The guest facilitator was Msgr. Michael De Verteuil, chair of the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission of Port-of Spain, Trinidad.

On Friday evening, the School of Liturgy was opened with a Mass presided by Msgr. De Verteuil and the welcome done by Msgr. Michael Stewart. The evening’s talk was on “Reverencing the

Eucharist”. Msgr. De Verteuil gave the participants much food for thought and many questions were asked as persons sought further clarifications.

Saturday morning started with morning prayer which was followed by the workshops. The workshops for this year’s School of Liturgy were:

- (a) Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion facilitated by Msgr. Michael De Verteuil
- (b) Music Guidance for Liturgical Celebrations which was conducted by Mr Dennis Jardine
- (c) Catholic Social Teachings: The Poor and Just Wages Debate which was facilitated by Mr. Collin Jackson.

All the workshops were well received and enjoyed. The Catholic Social

Teaching workshop was the most popular workshop and from this we can see that our people are yearning for more knowledge on this topic. The remainder of the day included the participants learning a song by Bernadette Farrell - “Bread for the World”. Our guest facilitator also spoke on “An Examine - 1 Cor 11:27-30” and “A Walk through the Mass”. The day ended with evening prayer.

On Sunday, our day began with morning prayers followed by a talk from Msgr. De Verteuil entitled “Living a Eucharistic Life”. This was followed by a short presentation from each workshop. Our closing Mass was celebrated by Msgr. Michael Stewart and the School of Liturgy concluded with socializing and the sharing of lunch.

Continued on PG 8



Stewardship Update

by Catherine Lewis
Stewardship & Development Commission

All the parishes received visits from the Stewardship and Development Commission over the past year as part of our outreach.

Those visits focused on being a functioning member of the Body of Christ and how do we give back to God in gratitude for all His gifts and blessings and how we can take responsibility for our church.

This year's Lenten missions also focused on stewardship, covering different topics each day of the week: Stewardship of Love, of Family, of Reconciliation, of Community, and Stewardship and Our Mother of Perpetual Help. Our visiting priests did a wonderful job and we hope their words of wisdom gave us a better understanding of stewardship and will spur us to action.

The Stewardship and Development Commission will again be visiting the congregations throughout the Diocese to continue the journey towards being a full stewardship church.

In other news, the Youth Commission and the Stewardship and De-

velopment Commission arranged altar servers training at the Cathedral of the Assumption earlier this year. Thanks to Javron "Darry" Dowers and George Brudny who facilitated these interesting and interactive sessions.

Catechists are now regulars on Catholic Forum bringing news on their stewardship to the listening public. Visitations to the sick and elderly, and donations of non-perishable items to the needy continued throughout parishes in the Diocese.

St. Benedict's delivered food packages as part of their parish outreach. Parishioners will also be channeling their stewardship efforts towards repairing the three churches in the parish.

Two parishioners at the Cathedral of the Assumption successfully hosted cocktails to raise funds for the Diocese. It was an enjoyable evening in the company of friends from other parishes and other attendees.

Holy Family - Canouan and Union Island reintroduced their welcome package. Take a look! We hope other parishes will

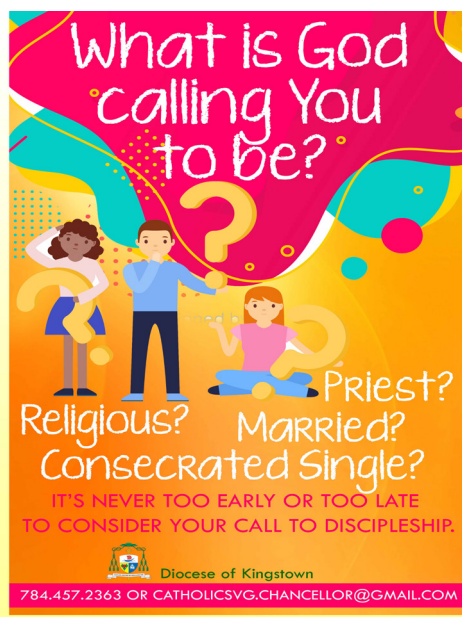
follow suit. Union Island also reported an improved choir following the receipt of musical instruments.

Corpus Christi received a gift of a first aid kit inclusive of a training manual. This will be merged with the existing kit and used for parish events. It is easy to create a first aid kit for your mission or parish. Search online to see what can be included.

There are new faces involved in planning summer programmes throughout the Diocese, joining their stewardship efforts to those who have been coordinating year after year. This is a very encouraging sign of growth.

We welcome the new Eucharistic ministers and lay leaders who assist with services in the absence of a priest or deacon, another encouraging sign of growth in the Church.

Be on the lookout for more opportunities to serve, remember to listen to announcements, check the Diocesan website, your parish website and notice board.



Continued from PG 7

As part of our diocesan formation, the School of Liturgy is held every two years. This year the focus was on the Eucharist so as to enable our Catholics to have more reverence and respect for the Holy Eucharist, hence the choices of the talks.

Msr. De Vereuil was very good in exhorting the ways we should enter the church, how we should dress for Mass, how to receive Holy Communion, and adoration. He also took time to explain fully the signs and symbols, postures and gestures that should be adhered to when we attend Mass and most importantly what we should do after Mass is ended, how we should live and celebrate in our

daily lives and become Eucharist for others through the ways we live.

The committee for the School of Liturgy would like to thank all who worked, prayed, supported or helped in any way to make the weekend a success. Persons are being encouraged register early and to respect deadlines as it aids in better planning.

The clergy is also being asked to help in promoting these formation events. We also hope that the participants will share the knowledge gained with their parishes and with others. May God continue to bless you richly.