

**PNG TRICENTENARY OPENING MASS  
DE LA SALLE SECONDARY SCHOOL – BOMANA.  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019.**

De la Salle Secondary School Bomana hosted the Tercentenary Opening Mass with the Liturgy. The two schools made their own arrangements with transport to bus the students to De la Salle Bomana and back. Students from Sacred Heart Teachers' walked across to De la Salle. We were so pleased to have Mainohana with three teachers and nine students who came to be part of the mass and were sincerely welcomed.

Each of the schools were well seated under the shade of the rain trees and all were very respectful towards the celebration. They sat with reverence and joined in the singing all through the mass. Each of the schools were allocated a part in the liturgy and they contributed in their own unique cultural style to make the liturgy meaningful.

The procession started with each of the schools carrying their own flags, also the PNG, Australian, New Zealand, French and Pakistani flags were hoisted in the procession. This was followed by the singing of the PNG National Anthem.

The entrance procession was led by Sacred Heart Teachers' College, Offertory Procession was led by Jubilee Catholic Secondary School and the Recessional Procession was led by La Salle Technical College. The prayers of intercession were shared among the different schools, Brothers and the Alumni.

The Students, Teachers, Parents, Lasallian Family Members and our Alumni were honoured to host the Republic of France Ambassador to PNG His Excellency Monsieur Phillipe Janvier Kamiyama and our main celebrant the Apostolic Nuncio, to PNG and Solomon Island His Excellency Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal con celebrated by our two priest staff of De La Salle Bomana, fellow priests from the Seminary and Fr John Glyn AFSC. We also had the presence of Br David Hawke, Brother Visitor of the District Of ANZPPNG and Brothers from the two communities in Port Moresby.

In his Homily, the apostolic Nuncio clearly recognised and appreciated the long service contributions made by the Brothers in education since their arrival in PNG 73 years ago. He said very clearly that the commitment of the Brothers in this part of the wider church has touched many hearts and transformed thousands of lives. Many of these women and men are

contributing meaningfully in the wider community. Today there are many teachers who are connected by the Lasallian Spirit continue what Saint John Baptist De La Salle started more than 300 years ago.

The France Ambassador took us back to the roots and mentioned of our founding story which began in France. He also reiterated on how the Brothers started in France and spread the Lasallian Spirit in different parts of the world. He acknowledged the presence of the Brothers in PNG and the contributions they make in education with their partners.

Those (AD Sister, OLSH Sisters and others) who had long association with the Brothers in different ministries and works also joined the schools in the celebration. It was a celebration which brought everyone together to commemorate the past, celebrate the present and enhance and build the future together. Everyone came together as a family celebrating the legacy left by St John Baptist De la Salle which we all embrace as Lasallians.

After the Eucharistic Celebration, everyone settled into their own locations except De La Salle boys who returned to their classrooms and lunch was distributed. After lunch all returned to their schools. The celebration went well because of many committed Lasallians both staff and students who worked tirelessly over many hours. Thank you to their commitment and goodwill. We look forward to the closing mass which will be celebrated on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September 2019.

Live Jesus in our hearts....forever.

Br Thomas Yapo FSC  
PNG Sector Coordinator