



Perpetual Profession and Diaconate in Papua New Guinea

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea - The Montfortian delegation has a reason to celebrate. Our two brothers, Lukinu Owanga BIENVENU and Majorik MANIRAMBOGOYE, lighted their candles from the Easter candle during their perpetual consecration to Jesus on 12th December 2024. Hailing from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi respectively, they offered themselves as a total self-gift to God and PNG delegation. A spark of hope had been lit and we felt proud of what we had achieved this day.

Scattered among mountains and valleys, the Holy Spirit brought us together in 2012 to begin community life here in PNG. The Little Flock gathered in one place and began a community. To keep our community alive, we began formation in the same year. Twelve years have gone by and this year, we have our first celebration of perpetual profession. It is truly a historical and proud moment. It is a milestone in our community living and formation program.

Moreover, it was a cloudy morning, signs of a heavy downpour. We were lost in excitement for the evening to come. The Holy Mass started at half past 3 in the evening after a prayerful rosary as the two brothers made their perpetual commitment. The celebration ended at 7 in the evening. The mood of the celebration, from the beginning to the end could be described in just two words: 'simplicity' loaded with 'solemnity'.

About 19 priests, religious, faithful and Montfortian associates smiled the whole day. Fr. Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma WATUN, SMM, the Superior General, received the vows of our brothers, with Fr. Prem KUMAR, SMM beside him. In his homily, Father General said that the perpetual profession and the call to religious life is not just about 'doing something', but about 'being someone'. He then encouraged the brothers to be bold and firm in their commitment.

On the following day, the two brothers received the order of Diaconate in the presence of Msgr. Rozario MENEZES, SMM. By now, the excitation has spread among the laity of Martin de Porres parish at Morata, in a settlement area of Port Moresby. The parish has been looked after by the Montfort Missionaries well over ten years. And the people just couldn't control their emotions during the investiture, when the deacons wore their dalmatic and alb and stood at the altar. During the homily, the deacons were asked to offer themselves to Mother Mary for her protection and accompaniment. This celebration which began at 5 in the evening was well organized, smooth and beautiful with traditional attire and dances.

The Montfortian entity, the 'Little Flock', in PNG wishes our newly ordained deacons hearty congratulations and a fruitful ministry as they venture into the world of the laity and in their service to the clergy. We wish them God's abundant blessings.

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