

E-BULLETIN #110

"Let the holiness of God shine forth" (cf. Mt 5, 16)

item 207

centenary for Laborie – SANTA LUCIA church of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary



In the annals of any parish, the observance of a centenary is always a momentous and historic occasion. For the parishioners of the church of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Laborie, the observance of the centenary of the blessing of the church was even more remarkable as it was the first time that we, as a parish, planned and prepared ourselves spiritually and otherwise to mark

the occasion. Chief among these was a week of retreat given by His Grace Archbishop Robert Rivas op, and other priests who had served the parish.

Plans were made a year in advance. Under the guidance of our parish priests Andrew Rosiak sac and Arthur Zalewski sac, committees were set in place to mark this milestone in our church's history. Matters proceeded according to plan and on Sunday February 2, 2014 it all came to fruition as we celebrated with the clergy, religious and our esteemed guests this blessed day. Heading our distinguished guests was our very own Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy, Governor General of Saint Lucia, the Hon Alva Baptiste, Parliamentary Representative of Laborie and Mr Eric Branford of the Archaeological and Historical Society. The clergy and religious led the procession into the church as this was also the *World Day of Consecrated Life* and they renewed their vows during the Mass. Fr Jacob Nampudakam sac, the Pallottine Superior General, was with us and addressed the religious.

Invited guests and Laborians from all over the island joined with us in the solemn Mass at which His Grace Archbishop Robert Rivas op, was the main celebrant, assisted by Fr Jacob. In his homily, he urged parishioners to remain true to the faith, build strong family values, give of their best to the church in the matter of vocations as they had in other spheres of life. Laborie, he noted, had given many persons of note to serve the country (including our first ever female Governor General, and a Prime Minister) but he stressed the need to pray for vocations to the priesthood and his wish was that at least five young men from Laborie must come forward to answer the call and offer their lives to God to serve as priests. A thunderous "Amen" greeted this wish.



The blessing of the Centenary Plaque by the archbishop was a proud and moving moment for the entire congregation. What more can we say? Almighty God blessed us with superb weather on that day. The church, beautifully refurbished and tastefully decorated, was a sight to behold. The clergy who filled the sanctuary brought joy and gladness to our hearts. The presence of many religious congregations who serve in the Archdiocese of Castries reminded

us that God is watching over this land (the parish of Laborie itself is served by two sisters from the Dominican Sisters of Notre Dame de la Deliverande, and one from the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny).

Yes, it was a blessed day for all. We caught a glimpse of the heavenly joys awaiting us at the end of this earthly life. The stories, anecdotes and ditties told to us by our parents, grandparents and great grandparents in relation to the building and blessing of our church came back to life that day. Oh! What a joy it was for us to throw our minds back to the days when with very little money, but with courage and determination of spirit, men (and women) of muscle and brain, toiled in the sun and rain, built this edifice, this giant in stone, this best situated and strategically placed church.



As we begin another century of growth, we give thanks to God Almighty for the many blessings He has poured on us and pray that He will continue to guide us. To the many priests who have faithfully served our parish over the years, may God reward you as only He can. To all who celebrated with us we say, God bless you and keep you in his loving care.

To God be the glory for he has done great things for us.

Agatha Jn. Panel – Laborie – SAINT LUCIA
[\[c/o parish\] purificationbvm@live.com](mailto:purificationbvm@live.com)

item 208

pastoring in Punta Gorda - BELIZE



Belize is a small country located in Central America. In 2013 the Pallottine Sisters celebrated 100 years of service to Belize. Across that time they have strongly anchored the Pallottine charism through their service in many areas of social life, education and pastoral ministry, and nursing.

On September 12, 2013 I commenced pastoral work in Punta Gorda where the sisters have their novitiate. I'm the chaplain for the Pallottine sisters, and I visit and take Holy communion to the shut-ins. I am also the

first Pallottine priest residing in Belize.

Last week we were graced with the presence of our Rector General Fr Jacob Nampudakam sac. His Visitation began in Belize City, where the General met in with local sisters. The next day he presided



at Mass at St Vincent Pallotti High School. In his homily he encouraged teachers and students to be apostles in the places where they live. Before noon the Superior General met with Bishop Dorick Wright, and the following day admired a beautiful landscape on the island of Caye Caulker and also met with the family of Sr Josefina Alamilla csac.



The last day of the visit took place in Punta Gorda, where Father Jacob acquainted himself with the nature of my missionary work, met with the sisters and also visited the surrounding villages.

We are grateful to God for this extraordinary meeting. It should be emphasized that this was the first visit of a Rector General of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate in the history of Belize.

Lukasz Ciupa sac [WA] – Belize City – BELIZE
10.12.14
lciupa2009@gmail.com

sac asia oceania e-bulletin

you commented...

on #109 Thank you for the timely newsletter. Any possibility of our sharing with our Catholic Apostolate Center audience the dispatch from Ukraine?

FD 02.03.14

Thanks you so much for sending me so inspiring stories. Both are very touching.

BB 02.03.14

.....I've been struck how, in this year commemorating the start of World War I, that in the past few days, we're being reminded of an older war -- Crimea. I hope sanity prevails and that, in one of Churchill's more sensible and less bullish comments, "jaw, jaw" prevails over "war, war"!

MB 03.03.14

The newsletter reminded me of what Pope Francis said -- that we should mourn daily and pray because instead of one big war, there are so many small wars that are destroying our people and taking lives. So I will be praying and remembering the plight of so many people under attack.

CF 03.03.14