



The Holy See

3. At the appointed time, *the divine mystery* revealed in Jesus Christ *was made known* to the sons and daughters of Papua New Guinea, the mystery which was first revealed by the Holy Spirit to the Apostles and prophets, particularly on the day of Pentecost. Through *the missionary service* of the Church, the sons and daughters of this country have become "fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel"[2]. All those who contributed and those who are still contributing to this ecclesial service of evangelization—I am speaking of the missionaries and their collaborators, both living and dead—are giving thanks today to the Most Holy Trinity, because to them "this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all men see what is the plan of *the mystery* hidden for ages in God who created all things"[3]. At this celebration of the Eucharist, we approach our heavenly Father, placing our hope and trust "in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and confidence of access through our faith in him"[4]. We recall how Christ prayed for his disciples the day before his redemptive Passion and death: "Holy Father, keep them in your name, whom you have given me, *that they may be one, even as we are one*"[5]. "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrated myself, that they also may be consecrated in truth"[6]. This is how Christ prayed to the Father the day before he died. And he prayed *not only for the Apostles* who were with him in the Upper Room, but also for all those who would believe in him through their word[7]. He prayed for *those who brought the light of the Gospel* here to Papua New Guinea. He prayed for *those who have accepted the Good News* proclaimed in his name during the past hundred years. He prayed for *those who profess their faith in him and are handing on his Gospel to others*. In his priestly prayer, Jesus prayed *for all who would believe in him* until the end of time. He embraced all people and *all nations* in that prayer, just as he embraced them in the Redemption that was accomplished through his Cross and Resurrection.

5. Together with you today I wish to give thanks and praise to the Most Holy Trinity because *the people of Papua New Guinea* belong to God. They are a people redeemed by the precious Blood of Jesus Christ. I give thanks because you belong to *the community of Christ's Church*, because you are *one in union with the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit*, just as Christ in his priestly prayer prayed that you would be: "That they may all be one; even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, *that they also may be in us*, so that the world may believe that you have sent me ... and have loved them even as you have loved me"[8]. I pray that this divine love will be ever more revealed in you and among you; that it will lead you safely into the future; that it will enable you to walk through this life here on earth—and what a beautiful

earth you do have around you—never losing sight of eternal life and eternal communion with God. In this way, "the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God"^[9] will be fully realized and become visible in the life of each one of you and in the whole of humanity—that eternal design which the Father "has realized in Christ Jesus our

Lord"^[10].

[1] 2 Cor 13:13. [2] Eph 3:6. [3] *Ibid.* 3:8-9. [4] *Ibid.* 3:11-12. [5] Jn 17:11. [6] *Ibid.* 17:17-19. [7] Cf. *ibid.* 17:20. [8] Jn 17:21. 23. [9] Eph 3:9. [10] *Ibid.* 3:11. © Copyright 1984 - Libreria Editrice Vaticana

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