

FOURTH REPORT: Good Friday, April 06, 2007 9:26 PM

A fourth message sent out by Archbishop Adrian Smith sm, Archbishop of Honiara

Once again we are back at: "Sorry, the number you called is temporally out of service". It would be much more honest if they would say: 'Again out of service!' I called Bishop Bernard O'Grady a number of times only to get a screech or the above message.

Facts and figures, you probably know I much as I do, perhaps more. 24 dead, some are now saying 30, the number of those unaccounted for over 100. 900 homes down, 5,000 homeless. Many wounded, 12 have arrived in Honiara and are in the National Referral Hospital . They have an emergency plan; they expect this figure to increase. Prime Minister pledges Five Million Solomon Dollars to the relief programme.

The tsunami did hit some islands of Papua New Guinea , (Five Killed?), Milan Bay Province , I understand. In Bougainville they felt the earthquake and there are small effects of the Tsunami. I think a wharf in Buin has suffered.

The Catholic Church Station, Nila in the Shortlands has suffered more than I reported earlier. It seems St. Ann 's Training Centre is badly hit. In fact the whole Shortlands story is worse that I had reported in earlier reports. Perhaps Gizo is getting more attention than other places and the patchy news we were getting from other places now seems to be coming together. Choiseul it would now appear to have more serious destruction than first reported.

Munda airport is open. I had a call from an Australian Radio about Easter in Solomon Islands and the tsunami. I tried to give them the feeling of the situation, but the question about Easter Eggs threw me. They'd melt around here!

Facts, figures, Statistical-data everyone is hungry for them. They are important, but the mood of the people in Solomon Islands is perhaps more important. Holy Thursday celebrated in Honiara with joy in a background of pain. Good Friday, the Stations of the Cross were dramatized from the Honiara Market to Holy Cross this morning starting 7.30 am. When we arrived at the Hill in Holy Cross where they enacted the Crucifixion, perhaps the minds of many were as much in the Western Solomons as on Calvary . The darkness of fear, the sense of helplessness and the anxiety for news about loved one hangs over our people.

A Salesians of Don Bosco initiative assisted by Caritas Australia has chartered a ship to take relief to the west. 200 x cartons of 1.5 litre bottles of water, 170 x 15 litre bottle water, 500 x 20 Kg bags of rice, 60 bales of mixed clothing, 50 cartons x family size Taiyo (Canned Fish), 1000 treated mosquito bed nets. 10 x 5 litre cooking pots, 3 x 20 litre cooking pots, 10 bales cooking salt, 10 bales sugar, 5 cartons tea, 3 x 3,000 litre water tanks. Before leaving the ship hoped to receive an open amount of the following: Kettles, Saucepans, Clothesline Rope, spoons, flour, cooking oil, bed sheets, batteries,

torches, candles, matches, bath soap, laundry soap, towels, bush knives, kerosene lamps, cups, plates, canvas and wheelbarrows. Chartering of the ship could cost SBD 60,000.00.

In all Churches on Easter Sunday there will be a special collection for the Tsunami Victims. The news is going around that the scientists are saying within two weeks another big quake. Dear Lord spare us!

I am not able to tell you if they were able to have any kind of Holy Thursday or Good Friday Liturgies in Gizo. Perhaps fear to come down to the shorefront and fear as to the safety of the Cathedral made it a very quiet time for them all. Their cup is overflowing.

At the request of Bishop Bernard O'Grady op, Bishop of Gizo, a **Diocese of Gizo Tsunami Account** has been opened at the Chancery office, Archdiocese of Honiara. It is discretionary fund to be used by the Bishop of Gizo.

The details of the account are:

Name of the bank: **National Bank of Solomon Islands Ltd.**
Address of the Bank: **P. O. Box 37, Honiara G.P.O., Solomon Islands**
Name of the Account: **Diocese of Honiara Special Purpose A/C**
Account Number: **01-902 456 - 0301 3**

We shall appreciate that you send in your remittance details giving as much details as possible. Please follow up your donation with an e-mail.

Please keep the Western Solomons in your prayer, the healing of hearts and the ridding themselves of fear is at the very heart of the Easter Message. I hope they are able to light an Easter Candle in Gizo.

+Adrian Smith sm