



# THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION IN EAST TIMOR



# Historical background

1515 “First evangelization of East Timor”

1940 East Timor becomes a diocese

1975 20% of East Timorese were Catholics

2010 Catholics were 92.2%





# Catechesis and mystagogy

- ❖ Mass conversions
- ❖ Learning of prayers and catechism by heart
- ❖ Popular devotions
- ❖ Image of a “PROTECTOR” GOD
- ❖ Many went to church, specially young men...and availed of the sacrament





**Restoration of Independence May 20, 2002**

**No more danger of bullets and capture**

**Free to move around**

**Democracy meant do anything you want**

**NO NEED OF A PROTECTOR GOD**

**Decrease in church attendance, ... decrease in the reception  
of the sacrament of reconciliation**

**"Napas Christians"**



# Challenges

**Distance: only 6 urban parishes**

**Language: in one parish, 2 or more languages**

**Sects: just after independence, pray/confess directly to God**

**Lack of tradition: some newly formed parishes were not frequently visited before**

**Priests with less zeal for confessions**

**Animistic concept of sin**



# Hopes

Tradition of Advent and Lenten confessions – forms 1 and 2

Church groups : young and adults

Preparation for First Communion, Confirmation,

Mass Weddings, feast of patron saint

Youth Cross, visit of statues of saints

School Masses and retreats

Sunday and community Masses





# **Pastoral**

- 1. Greater availability of priests, not only in Advent and Lent, but weekly and even daily**
- 2. More and longer visit to outlying areas**
- 3. Stronger catechesis on the sacrament**
- 4. Stress on the horizontal aspect of penance, not just God and me, but God and me through and with my neighbor**
- 5. Role of the family in creating a sensitivity to sin**
- 6. Need for a “BUILDER GOD” for a civilization of love and brotherhood**
- 7. Develop a conscience of INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD (Not: what priest, peers, others say of me, nor feel “clean”) see our conclusion in the book**

# Enculturation

Nahe biti boot: tradition for resolving conflict

Inauguration of a church and  
reception of former militia





# Obrigado

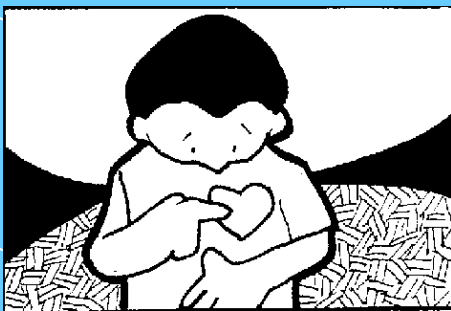
ขอบคุณ

谢谢

# A million thanks

# Salamat po

អរគុណ



# Terima kasih