**News Compilation for Catholic Church News aired on Radio Maria**

**Air Date: 20/ 05/ 2020**

**Welcome to another weekly Catholic Church News on Radio Maria. I am Nigel Akuani, and I am Rosemary Yambune with the news.**

**Our stories for the week:**

1. **Laudato Si Week: Pope appeals for care of Creation**
2. **PM Pledges K250,000 to Radio Maria**
3. **Diocese of Kimbe hosts Clergy Senate Conference**
4. **Apparition of Virgin Mary Celebrated in Mendi**
5. **MES2 Kicks-Off on High Note**
6. **Special Prayer Dedicated to CHS Nurses**
7. **54th World Communications Day**

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**News Item 1 – Laudato Si Week: Pope appeals for care of Creation**

“In this time marked by the pandemic we are more aware of the importance of caring for our common home,” said Pope Francis in his highlight of “Laudato Sì” Week, during the *Regina Coeli* Prayer on Sunday 17th May.

In his address he invited everyone to think about and undertake “a shared commitment to help build and strengthen constructive attitudes aimed at caring for Creation.” He told of how *Laudato Si’* taught humanity to build a better world especially for the people everywhere crying out for hope, and urged for Catholics to unite in solidarity for a more just and sustainable future.

The Holy Father invited everyone to join *Laudato Si’* Week, and encouraged Christians everywhere to reflect and take action in the spirit of the Encyclical.

“Everything is connected,” is the theme for Laudato Si’ Week from 16th to 24th May, that honours the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis’ Encyclical on care for our common home. The Week launches a year-long journey of transformation promoted by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

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**News item 2 – PM Pledges K250,000 to Radio Maria**

Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, Honourable James Marape, has pledged to support Radio Maria PNG with K250,000. This was announced in his speech on Wednesday 13th May, during the 2020 Maria Fundraising Event Launching Ceremony, at the Radio Maria PNG Studio in Gordons.

The ceremony had the Prime Minister as the main celebrant and other dignitaries including Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Port Moresby, His Eminence Cardinal Sir John Ribat MSC, General Secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI, Fr Giorgio Licini PIME, President of Radio Maria, Mr Kila Ai, Acting Health Secretary, Dr Paison Dakulala, PNG Ambassador, Mr Gabriel Dusava, and Lae Biscuit Company Chief, Mr Fabian Chow.

In his pledge Mr Marape stated that Radio Maria as a media organisation played an important role in society by monitoring the government’s actions and more importantly providing the inspiration of God to the people.

Cardinal Ribat thanked the PM for making time available to attend the launching, and said Radio Maria belonged just as much to the people of PNG as it did to the Church.

Pledges of financial assistance were also made by Dr Dakulala with K17,000, and Mr Chow with K10,000. The event was witnessed by more than eighty people.

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**News item 3 – Diocese of Kimbe hosts Clergy Senate Conference**

The Diocese of Kimbe recently hosted its annual Priest’s Senate Conference with their new bishop, His Lordship Most Rev. Bp John Bosco Auram.

The conference from 4th to 7th May, held at the Diocesan Headquarters in Kimbe town, was the first ever meeting of all the priests in the diocese with their new Bishop. Over 30 priests both religious and diocesans came together to formulate a Diocesan Pastoral Plan, which the diocese lacked for over 17 years.

Addressing the priests Bp Auram said that he needed their support and cooperation in resolving the Pastoral Situations faced by the diocese. He explained that the goal was to formulate appropriate recommendations for improvement.

Morning Masses were celebrated each day to start the meetings. On the second and third day the priests were divided into their deaneries for discussions and recommendations of the 11 pastoral issues. An agreement was reached for all the necessary information to be collected and processed into a draft of the diocesan pastoral plan by 15th September 2020.

The conference was seen by most priests in the diocese as a prudent and vigilant start of the Pastoral and Administrative work with the new bishop.

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**News item 4 – Apparition of Virgin Mary Celebrated in Mendi**

The Catholic Diocese of Mendi celebrated the first of Six apparitions of the Virgin Mary to three children of Fatima, Portugal at The Mary's Centre, Kewabi Parish of Ialibu-Pangia Electorate, Southern Highland province.

The event celebrated on Wednesday 13th May, had as its main celebrant Bishop of Mendi Diocese, Bp Donald Lippert OFM. Superior of Missionary of Holy Family Fr Piotre Michalski MSF and several priests joined him at the Eucharistic celebration. Also present were religious brothers, sisters and more than 100 lay faithful from different Christian communities.

In his homily Bp Lippert reflected on how the Virgin Mary identified herself as ‘Our Lady of the Rosary’ and urged faithful gathered to pray the Rosary daily for peace in the world. He said as Christians everyone had a duty to sacrifice themselves in prayer and to help the poor and those in need of Spiritual guidance.

Parish priest Fr Damian Szumski MSF thanked Bp Lippert for his attendance and extended his gratitude to Catholic faithfuls from different parishes for their support in the celebration. The second apparition will be celebrated on 13th June.

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**News Item 5 – MES2 Kicks-Off on High Note**

The second Media Education Seminar kicked off to an energetic start with the presence of seven Catholic Agency schools

The weekend commenced on Friday 15th May, at the Emmaus Conference Centre in Boroko, and had forty participants from Don Bosco Technological Institute, De La Salle Secondary School, La Salle Technical School, Marianville Secondary School, Jubilee Catholic Secondary School, and St Charles Lwanga Secondary School.

The seminar began with the arrival and registration of students with each undergoing a strict temperature check. The early participants interacted with each other.  The program commenced with evening prayer, rosary and interactive games. Sessions dwelt on environmental protection by Ms Carol Aigilo. This was followed by an input on COVID-19 in song and jingles by Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, Secretary of Social Communications of the Catholic Bishops Conference.

Other sessions covered included Audio Basics and Creation of Jingles, Video Basics, Types of Shots, The Problem Tree, Storyboard Making, Film Shooting, Video Editing, and Video Presentations. The 3-day seminar ended on Sunday 17th May.

The Seminar was facilitated by Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, Secretary of Social Communications and the SOCOM Team of the Catholic Bishops Conference.

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**News item 6 -** **Special Prayer Dedicated to CHS Nurses**

A special prayer of the Holy Rosary was dedicated to nurses of Catholic Health Services (CHS) who continued to work despite not been paid for 4 fortnights.

Orchestrated by staff of the Catholic Bishops Conference on Wednesday 13th at the CBC headquarters in Gordons, the prayer was also a commemoration of International World Nurses Day and the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima.

A melodious choir started in the beginning with voices chanting the song “No man is an island”. The staff prayed on the 5 glorious mysteries and made a special intention for a Divine Intervention to allow the government to speed the payment of funds to CHS.

Organizer of the rosary Sr Emma Lapun OLSH, said there were over 200 hardworking and committed nurses under CHS, who were currently serving in the remote regions of the country. She said CHS was still pressing forward for the government to ensure employees’ efforts were adequately compensated.

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**News item 7 –** **54th World Communications Day**

This year’s World Communications Day message is: “That you may tell your children and grandchildren” (Ex 10:2): Life becomes history.” It is to be celebrated on Ascension Sunday, 24th May 2020.

Pope Francis reminds us of the importance of the stories we tell, especially in the midst of the din of media that leave us feeling dislocated. The narratives that we live by must reflect the vision of the interconnectedness of all human life.

Dioceses are to celebrate World Communications Day, remember to pray for journalists, recognize secular media personnel and appreciate those involved in church communications. All communicators are invited to be role models for people and live out what they proclaim.

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**Recapping our headlines for this week:**

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**This ends the Catholic Church news for this week. Join us next week for more.**

**From all of us at here at Catholic Communications, we wish you all an enjoyable week.**