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

**Air Date: 11/ 03/ 2020**

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

**Our stories for the week:**

1. **Pope prays for those affected by coronavirus**
2. **Abp Panfilo emphasises need to protect environment**
3. **Panel Discussion focuses on Deep-Sea Mining**
4. **Seminar urges Teachers to be youth animators**
5. **Young People: Key to take back PNG**
6. **DBSTC Anticipates Spirit Filled Jubilee Year**
7. **CEC Efforts Recognized and Backed by DOE**

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**News Item 1 – Pope prays for those affected by coronavirus**

Pope Francis has assured his closeness in prayer to those affected by the current coronavirus epidemic and to all those who are caring for them.

The Pope prayed the Sunday Angelus of 8th March, from the Apostolic Palace, rather than from the balcony in St Peter's Square, at the request of Italian authorities. The notice came from the Holy See Press office on Friday, who explained that such measures were necessary in order to “avoid the risk of spreading the virus”, due to the large groups that gather at security checks for access to the Square.

The Pope explained that he dedicated much thought to those suffering from this crisis during his retreat over the past week. He called for all Bishops round the world to encourage the faithful to live this difficult moment with the strength of the faith, the certainty of hope and the ardour of charity.

The World Health Organisation declared the coronavirus a public health emergency on January 30 2020.

Pope Francis’ Angelus was streamed live in St Peter’s Square and through Catholic media channels around the world.

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**News item 2 – Abp Panfilo emphasises need to protect environment**

Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Rabaul, Abp Francisco Panfilo sdb, has stressed the need for more proactive measures to be taken in protecting and preserving the environment. He made the statement during a special presentation of his recently published booklet entitled “Just Land Agreements” on Saturday 7th March, at the Catholic Bishops Conference, Gordons.

“The land belongs to you and you belong to the land”, said the Archbishop as he highlighted several relevant issues from his booklet. In it he dwells on the justice and fair treatment of people in commercial agreements involving customary land in PNG.

Abp Panfilo reassured the Church’s ongoing efforts in advocating for fair settlement especially for landowners who were already stripped from their land and resources. He ended with a reflective phrase stating that, “God always forgave, men and women forgave sometimes, but nature does not forgive. If we do not take care of it and damage it, nature will kick back. As the Holy Father said, we need to take care of our common home.”

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**News item 3 – Panel Discussion focuses on Deep-Sea Mining**

A panel discussion dedicated to creating awareness of the harm caused in PNG from Deep-Sea Mining is expected to be held on Friday 13th March, at the Catholic Bishops Conference. The occasion was decided after a brief meeting between members of the Wan Solwara Warriors, Ms Mavis Tito Caritas PNG Director, and Ms Marie Mondu Development Secretary of CBC.

The discussion on Deep Sea Mining in PNG from 10am-11:30am, will have as part of its panel of speakers Cardinal Sir John Ribat MSC, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Port Moresby, PNG Churches Council Secretary General Rev Roger Joseph, Caritas Kavieng Diocese Coordinator John Momori, Mineral Resources Authority Managing Director Jerry Gerry, Conservation and Environment Protection Authority Managing Director Gunther Joku. Moderating the discussion will be Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, Social Communications Secretary of CBC.

Issues to be raised include the Environmental, Economic, Legislative, Social and Cultural implications, and the current situation of Deep-Sea Mining in PNG. Media personnel, members and representatives of interested schools and Catholic Communities are encouraged to attend the event this Friday.

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**News item 4 - Seminar urges Teachers to be youth animators**

An Animators’ Seminar held on 6th and 7th March 2020, at the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI. Facilitating the seminar was Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, Social Communications Secretary of CBCPNGSI together with the Social Communications team.

Sessions covered in the seminar included information about the youth radio program ‘Chatroom’, creating school newsletters, recently introduced ‘Youth Alive’ inspirational video, and One-Minute videos reflecting the seminar’s theme, to be shown during the International Short Film Festival this year.

The seminar based on the theme, “Keep it clean, Go Green” brought together 11-teachers, 4-male and 7-female, from 9 Catholic Agency Schools here in the nation’s capital, namely: Caritas Technical Secondary School, Don Bosco Technical School, Don Bosco Technological Institute, De La Salle Secondary, Jubilee Catholic Secondary, La Salle Technical School, Limana Vocational Centre, Marianville Secondary, and St Charles Lwanga Secondary School.

The aim of the seminar is to prepare the teachers as animators to engage at a deeper level and ensure that the students are able to contribute and raise the media profile of their schools.

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**News Item 5 – Young People: Key to take back PNG**

Young people are the key to PNG’s salvation but more tangible input needs to be invested in them starting today. The bold statement was expressed by students of Don Bosco Technological Institute during Chatroom’s first session for 2020 on Wednesday 4thMarch, at the Tribe-FM studio.

The five students went live on radio to discuss the topic, ‘Young people key to taking back PNG’. The session was also live streamed on Tribe-FM’s Facebook page. The participants all in their Final-Fourth Year of studies in various fields, discussed the topic from various aspects.  From issues affecting youths, need for more tangible input from government departments and organisations, impact of the social framework in many PNG societies, role of early Christian practices in family, and a strong call to the Marape-Steven government for a proactive approach in assisting young people.

Chatroom’s next session on March 11th will have students from Don Bosco Technical School discuss the topic ‘Importance of positive young minds’.

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**News item 6 - DBSTC Anticipates Spirit Filled Jubilee Year**

On 21st February, more than 500 students and staff of Don Bosco Simbu Technical College (DBSTC) gathered at the Diocesan Shrine of Saint John Bosco for the Mass of the Holy Spirit and the official opening of the School Year 2020. The event’s main celebrant was the College’s newly appointed Rector, Fr. Angel Sanchez SDB.

In his homily, he referred to St James teaching on “faith and good deeds” and spoke of how it could be expressed by becoming “good Christians and honest citizens”. He told the gathered community, “It is the gospel message put into practice. It is a concrete way of being disciples of Jesus today.” He reminded everybody that 2020 marked the College’s Silver Jubilee, and urged each member of its community to respond anew to the call of Jesus to become His disciples.

The end of the Holy Mass, saw the College’s Principal, Fr. Edwin Genovia SDB formally introduce Salesian Educators to the students. The College currently has present 3 Salesians, and 4 Sisters of Charity of Saint Anne, who help in the school and run the Ladies’ Residence.

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**News item 7 – CEC Efforts Recognized and Backed by DOE**

The Department of Education (DOE) has assured its close support toward the efforts of the Churches Education Council (CEC). The reassurance was given by Ms Jean Taviri, Director of Basic Education Coordination from DOE, during CEC’s second annual meeting held from 24th to 26th February at the Dream Inn Hotel, Waigani. It had 12 participants, each a representative from the 10-mainline Churches in the country; Salvation Army, Four Square, Catholic, United Church, Anglican, Seventh Day Adventist, and Evangelical Alliances.

Ms Taviri acknowledged how many of the schools, institutes and universities were run by the Churches and stressed that this made it all the more imperative for DOE to take a keen role in the partnership with CEC. She said CEC’s feedback was important to help identify problems currently faced in schools, and to enable DOE to formulate and implement solutions to ease the Churches works in providing quality education around the country.

According to Mr Michael Ova, Chairman of CEC and National Catholic Education Secretary, the focus of the meeting was to review the CEC Constitution to enable for its endorsement from DOE. He said Ms Taviri’s presence was an indication of DOE’s commitment.

A third meeting is expected later on that is hoped to see positive advances in the allied partnership with DOE.

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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 Catholic Communications we wish you all an enjoyable week.**