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

**Air Date: 04/ 03/ 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. **Pope Francis: 'Never engage in dialogue with the devil’**
2. **Celebrating ‘Ash Wednesday’**
3. **Archbishop calls for Better Priests than a large number of Priests**
4. **Diocese of Kimbe farewells Bishop Bill Fey**
5. **CPNG launches Lenten Appeal**
6. **DWU Catholic Students Promise to ‘Live Pure’**
7. **Media seminar highlights importance of environment**
8. **Pilgrimage to Holy Land Leaves Lasting Impression**

……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

# News Item 1 – Pope Francis: 'Never engage in dialogue with the devil’

Pope Francis urged Christians to be alert and vigilant when messages come to us from different places tempting us to experience the intoxication of malpractices.

Speaking to the pilgrims gathered on March 1st, in St. Peter’s Square, the Pope reflected on the Gospel for the first Sunday of Lent that tells of how Jesus, after having been baptized in the River Jordan, was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.

He recalled that Jesus prepared himself for his mission of proclaiming the Kingdom of Heaven by fasting for forty days. At the end of this period of fasting, the devil breaks in and tries three times to put Jesus to the test.

But, the Pope said, Jesus rejects the idolatry of power and human glory and, in the end, drives the devil away. The Pope reflected at length on how Jesus does not enter into dialogue with the devil and urged the faithful to always be alert and careful and to do the same. The Pope concluded his catechesis appealing for the intercession of ‘Mary’ to help all in this time of Lent.

………………………………………...ENDS…………………………………………………………………….

**News item 2 – Celebrating ‘Ash Wednesday’**

A prayerful Eucharistic celebration was celebrated on Ash Wednesday, 26th February, at the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI. Ash Wednesday marks the start of the Lenten period of penitence leading up to Easter and is a time for prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Bp Otto Separy, Bishop of the Diocese of Beriena was the main celebrant. In his homily Bp Otto, said that the Lenten season was a time for God’s grace of love and forgiveness to be felt and lived. It is God calling of us to reflect on our own personal lives, to admit our weaknesses and downfalls and seek his forgiveness and love.

He described it as a time of prayer and dialogue where we communicate with the Lord, and practice the Christian act of almsgiving and reach out to the less fortunate and those on the fringes of society.

………………………………………...ENDS…………………………………………………………………….

**News item 3 – Archbishop calls for Better Priests than a large number of Priests**

"The Church needs good priests, not many priests,” said Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Rabaul, Francesco Panfilo SDB, at the ordination of Fr Joseph Liaia CP, as priest on Saturday 22nd February, at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Vunapope, East New Britain Province.

In his homily he called for the newly ordained priest to be ‘Christlike’ and to take charge in caring as the shepherd of his flock to guide and protect them with the word of God. He spoke of the holiness of priests and urged Fr Joseph to pray the rosary each day so that the Mother of Jesus also prayed for him in his work.

Joy filled family, friends and guests came from his Napapar village, New Britain province, Port Moresby, and parts of Australia.

………………………………………...ENDS…………………………………………………………………….

**News item 4 – Diocese of Kimbe farewells Bishop Bill Fey**

A Thanksgiving Mass and farewell ceremony was held for his Lordship Emeritus Bishop William Fey OFM Cap. He was Bishop of the Diocese of Kimbe for 10 years. Held at the indoor gym of the Muthuvel stadium on Tuesday 25th February, the celebration saw Catholic faithful from all the nineteen parishes gather to farewell the Bishop.

The Emeritus Bishop was the main presider and concelebrating with him were the new bishop, Bp John Bosco Auram and priests. Caritas Sisters, Sisters of Charity, OLSH Sisters, MSC Sisters and FMI Sisters, Catechists and Lay men and women were present for the celebrations.

In his homily, Bp William praised the virtues of Saint Francis of Assisi and challenged all the faithful to uphold vigilantly the virtues of humility and holiness. He thanked everyone gathered and assured them of his prayers for each of them.

Emeritus Bishop William Fey OFM Cap served as a missionary in Papua New Guinea for over 40 years. He was ordained as the 2nd Bishop of the Diocese of Kimbe on 20th October 2010 and officially concluded his term in mid-November 2019 upon the announcement of the new Bishop, Bp John Bosco Auram.

…………………………………………...ENDS………………………………………………………………….

**News Item 5 – CPNG launches Lenten Appeal**

Caritas Papua New Guinea (CPNG) marked the Lenten Season by the launching the Lenten or Turangu Appeal Campaign for 2020. With the theme “Holy and formed for a mission of love and charity,” the annual appeal was launched on Wednesday 26th February, at a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Present for this momentous occasion was Bishop of Wewak and Bishop Deputy of CPNG, Jozef Roszynski, SVD; Bishop of Bereina, Otto Separy; the Director of CPNG, Mavis Tito, Catholic Bishops Conference (CBC) Development Secretary, Marie Mondu and staff of CBC.

According to the Director of CPNG, Mavis Tito, K314,321.73 was raised during the 2019 campaign of which K93,451.16 was returned as one-third returns to the dioceses. K85,135.48 was given to the dioceses that requested support from CPNG to help with responding to disasters. Bp Jozef reminded everyone present that Caritas is ‘Love in Action’ and that it comes from Jesus because his concern was always about the poor.

………………………………………...ENDS……………………………………………………………………

**News item 6 – DWU Catholic Students Promise to ‘Live Pure’**

Young people stood boldly and made their promise to ‘Live Pure’ as they concluded the Spiritual Retreat for the Catholic Students on 23rdFebruary at the Divine Word University Chapel, Madang. The chapel was filled to capacity by staff and lay faithful as they witnessed Bernadette Tefe and seven male students boldly committing themselves to ‘Live Pure’ and celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage before they engage in sexual intimacy.

The Retreat from 21-23February, had 280 Catholic students spend a fruitful weekend in prayer, reflection and the celebration of their Catholic Faith. It had as its theme: ‘Giving Generously’ and was animated by Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, CBC Social Communications Secretary.

Gathered in the the Sir Peter Barter Auditorium for the opening session the participants viewed a reflective film titled ‘War Room’. Sessions on Saturday were held at Yomba Parish, Newtown. They focused on ‘Generous Giving, and Vocation: Our call to Holiness and the Celebration of the Sacraments’. Lively presentations and inspirational talks encouraged participants to reflect on their lives and to change for the better.

………………………………………...ENDS……………………………………………………………………

**News item 7 -** **Media seminar highlights importance of environment**

Catholic Bishops ConferenceSocial CommunicationCommission(CBC SOCOM)hosted its first Media Education Seminar for Catholic students and highlighted the importance of caring for the environment.

Held on Saturday, 29th February, the seminar had as its theme; ‘Keep it Clean. Go Green’ and had sessions that focused on the 54th World Communication Day (WCD) message of the Holy Father, logos, posters and photographs.

The program had prayer moments, interactive sessions, energizers and discussions. The Media Education Seminar is the first in a series of seminars that are held annually. The nine participating schools at the seminar were: Don Bosco Technical School; Limana Vocational Centre; Caritas Technical Secondary School; De La Salle; Marianville Secondary School; Don Bosco Technological Institute; St Charles Lwanga Secondary School; La Salle Technical School and Jubilee Catholic Secondary School.

The next media education seminar will be held on 28th March and will dwell on writing news articles.

………………………………………...ENDS……………………………………………………………………

**News item 8 -** **Pilgrimage to Holy Land Leaves Lasting Impression**

As their special visit to the Holy Land of Israel came to an end, the 25-Pilgrims left with a heightened sense of spirituality as preachers of the Gospel and also as witnesses.

The group that left for Israel on Friday 20th February, had 11-Priests and 15-Laypeople from the regions of Southern, Momase, Highlands, and the Solomon Islands. They returned from the Holy Land on Sunday 1st March.

Fr John Adai, from the Catholic Diocese of Auki in Solomon Islands, described it as a ‘highly spiritual and unique experience’, and said, “though the land is dry and mostly desert, you’d be baffled and amazed by how many tonnes of food is produced on a daily basis. The land is truly a marvel that upholds the Gospel premise that it is the land of God, the land of milk and honey.”

………………………………………...ENDS……………………………………………………………………

**Recapping our headlines for this week:**

1. **Pope Francis: 'Never engage in dialogue with the devil’**
2. **Celebrating ‘Ash Wednesday’**
3. **Archbishop calls for Better Priests than a large number of Priests**
4. **Diocese of Kimbe farewells Bishop Bill Fey**
5. **CPNG launches Lenten Appeal**
6. **DWU Catholic Students Promise to ‘Live Pure’**
7. **Media seminar highlights importance of environment**
8. **Pilgrimage to Holy Land Leaves Lasting Impression**

**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.**