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

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**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 at Angelus: Gossip 'a plague more awful than Covid-19'**
2. **Archdiocese of Madang Launches Fundraising Appeal**
3. **Archbishop Elect Rochus confers 1,420 confirmands**
4. **CBC commemorates Season of Creation**
5. **CBCPNSI staff observes Repentance Day**
6. **First Aid training boosts staff's confidence**
7. **Trainees’ Farewelled**

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**News Item 1 – Pope at Angelus: Gossip 'a plague more awful than Covid-19'**

“Please, brothers and sisters, let us make an effort not to gossip. Gossip is far worse than the coronavirus,” said Pope Francis at the Sunday Angelus of 6th September in St Peter’s Square.

In his reflection the Holy Father urged for faithful to rise up and become instruments in correcting those members of the community who continued to sin. He said fraternal correction built up the Church while gossip only tore it down.

Gossip, he added, closes a person's heart to the community and hurts the Church's unity, since the devil is the great gossiper who seeks to sow discord.

He condemned the common practice of society where the faults and mistakes of others were highlighted. He said that if someone continued to do wrong, the matter should be referred to the Church community, as it was the path of fraternal correction.

Pope Francis prayed that the Blessed Virgin Mary might help all make fraternal correction a healthy practice, so that communities could be founded on mutual forgiveness and the invincible power of God's mercy.

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**News item 2 – Archdiocese of Madang Launches Fundraising Appeal**

In an effort to reduce the number of primary and secondary school students missing the opportunity to further their studies, the Archdiocese of Madang has initiated a fundraising appeal aimed at building two new schools for the province.

The appeal is driven toward raising K60 Million for the new education project. According to Chairman of the Funding Appeal, every year 5000 students in Madang Province miss the opportunity to continue their education to grade nine.

He said this issue has over the past 10 years been overlooked and has created a negative ripple effect on the Social, Economic, Law and Order sectors of the province. He said through the support in funds, social tension associated with education problems experienced in the province could be relieved.

Those wishing to make a contribution are advised to contact Catholic Archdiocese of Madang representatives: Gerhard Sieland or Sr Mary Claude.

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**News item 3 - Archbishop Elect Rochus confers 1,420 confirmands**

Before taking his post as the Archbishop of Rabaul, His Grace Archbishop Elect Rochus Josef Tatamai MSC, confered 1,420 confirmands in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The confirmation was part of his visit to St Boniface Tanga on 29th August 2020. The faithful felt blessed to be a part of the celebration after so long.

The announcement of the Archbishop-elect was made on 19th June. During the 3-month transition period he was able to make a pastoral visit to Tanga, a venue he had not covered in his reign as Local Ordinary Bishop of Kavieng Diocese for the last 22 months.

His presence on this remote island, built confidence amongst the faithful as their Shepherd. He was farewelled on Thursday 3rd September 2020, by the parishioners of St Boniface Tanga. In his messages of hope he invited the people especially those confirmed, to be true witnesses of Christ and to be a light for others in their respective communities and parish.

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**News item 4 – CBC commemorates Season of Creation**

Staff of the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI participated in the commemoration of the 2020 Season of Creation.

The short but engaging highlight of the day took place on Monday 31st August at the Catholic Bishops Conference in Gordons. It had the presence of 33 staff that included Priests and Religious.

It was a way of upholding the encyclical of Pope Francis’ Laudato Si, and honouring the Season of Creation that starts on 1st September, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends 4th October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology.

The occasion had the screening of two reflective videos: Message of Pope Francis on Season of Creation, and The Inner Universe. A brief practical exercise was also given were participants were required to write a deed dedicated to upholding the season. All were aimed at inspiring commitment on an individual level to create a positive change for the benefit of future generations to come.

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**News item 5 – CBCPNGSI staff observes Repentance Day**

22 staff members of the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI gathered to observe the nationwide   Repentance day on 26th August, in Port Moresby.

Social Communications Secretary, Fr Ambrose Pereira, officiated the ceremony with a prayer followed by Sr Emma Lapun OLSH who highlighted the significance of repentance and compensation for peace restoration, in the context of Papua New Guinea culture.

Physical items that connoted the restoration of peace and forgiveness such as a twig holding K20 to K100 notes were presented before the altar during the occasion. Attendees also prayed a decade of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

The brief event concluded with a Holy Mass presided by the General Secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference, Fr Giorgio Licini, with Fr Ambrose Pereira as the concelebrant.

The organizer of the event Eva Wangihama, Secretary for Laity commission said repentance day is more than a Public holiday, and encouraged the staff present to continue in observing repentance day in the future.

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**News item 6 -** **First Aid training boosts staff's confidence**

Around thirteen staff from CBCPNGSI completed a one-day Emergency First Aid training course delivered by St John Ambulance on September 2nd, in Port Moresby.

The session had three experts from St Johns with their team leader and trainer, Mr. Bobby Kakare with his colleagues who gave brief presentations on various emergency casualty and how to manage them.

In between their talks were practical demonstrations on how to perform first aid to certain casualties of different ages when clinical help is not in sight, insights on what to do, who to call, and even what to say on the phone when dialling emergency line were given in detailed.

Participants were given real-life scenarios than applied practical exercises to dummies on approaching various casualties within ample time, including, when and how to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) how to manage allergies, dressing wounds, burns, choke, strokes, and handling or assisting asthma attacks.

The participants sat for a final theory test before the course ended at 4 pm with assurance from Mr. Kakare that certificates would be awarded in two weeks’ time.

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**News item 7 - Trainees Farewelled**

The Catholic Church in Papua New Guinea continues to mould its students through established education institutions and guide them to employment. Students at Vocational and Technical Institutes are given the opportunity to put their practical skills into practice by short term training at different institutes.

In the same spirit, the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI’s headquarters farewelled four trainee students from Limana Vocational Centre on 4th September.

The four trainees were Andrew Connie and Tanya Tsiroats from Bougainville, Emily and Jacklyn Oa who reside in Port Moresby. All four underwent a 6-month short course for a certificate in Office Administration at Limana Vocational Centre and trained under housekeeping and office administration clerk jobs for seven weeks at CBCPNGSI.

All four said they were confident and grateful for the experience, and that they were now ready to be employed in the industry.

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