**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 highlights Greatest Commandment**
2. **Guiding young people to Christ**
3. **330 children receive Sacrament of Confirmation**
4. **Daru-Kiunga focuses on Diocesan Pastoral Plan**
5. **Gizo welcomes newly ordained priests**
6. **First FSM Convent Opened in Diocese of Wabag**
7. **New Member Welcomed by Missionaries of Mercy**
8. **DMI Sewing School** **Graduates 48 Women**

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**News Item 1 – Pope highlights Greatest Commandment**

“You will love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind" and "You will love your neighbour as yourself," said Pope Francis as he quoted Jesus response highlighting the ‘Greatest’ commandment.

The Holy Father made the statement during his address to Christians gathered in St Peter Square for the Sunday Angelus of 25th October 2020. He reflected on the reading from (Matthew 22:34-40), and told of how a doctor of the Law came to ask Jesus, which was the greater commandment.

Jesus’ response, the Pope said, was to love the Lord with all our hearts, and to extend this same compassion to our neighbours. He stressed that the verification of our journey of conversion and holiness was always in the love of our neighbour.

He reminded faithful of God’s divine and constant mercy and urged for them not to be discouraged from presenting their problems, but to live the ways of the Gospel consistently.

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**News item 2 – Guiding young people to Christ**

“All institutions in the community must unite and guide young people toward Christ,” said Bishop of Kimbe, John Bosco Auram, during the Youth Board meeting on 21st and 22nd October, at the Catholic Bishops Conference.

The meeting facilitated by Youth Commission Secretary, Elizabeth Aribi, had the presence of Bishop Auram; Bishop of Kimbe Bp Pedro Baquero SDB, Bishop of Kerema; National Youth Development Authority representatives and young professionals from the four regions of Papua New Guinea.

Bp Auram described how the influence of society had a direct impact on the minds of young people and urged for more proactive and considerate approaches to spiritually guide the young back to Christ.

According to Bp Baquero, the focus of the meeting was to help young people draw closer to Jesus and to deepen their relationship with Him.

Various issues on Youth involvement in drug abuse, youths as agents of change, youth ministry within the church were raised during the meeting, with moments of reflection, sharing and prayer held in-between.

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**News item 3 – 330 children receive Sacrament of Confirmation**

A total of 330 children of St. Mary Tanagai Parish received the sacrament of confirmation on Sunday 18th October in the Archdiocese of Honiara.

The church program was led by Archbishop of Solomon Islands, Christopher Cardone OP, and assisted by Tanagai Parish Priest Fr. Godfrey with beautiful singing from those confirmed and youths. The children were from communities of Vura, Tamboko, Veraboli and Tanagai.

In his address to the confirmation candidates, Abp Cardone encouraged them to always choose and make wise decisions and to listen to their parents’ advice. He said parents had the responsibility of guiding their children, and urged for them to lead the way Jesus intended.

He dwelt on the gospel of (Matthew 22:15-22) and called on Christians to remember to give honour and glory to the creator of heaven and earth. He warned how criticism of others led to destruction and urged for a stronger practice of the acceptance of others despite their flaws.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the confirmation proved to be a great blessing for the communities around the Parish as also for the 330 candidates.

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**News item 4 – Daru-Kiunga focuses on Diocesan Pastoral Plan**

Bishop of Daru-Kiunga, Gilles Côté SMM, has urged for the Pastoral Board and Pastoral Animation to be kept alive as they were direct factors that drove the Diocesan Pastoral Plan.

He made the statement during the second meeting of the Diocesan Pastoral advisory Board of Daru-Kiunga Diocese held from 19th to 23rd October, in Kiunga. The meeting held twice a year had the presence of fourteen members including Bp Côté; members of the Diocesan team of Pastoral Animation, priests and laity.

The occasion had participants involved in prayer, studying and discussing of the pastoral activities held in the year 2020, and in preparation for the year 2021. Discussions revolved around the diocesan pastoral plan, the Bishop’s Pastoral Letter of 2020 entitled ‘A True Committed Disciple’, activities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the preparation of the Diocesan Assembly.

Meanwhile a ground-breaking ceremony was held to celebrate the opening of St. Montfort Teacher College Kiunga done nicely with full of spirit of joy and hope in Kiunga, North Fly District of Western Province

The opening held on 22nd October, was attended by more than a thousand people and had the attendance of government ministers, Churches and Community leaders and development partner Ok Tedi Mining Limited, Sunstainable Development Project and Mineral Resources Development Company.

Bishop Côté thanked all those involved in seeing through the completion of the project and said it would greatly benefit the future generations to come.

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**News Item 5 – Gizo welcomes newly ordained priests**

The diocese of Gizo ordained two new priests during the celebrations of its diamond Jubilee on October 18 and 24, in Solomon Islands.

Fr Benedict Qelo from Sareana (Lauru) and Fr Aritoka from Harapa (Nila Parish Shortland) were ordained respectively with great participation of people from every denomination. According to a diocese member , COVID-19 restrictions delayed the 2 ordinations however it gave more time for locals and the priest candidates to prepare.

Bishop Luciano Capelli, Bp of Gizo was the main celebrant of the ordination Mass. In his homily, the Bishop challenged the newly ordained priests to take at heart their tasks of preaching, sanctifying and guiding the people by being a sign of Jesus.

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**News item 6 – First FSM Convent Opened in Diocese of Wabag**

After three years of humbled and dedicated service, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary in the Diocese of Wabag, have finally been given a duplex convent.

The opening of the new convent on 17th October, was a historical event and was dedicated to Saint Clare the founder of the Congregation. Bishop of Wabag, Arnold Orowae STL, was the main celebrant and con-celebrating the occasion were diocesan and parish priests from Wabag and Mendi; Religious and Christians from the neighbouring communities.

The erection of the new building served as a formal recognition by the Sari Parish Board and the Diocese of Wabag for the congregation’s service in the diocese. It currently has three FSM Sisters as its caretakers.

Since the initiation of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary in 1979 in the Diocese of Mendi, the congregation was limited to Southern Highland and Hela Provinces. However, the Congregation made a breakthrough for the first time and extended their mission outside of the province in 2017, settling in the Sari Holy Family Parish of the Diocese of Wabag.

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**News item 7 – New Member Welcomed by Missionaries of Mercy**

Fr. Bogdan Swierczewski CSMA, has received recognition as a member of the Missionaries of Mercy in the Catholic Archdiocese of Mt. Hagen.

A Decree from the Holy See that confirmed Fr. Bogdan as a member of the Missionaries of Mercy was presented by Archbishop of Mt Hagen, Douglas Young SVD, on Wednesday 14th October.

The recognition comes directly from the Missionaries of Mercy under the care of the Pontifical Council in Rome. Fr. Bogdan is now a ‘Confessor’, officially vested with special powers and authority to absolve every sin through the sacrament of Confession, even the sins that are reserved only for the Holy See.

Fr. Bogdan understood and accepted this special ministry and he is equally willing and ready for the duties and responsibilities that comes along with it.  He is the official exorcist of the Archdiocese, and is also in charge of Divine Mercy in the Archdiocese, and the Rector of the Divine Mercy Shrine at Ruquist, Kuli Parish of Mt. Hagen, Western Highlands and Jiwaka.

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**News item 8 – DMI Sewing School** **Graduates 48 Women**

The Daughters of Mary Immaculate sisters have officially graduated 48 students from their sewing school on October 27th, at the Kogave Community Hall in Port Moresby.

The graduation ceremony has as its theme ‘A powerful woman can make a powerful world,’ and had the presence of His Eminence Sir John Cardinal Ribat, Archbishop of Port Moresby; Mr Justin Tkatchenko and Mr. Kalyana Ranman, a social activist and the donor of the program.

The graduation ceremony began at 10:30am with a welcome dance, prayer, blessings, and national anthem. Programs lined up for the day included a welcome address, token of appreciation and presentations to chief guests, sharing of experiences by students, certificate distribution, best skilled person award declaration, songs and traditional dances, address by chief guests, with food and light refreshments shared at the end.

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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.**