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

**Air Date: 19/ 05/ 2021**

**Welcome to another week of Catholic Church News on Radio Maria. I am Nigel Akuani, and I am Isabella Saleu with the news.**

**Our stories for the week:**

1. **Pope: May God convert all hearts to peace**
2. **Bishops unite for peace in Alotau**
3. **CBC observes World Communication Day and International Families Day**
4. **CCHS launches Official Website**
5. **CBC set to speak on ‘Proposal to declare PNG a Christian Country’**
6. **West Papua Mothers Graduate with Certificates**

…….……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**News Item 1 – Pope: May God convert all hearts to peace**

“God will convert all hearts to peace, even today, Jesus is interceding before the Father for all of us, praying that He will keep us from the evil one and set us free from the power of evil,” said the Holy Father during a special Sunday Mass on 16th May 2021, dedicated to Myanmar Catholics living in Rome.

Recalling the Gospel reading for the celebration when Jesus prays for His friends as He prepares to take leave of His disciples and the world, the Pope said this passage teaches us how to deal with “dramatic and painful moments” in our own lives.

He described three challenges: to keep the faith, to keep unity, and to keep the truth. Regarding the first, he said, we need faith to avoid giving in to despair that sees no way out.

Speaking on ‘unity’ in a family where love and fraternity reign, the Pope urged for Christians to avoid the disease of division.

The importance of keeping the truth, the Pope said, means not just defending ideas or becoming guardians of a system of doctrines and dogmas, but “remaining bound to Christ and being devoted to his Gospel.”

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

**News item 2 – Bishops unite for peace in Alotau**

The Bishops of different Churches in Milne Bay province have released a collective statement following the violence and continuous disrespect for law and order in the province.

The statement released on Wednesday 12th May, showed written concern for the absence of peace, law and order, the safety of innocent lives and properties that were caught up between what was happening.

They condemned the violence and called on the government to properly address the issue. “A proper investigation should be conducted so as to find out the reasons for this unnecessary violence and how to put an end to it”, the statement read.

Led by the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Alotau, Bp. Rolando Santos CM, the Bishops together have called on the people to live in a Christ - like manner as violence did not come from God.

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

**News item 3 – CBC observes World Communication Day and International Families Day**

In commemoration of World Communication Day (WCD) and International Families Day (IFD), the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI hosted a detailed two-hour panel discussion that highlighted the days’ significance.

The discussions held on 14th May, at the Catholic Bishops Conference in Waigani and shared via Social Media platform Zoom, had as its panelists Rev. Fr. Ambrose Pereira, Social Communications Secretary; Mr. Paul Harricknen, President of Catholic Professionals Society; Bishop of Vanimo, Francis Meli; Mr. Jimmy Son, President PNG Computer Society and Elizabeth Aribi, Youth Secretary.

The panel focused on Truthfulness in Communication, an Appreciation of Journalists, Responsibility of Catholic families and their benefits, Uses of the Internet and Families in Modern Communication, and a sharing and insight on the role of youths and parents.

Emphasizing the importance of WCD, Fr Ambrose, recalled the message of Pope Francis for WCD and urged that journalists and all Christians leave their comfort zones and encounter first-hand the lives of people at the grassroot level.

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

**News item 4 – CCHS launches Official Website**

Catholic Church Health Services (CCHS) staff and invited guests commemorated the International Nurses Day and officially launched their website on Wednesday 12th May, at the CCHS National Office in Boroko.

The largest faith-based health provider launched the website, on the day to dedicate the achievement of the organization and most significant assets of the organization, its nurses. The International Nurses Day had as its theme: “A voice to lead, a vision for health.”

Attending the event was the key note speaker, Dr Lucy John, Executive Manager Public Health representing National Department of Health Secretary, Chairman and Bishop Deputy for Health Most Reverent Bishop Francis Meli, Bishop of Vanimo, Fr Giorgio Licini, General Secretary for Catholic Bishops Conference, Australian High Commissioners Representative, Departmental Representatives and Key Stakeholders.

The National CCHS Secretary, Sr Jadwiga Faliszek said “Today CCHS shares its joy in celebrating another achievement, the official launch of our website to connect us digitally with the rest of the world.” “We show our unity by sharing our work and achievements and the website will be an essential platform to showcase what we do.”

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

**News Item 5 – CBC set to speak on ‘Proposal to declare PNG a Christian Country’**

The Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI will be hosting a press conference on the controversial proposal to declare Papua New Guinea a ‘Christian Country’.

The conference to be held on Thursday 20th May, is expected to have as its speakers Sir John Cardinal Ribat, Archbishop of Port Moresby; Archbishop Anton Bal, President of CBCPNGSI and Archbishop of Madang; and Mr Paul Harricknen, President of Catholic Professional Society PNG.

Further details will be announced as we draw closer to the event.

Meanwhile Caritas PNG is currently undergoing an intense two-week Disaster Risk Reduction Workshop that will be held from Monday 17th – Friday 28th May, at the CBC headquarters in Waigani.

The workshop is focused at improving efforts of CPNG Coordinators from around the country to better support local communities exposed to natural hazards to become stronger and more resilient.

Sessions highlighted Disasters and Climate Change in PNG, Disaster Risk Communication, Social Mapping of Health Facilities, Survey Methods and Tools, Theology and Practical Approaches in Communication, Role of Women in Disasters, Lenten Appeal 2022, and Proposal Writing.

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

**News item 6 – West Papua Mothers Graduate with Certificates**

Five West Papuan women were honored as they graduated with Certificates in Basic Cooking and Sewing from the Archdiocese Social Apostolate Centre (ASAC) Skills Training Centre in Port Moresby.

The graduation on Sunday 30th April, saw a total of 41 women graduands, 23 graduating from the Basic Sewing course and 18 from Basic Cooking. This follows after ending an intense two-month training course that began in February sponsored by Caritas Papua New Guinea as part of its humanitarian program.

The program commenced with a mass celebrated by Fr. Martin We-en, Director of Radio Maria PNG. Later, Fr. Martin and ASAC Coordinator, Sr. Crystiliza Celestial, presented the graduates with their certificates.

Reflecting on the Gospel reading, ‘I am the way’ taken from (Jn 14:6), Fr Martin reminded graduating mothers that it was a privilege for them to attain such qualifications and said their achievement served as a standard for others to aspire to.

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

**Recapping our headlines for this week:**

1. **Pope: May God convert all hearts to peace**
2. **Bishops unite for peace in Alotau**
3. **CBC observes World Communication Day and International Families Day**
4. **CCHS launches Official Website**
5. **CBC set to speak on ‘Proposal to declare PNG a Christian Country’**
6. **West Papua Mothers Graduate with Certificates**

**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.**