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

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

**Our stories for the week:**

1. **Pope:** **Share and God will multiply your gifts**
2. **Schools in Central Province receive water tanks**
3. **DMI sisters conduct Women Empowerment Programs**
4. **ICAC Fundamental to PNG’s Prosperity**
5. **Caritas Technical Secondary School exhibition**
6. **Supporting women and girls in remote areas**

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**News Item 1 – Pope at Angelus: Share and God will multiply your gifts**

Pope Francis explains the “logic of smallness and giving” and how the Lord calls each one of us to give generously to help our brothers and sisters. Giving and sharing “increases love and allows God to perform wonders”.

Speaking to pilgrims gathered in Saint Peter’s Square for the Sunday Angelus of 25th July 2021, Pope Francis reflected on the Gospel about the multiplication of the loaves and fish with which Jesus feeds around five thousand people.

The Pope observed how the young child gave all that he had and how it seemed so little with respect to the needs of the moment. But thanks to that small, freely-given and even heroic gift, “Jesus is able to feed everyone”.

He said faced with scandals such as these, the Lord calls on us to “Be brave, give what little you have, your talents, your possessions, make them available to Jesus and to your brothers and sisters...if you share, God will multiply.”

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**News item 2 – Schools in Central Province receive water tanks**

Five Catholic primary schools in the Central Province were privileged to be the recipients of water tanks, following a joint visit by the Catholic Education Commission and Caritas Australia.

The water tanks were purchased from Mainland Plumbing and Hardware with funding from the Israeli government through Caritas Australia.

The five schools to receive the water tanks were: St. Francis of Assisi Primary School, Inawabui village; Mary Immaculate Primary School, Inawaia village; St Patrick’s and St. Anthony’s from the Yule Island and Biatau Village Elementary School.

The visit was a follow up of a previous joint visit by Caritas Australia and the Catholic Education Commission carried out on the 13th-17th July to distribute other water tanks and the Catholic Education and Caritas Australia personnel used this opportunity to follow up and see how the water tanks had helped in improving the livelihood of the people.

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**News item 3 – DMI sisters conduct Women Empowerment Programs**

The Daughters of Mary Immaculate completed a successful month of women empowerment programs for the month of July.

The women empowerment programs for this month were conducted by the DMI sisters and volunteers in communities targeting women and children to enlighten these vulnerable groups about their basic rights in their families and communities and promote self-reliance.

Empowerment programs held within the month include Community awareness programs, Graduation for Vendors - SME Service Centre, Orientation on small savings, Leaders’ meeting, Regular Meeting/Relaxation, Promoting of default groups, Meeting of Federation.

Sr. Catherine DMI thanked the mothers for their continuous participation and hard work and commended them on a job well done in their preparation towards NCD Governor Parkop’s visit to one of their awareness outreach programs last month and urged the mothers to continue to cooperate with the women for the betterment of their communities.

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**News Item 4 – ICAC Fundamental to PNG’s Prosperity**

The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) has been described as fundamental to Papua New Guinea regaining its once renowned honour for being a country of peace and prosperity.

The assertion was made by students from De La Salle Secondary School during the Chat Room of Wednesday 21st July. Their discussion began with a brief history of ICAC’s early establishment, then went onto focus on the duties of ICAC, role of the Corruption Perception Index (CPI), purpose of Transparency International in accommodating ICAC, comparison to other countries ranked by CPI in regards to corruption, function of the Youth Against Corruption Association (YACA) among young people, finishing off with an earnest call to every member of society to always do the right thing.

On Wednesday 28th July, the Chat Room will have students from Don Bosco Technological Institute give their take on the pivotal role the ‘Whistle-blowers’ Act’ plays in safeguarding the identity and protecting nationals when reporting malpractice and corruption by officials in governmental and private sectors operating across the nation.

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**News item 5 – Caritas Technical Secondary School Exhibition**

The Caritas Technical Secondary School celebrated its 25th Technical Day on 21st July, with its theme “Dream, Believe, achieve: Celebrating 25 Years of Excellence.”

Amongst the guests present for the day were His Excellency Mr. Kang Ho Jeung, the head of the Korean Embassy as the Keynote Speaker, Honourable Governor for the National Capital District, Powes Parkop, representatives from secondary schools in NCD, private companies and individuals.

Governor Powes Parkop in his speech promoting women empowerment, encouraged the females on how they too, could also be successful in life if they put their thoughts to it and worked hard for their goals. They had the skills, they only needed the determination and drive.

Sr. Mary said due to Covid-19 restrictions they were not able to host their cultural show as well as technical day last year.

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**News item 6 -** **Supporting women and girls in remote areas**

A breakfast talk fundraiser to support girls, vulnerable women and communities in remote areas of Papua New Guinea was hosted by the Lasallian Women of Hope (LWOH) group on Saturday 10th July.

Held at the La Salle Technical College, the theme was ‘Healthy Women building Strong Communities.’ The event also celebrated the Lasallian’s 75years of Mission and existence in PNG and gave a platform to speak on community issues especially on health and hygiene for women and girls.

Present for the breakfast talk as invited guests were Erin Elizabeth McKee, United States Ambassador to Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and the Republic of Vanuatu; Serena Sumanop, CEO of Digicel Foundation and Founder of the Voice Inc; Dr Gabriel Yohang, Head of Department of Rural and Generalist Medicine and Health Science; Sr Helen Hukula, Founder and SIC – Well Women Clinic and Fr Giorgio Licini, General Secretary of Catholic Bishops Conference.

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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.**