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

**Air Date: 15/ 07/ 2020**

**Welcome to another weekly Catholic Church News on Radio Maria. I am Rosemary Yambune with the news.**

**Our stories for the week:**

1. **Pope: Embracing the Word of God means embracing Christ**
2. **Abp Chris Cardone calls for unity and respect**
3. **Mendi confident of overcoming challenges**
4. **Bereina celebrates135 Years since First Eucharist**
5. **Special Annual Retreat amidst lockdown**
6. **COVID-19 Awareness targets vulnerable groups**

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# News Item 1 – Pope: Embracing the Word of God means embracing Christ

Pope Francis described the Parable of the Sower as the “mother” of all parables during his reflection of the day’s Gospel reading at the Sunday Angelus of 12th July.

The Holy Father called it the ‘mother’ of all parables, because it spoke about listening to the Word, and told of the story of a sower who planted seeds over four different types of terrain.

He explained that The Word of God was symbolized by the seeds, and said, “it is not an abstract Word, but is Christ himself, the Word of the Father who became flesh in Mary's womb.” He added that embracing the Word of God meant embracing the person of Christ.

This parable, stressed the Pope, reminded us that the Word of God is a seed which in itself is fruitful and effective, and that God scatters it everywhere.

Each one of us, he said, “is ground on which the seed of the Word falls, and if we want, we can become good soil, ploughed and carefully cultivated, to help ripen the seed of the Word.”

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**News item 2 – to be edited -**

**EMANUELE FERRARIO**

Born on 11 March 1930 in Busto Arsizio in the province of Varese, Emanuele was the second of the two children born to his parents Piero, a dairy merchant, and Piera, a teacher.

He grew up with his family in Busto Arsizio and attended the parish of San Michele and the oratory. An altar boy and head of the altar boys, he was fascinated by the testimonials of the missionaries who came to the oratory on Sundays although he soon came to understand that his vocation would be that of a layman at the service of the Church.

He graduated in the field of accounting on 18 July 1948 and began working in Varese on that same day in a company in the dairy sector, becoming a partner at his family’s express request.

On 7 April 1957, during a trip to the mountains, he met his wife Anna. On 27 December of the following year, they married and moved to Varese.

After their wedding, Anna, who had worked in her  
father’s company, devoted her life to being a full-time  
mother for their four children. In the spring of 1984, it was discovered that Anna had an incurable tumor and she died a few months later on 26 October at the age of 48.

A month earlier, Emanuele and his cousin, Fr. Giovanni, a missionary in Uganda, decided to go to Medjugorje. That trip proved to be a very strong experience in Emanuele’s life. In fact, when he heard about a parish radio station called Radio Maria in Arcellasco d’Erba in 1986 that transmitted the messages of Medjugorje, he offered his collaboration, wishing to volunteer his free time.

He promoted the foundation of an association as an organ for Radio Maria’s activities and became its president from its foundation in 1987 until 2016.

At the same time as working as an entrepreneur, in just three years he expanded this parish radio to become one of the largest and most listened to private radio stations in Italy.

In 1994, he began to take Radio Maria to other countries around the world. Then, in 1998, he founded the World Family of Radio Maria non-profit, which today brings together 81 Radio Maria stations in 74 countries around the world. He served as the World Family’s president from the year of its foundation until 2015.

From 1994 to 2002, Emanuele was also president of the Radio Nazionali Associate (RNA – Associated National Radios), which gathers the Italian networks together, and from 2013 until the present he was president of the DAB Italia Consortium.

Very attached to the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery on the island of San Giulio in Lake Orta, he became a Benedictine oblate on 27 December 2000.

Emanuele worked incessantly and with a great spirit of sacrifice until the last day of his earthly life to fully realize the Radio Maria Project in the world, encouraging and guiding all of us working together on that project.

He was called to the Father’s house on 8 July 2020.

He was an example of humility and tenacity in the faith and will be remembered by all as a tireless missionary at the service of the Church and the Virgin Mary.

**News item 2 – Abp Cardone calls for unity and respect**

Archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Honiara, Chris Cardone OP, has called for unity and respect from the people and Churches in Solomon Islands.

The call was expressed in a letter published on 8th July, a day after the country’s 42nd Independence Day celebrated on 7th July. In the letter he commanded Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare’s speech during the day that highlighted the need for unity and respect for all people.

Abp Cardone cautioned of the influence of social media on society. He implored people to use it for charitable causes that were aimed at positive nation building.

He reflected on how some of the Churches and its members habitually lacked respect for members of the Catholic Church and other people who worshiped on Sunday, and encouraged for Church leaders to tell their preachers and pastors to respect all churches and faith communities.

In promoting unity and respect, he urged for all people to pray the Lord’s prayer and call onto God for guidance toward the path of unity.

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**News item 3 – Mendi confident of overcoming challenges**

Despite the list of challenges - violence, polygamy, bride price, other societal problems, the Catholic Diocese of Mendi; remains adamant to resolving these issues.

This was the affirming sentiment expressed by Bishop of Mendi, Donald Lippert, on Monday 6th July, in a written statement that outlined the challenges and solutions to reviving the once peaceful township.

Bp Donald told of how sorcery accusation violence and tribal wars continued to remain prevalent causing a moral breakdown in society. He maintained that efforts were being made by the diocese to lessen its practice. He said that what was most needed was a conversion of mind and heart that could only be achieved through the aid of the Churches.

He discouraged the practice of compensation that often led to perpetrators going unpunished at the expense of victims, and called for active enforcement of the law to apprehend law breakers.

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**News item 4 – Bereina celebrates 135 Years since First Eucharist**

On 4th July 2020 the Diocese of Bereina celebrated 135 years since the arrival of French MSC Missionaries to Yule Island and its first Eucharist celebrated on 4th July 1885.

Bishop of the Diocese, Bp Otto Serpary, celebrated the thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration. Due to Covid19, only parishes in Yule Island were present for the celebration.

Meanwhile communities from around the Diocese of Gizo in Solomon islands witnessed a special exchange when Rev Fr Fred Guadalupe, took up his role as the ‘care taker’ to its newly erected parish on Taro Island. The handover ceremony held on July 5th, was done through two simple signs: the handing over the key of the Tabernacle and of the Stole.

Fr Kobakina who will take some time to recover in his health expressed gratitude to the people and encouraged them to be faithful and generous in their support to Fr Fred who at the same time expressed his availability and readiness to offer his best to the community.

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**News Item 5 – Special Annual Retreat amidst lockdown**

Amidst the corona virus pandemic, confreres of the Salesian Vice-Province of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands gathered for their annual retreat at the Provincial House, Boroko, Port Moresby.

The retreat commenced on the 5th July and concluded on 11th July 2020. This special time of grace with restrictions on travel, prevented the attendance of conferees from Solomon Islands and from the communities of Kumgi and Vunabosco.

Twelve confreres from the different houses of Port Moresby and Araimiri were present for the retreat. They were priests, brothers and practical trainees who are missionaries from eight countries and four continents. This unique retreat had a special format that gave each confrere an occasion to pray, listen and share.

The retreatants spent the days in silence and were guided to reflect on the recent 28th General Chapter, the message of the Holy Father Pope Francis to the members of the chapter, Lectio Divina, celebration of the sacraments and deep reflective sharing. It was a special time of active listening and inspiration.

The ‘Salesian Sacrament of Presence’ is a challenge that reminds us to constantly return to Don Bosco and be evangelizers of the young.

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**News item 6 – COVID-19 Awareness targets vulnerable groups**

A simple yet captivating COVID-19 and hygiene awareness was recently carried out with children from the St Michael’s Catholic Parish in Hanuabada.

Held beside the Parish on Tuesday 7th July, the occasion had present Sisters from the Missionary of Charity (MC), staff of Caritas Australia and Colgate-Palmolive (PNG) Ltd, parish ground workers, and more than sixty children from the Goilala District in Central Province, residing in settlements behind Badihagwa.

The awareness facilitated by Caritas Australia targeted younger vulnerable groups who were more prone to bad hygiene practices and COVID-19 exposure. It involved lessons on correct brushing of teeth, preventing contraction and spread of COVID-19, distribution of 240 Hygiene Kits, and demonstrations for use of hygiene products.

According to Ms Charlotte Vada, Caritas Australia COVID-19 Disaster Management Coordinator, the development and distribution of Hygiene Kits is an activity under the Catholic Church's COVID-19 Joint Response Plan funded by the PNG Australia Partnership.

Regional Superior, Sr Anto Theresa MC, thanked both organisations for their support. She said despite the overwhelming number of children, she reassured that the Sisters of MC would continue its efforts to help and advocate for proper hygiene practices.

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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.**