**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 Nigel Akuani and I am Rosemary Yambune with the news.**

**Our stories for the week:**

1. **Pope announces WCD Theme for 2021**
2. **Cluny Sisters mark Golden Jubilee**
3. **SVD Celebrates 125-Years in PNG**
4. **Obituary for late Bishop Bill Fey OFM Cap**
5. **Right Relationships Workshop held in Highlands**
6. **DMI sisters commence works of mercy for 2021**

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**News Item 1 – Pope announces WCD Theme for 2021**

Pope Francis officially announced the theme of the 55th World Communication Day during the eve of the feast of St Francis de Sales, on January 24th, 2021.

The theme of WCD 2021 is ‘Come and see’. The Holy Father explained that, the theme reflects the Gospel account of the first disciple’s encounter with Jesus who invited them to ‘come and see’, to enter into relationship with him.

Pope Francis stressed that newsrooms should hit the streets to reduce soundbites that only reflects the viewpoints of “powers to be” and while journalists must continue, to be willing to go where no one goes and share the stories of the oppressed.

The Holy Father highlighted the importance of modern means of communication, especially, the internet and warned those present about misinformation circulated on the web. The Pope then concluded his emphasis on the theme saying, “in communications, nothing can ever completely replace seeing things in person”.

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**News item 2 – Cluny Sisters mark Golden Jubilee**

The Catholic congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny (SJC) marked 50 years of faithful service in Papua New Guinea with a thanksgiving mass on Saturday 23rd January, 2021.

The small group of Sisters who started their work in 1971 come from Australia, India, Philippines and PNG have served and continue to serve the people of Kamina, Kotidanga and Kaintiba Local Level Government in the mountains of Gulf Province.

With the theme ‘Missionary disciples for a new world,’ the Golden Jubilee celebration was held at the St Joseph’s Parish in Boroko and had Cardinal Sir John Ribat MSC, Archbishop of Port Moresby as the main celebrant with concelebrants Abp. Mathew Vayalunkal, Apostolic Nuncio to PNG-SI, Bp Pedro Baquero sdb, Bishop of Kerema and priests from the different congregations in the country.

In his homily, the Cardinal spoke of the Cluny sisters’ mission as teachers in the field and their commitment to their missionary despite the many challenges in the remote areas of Gulf Province. He encouraged the sisters to ‘let the peace of Christ rule in their hearts and that whatever they do, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father.’

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**News item 3 – SVD Celebrates 125-Years in PNG**

Religious and local priests, brothers and sisters from across the Highlands Region and PNG gathered to celebrate the 125 years’ Anniversary for the SVD Congregation in the Country.

The celebration was held at St. Paul’s Parish in the Archdiocese of Mt. Hagen on Friday 15th January on the feast of Blessed Arnold Janssen their founder. SVD missionaries serving in other dioceses across Papua New Guinea, Catholic Christians from the rest of Highlands Region gathered in numbers for the occasion.

Archbishop of Mt Hagen, Douglas Young, Fr. Bogdan Swierczewski, CSMA Vicar General of Mt. Hagen Archdiocese, and other invited guests, both religious and professionals, were present for the celebration.

Among the speeches made, the bishop gave a brief historical account of SVDs arrival and establishment in PNG. Fr. Vincent Agbeyome-Akpah, SVD said they chose to make the anniversary celebration small and simple following the charism of their founder.

The SVDs are the very first Mission Congregation to arrive in PNG on 13th August 1896 at Madang, where today they now serve in seven dioceses across PNG.

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**News item 4 – Retired Bishop Bill Fey passes on**

The recently retired Bishop of the Diocese of Kimbe, Bishop William Fey, passed away on Tuesday 19th January, in the United States from COVID-19 related illness.

Late Bp Fey served 57 years as a Capuchin friar, 42 years as a priest and 10 years as a bishop. In 2010, he was appointed as the Bishop of Kimbe and was instrumental in the work of Ecumenism during his service as the Secretary of Ecumenism of the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI.

Bp Fey’s body was received at Our Lady of the Angels Church, Lawrenceville, on Sunday Evening, January 24th. His Funeral Mass was held on 25th of January on the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, at Our Lady of the Angels Church, after which his body was transported to burial at St. Mary of the Assumption Cemetery.

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**News Item 5 – Right Relationships Workshop held in Highlands**

A special workshop organized by the Right Relationship in Ministry Commission of the Catholic Bishops Conference, was held on behalf of contact persons in the Highlands region.

The workshop from 11th to 15th January 2021, was conducted at Rebiamul in the Archdiocese of Mount Hagen, and had nine participants from the five dioceses in Highlands Region. The objectives of the workshop were to familiarise participants with the protocols of RRM; understand their role and responsibilities as contact persons; and to be informed of the laws and legislations to consult should a case ever arise.

In his address Archbishop of Mt Hagen, Douglas Young, told of the importance of protocols, the protection of children, the vulnerable, and the church, and said “contact persons are seen as agents of purification, of healing and reconciliation, which consists in justice, forgiveness, peace and truth for both parties,”.

According to Sr Ancy John, Secretary of RRMC, the workshop was to update and increase the number of trained contact persons in each diocese for purposes of reporting any form of sexual abuse by clerics, religious or church workers.

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**News item 6 – DMI sisters commence works of mercy for 2021**

**Port Moresby:**The congregation of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate reiterated their works of mercy to empower women and caring for children, on a high note and clear focus for 2021.

On January 3, 2021, Sr Catherine DMI conducted a formal meeting for Catholic Women from Boregaina village in Central Province, which saw many women who agreed to be empowered, by joining the Self-Help Group.

23 dropouts were successfully admitted to the Tuition Centre in Pari village operated and run by the DMI sisters, on January 21st, 2021. These students would later be admitted in regular school with school uniforms provided by the DMI sisters.

The DMI sisters are currently operating Tuition Centres in five settlements and two villages that enrol and educate children from ages 8 to 15 years old in Kogeva, Pari, Sabama and Orokoro.

The DMI sisters are also preparing to open a new Vocational Skills centre and to start their Catering and Sewing Training for women and girls in the settlement.

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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.**