**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: Religions must unite in contemplation and action**
2. **Daru Kiunga Diocesan Assembly ends on high note**
3. **4-Year Diocesan Plan launched by Daru-Kiunga**
4. **For a New National Christian Identity**
5. **Passion & Purpose: A Quest for Life**
6. **Press Conference on the Constitutional Law and Reform**
7. **Young People Encouraged to Develop Skill of Taking an Initiative**

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**News Item 1 – Pope: Religions must unite in contemplation and action**

On the first stop of his Apostolic Journey to Slovakia, Pope Francis urges an ecumenical gathering to resist the temptation of interior slavery with the twin forces of contemplation and action.

Pope Francis commenced his visit to Slovakia on Sunday 14th September 2021, afternoon by meeting with the country’s Ecumenical Council of Churches.

The event was held at the Apostolic Nunciature, and included representatives from the eleven-member Churches of the Ecumenical Council, in which Slovakia’s Catholic Bishops’ Conference enjoys observer status.

In his speech to those gathered, the Pope expressed his appreciation for the chance to become “a pilgrim in Slovakia”, and said he was pleased that his first meeting in the EU member nation had an ecumenical nature.

He described it as a sign that the Christian faith is, and desires to be a seed of unity and leaven of fraternity in the country. Pope Francis appealed to Christians not to fall into this same trap of trading freedom for “little bread, spaces and privileges.”

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**News item 2 – Daru-Kiunga Diocesan Assembly ends on high note**

The 2021 Diocesan Assembly of Daru-Kiunga came to a formal close on Wednesday 4th September 2021, with participants expressing satisfaction at the meeting’s positive outcome.

The Assembly that commenced on Friday 3rd September, was held at the Blessed Peter To Rot Formation Centre, and had as its theme, ‘*Go Deeper into the Heart of Jesus Christ’*. The program was facilitated by Fr Andrew Moses, Vicar General of Daru-Kiunga and Pastoral Vicar of the Diocesan Team of Pastoral Animation (DTPA). Present throughout were Bishop-Emeritus, Gilles Cote’ SMM, and Bishop of Daru-Kiunga Joseph Durero SVD.

Also actively involved in the program were 82 participants that included Priests, Seminarians, Religious, Diocesan Administration Staff, and representatives from the diocese’s different parishes located in the districts of North-Fly, Middle-Fly and South-Fly of Western Province.

When asked if he was pleased with the Assembly’s outcome, Bp Gilles described it as positive which was reflected by their active involvement and openness in sharing and participating in group discussions.

Fr Andrew in his emphasis of the Assembly’s significance, said it gave clear indication of direction and necessary plan of action to be implemented for the overall wellbeing of the Diocese.

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**News item 3 – 4-Year Diocesan Plan launched by Daru-Kiunga**

As a way to officially launch the 4-year Diocesan Plan of the Diocese of Daru-Kiunga, a Eucharistic Celebration was held to mark the special occasion.

The launching mass for ‘Phase 3 of Stage 2’ of the Diocesan Plan was held on Thursday 9th September, in the St Gerard’s Cathedral in Kiunga. It was celebrated by newly ordained Bishop of Daru-Kiunga, Joseph Dureoro SVD. Bishop Emeritus, Gilles Cote SMM, and thirteen priests concelebrated at the Eucharist. It also had in attendance Religious, Seminarians, and lay faithful from the surrounding and nearby communities.

In the homily presented by Bp Gilles, he reflected on the theme ‘Go Deeper into the Heart of Jesus Christ’, and urged for the people to work closely with their new bishop to make certain that this vision is achieved by 2025.

In accordance with the new Bishops motto, the goal of the 4-year Diocesan Plan was to ensure that the diocese grew deeper in promoting and living the values of Openness, Hope, Love and Faith. It will commence in year 2022 and continue till 2025.

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**News item 4 - For a New National Christian Identity**

“The 46th PNG Independence celebration comes at a time when the country is particularly in search of a renewed sense of identity,” said Rev Fr Giorgio Licini PIME, General Secretary of the Catholic Bishop Conference, in a recent press release.

According to the statement, “The individual and typical features of the eight hundred and more original tribes and languages increasingly fade into a common melting pot, which begs for new reasons of social unity and sustainable cohesion.”

Fr Giorgio outlined that the traditional Christian denominations, also known as mainline Churches, clearly focus on Christianity, and they consider the New Testament as the most relevant part of the Sacred Scriptures and see the Old Testament as a foundation and a preparation to it.

He said a true Christian identity was what we all always longed for.

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**News item 5 – Passion & Purpose: A Quest for Life**

An overnight retreat was held at Sivarai Namona, the Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre, Bomana that had the participation of eight executive members of the Catholic Professionals Society (CPS).

It was held from 10th to 11th September and was entitled: Passion and Purpose, a quest for Life. It animated by Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, Spiritual Director of CPS.

In a very welcoming environment, quiet and prayerful atmosphere the retreat offered the participants a time of prayer, reflection and sharing of personal experiences. It gave each one the opportunity to be inspired by reflective questions, refill oneself with vital spiritual energy from the Lord, and be nourished and enlightened to deal with the issues ahead.

The retreat was well planned and organized by the Formation group. Participation and interaction have given the members a clearer focus and greater commitment.

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**News Item 6 – Press Conference on the Constitutional Law and Reform**

The Catholic Professionals Society of Papua New Guinea has made a stern call to the Government to bring to the public’s attention the actual texts of the Amendment Bill including the reports and recommendations of the Constitutional and Law Reform Commission (CLRC).

This call was made by Mr Paul Harricknen, President of the Catholic Professionals Society (CPS) during a Press Conference held at the St. Joseph’s Parish Hall, Boroko on 9th September, in response to the Government’s K2 million Inquiry by the CLRC to declare PNG as a Christian State and the proposed K5 million Unity Pillar.

Speaking at the press conference, Mr. Harricknen, said they are not against the proposals but are very much concerned about the motives behind the way it was proposed as it would cause a major ideological shift from freedom of religion and separation of Church and State.

The CPS is now calling on the government to let the people decide in the 2022 General Elections as that would be democratic.

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**News item 7 – Young People Encouraged to take Initiative**

“Young people must be able to use initiative to sustain themselves rather than wait for those in authority.” This was the message relayed by the students of Limana Vocational Training Centre on their Chat Room program on Wednesday 8th September.

Beginning with an explanation on what Taking Initiative meant, grade 9 student, Rose Kome said it was the ability one possessed to be proactive in life; doing things without being told to; to act rather than to react. This meant being resourceful towards situations around you, contributing positively to them.

John Fagu, currently in grade 9, stressed on the values and benefits of taking initiative. He said it started at home on an individual level and parents were the first teachers to teach and instill this life skill in their children as they grew up.

Chat Room’s next session on Wednesday 15th September, will have students from Don Bosco Technological Institute talk on the significance of Dialogue and Conversing.

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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.**