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

**Air Date: 15/ 04/2020**

**Our stories for the week:**

1. **Pope Francis Easter message**
2. **Easter mass on NBC TV: Do not be afraid**
3. **Thirteen passed basic tailoring course**
4. **COVID-19 awareness by DMI sisters**
5. **Parishioners spent Easter in giving**

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**News item 1** – **Pope Francis Easter message: The contagion of Hope**

# Millions of people watched and listened via the internet as the Pope repeated the Easter proclamation:

# Christ, my hope, is risen! He called this message “a different contagion”, one that is transmitted from heart to heart.

# The Good News is like a new flame that springs up “in the night of a world already faced with epochal challenges, and now oppressed by a pandemic severely testing our whole human family”, said the pope.

# Christ’s resurrection is not a magic formula that makes problems vanish, he continued, “it is the victory of love over the root of evil. The Pope said this victory does not by-pass suffering and death, but passes through them, opening a path in the abyss, transforming evil into good.

# The Holy Father thoughts directed towards comforting those affected by the coronavirus, he expressed gratitude and affection to doctors and nurses, and “to all who work diligently to guarantee the essential services necessary for civil society and to the law enforcement and military personnel who in many countries have helped ease peoples difficulties and sufferings”.

# Pope Francis encouraged audience to work for the common good, put aside differences, urging everyone not to be self-centred, divided and forgetful.

# He concluded his message with a prayer that reads: “May Christ, who has already defeated death and opened for us the way to eternal salvation, dispel the darkness of our suffering humanity and lead us into the light of His glorious day”.

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**News item 2 – Easter mass on NBCTV**

Cardinal Sir John Ribbat together with the Secretary for DHERST Fr Jan Czuba celebrated the Easter Mass on April 11th live on NBCTV.

The program started around 9am in the morning and ended 11am. In his homily Fr Jan Czuba shared from the Gospel of Mathew with a clear introductory message; Do not be afraid.

He emphasized on how Jesus reminded us so many times in the Gospels not to be afraid.

“Today when we watched the news both local and international news, there is only one headline: Corona Virus of COVID-19” Fr Jan said. He also added that Jesus was human as well as divine, He knew we needed to hear these words “Do not be afraid”.

Fr Jan concluded his homily saying God will help us to go through these difficult times, but we have to do our part and practise the basic hygiene habits as encouraged.

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**News item 3 – Thirteen certified for sewing course**

Thirteen women have been awarded certificates after completing a two weeks tailoring course successfully on April 11 at Lorretto Hostel in Port Moresby.

Coordinated by Servants of St Joseph’s Sisters, the women were taught the basics of sewing as part of a community program.

Finance officer for CBC, Aida Makis expressed how grateful she was to have gained the skill of sewing especially as a working class. She said the sisters made it simple that one should know how to just cut the patterns in order to pass few other skills.

The Sisters have been delivering skills to mothers on basic cooking and sewing, this was part of their initiative.

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**News item 4 – COVID-19 awareness by DMI sisters**

The Daughters for Mary Immaculate congregation conducted an awareness on COVID-19 in settlements around Port Moresby last month as part of their women development activity.

DMI sisters informed over 300 local community members on the awareness and prevention of COVID-19 through mobilization and development seminars. The awareness encouraged people to realize the importance of hand washing, face washing, social distancing maintenance, staying home, and utilization of organic medicines to prevent COVID-19.

The Sisters have been positively impacting the lives of woman and children in the settlement of Port Moresby.

Sr Cathrine of DMI, says they have been conducting programs to up skill the women in various turf by creating Self Help Group. This has obstructed women to play a better role in their families and in the society, “we are happy to share our women development activities”.

The DMI congregation have also circulated their latest issue of their “PNG Messenger”, magazine, containing a recount of their pastoral works in particular the women development activities.

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**News item 5 – Parishioners spent Easter in giving**

The Missionaries of Marianhill in Lae and Youths distributed cartons of noodles and biscuits to the need on Sunday, April 12th.

The cartons of noodles and biscuits were donated by Chairman for Lae Biscuits company Mr Ian Chow to 103.7 Catholic FM, as Easter gifts.

The group visited St Stephens, St. Martins, St. Sebastian, St. Patricks and Mary Queen of Peace.Priest in charge, Fr Brian Nonde was quoted saying “We give what we have received freely.

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