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

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

**Our stories for the week:**

# Pope: ‘No pandemic can turn off the light of Christmas’

# Live to serve with Honesty and Stewardship

# Christmas of Pandemic and Hope

1. **CCHS commemorates World AIDS Day**
2. **Positive Parenting for Better Childhood Development**
3. **CPS condemns proposed sand mining**
4. **Savio Haus Oratory Day 2020**

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# News Item 1 – Pope: ‘No pandemic can turn off the light of Christmas’

“There is no pandemic or crisis that can turn off the light of Christmas,” Pope Francis affirmed, as he greeted the faithful present in St. Peter’s Square during the Sunday Angelus of 6th December. The Holy Father urged the faithful to allow this light to enter into their hearts and to reach out toward those who were most in need.

Recalling how Christmas trees were being erected and decorated, the Pope said that in many homes these symbols of Christmas were set up for the delight of children, and also for those who no longer were children.

He said they were symbols and signs of hope, especially during this difficult time, and invited Christians not to stop at the symbols, but to go beyond and understand their meaning. He reminded people that Christmas was about welcoming God once again to be born in us and in our midst.

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**News item 2 – Live to serve with Honesty and Stewardship**

The Don Bosco Technological Institute held an extravagant graduation ceremony in honour of its 194 graduating students during its 19th Graduation Rite.

The ceremony held on Thursday 3rdDecember, in the institute’s Gymnasium, had as its theme: ‘Live to serve with honesty and stewardship’ and was graced by the presence of Archbishop Emeritus of Rabaul, Francisco Panfilo SDB, as its keynote speaker. Special guests, parents, guardians, friends, and over a thousand people showed up to congratulate the young graduates.

Archbishop Panfilo in his address, commended graduates for their achieved milestone and encouraged them to be bridges that linked humanity toward striving for the common good of all especially amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reflecting on the adverse circumstances in society haunting Papua New Guinea, he called on the young men and women to be competent and full of character to be able to tackle these issues.

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# News item 3 – Christmas of Pandemic and Hope

“It is not going to be a very happy Christmas this year. Still the baby laid in a manger is a ray of hope. The smile we share can be more contagious than the virus still haunting us,” said Fr Giorgio Licini PIME, General Secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference of CBCPNGSI, in his recently written Christmas message to the country.

He said though Papua New Guinea and the countries of the Pacific have been least affected in terms of infections compared to other parts of the world, the disruption still has been significant: affecting travel causing people to become stranded overseas; projects suddenly coming to a halt waiting for clarity; and many forced into losing their jobs.

However, he urged for Christians to be calm, thankful and open to optimism in the new year 2021, and to have a renewed sense of unity and service to the needy and suffering.

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**News item 4 – CCHS commemorates World AIDS Day**

Staff of Catholic Church Health Services were joined by many others in the country with awareness floats and prayer dedications as they commemorated World AIDS Day on Tuesday 1st December.

The day had as its theme: ‘Unite Communities to Reduce HIV’, and also had the participation of staff and clients of St Paul Urban Clinics, Gerehu Urban Clinic, VCCT Centres, St Therese in Hohola, and Matkomnai Health Sub-Centre in Kiunga. The floats were carried into markets, settlements and places of gathering around Gerehu to do awareness on the day.

The staff put on short plays and gave informative messages to show their support for people living with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and to remember those who died from the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

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**News Item 5 – Positive Parenting for Better Childhood Development**

The Family Life Commission of the Catholic Bishops Conference has commenced its Annual Family Life Coordinators Workshop for the year 2020, targeted at teaching and embracing positive parenting for better childhood development.

The workshop facilitated by Sr Lucy D’Souza, Secretary of the Family Life Commission, began on Wednesday 2nd December, and concluded on Thursday 10th December. It had 27 participants that included: Bishops, Priests, Religious, Laity, Family Life Coordinators and Safe House Managers from various dioceses, representatives of Caritas Australia and Commission Secretaries from CBCPNGSI.

According to Sr Ancy, the heart of the program focuses on three main areas, namely: ensuring children’s needs; strong relationships between parents and children; and developing parenting skills and knowledge.

Issues discussed ranged from: The Catholic Children’s Ministry Pillars; Lukautim Pikinini Act of 2015; Child Development Policy; Safe House operating manual; Parenting for child development; ‘Question and Answer sessions’ on cross cutting issues; and various spheres of child development.

A press conference highlighting the key issues raised in the workshop was held on 9th December, at 1pm. Please check before going out – Thanks

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**News item 6 – CPS condemns proposed sand mining**

The Catholic Professionals Society (CPS) and the Individual and Community Rights Advocacy Forum (ICRAF) jointly expressed opposition to the proposed sand mining on North Coast of Madang in a media conference held on 3rd December, in Port Moresby.

President of Catholic Professionals Society and Chairman of the Individual & Community Rights Advocacy Forum, Mr Paul Harricknen, has called on the Conservation and Environment Protection Authority to undertake its statutory process of consultation and make its position clear on the proposed sand mining project. Archbishop of Madang and President of the Catholic Bishops Conference, Anton Bal, also joined the press conference and supported the position made by the Catholic Professionals.

Meanwhile, the Catholic Professionals Society (CPS) concluded the year with a Thanksgiving Eucharistic on Saturday, 28th November at Mary Queen of the Pacific Parish, Waigani. Present for the celebrations were members of the Catholic Professionals, religious, representatives of the laity and friends. Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, CPS Spiritual Director of the Catholic Professionals celebrated the Thanksgiving Eucharist.

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**News item 7 -** **Savio Haus Oratory Day**

The three Savio Haus Oratory centres of Bomana, Keto and Nebiri have closed up the year’s Sunday Oratory activities at Nebiri Village in Port Moresby. The closing ceremony held on Sunday 29th November, had more than 250 Oratorians present, with the company of their parents, guardians and friends.

The three Oratory centres were organized and facilitated by the aspirants of Savio Haus Bomana, with Br. Peter Khai as the Coordinator. The aspirants of Savio Haus Bomana together with a few volunteers from Don Bosco Technological Institute, organized the program.

The day began with morning mass in the St. Patrick’s Chapel of Nebiri, celebrated by Fr. Dominic Kachira SDB. In his homily, Fr. Dominic reminded faithful of the season of advent and urged for them to multiply their good works in preparation for Christmas.

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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.**