**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 with the news. Our stories for the week:**

1. **Pope at Regina Coeli: Risen Jesus dispels our fears and unbelief**
2. **3rd General Assembly on Salt and Light**
3. **Denglagu Parish Remembers Divine Mercy Sunday**
4. **DBTSS celebrates International Earth Day**
5. **SOCOM Seminar Announcement**

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**News Item 1 – Pope at Regina Coeli: Risen Jesus dispels our fears and unbelief**

At the Regina Coeli prayer on Divine Mercy Sunday, Pope Francis says the Risen Jesus wishes to return to stay with us and only waits for us to seek Him, since He is always ready to help us overcome our fears and unbelief.

The Holy Father led the recitation of the Regina Coeli prayer in St. Peter’s Square with forty thousand pilgrims on Divine Mercy Sunday and suggested that we focus on the Apostle Thomas and Jesus.

The Pope pointed out how Thomas represents us all as we too struggle at times like Thomas wishing to actually see the Lord or seeking a concrete sign of the Lord’s presence and Love.

In order to overcome our moments of weariness and crisis, we need to be reassured that the ‘Risen Lord wishes to stay with us’ and only awaits us to seek him to call upon him.

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**News item 2 – 3rd General Assembly on Salt and Light**

The 3rd General Assembly of the Catholic Church of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands was held from 21st to 26th April with 111 delegates in attendance from all 19 dioceses in Mingende, Simbu Province.

The six-day program had as its theme ‘Salt and Light’ and dwelt on reigniting the faith of the people of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

It focused on the History of the General Assembly, sharing of experiences and Synodality from Diocesan representatives, Diocesan Situation-Report presentation, Discussion on proposals, Planning and Formation of Conference Pastoral Plan, and the constant need to build the Catholic Faith and Voice in current social issues of governance.

The distinguished delegates included Bishops, Priests and Religious, Secretaries from CBCPNG&SI, Church Leaders and Coordinators, Lay and Chaplains, support staff, and media personnel of Catholic Communications.

The Assembly was facilitated by Fr Victor Roche svd, New Evangelization Secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI.

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**News item 3 – Denglagu Parish Remembers Divine Mercy Sunday**

More than a hundred Catholic parishioners from the Kundiawa-Gembogl District of Mitnande LLG, attended a special Eucharistic Celebration in reverence of Divine Mercy Sunday.

It was held at the Denglagu Parish of the Diocese of Kundiawa and had Bp Joseph Durero of the Diocese of Daru-Kiunga as the main celebrant.

In his homily, he emphasized the importance of Divine Mercy Sunday and said it was a reminder to constantly seek God’s mercy and love.

Stressing the importance for faithful to recognize their purpose amidst such troubling times, Bp Durero, urged for all Christians to actively steer the multitude into the Good News of Jesus.

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**News Item 4 – DBTSS celebrates International Earth Day**

Students of Don Bosco Technical and Secondary School marked International Earth Day by cleaning the city of Kokopo on Saturday, April 23rd.

This activity followed a program on Servanthood and Leadership that was organized by the school with the objective to allow students to be sensitive to the well-being of our Common Home, in the sense of volunteerism and to be leaders in the future.

International Earth Day is a global celebration that is commemorated annually on April 22nd. This year’s theme was ‘Invest in our Planet.’

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**News item 5 – SOCOM Seminar Announcement**

The Social Communications Commission of the Catholic Bishops Conference is hosting a week-long seminar for its diocesan coordinators in the month of May.

It will be held from 16th to 20th May and has as its theme ‘Listen. Do everything with Love.’

According to SOCOM Secretary, Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, the aim is for each participant to write news articles on a weekly basis, publish regular newsletters for the diocese and organise seminars in the parishes for youths and other groups.

Requirements include two participants from each diocese with a registration fee of K300 per person. For more information, please contact the SOCOM Desk at CBC.

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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.**