**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:**

1. **Pope at Angelus: ‘God’s Love Never Ceases to Amaze’**
2. **Celebrating 25 years of the beatification of Bl Peter ToRot**
3. **Bishop of Kimbe Announces Retirement**
4. **Abp Panfilo Releases Book on Customary Land in PNG**
5. **New Evangelization in Papua New Guinea today**
6. **Churches Education Council Raises Concern over School Fee Policy**

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# News Item 1 – Pope at Angelus: ‘Never Ceases to be Surprised by God’s Love for Us’

Today’s Gospel continues to speak to us of the manifestation of Jesus, and invites us to never cease to be surprised by God’s love for us. Pope Francis made the reflection to the pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square for the Angelus Prayer on Sunday 19th January.

He said on this second Sunday of Ordinary Time people were required to start anew their journey of faith. He explained that the liturgy of the day is linked to the Epiphany and to the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus, celebrated last Sunday.

He reflected on the reading that tells of how John the Baptist, after having witnessed the Spirit coming down from heaven and consecrating Jesus could not hold back the urgent desire to bear witness to Christ.

His testimony, Pope Francis said, “invites us to begin anew from Jesus Christ, the Lamb full of mercy whom the Father has given for us. Let us be surprised once again by God's choice to be on our side, to show solidarity with us sinners, and to save the world from evilby taking the burden totally upon Himself.”

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**News item 2 – Celebrating 25 years of the beatification of Bl Peter ToRot**

A solemn Eucharistic celebration was held on 18thJanuary to thank the Lord for the beatification of Bl Peter ToRot, by Pope St John Paul II, twenty-five years ago. The celebration was organized by the Bl Peter ToRot foundation. Friends of Bl Peter ToRot rendered their harmonious voices in the choir and led the offertory procession.

The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Bp Rochus Tatamai, CBC President and Bishop of Keviang. Concelebrating with him were Fr John Willio, Fr Urban Kalimet, Fr Ambrose Pereira, Fr Reynold Caigoy and Fr Victor Roche.

Bp Rochus recalled the celebration at St Guise stadium, Port Moresby and recited the words of the Holy Father, ‘Papua New Guinea has come of age, in having a lay person beatified’, he reminded all present not to be afraid of holiness.

He highlighted aspects of Bl Peter ToRot – as catechist, faithful husband and loving father.  He stressed on the lived reality of our Catholic faith and the celebration of the Sacraments especially the Sacrament of Marriage.

At Rakunai, Archbishop Panfilo celebrated a mass on the 17thJanuary while Cardinal John Ribat blessed a shrine dedicated to Bl Peter ToRot in Brisbane on 19thJanuary, 2020.

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**News item 3 – Bishop of Kimbe Announces Retirement**

The dedicated Bishop of Kimbe Bp Bill Fey OFM, has announced his retirement to take effect on 25th January 2019. This was revealed in a piece dedicated to the departing Bishop, released by Mr. Brandon Zimmerman, Dean of Catholic Theological Institute and Inter-Religious Dialogue for PNG & SI.

Mr Zimmerman said that in addition to serving the Catholic Church as bishop, Bp Fey has been involved in Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Dialogue in Papua New Guinea for nearly 20 years, organizing meetings with the Lutherans, the Anglicans, and the Muslims.

He highlighted the Bishop’s past as Dean of Studies of the Catholic Theological Institute at Bomana, and described him as instrumental to starting the Lutheran-Catholic dialogue in 2003. On 19 October 2019, Bp Bill attended his last meeting with the Lutherans at Martin Luther Seminary in Lae.

Bp. Bill started the Muslim-Catholic dialogue in 2002, that gave the Muslim and Catholic leaders in Moresby an opportunity to learn about each other’s faith as well as to discuss similarities and differences.

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**News item 4 – Abp Panfilo Releases Book on Customary Land in PNG**

Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Rabaul, Francesco Panfilo sdb, has in this month of January released a book titled ‘Just Land Agreements’ endorsed by the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI.

The book emphasises on the growing need for justice and fair treatment of people in Commercial Agreements involving customary land in Papua New Guinea. It focuses on the Special Agricultural Business Lease, General Agreements that are unfair/unconscionable, Essential Requirement in Negotiating Agreements, and Implementing the National Goals and Directive Principals.

Archdioceses should expect to receive 100-copies, and Dioceses 50-copies. Concerned for the welfare of his people and working together with them, the book was developed. Abp Panfilo was appointed as Coadjutor Archbishop of Rabaul on 18th March 2010. He was installed as the Archbishop of Rabaul on 11th August 2011.

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**News item 5 – New Evangelization in Papua New Guinea today**

“What are the challenges facing the Catholic Church at this time? What are the solutions,” these were the questions posed to listeners by Fr Victor Roche svd, newly appointed Secretary for the New Evangelization Commission and former General Secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference.

The questions were raised during his proposal of a program to address current needs in the Church on Sunday 19th January at the CBC headquarters in Waigani.  Sixty persons, religious and laity were present for the session.

Fr Victor saidamong the challenges named were education and formation in faith for all adults, youth and children. He urged for New Evangelisation in the Catholic Church because God was been pushed into the background of people’s lives, causing world practices to take precedence over their faith.

He said the roadmap for Evangelization in Papua New Guinea in 2020-2030 required a collaboration with everyone in the country that involved networking with the Family Life Apostolate, Education and Christian Education, the Laity, Youth, Social Communication, the Society of Catholic Professionals, Religious men and women and the Clergy of PNGSI.

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**News Item 6 – Churches Education Council Raises Concern over Government Tuition Fee Subsidy**

The government’s newly introduced Government Tuition Fee Subsidy policy only creates more confusion for students, parents, guardians and sponsors.

This was the worrying fact raised during the first annual meeting of members from the Churches Education Council held on Friday 17th January 2020, at the Catholic Bishops Conference in Waigani. The CEC met in response to the call of Church Agency Heads expressing their concern of how the National Government Revised Tuition Fee Free Policy was introduced in a hasty way.

Chairman of the meeting and National Catholic Education Secretary Mr Michael Ova, said this was mainly due to the policy not being given ample time to be reviewed by experts. He said that a formal letter outlining their concerns of the policy and with recommendations for improvement had already been drafted and would be formerly lodged to the Minister for Education Hon. Joseph Yopyyopy.

Other issues discussed were the National Education Board Maximum Fees Limit, Commodity component, Student Project Fees, Agency Fees, Grant in Aid to Churches, and the importance of registering Teachers’ Colleges. 12 members were present each a representative from the seven mainline Churches in the country, namely: Anglican, Catholic, Seventh Day Adventist, Salvation Army, Baptist Four-Square, Evangelical Lutheran and the United Churches.

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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 Catholic Communications we wish you all an enjoyable week.**