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

**Air Date: 09/ 03/ 2022**

**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 at Angelus: Respond to temptation with the word of God**
2. **CBC Blessing of New Work Vehicles and Work Uniforms**
3. **Diocesan seminar for parish representatives**
4. **CPNG launches 2022 Lenten Appeal**
5. **Cross, Christ and Conversion**
6. **Students highlight role of young people during pandemic**

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**News Item 1 – Pope at Angelus: Respond to temptation with the word of God**

During the first Sunday of Lent in St Peter's Square, Pope Francis focused on Jesus' forty days in the desert and his temptation by the devil.

The Pope explained that the desert 'symbolises the struggle against the seductions of evil, in order to learn to choose true freedom'.

The Pope explained that 'happiness and freedom do not lie in possessing but in sharing, not taking advantage of others but in loving them, not in obsession of power but in the joy of service'.

The Holy Father urged everyone to be vigilant and invited the faithful to look to Jesus 'who does not seek to compromise, does not make agreements with evil'.

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**News item 2 – CBC launches new look Uniforms and blessing of Vehicles**

Dynamic staff of the Catholic Bishops Conference PNGSI had all the reason to be excited as they took part in the launch of their new look uniforms and the blessing of two new vehicles.

The special ceremony held on Monday 7th March, at the CBC Centre Waigani, also had present members of the Central Committee, President of CBCPNGSI and Archbishop of Madang, Anton Bal; Archbishop Douglas Young SVD of Madang; Bishop of Mendi, Donald Lippert OFM Cap; Bishop Otto Separy of Bereina; and Fr Giorgio Licini PIME, General Secretary of CBC.

The launch, facilitated by Media Officer of CBC, Jessica Oata, had staff modelling two basic uniform types, a Professional Workwear and a locally designed Pacific Toana Wear, for both male and female, employed in the various divisions and commissions of CBC.

Following the exhibition of the professional workwear, a final blessing of the uniforms and staff was made by Abp Bal. The blessing of a brand-new white Nissan Urvan 15-seater Bus, and a grey Toyota 4WD Land Cruiser, was given by Abp Young, in the parking lot of the CBC Centre.

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**News item 3 – Diocesan seminar for parish representatives**

27 representatives from the parishes in the Diocese of Alotau were a part of a week-long seminar that focused on Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Prayer Leaders, Lectors, Animators and Parish Animators Team (PATs).

It was held at St Paul's Pastoral Centre at Hagita from 22nd February - 2nd March, with the aim to form and commission the representatives to take up the responsibilities in their communities of the parish.

The seminar was organized by Sr. Betty and Fr. Joe Ensing. It was facilitated by Sr. Betty, Rev. Japhet Kemali and Rev. Thaddeus B'Gaiva with the close assistance of Mr. Jeffery Benoma.

Bishop of Alotau, Rolando Santos, was grateful when preaching to the participants at the end of the seminar and emphasized on the care and responsibility to be given to the ministry.

Bp Santos concluded the seminar with a meaningful Eucharistic Celebration observing the Ash Wednesday Day and the beginning of the Lenten Season as well as commissioning the representatives to go out to do the mission of Christ.

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**News Item 4 – CPNG launches 2022 Lenten Appeal**

Caritas Papua New Guinea launched its 2022 Lenten Appeal Campaign on 2nd March following a special Mass that marked Ash Wednesday and the start of the Season of Lent.

Held at the Catholic Bishops Conference, the launching saw the presence of Fr Giorgio Licini, General Secretary and staff of CBC.

In presenting the launch, Director of Caritas PNG, Mavis Tito, said the Lenten Appeal is a six-week campaign that starts during the Lenten Season and has as its theme for the year ‘Giving with a smiling heart’.

It was a fitting occasion for the launch as Fr Giorgio reflected during his homily on the Gospel of Matthew and the three practices of the Lenten Season. He highlighted prayer, fasting and almsgiving or charitable deeds.

He encouraged those present that this season is a time for God and for others as we put ourselves aside and commit to meeting the needs of others with a clean heart and conscious.

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**News item 5 – Cross, Christ and Conversion**

Ash Wednesday was a rainy day with freezing temperatures and gusty winds, but that did not stop the 1025 students of Don Bosco Technical School, Gabutu (DBTS) who braved the cold weather to come to school.

The students, educators and staff filled the Korunku Hall. Fr Ambrose Pereira, Spiritual Moderator and Fr Pedro Sachitula, Rector led the celebration. In his reflection, Fr Ambrose focused on these three points: The Cross being the symbol of God's endless love; Christ inviting each one of us to change; and Conversion as an inside job.

After the homily, all were invited to receive the ashes. It was a reminder to each one of the call to repentance, conversion and an invitation to believe in the Gospel. Prayers were also said for healing and health from COVID-19 and peace between Russia and Ukraine in our war-torn world.

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**News item 6 – Students highlight role of young people during pandemic**

The Chat Room Program for the year kicked off on Wednesday 2nd March, with students from Jubilee Catholic Secondary School (JCSS) who spoke on the topic “Role of Youths against COVID-19.”

All 5 students from the Eleventh Grade spoke with confidence and much conviction live on radio at the TribeFM Studio, Boroko.

Joyda Mokiri who made very strong recommendations for parents to take up the role in educating their children on current affairs and to always encourage their children to exercise the safety precautions in place to protect those around them from Covid19.

The dialogue with students from JCSS was proudly sponsored by WaterAid PNG, an affiliate of the International Non-Profit Humanitarian Organisation WaterAid.

Chat Room’s next session on Wednesday 9th March, will have students of Marianville Secondary School take on the topic ‘COVID-19 Pandemic and Opportunity for Youth Engagement’.

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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.**