**Weekly Catholic Church News aired on Radio Maria, Wednesday 22nd July 2020**

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

**Our stories for the week:**

**1. Pope at Angelus: God’s patience opens our hearts to hope**

**2. Bl Peter Torot celebration continues**

**3. Increasing awareness on COVID19 and Environment**

**3. Competitive selection criteria for CES and CEC**

**4. Mini Youth congress in Bereina**

**5. Founder of Radio Maria passes away**

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**News Item 1 – Pope at Angelus: God’s patience opens our hearts to hope**

“Jesus helps us understand and imitate the patience of God, opening our hearts to hope, to bring us closer to the Father who wants none of His children to be lost,” said Pope Francis at the Sunday Angelus of 19th July.

In his homily he reflected on the parable of the man who planted good wheat in his field, and how enemies would sow weeds among the wheat; and when wheat and weeds began growing together, the farmer’s servants desired to pull out the weeds.

He said the gospel presented two ways of acting and living history, “through the vision of the master, and the vision of the servant.” While the servants were focused on ridding the field of weeds, the master was concerned with the good wheat, and knows how to protect it even amongst the weeds.

Pope Francis warned against those who were always hunting for the limitations and defects of others. He said that only those who recognized good and silently grew in the field of the Church and history, cultivating it to maturity, can collaborate in the vision of God.

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**News item 2 – Bl Peter Torot celebration continues**

Parishioners in many dioceses nationwide continued the anniversary celebration of Bl Peter ToRot for his 75 years of Martyrdom and his beatification 25 years ago by St John Paul II.

St Joseph’s parish, Boroko celebrated the feast on Sunday 19 July 2020. The mass was celebrated by Fr Joseph Liaia, assistant parish priest while Fr John Curtis parish priest, concelebrated.

Fr Joseph reflected on the Gospel reading of Wheat and the Weeds in Mathew 13: 24-30 by relating Jesus’s parable to Bl. Peter ToRot’s life as an example of the good seed, a firm rock, sure commitment of faith and courage, especially during the times of war and Japanese occupation.

He said that the courage of Bl. Peter ToRot showed us the way to conquer any challenge that life presents us. Peter ToRot was an apostle, responding to the call of Jesus to the people of New Britain, PNG, and the World as a lay missionary. ToRot, he said, was a seed and the sower.

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**News item 3 – Increasing media awareness on COVID19 and Environment**

Eighteen students of the Communication Arts Department of Divine Word University have raised awareness on COVID-19 and the environment through short films and jingles.

The students from the second, third and fourth year were a part of a three-day Media Education Seminar held from 15th to 17th July 2020. The seminar was facilitated by representatives from the Social Communications Commission of the Catholic Bishops Conference in partnership with Caritas Australia and Radio Maria.

The first day of the seminar dwelt on the ‘New Normal’ and Risk Communications which was facilitated by Caritas Australia representative, Robin Lesley.

For the second day of the seminar, the sessions focused on the environment Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, Social Communications Secretary gave an informative session on Pope Francis’ Encyclical *‘Laudato Si’*where he challenged the students to care for our common home – ‘Mother Earth’. Charlotte Vada, Caritas Australia representative also spoke on climate change.

The three-day program concluded with a presentation of the 10 short films and 6 jingles on Friday, 17th July. Following the screening, the students were given certificates of participation. The seminar was hosted by CBC SOCOM in partnership with Divine Word University, SIGNIS International, MISSIO, Caritas Australia and Radio Maria. We acknowledge the funding received from the Australian Govt to Caritas Australia to fund this activity through the Joint Response Action Plan towards addressing COVID 19 in PNG.

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**News item 4 – Competitive selection criteria for CES and CEC**

There has to be a competitive selection criterion when screening persons applying for the Diocese positions of Catholic Education Secretary and Christian Education Coordinators.

This was revealed by Assistant Secretary for National Catholic Education, Ms Fiona Wenama, on Monday 20th July, after a recent monitoring and evaluation trip to several dioceses in the four regions of PNG.

She said nominating committed candidates to fit these roles remained a challenge and that most officers occupying these positions in dioceses were retired elderly individuals who often left work, soon after they were employed.

Ms Wenama added that the commission had presented a report during the AGM that suggested for an increase in salary for these positions and competitive selection criteria. She stated that this was to encourage suitable persons for the positions who were prepared to effectively carry out their duties under this role.

She told of how NCE currently offered a distant learning Leadership and Management diploma course that all CES and CEC were required to undergo.

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**News item 5 – Goilala youths attend Mini Youth Congress**

Sixty young people hailing from the Kuni Youth group in the Goilala district in Central province took part in the mini youth congress for the first time under the Bereina diocese.

The congress held from 10th to 13th July, was organized by Youth Congress Facilitator Mr. Jason Boboi. He said it was the first time for the youth group from Goilala to take part in the occasion that had many interactive activities that included talent shows, bible quizzes, and sessions based on youth participating in the church.

Secretary for Youth Commission of CBCPNGSI, Ms. Elizabeth Aribi as a guest during the occasion, encouraged the young to realize the need to receive the Eucharist. In her presentation she also dwelt on the Importance of the sacrament of reconciliation. Ms. Aribi said it was their first experience and from their reactions, they truly appreciated the occasion.

Young people that made up the Kuni youth group belong to Bakoidu, Inika, and Kubuna.

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**News item 6 - Founder of Radio Maria passes away**

Emanuele Ferrario, founder of Radio Maria has passed away on 8th of July, 2020.

Late Emanuele grew up in Busto Arsizio and attended the parish of San Michele and the oratory. He graduated in the field of accounting on 18th July 1948 and was working in Varese before marrying his wife Anna who gave him four children before she passed away from a brain tumor.

He first heard about a parish radio station called Radio Maria in Arcellasco d’Erba in 1986 that transmitted the messages of Medjugorje, he offered his collaboration and volunteered his free time.

In 1994, he began to take Radio Maria to other countries around the world. He promoted the foundation of an association as an organ for Radio Maria’s activities and became its president from its foundation in 1987 until 2016.

In 1998, he founded the World Family of Radio Maria non-profit, which today brings together 81 Radio Maria stations in 74 countries around the world. He was an example of humility and tenacity in the faith and will be remembered by all as a tireless missionary at the service of the Church and the Virgin Mary.

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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.**