**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: Recognizing Jesus as the living God**
2. **CBCPNGSI Finally Hosts 61st AGM**
3. **Apostolic Nuncio highlights Investment in Laity**
4. **Communicating change through short films**
5. **Human Rights Group Call for ‘End to Violence’**
6. **CPS Condemns Gender Based Violence**

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# News Item 1 – Pope: Recognizing Jesus as the living God

“The secret of a blessed and happy life is recognizing Jesus as the living God,” said Pope Francis at the Angelus prayer of 29th June.

The Holy Father dwelled on the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul and invited Christians to make their lives a gift that recognized Jesus as the living God. Pope Francis reflected on the life of Saint Peter, contrasting his deliverance from prison by an angel, with his later imprisonment in Rome and martyrdom.

He recalled the example of St Peter and how he transformed a place of execution into a beautiful place of hope, and urged faithful to not only entrust their problems to Jesus in times of need but also their lives.

Pope Francis explained that the Lord granted Saint Peter “many graces and freed him from evil” in the same way that He does to us. He added that everything else did not matter, except for the place each person gave Jesus in their lives, and prayed that each may put him at the centre of their daily lives.

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**News item 2 – CBCPNGSI Finally Hosts 61st AGM**

The Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea & Solomon Islands has commenced its much awaited 61st Annual General Meeting. The meeting from 23rd June to 3rd July, held at the CBC Headquarters in Gordons has as its theme: “Our Catholic Laity: Holy and Sent for Service”.

It has brought together 17 Bishops from the different dioceses of Papua New Guinea, 1 Administrator Delegate, and the General Secretary of CBCPNGSI. Bishops from the Solomon Islands were unable to join in due to the restrictions on travel.

It discusses church issues of faith, formation and evangelization and also issues that are of community and societal importance. The AGM originally set to be held in the month of April, was deferred due to the lockdown measures passed by the government to contain the COVID-19 outbreak in the country.

A Closing Mass will be given by the newly appointed CBC President on 2nd July at 5pm, before their departure the next day.

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**News item 3 – Apostolic Nuncio highlights Investment in Laity**

The Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, His Excellency Archbishop Kurian Matthew Vayalunkal, urged the Archbishops and Bishops to display compassion and to invest more in their laity.

The Apostolic Nuncio celebrated the Eucharist at the official opening of the 61st Annual General Meeting on the 26th June at the Catholic Bishops Conference, Waigani. Concelebrating with him were Bishops from the different dioceses of Papua New Guinea.

He dwelled on the theme: ‘Our Catholic Laity: Holy and Sent for Service’, and spoke of the important role the laity played in the formation and works of the church and implored for constant engagement of their laity in implementing their Diocesan Pastoral Plans.

The Nuncio said it was essential to give adequate formation to the laity and empower them to exercise their special role as Catholic laity in the life and mission of the Church in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. He said that although there were challenges, the Church was blessed to have many dedicated faithful, and urged bishops to reflect on their engagement with the laity and to adjust priorities for better effectiveness.

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**News item 4 – Communicating change through short films**

The Social Communications Commission of the Catholic Bishops Conference hosted its 3rdMedia Education Seminar for 2020 that had nine schools create and produce short films.

Held from 26th to 28th June at the Emmaus Conference Centre, Boroko, the short films focused on the theme ‘Keep it Clean. Go Green’ and the COVID-19 Precautionary measures.

The three-day program concluded with a presentation of eighteen short films. The films were screened by Archbishop Emeritus Francesco Panfilo sdb, newly appointed Archbishop Rochus Tatamai MSC, Bp Donald Lippert, principals from the different schools and invited guests.

The nine schools that participated in the seminar were from Don Bosco Technological Institute, Boroko; Don Bosco Technical School, Gabutu; Limana Vocation Centre, Gordons; De La Salle Secondary School, Bomana; La Salle Technical College, Hohola; Marianville Secondary School, Bomana; Caritas Technical Secondary School, Boroka; Jubilee Catholic Secondary School, Hohola and St Charles Lwanga Secondary School, Gerehu.

The program is a series of seminars hosted by CBC SOCOM with the sponsorship of Caritas Australia, SIGNIS International and several volunteers and benefactors.

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**News Item 5 – Human Rights Group Call for ‘End to Violence’**

Members of the Civil Society and Human Rights defenders in PNG have called for an end to all forms of violence. The call was made through a Press Release by the groups on 24th June.

A spokeswoman for the group representing Magna Carta Inc, Ms Shirley Kaupa said violence was a social pandemic in PNG societies and an epidemic that did not respect limits or borders.

Ms Marie Mondu, Development Secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference, said justice was not enough and called on the government to prioritise its commitment to end all forms of violence.

Secretary of the Laity Commission, Ms Eva Wangihama, said men should not use their masculinity to exert power over the weaker gender, and urged for government and its agents to re-educate men in proper moral and ethical behaviour.

The group called on the 8 million citizens of PNG not be mere spectators and observers of violent behaviour happening in their homes, workplaces, streets, and communities but to, “take a stand against any and all forms of violence.”

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**News item 6 – CPS Condemns Gender Based Violence**

The Catholic Professionals Society has joined the many groups of people in condemning the senseless and inhumane killing of women in Papua New Guinea.

This was stressed in a Media Statement by CPS made public on Thursday 25th June, following the recent and tragic death of young mother Jennelyn Kennedy.

The statement urged for all women to take extra care in their relationships, and called for men to take responsibility and maturity in dating women and taking women into their lives as spouses and girlfriends, “Women are not here to be used and thrown away, it is inconceivable and unacceptable.”

It called on the Government, churches and communities to double efforts in protecting women and vulnerable persons and groups, and for the enforcement agents of Government to seriously, professionally and faithfully enforce the laws.

It stated that Gender Based Violence (GBV) was an evil that needed eradication, and that offenders of such heinous crimes should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

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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 us all here at Catholic Communications, we wish you all an enjoyable week.**