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

**Air Date: 11/ 8/ 2021**

**Welcome to another week of Catholic Church News on Radio Maria. I am Isabella Saleu with the news.**

**Our stories for the week:**

1. **Pope: May we grow in friendship with Jesus, the Bread of Life**
2. **Pontifical Mission Societies hosts Annual Workshop**
3. **MC Sisters celebrate 25-Years in Southern Highlands Province**
4. **Rise up! Stay positive amidst COVID-19**
5. **The Risk of Media Disinformation**
6. **Opening of St Joseph chapel in Kwikila**
7. **Youth Engagement Vital to Combating Corruption**

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**News Item 1 – Pope: May we grow in friendship with Jesus, the Bread of Life**

Pope Francis reflected on the Gospel reading when Jesus reveals himself as the Bread of Life. The Holy Father emphasized that Jesus alone nourishes our soul and gives unending life when life on earth ends.

Addressing those who gathered at the Saint Peter’s Square for the Angelus of Sunday 8th August, the Holy father said that Jesus not only gives food to the people, but of Himself totally, his life, flesh, and heart, "so that we might have life".

Pope Francis reflected on how the Gospel recounts when the people were in doubt of who Jesus was when he revealed his identity as the ‘bread of life’.

In conclusion, the Pope encouraged us that when gathering with our families for a meal, we have to invite Jesus, the bread of life into our home. We have to for His blessing to bless us and be with us at the table so we can be fed by a greater love.

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**News item 2 – Pontifical Mission Societies hosts Annual Workshop**

Nineteen participants representing all the Dioceses of Papua New Guinea were part of the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) Workshop that was held at the CBC Conference Centre.

Participating in this workshop were 12 priests, 4 Religious sisters, seminarians, laity, and three resource persons. The resource persons were Fr. Victor Roche, the current PMS National Director, Fr. Valentine Gryk, SVD, the former PMS National Director for eleven (11) years, and Fr. Jack Pinocy, the Secretary to the Apostolic Nunciature and assisted by Sr. Emma Lapun.

The participants looked closer at the challenges in on-going faith formation for children, youth, students and adults through their group work. In all the sessions and activities, the main mission of PMS and the role and responsibilities of the PMS Diocesan Director were made clear during the workshop.

Fr. Jacek conveyed the message of the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Fermin Emilio Sosa Rodriguez that all must be faithful to this mission received. He said that they must do this task well in the spirit of responsibility because by doing so, we are giving a testimony and an evangelization.

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**News item 3 – MC Sisters celebrate 25-Years in Southern Highlands Province**

The Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity in Mendi Diocese celebrated the 25th Golden Jubilee at St Michael, Tente Parish in Southern Highlands Province.

The Missionary of the Charity Sisters came in Southern Highlands on 6th August 1996, and on Saturday 6th August 2021, marked 25-years of missionary work in Southern Highlands and Hela.

A eucharistic mass was held that had Bishop of Mendi, Donald Lippert, as its main celebrant. Present to celebrate the occasion were Priests and Religious, local men, women, children and youths from surrounding villages, including inmates from the Bueibi Holding Centre in Mendi.

The MC Sisters came to serve the missionary life to emphasize the characteristics of doing God's mission to be close to people, to work with the poor and the marginalized and to work closely with lay Faithfuls.

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**News item 4 – Rise up! Stay positive amidst COVID-19**

The International Short Film Festival staged on 7th August, at the Paradise Cinema was the climax of the Media Education Seminars for the year.

The four-hour program had thirteen films screened by eight catholic schools, two international groups and three local groups in PNG. Each film highlighted ‘Hope amidst COVID-19’ that brought about discussions and comments from an audience of over a hundred people.

Present at the ISFF21 were Fr. Jacek Pinocy, Secretary to the Apostolic Nuncio, Fr. Giorgio Licini, General Secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference, Mr Joseph Manteit, Second Secretary to the Australian High Commissioner, Mr Hidajat Hanafi, Manager of Super Value Store (SVS), Fr Gregorio Bicomong, Salesian Provincial, representatives from different Media houses, local film producers, principals, animators, media students, friends and families.

Facilitated by the Social Communications Commission of CBC, the young people rose to the challenge in a remarkable way during this time of the pandemic.

Secretary for SOCOM, Fr Ambrose Pereira said the purpose of media was to communicate and share messages of hope. He stated that the ISFF21 was a platform to inspire change.

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**News Item 5 – The Risk of Media Disinformation**

“The bottom line for media nowadays is the fight between truth and money, service and wealth,” said Fr Giorgio Licini, General Secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference PNGSI, as he highlighted the growing risk of media disinformation in the nation.

He warned that inaccurate information was disinformation and it only presented the public with a distorted point of view that hindered social progress and human development.

Referring to a recent case involving sorcery accusation-related violence in Southern Highlands, he expressed his dissatisfaction at the indiscriminate and dishonest reporting that was stated by a reporter.

He said publishing an inaccurate or incomplete story would cause reactions, stir debate, in some cases a real uproar, attracting statements of clarification, thus further enhancing the confrontation and possibly the advocacy.

Fr Giorgio stated that ‘Yes’ the newspaper’s front page should be attractive and interesting, but care should be exercised by journalists and those working in the media industry to ensure professional boundaries and personal integrity are maintained.

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**News item 6 – Opening of St Joseph chapel in Kwikila**

The Christian community of Kwikila in the Rigo District of Central Province joined the Catholic Community to celebrate the opening of the Saint Joseph’s Chapel on Thursday, August 5.

Present at the opening of the new church were high dignitaries in the likes of his Eminence Cardinal Sir John Ribat, the member for Rigo honourable Lekwa Gure, Kwikila Disrtict Administrator Koru Abe, Provincial Administrator for Central Province, Francis Koaba and others.

The opening was marked by the cutting of a ribbon followed by a blessing and thanksgiving mass in the chapel presided by Cardinal Sir John Ribat.

In his homily, Cardinal Ribat invited the people not only to keep the chapel clean but their bodies as well describing it as a holy dwelling place of God and therefore should be kept clean.

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**News item 7 – Youth Engagement Vital to Combating Corruption**

Vibrant and aspiring female students from Marianville Secondary School, have called for more interactive and visible engagement of youths in the uphill battle against corruption in the country.

The students, all in Grade-11, appeared for the Chat Room on Wednesday 4thAugust, to discuss the importance of ‘Engaging Youth in the Fight Against Corruption’.

Their talk focused on the definition of corruption and its various forms, corruption’s impact on society particularly on young individuals, the social, economic and political landscape, culture and how it affects moral values, duties of different organizations and commissions as mandated by law.

They also made a call to different media houses to provide more platforms such as ‘Chat Room’ for young people to openly express their views on social issues, and a strong encouragement for youths to start becoming vocal and critical about the governance of the country and its priorities.

Chat Room’s next session on Wednesday 11th August, will have students from Jubilee Catholic Secondary School discussing the importance of ‘Creating Opportunities for Young People’.

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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.**