**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:**

# Pope encourages Storytelling on World Communication Day

1. **Diocese of Bougainville Maintains Awareness**
2. **Silver Jubilee for Parish Priest**
3. **CPS highlights the issue of Same Sex Unions**
4. **Students raise awareness on COVID-19 and environment**
5. **Reflections on the plight of the Refugees**

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# News Item 1 – Pope Encourages Storytelling on World Communication Day

“May this event encourage us to tell and share constructive stories that help us to understand that we are all part of a story that is larger than ourselves,”said Pope Francis as he highlighted World Communications Day during the Regina Coeli prayer of Sunday 24th May.

He said this year’s World Communications Day was dedicated to the theme of storytelling, and prayed for all to help tell positive and inspiring stories that looked toward the future with hope.

As Pope Francis recalled World Communications Day, Dr Paolo Ruffini, Prefect of the Dicastery for Communication reflected on the Pope’s message and the Church’s role in building a new communications model founded on encounter.

Dr Ruffini stated that the recent experience of isolation and social-distancing due to the Covid-19 lockdown, helped many rediscover God’s presence that enabled them form a deeper relationship in Him. He said communication required a strong network that was global, local, digital and real, that served to unite and give freely.

He stressed that the pandemic was a chance to build welcoming communities founded on good forms of communication.

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**News item 2 – Diocese of Bougainville Maintains Awareness**

The Diocese of Bougainville has maintained the Covid-19 State of Emergency orders and awareness despite persistence from parishioners to attend Mass. This was confirmed by Caretaker of the Diocese, Fr. Polycarp Kaviak on Tuesday 19th May 2020.

He said that the Diocese adhered to restrictions imposed by the government and Church authorities since Day-1 of the declared State of Emergency. Despite the lockdown, he said the Church broadcasted mass over the radio to connect with its faithful. The lockdown has also seen reduction in jobs where selected offices were retained to maintain the Diocese's operation.

Meanwhile, Apostolic Administrator to the Catholic Diocese of Bougainville, His Grace Archbishop Francesco Panfilo sdb, is calling on priests and the faithful of Bougainville to pray for the election of a new Bishop for Bougainville.

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**News item 3 – Silver Jubilee for Parish Priest**

Many people from several parishes flooded into Par Parish to celebrate the Silver Jubilee and Birthday of Fr. Romeo Cac Yandao SVD, on 15th May, 2020.

Present to celebrate the occasion were Bishop Arnold Orowae, Fr. Victor Roche SVD, Former Secretary for the Catholic Bishops Conference, 18 priests from the diocese of Wabag, several brothers and sisters with invited guests and Christians.

In his homily he described how the Diocese of Wabag had become his home, and said that his travels to the remote parts of the Diocese over the many years brought him fulfilment. He urged the young priests to enjoy their priesthood in the company of their people.

Bp Arnold thanked him for his return to the Diocese, and said the diocese and its people were blessed to have him back.

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**News item 4 – CPS highlights the issue of Same Sex Unions**

The promotion of lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) flag is perceived to influence our government and country into an agenda that is against our faith, beliefs, and values.

Mr Paul Harricknen, President of the Catholic Professional Society, presented the LGBTQ issue at a press conference on 21stMay, at the Catholic Bishops Conference, Gordons. The Press Conference was due to the fact that various foreign organisations operating within Papua New Guinea recently raised the ‘rainbow flag’ to show their support for LGBTQ Groups.

Mr Harricknen urged for leaders of the government, civil services, churches and people, to become vigilant and aggressive against foreign aid donors and organisations whose policies could potentially harm the Christian fabric of Papua New Guinean societies.

Moderating the conference was Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, Social Communications Secretary of CBCPNGSI. He said that the public statement by CPS was one of respect and in no way wishes to create anger, hatred or violence toward the LGBTQ Groups.

An audience of 63 people from various Church denominations, media organizations, government departments and NGO’s present showed their support and concern. The Press Conference was broadcasted on Radio Maria and live streamed on Facebook. The conference ended with a closing prayer given by Fr Giorgio Licini PIME, General Secretary of CBCPNGSI.

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**News Item 5 – Students raise awareness on COVID-19 and environment**

The lively and energetic 2ndMedia Education Seminar for students concluded with a presentation of jingles and videos that raised awareness on COVID-19 and the environment. The participants are convinced to share what they have learnt and take on practical activities of tree planting and recycling.

Held at the Emmaus Conference Centre, Boroko on Sunday 17th May, the productions created by the students reinforced the precautionary measures circulated by the State of Emergency (SOE) controller and the seminar’s theme: “Keep it Clean. Go Green.”

Present to view the productions were Br Joy Mathew, Principal of St Charles Lwanga Secondary School, Gerehu; Charlotte Vada and Robin Lesley, Representatives of Caritas Australia; Maureen Lesley, Catholic Health Services Communication Officer and religious sisters.

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**News item 6 – Reflections on the plight of the Refugees**

Many refugees left behind in PNG continue to suffer from ongoing detention and serious health problems. This was the insight shared by Mr Jason Siwat, Outreach Officer of Caritas PNG, in a published report on 30th April 2020.

According to Mr Siwat, most of these men were suffering from varying levels of stress, anxiety and other lifestyle diseases that require specialist medical attention outside of PNG. He stated that the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, through Caritas PNG has been providing much needed hope and care to those devastated by this Australian offshore policy.

Though the task of relocating refugees seemed daunting, he reassured that much was being done to improve the harsh conditions endured by refugees. He said despite being immigrants, they too still deserved the fullness of life that every human person was entitled to.

CPNG has been supporting refugees applying for third country resettlement by liaising with UNHR Canberra office, AdsUp Australia, International Organisation for Migration, PNG Immigration, Independent Doctors Network and several individuals working on this project.

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