**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 announces extraordinary Urbi et Orbi blessing**
2. **Nuncio stresses importance of Church Communication**
3. **Seminar Presentation highlights Environmental Issues**
4. **CBCPNGSI Takes Precautions Amid spread of COVID-19**
5. **St Martin de Porres Parish Inducts New Parish Priest**
6. **Younger Generation Key to National Prosperity**

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# News Item 1 – Pope announces extraordinary Urbi et Orbi blessing

At the Angelus on Sunday 23rd March, Pope Francis invited all Christians to join together in praying the Our Father as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Pope Francis on Sunday called for all Christians to respond to the coronavirus pandemic “with the universality of prayer, of compassion, of tenderness”, adding, “Let us remain united. Let us make our closeness felt toward those persons who are the most lonely and tried”.

He said, “In these days we're hearing the news of so many people who are dying…dying alone, without being able to say goodbye to their loved ones”. Speaking after the traditional recitation of the Angelus, the Holy Father called on all Christians to join together in prayer. “In these trying days, while humanity trembles due to the thread of the pandemic, I would like to propose to all Christians that together we lift our voices towards Heaven,” he said.

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**News item 2 – Nuncio stresses importance of Church Communication**

Use the knowledge and equipment of media to ensure that the ‘Truth’ of the Gospel is communicated in our dioceses. These were the urging words of Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal, Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands (PNGSI), during his talk of ‘Church Communication’ on Tuesday 17th March, at the Catholic Bishops Conference.

His presentation to 21-Social Communication personnel from the dioceses around PNGSI, was one of the key highlights in the weeklong Social Communications (SOCOM) Seminar. He reminded participants of how the Church continued to carry out many significant and life-changing activities in societies and said they were the pathway to better informing and acknowledging the Church’s efforts to Catholic faithful.

He stressed to participants that they were the fundamental element to improving communication and sharing the teachings of Christ to the public. He called for them to ensure that communication also reached those at the grassroot level.

The Nuncio dwelled on problems facing communication within the Church, the various forms of communication strategies for effective output, responsibility of the laity as social communicators of the Church, case examples of Catholic Churches in different countries that could be learnt from, and the importance of communicating the Church’s identity.

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**News item 3 – Seminar Presentation highlights Environmental Issues**

A one-week social communications (SOCOM) seminar for catholic media coordinators focused on environmental issues that was highlighted through the use of media.

Hosted by the Social Communications Commission of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, the program began on the 16thMarch and concluded with a final presentation on 20thMarch. 20 participants from the different dioceses of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands spent a week in prayer, reflection, discussion and production.  The theme of the seminar was: ‘Keep it clean. Go Green!’

In view of the COVID-19, the presentation had Bp Rolando Santos, Bishop of Alotau and Rosa Koian, WANTOK editor joining the participants as special invited guests for the occasion. The presentation consisted of Images, problem tree exercises, 20 seconds videos and the final one-minute videos, produced by the five groups.

The participants were grateful to SOCOM for a well-organized seminar made possible through the collaboration of SOCOM, the dioceses of PNGSI, the different CBC commissions and the financial support of MISSIO. It hopes to have another seminar towards the end of the year for communicators who have been actively engaged in communicating the ‘Good News’ in their dioceses.

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**News item 4 – CBCPNGSI Takes Precautions Amid spread of COVID-19**

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**News Item 5 – St Martin de Porres Parish Inducts New Parish Priest**

The St Martin de Porres Parish in Port Moresby now has a newly inducted Parish Priest. Fr Martinus Widyamoko SMM, was inducted by His Eminence Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC, during the celebration of Mass on Sunday 22nd March, at the parish’s grounds.

Fr Widyamoko takes over from Fr Roy Millano SMM, who is to become the formator for the candidate of Montfortian Missionaries in Papua New Guinea. The rite of induction took place after the Homily. Fr Widyatmoko said his dedication was to serve people with love so that they too could become true followers of Christ by way of his life, in prayer, in preaching of the gospel in word and deed, and the celebration of the sacred mysteries.

In his dedication to the new parish priest, Cardinal Ribat urged for the willingness of parishioners to unite themselves with their new parish priest in celebration of the Mass, prayer and action as the workers in the vineyard of the Lord.

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**News item 6 – Younger Generation Key to National Prosperity**

Papua New Guinea’s younger generation are the key to prosperity for the country. This was made clear during the Chatroom on Wednesday 18th March, at the Tribe-FM studio, that had five Grade-Ten students of St Charles Lwanga Secondary focusing their discussion on the topic ‘Young people key to taking back PNG’.

Various areas of the theme were highlighted from its brief definition, the existent social practice found in society, the economic gains from wise investment and repercussions of poor and lacking youth initiatives, the political implications of where the current government stands in relation to youth wellbeing and national development.

Bethel Yuka ended the discussion stating that young people have the power to create and drive change, and called on the nation’s leaders to provide the time and resources to help equip them.

Mr David Rupa, Principal Advisor of National Youth Development Authority, admitted to challenges facing development programs for youths, however, urged for youths not to be deterred from participating and learning.

Chatroom’s next session on 25th March, will have young people from St Joseph’s Youth Group discuss the theme ‘Plant a Tree, Plant for the Planet’.

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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 Catholic Communications we wish you all an enjoyable week.**