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

**Air Date: 13/10/2021**

**Welcome to another week of Catholic Church News on Radio Maria. I’m Jessica Oata, and I am Isabella Saleu with the news.**

**Our stories for the week:**

1. **Pope at angelus: Salvation is a gift, not a bargaining chip**
2. **CBC statement on Australia-PNG agreement**
3. **CBC donates food items to West Papuan Community**
4. **CPS launches 4th Chapter in Lae**
5. **Students share Hope through Photographs and Short Films**
6. **Bolubolu parish celebrates World Teachers Day**
7. **Young people urged to be proactive**

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**News item 1- Pope at Angelus: Salvation is a gift, not a bargaining chip**

Pope Francis told the faithful gathered at St Peters Square for the Sunday Angelus on October 10th that Christian life is a gift, based not on our abilities and our plans, but on God’s loving gaze.

Reflecting on the Gospel readings of the day, Pope Francis invited all Christians to say “yes” to God and savor the beauty of making life a gift. He gave an example of Mother Mary who said yes to God and encouraged us to follow in her footsteps.

The Holy Father explained that there is no commercial relationship with God because salvation is a gift and not a duty.

The Pope concluded the Angelus by praying for those suffering from mental disorders and victims of suicide to mark the World Mental Health Day celebrated annually on 10th October.

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**News item 2 – CBC statement on Australia-PNG agreement**

Papua New Guinea will now take care of all costs uncured to reach a permanent solution inside or outside the country for the remaining asylum seekers and refugees in the country.

This announcement is based on the agreement announced on October 6th 2021, however, Australia will still continue to shoulder costs at their discretion, though gradually scaling down contributions till the local integration process is completed.

According to a statement from the Catholic Bishops Conference General Secretary Fr. Giorgio Licini, it is hard to understand Australia’s courage to impose an additional burden on the shoulders of the former colony and its immigration services already pressured not only by the West Papuan plight, but by illegal border crossing and human trafficking, drug smuggling, internally displaced people, etc.

This is a concern because of the budgetary constraints and the cuts we already increasingly experience in crucial areas such as health and education.

The asylum seekers and refugees arrived in PNG between August 2013 and February 2014 and remain in the country in exchange for money and infrastructural projects. Out of the 1523 asylum seekers and refugees that were detained, only 123 still remain in the country.

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**News item 3 – CBC donates food items to West Papuan Community**

The staff of Catholic Bishops Conference donated three cartons of food items to the West Papuan community at the Rainbow camp on Friday, 08th October.

The items consisting of rice, protein, biscuits, noodles, tea and sugar were handed over in a brief ceremony to the community leader of the camp, Mr. Olaf Wayangakauw.

He expressed his gratitude for CBC’s compassion and solidarity with the community and said that it is a sign that the West Papuans are not alone in their walk as a displaced community.

Representing CBC, Executive Assistant to the General Secretary, Nyleptha Maino said management and staff will continue supporting groups like the West Papuans with what we can to help them with for their livelihood here in Port Moresby.

The donation was an initiative of the staff of CBC with the aim to give to the less fortunate communities in Port Moresby who need basic food and toiletry items.

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**News item 4 – CPS launches 4th chapter in Lae**

The Catholic Professionals Society of PNG launched its 4th Diocesan Chapter in Lae on Sunday, 3rd October after Port Moresby, Alotau and Madang.

The launching was officiated by the Apostolic Nuncio to PNGSI, His Excellency Archbishop Fermin Emilio Sosa Rodriguez together with Bishop Rozario Menezes, SMM of the Diocese of Lae. Concelebrating at the Eucharist was Fr. Victor Roche, Secretary for New Evangelization Commission. The CPS Central Committee was represented by President Paul Harricknen, Vice President Dr. Patricia Paraide and Mrs. Helen Harricknen.

During the Eucharist, 14 men and women of various professional backgrounds were commissioned where they took their oath of membership and gave their pledge of commitment to the Society and to the Church to be “a light and a voice of Catholic faith” in their families, communities and workplaces.

Archbishop Fermin encouraged members and all Catholics to live out a life of engagement, commitment, and fidelity in work and relationships.

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**News item 5 – Students share Hope through Photographs and Short Films**

With the theme, ‘Hope amidst Covid-19’, eighteen final year Communication Arts students from Divine Word University were part of a three-day Media Education Seminar that focused on Photography and Short Films.

It was held from 6th-8th October at the Alexishafen Pastoral Centre and was facilitated by the Social Communications Commission of the Catholic Bishops Conference PNGSI.

The program saw sessions that focused on Still Photography, Basic Shots and Story Boards for short and long films. Final presentation for all productions was held at DWU. Lecturers, students, friends, families and priests were part of the audience including Archbishop of Madang, Abp. Anton Bal, as guest.

Apart from the media sessions, there were also moments of interaction, sharing, prayer, morning meditations and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

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**News items 6 - Bolubolu parish celebrates World Teachers Day**

A Holy Eucharistic Celebration was held in Bolubolu Parish on Tuesday October 5th to commemorate the World Teachers Day.

Main celebrant of the Holy Eucharist was the Parish Priest, Father John Kubali. During his Homily, he stressed that being a teacher very challenging and he acknowledged the tireless efforts of Bolubolu TVET.

It was also very emotional for everyone to see their teachers being acknowledged in the midst of their students and the parents that were present at the Eucharist celebration.

After mass, the students organized games for their teachers to take part in with refreshments in between. The program ended with speeches to acknowledge the teachers’ hardwork.

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**News item 7 - Young people urged to be proactive**

Being proactive and taking initiative is beneficial for youths as they are an influential group of people who are the backbone of society and can bring about change.

These sentiments were shared by five vibrant and passionate young women representing the Marianville Secondary School as they took on the topic ‘Benefits of being Proactive’ on the Chat Room program held on Wednesday, 6th October.

The discussion focused on being proactive as a woman and in the family unit; the psychological and physical aspect; being proactive in the economical, educational, spiritual sense and also on the social perspective in terms of culture and politics. The young women also gave examples of being a student and its connection with the youth today.

The program concluded with the students urging the young people to be proactive by doing something without being told to and taking proactive measures in order to anticipate and solve or avoid negative outcomes in the future.

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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 an enjoyable week.**