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

**Air Date: 17/02/2021**

**Welcome to another week of 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: Overcome prejudice and get involved in the life of others**
2. **Dedication Mass held for CPS**
3. **Students told to Love all and Welcome Strangers**
4. **Communicating the ‘Good News’**
5. **Youth programs aimed to radiate love of God**
6. **Launching of Pastoral year MHC parish**

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**News Item 1 – Pope: Overcome prejudice and get involved in the life of others**

Pope Francis invited all faithfuls to overcome prejudices and the fear of getting involved in the lives of others, during His homily on February 14th, 2021, in St Peter’s Square.

The Holy Father encouraged all to always follow the example of Jesus who shares our wounds and heals our lives as he reflects on the Gospel reading for the day found in (Mk 1:40-45).

The Holy Father said Jesus tells us that God “is not an idea or an abstract doctrine but the One who *contaminates*Himself with our human sufferings and is not afraid to come into contact with our wounds”.

The Pope urged Christians to go beyond selfishness, calculations or fears that prevent them from getting involved with the sufferings of others. He called on Christians to learn to be 'transgressors' as that shown between the leper, and Jesus.

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**News Item 2 – Dedication Mass held for CPS**

A special mass was celebrated to dedicate and bless the Catholic Professionals Society in their works for the coming months of 2021.

The dedication mass was held on 13th February 2021, at St Peter Chanel Parish in Erima, and had as its theme: “Holy, Formed and sent on a mission”.

Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal, Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, was the main celebrant of the Holy Mass. Concelebrating with him was Fr. Ambrose Pereira, CPS Spiritual Director and Fr. Michael Polszczca, Parish Priest of St Peter Chanel.

Reflecting on the gospel reading of (Mk 8:1), Abp Vayalunkal, said that the ongoing miracles in that bible passage invited faithful to meditate on three great truths: that People are hungry, God has compassion for the hungry, and God feeds the hungry through the church or through us.

A large number of parishioners took part in the eucharistic celebration.The Catholic Professionals Society is a church organization of non-ordained professionals who hold and practice the Catholic faith of the Catholic Church in Papua New Guinea.

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**News item 3– Students told to Love all and Welcome Strangers**

Students from Sacred Heart Hagita Secondary School were told to always Love and welcome strangers, during the Holy Mass celebration to open the school academic year on 5th February 2021.

In his homily, Bishop Rolando Santos CM, Bishop of Alotau-Sidea, shared the scripture found in Hebrews 13:1-8 that had as its theme: “Love each other like brothers, and always welcome strangers”.

Present for the mass were 681 students, members of the board, school chaplain and teachers. Sacred Heart Hagita Secondary School is located 30 minutes out of Alotau, Miline Bay Province in Papua New Guinea with 35 teaching positions for teachers and a student population size of 860.

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**News Item 4 – Communicating the ‘Good News’**

27 representatives from the different parishes in the Diocese of Lae gathered for a week-long Communications Seminar that focused on communicating the ‘Good News’ through the different platforms of media.

The seminar was held from 8th to 12th February at the St Joseph’s Pastoral Centre and had as its theme ‘Communicating and connecting with each other on our journey of faith.’

Hosted by the Diocese of Lae’s Catholic FM 103.7 Team, the program had facilitators from different parts of the country. The facilitators were Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, Catholic Bishops Conference Social Communications Secretary and his team; Fr Martin We-en, Director of Radio Maria; Sr Mary Lillian, Director of Trinity FM, Archdiocese of Mt Hagen; Fr Felipe from the Diocese of Vanimo.

The sessions focused on the newsletter of the diocese, World Communication Day 2021, writing news article, audio recordings, photography, short films, live streaming and had practical activities. The seminar also had prayer moments to strengthen the faith of the participants.

The program concluded on Friday, 12th February with a commissioning mass that had Bp Rozario as the main celebrant. Following the commissioning, the participants are now part of the communication team of the Diocese of Lae and have been encouraged to journey together and communicate through each other.

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**News item 5 - Youth Programs Planned to Radiate God’s Love**

Youth presidents from thirteen different parishes gathered for a three-day annual meeting to evaluate, plan and program activities aimed to radiate the Love of God in the Diocese of Daru-Kiunga.

The meeting was held from 8th to 10th February 2021, at the Peter ToRot Formation Centre. The theme for year 2020, was based on Compassion, whilst this year 2021, is focused to be on Love.

During the short meet, the leaders of the youth ministry, evaluated the activities for 2020, revised their vision and mission, discussed ways to improve and plan activities for the coming months of 2021.

In his brief talk during the close-up lunch, Bp Gilles Cotè, Bishop of Daru Kiunga, highlighted to those present, the importance to stand firm in their faith and reminded them to have an ongoing formation in their Catholic faith.

The youth gathering was facilitated by Ambie James, Diocesan Youth Coordinator Daru-Kiunga, in collaboration with Gilles Ken, Diocesan Child Care coordinator. The program was sponsored by DKY, a donor agency.

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**News item 6 – MHC parish launched pastoral year**

Members of the Mary Help of Christians Parish Council (MHC) in Rapolo, gathered for a day of formation and prayer to mark the official launch of pastoral year on 6th February 2021.

Fr Moïse Paluku, SDB Rector, shared to the participants the Salesian spirit, as many were new to the environment. Fr Moïse also introduced the Strenna of the Rector Major 2021, and reminded all participants how valuable they were to Don Bosco.

Fr Moïse reminded those present that each of them resembled hope and urged them to extend their hands to those brothers and sisters who were in need.

The second part of the formation was facilitated by Catechist Head, Nicholas Kukup, where he told of how the lay congregation should remain active in evangelising. He said that year 2021, was dedicated to St Josephs by Pope Francis, and that it was the Third Year of Laity.

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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.**