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

**Air Date: 13/ 04/ 2022**

**Welcome to another week of Catholic Church News on Radio Maria. I am Nigel Akuani, and I am Jessica Oata with the news.**

**Our stories for the week:**

1. **Pope at Palm Sunday Mass: With Jesus, it is never too late**
2. **MOA Signed to Strengthen Child Protection Systems**
3. **Youth Leaders attend Capacity Skills Building Workshop**
4. **Education staff reminded of God and His blessing of humility**
5. **Students prepare for Holy Week with Way of the Cross**
6. **Covid Surge linked to rise in Violence**

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**News Item 1 – Pope at Palm Sunday Mass: With Jesus, it is never too late**

Presiding over the liturgy of Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion, Pope Francis encourages us to journey toward Easter with God's forgiveness.

The Pope presided over the liturgy of Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion in St. Peter's Square, and insisted that no matter how dire a situation may be, it is never too late to begin again since the Lord waits for us with His mercy.

He concluded by inviting faithful to journey toward Easter with His forgiveness, certain that Christ constantly intercedes for us before the Father.

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**News item 2 – MOA Signed to Strengthen Child Protection Systems**

As a sign of solidarity to strengthen Child Protection Systems, a Memorandum of Agreement was signed between the National Office for Child & Family Services and the Catholic Bishops Conference PNG&SI.

The official signing of documents was held on Wednesday 7th April 2022, at the CBC headquarters in Waigani. Signatories to the partnership included Mr Simon Yanis, Director & Chief Executive Officer of NOCFS; Rev. Fr Giorgio Licini PIME, General Secretary CBCPNG&SI; and Most Rev. Rozario Menezes SMM, Bishop of Lae and Bishop Deputy for Right Relationships in Ministry.

Mr Yanis commended the efforts of the Catholic Church in promoting health, education and social wellbeing, and said that with the Church’s extensive networking, much could be achieved under this new alliance.

Bp Rozario described how the Church and State worked in parallel to alleviate social issues causing suffering in the lives of children, and said the agreement was a ‘Big-Step’ toward improving the efforts of Diocesan CPOs.

Fr Giorgio said the partnership was made possible through prior joint-initiatives and existing relations between Church and State to improve Child-Safety in the country.

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**News item 3 – Youth Leaders attend Capacity Skills Building Workshop**

A two-week Youth Leaders Capacity Skills building Workshop held from March 28th – April 8th had the participation of twenty Catholic youth leaders and animators representing 12 parishes in Western Province.

Held at the Peter ToRot Formation Centre in Kiunga, the workshop was aimed at equipping the youth leaders and animators with the necessary skills and knowledge to be effective in their roles as leaders.

An animated mass concluded the two-week program on the evening of Friday 8th April and was celebrated by the Bishop of the Daru/Kiunga Diocese Bishop Joseph Durero SVD.

Basing his homily on the day’s Gospel of John 10:31-42, Bishop Joseph encouraged the youth leaders to recognize and acknowledge both the Divine and Human nature of Jesus and not to be like the Jews in the Gospel.

Facilitators in the program included the Diocesan Youth coordinator Mr. Ambie James, Catholic Youth Professionals representative Mr. Desmond Aigilo, Vicar General of the Daru-Kiunga Diocese Fr. Andrew Moses, BSP Kiunga Branch Manager Mr Ruben Atai and his staff and Social Communications representative, Ms. Jessica Oata.

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**News Item 4 – Education staff reminded of God and His blessing of humility**

“Let’s not forget to put God before all that we do, and let’s start practicing in our school’s humility,” said Leoba Mape, Catholic Education Coordinator from the Archdiocese of Rabaul.

Ms Mape made the expression during a workshop held from 28th March - 1st April, for 47 Catholic Education Secretaries and Religious Coordinators from dioceses around Papua New Guinea

Emphasizing the importance of spirituality in schools, she said cooperation in schools was also important to avoid unnecessary disciplinary issues and to improve the students’ academic performance.

National Catholic Education Secretary, Michael Ova, said the annual event brought secretaries and coordinators together to learn from each other academic and religious skills to improve their school’s performances.

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**News item 5 – Students prepare for Holy Week with Way of the Cross**

In anticipation of Good Friday on 15th April, more than a thousand boys from Don Bosco Technical School, Gabutu, with staff and Salesians took take part in a very creative but also prayerful and meaningful Way of the Cross, also known as the Way of Sorrows.

Organized by the Pastoral Team of DBTS, this took place on Friday 8th April, as students were also getting ready for their term holiday. Each station was assigned to different classes and staff to prepare.

Spiritual moderator Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb, the presiding minister began by telling all present that what they were about to take part in was a simple way of being reminded of the Passion of Jesus.

Rector of DBTS Fr. Pedro Sachitula sdb, congratulated the boys for successfully completing the term and reminded them of their Bosconian values that they should also strive to uphold even when not in school.

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**News item 6 – Covid Surge linked to rise in Violence**

The increase in Covid cases amidst the pandemic has triggered a noticeable rise in violence here in Papua New Guinea.

The undeniable finding was coherently presented by five students from La Salle Technical College (LSTC) during their appearance on the Chat Room of Wednesday 6th April.

Their discussion highlighted features that made the pandemic almost like a war; pandemic’s resemblance as an act of violence; explanation of Covid as an ‘Unseen Enemy’; Covid Pandemic and Russian-Ukraine battle as a war on Two-Fronts; forms of violence caused by the pandemic; effect of social media and spike in misinformation; social impact on families and communities; and a call for parents and adults to support and engage youth in awareness on the harms of ‘Pandemic-instigated violence’.

Chat Room on 13th April, will have students from De La Salle Secondary School discuss ‘Mobile Phones Should Be Banned in All Schools’.

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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.**