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

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**Welcome to another week of Catholic Church News on Radio Maria. I am Abigail Seta, with the news.**

**Our stories for the week:**

1. **Pope at Angelus: The Lord holds us like a Father does his child**
2. **Aitape Celebrates Episcopal Ordination of 6th Bishop**
3. **Cardinal advices for more masses on Sundays**
4. **Diocese of Wabag stands by victims of witchcraft accusations**
5. **500 attend Ambunti Youth Convention**
6. **Wurup Parish Celebrates Feast of St. Joseph**

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**News Item 1 – Pope at Angelus: The Lord holds us like a Father does his child**

Pope Francis addressed the faithful gathered in St Peter’s Square on the Angelus of Sunday 3rd October and urged them to accept being small in order to grow big.

The Pope reflected on Jesus’ teaching that the little ones, that is, those who depend on others, who are in need and cannot give back, who are to be served first”. Those who seek God find Him there, in the little ones, in those in need, explained the Pope.

The Holy Father said that it is in recognizing oneself as small that we then become big. He explained that it is not so much in “but above all in moments of struggle and fragility”.

Pope Francis concluded saying that it is in fragility that we discover how much God cares for us because God holds us close to himself and that is how we become great.

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**News item 2 – Aitape Celebrates Episcopal Ordination of 6th Bishop**

A positive and promising ambiance flowed across the whole Diocese of Aitape as it witnessed the Episcopal Ordination of its Sixth Bishop, Most Reverend Siby Mathew Peedikayil, HGN.

The Ordination and Eucharistic Mass had as its theme ‘The Love of Christ Impels Us’ and was held on Sunday 26th September 2021, at the Graduation Hall of St Ignatius Secondary School, Aitape. The theme was originally taken from the Latin expression: Caritas Christi Urget Nos (The love of Christ impels us - 2 Corinthians 5:14), the motto of Bishop Siby.

His Eminence Sir John Cardinal Ribat, MSC, Archbishop of Port Moresby was the main celebrant at the Episcopal Ordination. His Excellency, Fermin Emilio Sosa Rodriguez, representative of Pope Francis together with eight Bishops, Priests, Religious, Lay faithful, representatives of the government and friends joined in the celebrations.

Archbishop Fermin Sosa, in his homily, highlighted the mission of a bishop and the need to fulfil it in a faithful manner. He urged Bishop Siby to be attached and obedient to the call of God to fulfill his new mission.

Bp Siby called on the people of Aitape to commit their lives to Jesus placing Him before everything to experience the blessings of God’s love.

Cardinal Ribat expressed his appreciation for Bp Siby’s ordination and implored the Diocese of Aitape to draw closer and work in union with their new bishop.

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**News item 3 –** **Cardinal advices for more masses on Sundays**

Cardinal Sir John Ribat of the Catholic church has advised parish priests to organise a number of masses on Sundays with attendance to be limited to 20.

He was responding to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) one-month ban on mass gatherings that was recently announced. “We (must follow) the protocols put in place for the good and wellbeing of everyone,” he told the parish priests yesterday at the Archdiocese of Port Moresby.

Cardinal Ribat said priests could only celebrate two or more masses to give the opportunity to the faithful to participate. He said the sacraments of baptism, marriage and first holy communion must be celebrated with not more than 20 people, while the Sacrament of Confirmation was suspended for the month.

He stated that during confession, priests and penitents should wear face masks. “Holy Communions are to be received by hand, and Eucharist ministers must wash and sanitise their hands before and after distributing Holy Communions,” he said.

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# News item 4 – Diocese of Wabag stands by victims of witchcraft accusations

Despite the widespread occurrence of physical violence against those accused of sorcery, the Diocese of Wabag is committed to helping the victims, and has included it as a priority in its Pastoral Plan.

This is a widespread problem in Papua New Guinea, especially in Enga province, where the Catholic Diocese of Wabag is located.

When medical knowledge cannot explain certain deaths, many people believe that the death is a result of sanguma”, sorcery or black magic, this according to a report by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Papua New Guinea & Solomon Islands (CBCPNGSI) and its Migrants & Refugees Desk.

Peter Pumbu, Diocesan Caritas Coordinator, with the support of Bishop Arnold Orowae and some priests, are at the frontline of saving Sorcery-Violence victims and combatting this belief.

The diocese has recently organised a five-day workshop to raise awareness among the population and provide suitable tools to fight this problem. The effort requires not only extreme and often dangerous attempts to save the victims, but also in working on prevention and raising awareness

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**News Item 5 – 500 attend Ambunti Youth Convention**

The third Sepik Upper Cluster Catholic Youth Convention was held at St. Joseph's Parish Ambunti from 20th - 25th September 2021.

More than 500 Catholic Youth members from Burui Parish and the host Parish Ambunti attended the convention. The program officially started on Monday 20th with an opening Mass celebrated by Fr. Alphonse Nogoru, Parish Priest of St Joseph’s, and Youth Chaplin of the Sepik Catholic Deanery.

Topics covered in the sessions were the Seven Sacraments, The Ten Commandments, Creed (Nicean & Apostles), Right Relationship and Integral Human Development. Also present during the convention were Mr. Patrick Rairu who led evening fellowships, and Mr. James Taku, the Diocesan Youth Coordinator.

Since 2018, the Ambunti Parish was not been able to host such a convention due to financial constraints, Covid-19 Pandemic Restrictions.

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**News item 6 – Wurup Parish Celebrates Feast of St. Joseph**

Catholic faithful of Wurup Parish in Jiwaka, Mt. Hagen Archdiocese celebrated the feast of St. Joseph on Sunday September 26, with surprises for their fathers.

Parishioners from the six out-stations of Wurup Parish gathered at Panga Outstation to celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph. Fathers, mothers, youths and children congregated in numbers for the special feast on which the mothers made a distinct and surprise acknowledgement and appreciation to their husbands and fathers. In spite of the scourging heat of the sun, parishioners gathered outside on an open lawn for the event and waited patiently until the holy mass began at 11 am.

Parish priest, Fr. Paul Gunbi led the Eucharistic celebration with the parishioners. In his homily, he reflected on St. Joseph’s role as a father, a humble servant in the economy of the family, totally consumed by the concerns for the welfare of Maria and Child Jesus under his care.

He emphasized on the words of Holy Father Pope Francis urging Christians to be the living witnesses of St. Joseph in our lives.

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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.**