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

**Air Date: 23/ 03/ 2022**

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

**Our stories for the week:**

1. **Pope at angelus: May be welcome the Lord’s urgent call to conversion**
2. **Church in PNGSI express solidarity with victims in Ukraine**
3. **CPNG pledges K20,000 for Ukraine Refugees**
4. **Teachers prepare for Media Seminars for students**
5. **Catechesis in the Digital Age**
6. **Improve PNG Health System to address Pandemic**
7. **DBTS Kokopo honours Community Day 2022**

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**News Item 1 – Pope at angelus: May be welcome the Lord’s urgent call to conversion**

Pope Francis encourages us to accept the Lord's urgent call to conversion by turning from sin and welcoming with open hearts the logic of the Gospel.

In his reflection before leading the recitation of the Angelus, Pope Francis focused on the Sunday Gospel reading where the people were discussing with Jesus tragic events of the past.

The Holy Father warned that we need to be careful when evil weighs on us, because we can lose clear sight of the situation and look for easy answers to what is happening.

In conclusion, Pope Francis prayed for Mother Mary's help for us to keep hope and courage, igniting in us the renewed desire for conversion.

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**News item 2 – Church in PNGSI express solidarity with victims in Ukraine**

The Catholic faithful of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands joins the Holy Father Pope Francis in expressing our solidarity with the people of Ukraine during this time.

This statement was made by the Archbishop of Mt. Hagen, Abp. Douglas Young svd, during a Press Conference held on 16th March 2022, at the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI. Also presenting their statements were Fr Giorgio Licini PIME, General Secretary of CBC PNG SI and Mavis Tito, Director of Caritas PNG.

Abp. Douglas spoke on behalf of the President of CBCPNGSI and Archbishop of Madang Abp. Anton Bal, saying that when we call for peace, we are not telling Ukraine to stop defending itself but Russia to stop the invasions, assaults, and bombings on a free and independent nation.

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**News Item 3 – CPNG pledges K20,000 for Ukraine Refugees**

Caritas Papua New Guinea (CPNG) has pledged K20,000 in response to the launch of a three-month emergency rapid response by Caritas Internationalis to support the needs of refugees fleeing the conflict in Ukraine.

According to Director of CPNG, Mavis Tito, the pledge by CPNG is one of over 5,000 pledges received so far worldwide and has extended an invitation to the public and individuals who would like to contribute to this cause.

In a statement on the Caritas Internationalis situation report, on Wednesday, 16th March, presented by Ms Tito, civilians are increasingly becoming targets as the conflict expands across Ukraine.

Caritas Internationalis, the umbrella body of all Caritas member organizations globally, launched the emergency appeal upon the request of and on behalf of Caritas Poland as Ukrainians continue to flee in increasing numbers to neighbouring countries.

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**News item 4 – Teachers prepare for Media Seminars for students**

In preparation for the annual Media Education Seminars,16 teacher representatives from nine catholic agency schools in Port Moresby were part of a media training that was held from 18th to 19th March 2022.

The training was facilitated by the Social Communications Commission of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands (CBC SOCOM) and has as its theme for the year, ‘Listen. Do everything with LOVE.’

The program had media sessions that focused on print media, audio, video, photography and programs that SOCOM has for students and also practical activities that had the teachers fully involved.

The representatives took part in an interactive and reflective program that saw them prepared and committed to guiding the media students.

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**News item 5 – Catechesis in the Digital Age**

Thursday 17th March, saw the School of Formation organize the Second online formation for 2022. It dealt with the topic: “Catechesis in the Digital Age: From Transmission to Sharing '' and was animated by Fr Dominic Tran Quang Hien sdb with 37 participants.

Fr Dominic presented the topic in 4 parts: Digital metanoia, Digital natives, Cybertheology, and Network pedagogy. A discussion in six groups followed the presentation.

They shared about the reality, challenges, and advantages of doing catechesis in the digital age in each province. It helped each participant understand the context of each province and to open a new horizon, inspire a new vision, and a new methodology for doing catechesis in the digital age of today.

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**News item 6 – Improve PNG Health System to address Pandemic**

Address first the country’s eroding Health System, then focus on resolving the Covid pandemic.

The strong call was made by six confident and knowledgeable students of Caritas Business College on Wednesday 16th March 2022, during their talk on the topic ‘Impact of Covid on PNG Health System’.

Undertaking studies in Diploma in Tourism Hospitality Management (DTHM), and Diploma in Office Administration (DOA), the students were clearly well-articulated in their discussion, raising many issues on the topic. Their focus was on the current condition of PNG’s Health System; the strain placed on youth and students’ education; ramifications in society caused by lack of knowledge on Covid; and a demand for government authorities to seriously look into upgrading the country’s health system to alleviate the hurt felt by many.

For Wednesday 30th March, Chat Room will have students from De La Salle Secondary discuss the topic ‘Role of Youth in Caring for the Environment.

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**News item 7 - DBTS Kokopo honours Community Day 2022**

In this school year 2022, the community day took place over two days, from 17 – 18 March 2022, at the Don Bosco Technical Secondary School in Kokopo.

The first day saw the Eucharistic celebration as a gesture of thanksgiving to the Lord who brings us together, and who allows us to live together as brothers and sisters of the same family. The mass was celebrated by the Rector, Fr. Moise Paluku and concelebrated by Fr. Juna, the spiritual moderator.

In his homily, Father Moise showed the importance of community life and living it in communion with one another. Living this spirit of family, of fraternity, just means that we need each other to grow, succeed and build our life and society.

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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.**