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

**Air Date: 15/ 12/ 2021**

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

**Our stories for the week:**

1. **Pope at Angelus: Advent a time of service for Jesus and others**
2. **New Religious welcomed by Archdiocese of Port Moresby**
3. **Called to guide families into Holiness**
4. **Mendi undergoes UN Leadership Training**
5. **Spirituality of Communication**
6. **Solomon Islands celebrate World Youth Day**

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**News Item 1 – Pope at Angelus: Advent a time of service for Jesus and others**

At the Sunday Angelus of December 12th 2021, the Pope addressed those present at St Peter's Square on the Advent season. He said that it is about asking ourselves how to prepare for Christmas and what we can do for Jesus and others.

The Pope reflected on the Gospel reading, which recounts John the Baptist responding to those who came to him asking how to change their lives for the better, since their hearts were touched by the Lord.

The Pontiff encouraged us to ask ourselves what we should do within our own lives. He encouraged us to not be afraid to ask the Lord what we can do for him, and what we can do for ourselves and our brothers and sisters.

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**News item 2 – New Religious welcomed by Archdiocese of Port Moresby**

Members of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate (MSI) glorified God on Saturday 4th December, as they witnessed Sr Anges Gesina who was moved by the earnest desire to proclaim the Kingdom of God to all peoples.

She gave her definitive *‘YES’*to God and made her perpetual profession in her Parish, Holy Trinity Parish Boregaina, in the Archdiocese of Port Moresby.

His Eminence and Archbishop of Port Moresby, Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC, solemnized the ceremony along with 10 priests. Many parishioners and family members of Sr Agnes came to witness the event with the silent admiration for the courage taken by her.

During the homily Cardinal highlighted on the theme, “Take me Jesus among your chosen ones” and invited the young people to follow the path of discipleship trodden by Jesus himself.

Sr Agnes made her first profession in 2015 at Vanimo and is currently working as a staff nurse at Bl. John Mazzuconni hospital at Watuluma Good enough Island, Alotau.

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**News item 3 – Called to guide families into Holiness**

The message was made in a three-day program that was hosted by the Diocese of Aitape, that brought together more than 200-men who formed the Diocese’s Catholic Men’s Association.

Held from 5th - 8th December, the program had as its theme ‘We are called to Mentor, Lead and Guide our Families to Holiness’, and signified the Closing of the Year of Saint Joseph.

The gathering was the first of its kind and had the involvement of men from the Deaneries of Aitape and Nuku. It had throughout Eucharistic Celebrations, and discussions on focus topics of The Life of St. Joseph, Spirituality of Marriage, Gift of Children, Lukautim Pikinini Act, Midlife Crisis, Non-violence and many more.

The opening and closing masses were led by Bishop of Aitape, Sibby Peedikayil HGN.

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**News item 4 – Mendi undergoes UN Leadership Training**

Thanks to the efforts of the Catholic Diocese of Mendi, many of its Councillors and Community leaders were able to participate in an empowering Leadership Training Program.

The training held from 8th -10th December 2021, at the Giluwe Eco Tours was the product of the partnership between the Diocese of Mendi and the United Nations Funds for Population Activities (UNFPA).

Sessions covered in the program included the roles of Male Advocacy in society, importance in training individuals to become better leaders in their communities, respecting the dignity of persons no matter their gender, addressing violence particularly Gender Based Violence in the region and reducing its adverse effects. It was an opportunity for many of the participants in learning something new.

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**News Item 5 – Spirituality of Communication**

The COVID-19 pandemic has opened for us news ways of connection and communication, networking, and learning.

Fr Gildàsio Mendes Councillor for Social Communications, Salesians of Don Bosco together with the Social Communications department has struck upon a novel idea of opening up the ‘School of Formation for Social Communications’.

It is an online program and every province in the congregation is encouraged to be part of it. The sessions are focused on the ‘Spirituality of Communication’. Each session enables us to understand deeply the connection between spirituality and communication.

After several months of planning at the centre, discussion at the level of the Regions and in consultation with the local situation the program was rolled out in the different regions. This long-term school of formation will conclude in Valdocco in 2024.

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**News item 6 – Solomon Islands celebrate World Youth Day**

Following the exhortation of Pope Francis to celebrate World Youth Day 2021 in local churches and dioceses, Solomon Islands youths from the Deanery came together to commemorate the event.

It was held from 2nd to 5th December, at the Don Bosco Rural Technical Centre Tetere, Solomon Islands and had as its theme “Holy, Formed and Sent for Service.”

Despite the political unrest and extensive damages that just happened in the country, the four-day program had 450 Catholic youths present. The youths came from the Assumption of Mary Parish, Ruavatu; Good Shepherd Parish, Red Beach and the Salesian Parish of Christ the King, Tetere.

Fr. Robinson Parappilly gave an inspiring challenge to the young people saying that they are the backbone of the church.

He added that the youth have to give vitality and vigour to the Church and they need to arise and repent from old mistakes and Prepare to receive Jesus in their hearts and become great witnesses of the gospel in their parishes.

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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.**