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

**Air Date: 08/ 07/ 2020**

**Welcome to another weekly 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 at Angelus: ‘the poor are the builders of the new humanity’**
2. **Bishops discuss important issues**
3. **New President for CBCPNGSI**
4. **Catholic Bishops raise concerns at Press Conference**
5. **Bishops Endorse ‘Stop-Work’ Notice**
6. **Eucharist concludes 61st CBC AGM**
7. **Bl. Peter ToRot Feast Day Celebration**
8. **Media Students produce 18 short films**

……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**News Item 1 – Pope** **at Angelus: ‘the poor are the builders of the new humanity’**

“The solace that Christ offers to the weary and oppressed is not merely psychological relief or almsgiving, but the joy of the poor to be evangelised and to be builders of the new humanity,” said Pope Francis during his address of the Sunday Angelus on 5th July, in St. Peter’s Square, Rome.

Pope Francis addressed a scattered crowd of well-distanced faithful, with a reflection on the Gospel reading taken from, Mt 11: 25-30. He said it was a message for all people of good will that Jesus still conveyed today, “in a world that exalts those who become rich and powerful, no matter by what means, trampling at times upon the human being and his or her dignity.”

He said it was also a message for the Church to be called to live the works of mercy and to evangelise the poor and less fortunate.

Pope Francis concluded invoking the Virgin Mary to help all “discern her signs in our lives and be sharers in those mysteries which, hidden from the proud, are revealed to the humble.”

…………………………………………...ENDS………………………………………………………………….

**News item 2 – Bishops discuss important issues**

Catholic Bishops from across PNG gathered in the Nation’s Capital for the 61st Annual General Meeting. The Bishops from Solomon Islands were not able to participate because of the COVID19 quarantine requirements.

The AGM was held from 23rd June to 03rd July with the theme: “Our Catholic Laity: Holy, Formed and Sent for Service.” The meeting opened with a solemn Mass presided by His Eminence Sir John Cardinal Ribat, MSC, Archbishop of Port Moresby. Before discussing AGM matters, the bishops spent a day in prayer, reflection and adoration.

The bulk of the meetings was dedicated to a presentation and discussion reports from the various Bishop Deputies of the following Commissions: Christian Formation, Mission and Integral Human Development.  These Commissions plan, coordinate and execute the substantial pastoral and social outreach of the Catholic Church throughout PNGSI, in the areas of evangelization, faith, formation, health, education, family life, young people, social communication, and liturgy.

The AGM originally set to be held in the first quarter of the year, was deferred due to the lockdown measures passed by the government to contain the COVID-19 outbreak in the country.

………………………………………...ENDS…………………………………………………………………….

**News item 3 – New President for CBCPNGSI**

The Catholic Bishops 61st Annual General Meeting saw the appointment of a new President for the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. His Grace Archbishop Anton Bal of the Archdiocese of Madang was elected as the new President for the next three years – 2020 to 2023.

Outgoing President, Archbishop Rochus Tatamai MSC congratulated Abp Anton saying:

“On behalf of the CBC PNGSI we would like to thank and welcome His Grace Abp Anton Bal. Congratulations to you Abp Anton Bal for having accepted the leadership of the CBC PNGSI.”

The theme for the next three years is: "Our Catholic Laity: Holy, Formed and Sent to Serve in the heart of the world." Our Catholic Laity are being called to be holy, properly formed and promptly sent forth to serve our own families, brothers and sisters in our own communities in PNG and Solomon Islands.

………………………………………...ENDS…………………………………………………………………….

**News item 4 – Catholic Bishops raise concerns at Press Conference**

Following a week-long Annual General Meeting (AGM), the Catholic Bishops have raised concerns and issues relating to their ministry as shepherds and pastors.

A press conference was held on Thursday 2nd July, at which pressing issues were presented by the newly elected president of the Catholic Bishops Conference, Archbishop Anton Bal, Archdiocese of Madang supported by sixteen other Bishops.

A press statement was presented that highlighted important issues discussed in the AGM, respectively: role of the Church and its concern for society; the joint decision to endorse the ‘Stop Work’ Notice served by the Catholic Church Health Services and Christian Health Services; reimbursement of money owed to doctors and nurses; COVID-19 and the transparent use of its stimulus fund; the issue of violence; rise in illegal financial schemes; asylum seekers and refugees; and the need for enforcement of existing laws.

The concluding Eucharistic celebration held at 5pm on the 2nd July brought to a close, the 61st Annual General Meeting of the Bishops, that began two weeks ago.

…………………………………………...ENDS………………………………………………………………….

**News Item 5 – Bishops Endorse ‘Stop-Work’ Notice**

Catholic Bishops have agreed to endorse the joint decision of the Catholic Church Health Services (CCHS) and Christian Health Services (CHS) to stop work at health centres throughout the country.

The announcement was made in a press conference on 2ndJuly, at the CBC Headquarters in Gordons, that had present 17 bishops from around Papua New Guinea, 13 media personnel from various organisations, and staff of CBC.

CCHS Bishop Deputy, Bp Francis Meli of the Diocese of Vanimo, stressed the severity of conditions faced by doctors and nurses under the organisations and appealed for immediate assistance from the government.

Cardinal Ribat emphasized the importance of the Health sector in the country and stressed for better plans and equipment to develop the sector and for effectiveness in the implementation of those plans.

Four bishops formed the panel of speakers namely: His Eminence Cardinal Sir John Ribat MSC, Archdiocese of Port Moresby; His ExcellencyArchbishop Rochus Tatamai MSC, Archbishop-elect of Rabaul; His Grace Archbishop Anton Bal, Archbishop of Madang; and Bishop Otto Separy, Diocese of Bereina.

…………………………………………...ENDS………………………………………………………………….

**News item 6 – Eucharist concludes 61st CBC AGM**

The Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI officially ended their 61st Annual General Meeting (AGM) with a thanksgiving Holy Eucharist at the CBC head office in Port Moresby on Thursday, 02 July 2020 at 5.00 pm.

The Holy Mass was led by His Grace, Archbishop Anton Bal of Madang, and concelebrated by His Eminence Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC; Archbishop of Rabaul His Grace Archbishop Rochus Tatamai of Rabaul; and Bishop Otto Separy of the Bereina Diocese. 50 people including 17 bishops, 2 Administrators, CBC staff, clergy, religious and laity faithful attended the celebration.

The celebrations incorporated the laity theme of upholding holiness, formed and sent for service. The Eucharist also marked the life and example of Blessed Peter ToRot on the Martyr’s 25 years of his Beatification and 75 years anniversary of his Martyrdom.

CBC staff presented gifts to Archbishop Emeritus Francisco Panfilo, SDB, who was attending his last AGM of the Bishops. He was given a farewell commendation for his servant leadership to the people of Alotau-Sideia, Rabaul and PNG, and was described as the voice of the voiceless and a beacon of hope for the little people. May God continue to bless and keep him well in his retirement.

…………………………………………...ENDS………………………………………………………………….

**News item 7 Bl. Peter ToRot Feast Day Celebration**

Mary Queen of Pacific (MQP) Waigani was the host of celebration of the Blessed Peter ToRot Feast Day on Sunday 5th July 2020. The Eucharist celebration led by Archbishop of Port Moresby, His Eminence Sir John Ribat MSC, was concelebrated by fellow Priests, and attended by more than 200 faithfuls.

In his homily Sir John encouraged the faithful to show courage and commitment to live the Catholic faith they received in their time, as did ToRot during his time.

The occasion also marked the 25th silver jubilee of ToRot’s Beatification in 1995 and 75 years of his Martyrdom in 1945. The highlight of the celebration was the reception of ToRot’s Portrait from St Charles Lwanga, Gerehu parish.

The Image has been moving among parishes in the Archdiocese of Port Moresby since 2018. In 2018-2019 it was in St Martin De Porres, Morata; 2019-2020 at St Charles Lwanga, Gerehu; and this year 2020-2021 it will be at the MQP parish, Waigani. The faithful of the Archdiocese are welcome to visit and pay their devotion before the holy Image.

…………………………………………...ENDS………………………………………………………………….

**News item 8 - Media Students produce 18 short films**

Highlighting the COVID-19 precautionary measures and the environment, Catholic students of the 3rdMedia Education Seminar have produced eighteen short films.

A special screening of these films was held on Sunday 28thJune, and was graced by the presence of Archbishop Francesco Panfilo sdb, Archdiocese of Rabaul, newly appointed Archbishop Rochus Tatamai, Diocese of Kavieng and Bp Donald Lippert, Diocese of Mendi and Bishop Deputy for Social Communications. Also present were Dr Catherine Nongkas PhD, DBTI Vice President for Academic and Technical Affairs; Mrs Bernadette Ove, Jubilee Secondary School Principal; Br. John Pill**,**La Salle Technical College Principal.

The three-day seminar brought about productions from students from nine Catholic Agency schools that highlighted films on the COVID-19 Precautionary Measures and on the theme: ‘Keep it Clean. Go Green.’

Apart from the screening, representatives from each school shared their reflections and experiences on what they had learnt in the seminar. Following the filming and speeches, prizes were given to schools for the best films including scores on students’ behaviour and punctuality throughout the seminar.

………………………………………...ENDS……………………………………………………………………

**Recapping our headlines for this week:**

1. **Pope at Angelus: ‘the poor are the builders of the new humanity’**
2. **Bishops discuss important issues**
3. **New President for CBCPNGSI**
4. **Catholic Bishops raise concerns at Press Conference**
5. **Bishops Endorse ‘Stop-Work’ Notice**
6. **Eucharist concludes 61st CBC AGM**
7. **Bl. Peter ToRot Feast Day Celebration**
8. **Media Students produce 18 short films**

**This ends the Catholic Church news week. Join us next week for more.**

**From all of us at here at Catholic Communications, we wish you all an enjoyable week.**