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

**Air Date: 26/ 01/ 2022**

**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. **Listening with the ear of the heart**
2. **Diocese of Mendi hosts 1st Synod**
3. **Time to End Sorcery Violence**
4. **Ordination Ceremony held for Deacons**
5. **Waigani Parish plans to build New Church**
6. **CPS supports repeal of Death Penalty**

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

**News Item 1 – Listening with the ear of the heart**

In his Message for the 56th World Day of Social Communications, Pope Francis says listening is an indispensable first step in human communication, and a dimension of love.

The World Communication Day which falls annually on 29th May 2022 has as its theme “Listening with the ear of the heart.”

It invites us to reflect that listening involves more than simply the sense of hearing. True listening is a foundation of genuine relationships, and is foundational to the relationship between God and humanity.

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

**News item 2 – Diocese of Mendi hosts 1st Synod**

The 1st Synod of the Diocese of Mendi was held from 11th - 14th January and focused on communion, participation, and mission. Present for the Synod were people from all over the diocese.

Held at the Mother of the Good Shepherd Cathedral, the synod was filled with prayerful reflections and sharing that led to action steps aimed at promoting stronger communion, greater participation and a renewed enthusiasm for the mission of building the Kingdom of God.

Bishop of Mendi, Donald Lippert, said that while the Synod is over, the vision and dreams experienced, and the concrete plans developed will be realized with God’s help in the coming years.

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

**News item 3 – Time to End Sorcery Violence**

Papua New Guinea has far too long condoned sorcery and accusations of sorcery, but it is now time for these harmful and deadly practices to be prohibited and perpetrators prosecuted.

The emphasis was made by Fr Giorgio Licini PIME, General Secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference PNGSI, in a recent publication of his on Monday 24th January.

In his article, Fr Giorgio said that despite the existence of the Sorcery Act of 1973, the legislation seemed thus far poor, insufficient, and practically inexistent in addressing the complex issue. He called for drastic approaches to be taken against sorcery to eradicate it and urged for a genuine Christian spirituality to effectively transform minds and hearts.

He stated that it was now the task of the next government and parliament to show what the state can do, by undertaking an unprecedented action of legislation, policing, jurisprudence, awareness and education to counteract such a horrific and murderous system.

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

**News Item 4 – Ordination Ceremony held for Deacons**

A special ordination ceremony for three deacons in the Diocese of Wewak was held at Christ the King Cathedral in Wirui on Sunday 23rd January.

The seminarians ordained were Br. Jerry Kirme, Charles Woyeng and Raymond Malken. As the Brothers’ transitioned into deacons of the Church, Bishop of Wewak, Jozef Roszynski, was present as the main celebrant to bless and ordain them.

The Mass was accompanied by a very lively liturgy animation and had in attendance religious, parishioners and a large crowd from the nearby communities.

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

**News item 5 – Waigani Parish plans to build New Church**

The Catholic ‘Queen of the Pacific’ parish in Waigani, NCD plans to raise K5 million by 2024 to build a new church building. The confirmation was made by Parish Chairman and leader of the fundraising team, Joseph Klapat.

He told parishioners during service after mass celebration on Sunday 23rd January, that due to increased number of Catholic faithful in the parish, there was now a greater need to build a bigger better Church for worship.

Mr. Klapat who was former Community Development Secretary, said the different Provincial Groups had already kicked started fundraising activities. He said that there were more than 3,000 parishioners and if each bought a K10 raffle ticket per week for 52 weeks and continued till 2024, the projected figure could be achieved.

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

**News item 6 – CPS supports repeal of Death Penalty**

President of Catholic Professional Society PNG, Paul Harricknen, has welcomed the government’s decision to repeal the 2013 Law on the Death Penalty.

The support outlined in a statement released on Friday 21st January, commended the Government for taking this move and hoped that the amendments abolishing death penalty would come during this term of Parliament.

It made clear the stance of the Catholic Church in PNG, and how it had always opposed to the death penalty for it being un-Godly, morally wrong and against the human right to life of every person.

Highlighting the principles of a Christian nation, it stressed that the laws enacted needed to reflect moral and Christian values and that the death penalty should never form the basis for any law.

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

**Recapping our headlines for this week:**

1. **Listening with the ear of the heart**
2. **Diocese of Mendi hosts 1st Synod**
3. **Time to End Sorcery Violence**
4. **Ordination Ceremony held for Deacons**
5. **Waigani Parish plans to build New Church**
6. **CPS supports repeal of Death Penalty**

**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.**