**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 Nigel Akuani, and I am Rosemary Yambune with the news.**

**Our stories for the week:**

1. **Pope at Angelus: Find God means finding love**
2. **World Religion Day focuses on ‘Unity, Respect and Reverence’**
3. **26th Beatification for Blessed Peter Torot**
4. **50th Golden Jubilee for Yuri Parish**
5. **Nun Celebrates 50th Anniversary**
6. **Youths told to put God first**

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**News Item 1 – Pope at Angelus: Find God means finding love**

Pope Francis reflected on the Sunday Gospel of January 18th, 2021, which presents the meeting between

Jesus and His first disciple.

The Holy Father explained that it was John the Baptist who pointed out the Messiah to the other two disciples, with these words: “Behold, the Lamb of God!”. The two, then followed Jesus.

The Holy Father said God’s first call is to life, through which he makes us persons, it is always an

individual call because God does not make things in series. Then God calls us to become part of His

family in faith. Lastly, God calls us to a particular state in life: to give ourselves on the path of matrimony,

or that of the priesthood or the consecrated life.

Speaking from the Apostolic Library in Rome, the Holy Father described the response of the disciples to

the Messiah as an ‘invitation for an encounter’. Pope Francis said, before the Lord’s call reaches us in

thousand ways, our attitude at times might be ‘rejection’ and at other times, ‘fear’. But God’s call is love

and it should be responded to, only with love.

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**News item 2 – World Religion Day focuses on ‘Unity, Respect and Reverence’**

Unity, respect and reverence was the focus behind the commemoration of the 2021 World Religion Day.

An interfaith devotional gathering was held on 18th January 2021, at the Nature Park in Port Moresby with the theme “The Golden Rule.”

The commemoration, facilitated by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha’i in Port Moresby, had the participation of Sir John Cardinal Ribat KBE MSC, Archbishop of the Catholic Diocese of Port Moresby, and leaders from the mainline churches in Papua New Guinea. Also present were various distinguished guests representing various faith-based organisations.

Throughout the morning’s program representatives from the respective religious organisations read selected passages from sacred scripture relating to the theme of the Golden Rule.

Describing the day as an achievement, Cardinal Ribat, remarked at the possibility of hosting similar events to bring unity and to create a sense of respect between denominations and religions.

Brandon Zimmerman, Secretary for Ecumenical and Inter-Faith Dialogue of CBCPNGSI, said this was the start of something new and served as an opportunity to bring the different faiths together and to re-establish unity between people of good faith.

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**News item 3 – 26th Beatification for Blessed Peter Torot**

Many faithful from across the Archdiocese of Rabaul travelled to pay homage for the 26th anniversary of the beatification of Blessed Peter ToRot at Rakunai Parish, East New Britain Province.

The anniversary was celebrated on Sunday 17th January, at the Chapel of Blessed Peter ToRot, and had the participation of all fourteen communities of the parish.

According to Archbishop of Rabaul, His Excellency Rochus Tatamai, the occasion and the enthusiastic participation of the faithful in the solemn liturgy was a spectacular demonstration of faith.

Sunday 17th January remains an important date for the collaboration and involvement of the laity in PNGSI as personified and realised in and through the life of Blessed Peter ToRot. It is a remembrance of his pastoral ministry, persecution, eventual trial and imprisonment, martyrdom during WWII in 1945, and the memorable beatification of Blessed Peter ToRot in 1995.

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**News item 4 – 50th Golden Jubilee for Yuri Parish**

A beautiful two-day celebration of the 50th Golden Jubilee of Yuri Parish, was held from 29th to 30th December, at the Gumine District in Chimbu Province.

The celebration had Archbishop of Madang, Anton Bal, as the main celebrant and various other guests including priests, sisters, seminarians, elites and faithful from around the Province.

In his homily, Abp Bal urged the people to be grateful with all their hearts for the many blessings received from God and to be responsible citizens by taking care of the available services.

The 50 years golden jubilee celebration was a great success, all thanks to the tireless work of the Dirima Parish Priest, Fr. Peter Kim, and the people of Yuri. The Yuri People appreciated the great work of the SVD Missionaries who have contributed so much to development of Yuri parish and progress of the people.

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**News Item 5 – Nun Celebrates 50th Anniversary**

Over 500 people from the Catholic Diocese of Rabaul gathered to celebrate Sr Mecktil Urangenge’s 50th Anniversary as a Religious, on Thursday 7th January 2021, at the Tagitagi ward in the Gazelle district.

Sr Mecktil now aged 72, has served for fifty years since 1954, and is currently working at the Kabaira Parish on the North Coast. Being the first born in a family of eight, Sr Mecktil developed her vocation during her early school days by going to mass every Friday, helping in Church activities, and providing care to the needy.

She recalled how her vocation first started when she was in Grade Five and told of how the FMI Religious Congregation assisted by sending her for Church Education training to fulfil her dream.

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**News item 6 – Youths told to put God first**

Youths and families throughout of East New Britain Province have been urged to involve God in their everyday life. The encouragement was given by Sr Mecktil Urangenge, during her 50th Anniversary as a Religious.

Sr Mecktil said youths today engage in drugs and other illegal activities and create a lot of social problems in communities where parents and leaders do not have answers to stop such problems. She said the best way to minimise these issues and help youths was through God and called for youths to put the Lord as the centre of their lives.

She told of how mobile phones had now taken over children’s concentration and how it became hard for parents to impart good teachings. However, she advised youths to always remember the Lord in their lives and not turn away from Him as He is the source of everything.

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