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

**Air Date: 27/ 02/ 2019**

**Reporters: Bathsheba Sanau and Nigel Akuani.**

**Our stories for the week:**

1. Pope Francis closes Sex Abuse Prevention summit
2. Lasallian Family Office Celebrate 300-Years
3. Memorial Service for Late Emeritus Bishop Christian Blouin, CMM
4. CBC Social Communication host 1st Media Education Seminar
5. Flooding in Rabaul leaves families homeless

……………………………………………………………………………………………………..

**New Item 1 - Pope Francis closes Sex Abuse Prevention summit**

**ROME:** The Vatican summit held on February 21-24 gathered presidents of bishops’ conferences from around the world together with other Church leaders.

Present at the summit was the President of Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, Bp. Rochus Tatamai, who described the summit as a ‘wake-up call’ for us.

Pope Francis said that clerical sexual abuse is the work of the devil and Church personnel complicit in abuse become tools of Satan. He promised justice for all the victims of these crimes.

The problem of sexual abuse of minors by members of the clergy for some time has aroused grave scandal in the Church and in public opinion, the Pontiff said

He added that because it is a widespread problem on every continent, he wanted pastors of Catholic communities throughout the world to face it together, in a co-responsible and collegial way.

These best practices are:

* protection of children;
* impeccable seriousness;
* genuine purification;
* formation;
* strengthening and reviewing guidelines by episcopal conferences;
* accompaniment of those who have been abused;
* the digital world and sexual tourism.

The Holy Father concluded that to achieve these practices, a change of mentality is needed from protecting the institution and to giving priority to the victims of abuse.

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

**News item 2 - Lasallian Family Celebrate 300-Years**

**Port Moresby, PNG:** The PNG National Lasallian Family celebrated its 300th anniversary on Friday February 22nd, at De La Salle Secondary School, Bomana.

The occasion marked 300-years of the Lasallian Family’s educational and humanitarian works at improving the lives of youths and the poor in Papua New Guinea.

Apostolic Nuncio to PNG and Solomon Islands, Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal, was the celebrant at the Solemn Eucharistic celebration.

He appreciated the efforts and the sacrifice of the brothers who had offered their time and energy to educate hundreds of thousands of young people in Papua New Guinean.

The Opening Mass was attended by the staff and students of De La Salle Secondary School, Jubilee Secondary School, La Salle Technical School, Sacred Heart Teachers College and Alumni who formed the Lasallian Family Office.

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

**News item 3 - Memorial Service for Late Emeritus Bishop Christian Blouin, CMM**

**CBC, Gordons**: The Catholic Archdiocese in Port Moresby will be having a memorial service for the Late Emeritus Bishop of Lae, Bishop Christian Blouin.

The memorial service will be held at the St. Joseph’s Parish Boroko, Port Moresby on Monday, 4th of March 2019 at 5 pm.

Bishop Christian Blouin, was a gentle and humble man and a true shepherd. He served as the Bishop in Lae for 11 years until the ordination of Bp Rozario Menezes, on 15th December 2018.

Bishop Rochus Tatamai MSC will be the main celebrant at the Memorial celebration.

His Eminence John Cardinal Ribat, His Excellency, Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal, Bp Rozario Menezes, other bishops and priests will concelebrate at the Eucharistic celebration.

Late Bishop Christian Blouin was laid to rest in January, in Lae, Morobe Province.

All are welcome for the memorial service on Monday, 4th March at 5pm at the St. Josephs Parish in Boroko.

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

**News Item 4 - From Network Community to Human Communities**

**CBC, Gordons:** This was the theme of the Media Education Seminar hosted on Saturday February 23rd, at the Catholic Bishops Conference, Gordons.

Reflecting on the theme, the students were encouraged to switch off their devices and engage in meaningful conversation with friends and families.

The event engaged sixty plus Catholic students from seven Catholic schools and institute of Port Moresby. Sessions of the day focused on communicating positive messages through logos, posters and photographs where the students were involved in creative productions.

The Media Education Seminar was the first in a series of seminars to be held in the months ahead.

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

**News item 5 - Victims of Heavy Flooding Left Homeless**

**Rabaul, East New Britain:** A number of families in East New Britain province were left homeless after their homes were ravaged by widespread floods due to a heavy downpour in the early hours of Monday February 18th.

The flooding led to landslides causing roadblocks as dirt and debris were washed out onto the roads and residential areas.

This affected many youth, women and children leaving them homeless with schools officially suspending classed on Wednesday 20th February.

According to Caritas coordinator of the Archdiocese of Rabaul, Fr. Gabriel Pabet, families were taking refuge at St. Joseph’s Malagunan Parish hall. He said that the number of families kept growing each day.

He recommended that the local authorities monitor the floodway to avoid further disasters in the future.

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