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

**Air Date: 16/06/2021**

**Welcome to another week of Catholic Church News on Radio Maria. I’m Jessica Oata, and I am Isabella Saleu with the news.**

**Our stories for the week:**

1. **Pope at Angelus: Discover the presence of God in our lives**
2. **2nd regional Right Relationships workshop for contact persons**
3. **Deacons ordained in Alotau**
4. **New health centre for Silanga Parish, West New Britain**
5. **Students take on ‘Declaration of PNG as a Christian country’**

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**News item 1- Pope on Angelus: Discover the presence of God in our lives**

At his Sunday Angelus, Pope Francis reminded us to have attentive eyes in order to see how God’s hidden presence is always there and at work in our lives and history.

Speaking to pilgrims gathered in Saint Peter’s Square for the Sunday Angelus, Pope Francis reflected on the day’s Gospel: the two parables Jesus tells that open up an understanding of the mystery of God and how human events unfold.

The Holy Father recalled how Jesus compares the Kingdom of God, His presence dwelling in the heart of all things, to the tiny mustard seed which becomes the tallest of trees. Pope Francis noted that is how God works in our lives and the world.

This parable should give us confidence, the Pope said, despite the many times in life when we might be discouraged and at the same time, he said we should not be overcome with doubts.

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**News item 2 – 2nd regional Right Relationships workshop for contact persons**

The Right Relationship in Ministry (RRM) of the Catholic Bishops Conference (CBC) had its second Regional Workshop for Contacts persons of the New Guinea Islands Region.

It was held from 31st May to 4th June in the Archdiocese of Rabaul and had 12 participants from the four dioceses in the region. Right Relationships Secretary Sr Ancy John SCSA and Ms Esther Igo were the facilitators of the workshop.

The purpose of the workshop was to increase the number of properly trained personnel on the ground in providing adequate report of incidents of abuse by cleric, religious or any church workers of the Catholic Church in PNG and Solomon Islands.

The workshop had theory and practical exercises for the contact persons with the emphasis to instil a deeper understanding of the different protocols on sexual abuse, how to identify them and most importantly on report writing.

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**News item 3 - Deacons ordained in Alotau**

Two new Deacons were ordained on Sunday, June 6 in the Diocese of Alotau. Seminarian Japhet Kemali and Seminarian Thaddeus B’Gaiva were ordained to deaconate during the Holy Eucharist Celebration led by most reverend Bishop Rolando Santos.

Bishop Rolando Santos during his homily reminded the candidates to pray every day and dedicate their lives to the Service of God’s people.

The ordination was attended by priests from different parishes, friends and family of the two deacons and the parishioners.

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**News item 4 - New health centre for Silanga Parish, WNB**

A new level three Health Centre is under construction in the mission area of the Silanga Parish in West New Britain Province.

The project is an initiative of the Member for Talasea and the Governor for West New Britain. Silanga Parish priest, Fr Anthony Ranga was very pleased with the construction phase and appealed to the community to be supportive in this project.

Meanwhile, the Silanga Parish has put on plans to work on the church building after the project was put on hold since 2012.

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**News item 5 - Students take on ‘Declaration of PNG as a Christian country’**

The imposed declaration of Papua New Guinea as a Christian country by Prime Minister James Marape in 2020 has caused much controversy but the issue has to be placed in a broader perspective and viewed from different angles.

This was the overall statement by four Grade-12 students from St Charles Lwanga Secondary School who appeared on the Chat Room on Wednesday 9th June, as they discussed the ‘Declaration of PNG as a Christian Country’.

Their discussions focused on the definition of a Christian, changing laws to achieve Christianity, the need to practice good deeds and living the faith, reality being endured by the country and its people, contradicting sections of the PNG Constitution, imposition of a State-Church, advantages and the adverse effects of such on existing laws and current practices and beliefs.

The program’s next session, set for Wednesday 16th June, will have students from Limana Vocational Training Centre highlighting the importance of sharing ‘Good News’.

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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 an enjoyable week.**