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

**Air Date: 03/ 03/ 2021**

**Welcome to another week of Catholic Church News on Radio Maria. I am Nigel Akuani, and I am Jessica Oata with the news.**

**Our stories for the week:**

1. **Pope: Prayer lifts us out of spiritual laziness to help others**
2. **Sir Michael ‘A Faithful Servant of God’**
3. **Hope amidst COVID-19**
4. **Nation celebrates life of Grand Chief**
5. **February dedicated to Education of Children**

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**News Item 1 – Pope: Prayer lifts us out of spiritual laziness to help others**

“We as Christians have to turn our experience of prayer into a desire to carry hope to the world, and rid ourselves of the spiritual laziness that enslaves us in the satisfaction of our own well-being,” said Pope Francis at the morning Angelus of Sunday 28th February in St Peter’s Square.

Ahead of the traditional Marian prayer of the Angelus, Pope Francis spoke about the Transfiguration, as recounted in the Sunday Gospel (Mk 9:2-10).

He reflected on what Jesus told His disciples before taking them up the mountain, where he later revealed that He would be condemned to death but would rise again. The Holy Father told of how Jesus’ image was put into crisis and the anguish that was felt among his disciples but warned not to let our joy at the Transfiguration become “spiritual laziness.

Pope Francis concluded his catechesis urging Christians to transform our experience with Jesus and carry His light throughout the world.

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**News item 2 – Sir Michael ‘A Faithful Servant of God’**

“Sir Michael Somare was a faithful servant of God, the Church, and his Country.” This was the sentiment expressed in a recent statement released by the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

The statement authorized by President of CBC PNGSI and Archbishop of Madang, Most Rev. Anton Bal, was published on 26th February 2021 following the passing of the Grand Chief that same day.

Abp Bal, on behalf of the Catholic Bishops of Papua New Guinea, the Catholic faithful, and the whole nation, extended his condolences to Lady Veronica Somare and the Somare family, and offered prayers for the eternal repose of the late Grand Chief’s soul.

According to the release, Sir Michael was a faithful Catholic and was brought up by the Divine Word Missionaries (SVD) in his home province of East Sepik. He was a friend of the late Archbishop Leo Arkfeld, SVD.

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**News item 3 – Hope amidst COVID-19**

‘*Hope Amidst COVID-19’* was the inspirational theme for the 2021 Social Communication Seminar held from Monday 22nd February to Friday 26th February, at the Catholic Bishops Conference (CBCPNGSI) in Wagani.

The seminar was facilitated by the Social Communications Secretary, Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, and the SOCOM team. It had the involvement of eleven participants representing the dioceses of Wabag, Goroka, Alotau, Mt Hagen, Lae, Kavieng, Aitape; with two staff from the National Catholic Church Health Services (NCCHS).

Specifically focused on the Print Media, the seminar taught participants how they could effectively harness the use of print media and its essential elements to communicate the ‘Good News’ through their news stories and events happening within and around their diocese.

It dwelled on Church Communication, Feature Articles, Creating Diocesan Newsletters, Importance of Print Media, 5W’s and 1H, Inspiring Photographs, Layout and Design Applications, News Writing Elements, Photography Guidelines, Types of Camera Shots, with practical activities and product presentations.

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**News item 4 – Nation celebrates Life of Grand Chief**

Though it mourns the loss of Sir Michael Somare, the Catholic Professionals Society also honours his death by celebrating his life’s work as the founding father and first Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea.

The sharing contained in a circular released on 26th February, by CPS President, Mr Paul Harricknen, gave reassurances to both Lady Veronica and the family of the society’s prayers at this time of grief and sorrow for the family and the nation.

Described in the circular, Sir Michael was both a national icon and an international statesman who led ‘our thousand tribes’ from colonialism to nationhood as a member of the National Parliament, Chief Minister and Prime Minister for over forty years. He was the epitome of a faithful husband and a loving father who drew inspiration and strength from his Catholic Faith. The Catholic Professionals Society acknowledges in humility that Sir Michael Somare was a founding and lifetime member of the Society.

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**News Item 5 – February dedicated to Education of Children**

Education of children in the Kogeva and Sabama communities of Port Moresby, was the prime focus throughout the entire month of February, for the Daughters of Mary Immaculate.

Sr Catherine DMI, Country Director for DMI Mission in PNG, said on 11th February, they carried out a data collection exercise for fifty children driven toward enrolling them in three Morning Study Centres run by the DMI. The centres are supported by the efforts of voluntary teachers from the neighbouring schools who report to the congregation on the student’s progress.

From 9th and 16th February, she stated the congregation conducted a meeting with women leaders of Kogeva and Sabama, to outline the approaches that would be taken in best assisting children and women in the year 2021.

Sr Catherine said this was mainly done to support parents who were struggling to enrol their children into school, and to provide an opportunity for children to learn and also succeed.

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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.**