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

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**Welcome to another weekly 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: Advent is a continuous call to hope**
2. **Symposium highlights Pope’s ‘Fratelli Tuti’**
3. **Michaelites Celebrate 50-Year Jubilee**
4. **Taskin Tribe Surrenders to God**
5. **PNGCC makes statement on Political Impasse**
6. **Third-Year of Laity Officially Launched**
7. **Graduates urged to be Honest and Christian Citizens**
8. **COVID19 Monitoring Highlights Key Concerns of Citizens**
9. **West Papuan Children receive Hygiene Kits**

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**News Item 1 – Pope at Angelus: Advent is a continuous call to hope**

Following Mass with new Cardinals in St Peter’s Basilica on the First Sunday of Advent on 29th November, Pope Francis during the Angelus told the faithful that this season is one of expectation and hope.

The Pope said that the first Sunday of Advent also marked the beginning of a new liturgical year, and explained that for the Church it marked the passage of time with the celebration of the main events in the life of Jesus and in the history of salvation.

He said advent was a continuous call of hope and reminded the faithful of God’s presence throughout history and in the midst of life’s storms. He said God’s hands were always open to freeing His children from threats, and that with His grace, all might accomplish good in their own lives and in the lives of others.

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**News item 2 – Symposium highlights Pope’s ‘Fratelli Tutti’**

An enriching symposium providing a detailed insight into Pope Francis’ Encyclical entitled *‘Fratelli Tutti’* was held on Saturday 28th November, at the Catholic Theological Institute, Bomana.

The occasion was graced by the presence of Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal, Apostolic Nuncio to PNGSI; Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC, Archbishop of Port Moresby; Fr Giorgio Licini PIME, General Secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI; and Fr Joseph Vnuk, President of the Catholic Theological Institute. It also had the presence of more than a hundred people that included Priests, Religious, laity and media personnel.

The program throughout had speakers present the various aspects of the Encyclical that ranged from its overall background; the document’s eight chapters and its Franciscan history; the importance of dialogue in the modern world and among the different religions; implementation and effectiveness of its principals in regard to Papua New Guinea’s impeding social circumstances and the response and working together with non-Catholics and protestants.

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**News item 3 – Michaelites Celebrate 50-Year Jubilee**

The Congregation of Saint Michael the Archangel (CSMA), the Michaelites, celebrated fifty years of humble service in PNG, at the Kuli Parish of the Archdiocese of Mt. Hagen.

Celebrations were held from 19th November to 21st November, with a Thanksgiving Mass celebrated on the final day by Archbishop of Mt. Hagen, Douglas Young SVD; and Bishop of Wabag, Arnold Orowae. It had the participation of members of the Clergy and Religious from various congregations, and the laity from around the Highlands Region, who came together to appreciate and thank the Michaelite Congregation for their hard work in evangelizing.

The Fifty-Year Golden Jubilee coincided with 100-Years of the foundation of the Michaelite Congregation, and the 5th anniversary of the Divine Mercy Shrine at Ruquist, Kuli Parish.

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**News item 4 – Taskin Tribe Surrenders to God**

The Taskin Tribe in the Diocese of Wabag has reconciliated with the Catholic Church after the destruction it caused earlier to Church properties almost 32-years ago.

On 20th November, more than a thousand people both Catholics and Protestants gathered at Immakapos Outstation to witness the reconciliation mass between Taskin tribe and God. The main celebrant was Most Revered Bishop Arnold Orowae, Bishop of Wabag.

In his homily, Bp Arnold urged the Taskin tribe to respect their women folk and to ground their lives in the gospel and the sacraments of the Eucharist. He reflected on a quote of peace from St. Francis of Assisi and urged members of the community to treat others as if they were their own brothers and sisters.

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**News Item 5 – PNGCC airs concern on Political Impasse**

The Papua New Guinea Council of Churches have expressed disapproval of the government’s current political impasse at the expense of service and infrastructure delivery to the people.

Their concern was made in a formal statement during a Press Conference held on Thursday 26th November, at the Catholic Bishops Conference PNGSI, Waigani. It had in its panel of speakers Reverend Roger Joseph, General Secretary for PNGCC; and Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC, Archbishop of Port Moresby.

Rev. Joseph emphasized the importance of celebrating the festive spirit of Christmas and warned of the detrimental consequences if individual greed and pride came in the way.

Cardinal Ribat described how the management of the country did not seem to focus on the welfare and prosperity of its people and urged for members of parliament to always respect the Constitution and have the country’s interests at heart.

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**News item 6 - Third-Year of Laity Officially Launched**

The Laity commission of CBCPNGSI officially launched the Third year of Laity on the 7th November last week Friday at CBCPNGSI headquarters in Port Moresby.

Those who were present to witness the ceremony were CBCPNGSI staff, Radio Maria PNG, lay faithful and twelve laity coordinators from different dioceses. Bp Otto Separy, Bishop of Bereina and Laity Commission President, celebrated a special mass to close off the second year of Laity and welcome the Third year of Laity.

The activities planned for the Third Year of Laity will focus on 'Missions.' The emphasis is on the need for Catholics to be formed and sent as missionaries and evangelisers in their families, parishes, dioceses and in society.

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**News item 7 – Graduates urged to be Honest and Christian Citizens**

“You are sons of Don Bosco and as you step out into the next phase of your lives, always remember to strive to be good Christians and honest citizens,” said Fr Alfred Maravilla SDB, General Counsellor for Missions Rome to graduates of Don Bosco Technical Secondary School, (DBTS) Gabutu.

Fr Alfred made the statement during the school’s 23rdSpeech Day held on Friday 27th November, at the Kurongku Hall, that graduated a total of 250 students from both Grade Twelve and the Industrial Training Course 2. The ceremony had as its theme: “Good Christians and Upright Citizens.”

Special guests included DBTS Rector, Fr Pedro Sachitula SDB; Fr Alfred Maravilla SDB, General Counsellor for Missions Rome; and Fr Gregorio Bicomong SDB, Provincial Superior of PNGSI; and Fr Ambrose Pereira SDB, Social Communications Secretary of CBCPNGSI. Also present to show their support for the graduates were guests, Salesians, Religious, Staff, Academic and industrial representatives, family and friends.

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**News item 8 – COVID19 Monitoring highlights Key Concerns of Citizens**

A monitoring exercise aimed at determining the level of understanding about COVID-19 among individuals has brought to light serious grievances experienced by schools and health centres in the country.

The monitoring facilitated by Caritas Australia was held from 8th to 11th November, in the Diocese of Goroka Eastern Highlands Province, and from 12th to 16th November, in Jiwaka Province, and onto to the Archdiocese of Mt Hagen in Western Highlands Province.

Coordinating the program were Ms Charlotte Vada, Disaster Management Coordinator of Caritas Australia; and Ms Roslyn Kuniata, Program Quality and Effectiveness Manager at Caritas Australia. According to Ms Vada, the monitoring is a follow-up of a three-day program that was held earlier from 17th to 19thJune, at the Emmaus Conference Centre Boroko.

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**News item 9 – West Papuan Children receive Hygiene Kits**

More than fifty children residing in the West Papuan Refugee Camp in Rainbow were recipients of hygiene kits courtesy of Caritas Australia and Colgate Palmolive Limited.

The special donation of 224 hygiene kits was made on Monday 23rd November, and is part of a joint response awareness program between Caritas Australia, Caritas PNG and Colgate-Palmolive (PNG) Ltd, against COVID-19. The occasion was attended by family and friends around the camp and the surrounding neighbourhood. It also the special presence of Sr Ancy John, Secretary of Right Relations in Ministry, from the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI.

Ms Charlotte Vada, stressed the need to promote good and safe hygiene practices especially amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic, and said access to water was fundamental in its implementation.

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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.**