**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: Christmas 2020 ‘a chance to help others without complaining’**
2. **Cardinal visits Diocese of Wabag**
3. **50th Anniversary of Priesthood**
4. **Training for Right Relationships in Ministry’s Regional Assessors**
5. **Promoting Good Governance**
6. **Press Conference highlights topics of National Interest**

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**News Item 1 – Pope at Angelus: Christmas 2020 ‘a chance to help others without complaining’**

“Instead of complaining in these difficult times about what the pandemic prevents us from doing, let us do something for someone who has less: not the umpteenth gift for ourselves and our friends, but for a person in need whom no-one thinks of,” said Pope Francis in his Angelus of 20th December.

Pope Francis led the prayer of the Angelus in St. Peter’s Square on the fourth and final Sunday of Advent, and reflected on Mary’s “yes” to God’s invitation, and warned against allowing consumerism to distract our hearts from the true spirit of Christmas.

Reflecting on the day’s Gospel of the Annunciation (Lk 1:26-38), the Pope said the invitation to become the Mother of the Messiah carried with it both pure joy and great trial. He reflected on how often we procrastinate in life, even in our spiritual life, and urged Christians to consider the ways God was inviting us to say “yes”, especially in the difficulties surrounding Christmas in 2020.

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**News item 2 – Cardinal visits Diocese of Wabag**

A special visit was made by His Eminence Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC, Archbishop of Port Moresby, to the Catholic Diocese of Wabag, during the blessing of the Early Childhood Ministry.

His visit on 19th December, was accompanied by the companionship of Bishop of Bereina, Bp Otto Separy, and Fr. Victor Roche SVD, Evangelization Commission Secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference. Children, parents, guardians and their Parish Priests throughout the diocese gathered for two days at Rosary Hill and Bethesida in Sangurap for the blessing of their ministry.

Cardinal Ribat called on parents to recognize the need for children to be given a chance to be part of the church’s ministry. He concluded stating that early childhood ministry was the foundation for a better nation and it had to reach every diocese in the country.

The early childhood ministry was the initiative of Fr. Thomas Waikene three years ago. It is a branch of the Pontifical Mission Society, and was brought to the level of children with a new style, language and approach in response to current global catastrophes.

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**News item 3 – 50th Anniversary of Priesthood**

Tuesday 24th November 2020, was a special day for Bishop of Daru-Kiunga, Gilles Côté, as he celebrated his 75th birthday, fifty years spent in Papua New Guinea as a missionary priest, and 25 years as a Bishop.

Inspired by the spirit of the founder Saint Louis Marie de Montfort and imbued with a personal missionary heart and zeal, he accepted his first mission to PNG as a Montfort Missionary on 6th November1971.

He has spent almost his entire life as a missionary in many remote and underdeveloped parts of Papua New Guinea’s Western Province. He is the last Montfort Canadian missionary left in the Western Province and hopes to return to Canada soon as a retired bishop and missionary.

At the level of the Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, he established the Vangeke Institute to offer renewal and on-going formation programs to all our Melanesian priests. We pray that God who has called and consecrated him for his mission in Papua New Guinea continue to give him good health and shower more abundant blessings upon him with many more fruitful years ahead.

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**News item 4 – Training for Right Relationships in Ministry’s Regional Assessors**

A two-day training focused on dealing with cases of abuse and misconduct in the catholic church was held to induct and train assessors.

Coordinated by the Right Relationships (RR) in Ministry Commission of the Catholic Bishops Conference, the training was held from 14th to 15th December, and had 13 representatives from the different dioceses in the four Regions of PNG.

Present to facilitate the trainings were Bishop of Daru-Kiunga and Bishop Deputy for Right Relationships in Ministry Most Rev. Gilles Côtè SMM, Bishop of Lae, Most Rev. Rozario Menezes SMM, Right Relationships in Ministry Secretary, Sr Ancy John SCSA, CBC Lawyer Mr. Paul Harricknen, Deputy Executive Director of PNG Centre for Judicial Excellence, Mr. Sam Kaipu and Lawyer, Ms. Esther Igo.

The sessions were based on the Right Relationship protocols and processes and best practices to follow. It also focused on the experiences of current assessors and role plays on possible cases and how to assess them.

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**News Item 5 – Promoting Good Governance**

Secretaries, Directors and a few staff of the Catholic Bishops Conference were part of a two-day Director Development Program that focused on promoting good governance.

The program offered by the Papua New Guinea Institute of Directors (PNG ID) was held from 14th to 15th with the objective to introduce basic standards on the roles, responsibilities and tasks required of directors and those aspiring to be directors in the future.

PNGID Director, Taunao Vai facilitated the sessions and took them through the topics on Defining Corporate Governance, A Brief History of Corporate Governance, Distinction between Governance and Management, Directors’ Duties, Responsibilities and Roles, and Six Golden Rules for Directors and Board Members.

The intense program concluded with a short presentation of certificates of participation by the President of PNGID, Anthony Yauieb.

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**News item 6 – Press Conference highlights topics of National Interest**

Burning issues of national interest were highlighted by Fr Giorgio Licini PIME, General Secretary of CBCPNGSI, in a press conference held on Monday 21st December, at the CBC Headquarters in Waigani.

The conference had the presence of CBC staff and media personnel, and was an opportunity to spread awareness on COVID-19, reflect on the establishment of the Independent Commission Against Corruption and the ongoing political crisis, resettlement of refugees, priorities of CBC’s various commissions, and to share the Christmas message for 2020 despite all the hardships.

In his address, Fr Giorgio told of the devasting impact caused by the havoc of the coronavirus around the world, and urged for citizens to take a moment to realize the gravity of its destruction to humanity. He recalled the ongoing political crisis endured by the country and its people and said it was a disappointment to see the nation descend into a political play during such a health and economic crisis.

He mentioned Pope Francis encyclical, Fratelli Tutti, and stressed that universal brotherhood was the key to combating social issues and standing firmly united as a family.

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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.**