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

**Air Date: 12/ 01/ 2022**

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

**Our stories for the week:**

1. **Pope at Angelus: Prayer opens our heart to the Lord**
2. **CBC and Magna Carta meet to address Sorcery Violence**
3. **CPS calls for Strict Regulation of Alcohol Use**
4. **MSI Religious undergo Special Communication Seminar**
5. **CBC celebrates first Eucharist for 2022**
6. **Pompaus Parish farewells SVD Priest**

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**News Item 1 – Pope at Angelus: Prayer opens our heart to the Lord**

Pope Francis at the Sunday Angelus of 9th January 2022 asked that as Catholic faithfuls, we may reflect on the importance of prayer and remember the date of our own baptism.

The Holy Father encouraged those present not to be distracted by the problems we face in life and lift our hearts to the Lord.

The Pope further described that prayer is not an escape route but a way to let God work in us and urged us to open our hearts and be united with God in prayer.

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**News item 2 – CBC and Magna Carta meet to address Sorcery Violence**

A meeting seeking an urgent address of Sorcery Accusation Related Violence was recently held between the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands (CBCPNGSI) and Magna Carta PNG.

Held on Wednesday 5th January 2022, at the CBC headquarters in Waigani, the meeting had present Fr. Giorgio Licini, CBCPNGSI General Secretary; Paul Harricknen, President of Catholic Professionals Society PNG; Ms. Shirley Kaupa, Founder of Magna Carta PNG; Mavis Tito, Director of Caritas PNG; and several other staff from CBC and members of CPSPNG.

In his welcome remarks, Fr. Giorgio, said the purpose of the preliminary meeting draw awareness and seek an immediate response from authorities regarding the recent Sorcery Accusation Related Violence in Kagua District of Southern Highlands Province.

He said the CBC in collaboration with Magna Carta PNG, held this meeting with the intention of hosting a Press Conference on Tuesday 11th January 2022.

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**News item 3 – CPS calls for Strict Regulation of Alcohol Use**

A strong call for the strict regulation of production, sale and consumption of alcohol throughout Papua New Guinea, has been made by President of the Catholic Professionals Society PNG, Paul Harricknen.

This was highlighted in a detailed Media Statement by CPS released on Tuesday 4th January, to support the call by Assistant Police Commissioner and NCD and Central Commander Anthony Wagambie Jr, to regulate the production and cheap sale of high percentage alcohol in NCD and PNG.

Mr Harricknen said the manufacturers and producers had a social responsibility to the people and communities and they needed to abide by the laws on the production and sale of alcohol. He cautioned that the issue of alcohol abuse especially by our young population was one of grave concern that warranted immediate attention.

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**News Item 4 – MSI Religious undergo Special Communication Seminar**

As a way of improving communication in evangelization and adapting to the evolving communication techniques, a special Media Education Seminar was held for the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate (MSI).

The seminar held from 8am till 5pm on Wednesday 5th January, at the MSI Provincial House, Boroko, had the engagement of 28 Religious from the MSI Congregation.

Facilitated by Social Communications Commission (SOCOM) personnel of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands (CBCPNGSI), the Media seminar had as its theme ‘To be Prophetic Communities in Living Our Mission and Spirituality’.

In the 1-day seminar participants were presented with sessions on Understanding Communication in Secular Media, Camera Basics and Photography, Article Writing, and Designing Posters with a Message.

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**News item 5 - CBC Staff reminded of call to serve**

The staff of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands were once again reminded of their call to serve during a special Eucharist celebration to commence the year.

The Eucharistic Celebration held at CBC on Monday 10th January, was attended by the staff of CBC and had Fr Martin We-en, Director of Radio Maria PNG, as the celebrant.

Whilst reflecting on the day’s Gospel, Fr. Martin encouraged the staff to put themselves in the shoes of Simon and his brother Andrew and James and his brother John and work in harmony to evangelize and serve the Church.

During offertory, items of food and toiletry were given by the staff for donation to the communities in need which has become a monthly practice for CBC.

According to the Liturgy Committee Rep, Nyleptha Maino, the food items were given to Fr Marin to take to one of the settlement communities that Radio Maria usually visits.

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**News item 6 –** **Pompaus Parish farewells SVD Priest**

Pompaus parish in the Diocese of Wabag officially farewelled their parish priest, Fr. Benjamin Seda SVD, after 10-years of faithful service on Tuesday 4th January.

Fr. Benjamin was one of the young missionaries who came to Enga in 2007. In 2012, he was posted as Parish priest of Pompaus, and served for a decade where he improved and structured the parish physically, spiritually, and socially.

In his closing remarks, he described himself as being just a tool giving and doing what he could to serve and honour God. He urged the parishioners to cooperate with his successor and take good care of the services within the parish vicinity.

Youth and elders farewelled him with broken hearts and tears. Many commented that he is someone who can inspire and change them.

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**Recapping our headlines for this week:**

1. **Pope at Angelus: Prayer opens our heart to the Lord**
2. **CBC to host Press Conference on Sorcery Accusation Related Violence**
3. **CPS calls for Strict Regulation of Alcohol Use**
4. **MSI Religious undergo Special Communication Seminar**
5. **CBC celebrates first Eucharist for 2022**
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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 all an enjoyable week.**