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

**Air Date: 20/ 09/ 2020**

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**News Item 1 – Pope: ‘a true Christian chooses good over evil every day'**

Pope Francis has invited Christians to open themselves to God’s will and to put the love for their brothers and sisters into action.

The Holy Father made his address to faithful gathered in St. Peter’s Square during the Angelus Prayer of Sunday 28th September. He reminded believers that the Christian life is not made up of dreams or beautiful aspirations, but of concrete actions, the capacity to open themselves to God's will and to love their brothers and sisters.

He made his reflection taken from the Gospel reading (Mt 21: 28-32) that recounts the parable of two sons who are invited by their father to go and work in the vineyard. Today's Gospel passage, he said, calls into question the way of living a Christian life that must consist of concrete actions and commitments and love for the other.

Pope Francis prayed for Holy Mary to help all people become obedient to the actions of the Holy Spirit so that they might obtain the life and salvation promised by Jesus.

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**News item 2 – CBC President endorses Year of Laity Pastoral Letter 2021**

President of the Catholic Bishops Conference (CBC), Abp. Anton Bal, has officially endorsed the Pastoral Letter for the third Year of the Laity 2021.

With the theme ‘Our Catholic Laity: Holy, Formed and Sent for Service,’ the three-page letter was signed on Friday 25th September in a brief ceremony at the CBC headquarters.

Present to witness this momentous occasion was the Central Committee of CBC made up of the President and Archbishop of Madang, Abp Anton Bal; Bishop Deputy for Laity and Bishop of Bereina, Bp Otto Separy; Bishop of Goroka, Bp Dariusz Kaluza; Bishop of Mendi, Bp Donald Lippert; General Secretary of CBC, Fr Giorgio Licini, PIME. Joining the Bishops were the staff and friends of CBC.

Prior to the signing, there was a procession of the Pastoral Letter led by the Laity Secretary, Eva Wangihama. It was then read out by Abp. Anton Bal who officially signed the Pastoral Letter.

Giving his remarks on the Year of the Laity 2021, Bp Otto Separy encouraged all Catholic faithful to make a difference in the Church. The Year of the Laity, 2019 was extended to 2021 by the Bishops.

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**News item 3 – Archbishop Rochus Tatamai's Episcopal Installation**

The Installation Mass of the first Local and 8th Archbishop of the Rabaul, His Grace Rochus Josef Tatamai MSC, DD, was held on Tuesday 29th September, at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Vunapope East New Britain Province.

The occasion had the presence of Rabaul’s Archbishop Elect; former Archbishop of Rabaul, Emeritus Archbishop Francesco Panfilo SDB; Apostolic Nuncio to PNGSI, His Excellency Archbishop Kurian Matthew Vayalunkal; fellow bishops; priests, religious, and faithful and the media.

A variety of activities were scheduled for the day, including a a candle light procession during the eve of the installation, Photo session, an item presentation, procession to stage, a lacing and march pass by sisters, students, and Vunapope Catholic Women, a dance performance from the Baining and Pomio areas of the province.

Archbishop Rochus served the Diocese of Bereina for eleven years since 2007, the diocese of Kavieng for two years since 2018, before his appointment to take up his new post for the Archdiocese of Rabaul.

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**News item 4 – PGS Practical Training Seminar**

From Wednesday to Friday, 23-25 September 2020, the practical trainees of Blessed Philip Rinaldi Vice-Province gathered together for their seminar at the Provincial House. The Seminar was animated by the Provincial delegate for formation Fr. Pedro Sachitula, SDB.

The Vice provincial of PGS, Fr. Dominic Kachira, SDB welcomed the practical trainees and assured them of his prayers for the seminar. The first session was about the educative and pastoral experience of the practical training. It highlighted the need to develop a discerning and learning attitude in the midst of numerous activities set before the practical trainees.

The second session focused on Salesian assistance. An extract from GC28 Post-Chapter Reflection - “Salesian Sacrament of presence” was studied.

The third session was about accompaniment, based on the new document from the departments of formation and youth ministry – Young Salesians and Accompaniment. Special attention was given to the three key Salesian ways of accompaniment: The Rector of the community, the confessor and the spiritual guide.

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**News Item 5 – Spiritual Retreat reminds students of Higher Calling**

A spiritual and fun-filled Youth Retreat has left over a hundred Grade Twelve students with a heightened sense of optimism for their future ambitions.

The three-day retreat began on Tuesday 22nd and ended on September 24 with the theme, “Care for Creation. Live LIFE!” The program had the participation of students from Jubilee Catholic Secondary School.

Various sessions were given throughout from Commission Secretaries of CBCPNGSI, that included: Elizabeth Aribi, Secretary of the Youth Commission; Fr Ambrose Pereira SDB, Secretary of Social Communications; and Development Secretary, Marie Mondu.  Sessions dwelled on: Pope Francis’ Encyclical of Laudato Si and the Season of Creation from September 1stto 4thOctober; Relationships in Life; and Forgiveness.

Organised by Ms Sheryll Isoaimo, Media Animator and Teacher of JCSS, in collaboration with the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI, the retreat is designed to help students reflect, renew, reconcile, resolve and reconnect, with themselves.

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**News item 6 – Achieving quality education for all**

With the theme ‘Achieving Quality Education for all,’ a Senior Education Officers Conference was held from September 21st to 26th September in East Sepik Province.

Representing the Churches’ Council was the National Catholic Education Secretary, Mr Michael Ova who presented three key points from the Churches’ perspective that were successfully endorsed. These points were:

1. The churches will now become the major partner in education to partner in offering ECE learning centres.
2. Approved Church Education Secretaries to be upskilled to effectively perform their mandated functions to improve monitoring of standards in agency schools.
3. The church-in-aid funding to be increased to sustain and support Church Education Secretaries, functions while the church education secretaries are to be upskilled to effectively perform to improve monitoring standards in agency schools.

The conference had participants from NGO’s, the Education Department and the Church’s council.

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