**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:**

# Pope urges for women to participate more in Church responsibility

1. **Alotau-Sideia farewells Archbishop Panfilo**
2. **Honiara celebrates Exaltation of the Cross**
3. **Film Festival Raises Awareness of Environment and COVID-19**
4. **NCEC Partners with DFAT**
5. **National Level Chaplain Workshop held at CBC**

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**News Item 1 – Pope urges for women to participate more in Church responsibility**

“We pray that the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church,” were the words spoken by Pope Francis in the Sunday Angelus of 11th October, held in St Peter’s Square.

Pope Francis made this remark during his prayer intention for the month of October, and urged for a stronger feminine presence in the Church, as lay women were often put aside regarding matters of the Church.

He highlighted the contribution that lay women can make and reminded Christians that all were baptized as lay people, men and women, with an equal responsibility in helping and serving the Church.

He encouraged the integration of women in places where important decisions were made and warned against falling into clericalism, which diminished the lay charism and even ruined the face of Holy Mother the Church.

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**News item 2 – Alotau-Sideia farewells Archbishop Panfilo**

Last weekend from 3rd to 5th October, was both a happy and sad moment for the Diocese of Alotau-Sideia, as its Catholic faithful said goodbye and farewelled Emeritus Archbishop Francesco Panfilo SDB, former Archbishop of Rabaul.

His visit was welcomed by the Bishop of Alotau-Sideia, His Lordship Rolando Santos; Priests, nuns and lay faithful. It had a display of various celebrations and meetings such as the decoronate Ordination of Rev Timothy Ganawi, and the Presbyterian Council and Laity Workshop in the Pastoral Centre.

The ordination of the new Deacon was celebrated by Bishop Santos, and con-celebrated by Emeritus Panfilo who delivered the homily.

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**News item 3 – Honiara celebrates Exaltation of the Cross**

Thousands of Christians from around the Archdiocese of Honiara and its two Dioceses, Gizo and Auki, witnessed the Feast day of Exaltation of the Cross which concluded after three days of celebration at the Holy Cross Cathedral.

The program was held form 11th to 13th September and had as its theme, *‘Yumi Tugeda Celebratim Holy Cross Parish Feast Day’*. It concluded with a Holy Mass celebrated by His Grace Archbishop Chris Cardone O.P, assisted by Bishop Peter Houhou of Auki and Fr. Mark Misiwasi assistant Secretary to Catholic Bishops Conference PNG/SI.

In his homily, Bp Houhou highlighted the importance of the Cross as witnessed in the sign of the Cross and in the life of Christians. He said, “At baptism, the Cross is a sign of resurrected life. For a Christian, the sign of the Cross is present till the end of one’s life”.

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**News item 4 – Film Festival Raises Awareness of Environment and COVID-19**

The International Short Film Festival (ISFF20) has left many with a heightened sense of awareness to care much more for the environment and the need to take precautions in the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Held on Saturday 10th October at the Paradise Cinema in Waigani, the ISFF20 had as its theme, ‘Keep It Clean. Go Green’, and premiered short captivating films created by school and university students from Papua New Guinea. There were a hundred people present for the celebration.

Among those present were Sir John Cardinal Ribat MSC, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Port Moresby; Priests, Religious, Brothers, Principals of the various schools; friends and family; and representatives from the Australian High Commission and Caritas Australia. Journalists from various media organisations were also present to provide media coverage of the event.

Organized by the Social Communications Commission of the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI, the festival was facilitated by the Commission’s Secretary Fr Ambrose Pereira sdb, and the SOCOM team.

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**News Item 5 – NCEC Partners with DFAT**

Thanks to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the National Churches Education Council has endorsed its Constitution and Management Policies before its official launching set for 6th November.

The endorsement was approved at the end of a weeklong meeting held from 5th to 9th October outside of Port Moresby at the Sogeri Lodge, that had the presence of thirteen representatives of the National Church Education Secretaries.

According to Mr Michael Ova, Chairman of NCEC and National Catholic Education Secretary, the endorsement and launching would enable the Council to take ownership of funding from the Australian and PNG Governments, and other disclosed partners.

The launching is expected to have the presence of the Education Minister, Hon Joseph Yopyyopy; Secretary for Education Dr Uke Kombra; Australian High Commissioner to PNG, Mr Jon Philp; and heads of the nine Mainline Churches.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade since 2019, has assisted the NCEC in its efforts to gain recognition as an organization capable of operating under the umbrella of PNGCC.

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**News item 6 – National Level Chaplain Workshop held at CBC**

Thirteen Chaplains from the dioceses of Lae, Port Moresby, Vanimo, Aitape, Goroka, Mt Hagen, Mendi and Kundiawa have arrived to attend this week’s Chaplain Workshop from 12th to 17th October, at the Catholic Bishops Conference in Waigani.

The Chaplains are coming from various public sectors for this formation program at the National level. Sectors include the Correctional Institution Service, Defence and Police Forces, Hospitals, Schools and Universities.

The theme for this year is, “Chaplains Holy, formed and sent on a mission”. Following from the 2020 Annual General Meeting, the Bishop Deputy, Bp. Rozario Menezes SMM and General Secretary, Fr. Giorgio Licini PIME were mandated to organize this workshop along with the help of Sr. Mary McCarthy PBVM, Chaplain of Port Moresby General Hospital.

The workshop is structured in three parts; sharing on the situation on the ground and the service; inputs and expectation by the government departments on education, health and security; and working in the current “new normal”, in regard to COVID 19.

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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.**