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

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

**Our stories for the week:**

**1. Pope: With God in your life there are always new possibilities**

**2. Bishops urge Papua New Guineans not to believe in Sorcery**

**3. Blessings on the feast of Saint John Bosco**

**4. Formative workshop for MSC Sisters**

**5. Dirima welcomes First SVD Priest**

**6. FSM Congregation welcomes three sisters**

**7. Kerygma Course on New Evangelization**

**8. Children’s singing competition ends on high note**

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**News Item 1 – Pope: With God in your life there are always new possibilities**

Speaking during the Sunday Angelus of February 6th in St Peter's Square, the Holy Father narrated the parable that tells of how Jesus invited some disappointed fishermen, including Simon Peter to go back out to sea and cast their nets again.

Pope Francis invited Christians to welcome Jesus so they can navigate the sea of life without fear.

He explained that everyday, the boat of our life leaves the shores of our home to sail out into the sea of daily activities to cultivate dreams, to pursue projects and to experience love in our relationships.

The Holy Father urged all believers not to yield to disappointment 'when we catch nothing'

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**News item 2 – Bishops urge Papua New Guineans not to believe in Sorcery**

Bishops from the Highlands Region are calling on parents not to teach their children to believe in sorcery.

The strong call was highlighted in a Pastoral letter published on Thursday 3rd February, that was collectively written by Archbishop of Mt Hagen, Doulgas Young SVD; retired Bishop of Goroka Francesco Sarego; Archbishop of Madang Anton Bal; Bishop of Wabag Justine Soongie; and Bishop Donald Lippert from Mendi.

It stressed on the church’s deep concern on the growing problem of Sorcery Accusation Related Violence in their communities. It also highlighted that people in some of the communities seem to be abandoning their Christian faith and believing the talk of diviners or ‘glasman’.

The Bishops urged for people to always remember their Christian faith, and to respect the rule of law in trying to protect victims and apprehend perpetrator of such heinous violence.

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**News item 3 – FSM** **Congregation welcomes three sisters**

Three Franciscan Sisters of Mary (FSM), made their final promises at the Mother of Divine Shepherds Cathedral on Saturday 1st February, in the Diocese of Mendi.

The religious were Sr Merolyn James from the Diocese of Wabag; and Sr Linneth Soke and Sr Christina Ririma both from the Diocese of Mendi. The special event brought together family members, friends, priests, and religious sisters, brothers and seminarians from around the Dioceses of Mendi, Wabag, Mt Hagen, and Kundiawa.

Celebration began with procession of the three sisters with Bishop Donald Lippert as the main celebrant. Bp Donald, FSM Superior and Sr Maria Tiki, received the three sisters as they laid their hands on the round stone to make their final commitment of religious life.

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**News item 4 – Blessings on the feast of Saint John Bosco**

The Don Bosco Technical Secondary School in Rabaul opened its doors to the new academic year on 31st January and celebrated the Solemnity of St. John Bosco.

The day began with the Eucharistic celebration in honour of Saint John Bosco, Father and Teacher of Youth, with a Thanksgiving Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Moïse Paluku, Rector and Fr. Juna. Present for the celebration were the Salesian Sisters, teachers, and a few boarding students.

Archbishop of Rabaul, Rochus Tatamai, graced the celebration later in the evening where he blessed the boarders and the new dormitory buildings. He thanked the Salesians for their dedicated presence in the Archdiocese of Rabaul, and for the new dormitories built for young people.

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**News Item 5 – Formative workshop for MSC Sisters**

A formative workshop on Right Relationships was conducted for the MSC Sisters of Temporal Profession and novices that was held from 24th – 29th January in the Archdiocese of Rabaul.

The five-day workshop focused on ‘Building healthy and mature relationships in our communities and in ministries’ and was facilitated by Sr Ancy John Chirayath SCSA, Right Relationships in Ministry Directress of the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI.

Present for the workshop were 10 participants made up of eight religious sisters and two novices. The workshop dwelt on the main topics Boundaries, Human sexuality, Values and Rights, and Right Relationships.

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**News Item 6 – Dirima welcomes First SVD Priest**

After 73-years of being administered by the Divine Word Society (SVD) Parish in the Diocese of Kundiawa, Dirima Parish ordained its first SVD Priest on Tuesday 25th January.

Fr John Sine, 37, from the Kipaku Tribe, was ordained by Bishop of Kundiawa, Paul Sundu. More than 50 priests, religious, seminarians, visitors from other parishes in Simbu and Fatima in Jiwaka Province, came to witness the ordination.

Bp Sundu who conducted his first ordination rituals after being ordained as the fifth Bishop of Kundiawa mid last year, brought the rituals to conclusion and allowed the young priest to concelebrate with him the Holy Eucharist.

Fr John Sine explained that the journey to become a priest was not easy, and it took him 15-years before he was ordained. He said each individual person had a calling to become a witness of God, and to bear fruit that will last, by preaching the gospel of love and peace to everyone in all places.

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**News item 7 –** **Kerygma Course on New Evangelization**

The New Evangelization office of the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNGSI hosted an intensive training for two weeks for the Catechists and Church Leaders of the Archdiocese of Mt. Hagen.

The training was held in the Youth Centre, Rebiamul, Mt. Hagen from the 10th –22nd January and had thirty-one catechists and church leaders present for the training on “Kerygma Course on New Evangelization”.

The aim of the course was to train Catholic Leaders in New Evangelization in the dioceses. They will then use new methods to strengthen the faith of the Catholics by visiting families and Small Catholic Communities.

The word ‘Kerygma’ in Greek means: ‘to cry out or to proclaim’. Kerygma Course on New Evangelization means, “to proclaim about the New Evangelization to our Catholics’.

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**News item 8 – Children’s singing competition ends on high note**

“Children are a promise for Good things to come,” was the theme of the 15th Children’s Day Program, held in January, in the Diocese of Aitape.

A total of 36 children from Elementary to Grade 8 participated in a week of activities, that consisted of a poem reading competition, donation of gifts for the children’s ward, and the highlight of the event, a Singing Competition. Children from the three deaneries of Aitape, Lumi and Nuku came to take part.

Program Coordinator, Fr. Gianni Gatei OFM, reported that this year’s competition was the biggest one held with more than 200 songs recorded since its’ inception back in 2007 which started with only 9 children. The songs that were sung were of different genres or topics about children’s issues, their experiences and their faith.

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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 here at Catholic Communications, we wish you all an enjoyable week.**