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: “God teaches us true freedom and responsibility”**
2. **Federation of Religious hosts 2020 AGM**
3. **Religious Urged to Dedicate Themselves to the Lord**
4. **CCHS Observes World Day of the SICK**
5. **Eucharistic Celebration held in Honour of new CPS Members**
6. **CPS Voices Concern on P’Nyang Gas Project Negotiations**

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**News Item 1 – Pope: “God teaches us true freedom and responsibility”**

God came into the world to give us His Grace so we can do His will. Through His law, Jesus teaches us true freedom and responsibility. This was the reflection shared by Pope Francis to the pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square for the Angelus on Sunday 16th February.

The Pope recalled the Gospel reading from the "Sermon on the Mount" that dealt with the subject of the fulfilment of the Law. He warned of the consequences in the abuse of freedom and responsibility.

He urged believers to trust and entrust themselves to Him and to His grace, “welcoming the hand that He holds out to us constantly, so that our efforts and our necessary commitment can be sustained by His help, that is filled with goodness and mercy.”

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**News item 2 – Federation of Religious hosts 2020 AGM**

The Federation of Religious has held its first Annual General Meeting for the year 2020. The meeting from February 3rd to 8th, at Alexishafen in Madang, had as its theme, “Melanesian Values and Consecrated Life”. It had 42 participants from Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Fiji.

The opening Eucharist was presided over by His Excellency Most Rev. Kurian Matthew Vayalunkal, Apostolic Nuncio to PNG and SI. His Grace Most Rev. Anton Bal, Archbishop of the Diocese of Madang, Fr Alfred Maravilla SDB, President of FOR together with several other priests concelebrated the occasion.

The Nuncio gave a talk on “Melanesian Values and The Vows in Consecrated Life”.  He highlighted the most important Melanesian Value as *“Gutpela sindaun”.* He invited the participants to commit themselves to the practice of Religious vows together with Melanesian Values.

A workshop on ‘Melanesian Values and Consecrated Life’ was presented by Divine Word University Professor, Fr Philip Gibbs SVD.  He highlighted issues that affected the religious climate in PNG and invited the participants to search for cultural ways to live the religious and Gospel way of life.

The meeting was an occasion to celebrate the diverse cultures and to continually proclaim the gospel and to build up charisms in the Melanesian culture.

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**News item 3 – Religious Urged to Dedicate Themselves to the Lord**

Present yourselves in faithful service to the Lord and he will guide you to recognize his presence. Bishop Gilles Cote SMM, Bishop of the Diocese of Daru-Kiunga, made the reflection during the eucharistic celebration of the presentation of the Lord on 2ndFebruary, at St. Gerard’s Cathedral, Kiunga.

Bishop Gilles thanked the religious for their dedicated service and invited them to constantly present themselves to the Lord. He spoke of how Mary, Joseph, Simeon and Anna were prayerful and faithful people who humbly presented themselves to the Lord, and said, “In the same way you are called to present your life faithfully to God. He will then guide you to recognize his presence.”

After the homily all the religious renewed their vows. With lighted candles, they were then sent to share the peace of Christ with the faithful.

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**News item 4 - CCHS Observes World Day of the SICK**

11th February marked the Global Commemoration of World Day of the Sick, and for the Catholic Church Health Services National Office in Port Moresby. Its Health Secretary Sr Jadwiga Faliszek, has encouraged her staff to always be mindful of the purpose of their work in providing the best medical care to the sick.

She stressed for more commitment from the national office to the diocesan office in reaching their most remote facilities to show the essential care needed for the sick there. She emphasised the vision of being called to follow the inspiration of the Gospel and the compassionate attitude of Jesus, and urged staff to strive for excellence in all areas of training and nursing practice for the benefit of the community.

The World Day of the Sick is an awareness day, or observance, in the Catholic Church which was instituted on May 13, 1992 by Pope John Paul II. Beginning in 1993, it is celebrated every year on February 11, the memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes.

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**News Item 5 – Eucharistic Celebration held in Honour of CPS Members**

The Catholic Professionals Society has held its 2020 dedication Eucharist celebration for its senior and new members, on 15th February 2020, at the St Joseph’s Parish, Boroko.

The Mass was celebrated by CPS Spiritual Director, Fr Ambrose Pereira SDB, and concelebrated by parish priest of St Joseph’s, Fr. Francis Xavier Chennampally, CP. Over 30 members and their families attended the celebrations. OLSH Provincial Sr. Relida Gumur, AD Sisters, CBC Laity Commission Secretary Eva Wangihama, CBC General Secretary Fr. Giorgio Licini, PIME, and newly appointed Judge of the National & Supreme Courts, a devout Catholic himself Dr. Vergil Narokobi were among the invited guests present.

In a small but significant celebration, members of the Society took their oaths of membership and pledge of commitment to serve the Church and Society through their professions, gifts, talents and experiences. Candles were lit and carried to symbolize their commitment to be the light and living witnesses of Catholic faith in society.

CPS President Mr Paul Harricknen, acknowledged the senior members and congratulated the new and young members for their bold step forward to carry their cross of courage as members of the society.

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**News Item 6 - CPS Voices Concern on P’Nyang Gas Project Negotiations**

The Catholic Professionals Society of PNG joined by their Alotau Sidea Diocesan Chapter members have conveyed their support for Prime Minister James Marape’s stand against negotiations of the P'nyang Gas Project.

President of CPS, Mr Paul Harricknen, made the statement in a publication released on 7th February, supporting the Government’s position. He stated that the action taken was one that exercised the sovereign rights of the people as outlined by the National Constitution.

He said the nation already had its own professionals who could assist the government and did not require foreign company representatives for advice and support in negotiations. He described the country’s national sovereignty as the ability to decide its own pace of development and destiny that should be encouraged with patriotism from our leaders.

Mr Harricknen strongly advised for natural resources to be developed wisely and sustainably for the greater and long-term good of the country.

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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 Catholic Communications we wish you all an enjoyable week.