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

**Air Date: 16/ 02/ 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: Jesus’ disciples are poor and happy**
2. **New Bishop of Goroka appointed**
3. **CBC hosts first Commission Secretaries Meeting**
4. **Caritas PNG launches electoral education and awareness program**
5. **Do not fear rejection**
6. **Divine Word University opens new dormitory**

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**News Item 1 – Pope at Angelus: Jesus’ disciples are poor and happy**

In his Sunday address of February 13th in St Peter’s Square, Pope Francis reflected on the Christian identity captured in the beatitudes and said that Jesus’ disciples were blessed because they were poor.

Focusing his attention on ‘Blessed are you poor, for yours is the Kingdom of Heaven’, the Holy Father said that being poor Christians means finding joy in the gifts we receive daily from God.

The Pope concluded his Catechesis with a reminder that joy is the true mark of a disciple of Jesus. He invited us Christians to ask ourselves if we enjoy ‘the disciple’s readiness’ or if we prefer to embrace our own rigid mindsets.

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**News item 2 – New Bishop of Goroka appointed**

His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed Rev. Fr Walenty Gryk svd as the new Bishop of Goroka.

The appointment was announced by the Apostolic Nunciature in Port Moresby on Monday, 14th February at 9pm.

Fr Walenty is an SVD priest from Poland. He has served in the Highlands region of PNG for more than 30 years.

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**News item 3 – CBC hosts first Commission Secretaries Meeting**

The first biannual meeting of the year for the Commission Secretaries of the Catholic Bishops Conference was held from the 8th - 9th February 2022.

Held at the CBC Headquarters in Port Moresby, the meeting had 19 people in attendance, made up of 16 Commission Secretaries and three staff from the CBC Administration.

General Secretary of the CBC, Fr. Giorgio Licini, opened up the meeting with his welcome remarks with the Bishops’ Pastoral Letter for 2022 Salt and Light: The Catholic Church and Society.

Abp. Douglas Young SVD of Mt Hagen went through a session with the Secretaries on the Pastoral Letter Salt and Light: The Catholic Church and Society. He stressed on being more active in the Church as we are on a mission for God.

Over the two days, each Commission shared their reports on summarized activities of 2021, planned activities for 2022 and shared with each other how they will strengthen cooperation among themselves at CBC and down to the dioceses.

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**News Item 4 – Caritas PNG launches electoral education and awareness program**

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**News item 5 – Do not fear rejection**

People must speak the truth, live an honest life and not fear rejection. The sentiment was expressed during a recent interview with Fr Jan Czuba SVD, Former Secretary of the Department of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology.

He said many people feared speaking the truth because they did not want to offend others and be rejected. Fr Jan gave the examples of the prophet Jeremiah in the OId Testament and Jesus in the New Testament of men who faced rejection from their own people for speaking God’s Word and the Truth.

Being a Christian, Fr Jan said, meant facing rejection with prophetic courage and optimism and a willingness to always accept God’s help in our lives, and to especially carry forth His Word of Truth.

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**News item 6 – Divine Word University opens new dormitory**

‘Fr Frank Mihalic’ dormitory was opened this week at Divine Word University’s Madang campus.

The 73-male dormitory stood grand and tall from funding that was made available in 2019 by the government of Papua New Guinea. This was from the Department of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (DHERST) through its Public Investment Program (PIP) funds.

The new double floor dormitory that costed K2Million was constructed, replacing the old cottage buildings. Officiating at the Opening, was Diwai Enterprise Limited (DEL) Board Chairman Mr. Kevin Murray.

University President, Professor Fr. Philip Gibbs SVD, was appreciative of the funding given and said it cost K3Million to setup the new dormitory.

The name of the new male Dormitory was inspired by the life of Fr Frank Mihalic which was one of hope, dreams and endless possibilities.

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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.**