

**FABC-OFFICE OF CLERGY
MSIJ-BUILDING, PINTO VALLEY, KAVOOR POST
MANGALORE-575015, KARNATAKA, INDIA**

**AN INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR FOR BISHOPS, FORMATORS AND PRIESTS
ON**

**“The Contemporary challenges in Living Priestly Celibacy in the Context of the
Present day Crisis in the Church in Asia”**

**From May. 14th (arrival) to May.19th (departure), 2012
At the Assumption University, Bangkok, Thailand**

No. of Seats: 80

Admission: First come first served

No charge for the seminar, you have to pay only for your air ticket

Dear Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops, Formators and Fathers,

At the last meeting of FABC-Office of Clergy held at the Assumption University, Bangkok, in November, 2011, it was decided that the FABC-OC will organize a seminar for Bishops, Formators and Priests of Asia on the theme: *“The Contemporary Challenges in Living Priestly Celibacy in the Context of the Present Day Crisis in the Church in Asia.”* This decision was necessitated by the Celibacy problems among priests in different countries of Asia.

The Western and American influence is being felt in all countries of Asia through cable-TV and other Mass-media bombardment; so the Church in Asia too is undergoing cultural changes. Priests are also adversely affected by these cultural changes and more importantly by, moral relativism, poor psychosexual development, emotional immaturity, and a lack of awareness of one’s own identity as man or as a future priest, and a care-free attitude towards Celibate Life. While we all know, priests are not to be living in isolation, yet the dignity of priesthood, and the responsibility of priests towards the Church and the people of God cannot be neglected. The Crisis in Celibacy in the Church today not only affects the life of priests, but also it adversely affects pastoral ministry, and even to some extent, disturbs the faith of God’s people.

Because of the above described situation in the Church in Asia, it appears necessary to make Bishops, Formators and Priests aware and help reflect on the seriousness of the “Crisis-in-Celibacy” lifting its ugly head in the life of Catholic Priesthood. This is the reason why the Office of Clergy-FABC has decided to conduct the above mentioned seminar for the benefit of Bishops, Formators and Priests of Asia.

Objectives

- 1. To help Bishops, formators and priests to reflect on how postmodern culture and moral relativism in the modern world affects priestly celibacy.**

2. To help Bishops and Formators to become more deeply aware of their responsibility to ensure that the seminarians are guided and directed to grow psychosexually during their formation towards a healthy future Celibate Priesthood.
3. To help priests meet the challenges of the present world in keeping with the priestly Celibacy and to maintain the dignity of Priesthood.

Topics for the Seminar

1. The Effects of Postmodern Culture and Moral Relativism in Priesthood: Resource Person—Fr. Vimal Tirimanna, CsSSr, Sri Lanka
2. Healthy (Normal) Psychosexual Development for a Healthy Celibate Life: Resource Person—Fr. Lawrence Pinto, MSIJ, India
3. Priestly Fraternity as a Safeguard for Celibate Life: Resource Person—Archbishop (elect) Antonio Tagle, Philippines
4. Psychospiritual Means for Celibate Life: Counselling and Spiritual Direction: Resource Person—Fr. Peter Lechner, Philippines
5. Caring for Priests in Sexual Difficulties: Heterosexual and Other involvements: Resource Person—Oswald Cardinal Gracias, India

Panel Discussion

1. The Impact of E-Revolution on the Priestly Celibacy and Chastity: Panelist—Fr. Noel Deslate, Philippines
2. Prayer and Asceticism for Healthy Celibate Life: Panelist—Bishop Vianney Fernando, Sri Lanka
3. Healthy Habits for the Physical Well-Being of the Priest: Panelist—Bishop Mylo Vergara, Philippines

The Speakers of the Main Topics will be given 90 minutes to present their paper, and followed by 30-45 minutes of audience-speaker interaction.

The panelists will be given only 30 minutes to present their paper, and followed by 15 minutes of audience-Panelist interaction.

Fr. Lawrence Pinto, MSIJ
Executive Secretary, FABC-OC

Bishop Vianney Fernando
Chairman, FABC-OC