

PRIESTS' SEMINAR

“THE CATHOLIC PRIESTHOOD—A CHALLENGE OF THE MODERN WORLD”

Venue: Assumption University, Bangkok

Dates: Nov.17th (arrival) to 23rd (Dep.) 2008

I. THIS SEMINAR—AN URGENT NEED

The FABC-Office of Clergy (Two Archbishops, two Bishops and a priest) met for its regular annual meeting to discuss various issues affecting our priests in Asia. The members of the group strongly felt that this Office should do something urgently to help our priests. They opined that majority of priests are doing well as priests and in their ministerial work—but there was a unanimous agreement that some priests, all over Asia, need to be made aware of certain undesirable issues adversely affecting their priestly life and ministry.

It was observed that some priests experience a lack of God-experience, no thirst for God, disinterested in pastoral ministry, lack a consistent diocesan spirituality, tend to create some kind of “cliques” (based on caste, or ideology) within the presbyterium, causing disharmony in the diocesan community life, lack of sexual and human maturity, involve themselves in undesirable sexual issues, addicted to alcoholism, and suffer from loneliness, relational problems, and lack in accountability. Thus, a seminar needs to be organized for priests in order to help them have a God-experience (prayer-experience), Fraternity-experience, and sharpen their skills for relationship with their Bishop, Priest-companions and their flock. The following objectives were chosen.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINAR

1. To rediscover priestly identity rooted in the key concept of Communion in the Asian context.
2. To lead priests to a deeper awareness of the Divine (God-experience) in their life and ministry.
3. To help priests to recapture the joy of priesthood by confronting the challenges of the modern world.

III. TOPICS AND RESOURCE-PERSONS

1. Vision and Identity of Priests in the Asian Context.
(Speaker: Bishop Louis Tagle/ Fr. Edwin Mercado, Philippines)
2. Profound God-Experience as the Foundation for relevant priestly Spirituality.
(Speaker: Fr. Augustine Vallooran, VC, India)
3. Priestly Fraternity as an essential part of the Spirituality and life of the Diocesan Priest. (Speaker: Fr. Emmanuel Asi, Pakistan).

4. **Priest as the “Builder” of the Community—A significant dimension of Pastoral Care (Speaker: Bishop Broderick Pabillo, Aux.Bp. of Manila, Philippines)**
5. **Human Issues Affecting the life and ministry of priests in the Modern World. (Speaker: Fr. Lawrence Pinto, msij, India).**
6. **Relational Issues and Problems of priests Today. (Speaker: Bishop Vianney Fernando, Sri Lanka)**
7. **Relational skills for living a Healthy Priestly life. (Speaker: Archbishop Peter Fernando, India).**
8. **On-going Formation and Helping Measures for a healthy priestly and presbyterial life (Speaker: Archbishop O. Quevedo, Philippines)**

For further Details, please contact:

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