



FABC NEWSLETTER

No. 202

January – March 2023

IN THE CONFERENCES:

Appointed: Archbishop Bernard Blasius Moras as Apostolic Administrator of Mysore, India; Father Echchampulle Arachchige Jude Nishanta Silva as Bishop of Badulla, Sri Lanka; Father Wilbert Marwein as Bishop of Nongstoin, India; Father James Shekhar as Bishop of Buxar, India; Archbishop Peter Bryan Wells as Apostolic Nuncio to Thailand and Cambodia and Apostolic Delegate to Laos; Bishop Victor Barnuevo Bendico as Archbishop of Capiz, Philippines; Cardinal Oswald Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay as Member of the Council of Cardinals; Father Peter Kieu Cong Tung as Bishop of Phát Diệm, Viet Nam; Father Peter Le Tan Loi as Coadjutor Bishop of Cần Thơ, Viet Nam; Bishop Louis Nguyễn Anh Tuan as Bishop of Hà Tĩnh, Viet Nam; Bishop John Rodrigues as Bishop of Poona, India; Father Celso Ba Shwe as Bishop of Loikaw, Myanmar; Father Joachim Walder as Auxiliary Bishop of Aizawl, India.

Retired: Bishop Julian Winston Sebastian Fernando, S.S.S. as Bishop of Badulla, Sri Lanka; Bishop Devadass Ambrose Mariadoss as Bishop of Tanjore, India; Bishop Thomas Dabre as Bishop of Poona, India.

Ceased: Archbishop Sebastian Francis Shaw, O.F.M. as Apostolic Administrator of Multan, Pakistan; Archbishop Stanislaus Fernandes, S.J. as Apostolic Administrator of Baroda, India; Bishop David William Valencia Antonio as Apostolic Administrator of San Jose in Mindoro, Philippines.

Died: Bishop John Huo Cheng, (96+), Bishop of Fenyang, China; Bishop Benjamin de Jesus Almoneda, (92+), Bishop Emeritus of Daet, Philippines; Bishop Anthony Fernandes, (86+), Bishop Emeritus of Bareilly, India; Archbishop Oswald Thomas Colman Gomis, (90+), Archbishop Emeritus of Colombo, Sri Lanka; Archbishop Ignatius Paul Pinto, (97+), Archbishop Emeritus of Bangalore, India; Bishop Angel Tec-i Hobayan, (93+), Bishop Emeritus of Catarman, Philippines; Archbishop Joseph Powathil, (92+), Archbishop Emeritus of Changanacherry (Syro-Malabar), India.

FABC DATEBOOK:

- 23-28 April, South Asia Workshop to be held Insights from the FABC documents, especially Bangkok 2022 at St. Xavier's School, Godavari, Lalitpur District, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- 24-28 May, South Asian Bishop will hold the role of Catechists in the light of the FABC documents and the FABC 50 document at St. Xavier's School, Godavari, Lalitpur District, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- 5-10 June, Office of Human Development/Climate Change Desk (OHD/CCD) Post FABC 50 General Conference Workshop at the Marian Pilgrim Centre in Vietnam.
- 25-27 August, the Office of Evangelization (OE) will hold a Gathering of Ecclesial Movements in Asia.

ARCHBISHOP OSWALD THOMAS COLMAN GOMIS, FORMER FABC SECRETARY GENERAL

Archbishop Oswald Thomas Colman Gomis, Archbishop Emeritus of Colombo, Sri Lanka, passed away on Friday, 3 February 2023 at the age of 90. He was born in 1932 and ordained a priest in 1958. He was appointed by St. Pope Paul VI as Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo in Ceylon, Sri Lanka in 1968. Bishop Gomis attended the Asian Bishops' Meeting in 1970. That was the historic meeting that was the very beginnings of the FABC.

In 1995 he was appointed by St. Pope John Paul II as Bishop of Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka. He was appointed by the same Pope as Archbishop of Colombo, Sri Lanka in 2002. Pope Benedict XVI accepted his retirement in 2009 at the age of 76. He was a priest for 65 and a bishop for over 54 years.



He was an FABC Standing Committee Member from 1972 to 1978. He was the Bishop Chairman of the Office of Social Communications 1974-1982. He was the President of the Catholic Bishop' Conference of Sri Lanka from 1998 to 2005. As a President of Bishop Conference, he was a member of the FABC Central Committee. He was the FABC Secretary General from 2000 to 2005. He attended the Second Plenary Assembly in 1978 in Calcutta, India, the Third Plenary Assembly in 1982 at Samphran, Thailand, the Seventh Plenary Assembly in 2000 again in Samphran, Thailand, and the Eighth Plenary Assembly in 2004 at Daejeon, South Korea.

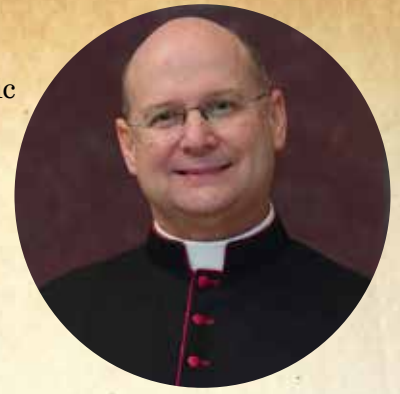
FATHER CATALINO AREVALO, SJ, DIES AT 97



A prominent Filipino Jesuit priest theologian, Fr. Catalino Arevalo, died early morning of Wednesday, January 18, 2023 three months before his 98th birthday. He had served the FABC as a theological resource person right from the very beginning at the Asian Bishops' Meeting in 1970. He was the convenor and a member of the Theological Advisory Commission (TAC), now the Office of Theological Concerns (OTC). He was the first Asian on the Holy See's International Theological Commission from 1974 to 1986. He drafted the FABC statement in 1974 at the first Plenary Assembly. That statement is the significant "Evangelization in Modern Day Asia," which introduced the hallmark triple dialogue, dialogue with cultures, dialogue with religions and dialogue with the poor. We mourn his passing while we gratefully acknowledge his substantial contribution to the FABC from its very beginning.

NEW NUNCIO IN THAILAND

Archbishop Peter Bryan Wells on 8 Feb 2023 was appointed as the Apostolic Nuncio to Thailand, Apostolic Nuncio to Cambodia and Apostolic Delegate to Laos. He is coming from being the Apostolic Nuncio to South Africa, Apostolic Nuncio to Botswana, Apostolic Nuncio to Lesotho and Apostolic Nuncio to Namibia.



OFFICE OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS

Cardinal Bo appointed Bishop Sebastian Francis, Bishop on Penang, Malaysia as the new Bishop Chairman for Office of Social Communications (OSC). Term begin 1 January 2023. Cardinal Bo extended Fr. George Plathottam as Executive Secretary of OSC.

OFFICE OF CONSECRATED LIFE

Archbishop Lawrence Subrato Howlader, CSC, Archbishop of Chattogram, Bangladesh, was approved by the Central Committee as the new Bishop Chairman for Office of Consecrated Life (OCL). Bishop Job KOO Yobi, Ist. del Prado, Auxiliary Bishop of Seoul, Korea, Bishop Leo Magdugo Dalmao, C.M.F., Prelate of Isabela, Philippines and Bishop Joseph Arumachadath, M.C.B.S., Bishop of Bhadravathi (Syro-Malabar), India were approved as Bishop Members of the OCL. Sr. Joy Carmel Jumawan, O.Carm (Philippines) was approved as the new Executive Secretary of the OCL. Terms begin 1 January 2023.

OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION

Archbishop Yohanes Harun Yuwono, Archbishop of Palembang, Indonesia and Fr. Anthony Corcoran SJ, Apostolic administrator of Kyrgyzstan were approved as Bishop Members of the Office of Evangelization (OE).

Mr. Manoj Sunny was approved as the new Executive Secretary of the OE. Terms begin 1 January 2023, except for Fr. Corcoran his term begins 1 January 2024.

OFFICE OF ECUMENICAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

Most Rev. Simon Poh Hoon Seng, Archbishop of Kuching, Malaysia was approved as a Bishop Member of the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs (OEIA). Term begins 1 January 2023.

OFFICE OF LAITY AND FAMILY

Most Rev. Emmanuel K. Rozario, Bishop of Barishal, Bangladesh was approved as Bishop Member of the Office of Laity and Family (OLF). Maria Isabel Fara "Maribel" Descallar was approved as the new Executive Secretary of the OLF. Terms begin 1 January 2023.

OFFICE OF CLERGY

Bishop Bernard Taiji Katsuya, Bishop of Sapporo, Japan and Bishop Gerardo Alminaza, Bishop of San Carlos, Philippines were approved as Bishop Members of the Office of Clergy (OC). Terms begin 1 January 2023.

OFFICE OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE DESK

Father Enrique Figaredo Alvargonzález, S.J. Prefect of Battambang, Cambodia was approved as a bishop Member of Office of Human Development and Climate Change Desk. Terms begin 1 January 2023.

APPROVAL OF TERM RENEWALS

The following were renewed for their second term to begin on January 1 2024: Most Rev. Adrianus Sunarko, O.F.M., Bishop of Pangkal-Pinang, Indonesia, Bishop Chairman – FABC OTC; Most Rev. Peter Hla, Bishop of Pekhon, Myanmar, Bishop Member – FABC OSC; Most Rev. Benedictus SON Hee-song, Auxiliary Bishop of Seoul, Bishop Member – FABC OLF; Most Rev. Samson Shukardin, OFM, Bishop of Hyderabad, Pakistan, Bishop Member – FABC OLF; Most Rev. Shorot Francis Gomes, Bishop of Sylhet, Bangladesh, Bishop Member – FABC OLF; Most Rev. Julian Leow Beng Kim, Archbishop of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Bishop Member – FABC OEFF; Most Rev. Joseph Ha Chi-Shing, OFM, Auxiliary Bishop of Hong Kong, Bishop Member – FABC OEFF; Most Rev. Joseph Đỗ Mạnh Hùng, Bishop of Phan Thiết, Vietnam, Bishop Member – FABC OC.

ASIAN CONTINENTAL ASSEMBLY ON SYNODALITY

The Asian Continental Assembly on Synodality was held at Baan Phu Waan, the Pastoral Training Center of the Bangkok Archdiocese 25-27 February 2023. There were 90 participants including those from the Synod Secretariat in Rome such as Cardinal Mario Grech, Sr. Nathalie Becquart and Cardinal Jean Claude Hollerich. Cardinal Charles Bo, Cardinal Oswald Gracias and Cardinal Joseph Coutts who are the Asians on the Synod Council also participated. The Final Document coming from the Asian Continental Assembly on Synodality was submitted to the General Secretariat for the Synod on 16 March 2023 after it had been validated by the Central Committee on 3 March 2023.



LAUNCHING OF THE FABC 50 GENERAL CONFERENCE FINAL DOCUMENT

The FABC 50 General Conference Final Document was formally launched on March 15, 2023 by Cardinal Oswald Gracias, Cardinal Charles Bo, Bishop Allwyn D'Silva, Bishop Pablo David and Archbishop Isao Kikuchi. The event was live streamed. It will be called the Bangkok Document.

A BLESSED EASTER TO ALL!