

**FABC PAPERS PERIODIC INDEX**  
Papers 151-175 (2017-2022)

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**I. INTRODUCTION**

Contemporary history of the Church in Asia is filled with numerous significant milestones, both in the local Churches as well across this vast continent, where over half of the world's population resides. The Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC) is a central figure in this inspiring narrative.

The founding of the FABC is diversely linked to two dates: the 1970 Asian visit of Pope Paul VI when he met with 180 Asian bishops in Manila or the first approval of the FABC constitutions

in 1972 by the same pope who was canonized a saint by Pope Francis on October 14, 2018. This brief historical data affirms that Asia's continental bishops' conference has now passed its fiftieth anniversary. In its recent gatherings the FABC leadership has determined to link the FABC foundation date with the 1970 Asian visit of Saint Pope Paul VI.

One may also highlight another historical relationship. The year 2022 is the sixtieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council in October of 1962, an event that has impacted the Church in significant, positive ways, fostering a profound Spirit-inspired renewal. Undoubtedly, the FABC has sought to translate and implement the vision of the Council across the Asian continent. This author has asserted that the FABC is "Asia's Continuing Vatican II"; that conviction has been affirmed and reinforced by numerous historians and theologians.

Some elements of a practical nature will enhance the fruitful use of this document. For each of the twenty-five FABC papers presented here, one will find three sections. First, the CONTENTS provides a narrative of the material contained in the specific paper. Second, the SUBJECTS lists the pivotal themes appearing in the same paper. Finally, the PERSONS section identifies the various people whose names are found in the material. It is noteworthy that the number of subjects and persons does not exceed twenty-five. In addition, kindly be aware that the numbers in the subjects index (Part III) and the persons index (Part IV) refer to the numbered, individual FABC papers.

We all rejoice with the FABC at its "golden anniversary" milestone, while renewing our commitment as missionary-disciples to implementing its dynamic, Spirit-inspired vision of Church renewal and service. **JHK**

## II. NARRATIVE SYNOPSIS

*FABC Papers 151: XI FABC Plenary Assembly. The Catholic Family in Asia: Domestic Church of the Poor on a Mission of Mercy [2017].*

**CONTENTS:** The Catholic bishops of Asia gathered in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from November 28 to December 4, 2016 for their Eleventh Plenary Assembly. The chosen theme for their deliberations was: “The Catholic Family in Asia: Domestic Church of the Poor on a Mission of Mercy.” Their final document, reaching over thirty pages, explored the realities, challenges, and pastoral opportunities related to contemporary family life. The comprehensive document is composed of an introduction, conclusion and four thematic sections. The Introduction notes the recent release of Pope Francis’ *Amoris Laetitia* on the family. Part One examines the “Pastoral Context of the Family” in the realities of Asia. Part Two provides “Reflection in the Light of Faith” with sub-themes of Eucharist, Poor, Missionary Discipleship, Vocation, and Compassion. Part Three speaks of “Pastoral Imperatives for the Catholic Family” focused on discerning, accompanying, and doing. Part Four provides “Recommendations to Episcopal Conferences and Local Churches.” Finally, the Conclusion presents a “Spirituality of Communion for the Family.”

**SUBJECTS:** *Amoris Laetitia*, Asianess, Climate Change, Colonialism, Conjugal Love, Divisions-Tensions, Domestic Church, Eucharist, Evangelization, Extremism, Family, Family Ministry, Holy Family, Interfaith Contexts, Media, Mercy, Migrants-Refugees, Mission, Missionary Discipleship, Persecution, Poor, Prayer, Religious Extremism, Spirituality, Values.

**PERSONS:** D’Rozario, P., Fernandez, S., Filoni, F., Gomis, O., Gracias, O., Nguyen Van Tot, P., Pope Francis, Pope John Paul II, Ranjith, M., Saint Ambrose, Saint John Chrysostom, Sirisena, M., Tertullian, Theros, M., Toppo, T., Wickremesinghe, R.

**FABC Papers 152: William LaRousse (editor). *Asian Celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of Nostra Aetate: Part I* [2017].**

**CONTENTS:** The FABC Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs (OEIA) sponsored the Sixth Bishops' Institute of Religious Affairs (BIRA VI) in Pattaya, Thailand on November 17-19, 2015, focusing on an Asian celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of *Nostra Aetate* (NA) of Vatican Council II (1965-2015). A welcome address was given by apostolic nuncio Paul Tschang In-Nam; he noted that NA serves as the *magna carta* for fruitful relations between the Catholic Church and other living religions. FABC President Oswald Gracias sent his regrets that he could not be in attendance due to illness. The keynote address was masterfully presented by Michael Fitzgerald; he provided an extensive commentary on each of the five sections of NA. Felix Wilfred noted the validity and effectiveness of Asian dialogue initiatives. The fruits of dialogue in Asia over the past fifty years were highlighted by Bejoy D'Cruze, Matthew Moonseong, and Orlando Quevedo. Undoubtedly, this document has captured well the dialogue journey of the Asian Church in the Vatican II era!

**SUBJECTS:** Abrahamic Religions, Asian Church, Assisi, Buddhism, *Dominus Iesus*, *Ecclesiam Suam*, Evangelization in Asia, FABC I (1974), Harmony Theology, Interreligious Dialogue, Islam, Jewish Faith, *Lumen Gentium*, Mary, Mercy, Minority Religions, Mysticism, *Nostra Aetate*, Pneumatology, Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, Religions, Religious Liberty, Triple Dialogue, Vatican Council II, World Day of Prayer for Peace.

**PERSONS:** Cragg, K., D'Cruze, B., Fitzgerald, M., Gioia, F., Gracias, O., Kasper, W., LaRousse, W., Machado, F., Masson, J., Merton, T., Moonseong, M., Pope Francis, Pope John XXIII, Pope John Paul II, Pope Paul VI, Quevedo, O., Tschang In-Nam, P., Wilfred, F.

**FABC Papers 153: William LaRousse (editor). *Asian Celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of Nostra Aetate: Part II* [2017].**

**CONTENTS:** The November 2015 gathering hosted by the FABC Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs (OEIA) explored several pivotal, focused questions on dialogue in the Asian context; this paper chronicles five of them. First, Felix Machado presents a panorama of fifty years of Hindu-Christian Dialogue. Second, Indunil Kodithuwakku portrays the Church's dialogue experience with Buddhism in Asia. Third, J. B. Heru Prakosa reflects on the journey in Christian-Muslim Relations. Fourth, Sunthorn Wongjomporn provides an overview of dialogue with ethnic-traditional religions which are so numerous in Asia. Finally, Astrid Lobo Gajiwala shares her direct experience of interreligious marriage and family life. Collectively, these presentations provide both enlightening and practical insights into the Church's commitment to engaging peoples of various living faiths in a sincere encounter; one definitely perceives the gentle, transforming action of the Holy Spirit in all these dialogue experiences!

**SUBJECTS:** *A Common Word between Us and You, Bhagavad Gita, Brahman, Buddhism, Common Witness, Conversion, Dalai Lama, Dialogue, Ecclesia in Asia, Ethnic Religions, Evangelii Gaudium, Hinduism, Interreligious Marriage, Islam, Karma-sansara, Missionary History, Nostra Aetate, Polytheism, Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, Pro Dialogue, Sadhana, Secretariat for Non-Christians, Syncretism, Traditional Religions, Vedas.*

**PERSONS:** Claver, F., Devadass, C., Dumoulin, H., Gajiwala, A., Kodithuwakku, I., LaRousse, W., Machado, F., Madigan, D., Marella, P., Massignon, L., Mercado, L., Niwano, N., Panikkar, R., Pieris, A., Poulet-Mathis, A., Prakosa, W., Raguin, Y., Rahula, W., Rambachen, A., Spae, J., Steenbrink, K., Thelle, N., Tirimanna, V., Wongjomporn, S., Zaehner, R.

**FABC Papers 154: William LaRousse (editor). *Asian Celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of Nostra Aetate: Part III* [2017].**

**CONTENTS:** This issue completes the reporting on the Asian Bishops' Institute for Religious Affairs which organized an international conference (BIRA VI) to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of *Nostra Aetate*, issued by Vatican II in 1965. Three comprehensive presentations are included in this paper. First, Javaid William spoke about the rise of fundamentalism and religious violence in the 1970s and beyond; he provided concrete data on specific incidents of conflict, also addressing issues of migrants, climate change, and food security. Second, Andrew Reception presented an in-depth perspective on dialogue from the Christian scriptures, focusing on the Johannine corpus of writings. Varied snapshots of interfaith collaboration were provided. Reception asserted that dialogue will proceed following three interconnected processes: silence, presence, and story-telling. Third, Clarence Devadass highlighted how the encyclical *Laudato Si* provides a platform for Church engagement in productive dialogue that promotes both a spirituality of harmony and peace as well as commitment to preserving the earth, humanity's common home.

**SUBJECTS:** Asia, Buddhism, Christ, Climate Change, Common Home, Confucianism, Consumerism, Dialogue, Disciple-ship, Eco-Spirituality, Fundamentalism, Gospel of John, Hinduism, ISIS, Islam, Japan, *Laudato Si*, Migrants, *Nostra Aetate*, Pakistan, Philippines, Proclamation, Silence, Thailand, Violence.

**PERSONS:** Brown, R., Coda, P., Devadass, C., Kasper, W., Khalid, F., Laqueur, W., LaRousse, W., Meier, J., Muhammad, Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis, Pope John XXIII, Pope John Paul II, Ratzinger, J., Rawls, J., Reception, A., William, J.

***FABC Papers 155: FABC Central Secretariat (editor).  
Apostolic Journey of His Holiness Pope Francis to Myanmar and  
Bangladesh [2017].***

**CONTENTS:** During his 2017 apostolic visit to Myanmar and Bangladesh, Pope Francis spoke at ten events; a succinct summary of each follows. (1) Meeting with Myanmar's civil authorities, Francis emphasized building an inclusive social order. (2) Francis' homily at a public Mass asserted that healing comes from resting in Jesus' wounds. (3) During an interreligious gathering, Francis promoted collaboration among all religious traditions. (4) Meeting Myanmar's bishops, Francis spoke about healing, accompaniment, and prophecy. (5) During a youth Mass, the Pope noted that amidst suffering, God's mercy has a name and a face: Jesus Christ. (6) Meeting civil leaders in Bangladesh, Francis highlighted the Church's role in serving society's needs. (7) Francis' homily during an ordination Mass highlighted following the Good Shepherd. (8) Francis emphasized communion in pastoral planning and ministry to Bangladesh's bishops. (9) During an interreligious gathering, Francis promoted the "culture of encounter." (10) Nourishing one's vocation was emphasized during Francis' meeting with the religious.

**SUBJECTS:** Accompaniment, Bangladesh, Boldness, Buddhism, Catechists, Charisms, Compassion, Field Hospital, Gospel Messengers, Healing, Intergenerational Justice, Islam, Joy, Mary, Mercy, Myanmar, Option for the Poor, Peace, Presence, Priesthood, Prophecy, Refugees, Rohingya, Statistics, Wounds.

**PERSONS:** Bishop Felix, Bo, C., Brother Lawrence, Chandra, M., Costa, M., D'Rozario, P., Francis of Assisi, Hurtado, A., John Bosco, Ko, T., Kumarabhivamsa, B., Pope Francis, Pope John Paul II, Pope Paul VI, Rahman, B., Saint Andrew, Saint Paul, Simon Peter, Thang, F., Thérèse of Lisieux.

**FABC Papers 156: FABC Office of Human Development – Climate Change Desk (editor). *Business in the Context of Laudato Sí* [2018].**

**CONTENTS:** In November 2017 there were two gatherings with FABC participation that focused on various aspects of business in the context of Pope Francis’ “environmental” encyclical *Laudato Sí*. The materials from eighteen presenters are grouped around five thematic aspects of the discussion. (1) The various inaugural addresses focused on the concerns of the Asian Church related to environmental issues, respect for creation, sustainability, and concern for the poor—all without losing Gospel hope and joy. (2) Next, the concrete realities of climate change (e.g. impacts, trends, challenges, statistics, and needed actions) were presented comprehensively. (3) Numerous valuable insights from the business world enlightened the discussion, asserting that “sustainability is everyone’s business.” (4) Five presenters carefully outlined the numerous concrete, technical aspects that enter into “sustainable business practices” that manifest “corporate climate responsibility.” (5) The final segment includes “good business practices” focused on efforts to “reduce, reuse, and recycle” materials and resources for integral, sustainable, and compassionate human development.

**SUBJECTS:** Best Practices, Biodiversity, Business Procedures, Carbon Footprint, Climate Change, Common Home, Contemplation, Corporate Responsibility, Energy Consumption, Environment, FABC, Green Business, Greenhouse Gasses, Healthcare, Industrial Waste, Kyoto Protocol, *Laudato Sí*, Migration, Mother Earth, Paris Agreement, Pope Francis, Renewable Energy, Sustainable Development, Waste Management, Water Conservation.

**PERSONS:** Anurak, Bro., Boonlue, M., Boon Ping, L., D’Silva, A., D’Souza, A., D’Souza, K., D’Souza, R., Francis of Assisi, Gracias, O., Jongmeewasin, S., Karve, P., Martin, J., Matthias, V., Mendoza, W., Mehta, N., Penha, B., Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis, Pope John Paul II, Sharma, P., Singh, D., Turkson, P., Woo, C.



**FABC Papers 157: FABC Office of Clergy and Office of Laity and Family (colloquium sponsors). *Shepherding Families in Asia* [2018].**

**CONTENTS:** In May of 2016 the FABC Office of Clergy and the Office of Laity and Family jointly sponsored a consultation on “Shepherding Families in Asia”; it was designed to explore contemporary challenges and responses for bishops, priests, and lay leaders. Six thematic areas were addressed. (1) Mylo Vergara presented an overview of current challenges for the pastoral care of families in Asia, highlighting interfaith marriages, marital difficulties, poverty, migration, and available pastoral programs. (2) Focusing on the 2014 and 2015 Synods of Bishops and Pope Francis’ *Amoris Laetitia*, Francis Gustilo presented the many valuable insights they contain. (3) Frank Padilla, a married layman, asserted that family ministry can look to Christ the Good Shepherd for guidance. (4) Mr. and Mrs. Chan Chee Seung outlined the expectations that families have from pastoral leaders in the Church. (5) Cajetan Menezes described how Church structures and personnel can provide pastoral support for families. (6) Finally, Patrick D’Rozario provided insights into family spirituality.

**SUBJECTS:** Abortion, Addictions, *Amoris Laetitia*, Basic Ecclesial Communities, Bible on Family, Couples for Christ, Divorce, Domestic Church, Evangelization, Faith Formation, *Familiaris Consortio*, Family Types, Interfaith Marriages, Marriage Preparation, Migration, Natural Family Planning, Parish Community, Parish Renewal Experience, Pastoral Care, Reconciliation, Relationships in Families, *Retouvailla*, Spirituality of the Family, Synods on Family.

**PERSONS:** D’Rozario, P., Dias, J., Gustilo, F., Jesus Christ, Kakkasseril, F., Kasper, W., Menezes, C., Padilla, F., Pereira, V., Pope Francis, Pope John Paul II, Putzu, S., Saint Paul, Seung, C.C., Thérèse of Lisieux, Vergara, M.

**FABC Papers 158: FABC Office of Theological Concerns and FABC Central Secretariat (consultation sponsors). *Colloquium of Asian National Doctrinal Commissions and Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith* [2019].**

**CONTENTS:** Pope Francis sent a message to the January 2019 gathering of doctrinal commissions of Asian Episcopal Conferences with representatives from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF), encouraging them “to go forth” in a missionary spirit. Cardinal Ladaria of the CDF noted and highlighted the four CDF documents [1967, 1968, 1990, and 2018] that guide the role and function of the doctrinal commissions of episcopal conferences. Archbishop De Noia explained the distinctive elements of the Christian understanding of salvation, noting some current realities which make it difficult to communicate these insights in the contemporary world. Cardinal Tagle explored possibilities for the communication of the vision of Christian salvation in today’s Asian context; he noted the use of biblical models (prophetic, liturgical, sapiential) in this endeavor. Archbishop Machado spoke of living one’s Christian faith in interreligious and multi-cultural contexts, drawing upon insights from the Second Vatican Council.

**SUBJECTS:** Asian Context, Attitudes in Dialogue, Collaboration, *Dialogue and Proclamation*, Divinization, Doctrinal Commissions, *Dominus Jesus, Evangelii Gaudium*, Heresies, Interfaith Dialogue, Interreligious Context, Liturgy, Multiculturalism, *Placuit Deo*, Pluralism, Prophecy, Relativism, Religious Freedom, Sacrifice, Salvation, Second Vatican Council, Synod for Asia, Trinity, Truth, Vocation of Theologians.

**PERSONS:** Anatalios, K., Bea, A., Biesbrouck, W., Bo, C., Clifford, R., Daley, R., Di Noia, A., Geissler, H., Gracias, O., Jeromiyas, J., Ladaria, L., Machado, F., Marquez, C., Milbank, J., Oxley, W., Padilla, W., Pavisá, D., Pope Francis, Pope John Paul II, Pope Paul VI, Tagle, L., Tschang In-Nam, P., and delegates from seventeen Asian countries.

***FABC Papers 159: Tirimanna, Vimal. Responses to Doubts, Questions and Criticisms with regard to Chapter Eight of Amoris Laetitia [2019].***

**CONTENTS:** Pope Francis released *Amoris Laetitia* (*The Joy of Love*) on April 8, 2016; it deals with the pastoral care of families, addressing marriage, family life, divorce, and other important modern issues. The document relies heavily on the insights from the 2014 and 2015 Bishops' Synods on the family. In the subsequent debate, a variety of issues were raised. Creatively, Father Vimal Tirimanna, Professor at the Pontifical Alphonsian Academy in Rome, addresses three pivotal questions: (1) Is *Amoris Laetitia* only the personal opinion of Pope Francis? (2) Is *Amoris Laetitia* a continuation or a break in the Church's doctrine on marriage? (3) Does *Amoris Laetitia* lead to moral relativism? Each question is explored in great depth, with admirable clarity and pastoral sensitivity. This timely treatise deserves an attentive reading for its rich insights, informing the Church's pastoral ministry to families.

**SUBJECTS:** *Amoris Laetitia*, Catholic Moral Teaching, Code of Canon Law, College of Bishops, Creative Fidelity, Development of Doctrine, Discernment, Divorce, Dogmatic Teaching, *Evangelii Gaudium*, *Familiaris Consortio*, Holy Spirit, Indissolubility of Marriage, Internal Forum Solution, Magisterium, Marriage Tribunal, Maternal Role of Church, Moral Relativism, Pastoral Accompaniment, Reception of Sacraments, Second Vatican Council, *Sensus Fidelium*, Synodal Process, Unity in Diversity, Validity of Marriage.

**PERSONS:** Baldisseri, L., Brown, R., Burke, R., Cocopalmerio, F., Corriden, J., Faggioli, M., Glatz, C., Grootaers, J., Himes, K., Lombardi, F., Marcolinia, L., Nichols, V., Ouelett, M., Peters, E., Petra, B., Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis, Pope John Paul II, Scaramuzzi, I., Schonborn, C., Selling, J., Spadaro, A., Sullivan, F., Tirimanna, V., Wuerl, D.

**FABC Papers 160: FABC Office of Consecrated Life and Office of Education and Faith Formation (conference sponsors). *Catholic Schools in Asia: A Shared Mission ... Recent Papal Documents* [2019].**

**CONTENTS:** In September 2018 the FABC Office of Consecrated Life (OCL) and the Office of Education and Faith Formation (OEFF) jointly sponsored a five-day conference with the descriptive title: “Catholic Schools in Asia: A Shared Mission among Bishops, Clergy, Consecrated Persons and Lay Faithful in light of Recent Papal Documents.” They presented a final statement that summarized the conference and described the mission-vision of Catholic schools in Asia. Archbishop Filipe Neri Ferrão from India, Chairman of the FABC Office of Education and Faith Formation, made a comprehensive presentation that centered on communion in the educational mission, needed formation for this shared educational mission, and openness to others in the entire process. Archbishop Antonio Ledesma from the Philippines, Chairperson of the FABC Office of Education and Faith Formation, highlighted the educational directives and challenges emerging from *Evangelii Gaudium*, *Laudato Sí*, and *Gaudete et Exsultate*.

**SUBJECTS:** *Amoris Laetitia*, Asian Reality, Catholic Education, Civilization of Love, Clergy, Communion, Discipleship, Domestic Church, *Evangelii Gaudium*, Evangelization, Faith Formation, Family Stresses, Fraternal Humanism, Holy Spirit, Individualism, Joy, Laity, Mercy, Missionary Discipleship, Peace-building, Poverty, Religious, Responsible Freedom, Social Media, Throwaway Culture.

**PERSONS:** Augustine, Baybado, P., Ellis, J., Ferrão, F., Francis of Assisi, Jesus Christ, Ledesma, A., Mary and Joseph, Neri, F., Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis, Pope John Paul II, Pope Paul III, Pope Paul VI, Teresa of Calcutta.

**FABC Papers 161: FABC Central Secretariat (editor).  
*Apostolic Journey of His Holiness Pope Francis to Thailand and Japan* [2019].**

**CONTENTS:** During his apostolic journey to Thailand and Japan in November 2019, Pope Francis presented nineteen addresses and homilies. Nine presentations in Thailand were delivered to diverse civic and religious authorities as well as various groups of Catholic faithful. He encouraged all (e.g. youth, leaders, believers) to build harmony and peaceful coexistence between various ethnic groups, including migrants and refugees. Specifically speaking to Catholics, Pope Francis challenged them to be “missionary disciples.” He asserted: “Let us not be afraid to continue inculturating the Gospel.” Francis spoke on ten occasions in Japan. He noted how the Christian faith arrived in Japan through Francis Xavier 470 years earlier. He highlighted the faith of several Japanese saints and martyrs, like the “hidden Christians” of Nagasaki. Noting that the motto of his apostolic visit was a commitment to “Protect All Life,” Francis urged sincere dedication to hope, healing, reconciliation, and peace promotion.

**SUBJECTS:** ASEAN, Boldness (*parrhesia*), Buddhism, Culture of Encounter, Diplomatic Corps, *Ecclesia in Asia*, *Evangelii Gaudium*, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, Evangelization, Holy Spirit, Interreligious Relations, Japan, Martyrs, Missionary Church, Nagasaki, Nuclear Weapons, Peace, Prayer, *Sophia*, Sustainable Development, Thailand, Traditional Religions, Virgin Mary, Vocations, Youth.

**PERSONS:** Francis of Assisi, Francis Xavier, Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, King Chulalongkorn, King Rama X, Kitbamrung, N., Kovithavanij, F., Leonardo, Masako, Matsuki, Miki, P., Mother Teresa, Patriarch Vasamo, Patriarch Wanarat, Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis, Pope John XXIII, Pope John Paul II, Pope Paul VI, Takami, J., Tokuum, Toshiko, Ukon, J., Valignano, A.

**FABC Papers 162: Philip Lazatin (presenter). *Awakening Climate Change Concern in Seminaries* [2020].**

**CONTENTS:** This booklet contains the materials from the 2020 consultation sponsored by the FABC Office of Clergy and the FABC Office of Human Development; the focused topic centered on encouraging eco-theology training within the seminary curriculum. Antonio La Viña presented the science of climate change, often employing facts and statistics and noting that the present threat is not only to people, but to all of life. He remains hopeful if one's hope is "grounded in courage to change things." Clarence Devadass asserted that the protection of our common home (environment) is no longer optional or secondary to the Christian life. Seminary formation of future priests must aim to make them "men of communion – with God, self, others, and the entire cosmos." Kochurani Abraham noted that environmental concerns need to move beyond "gendered prescriptions" and appreciate that we are living in a "*kairos* moment" in the "evolutionary story of human becoming."

**SUBJECTS:** Biodiversity, Clergy, Climate Change, Common Home, Consumerism, Contemplation, Culture of Encounter, Eco-Theology, Environment, Formation, Global Warming, Greenhouse Gasses, Human Development, Indigenous Peoples, Interdisciplinary Theology, Kairos Moment, *Laudato Sí*, Ministries, Poor, Science, Seminaries, Simplicity of Lifestyle, Social Media, Spirituality, Women.

**PERSONS:** Abraham, K., Alston, P., Bonaventure, Devadass, C., d'Eaubonne, F., Hultman, N., King, M.L., La Viña, A., Lazatin, P., Levin, K., Locsin, T., Marvel, K., Merchant, C., Moreno, I., Pope Francis, Pope John Paul II, Rich, A., Ruether, R., Schellnhuber, H., Shiva, V., Thunberg, G., and over three dozen persons mentioned in footnotes.

***FABC Papers 163: Joseph Gonsalves (reporter). FABC 2020: Preparatory Workshop for General Conference [2020].***

**CONTENTS:** This issue of the *FABC Papers* contains an overview report of the February 1-3, 2020 preparatory workshop for an FABC general conference; this comprehensive document was submitted by Father Joseph Gonsalves, executive secretary of the Office of Human Development. Gratitude was expressed to Bishop Allwyn D'Silva for conceptualizing and spearheading the workshop. Nearly two dozen speakers provided a wide variety of reflections and reports on current realities facing the Church in Asia. These contributions all impact the future role of the FABC in Asia. Some of the emerging topics centered on the review of FABC structures, the promotion of integral faith formation in all of Asia's local Churches, greater sensitivity to God's Asian peoples, including the poor, and better Church communication all across Asia. Finally, the gathering noted "major emerging trends" in Asia; participants proposed developing a systematic strategic plan for the FABC in the coming years.

**SUBJECTS:** Basic Ecclesial Community, Buddhism, Caritas Asia, Central FABC Committee, Clergy, Climate Change, Collegiality, Corruption, Development, Ecumenism, Environment, Episcopal Conferences, FABC Teachings, Family Life, Justice, Laity, *Laudato Sí*, Migration, Papal Asian Visits, Plenary Assembly, Social Teaching, Tribal People, Triple Dialogue, Urbanization, Violence.

**PERSONS:** Ambrose, Y., Anwar, S., Bagaforo, C., D'Rozario, B., D'Silva, A., Dugan, C., Figaredo, E., Gomes, L., Gomez, Z., Gonsalves, J., Kodiyan, F., LaRousse, W., Lauer, B., Manatunga, N., Maruyama, N., Mendes, B., Noche, L., Padilla, E., Putro, C., Rozario, G., Saku, D., Santos, R., Singh, D., Somsaengsruang, A., Tan, J.

**FABC Papers 164: Deepika Singh (project coordinator).  
*Migrants, Refugees, the Displaced and Human Trafficking and  
Renewable Energy Options in the Asian Context* [2020].**

**CONTENTS:** During a week-long seminar in February 2019, 48 delegates from 13 countries gathered in Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh to address the broad topic of migrants, refugees, and the displaced in relation to human trafficking and renewable energy options. The focused purpose of the assembly was "aimed at mutual learning by sharing experiences, challenges and good practices in care of migrants and efforts to combat climate change through renewable energy options in our respective countries and regions." Included in the gathering were exposure experiences based on six thematic areas. In addition, there were informative reports by country, including concrete realities and statistics. The seminar generated twenty action points that contained strategies, priorities, and practical actions. The pivotal verbs of Pope Francis were seen as concrete guides to produce pastoral action: welcome, protect, promote, and integrate.

**SUBJECTS:** Asylum Seekers, Awareness Seminar, Deportation, Elderly Care, Environmental Protection, *Evangelii Gaudium*, Health Care, Human Trafficking, Interfaith Movements, International Marriage, Justice, Labor Rights, Migrants, Migratory Corridors, Networking, Paris Agreement, Peace, Refugees, Renewable Energy, Rohingya, Sexual Violence, Shelter, Social Services, Tourism, World Day of Peace.

**PERSONS:** Avelino, A., Baggio, F., Barnabas, P., D'Silva, A., D'Souza, R., Ghosh, H., Gomes, J., Gomes, L., Huq, S., Joseph, M., Lukusa, S., Maruyama, N., Mothsche, C., Noche, C., Paul, C., Pope Francis, Putro, C., Rozario, A., Sarkur, F., Tan, J., Tangsurakit, R., Vadakel, S., Yokoyama, Y., Zhang, J., and numerous other participants.



***FABC Papers 165: FABC 50 Core Group (presenter). FABC 50 General Conference: Guide Document [2021].***

**CONTENTS:** After an extensive process of consultation, the FABC 50 General Conference Core Group released this “Guide Document” for an upcoming continental conference. This comprehensive resource includes a brief FABC history and encourages Asia’s local Churches to learn from the saints “who confronted the difficulties of their own day” (*Evangelii Gaudium* 263). The document notes: “Guided by Matthew 2:1-12, the overall objective of FABC 50 is to reaffirm, renew and revitalize the whole Church in Asia.” The outline-structure of the document includes: Part One: Emerging Realities and Trends of Concern in Asia [15 items identified]; Part Two: Church in the Asian Context [3 major themes]; Part Three: Envisioning New Pathways for the Church in Asia and the FABC [8 items mentioned]. The conclusion affirms the need to begin again the journey of becoming dynamic local Churches in Asia, because “a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step” (Chinese proverb). Responses to this working document will be published in subsequent *FABC Papers*.

**SUBJECTS:** Asian Context, Boldness (*parrhesia*), Church- in-Asia, Climate, Covid-19 Pandemic, Cultural Transformation, Digitalization, Episcopal Conferences, Faces of Jesus, Faith Journey, Family Values, Gender Issues, Globalization, Indigenous People, *Laudato Sí*, Magi, Migrants, Missionaries, Papal Addresses, Paris Agreement, Proclamation, Refugees, Triple Dialogue, Urbanization, Youth.

**PERSONS:** Bo, C., D’Silva, A., Gracias, O., Jesus Christ, Pope Francis. NOTE: Due to the nature of this document, no other names are mentioned.

***FABC Papers 166: Episcopal Conferences (respondents). Responses to Guide Document: Central, East and South Asia. [2021].***

**CONTENTS:** This FABC document represents part of the ongoing process of consultation as the FABC moves toward its “FABC 50 General Conference.” It includes feedback of varying length from several Central, East, and South Asian countries. Responding conferences and the page-length of their input is noted: Kazakhstan (2), Japan (5), Korea (9), China (5), Bangladesh (2), India (14), Syro-Malabar Church (10), Pakistan (3), and Sri Lanka (7). Generally, responses are grouped around the tripart guide document: (a) emerging realities and trends of concern in Asia; (b) the Church in the Asian context; and, new pathways for the Church in Asia and the FABC. The original guide document was intended to act as a “spark” or “catalyst” to guide and focus the preparation for the future general conference. Judging from the diverse responses, the goal appears to have been achieved (as seen in the diverse “subjects” listed below). This document is complemented by FABC Paper No. 167 that compiles the responses from the South-East Asia region.

**SUBJECTS:** Bangladesh, Basic Ecclesial Communities, China, Discernment, Environmental Emergency, Evangelization, Family Values, Field Hospital, Fiftieth Anniversary, Fundamentalism, Global Pandemic, India, Indigenous Peoples, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Synodality, Syro-Malabar Church, Taiwan, Triple Dialogue, Urbanization, Vocations, Women’s Issues.

**PERSONS:** Jesus Christ, Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis, Pope John Paul II, Pope Paul VI, Ranjith, M., Vaz, J. Few individual names are mentioned, since responses are submitted in the name of episcopal conferences.

**FABC Papers 167: Episcopal Conferences (respondents).  
Responses to Guide Document: South-East Asia [2021].**

**CONTENTS:** This document includes responses from eight South-East Asian countries as the FABC moves toward its “FABC 50 General Conference.” Brief highlights from each country now follow. *Indonesia* raised the subjects of authoritarian government leadership and interfaith relations, especially with Islam. *Malaysia* focused on the disparity between the rich and poor in many Asian countries. *Singapore* gave feedback on family values, marriage, and gender issues. *Myanmar* noted that they recently faced a national coup; like the Magi they seek to follow the Star and continue on a different pathway. *Philippines* highlighted several issues: prevalence of violence, environmental degradation, digital sexual exploitation of minors, and effective evangelization. *Thailand* presented the comprehensive decree from their 2015 Plenary Council of the Bishops’ Conference. *Timor Leste* noted the challenges they face as a newly independent nation as they build a “Church with a Timorese Face.” *Vietnam* highlighted the need to better disseminate the FABC vision and documents in Asia and in the wider Church.

**SUBJECTS:** Asian Catholic Church, Asian Religions, Autocratic Leaders, Brunei, Contextual Theology, Covid-19 Pandemic, *Evangelii Gaudium*, *Fratelli Tutti*, Images of Church, Indonesia, *Laudato Sí*, Liturgical Inculturation, Malaysia, Moral Teaching, Myanmar, Philippines, Poverty, Prophetic Mission, Signs of the Times, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vatican II, Vietnam, Youth.

**PERSONS:** Almeida, M., Anderson, B., Araujo, R., Francis, S., Gitom, J., Gracias, O., Hii, J., Hirmer, O., Hodge, J., Jesus Christ, Koyama, K., Leow, J., Mendes, N., Ng, R., Paul, B., Pinto, J., Piong, C., Poh, S., Pope Francis, Ramos-Horta, J., Ratzinger, J., Sequeira, D., Silva, V., Sim, C., Wong, J.

**FABC Papers 168: Estela Padilla (editor). *The Body of Christ in the Pandemic ... Asian Perspectives (Part I)* [2022].**

**CONTENTS:** This presentation is a synthesized reflection on the realities of the local Churches across Asia as the FABC prepares for the celebration of its fiftieth anniversary. The paper takes the “body” as a theological locus and site for God’s continuing revelation—especially in light of the Corona virus pandemic. The *first part* examines the physical, bodily impact of the disease; it identifies both the challenges to be faced and the opportunities that emerge. The study seeks to examine the *context* comprehensively before beginning the *theological reflection*. The ground-breaking work of Victor Turner on “liminality” is foundational to the study. The *second part* explores “embodying the faith” in families, in local Churches, and in creation. This present paper (No. 168) examines the family context; the next paper (No. 169) turns its attention to the local Churches and creation. A final section outlines how the FABC and Asia’s local Churches can walk forward together in a “synodal conversion.”

**SUBJECTS:** Asian Church, Body of Christ, Community, Compassion, Conversion, Creation, Cross, Ecology, Family, *Fratelli Tutti*, Hope, *Laudato Sí*, Liminal Space, Liturgy, *Metanoia*, Mission, Pandemic-Covid-19, Pastoral Apostolate, Resurrection, Sin, Solidarity, Suffering, Synodality, Trinity, Vaccine Issues.

**PERSONS:** Aiguabella, J., Augustine, Bosch, M., Brazal, A., Camarines, T., Corpuz, J., Dollahite, D., Gauxachs, A., Graham, E., Kalb, K., Kanu, I., Kowalczyk, O., Montane, X., Padilla, E., Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis, Pope John Paul II, Reyes, A., Roszkowski, K., Saint Paul, Sarmiento, P., Schechner, R., Swantek, Z., Turner, V., Waldstein, M.

**FABC Papers 169: Estela Padilla (editor). *The Body of Christ in the Pandemic ... Asian Perspectives (Part II) [2022].***

**CONTENTS:** This paper is the second half of the comprehensive reflection by the FABC in preparation for its fiftieth anniversary. Specifically, here one finds the “body reflection” applied in both the local Churches and in creation. There are four aspects to the reflection within Asia’s local Churches: (a) The Church as the Mystical Body of Christ; (b) Pandemic Challenges: Suffering in the Body of Christ; (c) The Church of the Risen Christ as Healing Presence; and, (d) Responding through New Pastoral Pathways. Likewise, the “body reflection” within Creation contains four elements: (a) Creation as the Cosmic Body of Christ; (b) The Suffering Body of Christ in Creation; (c) Healing the Body of Christ in Creation; and, (d) For a Renewed Mission: Integral Pastoral Pathways. The final section of this comprehensive presentation concludes with a focused reflection on “Walking Forward Together: A Synodal Conversion.”

**SUBJECTS:** Asian Church, Community, Compassion, Conversion, Creation, Cross, Ecology, *Fratelli Tutti*, Harmony, Healing, Hope, *Laudato Sí*, Liturgy, *Metanoia*, Mission, Pandemic-Covid-19, Pastoral Apostolate, Prophetic Witnessing, Resurrection, Sin, Solidarity, Suffering, Synodality, Trinity, Vaccine Issues.

**PERSONS:** Bonaventure, Boromann, J., Candelario, J., De Chardin, T., Delio, I., Eliade, M., Hang, H., Hantoko, D., Holy Spirit, Irenaeus, Jesus Christ, Johnson, E., MacFague, S., Manickam, T., Moltmann, J., Padilla, E., Panikkar, R., Pope Francis, Pope John Paul II, Rahner, K., Rolheiser, R., Rume, T., Taylor, S., Thich Nhat Hanh, Ul-Islam, S., and numerous authors quoted in footnotes.

***FABC Papers 170: FABC Central Secretariat (compiler).  
Country Reports: FABC 50 General Conference [2022].***

**CONTENTS:** This document contains four reports from South Asia, specifically Bangladesh, India, the Syro-Malabar Church, and the Syro-Malankara Church. Bangladesh is celebrating its fiftieth year of independence and the establishment of the Catholic Bishops' Conference (1971-2021). It is a predominantly Muslim country (88% of the population); Christians are only 0.4%. The paper presents Church involvement in various pastoral ministries and interfaith relations, always seeking to follow a "synodal path." The report from India is a consolidated overview from a dozen regions of the Catholic Bishops of India. The country has great diversity in its regional, social, cultural, linguistic, and ethnic makeup. The Church views itself as "journeying with the Indian Jesus and the Asian peoples." The Syro- Malabar Church engages in diverse apostolates: migrants, indigenous workers, youth, missionary families, health care, interfaith dialogue, and lay leadership. The Syro-Malankara Church is involved with parish and family life, victims of the pandemic, education, social ministry, youth outreach, and vocation recruitment.

**SUBJECTS:** Bangladesh, Caritas, Creation/Environment, Credit Unions, Culture of Dialogue, Ecumenism, Education-Challenges, Episcopal Conferences, Evangelical Churches, Health Care, India, Interreligious Dialogue, Liberation, Martyrs, Religious, Small Christian Communities, Social Teaching, Statistics, Synodal Church, Syro-Malabar Church, Syro-Malankara Church, Thomas Christians, Tribals, Women Empowerment, Youth.

**PERSONS:** Alencherry, G., Bo, C., Cleemis, B., Couto, A., D'Rozario, P., D'Souza, D., Fernandes, F., Ganguly, T., Gracias, O., Ivanios, G., Jesus Christ, Lapante, F., Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis, Pope John Paul II, Saint Thomas, Vanier, J.

**FABC Papers 171: FABC Central Secretariat (compiler).  
Country Reports: FABC 50 General Conference [2022].**

**CONTENTS:** This overview presentation records the country reports from Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The first document from the Apostolic Vicariate of Nepal begins with a comprehensive Christian history beginning in the 1600s. The work of many evangelizers (Capuchins, Jesuits, women religious, numerous catechists) is presented as well as interactions with civil authorities. Current realities are described (population, religions, economics, education, struggles and challenges, social situation, etc.). The Church seeks to be “a collaborative, participatory, and self-reliant” community engaged in “creative ministries” as it searches for “new ways of being Church.” Pakistan, “officially the Islamic Republic of Pakistan,” is the world’s fifth-most populous country where the Christian community is truly a “small flock.” The Church faces great pressure from “Islamic fundamentalists” and is truly a “Church of the marginalized.” The Sri Lankan Church is still feeling the aftereffects of the 2019 Easter Sunday bombings and other social pressures; yet, she seeks to “bear witness to Jesus, His way of life and teachings.”

**SUBJECTS:** Bombings, British, Capuchins, Catechesis, Conversions, Discipleship, Evangelization, Fundamentalism, India, Integral Development, Islamization, Jesuits, Kathmandu, Minorities, Multi- cultural Context, Nepal, Pakistan, Portuguese, *Propaganda Fide*, Schools/Education, Sri Lanka, Tibet, Tribals, Vatican Council II, Youth.

**PERSONS:** Cabral, J., Cacchiavillian, A., Moran, M., Murphy, F., Pennacchio, S., Pope John XXIII, Pope John Paul II, Rana, N., Ranjith, M., Saxton, E., Senigallia, R., Sharma, A., Simick, P., Tranquillus, F., Vaz, J., Wildermuth, B. NOTE: The names of several government, Church, and missionary persons from Nepal are too numerous to be mentioned here.

**FABC Papers 172: FABC Central Secretariat (compiler).  
Country Reports: FABC 50 General Conference [2022].**

**CONTENTS:** This paper covers six countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Myanmar, and Philippines. While democracy is improving in Indonesia, interreligious intolerance and environmental degradation is rising; the Church seeks to continue building community across all strata of society. The report from Malaysia presents a national overview and articulates challenges; it also outlines “future pathways” to become a communitarian, participatory, dialogical, prophetic, disciple-making, missionary, and nation-building Church. Catholicism in Singapore is now 200 years old (1821-2021); some of its ministries focus on senior Catholics, volunteer recruitment, and engagement in the synodal process. The Church in Brunei is small (3 clergy, 3 parishes, no current bishop); it addresses the impact of Covid-19, marriage and family realities, and vocation recruitment. In Myanmar, the Church is a minority (1% of 55 million); the coup of February 1, 2021 has created numerous problems. Yet, the local community seeks to be a “forgiving reconciling Church.” Catholicism in the Philippines is 500 years old (1521- 2021); the local Church has various emphases, seeking to be a “vibrant missionary Church” that is sensitive to its own “lights and shadows.”

**SUBJECTS:** Basic Ecclesial Community, Biblical Apostolate, Brunei, Conversions, Corruption, Covid-19-Pandemic, Democracy, Digital Church Initiatives, Environment/Climate, Evangelization, Family Ministry, Indonesia, Intolerance, Islamization, *Laudato Sí*, Malaysia, Migration, Minorities, Myanmar, Participatory Church, Philippines, Sexual Harassment, Singapore, Social Mission, Statistical Graphs.

**PERSONS:** Di-Pertuan, Y., Duterte, R., Nu, U., Pope Francis, Pope John Paul II, Ressa, M., Sim, C., Tornstam, L., Valles, R., Vasco di Gama.



**FABC Papers 173: FABC Central Secretariat (compiler).  
Country Reports: FABC 50 General Conference [2022].**

**CONTENTS:** This document forms part of the series of reports from Asia's local Churches as the preparation to celebrate fifty years of the FABC continues. The input from Timor-Leste is presented in three parts: first, an introduction, overview, and description of the country; second, a report from the three dioceses; third, an analysis of the situation, followed by proposals for more effective evangelization through homilies, seminars, pastoral catechesis, as well as ecumenical and interfaith dialogue. Thailand, a country of 67 million with over three million foreign migrant workers, seeks a faith-evaluation of the signs of the times (stresses on the family, effects of Covid-19, parish life, Catholic education, social communication, etc.); renewed emphasis is placed on synodality and evangelization. The report from Vietnam examines the current situation, challenges, and possible new pathways. Challenges include relationships with civil authorities, other religions, and the poor. New pathways focus on an expanded program of evangelization, integration with Vietnam's cultural traditions, and a renewed post-Covid-19 pastoral ministry.

**SUBJECTS:** Ancestors, Basic Ecclesial Communities, Catechists, Covid-19-Pandemic, Dili, Ecological Challenges, Evangelicals, Evangelization, *Fratelli Tutti*, Holistic Development, *Laudato Sí*, Martyrs, Migration, Missionaries, Multiculturalism, Portuguese, Signs of the Times, Social Teaching, Syncretism, Synodal Church, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Unemployment, Vietnam, Youth Ministry.

**PERSONS:** Amaral, N., Bevans, S., Brunett, R., Da'Silva, V., De la Motte, L., Francis of Assisi, Marshal, D., Nascimento, B., Nguyen Van Thuah, F., Pallu, F., Phu Yen, A., Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis, Pope John Paul II, Pope Paul VI, Pope Pius XII, Schroeder, R., Truong Buu Diep, F.

**FABC Papers 174: FABC Central Secretariat (compiler).  
Country Reports: FABC 50 General Conference [2022].**

**CONTENTS:** Five country reports are included in this booklet: Hong Kong, Macau, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. The Hong Kong Diocese reports that the governance model of “One Country, Two Systems” seems not to be functioning well; “negative emotions” and a “sense of hopelessness” are widespread following the 2019 social unrest. The Church consistently emphasizes the need for “non-violence, dialogue, fact-finding and reconciliation.” The Macau Diocese will celebrate the 450th anniversary of its founding (1576-2026). The social-political situation is relatively stable. The local Church focuses on the elderly, youth, sick, and social outreach. Christianity arrived in Japan in the sixteenth century. The country faces a low birth-rate and an aging society; it has about 1.65 million foreign workers. The November 2019 visit of Pope Francis with the theme “Protect All Life” positively impacted many Japanese. Korea, a very secular society, faces “aging and low birth rate.” The Church, with its vision of “Integral Human Solidarity and Development,” promotes social awareness, Christian unity, interfaith dialogue, and environmental protection. In the rapidly changing society of Taiwan, the Church emphasizes respect for human life, wholesome family values, care for migrants and foreign workers, youth evangelization, dialogue and synodality.

**SUBJECTS:** Abortion, Aging/Elderly, Buddhism, Coronavirus Pandemic, Ecological Challenges, Education/Schools, Emigration, Evangelization, Hong Kong, Human/Women’s Rights, Interfaith Dialogue, Japan, Korea, *Laudato Sí*, Macau, Missionaries, Multi-culturalism, Nuclear Weapons, Polarization, Refugees, Religious Pluralism, Secularization, Social Instability, Synodal Church, Taiwan.

**PERSONS:** Lee Bun-Sang, S., Petitjean, B., Pope Francis.

**FABC Papers 175: FABC Central Secretariat (compiler).  
Country Reports: FABC 50 General Conference [2022].**

**CONTENTS:** Continuing the Asia-wide preparation for the fiftieth anniversary of FABC, this paper contains four country reports: Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Mongolia. The report from Afghanistan begins with a brief history of the country. In 2002, it was established as a *missio sui juris* by Pope John Paul II. Major changes came when the Taliban seized power in 2021; now pastoral activity is severely limited. Kyrgyzstan, a former Soviet republic, gained independence in 1991. Ecumenism and interfaith dialogue are pivotal, since many families are of mixed religion. The Church engages in charitable works, especially with children and youth. Uzbekistan is 89% Muslim (Sunnis). The Catholic community started its service in 1998; however, only the Missionaries of Charity can operate through charity work with the disadvantaged. Mongolia saw the arrival of the first missionaries in 1992. Wenceslao Padilla, CICM, was the first bishop of Ulaanbaatar (2003-2018). Current Bishop Giorgio Marengo emphasizes three principles: Depth, Fraternity, and Proclamation.

**SUBJECTS:** Afghanistan, Barnabites, Buddhism, Caritas, CICM Missionaries, Consolata Missionaries, Ecumenism, Eucharist, Evangelization, Faith, Franciscans, Inculturation, Interreligious Relations, Islam, Jesuits, Kyrgyzstan, Little Sisters of Jesus, Missionaries of Charity, Mongolia, Shariah Law, Synodal Approach, Taliban, Ulaanbaatar, Uzbekistan, Youth.

**PERSONS:** Caspani, E., Chinggis Khaan, Corcoran, A., Del Carpine, G., Goessens, R., Khan, A., Marengo, G., Moretti, G., Padilla, W., Pope Francis, Pope John Paul II, Pope Pius XI, Sales, G., Scalese, G., Thomas the Apostle, Viscardi, E., Wilhelm of Rubruck, Xuereb, A.

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