



# FABC NEWSLETTER

No. 203

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## IN THE CONFERENCES:

**Appointed:** Father Joseph Kallarackal as Bishop of Jaipur, India; Bishop Julius Sullan Tonel as Archbishop of Zamboanga, Philippines; Cardinal Luis Antonio G. Tagle, pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, Section for First Evangelization and the new particular Churches; Cardinal Lazzaro You Heung-sik, prefect of the Dicastery for the Clergy; and Cardinal Filipe Neri António Sebastião do Rosário Ferrão, archbishop of Goa and Damão, India as members of the Dicastery for Evangelization, Section for Fundamental Questions regarding Evangelization in the World; Father John Baptist Huang Min-Cheng, O.F.M., as Bishop of Tainan, Taiwan; Father Leandro Maria Alves as Bishop of Baucau, Timor-Leste; Father Joseph Huynh Van Sy as Bishop of Nha Trang, Viet Nam; Bishop Alex Joseph Vadakumthala, Bishop of Kannur, India as Apostolic Administrator of Kottapuram, India; Bishop Varghese Thottamkara, as bishop of Balasore, India; Archbishop Savio Hon Tai-Fai, as Apostolic Nuncio in Libya; Bishop Ruperto Cruz Santos as Bishop of Antipolo, Philippines; Father Henry Eikhlein as Bishop of Pathein, Myanmar; Bishop Silvio Siripong Charatsri as Bishop of Ratchaburi, Thailand; Father George Panamthundil as Apostolic Nuncio to Kazakhstan; Msgr. Germano Penemote as Apostolic Nuncio to Pakistan; Father Louis Mascarenhas as Bishop of Allahabad, India; Bishop Moises Magpantay Cuevas as Vicar Apostolic of Calapan, Philippines; Father Benny Varghese Edathattel as Bishop of Itanagar, India.

**Succeeded:** Bishop Maurice Nyunt Wai from Coadjutor to Bishop of Mawlamyine, Myanmar; Bishop Joseph Đỗ Quang Khang from Coadjutor to Bishop of Bắc Ninh, Viet Nam.

**Retired:** Bishop Oswald Lewis as Bishop of Jaipur, India; Bishop Joseph Karikkassery as Bishop of Kottapuram, India; Bishop Allwyn D'Silva as Auxiliary Bishop of Bombay, India; Bishop Francisco Mendoza de Leon as Bishop of Antipolo, Philippines; Bishop Raymond Saw Po Ray as Bishop of Mawlamyine, Myanmar; Bishop Franco Mulakkal (Aippunny) as Bishop of Jullundur, India; Bishop John Bosco Panya Kritcharoen as Bishop of Ratchaburi, Thailand; Bishop Cosme Hoàng Văn Đạt, S.J. as Bishop of Bắc Ninh, Viet Nam; Bishop John Thomas Kattrukudiyil as Bishop of Itanagar, India.

**Resigned:** Archbishop Alfred Xuereb as Apostolic Nuncio to Korea and Mongolia.

**Ceased:** Archbishop Joseph Nguyễn Chí Linh, Archbishop of Huế, Viet Nam, as Apostolic Administrator of Nha Trang, Vietnam.

**Died:** Archbishop Peter Lin Jiashan, (88+), Archbishop of Fuzhou [Foochow], China; Bishop James Chan Soon Cheong, (96+), Bishop Emeritus of Melaka-Johor, Malaysia; Bishop Isidore Fernandes, (76+), Bishop Emeritus of Allahabad, India.

## **FABC DATEBOOK:**

- 10-15 July, FABC Central Secretariat will hold a Bishops Synodal Leadership Seminar – Workshop at the Camillian Pastoral Care Center, Bangkok, Thailand.

- 25-27 August, the Office of Evangelization (OE) will hold a Gathering of Ecclesial Movements in Asia, at the Camillian Pastoral Care Center, Bangkok, Thailand.

-11-15 September, the FABC Central Secretariat, with the Offices of Laity and Family, Clergy, Consecrated Life, Education and Faith Formation and Theological Concerns will hold the First Consultation Meeting on Synodal Formation in Asia at the Mahatai Pattaya Convention Center, Pattaya Thailand.

-9-14 October, South Asia Workshop to be held To Be Bridge Builders and Bridges – Instruments of Dialogue and Reconciliation in Asia at St. Xavier’s School, Godavari, Lalitpur District, Kathmandu, Nepal.

-11-15 December, the Office of Evangelization (OE) will hold a Gathering of Bishops and Priest-in-charge of the Office of Evangelization in all the Bishops’ Conferences. TBD

## **FABC PAPER 182**

Federation Of Asian Bishops’ Conferences Office of Education and Faith Formation (FABC-OEFF) produced the Final Statement and Proceedings of the Consultation Meeting on Antiquum Ministerium as FABC Paper 182. All FABC Papers are available on the FABC website.

## **SOUTH ASIA WORKSHOPS**

During the FABC 50 General Conference, the Bishops of South Asia met and planned some workshops for South Asia. The first was a workshop on insights from the FABC Documents. FABC Workshop on the Insights from the FABC Documents especially the FABC 50 – Bangkok Document was held on 23 April 2023 – 28 April 2023. The second was on the role of Catechists in the light of the FABC documents and the FABC 50 document. South Asia FABC Workshop: Called to Be Witnesses in the World was held on 24 – 28 May 2023. Both were held at the St. Xavier’s school, Godavari, Lalitpur district, Kathmandu, Nepal. Bp. Allwyn D’Silva was put in charge of arranging the workshops. Bp. Paul Simick was the host as the Apostolic Vicar of the Vicarate of Nepal.

For the FABC Workshop on the Insights from the FABC Documents especially the FABC 50 – Bangkok Document thirty people gathered, bishops, priests and sisters from mostly India with some working in Nepal and Archbishop Bejoy D’Cruze from Dhaka Bangladesh. Fr. Vimal Tirimanna CSsR, former Executive Secretary of the Office of Theological Concerns (OTC), was the main speaker as he went through themes of the FABC documents in 8 sessions. Some of these included the Church as teacher and mother, the role of faith and reason in theologizing, harmony, emerging theological thrust of FABC Plenaries, care for the earth, interfaith marriages, Amoris Laetitia, the FABC and dialogue. Bp. Allwyn D’Silva presented the Bangkok Document – the Final Document of the FABC 50 General Conference and Fr. William LaRousse presented the structures and composition of the FABC. All appreciated the insights that were offered and felt like they came to know and

understand the FABC better. For the South Asia FABC Workshop: Called to Be Witnesses in the World thirty-three delegates including eight priests, five religious women and twenty lay persons representing five countries of the Indian subcontinent, namely Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan and India (Latin and Syro-Malabar rites) deliberated on the theme during this three-day workshop on catechesis. Fr Vincent D’Cruz was the main facilitator. He presented the role and identity of the ministry of Catechists and Catechesis, the Tasks and Purpose of Catechesis and the need to develop the Spirituality of a Catechist. Ms. Judeline D’Souza presented Adult Catechesis. Fr Boniface Mendes from Pakistan presented an introduction to the FABC. Bp. Allwyn D’Silva presented the Bangkok Document. The representatives of each country made a presentation of local catechetical scenarios, structures and organization of catechetical activities. At the end country-wise groups worked out an action proposal for modes of evangelization. There will be a third workshop with the theme: To be Bridgebuilders and Bridges – Instruments of Dialogue and Reconciliation in Asia.

## **SYNODAL FORMATION**

The FABC through the Office of Laity and Family, Office of the Clergy, Office of the Consecrated Life, Office of Education and Faith Formation and the Office of Theological Concerns is organizing the First Consultation Meeting on Synodal Formation in Asia. This will be held on September 11-15, 2023 in Thailand at the Mahatai Pattaya Convention Center (Redemptorists).

To prepare this, they have sent a survey to all of the conferences and to all of the dioceses to get the pulse of what has been done in terms of synodal formation. An integral part of the survey is to learn from the experiences, insights, issues and challenges of the dioceses/conferences that integrated/implemented synodality in their formation programs. Almost every synodal report on every level (parochial, vicariate, diocesan, metropolitan, national and continental) spoke of the need for synodal formation.

The Consultation Meeting aims to discern the unique Asian understanding, nature, and approaches of synodal formation based on the Bangkok Document from the FABC 50 General Conference and the Final Document of the Asian Continental Assembly on Synodality (ACAS), and other relevant documents.

The concept of synodal formation in Asia has two levels. In the initial phase, the consultation meeting aims to define synodal formation in a Asian way by looking into the unique listening methodologies and spiritual conversations in the cultures and traditions of Asia. The aim, therefore, of the Consultation Meeting is to discern a general framework for synodal formation in Asia. The second level is for the FABC Offices to articulate the dimension of synodal formation in Asia specific to their own areas of concern.



## **FABC 50 BANGKOK DOCUMENT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR ASIA**

A conference on the post FABC 50 General Conference was organized by FABC- Office of Human Development and Climate Change Desk at Marian Shrine Centre, Bai Dau, Ba Ria Vung Tau Province, . The conference was entitled FABC 50 Bangkok Document and its Implications for Asia and was held to spread awareness about the teachings of the Bangkok Document and initiate action as advocated by the document. 36 participants, comprising 7 bishops, 15 priests, 2 religious women and 12 lay people from 11 Asian countries, attended the conference. The participants were mainly bishops in-charge and the secretaries of the various Episcopal Commissions for Justice, Peace and Development and Migrants. A few justice and peace workers from the Asia-Pacific Justice and Peace Workers Network (APJPWN) were also invited, along with the networking partners, namely Talita Kum, the Laudato Si Movement and the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Development, Vatican. The conference began with a mass at the Chapel of the Tomb of the Martyrs in Ba Ria diocese. The country wise reports were an eye opener to all that highlighted the various social issues plaguing the Asian countries. Migration, ecological concerns, the widening gap between the rich and the poor, rising religious extremism and the shrinking of democratic spaces were some of the prominent issues that emerged in the presentations and discussion. The 'Vietnam Story' i.e the faith journey of the church in Vietnam, was very inspiring. The cordial relationship between the church and the state was presented. The participants were better able to comprehend the difficulties and tribulations faced by those who live on water after an exposure visit to «Long Son Floating Village.» The Chairman of FABC-OHD/CCD, Bishop Emeritus Allwyn D'Silva highlighted the Bangkok Document and challenged the participants to prepare a plan of action to implement it in their respective countries. The generous hospitality of Bishop Emmanuel Nguyen Hong Son of Ba Ria diocese will be forever remembered by the participants.