



FABC NEWSLETTER

No. 204

July – September 2023

CONGRATULATIONS to our new Cardinals!!

Cardinal Stephen Chow Sau-yan, S.J.

Bishop of Hong Kong, China

Cardinal Sebastian Francis

Bishop of Penang, Malaysia

Appointed: Father Elias Frank as Bishop of Asansol, India; Father Ferdinand Dhkar as Bishop of Jowai, India; Father Victorius Dwiardy, O.F.M. Cap. As Bishop of Banjarmasin, Indonesia; Archbishop George Panamthundil as Apostolic Nuncio to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan; Bishop Joseph Shen Bin as Bishop of Shanghai, China; Archbishop Florentino Galang Lavarias, Archbishop of San Fernando, Philippines as Apostolic Administrator of Balanga, Philippines; Msgr. Kevin S. Randall as Apostolic Nuncio to Bangladesh; Cardinal Thomas Aquino Manyo Maeda as Archbishop of Osaka-Takamatsu, Japan; Bishop Paul Toshihiro Sakai as Auxiliary Bishop of Osaka-Takamatsu, Japan; Father Andrea Lembo, P.I.M.E. as Auxiliary Bishop of Tokyo, Japan; Father Lourdu Anandam as Bishop of Sivagangai, India; Bishop Mylo Hubert Claudio Vergara as Apostolic Administrator of San Pablo, Philippines.

Confirmed: Father Mathew Nellikunnel, C.S.T. as Bishop of Gorakhpur (Syro-Malabar), India.

Succeeded: Bishop John Saw Gawdy from Coadjutor Bishop of Taungngu, Myanmar.

Resigned: Bishop Buenaventura Malayo Famadico as Bishop of San Pablo, Philippines.

Retired: Bishop Petrus Boddeng Timang as Bishop of Banjarmasin, Indonesia; Bishop Isaac Danu as Bishop of Taungngu, Myanmar; Bishop Thomas Thuruthimattam, C.S.T. as Bishop of Gorakhpur (Syro-Malabar), India; Archbishop Leo Boccardi as Apostolic Nuncio Emeritus to Japan.

Ceased: Bishop Moises Magpantay Cuevas as Apostolic Administrator of Zamboanga, Philippines; Bishop Julius Marandi as Apostolic Administrator of Asansol, India; Father Nestor Julao Adalia as Apostolic Administrator of Calapan, Philippines.

Died: Bishop Peter Takaaki Hirayama (99+) Bishop Emeritus of Oita, Japan; Bishop Vincentius Sutikno Wisaksono (69+) Bishop of Surabaya, Indonesia; Bishop Paul Kazuhiro Mori (84+) Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Tokyo, Japan; Bishop Pierre Trần Thành Chung (95+) Bishop Emeritus of Kontum, Viet Nam.

FABC DATEBOOK:

- 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.
- 20-24 November, FABC Office of Social Communication will hold the 28th Annual FABC-OSC Bishops’ Meet in Bangkok, Thailand.
- 4-7 December, FABC Office of Human Development Climate Change Desk (OHD/CCD) will hold a seminar on Laudato Si Handbook & Environmentally Sustainable Practices at the Camillian Pastoral Care Center, Bangkok, Thailand.
- 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 at the Camillian Pastoral Care Center, Bangkok, Thailand.
- 19-23 February 2024, annual meeting of the Central Committee and all Office Chairmen and Secretaries at the Camillian Pastoral Care Center, Bangkok, Thailand.

FR. JOHN A. CIOPPA, MM FIRST “ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL”

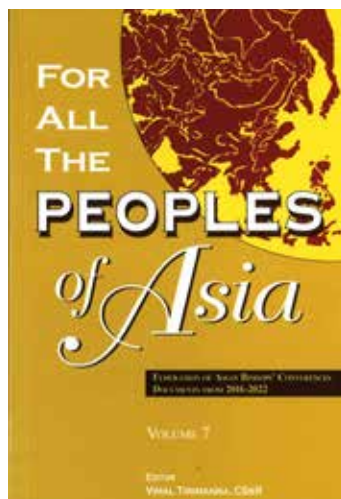
Fr. John A. Cioppa MM died on 26 September 2023. He was the first “Assistant Secretary General” of the FABC starting in 1971 just as the FABC was beginning in Hong Kong. He was appointed by Bishop Francis Hsu, Secretary of the Follow-up Committee from 1970. He served about one year and was replaced by Fr. Ed Malone.

FABC PAPER 183

FABC Paper 183 is a periodic index of the FABC Papers 151-175 (2017-2022). FABC Papers 100, 125, 150 and now 183 are all done by Fr. James H. Kroeger, M.M. This periodic index includes a narrative synopsis of each paper, then a list of subjects treated in the paper and then an index to the persons mentioned in the paper.

FOR ALL THE PEOPLES OF ASIA, VOLUME VII

Edited by Vimal Tirimanna CSsR, the seventh book in the series, For All the Peoples of Asia, Volume VII has been published. Copies can be obtained from the Claretian Communications Foundation, Inc. in the Philippines.



BISHOPS SYNODAL LEADERSHIP SEMINAR – WORKSHOP

The first ever Bishops Synodal Leadership Seminar – Workshop was held 10-15 July at the Camillian Pastoral Care Center, Bangkok, Thailand. There has been an FABC Bishops Leadership Program for over 32 years. This was the first one to focus on synodal leadership. This was organized and run by Archbishop Gilbert Garcera. There were 15 participants from 7 countries.



FABC-OHD/CCD WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES (WDMR) 2023

The FABC-OHD/CCD held a webinar on 21st August 2023 to prepare for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR) 2023, to be held on 24th September 2023. His Eminence Cardinal Michael Czerny, Prefect for the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, Vatican, provided a video message and His Eminence Cardinal Charles Bo, President of FABC, had a video of welcome. Sr. Rekha Chenattu, the Superior-General of the Religious of Assumption, expounded on the theme of biblical and theological approaches to the issue.

FABC OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION GATHERING OF ECCLESIAL MOVEMENTS IN ASIA

The FABC Office of Evangelization held a Gathering of Ecclesial Movements in Asia from 25th to 27th August 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand. The gathering comprised of 54 delegates representing 23 ecclesial movements and communities from across 14 countries. The main theme was 'Towards a New Commitment to the 'Great Commandment' and 'Great Commission'. The gathering addressed the following themes: Synodality in the context of the mission of Ecclesial Movements in Asia. Preparing for the Silver Jubilee of the Apostolic Exhortation Ecclesia in Asia and for the 10th Anniversary of Pope Francis' Evangelii Gaudium. Developing a vision and working on evangelization strategies to celebrate 2033 - the 2000th year of the death and resurrection of Jesus, the birthday of our Mother Church, and the 2000th Anniversary of the 'Great Commission'.



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 held the First Consultation Meeting on Synodal Formation in Asia on September 11-15, 2023 in Pattaya, Thailand. There were 72 delegates from 17 countries in Asia comprised of 9 bishops, 23 lay (women 15, men 8), 23 consecrated persons (women 7, ordained men 16), and 17 clergy, gathered to discern the vision, characteristics, and approaches of synodal formation based on the Bangkok Document of the FABC 50 General Conference, the Final Document of the Asian Continental Assembly on Synodality, and the Instrumentum Laboris of the XVI General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops.



SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

There will be 44 Synod members from the FABC territory at the Synod in October 2023. One of the Delegate Presidents of the Synod is Sr. Momoko Nishimura S.E.M.D from Japan. From the Eastern Catholic Churches from the Synod of the Syro-Malabar Church, His Eminence Cardinal George Alencherry, Archbishop Andrews Thazhath and Archbishop Joseph Pamplany. From the Synod of the Syro-Malankara Church, His Beatitude Cardinal Baselios Cleemis Thottunkal. From the Episcopal Conferences, Archbishop Bejoy Nicephorus D’Cruze, O.M.I. from Bangladesh; His Eminence Cardinal Giorgio Marengo, I.M.C. from Central Asia; Bishop Norbert Pu from Chinese Regional Bishops’ Conference; His Eminence Cardinal Virgilio Do Carmo Da Silva, S.D.B. from Timor Leste; His Eminence Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrão, Archbishop George Antonysamy, Bishop Alex Joseph Vadakumthal, His Eminence Cardinal Anthony Poola from India (C.C.B.I.); Bishop Antonius Subianto Bunjamin, O.S.C., Bishop Adrianus Sunarko, O.F.M. from Indonesia; Archbishop Tarcisio Isao Kikuchi, S.V.D. from Japan; Archbishop Peter CHUNG Soon-Taick, O.C.D. from Korea; Rev. Fr. Enrique Figaredo Alvargonzalez, S.J. from Laos and Cambodia; His Eminence Cardinal William Seng Chye GOH from Malaysia - Singapore – Brunei; Bishop John Saw Yaw Han from Myanmar; Bishop Khalid Rehmat, O.F.M. Cap. from Pakistan; Bishop Pablo Virgilio S. David, His Eminence Cardinal Jose F. Advincula, Bishop Mylo Hubert C. Vergara from the Philippines; Bishop Raymond Kingsley Wickramasinghe from Sri Lanka; His Eminence Cardinal Francis Xavier Kriengsak Kovithavanij from Thailand; Bishop Joseph Đo Manh Hùng, Bishop Louis Nguyễn Anh Tuấn from Vietnam. Presidents of the International Reunions of Episcopal Conferences His Eminence Cardinal Charles Maung Bo, S.D.B., FABC. From the Union of Superiors General and the International Union of Superiors General, the Reverend Sr. Maria Nirmalini, A.C. Heads of Dicasteries of the Roman Curia, His Eminence Cardinal Luis Antonio G. Tagle, and His Eminence Cardinal Lazzaro YOU Heung-Sik. Members of Pontifical Appointment, His Eminence Cardinal Stephen Chow Sau-Yan, SJ, Bishop Antonio Yao Shun, and Bishop Giuseppe Yang Yongqiang. From The Continental Assemblies Members Not Vested with the Episcopal Munus, Witnesses of the Synodal Process, Ms. Vanessa Cheng Siu Wai, Ms. Rosalia Minus Cho Cho Tin, Fr. Joel Casimiro Da Costa Pinto, O.F.M., Rev. Clarence Devadass, Rev. William La Rousse, M.M., Ms. Estela Padilla, Ms. Anna Teresa Peter Amandus, Sr. Lalitha Thomas, S.J.T., Rev. Vimal Tirimanna, CSsR. Members of the Ordinary Council, His Eminence Cardinal Joseph Coutts, and His Eminence Cardinal Oswald Gracias. Special Invitee Rev. Andrea Ding Yang. Other Participants, Experts and Facilitators, Sr. Philomena Shizue Hirota, M.M.B. and Dr. Christina Kheng. FABC OSC has established an Asian website for the synod (<https://asia.synod2023.org/>) to share news, information and other content concerning the Church in Asia and the Synod on Synodality.