



FABC NEWSLETTER

No. 205

October – December 2023

IN THE CONFERENCES:

Appointed: Father Linus Neli as Archbishop of Imphal, India; Father Fransiskus Nipa as Coadjutor Archbishop of Makassar, Indonesia; Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas, S.F.X. as Bishop of Daltonganj, India; Father Linus Pingal Ekka as Bishop of Gumla, India; Father Ambrose Puthenveettil as Bishop of Kottapuram, India; Father Malcolm Sequeira as Bishop of Amravati, India; Father Stephen Boonlert Phromsena as Bishop of Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand; Father Arachchige Don Wimal Siri Appuhamy Jayasuriya as Bishop of Chilaw, Sri Lanka; Bishop Bosco Puthur, Bishop Emeritus of Saint Thomas the Apostle of Melbourne (Syro-Malabar), Australia as Apostolic Administrator of Ernakulam-Angamaly (Syro-Malabar) India; Bishop Nolly Camingue Bucu, Auxiliary Bishop of Antipolo, Philippines as Apostolic Administrator of Catarman, Philippines; Archbishop Marek Zalewski, titular of Africa and apostolic nuncio in Singapore, as Papal resident representative in Vietnam; Bishop Vincent Aind of Bagdogra, India as Archbishop of Ranchi, India; Bishop Barthol Barretto, Auxiliary Bishop of Bombay, India as Bishop of Nashik, India; Father Peter Rimal Kharadi as Bishop of Jhabua, India; Father Bernard Lancy Pinto as Coadjutor Bishop of Aurangabad, India.

Confirmed: Father Mathew Nellikunnel, C.S.T. as Bishop of Gorakhpur (Syro-Malabar), India; Father Mathai Kadavil, O.I.C. as Bishop of Saint Ephrem of Khadki (Syro-Malankara), India.

Resigned: Bishop Buenaventura Malayo Famadico as Bishop of San Pablo, Philippines; Archbishop Andrews Thazhath as Apostolic Administrator of Ernakulam-Angamaly (Syro-Malabar), India; Bishop Emmanuel Celeste Trance as Bishop of Catarman, Philippines.

Retired: Archbishop Dominic Lumon as Archbishop of Imphal, India; Bishop Philip Banchong Chaiyara, C.S.S.R. as Bishop of Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand; George Cardinal Alencherry as Major Archbishop Emeritus of Ernakulam-Angamaly (Syro-Malabar), India; Bishop Lourdunada Daniel as Bishop of Nashik, India; Archbishop Felix Toppo, S.J. as Archbishop of Ranchi, India.

Ceased: Bishop Stephen Antony Pillai as Apostolic Administrator of Sivagangai, India.

Died: Cardinal Telesphore Placidus Toppo (83+), Archbishop Emeritus of Ranchi, India; Bishop Enrique de Vera Macaraeg (67+), Bishop of Tarlac, Philippines; Archbishop Vincentius Sensi Potokota (72+) Archbishop of Ende, Indonesia.

FABC DATEBOOK:

- 19-23 February 2024, annual meeting of the Central Committee and all Office Chairmen and Secretaries at the Camillian Pastoral Care Center, Bangkok, Thailand.
- 15-20 April 2024, the FABC of Social Communication (OSC) will hold the Bishops Institute for Social Communication 2024 (BISCOM) at the Camillian Pastoral Care Center, Bangkok, Thailand.
- 15-20 July 2024, FABC Central Secretariat will hold the 2024 FABC Bishops Synodal Leadership Seminar – Workshop at Camillian Pastoral Care Center, Bangkok, Thailand.

15TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA) OF CCA.

The Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) held their 15th General Assembly with the theme: 'God, Renew Us in Your Spirit and Restore the Creation' from 27 September to 4 October 2023. Bishop Francis Serrao SJ, Bishop of Shimoga, India, represented the FABC and gave fraternal greetings to the CCA on behalf of the FABC.



TO BE BRIDGE-BUILDERS AND BRIDGES: INSTRUMENTS OF DIALOGUE AND RECONCILIATION IN ASIA

South Asia of the FABC organized a Workshop themed “To Be Bridge-Builders and Bridges: Instruments of Dialogue and Reconciliation in Asia” held on 9 – 14 October 2023, National Conference and Resource Centre (Caritas Nepal), Dhulikhel, Kavrepalanchok District, Nepal. This event brought together 40 participants who were Archbishops, Bishops, Clergy, and laypeople from Nepal, Pakistan, India, and Sri Lanka. Esteemed religious leaders, such as His Excellency Dolpo Tulku Rinpoche, a Tibetan Monk, and His Excellency Swami Ekarthananda from the Ram Krishna Mission were invited to share their views and thoughts on Inter-Religious dialogue.



FABC PAPER 184, 185

FABC Paper 184 entitled Encountering the Emerging Trends and Contexts of South Asia by Fr. Robin S. Seelan SJ. This was the paper that he delivered at the FABC South Asia Workshop themed “To Be Bridge-Builders and Bridges: Instruments of Dialogue and Reconciliation in Asia” held on 9 – 14 October 2023 in Nepal.

FABC Paper 185 entitled Hoping Together “Apostolic Journey of His Holiness Pope Francis to Mongolia, 31 August - 4 September 2023 gathers to materials of the Pope’s visit to Mongolia.

CELAM FABC SECAM AND COP 28

Having met in Rome during the Synod, the CELAM, FABC and SECAM presidents sent a letter to over 300 of those who attended the COP 28 to with an urgent call to the COP 28 to act decisively on the climate emergency. The letter was signed by Archbishop Jaime Spengler, O.F.M. of CELAM, Charles Maung Cardinal Bo, SDB of the FABC, and Fridolin Cardinal Ambongo Besungu, O.F.M. Cap. of SECAM.

THE 28TH ANNUAL FABC-OSC BISHOPS' MEET

The FABC Office of Social Communication held the 28th Annual FABC-OSC Bishops' Meet the Don Bosco Home, Saphansung, Bangkok, Thailand on 20-24 November, 2023. There were less than 30 in attendance including Dr. Paolo Ruffini, Prefect, Dicastery of Communication and Dr. Nataša Govekar, Director, Dept. of Pastoral Theology, Dicastery for Communication. The theme was "Communication in the Church in Asia Today".



FABC-OHD/CCD ASIA LEVEL WORKSHOP

The FABC-OHD/CCD held an Asia Level Workshop to Promote Environmentally Sustainable Living Using the Laudato Si Handbook December 4 – 7, 2023 at the Camillian Pastoral Care Centre, Bangkok, Thailand. The gathering comprised of 20 delegates from across 5 countries who had translated the Laudato Si Handbook. The handbook was translated into seven Asian languages, namely Chinese, Filipino, Hindi, Marathi, Sinhalese, Tamil and Thai. The Laudato Si Handbook is training manual used for the Training of Trainers (TOT) on climate change and exploring ways to create awareness of climate change, content and designs to promote sustainable and climate resilient communities and care of creation. Participants planned activities for next 2 years to care for creation.



GATHERING OF BISHOPS AND SECRETARIES OF OFFICES OF EVANGELIZATION

In the spirit of synodality, the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference Office of Evangelization (FABC OE) hosted a Gathering of Bishops and Secretaries of Offices of Evangelization on the 12-14 December 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Gathering comprised 29 delegates from 15 countries representing 16 Bishops' Conferences. The theme was: Renewing the Spirit of Ecclesia in Asia, Commemorating 25 Years of Ecclesia in Asia, the 10th Anniversary of *Evangelii Gaudium* in the Context of Asia and the Nine-Year Novena in Preparation for the Great Jubilee 2033. 2033 is the 2000th year of the death and resurrection of Jesus, the birthday of our Mother Church, and the 2000th Anniversary of the 'Great Commission'. They planned Regional Gatherings: Building on the Gathering of Ecclesial Communities, Movements and Ministries and the Gathering of Bishops and Secretaries of the Offices for Evangelization, we agree to hosting the following four regional gatherings: South Asia (Sri Lanka), East Asia (Taiwan), South East Asia (Vietnam) and Central Asia. Also, a Central Gathering: A central program bringing together laity and religious who have been serving as full time missionaries for more than 25 years in different parts of Asia to recognize and celebrate their contribution and share their best practices in the area of evangelization. And following the plans of the Pontifical Mission Societies in Asia they together will jointly plans a Mission Congress: The proposal to hold an Asian Mission Congress, in collaboration with the Pontifical Mission Societies, in 2025.



FABC 50 CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

The two volume FABC 50 General Conference, Journeying Together a Peoples of Asia, Conference Proceedings edited by Pablito A. Baybado, Jr are now available in the fabc.org website in the virtual library under FABC 50.

A Blessed Christmas to all

“...and they went a different way.” (Mt 2:12)



A Holy, Peaceful, Healthy and Prosperous New Year