



FABC NEWSLETTER

No. 206

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IN THE CONFERENCES:

Appointed: Archbishop Martin Sarmiento Jumoad, Archbishop of Ozamiz, Philippines as Apostolic Administrator of Pagadian, Philippines; Archbishop Raphael Thattil as Major Archbishop of Ernakulam-Angamaly (Syro-Malabar), India; Father Jeevanandam Amalanathan as Bishop of Kumbakonam, India; Father Albert George Alexander Anastas as Bishop of Kuzhithurai, India; Father Valan Arasu as Bishop of Jabalpur, India; Father Duming Dias as Bishop of Karwar, India; Father Bhaskar Jesuraj as Bishop of Meerut, India; Father Justin Alexander Madathiparambil as Auxiliary Bishop of Vijayapuram, India; Archbishop Francisco Gerardo Escalante Molina as Apostolic Nuncio to Japan; Father Napoleon Balili Sipalay, Jr., O.P. as Bishop of Alaminos, Philippines; Father Paul Tawat Singa as Bishop of Nakhon Sawan, Thailand; Father Subroto Boniface Gomes as Auxiliary Bishop of Dhaka, Bangladesh; Father Karnam Dhaman Kumar, M.S.F.S. as Bishop of Nalgonda, India; Father Thomas Mathew Kuttimackal as Bishop of Indore, India; Father Augustine Madathikunnel as Bishop of Khandwa, India; Bishop Jaya Rao Polimera, Bishop of Eluru, India, as Apostolic Administrator of Visakhapatnam, India; Father Prakash Sagili as Bishop of Khammam, India; Father Francis Tirkey as Bishop of Purnea, India; Bishop Rex Andrew Clement Alarcon as Archbishop of Caceres (Nueva Caceres), Philippines; Father Paul Kyung Sang Lee as Auxiliary Bishop of Seoul, Korea (South); Father Johannes Gorantla, O.C.D. as Bishop of Kurnool, India; Father Luisito A. Occiano as Bishop of Virac, Philippines; Archbishop Giovanni Gaspari as Apostolic Nuncio to Korea and Apostolic Nuncio to Mongolia; Father Antony Wyman Croos as Bishop of Ratnapura, Sri Lanka; Father Hironimus Pakaenoni as Archbishop of Kupang, Indonesia; Bishop Benedictus Son Hee-Song as Bishop of Uijeongbu, Korea (South); Father Felice Ba Htoo as Coadjutor Bishop of Pekhon, Myanmar; Father Francis Than Htun as Auxiliary Bishop of Yangon, Myanmar;

Confirmed: Archbishop Raphael Thattil as Major Archbishop of Ernakulam-Angamaly (Syro-Malabar), India;

Succeeded: Father Bernard Lancy Pinto as Bishop of Aurangabad, India;

Resigned: Bishop Kannikadass Antony William as Bishop of Mysore, India;

Retired: Bishop Gerald Almeida as Bishop of Jabalpur, India; Bishop Antonisamy Francis as Bishop of Kumbakonam, India; Bishop Joseph Pibul Visitnondachai as Bishop of Nakhon Sawan, Thailand; Archbishop Prakash Mallavarapu as Archbishop of Visakhapatnam, India; Bishop Ambrose Rebello as Bishop of Aurangabad, India; Bishop Chacko Thottumarickal, S.V.D. as Bishop of Indore, India; Archbishop Rolando Octavus Joven Tria Tirona, O.C.D. as Archbishop Emeritus of Caceres (Nueva Caceres), Philippines; Bishop Manolo Alarcon de los Santos as Bishop of Virac, Philippines; Bishop

Joseph Kariyil as Bishop of Cochin, India; Bishop Cletus Chandrasiri Perera, O.S.B. as Bishop of Ratnapura, Sri Lanka; Archbishop Peter Turang as Archbishop of Kupang, Indonesia; Bishop Peter Lee Ki-heon as Bishop of Uijeongbu, Korea (South);

Ceased: Bishop Alex Joseph Vadakumthala, Bishop of Kannur, India as Apostolic Administrator of Kottapuram, India; Bishop Warnakulasurya Wadumestriye Devasritha Valence Mendis, Bishop of Kandy, Sri Lanka, as Apostolic Administrator of Chilaw, Sri Lanka;

Died: Bishop Ronald Ignacio (Bong) Lunas (57+), Bishop of Pagadian, Philippines; Archbishop Fernando Robles Capalla (89+), Archbishop Emeritus of Davao, Philippines; Bishop Anton Pain Ratu, S.V.D. (95), Bishop Emeritus of Atambua, Indonesia; Bishop Nereo Page Odchimar (83+), Bishop Emeritus of Tandag, Philippines; Bishop Honesto Chaves Pacana, S.J. (91+), Bishop Emeritus of Malaybalay, Philippines;

FABC DATEBOOK:

– 12-15 April 2024, FABC Office of Human Development and Climate Change Desk (OHD/CCD) will hold a workshop on Building Climate Smart Communities at the Caritas Philippines Academy, Tagaytay City, Philippines.

– 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.

– 16-19 April 2024, FABC Office of Human Development and Climate Change Desk (OHD/CCD) will hold a Workshop for Religious: Religious from Asia: Response to Laudato Si and Ecological Sustainability at the Caritas Philippines Academy, Tagaytay City, Philippines.

– 18-22 April 2024, FABC Office of Evangelization (OE) will hold a Gathering of Laity/Religious who have been serving as full-time missionaries for more than 25 years in different parts of Asia at the Camillian Pastoral Care Center, Bangkok, Thailand.

– 11 – 13 June 2024, FABC Office of Evangelization (OE) will hold a Regional Gatherings (Southeast Asia) in Vietnam.

– 17 – 19 June 2024, FABC Office of Evangelization (OE) will hold a Regional Gatherings (East Asia) in Taiwan.

– 23 – 24 June 2024, FABC Office of Evangelization (OE) will hold a Gathering of Ecclesial Movements in Malaysia.

– 15–20 July 2024, FABC Central Secretariat will hold the 2024 FABC Bishops Synodal Leadership Seminar – Workshop at Camillian Pastoral Care Center, Bangkok, Thailand.

– 22 – 27 July 2024, FABC Office of Laity & Family (OLF) will hold seminar on the FABC Bangkok Document 2023: A Challenge Towards the Catechumenal Pathways for Married Life at Camillian Pastoral Care Center, Bangkok, Thailand.



ELECTION OF THE NEW PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT

His Eminence Filipe Neri Cardinal Ferrao, the Archbishop of Goa & Damão, India and President of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) was elected as the incoming President of the FABC. Bishop Pablo Virgilio Siongco David, the Bishop of Kalookan, Philippines and President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) was elected as the incoming Vice President of the FABC. Their first term will begin on 1 January 2025.

APPROVAL OF TERM RENEWALS

At the Central Committee Meeting on 22 February the Central Committee approved the renewal for the second term of the Most Rev. Tarcisius Isao Kikuchi, SVD as the FABC Secretary General; the Most Rev. Antonius Subianto Bunjamin, OSC, Bishop Chairman for the FABC's Office of Education and Faith Formation (OEFF) and of Ms. Estela Padilla as the Executive Secretary for the Office of Theological Concerns (OTC). Their second terms begin 1 January 2025.

OFFICE OF LAITY AND FAMILY

Most Rev. Emmanuel K. Rozario, Bishop of Barishal, Bangladesh was approved as the Bishop Chairman of the Office of Laity and Family (OLF). His first term begins on 1 January 2025.

OFFICE OF ECUMENICAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

Bishop John Saw Yaw Han, Bishop of Kengtung Diocese, as a Bishop Member of the OEIA. His first term begins on 1 January 2024.

OFFICE OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS

Archbishop Korenelis Sipaybng, OFM. Cap, Archbishop of Medan, Indonesia was approved in 2023 and he will now replace Most Rev. Peter Nguyễn Van Kham as a Bishop Member of the Office of Social Communication (OSC) beginning his term on 1 January 2025. It was proposed that FABC OSC Bishop Member Most Rev. Peter Hla II would be replaced by the Most Rev. Bishop Maurice Nyunt Wai, Bishop of Mawlamyine, Myanmar to complete his term on 31 December 2026.

OFFICE OF EVANGLIZATION

The Central Committee approved the proposal that the Asian Delegate Moderator for Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) becomes an Ex-Officio member of the Office of Evangelization (OE).

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

The Central Committee discussed the Bangkok Document and ways to make it better known while at the same time promoting synodality. They planned that regarding the “Parish Priests for the Synod: An International Gathering” 28 April to 2 May that each conference will send the name of their priests to the Central Secretariat as there will be Zoom meeting with all them before they go to build up a sense of the Church in Asia. Also, regarding the report on A Synodal Church in Mission, Synthesis Report of last 29 October 2023 that they should submit their report to the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops as requested and the Central Committee agreed that all would submit a copy their reports to the Central Secretariat by 10 May instead of the original deadline of 15 May. This is so that all of these reports can be the basis of the requested continental response.

A Blessed Easter to all

