



FABC NEWSLETTER

No. 209

October – December 2024

IN THE CONFERENCES:

CONGRATULATIONS to our new Cardinals!!

Cardinal Pablo Virgilio Siongco David

Bishop of Kalookan, Philippines

Cardinal Tarcisio Isao Kikuchi, S.V.D.

Archbishop of Tokyo, Japan

Cardinal Paskalis Bruno Syukur, O.F.M.

Bishop of Bogor, Indonesia

Cardinal George Jacob Koovakad

Official of the Secretariat of State

Priest of Changanacherry (Syro-Malabar), India

Declined: Bishop Paskalis Bruno Syukur, O.F.M. Bishop of Bogor, Indonesia declined to become a Cardinal.

Appointed: Father Elias L. Ayuban, C.M.F. as Bishop of Cubao, Philippines; Bishop Ruben Caballero Labajo as Bishop of Prosperidad, Philippines; Bishop Nolly Camingue Buco as Bishop of Catarman, Philippines; Monsignor George Jacob Koovakad as Titular Archbishop of Nisibis dei Caldei; Father Joseph Vu Cong Vien as Auxiliary Bishop of Hà Nội, Viet Nam; Father John Mung-ngawn La Sam, M.F. as Bishop of Myitkyina, Myanmar; Father Agustinus Tri Budi Utomo as Bishop of Surabaya, Indonesia; Bishop Antonysamy Savarimuthu, Bishop of Palayamkottai, India, as Apostolic Administrator of Madurai, India; Father Erwin José Aserios Balagapo of the Diocese of Palo, Philippines as Under Secretary of the Dicastery for Evangelization, First Evangelization and New Particular Churches Section; Father Anthony Das Pilli as Coadjutor Bishop of Nellore, India; Father Thomas D'Souza as Bishop of Vasai, India; Father Ambrose Pitchaimuthu as Bishop of Vellore, India; Bishop Paul Simick as Bishop of Bagdogra, India; Bishop Antony Prince Panengaden, Bishop of Shamshabad (Syro-Malabar), India as Archiepiscopal Administrator of Adilabad (Syro-Malabar); Father Philip Adisak Phorn-Ngam as Bishop of Chanthaburi, Thailand; Bishop John Rodrigues as Coadjutor Archbishop of Bombay, India; Father Peter Tin Wai as Bishop of Pyay, Myanmar; Father Rufino C. Sescon Jr. as Bishop of Balanga, Philippines; Pablo Virgilio Siongco Cardinal David, Bishop of Kalookan, Philippines as Cardinal-Priest of Trasfigurazione di Nostro Signore Gesù Cristo; Tarcisio Isao Cardinal Kikuchi, S.V.D., Archbishop of

Tokyo, Japan as Cardinal-Priest of San Giovanni Leonardi; George Jacob Cardinal Koovakad, Official of the Secretariat of State as Cardinal-Deacon of Sant'Antonio di Padova a Circonvallazione Appia; Bishop Prudencio Padilla Andaya Jr., C.I.C.M. as Bishop of Cabanatuan, Philippines; Father Gnanapragasam Anthonypillai as Bishop of Mannar, Sri Lanka; Bishop Linus Lee Seong-hyo as Bishop of Masan, Korea (South); Father Anthony Adoun Hongsaphong as Vicar Apostolic of Vientiane, Laos; Father Raymond Wai Lin Htun as Auxiliary Bishop of Yangon, Myanmar; Bishop Roberto Calara Mallari as Bishop of Tarlac, Philippines.

Succeeded: Archbishop Fransiskus Nipa as Archbishop of Makassar, Indonesia; Bishop Wilfred Gregory Moras as Bishop of Jhansi, India.

Resigned: Bishop Anthony Alwyn Fernandes Barreto as Bishop of Sindhudurg, India.

Retired: Bishop Honesto Flores Ongtioco as Bishop Emeritus of Cubao, Philippines; Archbishop Johannes Liku Ada' as Archbishop Emeritus of Makassar, Indonesia; Archbishop Antony Pappusamy as Archbishop of Madurai, India; Bishop Alexander Pyone Cho as Bishop of Pyay, Myanmar; Bishop Sofronio Aguirre Bancud, S.S.S. as Bishop of Cabanatuan, Philippines; Bishop Fidelis Lionel Emmanuel Fernando as Bishop of Mannar, Sri Lanka; Cardinal Louis-Marie Ling Mangkhanekhoun, I.V.Dei as Vicar Apostolic of Vientiane, Laos; Bishop Peter Parapullil as Bishop of Jhansi, India.

Ceased: Bishop Mylo Hubert Claudio Vergara, Bishop of Pasig, Philippines, as Apostolic Administrator of San Pablo, Philippines.

Died: Bishop Gerulfus Kherubim Pareira, S.V.D. (83), Bishop Emeritus of Maumere, Indonesia; Bishop Arturo Mandin Bastes, S.V.D. (80+), Bishop Emeritus of Sorsogon, Philippines; Archbishop Giovanni Battista Morandini (87), Apostolic Nuncio to Korea and Mongolia (1997-2004); Bishop Teodoro Javier Buhain Jr. (87), Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Manila, Philippines; Bishop Jean Khamsé Vithavong, O.M.I. (82+), Vicar Apostolic Emeritus of Vientiane, Laos; Archbishop Étienne Nguyen Nh□ The (89), Archbishop Emeritus of Hue, Viet Nam; Bishop Cosmas Michael Angkur, O.F.M. (87+), Bishop Emeritus of Bogor, Indonesia.

FABC DATEBOOK:

- 10-15 March 2025, Central Committee Meeting with the Offices at Camillian Pastoral Care Center, Bangkok, Thailand.
- 28 April-1 May 2025, the Central Secretariat will hold a Follow up of FABC 50 Document for Rectors of Major Seminaries at the Camillian Center in Lat Krabang, Bangkok.
- 27-30 November 2025, FABC Office of Evangelization and the Pontifical Mission Societies will hold the “Asian Mission Congress – The Great Pilgrimage of Hope” in Penang, Malaysia.

ASIAN MISSION CONGRESS – THE GREAT PILGRIMAGE OF HOPE

The FABC Office of Evangelization of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences is pleased to announce the second Asian Mission Congress – The Great Pilgrimage of Hope. This event is supported by

the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and the Pontifical Mission Societies, in collaboration with the Bishops' Conference of Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei, and will be hosted by the Diocese of Penang. The Congress is scheduled to take place at the Light Hotel, Penang, Malaysia, from November 27th to 30th, 2025, under the theme "Journeying together as peoples of Asia... and they went a different way" (Mt 2:12). This will also be known as the "Asian Pilgrimage cum Conference." It will begin at 4 pm on Thursday 27 November and end at 12:30 pm on Sunday 30 November. It is expected that 1000 people will participate. This will mark a significant moment for the Church in Asia, following the first Mission Congress held in Thailand in 2006, which focused on the theme "The story of Jesus in Asia: a celebration of faith and life." This historic assembly will unite bishops, priests, religious, and lay leaders from across Asia to collectively envision and shape the future of the Church in our continent.

This Mission Congress aims to equip and empower Church leaders across Asia as we embark on a shared journey as pilgrims of hope. The event will feature keynote speakers, impactful sessions, workshops, community circles, worship experiences, concerts, festivals, cultural presentations, and opportunities to identify and initiate collaborative efforts within the community. Our goal is to gather these pilgrims of hope as we pray, worship, share, and seek ways to collectively build pathways for sharing the joy of God's Good News with a world yearning for renewal and transformation in accordance with God's design (157: Bangkok Document). further details about the Mission Congress will be provided.

APPOINTMENT

Archbishop Felix Machado, Bishop Emeritus of Vasai, India has been appointed as the Acting Bishop Chairman of the FABC Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs (OEIA) for one term of three years and is not renewable. This appointment takes effect January 1, 2025 and ends on December 31, 2027. He is also given the privilege to appoint an Acting Executive Secretary for the Office to work with him and the other bishops. He was reminded that the Statutes tell us that one of the principal functions of the FABC is "To foster ecumenical and inter-religious communication and collaboration." That is for the entire FABC and not just for one Office. The OEIA is to foster this.

RESIGNATIONS

The Bishop Chairman of the FABC Office of Social Communication, Cardinal Sebastain Francis has resigned effecting on 31 December 2024. He has served at the Bishop Chairman for all of 2023 and 2024. Fr. George Plathottam, SDB has resigned as the Executive Secretary of the FABC Office of Social Communications. Fr. George has served as the Executive Secretary for one term of four years after which he resigned. He was requested by Cardinal Charles Bo to continue to serve as secretary which he did for two more years.

FABC-OSC ANNUAL BISHOPS' MEET

The Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences – Office of Social Communication (FABC-OSC) held its 29th Annual Bishops' Meet in Jakarta, Indonesia, from November 25–29, 2024, focusing on enhancing communication within the framework of a synodal Church. The conference brought together 23 delegates, including bishops, priests, and lay representatives, from across Asia, including India, Japan, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Malaysia– Singapore–Brunei. Themed “Communication for a Synodal Church in Asia,” the event explored how effective communication fosters unity, inclusivity, and renewal in the Church, particularly in a rapidly evolving digital age.



“Jesus is born in our midst; he is God with us. He comes to accompany our daily lives, to share with us in all things: our joys and sorrows, our hopes and fears.” (Pope Francis)

*May the hope, love, joy and peace of Christmas be with you now
and throughout the New Year!*