

FABC PRESS STATEMENT

At the annual meeting of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC) Central Committee held from 12-13 March 2025 at the Camillian Centre in Bangkok, a significant step was taken with the establishment of a new Commission for Synodality. This commission aims to foster the ongoing formation of Bishops in the area of synodality, providing avenues for sharing resources between the Conferences within the FABC. Additionally, the commission will work with other FABC Offices in implementing the synodal way and liaise with other Continental Episcopal Organizations.

The commission is dedicated to advancing the principles of synodality across Asia and intends to organize a comprehensive seminar for Bishops from various Asian countries. This seminar aims to inspire and reinforce the synodal way within churches throughout the continent. By bringing together church leaders, the commission hopes to foster a collaborative and inclusive approach, encouraging open dialogue and active participation among clergy and laypeople alike. The seminar will provide a platform for sharing insights, experiences, and best practices, ultimately strengthening the sense of unity and mutual support within the Asian church community and furthering the mission of synodality.

The Central Committee has appointed Cardinal Pablo David from the Philippines as the Chairman of this commission, a choice that underscores his extensive experience and unwavering commitment to the synodal process. Rev. Fr. Clarence Devadass from Malaysia who served for many years in the FABC Office of Theological Concerns has been appointed as the Executive Secretary.

The other commission's members are a distinguished group, including Rev. Fr. William LaRousse MM from the FABC Central Secretariat, Dr. Christina Kheng from Singapore, Rev. Fr. Vimal Tirimana CSsR from Sri Lanka, Ms. Estella Padilla from the Philippines, Ms. Momoko Nishimura SEMD from Japan, Rev. Fr. Enrico Ayo from the Philippines, and Sr. Lalitha Thomas SJT from India. Each member contributes a vast array of experience, having actively participated in both sessions of the Synod on Synodality. Their involvement has equipped them with invaluable insights and practical knowledge, which they now bring to the commission.

Together, this diverse and highly motivated team will work to promote and inspire the principles of synodality across the region. Their combined expertise and perspectives will contribute to a more inclusive and collaborative approach within the Church, aligning with the broader goals of the FABC. This initiative marks a pivotal moment in the FABC's efforts to embrace and implement the synodal way, fostering greater unity and participation among the faithful in Asia. The formation of this commission is a testament to the FABC's commitment to ongoing renewal and adaptation in response to the evolving needs of the Church and society.

Issued by: Rev Fr William LaRousse MM (FABC Asst. Secretary General)

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