



FABC NEWSLETTER

No. 212

July – September 2025

IN THE CONFERENCES:

Appointed: Cardinal Tarcisio Isao Kikuchi, S.V.D., archbishop of Tokyo, Japan, Archbishop Vira Arpondratana of Bangkok, Thailand, Bishop Joseph Chau Ngoc Tri of Lang Son et Cao Bang, Vietnam, Bishop Jose Luis Mumbiela Sierra of Holy Trinity in Almaty, Kazakhstan, Bishop Christophorus Tri Harsono of Purwokerto, Indonesia, Bishop Yousaf Sohan of Multan, Pakistan, and Bishop Echchampulle Arachchige Jude Nishantha Silva of Badulla, Sri Lanka as members of the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue; Bishop Antonysamy Savarimuthu, Bishop of Palayamkottai, India, as Archbishop of Madurai, India; Father Matthew Kwang-Hee Choi as Auxiliary Bishop of Seoul, Korea (South); Bishop Alberto Sy Uy as Archbishop of Cebu, Philippines; Bishop Francis Serrao, S.J. as Bishop of Mysore, India; Bishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara as Archbishop of Faridabad (Syro-Malabar), India; Bishop Antony Prince Panengaden as Archbishop of Shamshabad (Syro-Malabar), India; Father James Patteril, C.M.F. as Bishop of Belthangady (Syro-Malabar), India; Bishop Jose Puthenveetil as Auxiliary Bishop of Faridabad (Syro-Malabar), India; Father Joseph Lukose Thachaparambath, C.M.I. as Bishop of Adilabad (Syro-Malabar), India; Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, M.S.T. as Archbishop of Ujjain (Syro-Malabar), India; Bishop Sebastian Vaniyapurackal as Archbishop of Kalyan (Syro-Malabar), India; Bishop Samuel Oton Sidin, O.F.M. Cap., Bishop of Sintang, Indonesia, as Apostolic Administrator of Pontianak, Indonesia; Bishop Pierre Suon Hangly, Coadjutor Vicar Apostolic of Phnom-Penh, Cambodia, as Apostolic Administrator of Kompong-Cham, Cambodia; Bishop Charlie Malapitan Inzon, O.M.I. as Archbishop of Cotabato, Philippines; Father Kuriakose Thomas Thadathil as Apostolic Visitor (Visitor) (Syro-Malankara in Europe); Father John Kuttiyil as Auxiliary Bishop of Trivandrum (Syro-Malankara), India.

Succeeded: Archbishop Elias Frank as Archbishop of Calcutta, India.

Resigned: Bishop Lawrence Mukkuzhy as Bishop of Belthangady (Syro-Malabar), India.

Retired: Archbishop Jose Serofia Palma as Archbishop of Cebu, Philippines; Bishop Thomas Elavanal, M.C.B.S. as Bishop of Kalyan (Syro-Malabar), India; Archbishop Agustinus Agus as Archbishop of Pontianak, Indonesia; Archbishop Angelito Rendon Lampon, O.M.I. as Archbishop of Cotabato, Philippines; Archbishop Thomas D'Souza as Archbishop of Calcutta, India.

Ceased: Bishop Agnelo Rufino Gracias, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Bombay, India, as Apostolic Administrator, Sede Vacante of Jullundur; Archbishop Martin Sarmiento Jumoad, Archbishop of Ozamiz, Philippines, as Apostolic Administrator of Pagadian, Philippines.

Died: Bishop Laurent Chu Van Minh (81+), Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Ha Noi, Viet Nam; Bishop Timothy Yu Gyoung-chon (62+), Auxiliary Bishop of Seoul, Korea (South); Bishop Abraham Than (97+), Bishop Emeritus of Kengtung, Myanmar; Archbishop Jacob Thoomkuzhy (94+), Archbishop Emeritus of Trichur (Syro-Malabar), India; Bishop Edwin Colaco (87+), Bishop Emeritus of Aurangabad, India.

FABC DATEBOOK:

- 24-26 October 2025, the FABC Commission for Synodality will join the Jubilee of Synodal Teams and Participatory Bodies in Rome, Italy
- 10-21 November 2025, the FABC will participate in the 2025 United Nations Climate Change Conference, or Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), more commonly known as COP30, which is the upcoming 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference, to be held in Belém, Brazil.
- 27-30 November 2025, FABC Office of Evangelization and the Pontifical Mission Societies will hold "The Great Pilgrimage of Hope" in Penang, Malaysia.
- 9-13 December 2025, FABC-OSC Annual Bishops Meet 2025 at St. Francis University, Hong Kong.
- 20-26 July 2026, The Twelfth FABC Plenary Assembly will be held in Indonesia.

TWELFTH FABC PLENARY ASSEMBLY

The Bishops' Conference of Indonesia (KWI) has decided that the Plenary Assembly should not be held in Bali in the month of July due to very high costs, as it is peak season. The Leadership Team has agreed. At the moment, the Bishops' Conference of Indonesia (KWI) is looking for another suitable place in Indonesia for the Plenary Assembly. The dates have not changed. It will still be 20-26 July 2026, and it will be in Indonesia.

FABC PAPERS NO. 194

The paper covers "Praedicate Evangelium" – Development Process, Hermeneutics, and Significance for the Church Using the Preamble, Principles, and General Norms of PE as Examples by Msgr. Josef Sayer. The Constitution

"Praedicate Evangelium" is not just about the Curia, but it is about the Church and then the role of the Curia in that

Church that is missionary by nature. He explains the origin of the new constitution that came from the General Conferences before the conclave that elected Pope Francis. Since the new constitution takes up the theme of Bishops' Conferences, this also implies the roles of the continental associations of the Bishops' Conferences, like the FABC. It is for this reason that this is a fitting FABC Paper. Msgr. Josef Sayer was also very involved in the planning for the FABC 50 General Conference.

COOPERATION OF SECAM, CELAM AND FABC

The cooperation between the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM), Consejo Episcopal Latinoamericano (CELAM), and the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC) continues. The Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM) held its 20th Plenary Assembly in Kigali, Rwanda, from 30 July to 4 August 2025. About 250 representatives of the Catholic Church across Africa and Madagascar participated. Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrao, FABC President, and Fr. William LaRousse, the FABC



Assistant Secretary General, attended the entire Assembly. The three continental associations of Bishops' Conferences plan together to participate in the COP 30 in Belem, Brazil, in November 2025.

ECUMENICAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR CREATION: FEAST OF CREATION IN CHRIST

This year, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI), and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh (CBCB) mandated the celebration of "Creation Day" (also called the "World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation") on the first Sunday of September, which was 7 September this year. The celebration used the new mass for the care of creation and the readings of that mass. This will be done yearly in these conferences. The first of September is the traditional day of the global ecumenical celebration grounded in the rich and ancient symbolism of September 1 in the Byzantine liturgical calendar as the day commemorating God's act of creation of the world. This has a significant ecumenical impact. Six African Bishops' Conferences did the same this year and celebrated the day of prayer for creation: Nigeria, South Africa, Ethiopia, Namibia, Lesotho, and Ghana.

FOLLOW-UP OF THE FABC 50 BANGKOK DOCUMENT AND MIGRANTS

A workshop for the Follow-up of the FABC 50 Bangkok Document for Religious Formators was held from 28 August to 31st August 2025 at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. There were 78 participants from 10 countries.



A workshop in light of the FABC 50 Bangkok Document entitled “The Situation of Migrants in Asia and Our Response” was collaboratively organized by the FABC–Office of Human Development/Climate Change Desk (OHD/CCD), Caritas Asia, the General Office of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) and International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), from 31st August to 3rd September 2025 at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for pastoral workers involved with migrants and refugees. 62 participants from 17 Asian countries and a few from other parts of the world attended the workshop.



A workshop for the Follow-up of the FABC 50 Bangkok Document for Youth was held from 15–19 September 2025 in the Our Lady of Tapao Center, Dong Kho Commune, Tanh Linh District, Binh Thuan Province, Vietnam, in the Diocese of Phan Thiet. Bishop Joseph Do Manh Hung, and the Diocese of Phan Thiet graciously and fully hosted the 54 participants from eight countries in this workshop. There would have been 7 more participants, but they were unable to get visas to go.



BISHOPS' SEMINAR FOR SYNODALITY

The Commission for Synodality of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC) organized a three-day seminar on synodality from 22 to 26 September 2025 at Baan Phu Waan Pastoral Training Centre in Sampran, Thailand. This significant gathering brought together 53 participants, including Presidents of Bishops' Conferences from across Asia, bishops in charge of synodality in their respective conferences, bishops serving in various offices of FABC, and executive secretaries.

The seminar aimed to deepen the understanding and practice of synodality within the Church in Asia, fostering a spirit of communion, participation, and mission among its leaders.

The seminar was built upon three foundational documents: the FABC's Bangkok Document, the Synod's Final Document, and the Pathways for the Implementation Phase of the Synod. These texts served as guiding frameworks for reflection and dialogue. Participants engaged in sessions that addressed key themes such as leadership in a synodal Church, discernment and decision-making, transparency and accountability, and the conversion of relationships. These topics were explored not only through presentations but also through group discussions and spiritual reflection, allowing for a holistic and experiential learning process.

One of the key aims of the seminar was to foster deeper reflection on the implementation of synodal pathways across Asia. At the same time, it served as a meaningful opportunity to offer participants a genuine synodal experience, particularly for those who had not attended the earlier sessions in Rome. Through shared prayer, listening circles, and collaborative discernment, the seminar cultivated an atmosphere that truly embodied the spirit and methodology of the Synod.

