



FABC NEWSLETTER

No. 214

January – March 2026

IN THE CONFERENCES:

Appointed: Bishop Christophorus Tri Harsono, Bishop of Purwokerto, Indonesia, as Apostolic Administrator of Bogor, Indonesia; Father Cyril Buhayan Villareal as Bishop of Kalibo, Philippines; Father Leslie Clifford D'Souza as Bishop of Udupi, India; Archbishop Andrzej Józowicz as Apostolic Nuncio to Sri Lanka; Father Francisco Antonio Agnelo Jacinto Pineiro as Bishop of Sindhudurg, India; Father Sean Buslig Mejía as Vicar Apostolic of Tabuk, Philippines; Bishop Khalid Rehmat, O.F.M. Cap. as Archbishop of Lahore, Pakistan; Archbishop Sebastian Francis Shaw, O.F.M. as Vicar Apostolic of Quetta, Pakistan; Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli, titular of Capri, Apostolic Nuncio in India and Nepal as Apostolic Nuncio in Croatia; Father Gerardo Fortich Saco, Jr. as Bishop of Tagbilaran, Philippines; Bishop Moises Magpantay Cuevas as Bishop of Calapan, Philippines; Father Paul Gomes as Bishop of Joypurhat, Bangladesh; Christine Nathan, president of The International Catholic Migration Commission in Geneva, Switzerland as members of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

Succeeded: Bishop Stanislaus Min Ko as Bishop of Hpa-an, Myanmar.

Retired: Bishop Gerald Isaac Lobo as Bishop of Udupi, India; Bishop Justin Saw Min Thide as Bishop of Hpa-an, Myanmar.

Ceased: Archbishop Benny Mario Travas, Archbishop of Karachi, Pakistan, as Apostolic Administrator of Lahore, Pakistan.

Died: Bishop Mar Emeritus Dominic Kokkat, C.S.T. (+93), Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Gorakhpur (Syro-Malabar); His Eminence Jean-Baptiste (Gioan Baotixita) Cardinal Phạm Minh Mẫn (+92), Archbishop Emeritus of Saigon.

FABC DATEBOOK

11 – 15 May 2026, Synodal Assembly on the Mission of the Christian Family in Asia Today organized by FABC Office of Laity & Family (OLF) at the Camillian Pastoral Care Center, Bangkok, Thailand.

20–26/27 July 2026, The Twelfth FABC Plenary Assembly will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

31 August – 4 September 2026, Asia National Synodal Teams Meeting at Baan Phu Waan Pastoral Training Centre, Sampran, Nakhonpathom, Thailand, organized by the FABC Commission for Synodality (CSyd).

29 November – 2 December 2026, Discernment–Planning Meeting for FABC Offices organized by the FABC Central Secretariat at the Camillian Pastoral Care Center, Bangkok, Thailand.

2 -5 December 2026, Evangelization & Indigenous Living Traditions, at the Camillian Pastoral Care Center, Bangkok, Thailand, organized by the Offices of Evangelization (OE), Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs (OEIA), and Theological Concerns (OTC).



CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING AND THE MEETING WITH THE FABC OFFICES.

The Central Committee Meeting of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC) commenced on 3 March 2026 at the Camillian Pastoral Center, Latkrabang, Bangkok, Thailand. The Central Committee met with the FABC Offices on 4-5 March. This year, the Central Committee meeting was organized in a slightly different way compared to previous meetings. This is in part a response to the General Conference and the Bangkok Document. The operation of the FABC is trying to go in a new way. The beginning of the joint meeting with a meeting of the Central Committee contrasts with the Central Committee only meeting after meeting with the Offices. The reason for this is so that the Central Committee can offer guidance to the Offices on what the Central Committee wants the Offices to concentrate on. This is in keeping with the statutes.

Another new feature is that the Central Committee, meaning the conferences and FABC Members, are asked to propose and nominate people for the offices such as the Bishop Chairmen, Bishop Members, and the Executive Secretaries. This is so the Central Committee can have more of an involvement in who the Office members are and where they are from.

Cardinal Filipe Neri, in his presidential address, mentioned: "One important area is to ensure that our FABC Offices function in a truly synodal way, under the guidance of the Central Committee:

- There is need for greater coordination and collaboration among the Offices. -The membership of the Offices could be more inclusive and representative of the ecclesial realities of Asia. -We could think of assigning responsibilities to the Bishop Members of the Offices. -The Chairmen Bishops and Secretaries need to meet among themselves so as to share, listen, discern and plan together with a common vision. -There could be cross cutting thematic integration where a number of

Offices work together in planning, implementing, and evaluating. Each year, focus on 2/3 areas.
-The Offices need to have efficient and robust networking with National Episcopal Conferences and their FEDERATION OF ASIAN BISHOPS' CONFERENCES FABC Central Secretariat EMAIL: secretariat@fabc.org St. Louis Hospital Compound 2/F, (TTB) Katanchalee Bldg., 17 South Sathorn Rd. Bangkok, 10120, Thailand WEBSITE: www.fabc.org

Commissions. -The Central Committee undertook yesterday a process of reflection and discernment on this matter.”

RENEWALS

During the Central Committee Meeting, the Central Committee renewed the terms of the following people who have one more term to serve.

For the Central Secretariat, Fr. William LaRousse, Assistant Secretary General, was renewed for his final term in this role with the FABC Central Secretariat.

The Bishop Members of Offices were renewed for their final term as Bishop members. Fr. Anthony Corcoran SJ, Apostolic Administrator of Kyrgyzstan, as a Bishop Member of the Office of Evangelization (OE). Bishop John Saw Yaw Han, Bishop of Kengtung, Myanmar, as a Bishop Member of the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs (OEIA).

Mr. Manoj Sunny was renewed for his final term as Executive Secretary of the Office of Evangelization (OE).

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Bishop Daniel Presto, Bishop of San Fernando de La Union, Philippines (CBCP), and Bishop John Bosco Shin-ho Chang, Auxiliary Bishop of Daegu, South Korea (CBCK), were appointed to their first terms as Bishop Members of the Office of Evangelization (OE).

Fr. Jervis Cosmos D'Souza was appointed as the incoming Executive Secretary of the Office of Human Development and Climate Change Desk beginning in 2027.

Bishop Linus Seong-hyo Lee, Bishop of Masan, South Korea (CBCK), and Bishop Malcolm Sequeira, India (CCBI), were appointed to their first term with the Office of Social Communications (OSC).

Bishop Mel Rey Uy, Bishop of Lucena, Philippines (CBCP), and Bishop Joseph Chusak Sirisut, Bishop of Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand (CBCT), were appointed to their first term with the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs (OEIA).

Archbishop Midyphil Billones, Archbishop of Jaro, Philippines (CBCP), was appointed as the Bishop Chairman of the Office of Theological Concerns (OTC) beginning in 2027. Bishop Germanus Jin-Sang Kwak, Auxiliary Bishop of Suwon, South Korea (CBCK) was appointed as a Bishop Member of the Office of Theological Concerns (OTC).

Ms. Momoko Nishimura, SEMD, Japan (CBCJ) was appointed as the Executive Secretary of the Office of Laity and Family (OLF).

Bishop Jose Alan Dialogo, Bishop of Sorsogon, Philippines (CBCP), Bishop Pius Moon Chang-woo, Bishop of Jeju, South Korea (CBCK), Archbishop Anthony Weradet Chaiseri, Archbishop of Thare and Nonseng, Thailand (CBCT), and Archbishop Paulus Budi Kleden, S.V.D., Archbishop of Ende, Indonesia (KWI), were appointed to their first term with the Office of Laity and Family (OLF) beginning in 2027.

Archbishop Charlie Inzon, OMI, Archbishop of Cotabato, Philippines (CBCP), and Bishop John Baptist Jung Shin-chul, Bishop of Incheon, South Korea (CBCK), were appointed as Bishop

Members of the Office of Education and Faith Formation (OEFF) beginning this year. Bishop Noel Saw Naw Aye, Auxiliary Bishop of Yangon, Myanmar (CBCM), and Cardinal Stephen Chow, Bishop of Hong Kong, were appointed as Bishop Members of the Office of Education and Faith Formation (OEFF) beginning in 2027.

The Office of Clergy (OC) did not have the full number of nominees (three for a terna) for the Executive Secretary. The Central Committee decided to postpone the appointment of an Executive Secretary until the Plenary Assembly in July 2026. Archbishop Simon Ok Hyun-jin, Archbishop of Gwangju, South Korea (CBCK), was appointed as a Bishop Member of the Office of Clergy (OC) beginning this year. Bishop Raymond Wai Lin Htun, Auxiliary Bishop of Yangon Archdiocese (CBCM), was appointed as a Bishop Member of the Office of Clergy (OC) beginning in 2027.

Bishop John Mung Ngawn La Same, M.F., Bishop of Myitkyina, Myanmar (CBCM) was appointed as a Bishop Member of the Office of Consecrated Life (OCL) beginning this year.

MANIFESTO OF THE CHURCHES OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH FOR OUR COMMON HOME

CELAM cooperated with SECAM and the FABC in order to address the issue of transitioning away from fossil fuels. This is a continuation of the cooperation about COP 30 and was a result of COP 30. This is in light of the First Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels, to be held 24–29 April 2026 in Santa Marta, Colombia. The Churches of the Global South produced a document: Manifesto of the Churches of the Global South for our common home: Towards peace with creation: an urgent call for “a just transition beyond fossil fuels.” There was a webinar on 16 March to launch this Manifesto. Cardinal Jaime Spengler from CELAM and Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrao from FABC spoke during this webinar. Among the experts, Jean D’Cunha was a spokesperson for Asia. <https://www.youtube.com/live/NqjUEgQ3jtA?si=qx0FbjJA6J3v3soP>