



December 2, 2020

TO: ALL FABC OFFICES: Bishop Chairmen, Bishop Members and Executive Secretaries

Your Grace, Excellency, and Secretary,

Greetings from the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC).

We are continuing in the process of preparing for our first ever General Conference. For a historical spiritual event like this the process itself becomes most important.

You are already working on the questions that were given to each Office about the Office in preparation for the General Conference. We had set the deadline for that on December 31, 2020. We are now asking you to do something else, different from the questions that were given.

An initial step in the process has been the preparation of a Guide Document for the General Conference. After consultation at the Regional level and discussion with experts, this has been prepared by the General Conference Coordinating Group, which we are now sending to you.

This Guide Document, intended to be an invaluable aid in the preparations for our Reflection and Discernment during the General Conference, is being circulated for your comments and suggestions.

We are requesting that each Office prepare a response to this Guide Document using the suggested questions. We are asking for one common response from each Office. We want that a copy of the Guide Document be given to each Office collaborator.

The Guide Document being circulated has three parts. The suggested outline for your response is as follows.

The focus on PART ONE the *Emerging Realities and Trends of Concern in Asia*. We ask that you consider the following:

1. Are the 15 *Emerging Realities and Trends of Concern in Asia* a reflection of the overarching situation in Asia? Are there points to be added?
2. What are the glaring gaps (if any) that need to be mentioned so as add value to this document?

The focus on PART TWO the *Church in the Asian Context*. We ask that you consider the following:

- 1 Does the section on *Church in the Asian Context* respond sufficiently to *Emerging Realities and the Trends of Concern in Asia*? If not, what other

“models/images” may be required? In what ways could the Church in Asia respond to these Emerging Realities and Trends of Concern in Asia?

- 2 What are your comments on the theological points in the guide document? Is this appropriate and adequate? Is there something lacking?

The focus on PART THREE *Envisioning Possible “New Pathways” for the Church in Asia and the FABC*. We ask that you consider the following:

- 1 What other “pathways” does the Church in Asia need to embark on for the future of Asia? Do you have suggestions for “new pathways”?

Our hope is to have broad-based awareness of this Guide Document throughout the Church in Asia. There will be more on this as we approach the General Conference.

May we also inform you that a meeting of the Central Committee with the FABC Offices has been scheduled for February 22 to 26, 2021. This year our focus will be on the General Conference. The meeting will most likely be only via video conference. More details will be given closer to February 2021. Please reserve these dates for our meeting.

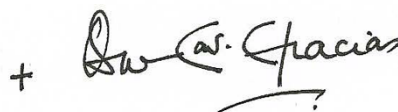
We ask that you prepare your Office responses to be presented at that meeting of the Central Committee with all of the FABC Offices in February 2021. We also request a digital copy as a word doc.

We ask for your prayers for a successful outcome of this endeavor of communion, collegiality, synodality, and solidarity in Asia through the FABC 2020 General Conference. Please be assured of our prayers. Stay safe!

Fraternally yours in Christ,



✠ **Charles Maung Cardinal Bo, SDB**
Archbishop of Yangon &
President of FABC



✠ **Oswald Cardinal Gracias**
Archbishop of Bombay &
Convener of FABC 2020