

# FABC Newsletter

No. 195

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## IN THE CONFERENCES:

**Appointed:** Bishop Shorot Francis Gomes, Auxiliary Bishop of Dhaka, as Bishop of Sylhet, Bangladesh; Fr. Stephen Chow Sau-yan, S.J. as Bishop of Hong Kong, SAR; Fr. Arulselvam Rayappan as Bishop of Salem, India; Archbishop Lazarus You Heung-sik, Bishop Emeritus of Daejeon, Korea, as Prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy; Bishop Bosco Lin Chi-nan, Bishop Emeritus of Tainan, as Apostolic Administrator of Tainan, Taiwan; Fr. Savarimuthu Arokiaraj as Bishop of Tiruchirapalli, India; Fr. Noel Portal Pedregosa as Bishop of Malaybalay, Philippines; Fr. Visuvasam Selvaraj as Bishop of Port Blair, India; Fr. Yevgeniy Zinkovskiy as Auxiliary Bishop of Karaganda, Kazakhstan; Bishop Broderick Soncuaco Pabillo as Vicar Apostolic of Taytay, Philippines.

**Resigned:** Bishop John Lee Juo-Wang, Bishop Emeritus of Tainan, Taiwan.

**Ceased:** Bishop Broderick Soncuaco Pabillo, as Apostolic Administrator of Manila, Philippines.

**Died:** Bishop Rayappu Joseph, (80+), Bishop Emeritus of Mannar, Sri Lanka; Bishop Patricio Hachang Alo, (81+), Bishop Emeritus of Mati, Philippines; Archbishop Lucas Sirkar, S.D.B., (84+), Archbishop Emeritus of Calcutta, India; Bishop Antonio Pepito Palang, S.V.D., (74+), Vicar Apostolic Emeritus of San Jose in Mindoro, Philippines; Nicholas Cardinal Cheong Jin-Suk, (89+), Archbishop Emeritus of Seoul, Korea; Archbishop Antony Anandarayar, (75+), Archbishop Emeritus of Pondicherry and Cuddalore, India; Bishop Peter Toshio Jinushi, (90+), Bishop Emeritus of Sapporo, Japan; Bishop Basil Bhuriya, S.V.D., (65+), Bishop of Jhabua, India; Cornelius Cardinal Sim, (69+), Vicar Apostolic of Brunei; Bishop Paul Alois Lakra, (65+), Bishop of Gumla, India.

## ARCHBISHOP LAZARUS YOU HEUNG-SIK AS NEW PREFECT OF THE CLERGY

On 11 June 2021, Pope Francis appointed Most Rev. Lazarus YOU Heung-sik, Bishop of Daejeon, Korea, as Prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy. Archbishop You was born in 1951 and ordained a priest for the Diocese of Daejeon in 1979. In 2003 he became coadjutor of Daejeon and after two years, he assumed full responsibility. He welcomed the 2004 eighth FABC Plenary Assembly to Daejeon. In August 2014 part of the 6th Asian Youth Day was held in his diocese.

## FABC 50 GENERAL CONFERENCE COUNTRY REPORTS

On May 21, 2021, Cardinal Bo and Cardinal Gracias wrote to each FABC conference and Associate member. They are requesting for the FABC 50 General Conference that "each Country / Conference prepare a Report on the local situation of that Particular Church. It is necessary for all participants of the General Conference to have a basic knowledge and understanding of the situation of the Church in the different local situations in Asia. This would also help the delegates to have an overall Asian view in order to better appreciate the variety and the uniqueness of each Country / Conference. Associate members are also requested to prepare Reports for their Country or Region.... Individual Country Reports will be more valuable. Hence, we will be grateful for separate Reports from each Country.... Keeping in mind the program for the FABC 50 General Conference we are suggesting that you have two written Reports; one with a maximum of ten pages containing a detailed description, and a shorter two page summary which will be orally presented during the Conference. The longer version would be made available to all the participants in written form. Thus at the Plenary Conference all participants will be exposed to each of the ecclesiastical realities in Asia. We will know the situation in each Church, its strengths, opportunities, its challenges and its plans for the future." While the letter did not mention a deadline, these Country Reports will be needed by 29 April 2022.

## THREE ASIANS ON THE THEOLOGICAL COMMISSION OF THE SYNOD

For the upcoming Synod on Synodality in 2023, the Synod of Bishops has appointed a Theological Commission with 22 members of which three are from Asia. They are Rev. Fr. Thomas Kollampampil, CMI from India, Professor Estela Padilla from the Philippines and Rev. Fr. Vimal Tirimanna, C.Ss.R. from Sri Lanka.

Fr. Kollampampil, CMI was a member of the International Theological Commission (CTI) from 2014-2019. He teaches at Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram (DVK) which is a Pontifical Athenaeum Bangalore City, India. Professor Estela Padilla works at *Bukal ng Tipan*, Philippines, which is a pastoral center journeying with people towards a Participatory Church in the World. She is a present member of the Coordinating Group for the FABC 50 General Conference, has been a member of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences - Office for Theological Concerns (FABC-OTC) since 2013 and is presently the Executive Secretary of the FABC-OTC. She is one of the five women on the Synod of Bishops Theological Commission. Fr. Vimal Tirimanna, C.Ss.R. is a Redemptorist priest from Sri Lanka teaching moral theology at the Alphonsianum and the Pontifical Beda College in Rome, and at the National Seminary of Our Lady of Lanka in Kandy, Sri Lanka. Since 1997 he was the Sri Lankan representative of the FABC-OTC and was the Executive Secretary of OTC from 2002 until 2012. He is the editor of the recent volumes of *For*

*All the Peoples of Asia*, a compilation of the documents of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences. He is also the editor of the most recent book: *Fifty Years of Asian Pastoral Guidance: Collection of the Statements of the Asian Bishops' Meeting and the Plenary Assemblies of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC) (1970-2020)* which was produced by the FABC Central Secretariat for the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the FABC.

### **MEETING WITH CARDINAL MARIO GRECH**

Cardinal Mario Grech (General Secretary of the Synod of Bishops) had a video meeting with Cardinal Charles Bo on 15 May 2021 to present the plans for the upcoming Synod to be held in 2023. After that meeting, on 19 May 2021, Cardinal Grech, Bishop Luis Marin de San Martin, O.S.A. (undersecretary) and Sr. Nathalie Becquart, xmcj (undersecretary) held a video meeting with the FABC to talk about the next synod which is on synodality. From FABC there were the following: Cardinal Charles Bo (President), Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith (Vice President), Bishop Stephen Lee (Secretary General), Cardinal Oswald Gracias (Convener of the General Conference), Archbishop Felipe Neri Ferrao (President, CCBI), Bishop Pablo David (Vice-President, CBCP), Bishop Jose Luis Mumbiela Sierra (President, KKEK), Bishop Matthias RI Iong-hoon (President, CBCK), Bishop Winston Fernando, SSS (President, CBCSL). The plans for the Synod were made public on 21 May 2021.

### **APPOINTMENT OF NEW BISHOP OF HONG KONG**

On 17 May 2021, the Vatican announced the appointment of Reverend Stephen CHOW Sau-yan, SJ, the Provincial Superior of the Jesuit Chinese Province, as the new Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong. Hong Kong has been without a bishop for more than two years since the death of Bishop Michael Yeung on 3 January 2019. The former bishop, Cardinal John Tong Hon has been the Apostolic Administrator and he will remain as such until Bishop-elect Chow will be consecrated as bishop on 4 December 2021.

### **APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE OF MYANMAR**

On 11 June 2021, Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Myanmar's Catholic Bishops' Conference (CBCM) made an appeal to the people of Myanmar and other stakeholders to allow humanitarian corridors in conflict zones in order to get aid to displaced people and to respect churches, pagodas, monasteries, mosques, temples, schools and hospitals, as neutral places of refuge. They appealed to Catholics for prayers and asked all to work for a durable peace. "Peace is still possible. Peace is the way." This appeal was sent to each FABC member. On 20 June, Pope Francis joined his voice with the bishops of Myanmar to draw attention to the desperate plight of thousands of displaced and starving in the country.

### **THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FABC OEFF & OSC**

The University of Santo Tomas, Graduate School Theology Cluster, in partnership with FABC Office of Education and Faith Formation (OEFF) & Office of Social Communication (OSC) organized a webinar on 19 April 2021, entitled: *The Challenge of Theology & Ministry in the Church - A Memorial Lecture Series in Honor of Fr. Franz-Josef Eilers, SVD*. This was followed up with a second webinar on the birthday of Fr. Eilers, 11 May 2021, the Second Memorial Lecture in Honor of Rev. Fr. Franz-Josef Eilers, SVD with the theme "Journeying Together as Peoples' of Asia: The Social Pastoral Communication Dimension". Fr. Eilers served as the executive secretary of the FABC OSC (1994-2009). With help, Fr. Eilers established in 2001 at the University of Santo Tomas Graduate School the theology program *Master of Arts in Theology major in Social/Pastoral Communication or MAT-SPC*.

### **RAOEN - RIVER ABOVE ASIA OCEANIA ECCLESIAL NETWORK**

On 27 May 2021, there was a Webinar: RAOEN (River Above Asia Oceania Ecclesial Network) with its Extended Consultative Group (the FABC is one of the members of this Consultative Group) to share where RAOEN is and the directions they are taking as an ecclesial network and to discuss synodality and the upcoming synod and what will be the role of RAOEN is the process of participating in the process for the synod.

### **FABC OFFICE OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (OHD) AND CLIMATE CHANGE DESK (CCD)**

The FABC-OHD/CCD held an Asia Level Consultation online on 28th April 2021 to gather reflections, observations and feedback on the FABC 50 *Guide Document*. 47 participants from 14 countries actively participated in the consultation. Archbishop Tarcisius Isao Kikuchi summarized the Consultation, emphasizing that after listening to powerful responses it makes one believe that the church in Asia is alive and the faith is vibrant.

### **CALLED TO ETERNAL REST**

**H. E. Cardinal Nicholas CHEONG Jin-suk**, Archbishop Emeritus of Seoul, passed away on 27 April 2021 at the age of 89. His Eminence served as President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Korea (CBCK) from 1996 to 1999. From 1991 to 1994, he served as a Bishop Member of the FABC Office of Laity (OL now known as Office of Laity and Family). Cardinal Cheong was present in three FABC Plenary Assemblies: the second in 1978 in Calcutta, India; the fourth in 1986 in Tokyo, Japan; and the sixth in 1995 in Manila Philippines.

**H. E. Cardinal Cornelius Sim**, the Apostolic Vicariate of Brunei Darussalam, passed away on 29 May 2021 in Taiwan at the age of 69. Cardinal Sim served as a Bishop Member of the FABC Office of Human Development from 2007-2012. He was present in three FABC Plenary Assemblies: the ninth in 2009 in Manila, Philippines; the tenth in 2012 in Xuan Loc, Vietnam and the eleventh in 2016 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.