

FABC Newsletter

No. 213

October – December 2025

IN THE CONFERENCES:

Appointed: Father Edwin Oracion Panergo as Bishop of Boac, Philippines; Father Stephen Eustace Victor Fernandes as Auxiliary Bishop of Bombay, India; Father Simon Almeida as Bishop of Poona, India; Bishop David William Valencia Antonio as Archbishop of Nueva Segovia, Philippines; Father Rabindra Kumar Ranasingh as Auxiliary Bishop of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar, India; Father Samuel Naceno Agcaracar, S.V.D. as Bishop of San Jose, Philippines; Father Yohanes Hans Monteiro as Bishop of Larantuka, Indonesia; Father Edward Baretto as Coadjutor Bishop of Darjeeling, India; Father Mohottige Don Nishantha Sagara Jayamanne, S.S.S. as Bishop of Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka; Father Germanus Kwak Jin-sang as Auxiliary Bishop of Suwon, Korea (South).

Retired: Bishop Vincent Samuel, Bishop of Neyyattinkara, India; Archbishop Marlo Mendoza Peralta, Archbishop of Nueva Segovia, Philippines; Bishop Franciscus Kopong Kung, Bishop of Larantuka, Indonesia; Bishop Norbert Marshall Andradi, O.M.I., Bishop of Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka.

Ceased: Archbishop Bernard Blasius Moras, Archbishop Emeritus of Bangalore, India, as Apostolic Administrator of Mysore, India; Archbishop Antony Prince Panengaden, Archbishop of Shamshabad (Syro-Malabar), India, as Archiepiscopal Administrator of Adilabad (Syro-Malabar), India; Bishop James Raphael Anaparambil, Bishop of Alleppey, India, as Apostolic Administrator of Cochin, India; Archbishop Angelito Rendon Lampon, O.M.I., Archbishop Emeritus of Cotabato, Philippines, as Apostolic Administrator of Cotabato, Philippines; Bishop James Raphael Anaparambil, Bishop of Alleppey, India, as Apostolic Administrator of Cochin, India.

Died: Archbishop Alfred Gonti Pius Datubara, O.F.M. Cap. (91+), Archbishop Emeritus of Medan, Indonesia; Bishop Warlito Itucas Cajandig (81+), Vicar Apostolic Emeritus of Calapan, Philippines; Bishop Julius Jia Zhiguo (Kia Zhi Cuo, Jia Shoushen) (90+), Bishop of Zhengding [Chengting], China; Bishop José Salmorin Bantolo (65), Bishop of Masbate, Philippines.

FABC DATEBOOK:

- 2-6 March 2026, Central Committee Meeting with the Offices at Camillian Pastoral Care Center, Bangkok, Thailand.
- 20-26 July 2026, The Twelfth FABC Plenary Assembly will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

TWELFTH FABC PLENARY ASSEMBLY

The Bishops' Conference of Indonesia (KWI) has decided that the Plenary Assembly will be held in Jakarta at the Mulia Hotel. The dates have not changed. It will still be 20-26 July 2026, and it will be in Jakarta, Indonesia.

JUBILEE FOR SYNODAL TEAMS AND PARTICIPATORY BODIES

The Jubilee for Synodal Teams and Participatory Bodies, held in Rome from 24 to 26 October 2025, was a remarkable gathering that brought together nearly two thousand people from diverse cultures, ministries, and ecclesial backgrounds. Representatives from parishes, dioceses, lay movements, religious congregations, and youth organizations came together to reflect on how the synodal journey is shaping the life and mission of the Church today. The Jubilee offered a space where dialogue, prayer, and shared discernment were not simply scheduled activities but essential dimensions of the experience. Participants listened deeply to one another and to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, discovering in their diversity the richness present within the People of God. From Asia, around eighty participants took part in the Jubilee, representing the rich diversity of the continent. They included bishops, priests, religious men and women, lay leaders, and youth delegates. The entire FABC Commission for Synodality participated. Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrao, FABC President, and Cardinal Pablo David, FABC Vice President, participated as both are members of the Synod Council.

On 24 October, the Asian participants gathered at the Pontifical Urban College for a meaningful time of reunion and shared reflection. For many, the gathering was an opportunity to reconnect with companions from the earlier Synod sessions, renewing bonds formed through months of prayerful dialogue and communal discernment. For others, especially those attending for the first time, it was a moment of welcome and an introduction to the wider Asian synodal family. The spirit of hospitality and fraternity was tangible as long-standing friendships deepened and new relationships blossomed.

A notable feature of the gathering was the presence of Asians living outside the continent who traveled to Rome to join the Jubilee. Their perspectives, shaped by life in migrant and multicultural communities, added new depth to the reflection. Their experiences highlighted how the identity and mission of the Asian Church extend beyond geographic borders and are carried by its people wherever they go.

A particularly significant moment of the Jubilee took place during the audience with Pope Leo XIV, where participants from every continent gathered in a spirit of unity and shared purpose. This global encounter underscored the universal dimension of the synodal journey. During this gathering, Fr. Clarence Devadass presented the Asian report, summarizing the fruits, challenges, and emerging insights from across the region. Sharing this report before the Holy Father and alongside representatives from other continents, affirmed the voice of the Asian Church within the wider ecclesial family and strengthened its commitment to continue contributing actively to the global synodal process.

In addition, all members of the Asian delegation participated in the Jubilee's parallel sessions. Some were invited to present reflections and insights arising from their local contexts, while others served as facilitators for small group conversations. Their involvement enriched the discussions and highlighted the depth of pastoral creativity and discernment emerging from the Asian Church. These moments allowed participants not only to share their experiences but also to listen to the voices of others, strengthening the mutual exchange that lies at the heart of synodality.

FABC PAPERS NO. 195

This paper covers the Jubilee for Synodal Teams and Participatory Bodies. It presents a Report on the Jubilee and the response of Pope Leo to the different continents. It also includes the report presented by Asia.

FABC PARTICIPATES IN COP 30 IN BELEM, BRAZIL

The three continental associations of Bishops' Conferences (CELAM, SECAM, and FABC) together participated in COP 30 in Belem, Brazil, 10-21 November 2025. Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrao, FABC President; Cardinal Pablo David, FABC Vice President; Bp. Allwyn D'Silva and Fr. William LaRousse participated. Archbishop Ryan Jimenez of Guam was also present, representing the Pacific Islands and FCBCO.

THE GREAT PILGRIMAGE OF HOPE

'The Great Pilgrimage of Hope' Congress, held from 27th to 30th November 2025 in Penang, Malaysia, created a distinctive opportunity for the Church in Asia to unite, to seek different ways, and to inspire each other to share and proclaim Jesus within their unique contexts. The conference drew 773 delegates from 32 countries – 23 from Asia and 9 from other regions – representing a rich cross-section of the Church, including 10 Cardinals, 104 Bishops, 155 Priests, 74 religious sisters, 8 Deacons, and 422 lay faithful, supported by a 32-member organizing team and over 90 volunteers, for a total gathering of 900 participants. Delegates experienced a rich program featuring keynote addresses by prominent speakers, including His Eminence Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle; engaged in Conversations in the Spirit; chose from multiple impact sessions and inputs tailored to different life streams; and joined in praying as a community during Holy Mass and Adoration. The Conversations in the Spirit, conducted over two days, beautifully captured the essence and desired outcome of the Great Pilgrimage of Hope: "The Spirit is calling the Church in Asia to deepen its interior life in Christ, to listen with compassion, to journey together in synodality, to witness to hope through humble and courageous service, to build bridges across cultures and religions, and to proclaim the Gospel through lives rooted in prayer, unity, and love. From now until the 2033 Jubilee and beyond, the Spirit urges the Church in Asia to: Know Jesus more deeply, Live His story authentically, Tell His story humbly and bravely, Listen to people with compassion, Serve the poor with love, Evangelize creatively, especially digitally, Walk humbly together in synodality, Be Jesus' presence in every culture and context."

THE 30TH FABC-OSC BISHOPS' MEET, HONG KONG

The 30th Bishops' Meet of the Office of Social Communications of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC-OSC) was held from December 10-12, 2025, at St. Francis University, Hong Kong. Centered on the theme "Artificial Intelligence and Pastoral Challenges in Asia," the gathering brought together more than 30 bishops, priests, religious, and lay media professionals from across Asia and beyond to reflect on the Church's response to AI. The three-day event featured input sessions by leading Church communicators, including Dr. Paolo Ruffini and Dr. Nataša Govekar from the Dicastery for Communication. Through keynote addresses, panel discussions, workshops, and small-group sharing, participants examined the impact of artificial intelligence on human relationships, truth, evangelization, pastoral care, education, and Catholic media. The meeting concluded on December 12 with the presentation of a final statement calling the Church in Asia to engage artificial intelligence responsibly and pastorally, rooted in Catholic anthropology, discernment, and collaboration, and to foster regional cooperation in addressing this emerging pastoral frontier.



*May the hope, love, joy, and peace of Christmas be
with you now and throughout the New Year!*

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