



# 教宗方濟各

## 2023年四旬期文告

### 四旬期的刻苦——同道偕行的歷程

親愛的弟兄姊妹們：

瑪竇、馬爾谷和路加三部福音都不約而同地敘述了耶穌顯聖容的故事。從福音的記載，我們看到耶穌因為門徒對祂不了解所產生的反應。事實上，在更早之前，主耶穌和西滿伯多祿之間，曾經發生嚴厲和強烈的爭執。伯多祿在宣示他承認耶穌是基督、是天主子之後，卻拒絕接受耶穌所作出祂受難和被釘死的宣告。於是，耶穌嚴厲地斥責他說：「撒殫，退到我後面去！你是我的絆腳石，因為你所體會的，不是天主的事，而是人的事」（瑪十六23）。接著，「六天以後，耶穌帶著伯多祿、雅各伯和他的兄弟若望，單獨帶領他們上了一座高山。」（瑪十七1）

每年四旬期第二主日的福音，都會宣讀耶穌顯聖容。在禮儀年的這個期間，上主帶我們與祂去一個避靜的地方。即使每日要盡的責任讓我們不得不停留在平常所在的地方，以及往往是千篇一律、有時又令人厭煩的日常工作，而在四旬期，我們獲邀陪伴耶穌登上「一座高

山」，以天主神聖子民的身分，體驗一種靈修的特別刻苦經驗。

四旬期的刻苦是一種承諾，這承諾因著天主的恩寵而能持續下去，以克服我們所缺乏的信德，以及對跟隨耶穌走向十字架所產生的心理抗拒。這正是必須如同伯多祿及其他門徒一樣，應該做的事。為加深我們對主耶穌的認識，為充分了解並接納祂救恩的奧祕——那是在愛的激發下，完全獻出自己而完成的——我們必須讓自己被祂帶領，脫離平庸和虛榮。我們必須起程，踏上登山的路途，需要努力、犧牲和專注。這些必要條件，在同道偕行的歷程上，也很重要，我們作為信友，必須致力投身其中。四旬期的刻苦與同道偕行的經驗，我們若反省這兩者之間的關係，必獲益匪淺。

耶穌挑選了三位門徒，上大博爾山作「退省」，要他們作為這獨一無二事件的證人。耶穌不想要這個恩寵的經驗是祂個人獨有的，而是要與其他人分享，就如我們整個人生的信仰，是一個要與人分享的經驗。跟隨耶穌，是大家一起跟隨祂的。在人生的歲月裡，我們身在旅途中的教會，也一起經歷禮儀年，與那些天主安排在四旬期，作為我們旅途的同伴們，一起同行。一如耶穌與門徒們同登大博爾山，同樣地，我們可以說，我們的四旬期之旅也是一趟「同道偕行」，因為我們在同一道路上一同前行，大家都是同一位師主的門徒。既然我們知道耶穌本身就是道路，因此，教會要更深入、更完全地進入救主基督的奧祕，唯有在禮儀上，以及在同道偕行歷程中，僅此而已。

於是，我們登上巔峰。福音敘述「耶穌在他們面前變了容貌，祂的面貌發光有如太陽，祂的衣服潔白如光」（瑪十七 2）。這是「最高峰」，是此趟旅程的終點。當他們上到最高處，與耶穌一起站在高山上時，三位門徒得到這恩寵，目睹了上主的榮耀，看到祂放射出超性的燦爛光輝。那光不是來自外面，而是由祂自身發射出來的。這神性的美，比起門徒們為登上大博爾山要作的努力，無論有多大，都是無可比擬的。在走艱難的山路時，我們一定要專注觀看路徑；然而，展現在我們眼前的美景，令我們驚異，而它的壯麗就是給我們的一種回報。同樣地，同道偕行的過程，或許備極艱辛，有時令我們感到沮喪。然而，在最後等著我們的，一定會是美好奇妙的，能夠幫助我們更了解天主的旨意，以及我們的使命——為祂的國度服務。

隨著耶穌的顯現聖容，又因為梅瑟和厄里亞的顯現，門徒們在大博爾山上的體驗變得更加豐富，這兩位分別象徵法律和先知（參閱：瑪十七 3）。基督的新穎，就是滿全舊約和天主所作的許諾：基督的新穎，與天主的歷史和祂子民的歷史，是不可分的，並且透露了其中更深的意義。同樣地，同道偕行的歷程也是扎根於教會傳統，並向新穎保持開放。「傳統」是尋求新路程的靈感泉源，也能使人避免陷於裹足不前、隨時花樣百出的誘惑。

四旬期的刻苦和同道偕行的歷程，都以轉變個人及教會為目標。在這兩種情況中，其變化都以耶穌的顯聖容為模式，也因著逾越奧蹟的恩寵而進行。今年，為了讓這轉變在我們身上成為事實，我願提出兩條要遵循的「路

徑」，與耶穌一起登上高山，以達到目標：

第一條路徑，指的是當門徒們在大博爾山上，默觀轉變了聖容的耶穌時，天父給他們的訓令。雲彩中有個聲音說：「你們要聽從祂！」（瑪十七 5）。因此，第一個指示很清楚：我們必須聽從耶穌。四旬期是一段恩寵的時期，使我們能聽祂對我們說話。祂如何對我們說話呢？首先，是祂透過教會禮儀所提供的天主聖言對我們說話。我們不應讓聖言落在耳後；如果我們無法常常參與彌撒，就要每天誦讀當天的讀經，亦可藉由網際網路閱讀。除了聖經以外，天主也透過我們的弟兄姊妹對我們說話，尤其是透過有需要的弟兄姊妹的面孔，以及在他們的遭遇中，對我們說話。我願意另加一點，在同道偕行的歷程中是相當重要的：聆聽基督，往往是藉著聆聽教會內弟兄姊妹時發生的。在某些層面上，這種互相聆聽，是首要目標，但無論如何，這是一個共識性的教會永遠不可或缺的方法和風格。

門徒們一聽到天父的聲音，就「俯伏在地，非常害怕。耶穌遂前來，撫摩他們說：『起來，不要害怕！』他們舉目一看，任誰都不見了，只有耶穌獨自一人」（瑪十七 6~8）。這是今年四旬期的第二個指示：不要因為害怕面對現實及每天的辛苦、艱難和衝突，而利用特殊事件及富於感性的宗教經驗作為避難所。耶穌顯示給門徒的光，是祂光榮復活的預兆，而我們若「只追隨祂」，就必須往那方向前進。四旬期指向復活節：耶穌的「避靜」本身不是目的，而是為要預備我們，在信望愛中體驗祂的苦難與十字架，最後要抵達復活。在同道偕行的途徑上，也是如此，當天主賜予我們恩寵，讓我們獲得

某種強烈的共融體驗時，我們也不應以為已抵達終點。到了那一時刻，上主也會一再對我們說：「起來，不要害怕！」讓我們下到平地，願我們體驗到的恩寵支持我們，好能在團體的日常生活中，成為「共議精神的工匠」。

親愛的弟兄姊妹們，在今年的四旬期，願聖神激勵並支持我們與耶穌一起上山，好使我們也能體驗到祂神聖的光輝，而能堅定信仰，在與耶穌——上主子民的光榮和萬民的真光——同行的道路上，堅毅不撓。

教宗方濟各 羅馬，拉特朗聖若望大殿

2023年1月25日，聖保祿宗徒歸化日

(臺灣明愛會 恭譯)



## 宗教交談部

### 基督徒與穆斯林：愛與友情的推動者

#### 齋戒月和開齋節賀詞

伊斯蘭曆1444年/主曆2023年

梵蒂岡

親愛的穆斯林弟兄姊妹們：

齋戒月對您們來說極為重要，但為您們的朋友、鄰居及其他宗教的信徒們，特別是為基督徒而言，也同樣重要。既有的關係不僅能加深，能建立更多的友誼，也能為和平、和諧而喜樂的共存方式打好基礎。事實上，為我們的信仰團體和團體的成員，以及我們唯一人類大家庭裡的種種團體而言，這符合神的旨意。

親愛的朋友們，我們都察覺到和平友好的共存方式面臨著許多挑戰及威脅：極端主義、激進主義、論戰、爭端以及以宗教為名的暴力行為。助長這些威脅的，是一種仇恨文化。因此，我們需要尋求最妥善的方式來對抗並克制這種文化，並藉著我們的這份連結，尤其是在穆斯林與基督徒之間，去強化愛與友情。幸逢這好機會，這是為什麼我們在這方面與您們分享一些省思，同時也期

待知悉您們的想法。

一切皆從我們對待彼此的心態開始，尤其是當我們之間在信仰上、種族上、文化上、語言上或政治議題上都存在一些差異的時候。

差異可能會被視為一種威脅，縱然每個人都有權利擁有多樣面向的獨特本質，卻也不可忽視或遺忘我們所共同擁有的：「各民族原是一個團體、同出一源，因為神曾使全人類居住在世界各地。他們也同有一個最後歸宿，就是神，祂的照顧、慈善的實證，以及救援的計劃，普及所有的人，直到被選的人民集合於聖城中，就是神的榮耀將要照亮的聖城，各民族都將在祂的光明中行走。」（《教會對非基督宗教態度宣言》，1，1965年10月28日）

遺憾的是，因面對他人的差異而把持負面的態度與行為卻數不勝數，僅此舉幾個例子，如：猜疑、懼怕、競爭、歧視、排斥、迫害、論戰、污辱及誹謗…等。

社群媒體平台是這類有害行為普遍的溫床，因此扭曲了它原本作為人際交流及建立友情的管道的本質，而淪為敵對及爭鬥的工具。就此，教宗方濟各曾說：「許多人沉迷在消費和耽於安逸的孤獨狀態，但卻選擇持續不斷和無法自控地與人連接，但他們鼓吹敵視、侮辱、誹謗、傷害別人的語言暴力，恣肆無忌，以致人與人的接觸彼此傷害。人際間的侵犯藉著行動裝置和電腦的發展，而前所未有的擴散。」（《眾位弟兄》，44，2020年10月3日）

與上述提及的行為，相反的是：尊重、良善、慈愛、友誼、互助關懷、寬恕、為共同的福祉合作、幫助有任何需要的人，以及對生態環境的關懷。為使我們「共同的家園」持續成為一個安全、愉悅的生活場域，在和平與喜樂中共同度日。

我們若不為後代子孫在其所有成長的空間中——在家庭、學校、各

種敬拜場所及社群媒體中——提供一個健全的教育，我們便無法遏止並克制這個仇恨的文化，甚至去推動一個愛與友誼的文化。

一個充滿正義、和平、兄弟情誼及繁榮的世界不但蒙受全能者悅納，同時也帶來喜樂，從而召喚我們彼此相通並真誠地投身其中。

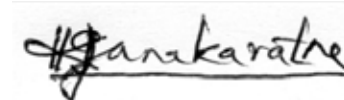
親愛的穆斯林弟兄姊妹們，在這齋戒月當中，願您們享有全能者所賜予的豐厚祝福，並願您們在慶祝開齋節時，因對全能者及與您們一起生活的人、所遇見的每個人所懷有的忠誠及愛心而喜樂滿溢。

梵蒂岡，2023年3月3日



部長 阿尤索樞機

(Miguel Ángel Cardinal Ayuso Guixot, MCCJ)



祕書長 坎卡納馬拉格蒙席

(Msgr. Indunil Kodithuwakku Janakarathne Kankanamalage)

（天主教會台灣地區主教團 宗教交談與合作委員會 恭譯）

## 世界主教代表會議 亞洲大洲會議

### 最後倒數

#### 新聞稿1 - 2023.02.23

世界主教代表會議亞洲大洲會議2023年2月24日至2月26日，於泰國曼谷總教區位於曼普蘭「播種者之家」(Baan Phu Waan) 牧靈培訓中心舉行，與會者包括代表亞洲主教團協會 (FABC) 29個國家的17個主教團和2個主教會議代表，計有6位樞機、5位總主教、18位主教、28位司鐸、4位修女和19位平信徒與會。

亞洲是最大和人口最多的大洲，擁有不同的文化、語言、種族和宗教。雖然基督徒在亞洲大部分地區仍屬少數，但亞洲各地的獨特文化及豐富多彩的活力給教會帶來歡樂。雖然各地的信仰體系、價值觀念和象徵都不盡相同，但人類社會的相互關聯性將亞洲人們吸引在一起。亞洲人們的價值觀是：建立與天主、自己、鄰人和宇宙的關係，這也帶來了人類大家庭的團結和亞洲人們的團結。

儘管生活充滿挑戰，但同道偕行是教會視為一個恩典和療癒的時刻。「教會作為帳幕」的形象表明了她是一個避難所，且包容所有人及向所有人拓展。她還展示了天主可以在聖神吹拂的任何地方搭起帳幕，儘管那裡有暴

力、動亂和痛苦。更重要的是，在這個帳幕裡，每個人都有屬於他／她的空間；不會有人被排除在外，因為教會是每個人的家。在同道偕行的過程中，那些曾經感到「被遺棄」的人現在也能意識到，他們在這個帳幕裡有一個家——一個神聖和安全的空間。

這個圖像也提醒我們，耶穌藉著祂的降生成人在我們當中搭建了祂的帳幕。因此，祂的帳幕是一個給人與天以及彼此相遇的帳幕。這個帳幕，現在被視為共同的家園，也喚醒了一個更富有意義的意識，使眾人察覺到在不同團體的共融之下，攜手同行的重要性，同時促進教會有活力的成長。

有一個框架計畫、一個目標開放的工作文件已經擬好，為幫助與會代表一起並肩同行，透過祈禱去作分辨，討論和思考。接著的三天，與會代表們將分享他們喜樂的經驗、同道偕行的經驗、受創的經驗，以及他們所領受要踏上新途徑的召喚。他們也會關注一些困擾著亞洲的緊張情況：實踐同道偕行、作出決策、司鐸聖召、青年、窮人、宗教的衝突和威權主義。

聚會的開幕彌撒為呼求聖神降臨彌撒，將由東京總教區總主教、亞洲主教團協會祕書長——聖言會會士菊池功總主教 (Archbishop Tarcisio Isao Kikuchi) 主禮。接著將會有說明，向與會者介紹該次聚會要思考和辨明的話題。最後，一份〈最終文件〉的擬稿會供所有與會者作分享，並交換意見，集思廣益。

而亞洲——這廣大地域和多元化的亞洲人民所期待的，就是同道偕行。

## 耶穌顯聖容，好比世界主教代表會議

2023.02.23

在大洲會議於曼谷曼普蘭「播種者之家」(Baan Phu Waan) 牧靈培訓中心開幕的前夕，印度孟買總主教——奧斯沃·葛雷西斯 (Oswald Gracias) 樞機主教，主持感恩祭。

在講道中，樞機提到，大洲會議恰巧在四旬期——教會生活中的重要時期，開始時召開，別具意涵。四旬期旨在歸依、祈禱、悔改、守齋。四旬期也是讓我們反省我們的召叫——棄絕罪惡，歸向天主，追隨十字架，跟隨受難的耶穌，以及認出顯聖容時的耶穌。

回應教宗方濟各四旬期文告所提及的，樞機進一步說到，耶穌顯聖容，好比世界主教代表會議，與耶穌同道偕行，在前往大伯爾山，聆聽耶穌與聖神，發現變顯聖容的天主，使整個教會及所有人發現默西亞——耶穌基督。

大洲會議，是經由討論與聆聽的辨明時刻。然而，聖神是整個過程中主角。聖神啟發教會的每個人，讓我們知道世界上發生的諸多事情，經過同道偕行的過程，皆屬一般。既使如此，亞洲仍有其獨特的觀點，聖神賦予並讓我們發現「亞洲特色」。經過此共議的過程，我們要辨明如何成為耶穌在亞洲的門徒，我們如何反映出耶穌在亞洲的面容。

「冷漠」會致死。教會應是帶給人們生活希望的核心。

新聞稿2 – 2023.02.24

「冷漠」會致死，所以我們需要精誠團結，為帶給人們生活的希望。教會應是帶給人們生活希望的核心。教會不應該是絕望與哀傷的泉源。希望的泉源，應該是我們，因為我們擁有福音的生命；福音的希望與我們在精誠團結的路上一起同行。這是今天早上，在大洲會議開幕彌撒時，東京總教區總主教、亞洲主教團協會祕書長——聖言會會士菊池功總主教 (Archbishop Tarcisio Isao Kikuchi)，向大洲階段會議的與會者所作的呼籲。該會議自2月24日至27日於泰國曼谷召開。

在與會者開始辨明及收集大洲階段在亞洲所結的果實之際，菊池功總主教提醒，這次共議性的歷程特別受到衝擊，不只是因為亞洲許多不同的語言，在翻譯上遇到困難，更是由於新冠疫情：「我們最大的挑戰，是因新冠疫情而無法召集人們參加聚會。」雖然如此，亞洲主教團協會祕書長繼續分享說：「正如我們藉著這次共議性的歷程所了解的，這次的世界主教代表會議，不是一次的單獨事件，慶祝後就結束，而是全體天主子民態度的改變，為了要使同道偕行作為教會的本質。我們知道同道偕行在實體會議結束之後，仍然會繼續不斷。疫情正在趨緩，社交活動也重新恢復，我們趁此要打好紮實的基礎，以繼續我們的同道偕行。」

## 女平信徒在大洲階段會議為其他人發聲

2023.02.25

伯爾納德·芮斯修女（Bernadette Reis, fsp）— 梵蒂岡新聞網世界主教代表會議總祕書處特派員

12位平信徒婦女參加世界主教代表會議大洲階段會議。除了亞洲主教團協會的各地區主教團主席之外，每一個主教團都選派了兩個代表。這些婦女們被選為他們國家的與會代表。

在接受梵蒂岡新聞網訪問時，每一位婦女都傳達了某一獨特訊息或代表她所代表的人民的聲音，希望在大會被聽到。

芮塔·羅斯林·寇斯達（Rita Roseline Costa）來自孟加拉，代表孟加拉的婦女，她說：「在會議中我們跟你在一起。我們的心聲應該被聽見。我們不應該被排除在外，我們可以一起改變世界。」

喬伊·卡得拉里歐（Joy Candelario）代表菲律賓：「我代表所有在菲律賓積極從事福傳工作的平信徒。」她還表示：「在會議進行當中，我們聽到了很多來自堂區、教區以及區域性的聲音。有些令人不安，但也讓我們感動，很多在多方面，受傷者的聲音沒有完全被聽見。」喬伊希望「這些聲音未來也能夠參與。他們在教會內也能有一席之地，屬於我們，因為他們也是教會一份子。」

安娜·阿瑪篤斯（Anna Amandus）代表馬來西亞、新加坡、汶萊，帶來結婚五年以上，卻還沒有孩子的夫婦的

聲音。參加大洲會議希望得到「豐碩的果實」。也希望這羣像她一樣的夫婦不要放棄，無論如何，不要失去對天主的信心。安娜說「總相信，凡事出必有其原因。」

羅撒莉亞·啾啾·亭（Rosalia Cho Cho Tin）非常高興能夠代表緬甸。「為我們來說這是個感恩的時刻。我知道我不是自己一個人來參加會議，我的人民我的國家跟教會跟我一起。我來不是為我自己，而是我的國家。我持續不斷地為我的國家祈禱和平與正義。」

來自台灣的代表吳家華（Teresa Wu）表示，「很榮幸將台灣教會的聲音帶到大會，在會議中我們帶來我們的聲音，我們一起聆聽。希望將這裡訊息帶回去分享。」

明美辻（Akemi Tsuji.）代表日本。她表示：「帶來在不同種族中，跨文化及跨宗教的理解及交談。這個在亞洲非常重要。」

來自菲律賓的伊斯蒂拉·帕蒂拉（Estela Padilla），亞洲主教團辨明與撰寫文件小組的成員之一，說到：「我覺得缺少了原住民的聲音。全世界有百分之60的原住民生活在亞洲。我們有談及原住民，但他們並未發聲，而是別人為他們發聲。原住民，特別是婦女，是今日原住民文化的傳遞者。作為母親，她們將文化傳承給下一代。她們是原住民文化的持有者，也是智慧的源頭。再者，大多數的原住民治療師也是婦女。如果能聽到他們的聲音會更好。」



## 靈修交談

### 新聞稿 3 – 2023.02.25

世界主教代表會議——亞洲大洲會議的第2天以〈為世界主教代表會議祈禱文〉「天主聖神，我們因祢的名，相聚祢台前」開始，呼求聖神施恩、領導和啟發所有這次共議性之旅的與會代表，真正地對亞洲的聲音作反省。

〈為世界主教代表會議祈禱文〉有一個豐富的歷史背景，在拉丁文，祈禱文的第一個字，意思是「我們在祢——天主聖神面前」，在過去數百年不同的大公會會議、世界主教代表會議和教會的聚會曾被使用。

世界主教代表會議副祕書長——貝卡爾（Nathalie Becquart）修女指出了當天會議的討論方向：共議精神，是以青年為主題的世界主教代表會議的果實。她詳細地加以說明：「如果我們相信——正如教宗方濟各所說的——『共議精神，是教會今天按照天主旨意的存在方式、一股藉著辨明和聆聽天主聖神的聲音而來的動力』，我們便有信心，相信我們會領受天主的恩寵來回應這天主的召喚，成為一個共議性的教會。」貝卡爾修女強調說，同道偕行是一份禮物，而辨明是同道偕行的核心。她談到了聖經裡厄瑪烏的故事，這故事的圖象，可以被視為同道偕行之旅的範例——耶穌同道偕行的風格，是我們蒙召要做效的。

在過去的兩天，與會代表們受邀，藉著共議性的歷程來使用一個三步曲的方法：「靈修交談」。第一步：「踴躍發言」；那是每一個小組的成員發言2分鐘，來分享他們同道偕行的經驗，完畢後不作討論或發問，然後兩分

鐘的默靜時間，接著另一回的分享。第二步：「給別人騰出空間」；那是每一個成員有2分鐘的發言時間，說出其他人的發言，有什麼是令自己最有感受，完畢後不作討論或發問，然後兩分鐘的默靜時間來內化所聽到的分享。第三步：「一起建設」；那是一段互動的時刻，為了要辨識交談的成果、認出一些差異、共同的問題、意見的分歧，以及先知性的聲音。這種方法，為恩寵時刻創造空間，幫忙小組問這一個基本問題：天主聖神在引領我們到什麼地方？

各小組反省後，便為以下的問題作祈禱：在工作文件「差異」的那部分，是否有那些重要事宜或問題是沒有充分地被討論到？在「差異」的那部分，有什麼亞洲的現況、經驗或重要事宜可以被納入或改進的？

在今早的第二場會議，各小組反省和思考5個在亞洲最急迫的優先事項，並且是必須急迫地要呈報給10月的世界主教代表會議大會。

今天的主持人和協調人是德里總教區的榮休庫多（Archbishop Anil Joseph Thomas Couto）總主教、主教代表會議研究方法委員會的克里斯蒂娜·金（Christina Kheng）女士，以及亞洲大洲會議特務小組的成員——西村桃子女士。會議協調人提醒眾與會代表，他們的責任，是以亞洲的聲音身分，而不是以他們個的人身分作發言。

早上的會議，最後以明供聖體作結束，因為祈禱是使這次同道偕行之旅的前進的動力。

今天的第三場會議邀請了各小組廣泛地探討〈工作文件〉裡的「工作計畫」。一天的會議最後以感恩祭作結束，由卡拉奇榮休總主教、世界主教代表會議委員會委員——庫茨樞機（Cardinal Joseph Coutts）主禮。

這歷程持續不斷，而眾與會代表如同在厄瑪烏路上的門徒一樣，響應了聖經的這句話：「當祂在路上與我們談話，給我們講解聖經的時候，我們的心不是火熱的嗎？」（路24:32）

**在一首交響樂曲中合奏：每一個人都有一個聲音。**

**新聞稿 - 4 · 2023.02.26**

世界主教代表會議——亞洲大洲會議的第3天，一如前兩天，以〈為世界主教代表會議祈禱文〉開始。今天會議的協調人為加洛坎（Kalookan）主教暨菲律賓主教團主席——保祿·達味（Pablo David）主教、臺灣地區主教團代表——吳家榮姊妹，以及亞洲主教團協會神學委員會（OTC）執行祕書暨亞洲大洲會議特務小組成員——伊斯蒂拉·帕蒂拉女士（Estela Padilla）。

在小組討論中，與會代表們分享他們的心得、看法，以及在心中有什麼響應。

第十六屆世界主教會議總發言人——耶穌會會士霍勒利希（Jean-Claude Hollerich）樞機，在向與會代表們致詞中，強調了三點。他藉著樂器的例子向眾與會代表解釋說，他們每一個人如同一件樂器，而且應該和諧一致，為能演奏一首交響曲。而這應是重複地、有紀律地，每

一件樂器與其他的，都同一音調，否則就會奏出刺耳的雜音。接著，霍勒利希樞機強調說，共議精神需要謙遜，而只有在謙遜中我們才能在這旅途上合作、同行。最後，霍勒利希樞機強調說，一個共議性的教會，是一個受基督託付去宣揚福音的教會，而且是一個無我地為天主子民服務的教會。

之後，克拉倫斯·德瓦達斯（Clarence Devadass）神父——辨明和撰寫小組的成員——介紹了〈最終文件〉裡的〈工作計畫〉修改後的一些重點，以及與會代表參與和建議修定文件的程序。與會代表們都被要求在靜默中反省，為準備在小組裡的靈修交談。

在下午的會議中，眾與會代表反省2個問題：有哪一個教會的結構需要被改變或建立，為提升在亞洲教會的共議精神？以及眾與會代表，在2023年10月的第一期、2024年的第二期以共議精神為主題的世界主教代表會議，希望看到什麼展現出來。然後，眾與會代表分享他們有關〈最終文件〉裡〈工作計畫〉的想法，隨後在靜默中祈禱片刻。

在結論的聲明中，世界主教代表會議總祕書長——格雷奇樞機分享了他對亞洲大洲3天會議的看法，同時保證與會代表們，他們這次的同道偕行之旅會結實纍纍，而他們的貢獻必定不會被普世教會忘記。亞洲主教團協會祕書長——菊池功總主教，作了最後結束的致詞，向所有參與這次亞洲大洲會議、務求會議達到目的的人，鄭重地表示感謝。

閉幕彌撒由仰光總主教、亞洲主教團協會主席——貌波

(Charles Maung Bo) 樞機主禮，泰國主教團主席、曼谷總主教戈威瓦尼 (Francis Xavier Kriengsak Kovithavanij) 樞機、天主教敘利亞-瑪拉巴禮的阿蘭切利 (George Alencherry) 樞機，以及南韓水原教區李永勳 (瑪迪) 主教共祭。

在他的講道中，貌波樞機表示說，同道偕行之旅頗像耶穌在曠野之旅，具有挑戰性，但卻是有必要的，因為藉著聆聽、相遇和辨明的過程，它使教會更能為福音作證。貌波樞機聲明說，在面對挑戰時，我們接觸到的挑戰，要求我們在態度上有所改變。他用英文字四旬期的四個字母「LENT」提供一個態度改變的簡稱：

L= (Letting go) 放下。如果這次的旅程是要有意義的，我們就必須放下所有阻礙我們成為共議性教會的一切，因為將舊的拋諸腦後，是成長的必需條件。

E= (Encounter) 相遇。在跟隨耶穌的旅途中，有一個要達到的特定目標，就是與基督相遇，以及教宗方濟各在呼籲我們時所提醒的「相遇文化」。那是一個邀請，以簡單的方式工作，「像耶穌所做的一樣」，不只是看見，而是要注意看；不只是聽到，而是要聆聽；不只是擦身而過，而是要逗留下來；不只是說：「好慘，可憐的人們！」，而是讓自己動憐憫之心。

N= (Neighbourliness) 鄰近。在善心撒瑪黎雅人的比喻開始之前，先有一個問題：「誰是我的近人？」（參：路10 :29）。最後，是那施行憐憫的人。我們在亞洲是少數，而我們生活在社會、政治和宗教的緊張局勢中。儘管如此，我們都蒙召去幫忙我們有需要的弟兄姊妹們。

T= (Transformation) 轉變。貌波樞機重述聖詠作者的一句話：「祢一嘯氣萬物創成，祢使地面，更新復興。」他說，在這次的同道偕行之旅，我們受召去聆聽天主聖神在告訴我們什麼。因此，如果我們同行，為了要使教會生活有所更新，我們就需要天主聖神轉變的力量，因為我們憑己力，一無所能。我們總是需要天主的恩寵轉變我們，因為我們在這同道偕行之旅同行時，「只服事祂」。

在感恩祭結束時，亞洲大洲會議12小組的代表，站在主禮面前，手持他們在開幕彌撒時所領受置於花托的蠟燭，象徵他們獻上三天的互動和記念。

(天主教會臺灣地區主教團 中文翻譯)

世界主教代表會議亞洲大洲會議

真理電台新聞影片：



## Message of the Holy Father for Lent 2023

### *Lenten Penance and the Synodal Journey*

Dear brothers and sisters!

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke all recount the episode of the Transfiguration of Jesus. There we see the Lord's response to the failure of his disciples to understand him. Shortly before, there had been a real clash between the Master and Simon Peter, who, after professing his faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, rejected his prediction of the passion and the cross. Jesus had firmly rebuked him: "Get behind me, Satan! You are a scandal to me, because you do not think according to God, but according to men!" (Mt 16:23). Following this, "six days later, Jesus took with him Peter, James and John his brother and led them away to a high mountain" (Mt 17:1).

The Gospel of the Transfiguration is proclaimed every year on the Second Sunday of Lent. During this liturgical season, the Lord takes us with him to a place apart. While our ordinary commitments compel us to remain in our usual places and our often repetitive and sometimes boring routines, during Lent we are invited to ascend "a high mountain" in the company of Jesus and to live a particular experience of spiritual discipline – asceticism – as God's holy people.

Lenten penance is a commitment, sustained by grace, to overcoming our lack of faith and our resistance to following Jesus on the way of the cross. This is precisely what Peter and the other disciples needed to do. To deepen our knowledge of the Master, to fully understand and embrace the mystery of his salvation, accomplished in total self-giving

inspired by love, we must allow ourselves to be taken aside by him and to detach ourselves from mediocrity and vanity. We need to set out on the journey, an uphill path that, like a mountain trek, requires effort, sacrifice and concentration. These requisites are also important for the synodal journey to which, as a Church, we are committed to making. We can benefit greatly from reflecting on the relationship between Lenten penance and the synodal experience.

In his "retreat" on Mount Tabor, Jesus takes with him three disciples, chosen to be witnesses of a unique event. He wants that experience of grace to be shared, not solitary, just as our whole life of faith is an experience that is shared. For it is in togetherness that we follow Jesus. Together too, as a pilgrim Church in time, we experience the liturgical year and Lent within it, walking alongside those whom the Lord has placed among us as fellow travellers. Like the ascent of Jesus and the disciples to Mount Tabor, we can say that our Lenten journey is "synodal", since we make it together along the same path, as disciples of the one Master. For we know that Jesus is himself the Way, and therefore, both in the liturgical journey and in the journey of the Synod, the Church does nothing other than enter ever more deeply and fully into the mystery of Christ the Saviour.

And so we come to its culmination. The Gospel relates that Jesus "was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light" (Mt 17:2). This is the "summit", the goal of the journey. At the end of their ascent, as they stand on the mountain heights with Jesus, the three disciples are given the grace of seeing him in his glory, resplendent in supernatural light. That light did not come from without, but radiated from the Lord himself. The divine beauty of this vision was incomparably greater than all the efforts the disciples had made in the ascent of Tabor. During any strenuous mountain trek, we must keep our eyes firmly fixed on the path; yet the panorama that opens up at the end amazes us and rewards us by its grandeur. So too, the synodal process may often seem arduous, and at times we may

become discouraged. Yet what awaits us at the end is undoubtedly something wondrous and amazing, which will help us to understand better God's will and our mission in the service of his kingdom.

The disciples' experience on Mount Tabor was further enriched when, alongside the transfigured Jesus, Moses and Elijah appeared, signifying respectively the Law and the Prophets (cf. Mt 17:3). The newness of Christ is at the same time the fulfilment of the ancient covenant and promises; it is inseparable from God's history with his people and discloses its deeper meaning. In a similar way, the synodal journey is rooted in the Church's tradition and at the same time open to newness. Tradition is a source of inspiration for seeking new paths and for avoiding the opposed temptations of immobility and improvised experimentation.

The Lenten journey of penance and the journey of the Synod alike have as their goal a transfiguration, both personal and ecclesial. A transformation that, in both cases, has its model in the Transfiguration of Jesus and is achieved by the grace of his paschal mystery. So that this transfiguration may become a reality in us this year, I would like to propose two "paths" to follow in order to ascend the mountain together with Jesus and, with him, to attain the goal.

The first path has to do with the command that God the Father addresses to the disciples on Mount Tabor as they contemplate Jesus transfigured. The voice from the cloud says: "Listen to him" (Mt 17:5). The first proposal, then, is very clear: we need to listen to Jesus. Lent is a time of grace to the extent that we listen to him as he speaks to us. And how does he speak to us? First, in the word of God, which the Church offers us in the liturgy. May that word not fall on deaf ears; if we cannot always attend Mass, let us study its daily biblical readings, even with the help of the internet. In addition to the Scriptures, the Lord speaks to us through our brothers and sisters, especially in the faces and the stories of those who are in need. Let me say something else, which is quite important for the synodal process: listening to Christ often

takes place in listening to our brothers and sisters in the Church. Such mutual listening in some phases is the primary goal, but it remains always indispensable in the method and style of a synodal Church.

On hearing the Father's voice, the disciples "fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Rise, and do not be afraid.' And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone" (Mt 17:6-8). Here is the second proposal for this Lent: do not take refuge in a religiosity made up of extraordinary events and dramatic experiences, out of fear of facing reality and its daily struggles, its hardships and contradictions. The light that Jesus shows the disciples is an anticipation of Easter glory, and that must be the goal of our own journey, as we follow "him alone". Lent leads to Easter: the "retreat" is not an end in itself, but a means of preparing us to experience the Lord's passion and cross with faith, hope and love, and thus to arrive at the resurrection. Also on the synodal journey, when God gives us the grace of certain powerful experiences of communion, we should not imagine that we have arrived – for there too, the Lord repeats to us: "Rise, and do not be afraid". Let us go down, then, to the plain, and may the grace we have experienced strengthen us to be "artisans of synodality" in the ordinary life of our communities.

Dear brothers and sisters, may the Holy Spirit inspire and sustain us this Lent in our ascent with Jesus, so that we may experience his divine splendour and thus, confirmed in faith, persevere in our journey together with him, glory of his people and light of the nations.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 January, Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul

Francis

## Asian Continental Assembly on Synodality

### THE FINAL COUNT DOWN

#### PRESS NOTE 1 – FEBRUARY 23, 2023

Baan Phu Waan (The Sower's House), the magnificent Pastoral Training Centre of the Bangkok Archdiocese, is host to the Asian Continental Assembly on Synodality, from February 24 to February 26, 2023. The participating delegates consist of representatives of 17 Conferences of Bishops and 2 Synods of Bishops, representing the 29 countries that constitute the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC). Discerning together on this Synodal journey are 6 cardinals, 5 archbishops, 18 bishops, 28 priests, 4 sisters and 19 lay persons.

Asia, the largest and most populated continent, is blessed with diverse cultures, languages, ethnicities and religions. While Christianity remains a very small minority in most parts of Asia, the vibrancy and richness of the individual cultures bring joy to the life of the Church. Though the systems of beliefs, values and symbols differ from place to place, the interconnectedness of the human community draws Asian people together. The Asian value of being relational – with God, self, neighbour, and the cosmos – brings with it, the unity of the human family and the unity of the people of Asia.

Despite the challenges, the Synodal journey has been considered a moment of grace and healing for the church. The image of the 'church as tent' projects it to be a place of refuge that can be expanded to all in a spirit of inclusivity. It also expresses that God can pitch His tent wherever the Spirit of God blows, including places of violence, unrest, and suffering. Most importantly, in the

tent, there is room for everyone; no one is excluded, for it is a home to everyone. In this process, those who in the past felt 'left out' now realize that they have a home in this tent – a sacred and safe space.

The image of the tent also reminds us that Jesus pitched His tent among us through the incarnation, and therefore the tent also is a place of encounter with God and one another. The tent, now seen as the common home, also has rekindled a sense of belonging and sharing in the common baptism. The Synodal process has brought about a more significant awareness of the importance of walking together as a communion of communities, bringing about an organic growth of the Church.

A draft framework, an open-ended working paper, has been drawn up to help the delegates journey together through prayer to discern, discuss and deliberate. Over the next three days the delegates will share their experience of Joy, of Walking Together, the Experience of Wounds, and the Call to Embrace New Pathways. They will also focus on the tensions that plague Asia – Living Synodality, Decision-Making, Priestly Vocations, Youth, Poor, Religious Conflicts and Clericalism.

The Opening Mass, the Mass of the Holy Spirit, will be presided over by Archbishop Tarcisio Isao Kikuchi, SVD, Archbishop of Tokyo, Japan and Secretary General of the FABC. This will be followed by an orientation introducing the delegates to the topics of deliberation and discernment. The draft of the final document will also be shared for the participants to express their thoughts.

The hope is to journey together as people of the vast and diverse continent of Asia.

## **Transfiguration is like a Synod**

**Feb 24, 2023**

On the eve of the three-day of the Asian Continental Assembly in Baan Phu Waan, Bangkok, Thailand, Cardinal Oswald Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay, presided over the Eucharist.

In his homily the Cardinal said the continental assembly is happening at an important time in the life of the Church- the period of Lent, dedicated to conversion, prayer, penance, fasting. It is a time when we reflect on the call to reject evil and choose God, to follow the cross, the passion of Jesus and to recognize the transfigured Christ.

Drawing from the message of Pope Francis for Lent, the Cardinal said the transfiguration is like a synod in which we are walking with Jesus, going up to Mount Tabor, listening to Jesus and the Spirit, to discover the transfigured God, to let the Church and all peoples discover the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

The assembly, he said is a time of discernment accompanied by discussion and listening. But the Holy spirit is the principal agent of this process, he said. The Spirit, he said, inspires each one in the Church and we discover that most of the issues emerging in the synodal process throughout the world are common. But even among these, there is an Asian perspective, a distinctive ‘Asianness’ that the Spirit enables is to discover and bring to the forefront. Through this process, we are trying to discern how can we be disciples of Jesus in Asia, how can we reflect the Asian face of Christ.

## **Indifference can kill people. Church has to produce hope**

**Feb 24, 2023**

“Indifference could kill so that we need solidarity to produce hope to live. Church has to be at the center of producing hope. Church should not be the source of despair and sadness. We have to be the source of hope because we have the Gospel of life, Gospel of hope and we are the one walking together in solidarity on the path of sinodality”. This was the appeal that Archbishop Tarcisio Isao Kikuchi SVD, Archbishop of Tokyo and Secretary General of the FABC, made this morning to the participants at the opening mass of the Continental Synod Assembly being held in Bangkok until 26 February.

While the participants in Bangkok are starting their discernment to gather the fruit of the Continental Stage in Asia, Archbishop Kikuchi reminded how the synodal journey has been particularly affected not only by the difficulties of translating documents in so many different Asian languages, but particularly by the Pandemic “our biggest challenge was simply not to be able to gather people because of the pandemic”. However – the Secretary General of FABC proceeded – “as we understand through our journeying together on this synodal path that this Synod is not only one time passing event to celebrate but rather to realize change of attitude of entire people of God to make synodality the foundational nature of the Church, we know this journey will continue after the actual meetings. So as the pandemic situation is getting better and activities of the society has been resuming, we have strong foundation now to continue our journey together”.

## **News Release No.2: There is Always Room in the Tent**

**Press Note 2 24th February 2023**

The Opening Eucharist, the Mass of the Holy Spirit was presided over by Archbishop Tarcisio Isao Kikuchi SVD, Archbishop of Tokyo and Secretary General of the FABC; and concelebrated by

Virgílio Cardinal do Carmo da Silva SDB, Archdiocese of Díli and Louis Cardinal Marie Ling Mangkhanekhoun, Apostolic Vicar of Vientiane, Laos.

In his sharing Archbishop Kikuchi evoked from his pastoral experience as a missionary in Africa, highlighting situations of despair and indifference which destroys the human spirit and the soul of humanity, and situations of hope and love – the magic of Ghana which brings life and joy, that is celebrated in in the spirit of solidarity.

The Holy Eucharist concluded with the blessing of Candles given to the moderators of groups to be placed on their tables. These candles, lit during the discussion, symbolize the Light of Christ that inspires and prompts discussions to be a reflection of a Synodal journey.

Mario Cardinal Grech, Secretary General of the Secretariat of the Synod, in his opening address, reminded the delegates that ‘we are all learners in Synodality’ – encouraging us to be more attentive to the voices within the Church, especially to those voices which agitate and also to the ones that ‘do not speak’. Cardinal Grech emphasized, “a Synodal Church is a Church of listening” and stressed that the success of the process depended on the active participation of the people of God and the pastors (who are also members of the People of God). Furthermore, he explained that a proper exercise of Synodality never places the people and pastors in competition but maintains them in constant relation, allowing both to fulfil their own roles and responsibilities. Cardinal Grech added, “consultation in Churches has enabled the people of God to implement the right way of participating in the Prophetic function of Christ. “. In conclusion, Cardinal Grech emphasised the importance of listening.; listening to the Holy Spirit who speaks to the Church and that the phrase ‘a synodal Church is a Church of listening’ must not be reduced to a rhetorical phrase but should

portray the truth that it is. Cardinal Grech invoked the Spirit of the Risen Lord to guide the minds of the delegates and to give them the courage to walk the Synodal path, which is the path that the Lord is opening to the Church of the third millennium.

Ms Christina Kheng, from the Commission on the Methodology for the Synod, gave her insights on the Synodal journey so far. She emphasized that each one present at the Synod is as a participant and not a by-stander. Ms. Christina stressed, “The purpose of the Synod, and therefore of this consultation, is not to produce documents, but ‘to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, give strength to our hands”, based on the Preparatory Document 32. She also articulated that the participants aren’t required to merely produce a document but instead are needed to encounter each other, to dialogue, to build relationships, to grow as a discerning community and to experience walking together in the Spirit as the people of God in Asia.

The Synod being a reflective process, the delegates were introduced to the spirituality of discernment. This was uncovered by Fr. Anthony James Corcoran SJ, Apostolic Administrator to Kyrgyzstan. Fr. Anthony helped the delegates understand that discernment is a journey guided by the Holy Spirit, a dying followed by a rising and it is in letting go of one’s own plans, certainties and agenda, and allowing oneself to be guided into new life by the unpredictable leadings of the Holy Spirit. Quoting *Evangelii Gaudium* n. 51, “It is appropriate to clarify [discern] what can be a fruit of the Kingdom and also what harms God’s plan”, Fr Anthony set the tone for the today’s discussions.

Fr. Clarence Devadass, underlined the process and journey undertaken by the FABC Synod Task Force to produce the Draft



Framework. In his presentation, Fr Clarence highlighted the fact that the Draft Framework was an open-ended working paper, drawn up to help the delegates journey together through prayer to discern, discuss and deliberate. Fr Clarence highlighted the 5 areas that this paper this draft covered; Asian Resonances, Asian Tensions, Asian Realities and Divergences, Gaps Identified in the Asian Responses and Priorities from the Asian Responses. Fr Clarence stressed that the Draft Framework is meant to ignite the discernment process, so that the final outcome would truly represent the dream, hopes, aspirations and the pains that echo within the Continent of Asia.

The Facilitors for the day were Bishop Stephen Chow SJ, Bishop of Hong Kong, Ms Susan Pascoe, a Member of the Synod Task Force for the Continental Stage and Joy Candelario, Participant in the Asian Continental Assembly on Synodality from Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines.

The delegates were invited to reflection, in personal prayer, on three questions: What has been their experience of the Synodal Process? What do they see as their task at this Assembly? What do they think of the process of 'Spiritual Conversation?'

After their afternoon meal, the delegates met in groups, discussed and reported on their observations on the first part of the Draft Framework.

### **Lay women speaking out on behalf of others in Asian synodal assembly**

**Feb 25, 2023**

**By Sr Bernadette Reis, fsp – Vatican News / Special Envoy of Synod's General Secretariat**

Twelve women are participating in the Asian Continental Assembly

on Synodality. In addition to the Presidents of the Episcopal Conferences who are members of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC), each Episcopal Conference is represented by two delegates. These women have been chosen as delegates to represent their countries.

In a video interview with Vatican News, each of these women expressed the particular message or people they are representing, and whose voices they wish to be heard in the Assembly.

Rita Roseline Costa represents Bangladesh. Her message is for other women who live in Bangladesh. "I want to say that in the synodal process, we are with you. And our voices should be heard. Please consider our voices and we are not excluded." Rita concluded, saying, "Together, we can make differences in the world."

Joy Candelario represents the Philippines. "I bring with me all the lay people who are involved actively in evangelization." She also brings, "all those voices that we have heard in the synodal process from the parishes, dioceses, and regions in the Philippines – a lot of voices that were disturbing, that were touching us, voices that are wounded in many ways and have not been heard fully in the Church." Joy's hope is that all of these people might one day participate, that "they will have a space that they can belong to us because they are Church too."

Anna Amandus represents Malaysia/Singapore/Brunei and brings the "voice of couples who have been married for more than five years but still do not have children. Anna is hopeful that couples experiencing this might receive a "fruitful message" from the Assembly. She also hopes that these couples "will not give up," that they will continue to "have faith in God that no matter what." Anna concludes, "we believe that there is always a reason."

Rosalia Cho Cho Tin is very happy to be representing

Myanmar. “This is a moment of grace for us,” Rosalia said. She is aware that she is not attending the Assembly solely for herself. “My people, our country, and the Church are with me. I am not here only for me but for my country. I am always praying for peace and justice for my country.”

Teresa Wu represents Taiwan and is honoured “to bring their voices and the expectations to the Continental Assembly.” “Here, we bring our voices, we listened. Hopefully, I will bring from here when I go back.”

Akemi Tsuji represents Japan and has brought the necessity of an “intercultural and inter-religious understanding and dialogue between ethnic groups. This is an important thing in Asia,” Akemi stated.

Estela Padilla, from the Philippines, is part of the Discernment and Writing Team and a member of the FABC secretariat. “I feel the voice of the indigenous peoples are missing,” Estela said. “Sixty percent of the indigenous people of the world live in Asia. We are talking about them but they have not spoken. Others are speaking for them. The indigenous people, especially the woman, are the carriers of the indigenous cultures we have. As mothers, they pass on their culture to their children. They are carriers of indigenous cultures where the most wisdom is to be found. In addition, most of the indigenous healers are women. It would have been nice to hear their voice.”

### News Release No.3: A Spiritual Conversation

#### Press Note 3 25th February 2023

Day 2 of the Asian Continental Assembly on Synodality began with the prayer of the Synod “Adsumus Sancte Spiritus”, invoking the grace of the Holy Spirit to guide and inspire all the delegates

on this Synodal journey to truly reflect the voice of Asia. The Synod Prayer which has a rich historical background, the first word in Latin, meaning, “We stand before You, Holy Spirit,” has been used at various Councils, Synods and other Church gatherings for hundreds of years.

Sr. Nathalie Becquart XMCJ, Under-Secretary to the General Secretariat of the Synod, gave the orientation for the day where she pointed out that Synodality is a fruit of the Synod on Youth. She elaborated, “if we believe that ‘synodality is the way of being the Church today according to the will of God, in a dynamic of discerning and listening together to the voice of the Holy Spirit,’ as stated by Pope Francis, we can be confident that we will receive the grace to answer this call of God to become a Synodal Church.” Sr. Nathalie stressed that Synodality is a gift and discernment is the heart of synodality. She evoked the imagery of the scriptural passage of the Road to Emmaus, which could be considered a Paradigm of a Synodal journey; a Synodal style of Jesus is what we are all called to emulate.

Over the past two days, the delegates were invited to journey through the Synodal process using a 3-step method called, ‘Spiritual Conversation’. The first step, “*Taking the floor*” is a time when each participant of the group speaks for two minutes about their experience of the Synodal process; with no discussion or intervention, followed by two minutes of silence to consume the sharing. The second step, “*Making room for others*” is a time when each member of the group speaks for two minutes on what most resonated from what *the other* has said; with no discussion or intervention and followed by two minutes of silence to internalise the sharing. The third step, “*Building together*” is a time of interaction to identify the fruit of the conversation, recognizing convergences, common questions, disagreements, and prophetic voices. This method allows space for moments of grace which

helps the group ask the one fundamental question: where is the Holy Spirit leading us?

The groups reflected and prayed on the following questions: *Are there any concerns or issues that have not been sufficiently discussed in the section on “Gaps” in the draft paper? Are there any Asian realities, experiences or concerns that can be included or improved in “Gaps”?*

In the second session of the morning, the groups reflected and deliberated on five most urgent priorities for the continent of Asia, and which urgently need to be brought to the Synodal Assembly in October.

The moderators and facilitators for the day were Archbishop Anil Joseph Thomas Couto, Archbishop of Delhi, India, Ms Christina Kheng, Commission on Methodology for the Synod and Ms Momoko Nishimura, Member of the FABC Synodal Task Force. The facilitators reminded the delegates to assume their responsibility to speak as the voice of Asia and not their personal capacity.

Both morning sessions ended with time before the Blessed Sacrament; for prayer is the driving force of this synodal journey.

The third session of the day invited the groups to extensively examine the Draft Framework of the Working Document. The day concluded with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, themed as a Mass for Asia, presided by Cardinal Joseph Coutts, Archbishop Emeritus of Karachi, Pakistan, Member of the Council for the Synod. The Journey is ongoing and like the disciple on the road to Emmaus, the delegates to echo the words of scripture *“Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?”- Lk 24:32*

## Chinese Regional Bishops’ Conference (CRBC) Minutes of the 2nd [Autumn] Plenary Assembly, 2022, (Summary)

**Date:** 21-24 November, 2022 (Monday-Thursday)

**Venue:** CRBC Administrative Building

(39, An-Ju St., Taan District, Taipei)

**President:** Most Rev. John Baptist Lee

**Attendees:** Most Rev. Thomas Chung, Most Rev. Peter Liu,  
Most Rev. Philip Huang, Most Rev. Martin Su,  
Most Rev. Bosco Lin (Apostolic Administrator),  
Most Rev. Norbert Pu

**Guests:** Rev. Msgr. Stefano Mazzotti, Chargé d’Affaires, a.i.

**Secretary:** Fr. Otfried Chan

### Opening Prayer

**A word of welcome by the President, CRBC**

**Summary of the Address of Msgr. Stefano Mazzotti**

- A word of thanks for the invitation to the Plenary Assembly.
- New work document for the Continental Stage of the Synodal Process, in view of the preparation of the upcoming Bishops’

Synod (4-29 October 2023).

- Because of the small number of Catholics in Taiwan, the Church in Taiwan should be characterized by its openness, instead of being a small community withdrawn in itself.
- The Bishops are encouraged to send their priests to study at the pontifical universities so as to remain open to wider horizons.
- On 11 February, the day of the memory of Our Lady of Lourdes, Pope Francis sent a letter to the President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, Archbishop Rino Fisichella, in which he begins to trace the lines that must characterize the next path jubilee, which will be celebrated 25 years after the Great Jubilee of the year 2000. The motto chosen by Pope Francis for the 2025 Jubilee is also significant: “Pilgrims of Hope”. In addition, there will be an initiative to “dedicate the year preceding the Jubilee event, 2024, to a great symphony of prayer”.
- The document “Antiquum ministerium” (10 May 2021) aims to codify the ministry of the catechist. On 13 December 2022, the Dicastery for Divine Worship followed up the document with the Rite of the Institution of Catechists. In the letter that the Dicastery addressed to the bishops, which accompanied the new Rite, it is written that: The ministry of catechist is a “stable form of service rendered to the local Church in accordance with pastoral needs identified by the local Ordinary, yet one carried out as a work of the laity, as demanded by the very nature of the ministry”. Catechesis is a broad and varied ministry.
- This year, the Archdiocese of Taipei is celebrating its 70th anniversary, alongside with the Dioceses of Taichung and Chiayi celebrating their 60th anniversary. In fact, the Church in Taiwan is a young Church. After the season of enthusiasm post-Vatican II, it is time for implementation and fulfillment of what was brought

about by Vatican II.

- The Nunciature is always at the service of the Bishops.

## Reports by

### I. Secretariat of CRBC

#### A. The Continental Stage of the Synodal Process

1. a. Communiqué from the General Secretariat of Bishops’ Synod
  - b. Circular letter from Card. Mario Grech
  - c. Information on the Work Document for the Continental Stage & FAQ document
  - d. Infographics on the Continental Stage
2. Presentation on the Final Document of FABC 50 Meeting
3. Methodological Note on Continental Assemblies
4. Contact person for the Year of Hope (Ms. Teresa Wu)

#### B. General Services of the Secretariat

1. Taipei International Book Exposition 2023, 31 January to 5 February, Country in honor: Poland. Some 10 Catholic publishers &/or media centers, including CRBC, will form a delegation and at the Exhibition as a stand the Catholic Church.
2. CRBC staff annual check-up scheme.
3. The procedure of exchange of land between CRBC and the Catholic FJ University is finally concluded following the requirements of the local authorities.

### II. Handing over of office between the new and Presidents of the Commission of Laity, Family and Youth and work plan

for 2023

**III. Work plan for 2023 of the Pontifical Mission Societies Taiwan**

**IV. A civil community in the Diocese of Hsinchu using “Catholic” to register itself as juridical person, clarification and response of the Church**

**V. Registry for Mass intentions and offerings, rules and purpose**

**VI. Amendment of by-laws of Catholic Bo-Ai Foundation**

**VII. The Commission for Ethics of Archdiocese Taipei**

**VIII. Catholic Charismatic Renewal Service Team (Taiwan)**

**IX. Commission for Human Integral Development (Section for Migrants and Refugees), Resignation of the Executive Secretary, Rev. Fr. Joy Tajonera, MM**

**X. Caritas Taiwan (Commission for Human Integral Development)**

**XI. Radio Veritas (Commission for Social Development)**

**XII. Commission for Education and Culture**

**XIII. Commission for Aborigine Apostolate**

**XIV. Commission for Boy Scouts (Commission for Education)**

**XV. Commission for Interreligious Dialogue and Ecumenical Cooperation Commission for Promoting Christian Unity**

**XVI. Commission for Sacred Liturgy**

**XVII. Commission for Doctrine of the Faith and Catechetical Instruction, Bible Apostolate**

**Proposals**

**I. Secretariat of CRBC**

**Budget and Work Plan for 2023.**

**Explanation:** After approval, the Secretariat of CRBC will submit the budgets of CRBC for 2023 to the competent authorities (Ministry of the Interior) for examination.

**Resolution:** Approved.

**B. Modification of the list of property of CRBC**

**Explanation:** At the previous Plenary Assembly it had been decided that the land lots of CRBC, serial no. 212-1, 212-2, 212-3 and 212-4 in Gui-He Rd. (New Taipei City) which in the past had been used for years by four families and then recently purchased by them after the Bishops' Conference had given its approval, the four land lots are no longer properties of CRBC. Consequently, the list of assets of CRBC needs be updated, declared and reported to the Ministry of Interior.

**Resolution:** Approved.

**C. Adjustment of land lot serial number in the list of assets of CRBC**

**Explanation:** A land lot of 19 m<sup>2</sup> (serial no. 152-3) belonging to CRBC has been divided into two, respectively 12 m<sup>2</sup> and 7 m<sup>2</sup>, in consequence of the urban redevelopment of the Government. Therefore, it is necessary to change technically the serial number of the land lot in the list of assets of CRBC and report the change to the Ministry of Interior.

**Resolution:** Approved.

**D. Amendment of the regulations for the staff of CRBC, Part 10, Art. 26, °1.**

**Explanation:** The Ministry for Labor encourages people over 65 to remain active professionally and stipulates that employers are allowed to hire their workers who have reached the age of 65 by means of a renewable contract. Therefore, the regulations of the CRBC for staff are to be amended accordingly, to make allowance for more flexible terms of employment, for the good of the staff and CRBC.

The above-mentioned amendment needs be approved and the decision needs be ratified by the Bishops' Conference.

**Resolution:** Approved. The Secretariat is to submit the evaluation report on a staff member a year before his/her retirement, to see if he/she is fit to work after reaching the age of retirement.

#### **E. (skip)**

#### **F. (skip)**

#### **G. Delegate of CRBC for the Bishops' Synod 2023-2024**

**Explanation:** According to the 'Instruction on the Celebration of the Synodal Assemblies' and 'The Activity of the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops', each Bishops' Conference has to elect its delegate(s) to attend the upcoming Bishops' Synod October 2023-2024.

**Resolution:** Most Rev. Norbert Pu is the delegate of CRBC to attend the Bishops' Synod October 2023-2024.

#### **H. Response of CRBC to the Work Document for the Continental Stage**

**Explanation:** The synodal process started at a diocesan level in October 2021 and has entered its continental stage in August 2022. A Work Document for the Continental Stage (DCS) has been published, for the Bishops' Conferences all over the world to reflect on and give their responses, in preparation of Continental Assembly. The Secretariat of FABC is asking the Bishops' Conferences in Asia to send their responses (about 10 pages) to the Secretariat before 15 January 2022 before the Bishops' Synod taking place in October 2023.

**Means:** The Secretariat of CRBC will translate the Work Document (DCS) in Chinese for the Bishops who will answer the three following questions in the DCS (no. 106):

*“After having read and prayed with the DCS, which **intuitions** resonate most strongly with the lived experiences and realities of the Church in your continent? Which experiences are new, or illuminating to you?”*

*“After having read and prayed with the DCS, what substantial tensions or divergences emerge as particularly important in your continent's perspective? Consequently, what are the **questions or issues** that should be addressed and considered in the next steps of the process?”*

*“Looking at what emerges from the previous two questions, what are the **priorities, recurring themes and calls to action** that can be shared with other local Churches around the world and discussed during the First Session of the Synodal Assembly in October 2023?”*

**Resolution:** The Bishops will meet per video-conference on 4 January 2023 to discuss and share the results of their discernment, and will provide their written responses to the Contact Team of CRBC for final editing before 15 January 2023.

#### **I. Response to the Final Document of FABC 50 Meeting**

**Explanation:** FABC 50 Meeting came to its close on 30 October 2022. The results will be reported in the 'FABC 50 Final Document'. The first draft is already made available but needs be completed or modified, so that the Final Document indeed represents the fruits of the FABC 50 Meeting.

**Resolution:** Approved. A Committee is to be set up for the evaluation of the Final Document of which the members are as follows:

Convener: Most Rev. John Baptist Lee  
Members: Rev. Fr. Jeffrey Chang, SJ  
Rev. Fr. John Lai

Rev. Fr. Stanislas Iradayaselvam, MEP  
 Rev. Peter Lo  
 Sr. Maria Teresa Hu, FI

The team will meet per video-conference on 20 December 2022.

### **J. Delegates of CRBC for the Continental Assembly (Bangkok, Thailand)**

**Explanation:** The Continental Assembly will take place on 23-27 February, three full days, 24-26. 23 February is for arrival and 27 February is for departure. This will be held in Baan Phu Waan Pastoral Training Centre, in Sampran, Bangkok, Thailand. Each bishops' conference will bring two other delegates. *“As already highlighted in the Methodological Guidelines, it will be important to ensure the participation in the Continental Assemblies of bishops, priests, deacons, lay men and women, consecrated men and women, as well as people capable of expressing the views of those on the margins.”* (DCS #109)

**Resolution:** Most Rev. John Baptist Lee, President of CRBC will attend the Continental Assembly and will be accompanied by the following two delegates:

Rev. Fr. Milton Pathrose, SAC

Ms. Teresa Wu, Secretary (Commission for Catholic Education, Bible Apostolate)

## **II. Commission for Laity, Family and Youth (Section for Family and Life)**

### **A. Proposal: Organize March for Life Rally 2023 nationwide.**

#### **Explanation:**

1. Due to Covid-19, the annual *March for Life* Rally could finally take place, starting from 17 September 2022, successively in the

Dioceses of Taipei, Hsinchu, Chiayi, Kaohsiung, from the north to the south of Taiwan.

2. The first *March for Life* rally took place in Hsinchu. Then the second one took place in Hsinchu again, but in a reduced scale, due to Covid-19. And the third *March for Life* took place in 2022 in a diversified way, each Diocese according to its own trajectory and program of the day.
3. Following the positive experience of diversifying *March for Life* Rally, the National Committee for Protection of Life suggests that *March for Life* Rally should continue to take place in this way which is becoming a tradition of the local church for the faithful.
4. It is decided in the discussion that *March for Life* will take place again on 16 September 2023, and each Diocese will plan its own trajectory and program of the day, with the help of St. Gianna Pro-Life Center in Hsinchu will provide the advertising materials, banner with slogan, and other printed matters for each Diocese.

**Resolution:** Approved.

### **B. Sharing testimonies on family life by producing a series of videos called “Life supporting Life”.**

#### **Explanation:**

1. A delegation of CRBC, a bishop, a priest and three couples, attended the X World Meeting of Families. It turned out that all the speakers at the meeting mostly are couples.
2. Testimonies of the couples sharing how they still trusted God amidst and in spite of the difficulties they had gone through, and finally stood up again touched people most.
3. As respond to the invitation of Pope Francis, each Diocese also

organized its Diocesan Meeting of Families in parallel with the X World Family Meeting in Rome. Couples from the Dioceses were invited to share their stories by means of video. The Dioceses of Taipei, Hsinchu, Taichung and Chiayi started as first, each one of them making 2 to 3 videos.

4. In order to reinforce the pastoral care for family in Taiwan as well as in Chinese-speaking areas by means of videos, it is necessary to prepare a project for the production of a series of videos called "*Life supporting Life*".

Any Diocese or its pastoral teams are welcome to join this project. The Dioceses of Taipei, Hsinchu, Taichung and Chiayi, all of them have their own commissions for family pastoral care and are willing to collaborate.

**Resolution:** Approved.

### III. Commission for Clergy and Religious (Section for Clergy)

**Proposal: Curriculum of training course on the protection of minors in accordance with "*You are the Light of the world*".**

**Explanation:**

1. On 5 May 2022, Most Rev. John Baptist Lee convened a meeting to discuss about the implementation of the protection of minors. And all the diocesan representatives agreed that one should start with the training of the clergy and the laity, and then implement the protection of minors according to the actual situation of each Diocese.
2. Most Rev. John Baptist Lee invited Rev. Fr. John Li, SJ, to work out for CRBC the curriculum of a formation course of which the duration is temporarily limited to three months. The course

will take twice as physical meeting and seven times as virtual meeting.

**Practical means:**

1. Each Diocese is to send five persons to attend the training course. The trainees should be already involved in the active prevention of sexual harassment. The number of trainees of each diocese should not be less than 4 or exceed 6.
2. The dates of the courses being fixed, the course will take place once a week, and each time 3 hours, for two consecutive weeks, then follows a pause of a week. The last course will take place in physical meeting.
3. Venue: CRBC Building (Taipei). The first course and last course will be as physical meeting. Other courses in between will be held as Zoom-meeting.
4. The curriculum in Chinese will be provided to the trainees and it includes documents like '*You are the Light of the world*', '*Vademecum*' and other theological and moral articles, as well as real stories in videos on the problem of sexual abuse and the protection of minors.
5. At the end of the course, a certificate will be conferred to the trainees by the Bishops' Conference. Rev. Fr. John Li, SJ, will provide an evaluation of the trainees. The evaluation will show:
  - (1) Whether or not the trainee is qualified to take up the task of the protection of minors based on the expertise of Fr. John Li, SJ.
  - (2) An overall view on the current situation regarding the protection of minor in each Diocese.
  - (3) Estimated budget for the course: NTD40,000.- which will covered by the registration fees of the participants.



**Resolution:** Approved. The formation course will begin from March to June, one per week (from Monday to Friday).

#### IV. Taiwan Regional Tribunal of First Instance

##### **Proposal: Change of members of the Tribunal**

##### **Explanation:**

1. For the operation of the Tribunal of First Instance, it is necessary to designate its members by means of a mandate of five years, from 1 January 2023 to 31 January 2027.
2. According to Can. 1424, *“In any trial, a single judge can employ two assessors who consult with him; they are to be clerics or lay persons of upright life.”*

The new members of the Tribunal of First Instance are as follows:

Most Rev. John Baptist Lee, Moderator

Rev. Fr. Joachim Thon Dinh Vu, Judicial Vicar

Rev. Alexander Truong Doan, Promoter of Justice

Rev. Andre Ortega Lin, Assessor

Rev. Paul Chen, Assessor, Assessor

Rev. Emanuel Barnabsa Temu, IMC, Notary

The names of above-mentioned members of the Tribunal of First Instance after being approved by the Bishops of CRBC will be submitted to the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura for ratification.

**Resolution:** Approved.

#### V. Canon Law Society

**Proposal:** Implementing synodality in the pastoral care for divorced and remarried couples in accordance with the Canon Law.

**Explanation:** Two authentic cases of pastoral problems:

1. Upon singing Christmas carols door to door, a member of a

parish choir discovered by chance that a spouse of a Catholic family stopped coming to the parish church for more than ten years after she had been divorced. The choir member informed their parish priest. He helped the divorced wife to initiate the process of annulment of marriage through the ecclesial tribunal.

2. In a second case, the husband of a Catholic spouse had an affair. She was afraid of not being able to receive the Holy Communion in case she was divorced.

Moreover, funerals, Christmas and other celebrations are favorable occasions to meet married and non-practicing Catholics. And some of them may have been divorced civilly and do not know if they are allowed to come to church or receive the Holy Communion.

##### **Practical means:**

1. Parish priests are encouraged to pay special attention to the couples of their parishes whose marital situation need be normalized canonically, listening to them and discerning with them through prayers, caring for each family and bearing in mind the Holy Father’s teaching in *‘Laetitia amoris’*, so as to apply synodality practically to their pastoral care, bearing testimony for God’s love, so that non-practicing parishioners would come back to the church and understand God’s love for married couples in difficulty.
2. Besides knowing about the marital situation of their parishioners at the confessional, parish priests are encouraged to collaborate with their parishioners, in order to be better informed about the couples who are divorced civilly, and to help them to normalize their marital situation by means of a canonical process, preparing an official document prepared by the Canon Law Society.
3. In case of uncertainty or doubt, it is recommended to refer to the Inspector of the Dioceses who are as follows:

Taipei Archdiocese: Rev. Fr. Pierre De La Bigne, MEP

Hsinchu Diocese: Rev. Andre Ortega Lin

Taichung Diocese: Rev. Lucio Flores, IVE

Chiayi Diocese: Fr. Joachim Thon Dinh Vu

Tainan Diocese: Rev. Joseph Cheng

Kaohsiung Diocese: Rev. Antonello Astolfi (In case of absence,  
Rev. Fr. Calogero Orifiamma)

Hualien Diocese: Rev. Peter Lin

The procedure to follow: the petition of the parishioner →parish priest→Inspector of the Diocese→Tribunal of First Instance of Taiwan or of the Diocese.

4. For cases such as separation or marriage in crisis, one can refer the couples to any gathering of family pastoral care service, e.g. “Marriage Encounter”.
5. At Mass, the parish priest should observe if any married parishioner(s) do not receive the Holy Communion any more and talk to them in private after Mass.
  - (a) Referring to the pastoral council of his parish, to find out why such or such married couples do not receive the Holy Communion any more.
  - (b) As regards those who seldom come to church, the pastor should take initiative to inquire after them and ask them if they wish to receive the Holy Communion or the sacrament of confession. It is strongly recommended that the parish priests should make good use of practical social media tools such as LINE or others to stay in continuous contact with his pastoral council in order to better serve his parishioners.

**Resolution:** Approved.

## **VI. Commission for Sacred Liturgy (Section for Promoting Eucharistic Adoration)**

### **A. Dioceses are to send their delegates to join the Section for Promoting Eucharistic Adoration for the promotion of Eucharistic Adoration among the Christian faithful.**

#### **Explanation:**

1. In continuation of the 50th IEC, the Commission for Sacred Liturgy of CRBC created its Section for Promoting Eucharistic Adoration in 2012 and has held 31 meetings since then. Over the past ten years, a number of articles of IEC on Eucharistic adoration and spirituality have been translated in Chinese by published by the very Commission, such as ‘*Understand Eucharistic adoration – an invitation to the youth*’ and ‘*Let the children come to me – Eucharistic adoration for children*’ which are being used for conferences or formation programs in all the Dioceses, to help young people to love Jesus more and put into practice his Gospel of mercy. This has been a very blessed ministry.
2. However, more efforts still need be made. And one of the reasons is that some projects of the Section for Promoting Eucharist Adoration have not been realized. Therefore, the Dioceses are requested to send their delegates to join the Section for Promoting Eucharistic Adoration and collaborate with it in planning and decision-making.

**Resolution:** Approved.

### **B. “Project for promoting Eucharistic Adoration in the families” to be carried out in the Dioceses.**

**Explanation:** In order to help the children to understand the beauty of the Holy Eucharist, the Commission for Sacred Liturgy is planning to collaborate with the *Taipei Archdiocesan Catechetical Center* to organize a formation course for parents and their children and catechists.

The formation course will take place as physical meeting in all the Dioceses and will invite parents and their children to come to discover the meaning of the Holy Eucharist, its relation with Christian life, and the beauty of gathering around one and the same table of the Lord. Printed materials will be made available for the Dioceses to publicize the formation course. Any support of the Diocese is much appreciated.

**Resolution:** Approved.

### VII. National Council of the Lay Apostolate Taiwan

**Proposal:** Amendment of the by-laws of the Commission for Evangelization.

**Explanation:** In consequence of the restructuration of the Commissions of CRBC, a new Commission for Evangelization of CRBC need be created and must have its own statutes.

**Resolution:** Approved. A new article, “*The President of the Commission for Evangelization is the President of CRBC*” is to be inserted in the by-laws as art. 17, whereas the initial Art. 17 of the draft will become art. 18. The ordinal number of all the following articles will change successively, and the content of the articles remain the same. The total number of articles of the by-laws is now changed from 24 to 25.

### VIII. Hsinchu Diocese (sensitive issue, not to be made public)

**Proposal:** The by-laws of the board of trustees of the Dioceses and of the religious communities or congregations as juridical person need be to be verified to see if they are granted legal recognition by the Government and fulfill the prescripts of the Canon Law.

**Explanation:**

1. According to the by-laws of a diocese as juridical person, the Ordinary is *ipso facto* the Director of the board of trustees and other organizations of the Dioceses. In case a diocese is awaiting the appointment of a permanent bishop or ordinary, an apostolic administrator will be appointed by the Holy Father to see to the good order and administration of that diocese. And it happens that the apostolic administrator cannot take over some responsibilities that are prescribed in the statutes (cf. Can. 358).
2. On the other hand, due to the discontinuity in the formation of their own members, the leading position or important responsibilities of a religious community or congregation are not handed over rightfully to the newly elected superior and are still occupied by the precedent superior instead. It even happens that a lay person is elected as the director of the board of trustees of a religious community and is in a legal position to decide over the properties and finances of the community. Therefore, it is necessary that the Ordinary should ensure that the by-laws of the religious communities/congregation in his diocese should be recognized by the Government (Ministry of Interior) and fulfill at the same time the prescriptions of the Canon Law. For international religious communities or congregations, it is necessary for their mother house or generalate (outside Taiwan) to verify the by-laws of their local province or communities and see if their by-laws are granted legal recognition by the Government and fulfill the prescripts of the Canon Law at the same time.
3. According to the Foundation Act of Taiwan, the management and administration of a religious community must be conducted in conformity with their by-laws. Then, Canon 1284 states as follows:
  - §1. *All administrators are bound to fulfill their function with the diligence of a good householder.*

§2. *Consequently they must:*

- 1/ *exercise vigilance so that the goods entrusted to their care are in no way lost or damaged, taking out insurance policies for this purpose insofar as necessary;*
- 2/ *take care that the ownership of ecclesiastical goods is protected by civilly valid methods;*
- 3/ *observe the prescripts of both canon and civil law or those imposed by a founder, a donor, or legitimate authority, and especially be on guard so that no damage comes to the Church from the non-observance of civil laws;*

Furthermore, according to the *Handbook for Foundation Act of the Ministry of Interior*, it is said that in order to avoid that the mission, goal and operation stated in the by-laws do not correspond to the mission and the practical religious activities of a juridical person, the by-laws of a juridical person, - in which case, a diocese or religious community/congregation -, should clearly state all these items.

**Practical means:**

1. Amend accordingly the by-laws of the Diocese, in such a way that the apostolic administrator is ipso facto the legal Director of the board of trustees when the Diocese is awaiting its new bishop.
2. The religious communities/congregations are to submit their by-laws to their Superior General for check if they are an international organization, and to the Ordinary if they are their generalate is based in the Diocese.

**Resolution:** Refer to the Apostolic Nunciature (in Taiwan) for assistance.

**IX. Commission for the Service of Human Integral**

**Development (Section for Pastoral-Health Care)**

**Proposal: Project of “Pastoral-Health Care Personnel Certification”.**

**Explanation:** It is necessary for the Section for Pastoral Care (under the Commission for the Service of Human Integral Development) to establish a professional evaluation system that meets the new requirements of the Government and to ensure the continuing training of Catholic qualified pastoral-health care workers and accredited supervisors, for the realization of the project i.e. to create friendly neighborhoods where people care for one another and work together to build a well-trained society to care for the elderly.

**Practical Means:**

1. Develop a system and assessment method for the training of qualified pastoral-health care workers and accredited supervisors.
2. Recruit suitable candidates to be pastoral-health care workers and supervisors and train them according to the established system and assessment method.
3. Work out a training plan for the new pastoral-health care workers and supervisors.
4. The first system and assessment method for the training qualified pastoral-health care workers and accredited supervisors that was adopted in 2012 by the Bishops’ Conference will be superseded by the new one. However, pastoral-health care workers who obtained their certificates after doing the training by means of the old system will still remain as qualified care workers.

**Resolution:** Approved.

**X. Kaohsiung Diocese**

**Proposal: Celebration of the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly according to the message by Pope Francis and of other local traditional celebrations in honor of the elderly, such as “Double Nine Festival”.**

**Explanation:**

1. The Government set 9 September as the date of ‘Double Nine Festival’ which is also known as ‘Senior Citizens’ Day’, so that people will care for and appreciate the elderly, following the traditional customs.
2. From 2010 onward, the Ministry of Education of R.O.C. (Taiwan) set the fourth Sunday of August of each year as ‘Grandparents Day’ in honor of all grandparents in the Country.
3. On 31 January 2021, Pope Francis announced that the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly was to be celebrated each year on the fourth Sunday in July, or a weekday close to the feast of Sts Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus.
4. How do the parishes in Taiwan celebrate different days in honor of grandparents?

**Resolution:** All the parishes will celebrate the fourth Sunday in July and the Double Nine Festival in honor grandparents and the elderly, whereas the ‘Senior Citizens’ Day’ will be celebrated in Catholic schools by the end of August.

**XI. Commission for Education (Catholic Charismatic Renewal Service Team)**

**Proposal: Theme for the annual on-going formation for clergy – “The Holy Spirit and the Apostles”**

**Explanation:**

On 12 June 2015, in his address to the *Third Worldwide*

*Priest’s Retreat*, Pope Francis said, “*About being ministers of [God’s] grace, I ask each and every one of you, as members of this current of grace of the Charismatic Renewal, to organize Seminars of Life in the Spirit in your parishes, seminaries, schools, and neighborhoods in order to share the Baptism in the Spirit, even in catechesis, so that the Holy Spirit could bring about that personal encounter with Jesus Christ, which changes our lives. And I am speaking from experience.*”

The charismatic renewal is a flow of God’s grace, for the edification of the Mystical Body and Evangelization. In 2016, Pope Francis convened a group of four members, under the guidance of the [then] Pontifical Council for the Laity, constituted one single, new service for all the expressions of the international Catholic charismatic renewals by merging ICCRS and Catholic Fraternity to CHARIS (Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Services of Communion). On the day of Pentecost, 9 June 2019, CHARIS was born and started to draft its statutes with the help of different leaders. In “General Objectives, II. Objectives, Art. 3, (a) and (k)”, it is mentioned respectively that the objectives of CHARIS are “*to help deepen and promote the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit through out the Church*”, and “*to enable clerics and religious to deepen their experience of Catholic Charismatic Renewal and to participate more fully in it.*”

Following the creation of CHARIS, the Charismatic Renewal Movement Taiwan was transformed to Catholic Charismatic Renewal Service Team (Taiwan) and had drafted its statutes which CRBC approved and agreed to adopt. In the first General Assembly of CRBC of 2022, it was decided that Catholic Charismatic Renewal Service Team (Taiwan) was to hold a meeting with its representatives from each Diocese. The new Service Team started operating for period of three years, under the guidance of the local ordinaries, working for evangelization with the Dioceses.

It is necessary for the clergy to have a correct understanding of charismatic renewal, a flow of God's grace in the Church, which is helpful for the pastoral work of the parishes.

**Practical means:** The annual on-going formation for the clergy of 2023 will be on the charismatic renewal. The main topic will be "*The Holy Spirit and the Apostles*". The Service Team will prepare the formation course and invite the speakers.

**Resolution:** Approved.

## XII. Commission for Evangelization (Section for the Youth)

**Proposal:** Section for the Youth of CRBC is to grant subsidies to other youth associations in the Dioceses for funding their conferences &/or spiritual meetings.

### Explanation:

1. *Magis* (of the Jesuits Fathers) or other youth associations are to submit their work plan in written document to the Secretariat, if they want to apply for the subsidies to fund their formation &/or spiritual meetings.
2. The Section for the Youth will examine the application and evaluate the objective of the event, and submit the application to the Bishop of the Diocese where the event will take place, so that he can know the youth of that association or accompany their community as well.
3. Each time, when the event is ended, the youth association must write a report on the events and publish it in Catholic Weekly on the one hand, and provide an account sheet which shows clearly how and for what the expenses are paid with the subsidy.

**Resolution:** Approved.

## Memorandum

- CRBC and AMRSMW Meeting  
Date: 25 April 2023, 10:00  
Venue: CRBC (39, An-Ju Street, Taipei)
- CRBC Spring Standing Committee  
Time: 29 March 2023, 15:00  
Venue: The office of the participants
- CRBC 1st (Spring) Plenary Assembly, 2023  
Date: 10-14 April 2023  
Venue: CRBC (39, An-Ju Street, Taipei)

Translated and edited by

Fr. Otfried Chan,

Secretary General, CRBC

Taipei, 15 February 2023



DICASTERY FOR INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

## Message for the Month of Ramadan and *'IDAL-FITR*

1444 H. / 2023 A.D.

*Christians and Muslims: Promoters of Love and Friendship*

Vatican City

Dear Muslim brothers and sisters,

The month of Ramadan is important for you, but also for your friends, neighbours and fellow believers of other religions, in particular Christians. Existing friendships are reinforced and others are built, paving the way for more peaceful, harmonious and joyful coexistence. This corresponds to the divine will for our communities, and indeed for all the members and communities of the one human family.

We are aware, dear friends, that peaceful and friendly coexistence faces many challenges and threats: extremism, radicalism, polemics, disputes, and religiously motivated violence. The threats are fueled by a culture of hate. We need, then, to find the most appropriate ways of countering

and overcoming such a culture, enhancing instead, enhancing love and friendship, in particular between Muslims and Christians, due to the bonds that unite us. This is why we deemed it opportune to share some thoughts with you in this regard, hoping to receive yours as well.

All begins with our attitude towards each other, in particular when there are differences between us in religion, ethnicity, culture, language, or politics.

Differences can be perceived as a threat, but everyone has the right to his or her specific identity with its diverse components, yet without ignoring or forgetting what we have in common: “One is the community of all peoples, one their origin, for God made the whole human race to live over the face of the earth. One also is their final goal, God. His providence, His manifestations of goodness, His saving design extend to all men, until that time when the elect will be united in the Holy City, the city ablaze with the glory of God, where the nations will walk in His light” (Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions, *Nostra Aetate*, 28 October 1965, n.1).

Negative attitudes and behaviours towards those who are different from us are unfortunately numerous: suspicion, fear, rivalry, discrimination, exclusion, persecution, polemics, insults, and backbiting, to name a few.

Social media platforms are common spaces for such harmful behaviours, perverting their role from being means for communication and friendship to being instruments for enmity and fighting. In this regard, Pope Francis has said: “Even as individuals maintain their comfortable consumerist isolation, they can choose a form of constant and febrile bonding that encourages remarkable hostility, insults, abuse, defamation and verbal violence destructive of others, and this with a lack of restraint that could not exist in physical contact without tearing us all apart. Social aggression has found unparalleled room for expansion through computers and mobile devices” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 3 October 2020, n.44).

The opposites of the above-mentioned negative behaviours, are respect, goodness, charity, friendship, mutual care for all, forgiveness, cooperation for the common good, help to all those who are in any kind of need and care for the environment, in order to keep our “common home” a safe and pleasant place where we can live together in peace and joy.

We cannot prevent and counter the culture of hatred and, instead promote a culture of love and friendship, without a sound education for future generations in all the spaces where they are formed: in the family, at school, in places of worship, and on social media.

A world where justice, peace, fraternity and prosperity reign pleases the Almighty and brings joy, calling, therefore, our sincere and shared engagement.

Dear Muslim brothers and sisters, may you enjoy the Almighty’s abundant blessings during Ramadan and celebrate ‘Id al-Fitr in the joy resulting from fidelity and love for the Almighty and all persons you live with or meet.

From the Vatican, 3 March 2023



Miguel Ángel Cardinal Ayuso Guixot, MCCJ

*Prefect*



Msgr. Indunil Kodithuwakku Janakarathne Kankanamalage

*Secretary*

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| 通訊欄 (限與本次存款有關事項)      | 爲主教會月誌奉獻 | 戶名         | 財團法人天主教會台灣地區主教團 | 電腦紀錄 | 經辦局收款戳 |
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發行人：李克勉

主編：主教團祕書處

地址：台北市安居街39號

郵政劃撥：19700247

戶名：財團法人天主教會台灣地區主教團

電話：(02) 2732-6602

傳真：(02) 2732-8603

Website：www.catholic.org.tw

E m a i l：bishconf@catholic.org.tw

印刷所：至潔有限公司

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