

CBCB Newsletter

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July to September 2008

Editorial

We are pleased to present to you the second issue of CBCB Newsletter on time. It's a means to communicate with you the activities of CBCB and the Episcopal Commissions. You are well aware of the fact that the month of June was very important for the whole Church in Bangladesh as the Archbishop and Bishops had been to Rome for Ad limina Apostolorum. As a successor of the Apostles, every bishop goes on pilgrimage to the thresholds of the Apostles in Rome to visit the Holy Father. This quinquennial visit is also an occasion to report to the Holy See departments about the progress of the diocese. Usually the bishops make this pilgrimage as Episcopal conference. This visit takes place after every five years. For one reason or another, this time it took place after seven years. For three Bishops it was a new experience as they participated in the Ad limina for the first time after their consecrations. It's a good occasion to express the solidarity with the Universal Church. While meeting the Bishops together, the Holy Father Benedict XVI stressed the need for proclamation of the Good News in Bangladesh with goodness, simplicity and creativity in charity. Pope Benedict XVI also reminded the Bishops that the personal integrity and holiness are the essential components of a Bishop's witness. At the same time the Pope reminded the Catholics to foster peace and unity. As part of the program the Bishops visited various dicasteries of Vatican and apprised about the dioceses and activities of the Catholic Church in Bangladesh.

Ad Limina Visit – 2008

As part of their program the bishops left for Rome to attend the Ad limina visit on June 6. During that time they visited the following offices: Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace, Pontifical Commission for Migrants and Itinerant People, Secretariat of State, Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples (Propaganda Fide), Congregation for Catholic Education, Apostolic Penitentiary, Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura, Pontifical Council "Cor Unum", Pontifical Council for Pastoral Assistance to Health Care Workers, Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue, Pontifical Council for Culture, Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments, Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, Pontifical Council for the Family. After the Ad limina visit, the bishops visited some parts of Italy before arriving in Bangladesh in July.

Catholics in Bangladesh: Foster Unity and Peace

The Bishops met the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI on June 12 in Vatican. His Holiness addressed the prelates from the Bangladeshi bishops that "Personal integrity and holiness of life are essential components of a bishop's witness." He reminded that "Bishops are called to be patient, mild and gentle in the spirit of the beatitudes. In this way they lead others to see all human realities in the light of the Kingdom of Heaven.... Many of your people suffer from poverty, isolation or discrimination, and they look to you for spiritual

guidance that will lead them to recognize in faith, and to experience in anticipation, that they are truly blessed by God.”

The Pope then went on to examine “the effective transmission of the deposit of faith,” highlighting the importance of ensuring that “lay catechists are sufficient in number, well prepared and given due recognition by the faithful...As you know from your own pastoral experience, catechists play an integral role in preparing lay people to receive the Sacraments. This is especially true in the increasingly important work of preparing young men and women to recognize the Sacrament of Matrimony as a life-long covenant of faithful love and as a path to holiness.

“I have often mentioned”, he added, ‘my concern regarding the difficulty modern men and women have in making lifelong commitment. There is an urgent need on the part of all Christians reassert the joy of total self-giving in response to the radical call of the Gospel. Once clear sign of this radical commitment is seen in the many vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life the Church in your country is currently experiencing.”

“The Church is Catholic: a community embracing peoples of all races and languages, and not limited to any one culture or particular social, economic or political system... This gives her a connatural ability to foster unity and peace.

“My dear brothers’, he told the Bangladeshi prelates, “you have much to offer the nation. In your love for your country you inspire tolerance, moderation and understanding. By encouraging people who share important values to co-operate for the common good, you help to consolidate your country’s stability and to maintain it for the future. These efforts, however subtle, give effective support to the majority of your fellow citizens who uphold the country’s noble tradition of mutual respect, tolerance and social harmony.”

Pope Benedict then turned his attention to inter-religious dialogue, which he described as an “essential component of the Church’s mission ‘ad gentes’. Such dialogue, “based on mutual respect and truth, cannot fail to have a positive influence on the social climate of your country. The delicacy of this task requires thorough preparation of clergy and lay people, first of all by offering them a deeper knowledge of their own faith and then by helping them to grow in their understanding of Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and the other religions present in your region.”

Finally, the Holy Father mentioned the forthcoming Pauline year, “which will be for the whole Church a renewed invitation with unfailing courage the Good News of Christ Jesus... I am aware of the difficulties of this mission entrusted to you. Like the first Christians, you live as a small community among a large non-Christian population. Your presence is a sign that the preaching of the Gospel, which began in Jerusalem and Judea, continues to spread to the ends of the earth in accordance with the universal destination the Lord willed for it.” (Source: Vatican Information Service).

Faith and Light program for the Disabled

A program was held for the disabled at the Cathedral Parish in Khulna on May 30 – 31, 2008. One of the main features of the program is to wash the feet of the disabled. Other

parts of the program are: sharing, Eucharistic celebration, procession with candles, games etc. Bishop Theotonius Gomes CSC was present in the program, celebrated mass and took active part in other activities of the program. Now this program of the disabled is not only limited to the Christians only, but on the concluding day non Christian disabled are also invited to participate.

New Secretary of Bangladesh Conference of Religious (BCR)

Sr. Mary Lily SMRA has been appointed new secretary of BCR (Bangladesh Conference of Religious). BCR is a desk under Episcopal Commission for Clergy and Religious. Thanks to Bro. Kajol Linus Costa CSC for serving BCR as secretary for the last three years and welcome to Sr. Mary Lily SMRA as new secretary. We wish you all the best, Sr. Lily. Now Bro. Benoy Stephen Gomes CSC is the president of BCR.

EC – for Seminary

a) Seminar for formators and Pastors

A whole seminar was held at the Holy Spirit Major Seminary for formators and selected priests on February 5, 2008. Bishop Moses Costa CSC, Chairman of the Commission, 20 formators, 5 pastors were present. Two talks were presented in the seminar. Fr. Emil Moreas OMI shared on Accompaniment and Fr. Aelred Gomes SJ on Assessment. Sharing of the Rectors followed after the presentations.

b) Gathering of the Dhaka City Seminarians & Aspirants

A whole day gathering of the seminarians and aspirants of Dhaka city took place on May 3, 2008 at the Holy Spirit Major Seminary. Bishop Moses Costa CSC, Chairman of the Commission, 15 formators and 364 seminarians and aspirants were present in the gathering. Bishop Moses Costa CSC presided over the Eucharistic celebration. Talk was given on the theme of **‘You are Chosen for Mission’** by Fr. Emmanuel K. Rozario. Fr. Dominic Rozario shared on his personal experiences in the field of missionary activities. Fr. Subrata Boniface Tolentino CSC spoke on the Diverse Ministries of the Church. Archbishop Joseph Marino, Papal Nuncio to Bangladesh who just arrived that morning in Bangladesh paid a visit to the seminary and said a few words inspiring the seminarians. The grand celebration ended with a cultural function.

Seminar for Seminary Commission Members

Episcopal Commission for Seminary organized a seminar for the formators and pastors at CBCB Centre on June 30 – July 2. The theme of the seminar was **‘Our role towards the integral formation of Priests in the light of Patores Dabo Vobis**. The Rectors of the seminaries and one or two pastors from each diocese were the participants. The resource persons of the seminar were: Bishop Moses Costa CSC on Human Formation, Fr. Frank Quilivan CSC on Spiritual Formation, Fr. Aelred Gomes SJ on Academic Formation and Fr. Livio Prete PIME on Pastoral Formation. Fr. Gabriel Corraya, secretary of Episcopal Commission for Seminary and Fr. Emmanuel Rozario, secretary of Executive Committee were the organizers.

Training Program on Inter – religious Dialogue

A training program was held at Caritas Dhaka – Region in Mirpur on July 9 – 14, 2008 arranged by the Episcopal Commission for Christian Unity and Inter-religious Dialogue. 65 participated from all six dioceses. In the inaugural session Fr. Jacob S. Gomes, convener of the training program, Fr. James Cruze CSC, secretary of the Commission and Mr. Ronjon F. Rozario, regional director of Dhaka were present. Resource persons of this training program were: Fr. George A. Gomes, Bro. Jarlath D’Souza CSC, Fr. Jacob S. Gomes on Christianity, Buddhyananda Mohathero on Buddhism, Aidul Haque on Sufism and Dialogue, Activities of Inter-religious Dialogue: Present and Future by Fr. James Cruze CSC, Life sharing by Fr. Bob (Bob Bhai) and Spiritual Dialogue by Fr. Benjamin Costa CSC. The participants also made a trip to Atharogram area and attended the feast of St. Anthony at Boxonagor. Archbishop Joseph Marino, Papal Nuncio to Bangladesh was present for the concluding ceremony and distributed the certificates to the participants. Fr. Gabriel Corraya, Rector of the Holy Spirit Major Seminary celebrated the closing mass.

Week-long National Seminar on Liturgical Music & Songs

Episcopal Commission for Liturgy and Prayer arranged a seminar on Liturgical Music & Songs at the Holy Spirit Major Seminary. 72 participants from all six dioceses attended this special seminar. Bishop Ponen P. Kubi CSC of Mymensingh diocese and Chairman of the Commission celebrated the opening mass while Bishop Theotonijs Gomes CSC was present for inaugural session. Fr. Patrick Gomes, Secretary of the Commission in cooperation with other members organized the seminar. The Resource persons of the seminar were: Bishop Theotonijs Gomes CSC, Frs. Francis Gomes Sima, Fr. Leonard Rozario, Fr. Mario Mistry, Fr. Joseph Murmu, Fr. Patrick Gomes and Mr. Mathew Dipok Bose.

Translation work of EC – for Liturgy & Prayer

The translation committee (consists of Fr. Patrick Gomes, Fr. Hubert Gomes, Fr. Gabriel Corraya, Fr. Peter Rema, Ms. Dora D’Rozario) sat a few times translating the prayers of Advent season from original Latin.

Renewal Course of Diocesan Priests

Bangladesh Diocesan Priests’ Fraternity (BDPD) arranged a three day (July 7 – 10) Renewal Course for the priests ordained in 1987 – 1996 at the Holy Spirit Major Seminary, Banani, Dhaka. 28 priests from six dioceses attended the course. On the first day, Fr. Martinelli Quirico PIME shared on Interpersonal Relationship, Fr. Emil Moraes OMI on Our Mission and Commitment to the Church and Fr. Gabriel Corraya on Liturgical Matters. On the second day Fr. Jyoti A. Gomes & Fr. Niren N. Mrong shared on the Pastoral life and Challenges as Diocesan Priest. The third day Fr. Peter Rema and Fr. Patrick Gomes, the two resource persons shared on the Spirituality of the Diocesan Priests.

CBCB Website

CBCB web site is on line. You may visit www.cbcbsec.org for information and news of the Catholic Church in Bangladesh. Twister Media Technology (Pvt) Ltd. registered domain, web hosting, web page design and development.

Annual General Meeting (AGM) of BDPF

The Annual General Meeting of Bangladesh Diocesan Priests Fraternity (BDPF) was held on July 11 at the Holy Spirit Major Seminary. Archbishop Paulinus Costa, DD of Dhaka, Auxiliary Bishop Theotonius Gomes CSC, Bishop Bejoy D’Cruze OMI of Khulna, Bishop Emeritus Francis A. Gomes and 88 diocesan priests were present. The day long program began with the welcoming of the newly ordained priests and then a presentation on Spe e Salvi (Hope and Salvation) by Fr. Patrick Gomes of Rajshahi. Fr. Tapan D’Rozario shared a bit on St. Paul and then gave some exercises how we can be effective evangelizers like St. Paul especially in this Pauline Year. The Eucharist was presided over by Archbishop Paulinus Costa DD who also gave the homily. The AGM started at 3:15 P.M. with Fr. Tapan D’Rozario in the chair. It may be mentioned that BDPF came into existence in 1983 with the proposal of few young priests at that time. The Silver Jubilee of BDPF will be celebrated next year in a convenient time. The first edition of the Constitution of BDPF was presented to all the members with a new monogram. Fr. Tapan D’Rozario, Fr. Emmanuel K. Rozario, Fr. Dilip S. Costa are the incumbent office bearers of BDPF elected in 2006 for three years.

Bangladesh Youth Group in the World Youth Day 2008 in Sydney.

The Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Bangladesh (CBCB) approved the participation of a 25-member Catholic youth group in the World Youth Day 2008 held in Sydney from 15 – 20 July. Bishop Moses Costa CSC, Bishop Gervas Rozario, Fr. Patrick S. Gomes, Sr. Zita SSMI and twenty one young people from all the six Catholic dioceses and two representatives from the Bangladesh Catholic Students’ Movement (BCSM) were the members of the delegation.

The youth pilgrimage of the Bangladesh Youth Group in Australia had two parts: first, **The Days in Diocese** from 10 – 14 July. The Catholic Diocese of Canberra-Goulburn hosted the Bangladesh delegates and accommodated all the pilgrims in the families of Corpus Christi Parish. This program was a spiritual preparation for the WYD 2008. The program included Mass, talks, discussions, visits, fellowship meals together with the host families during these days. It was a great occasion to exchange views and to experience the practice of Christian faith in the families of Australian society. The official closing of this part was with the Commissioning Mass presided over by Archbishop Mark Coleridge. Biting cold in that day could not keep young people from joining this wonderful Mass. The second part of the pilgrimage was **World Youth Day 2008** itself. Bangladesh delegates were accommodated in a lovely Australian Catholic family of Mr. and Mrs. Sheen, who are members of the Sacred Heart Church of Mount Druitt under the Diocese of Parramatta in Sydney. The delegates arrived here from Canberra in the evening of 14 July to prepare themselves for WYD2008. They had series of programs beginning from 15 July with the Opening Mass presided over by Cardinal George Pell and concluding with the main celebration of the Youth Day Mass presided over by the Holy Father Benedict XVI on 20 July. In between they attended the catechesis in three consecutive days at the close by

Church of St. Aidan at Mount Druitt. All attended regularly all the common programs like the Stations of the Cross, Rosary, etc. Moreover, they joined the Asian Youth Gathering which was organized in the evening of 16 July in Olympic Park Stadium. The delegates attended a get together organized by the Bangladeshi citizens living in Sydney in the evening of 20 July. And the following day Bangladesh youth group after wishing Good bye to the organizers left for Dhaka on July 21.

The delegates were happy to be able to participate in the World Youth Day 2008 and they were grateful to the Holy Father, to host country and to all the generous friends who helped them financially. (Thanks to Father Patrick Simon Gomes, Executive Secretary of the Episcopal Commission for Youth)

Seminar for the Doctors and Medical College Students

A half-day national workshop for Catholic doctors and students of Medical College was held at CBCB Centre on July 25, 2005. The workshop started with a short prayer service. The main discussion was on the presentation of draft proposal of the constitution of Catholic Medical Association in Bangladesh. Bishop Theotonius Gomes CSC, chairman of the commission for Health Care presided over the Eucharistic celebration and preached on death and dying. 20 doctors attended the seminar. Fr. Francisco Rapacioli, PIME organized the seminar.

Seminar for the Health Workers

Episcopal Commission for Health arranged a two day seminar for the health workers of Chittagong, Dhaka and Mymensingh dioceses on July 31 – August 2, 2008 at CBCB Centre. 32 health workers participated in the workshop. The theme of the workshop was Food and Nutrition, Death and Dying. Bishop Theotonius Gomes CSC, Chairman of the Episcopal Commission for Health Care was present for the opening session. Fr. Francesco Rapacioli PIME, Fr. Frank Quinlivan CSC and Ms. Catherine Costa were among the organizers.

Launching of Archbishop's Book

'Love of God' written by Archbishop Paulinus Costa, DD was formally launched on August 2, 2008 at the Conference of Hall of Press Club. Most Rev. Joseph Marino, Papal Nuncio to Bangladesh was present as chief guest at this auspicious occasion. A few scholars including Dr. Benedict Alo D'Rozario, Executive Director of Caritas Bangladesh took part in the discussion on the book. Mr. Biplob Faroque of Lekha Prakashani took the initiative of publishing the book.

Annual Assembly of the Major Superiors

Annual Assembly of the Major Superiors of Bangladesh Conference of Religious (BCR) took place on August 5 – 6, 2008 at Mary House, Tejgaon. Bishop Gervas Rozario, Chairman of the Episcopal Commission for Clergy and Religious presided over the

inaugural mass. Fr. Patrick Gomes shared on the Word of God in the perspective of Bangladesh. Most Rev. Joseph Marino also addressed the major superiors.

Inauguration of Pauline Year

In order to understand the jubilee year (2000) of St. Paul, his missionary life and message, the Dhaka Archdiocese solemnly inaugurated Pauline Year on August 1, 2008 at the Holy Rosary Church, Tejgaon. Archbishop Paulinus Costa, DD and Archbishop Joseph Marino jointly unveiled the picture of St. Paul. A short film on the life of St. Paul was displayed on the screen prepared by Fr. Jyoti F. Costa. Short talks on St. Paul were given by Archbishop Joseph Marino and Bishop Theotonius Gomes CSC. Later Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Archbishop Paulinus Costa, DD. More than fifty priests and a good number of faithful were present on this occasion. Thereafter Pauline Year was solemnly inaugurated in all other dioceses.

CBCB Meeting

A two day long meeting of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh (CBCB) was held at CBCB Centre on August 6 – 7, 2008. All the Bishops were present at the meeting. The main discussion of the meeting was the follow up of Ad limina visit of the Bishops. Other matters discussed were: Pauline Year, Education, Communication Centre, CBCB Secretariat, FABC, Caritas etc. Archbishop Joseph Marino, Papal Nuncio to Bangladesh and Msgr. Kurian Mathew also attended the meeting to share some ideas with the Bishops. As usual, Nuncio invited the Bishops to dinner on August 7 at the Nunciature.

Diaconate Ordination

Ten Seminarians of the Holy Spirit Major Seminary were ordained deacons on August 2, 2008 at Holy Spirit Major Seminary chapel. Archbishop Paulinus Costa was the main celebrant assisted at the altar by Archbishop Joseph Marino, Papal Nuncio and Bishop Theotonius Gomes CSC. Usually diaconate ordinations are being held in February. But due to the change in the academic year of the major seminary, diaconate ordination will take place in the second semester of the sixth year. Of the deacons five are from Dhaka Archdiocese, three from Rajshahi and one each from Mymensingh and Chittagong.

40th Anniversary of Populorum Progressio

Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace arranged a symposium to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Encyclical Populorum Progressio on August 8, 2008 at CBCB Centre. 125 participated from all six dioceses. Archbishop Paulinus Costa solemnly opened the symposium as chief guest. It was a matter of great joy that all the Bishops of Bangladesh, Executive Director, Central Directors, Project Directors, Regional Directors and high officials of Caritas were present at the symposium. Talks were given by Bishop Patrick D'Rozario CSC on Thoughts of the Church on Human Development, Bishop Theotonius Gomes CSC on Teaching of the Church on Social Issues, and Dr. Benedict Alo D'Rozario on the Reflection of the teaching of the Church on Human Development and Challenges. Fr. Albert T. Rozario, Mr. Amor Robert Costa organized the symposium with the help of Caritas personnel.

Submersible Pump at CBCB Centre

You are aware of the fact that we had an acute shortage of water supply at CBCB Centre. We had to cancel a few programs due to scarcity of water. It is a matter of great joy that we applied for and got the permission from WASA to install our own pump at the centre. MAWTS Technical School helped us to obtain the permission and took care of the management of the boring of the tube well. Our sincere thanks and gratitude to MAWTS for their hard labor and kind cooperation. Boring of the pump started on August 15, 2008. We are enjoying plentiful supply of water from the beginning of September.

On Going Formation Seminar of BCR

The Sub Committee of BCR for On Going Formation arranged a day long seminar for the religious on August 15, 2008 at CBCB Centre. 69 participated in the seminar. The main theme of the seminar was Morality of the Religious in the Context of Bangladesh. Fr. Subroto B. Gomes spoke on the theme. The program also included group discussion and reporting.

Workshop for Catholic Nurses

A two day workshop for Catholic nurses was organized by the Episcopal Commission for Health Care at CBCB Centre on August 21 – 23, 2008 for the Archdiocese of Dhaka and dioceses of Chittagong and Mymensingh. 85 Nurses and nuns attended the workshop. The theme of the workshop was ‘Diabetes and Reflection on Death & Dying.’ A medical doctor and Catherine Costa spoke on diabetes and Fr. Frank Quinlivan CSC conducted the session on death and dying.

Meeting of the Committee for Handicapped

A meeting of the committee for the handicapped was held at CBCB Centre on August 30, 2008 to evaluate the pilgrimages of the handicapped held in every diocese. Plans were also chalked out for future. Bishop Theotinius Gomes CSC, chairman of the Episcopal Commission for Health Care, Bro. Frank, a few nuns and responsible person for the handicapped in the dioceses were present in the meeting.

Seminar on Catechumenate

Like other years in the past, this year too, PIME and Xaverian Fathers arranged a four day seminar on Catechumenate. 95 participated in the seminar. Almost all the PIME and Xaverian priests working in Bangladesh were present in the seminar. Along with them were PIME, Salesian, RNDM, Shanti Rani, LHC nuns in the seminar. A few diocesan priests representing the dioceses and catechists also attended the seminar. The seminar included morning devotion, presentation, question and clarification, group discussion, reporting etc. On the first day Fr. Pio Matevi sx presented the documents on the topic and Fr. Antonio Germano sx shared his experiences working among the catechumens. On the second day was presentation of experiences in an urban context by Fr. Gianni Giampietro pime, a missionary in Hong Kong since 1958. On the third day was the presentation of the experience among the indigenous people by Fr. Maurizio Arioldi pime, a missionary in

Thailand since 1992. The Plenary session was held on the fourth day. Most Rev. Joseph Marino, Papal Nuncio to Bangladesh celebrated the concluding mass and the Italian Ambassador was present for the concluding session.

Association of Bangladesh Catholic Doctors

A meeting was held for the Catholic Doctors and Medical Students at the CBCB Centre on September 5, 2008. Bishop Theotonijs Gomes CSC and Fr. Francesco Rapacioli PIME were among the participants in the meeting. 40 doctors and medical students took part in the meeting. All studied together the constitution of Catholic Doctors Association in Bangladesh. Later an election was held and Dr. Sebastian Halder, Dr. Charles Noel Gomes, Dr. Edward Pollob Rozario were elected as president, secretary and treasurer of the association respectively. Two more members were co-opted. They are Dr. Jun Jackline Gomes and Dr. Charles Sonjib Kundu. Earlier a six member ad hoc committee was formed in July 2005 with Dr. Neveil D'Rozario as convener and Dr. Diana Nelson as member secretary.

Meet the Press

Christian Communication Centre and Caritas Development Institute jointly organized a workshop entitled 'Meet the Press: Work and Role of Catholic Church in Handling Media' at Caritas Development Institute, Dhaka in August 27 – 30, 2008. Altogether 32 participated in that workshop from six dioceses. Archbishop Joseph Marino, Papal Nuncio to Bangladesh was present as chief guest in the inaugural session presided over by Bishop Gervas Rozario, Chairman of Episcopal Commission for Communication. Among others present as special guests were: Dr. Benedict Alo D'Rozario, Ms. Irene Rozario and Fr. Kamal Corraya. All the participants paid a visit to Christian Communication Centre at Luxmibazar. Presentations were on pronunciation, Modern Mass Media and Blog, Broadcasting and strategy, Ways and means of using modern technology in the field of evangelization, Various challenges of the mass media and journalism etc.

FABC – OEIA Meeting

Bishop Bejoy D'Cruze OMI attended a meeting in Thailand at the guest house of St. Louis Hospital on 3 September 2008. It was the meeting of the Office members of FABC – OEIA (Christian Unity and Inter-religious Dialogue). Archbishop Fernando R. Cappalla (Philippines), Chairman of this office, Bishop Hyginus Kim (Korea), Bishop John Sane Hgye (Myanmar) and Bishop Bejoy D'Cruze OMI (Bangladesh) attended the meeting. Sr. Clemens Mendonca (India) Executive Secretary organized and moderated the meeting. Two staff members of Archbishop Fernando were also present.

Fr. Francis X. D'Sa, SJ (India) enlightened the participants on the "Church's Call to Dialogue Today". He based his presentation on Redemptories Missio. Then the Bishops had time to share their own experiences in the field of dialogue. Plans for the next three years are: FABC – OEIA and CCA (Christian Conference of Asia [Protestant] joint staff meeting; Possible review of past BIRA (Bishop's Institute of Religions in Asia) and its relevance for today; Seminar with Catholic Asian Orthodox leader; Asian Bishops – Ulama Conference; Seminar for Asian Bishops: Presence and working of the Holy Spirit in other Religions; Plenary Assembly in Bangalore. (Thanks to Bishop Bejoy D'Cruze)

Archbishop Paulinus Costa to Manila for ICMC

Archbishop Paulinus Costa attended a meeting of ICMC (International Catholic Migration Commission) held at San Carlos Pastoral Institute, Manila, Philippines in August 22 – 25. Altogether 50 participants attended the meeting; 18 of them were presidents of Episcopal Conferences.

Orientation Program for the New Bishop

Bishop Gervas Rozario who was consecrated as Bishop of Rajshahi diocese last year in March attended an orientation program arranged by Propoganda Fide in Rome. Bishop Gervas left on September 1 for Rome. After this orientation program he is scheduled to visit France and England before he arrives in Dhaka on October 4, 2008.

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