

Editorial

*The Holy Father, Pope Francis has drawn attention to the young people by the post-synodal apostolic exhortation *Christus Vivit* (“Christ is Alive”), published on April 2, 2019. In his six-years of pontificate, many times Pope Francis has emphasized how important ‘the dialogue between youths and their elders should be’ and essentially how important it is for young people to be open up to listening to and to learning from the elderly. The 182-pages document is read like a compilation of sage-advice from a loving grandfather who is sharing his wisdom with the youth. Moreover, Pope writes with great love and affection for the young too. This document is a follow-up to the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops held on last October 2018 that reflected on the topic of “Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment.”*

We know that all young people are different having different backgrounds, experiences and priorities. Some are more privileged than others as it is noticed when a newspaper is opened. In his exhortation, Pope Francis highlights several problems experienced by many of the youth like: war, violence, exclusion, discrimination based on gender or sexual abuse. But he hopes that all young people who are victims and suffer unjustly, may “feel the closeness of a Christian community that can reflect Jesus' words “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted” by its actions, its embrace and its concrete help.” So to make this happen, he urges everyone to look at the suffering of others. This is something that can never be repeated again within the Church and beyond.

The Pope affirms that, in order to get closer to the young people, the Church must logically listen to them and remain open. He further says “Young people can help keep her (the Church) young. They can stop her from becoming corrupt; they can keep her moving forward, prevent her from being proud and sectarian, can help her to be poorer and to bear better witness, to take the side of the poor and the outcast, to fight for justice and humbly to let herself be challenged.” Moreover, staying close to their voice and enthusiasm creates the conditions for the Church to become a “place of dialogue and a witness to life-giving fraternity.”

The Holy Father, Francis reminds us that God wants us to be happy as HE loves us and wishes us to enjoy the present moment. How? It is through friendship with others and with Christ. In fact, Jesus was ‘just another young person of his town, who communicated as normally as others did,’ who could understand what young people had been going through. Today, Christ holds a central place in the Pope's exhortation. Hence, its title that begins with: “Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive!” In the world today, it is not only the young people, but all Christians also need to be alive, revived and renewed in order to deepen their faith in Christ and relationship with Christ, who dwells in our hearts. Many people are on the move for various reasons in the world. Many are living in inhumane conditions. We need to open our inner eyes, mind and heart to be able to see God's presence in them and be connected to them in whatever ways possible. Welcoming heart, accompanying the young and adults, walking together to enhance greater fraternity and solidarity is a call from God that we all need to discern and respond to concrete situations.

Wishing you all our readers, benefactors and well wishers a happy and peaceful life!

Inter-religious Dialogue Training Course 2019

Episcopal Commission for Christian Unity and Inter-religious Dialogue organized a five day yearly training course on 6-11 May, 2019 at the National Training Centre, Jessore in Khulna Diocese. 75 participants at different levels and background participated in this training course from 8 dioceses and 8 Caritas Regions of Bangladesh. In this training course, the following subjects were discussed: The Basic Idea of Interreligious dialogue by Fr. Mrittunjoy Dofadar; Vatican II Declaration *Nostra Aetate* and its post Vatican theology by Fr. Patrick Gomes; Interreligious Dialogue: Past, Present and Future by Fr Ajit Victor Costa, OMI; Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue and its activities by Fr. Patrick Gomes; Pastoral Plan of Bangladesh and Interreligious Dialogue as well as Church's view on other Religions by Bishop Theotonijs Gomes CSC; Interreligious Dialogue, Spirituality of Interreligious Dialogue and Pastoral Plan of Bangladesh by Bishop Bejoy N. D'Cruze, OMI; Asian Theology on Interreligious Dialogue and the FABC Documents by Fr. Proloy A. Cruze; Introduction to Hinduism by Sree Idar; Introduction to Islam by Dr. Mizanur Rahman; Dialogue based on Activities and Dialogue in day to day life by Mr. Taposh Sarker and Mr. Jibon Das of Caritas Khulna Region. A person from World Vision spoke on Child Protection briefly. Fr Jacob Biswas spoke on Catholic Church's View towards people of other Faiths that was based on *Nostra Aetate*. Life sharing on Interreligious harmony and its challenges was presented by a Marynoll Missionary Fr. Bob MM (Bob Bhai); Fr. Bablu Sarker shared on the Life Oriented Dialogue; Mr Noel Gonsalves conducted a session on planning method. The program also included daily Masses, education tour, cultural program and an evaluation of the course and distribution of certificates. The course was helpful to spread the spirit of dialogue everywhere. The main purpose of this training program was mainly to prepare personnel and leader for inter-faith dialogue.

Post HSC Christian Formation and Training Program 2019

All the eight Diocesan Youth Commissions have completed successfully the Post HSC Christian Formation and Training Course in the month of June 2019, for the students who completed their HSC examination. About 1000 students in 7 groups from 8 dioceses participated these programs. The duration of the program for each group was 5 to 7 days consecutively scheduled with various types of activities. The members of the National Youth Commission visited all the groups and facilitated sessions on different topics. However, it highlighted the following themes: "The Faith and Vocational Discernment", "Career Selection & Development", "Development of Personality" and "Synod on Youth and the mind of the Church."

National Chaplains Animators Formation and Exchange (CAFT) 2019

The National Chaplains Animators Formation Exchange (CAFT) Workshops was held on 04-05 June, 2019 at the CBCB Center. The theme was "Called to Meet Young People, Rekindling Their Hearts and Walking by Their Side." There were 50 Chaplains and animators from eight different dioceses and representatives from BCSM participated in this program. This CAFT created a platform to exchange ideas and experiences by different Chaplains and Animators for fostering students and youth engagement in Church and society, to build capacity in the work of accompaniment. The themes of the sessions in the workshops were: (a) "Youth Synod & Accompaniment with Youth" by Bro. Ujjal Placid Pereira, CSC; (b) "Christian Leadership" by Sr. Reba Veronica D'Costa, RNDM; (c) "Youth Counseling: Methods and Importance" by Bro. Stephen Binoy Gomes, CSC; (d) "The Role of Chaplains & Animators in Youth Ministry" by Rev. James S. Gomes, CSC; and (e) "Bishops' Synod on Youth and the mind of the Catholic Church" by Most Rev. Lawrence Subrato Howlader, CSC. The program ended with a thanksgiving Mass and distribution of certificates to the participants.

YCS Bangladesh

(a) A special preparatory meeting for the 40 Years Jubilee of YCS existence in Bangladesh was held at the CBCB Center on 3 June 2019. About 35 members, especially those who were involved in YCS Movement in Bangladesh from the beginning, were present in the meeting. Sr.



Mary Dipti, SMRA, Bro. Binoy Gomes, CSC, Fr Liton Gomes, CSC and Mr Chayon Rebeiro shared their life experiences with YCS movement to enlighten the new chaplains and animators.

(b) Sr. Roseline S. Rozario, CSC the National Animator of YCS visited YCS units in many schools of Dhaka, Sylhet and Chattogram dioceses with her team in last few months and facilitated sessions on the History and Methodology of YCS. The dioceses of Sylhet and Dinajpur also arranged YCS animators training programs.

(c) The YSM (Young Students Movement) unit of St. Mary's Girls' School & College arranged a half-day seminar on July 19, 2019 in its school premise. About 175 students participated in this seminar. Bro. Ujjal Placid Pereira, CSC, the National Chaplain of YCS joined the seminar and facilitated a session on the History, Methodology and how to conduct cell meeting of YCS/YSM.

View Exchange program with Youth Activists in Nepal 2019

The Episcopal Commission for Youth (ECY) had an Exchange program with the Youth Ministers and youth at the Cathedral Parish in Nepal on June 9, 2019. Most Rev. Paul Simick, Bishop of Nepal welcomed warmly to Most Rev. Lawrence Subrato Howlader, CSC Chairman of ECY and other Youth ministers of Bangladesh. A good number of Priests, Brothers, Sisters, Youth activists and Youths from both countries made this program a very fruitful and memorable with their presence, welcoming ceremony, sharing on the present realities of the church in Nepal, youth activities and challenges in both Nepal and Bangladesh.

Pope to Youths: 11th International Youth Forum 2019

On 22 June, 2019, Pope Francis held a special audience for about 250 youths from more than 100 countries around the world in the Vatican. The young people were in Rome participating in the 11th International Youth Forum organized by Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life from 19 to 22 June 2019, which focused on the theme "Youth in action in a synodal Church". Mr. Patrick Drishya Purification and



Ms. Milisha Gomes from Bangladesh, participated in that International Youth Forum that was a part of the implementation phase of the recent General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on Youth. Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life (DLFL) and Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri, General Secretary of the Synod of Bishops welcomed the Youths and Rev. Joao Chagas, head of the DLFL Youth Office, presented the objectives of the Forum. Besides, there were many sessions,

panel discussion and group work based on the synodal journey, 'Christus Vivit', vocational journey, and youth involvement in the pastoral ministry.

7th IYCS Asian Chaplain Animators Formation Exchange Workshops 2019

The 7th Asian CAFÉ was held on June 30 to July 6, 2019 at Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia, on the theme "Called to meet young people, rekindling their hearts, and Walking by their side". About 43 Chaplains, animators, and students from seven different countries gathered together for fostering students and youth engagement in Church and society, as well as to strengthen their capacity in the work of accompaniment. Bro. Ujjal Placid Pereira, CSC the National Chaplain of YCS Bangladesh attended from Bangladesh in that 7th IYCS Asian CAFÉ. The delegates shared and reflected on struggles and challenges of the national movements, chaplains, animators and students with the help of YCS methodology "*See, Judge and Act*". The course was designed with important sessions on History-Identity-Spirituality and Methodology of YCS Movement, Accompaniment, Understanding Safe School/Students, Prophetic Role of Chaplain and Animator, Social Media: Youth involvement and witness, Networking of IYCS Asia, Post-Synodal Papal exhortation 'Christus Vivit'. Moreover, there were Exposure, country presentation, group discussion, action plan and mission statement/ Declaration. The IYCS Asia thanked the outgoing Chaplain Fr. Sergio Maniba for his untiring service and dedication for four years and congratulated the newly elected Chaplain Fr. Jacob Anil Das of IYCA Asia. The program ended with thanksgiving mass and distribution of certificates.

Half Yearly Assembly Bangladesh Conference of Religious

The half yearly assembly of the Bangladesh Conference of Religious (BCR) was organized on June 20, 2019 at Savar BCR Centre. The meeting began with a welcoming speech by Sr. Bondona Cruze, PIME and a welcoming dance. The Theme of the half yearly assembly was "Extra Ordinary Missionary Month".

Fr. Francesco Rapacioli, PIME gave a presentation on "Church Documents on Evangelization since *Maximum Illud*" and shared how the Church documents gave us a new consciousness about evangelization and he very briefly explained three documents that were published after Vatican Council II. Vatican Council II was an Evangelical Council. It described the nature of the Church, renewed the Church and unified the Churches. The Church should have relationship with God and preach the Gospel as the nature of the Church is missionary. Fr. Jyoti Francis Costa, Assistant Secretary General of the CBCB, gave the second presentation on "Ten years Pastoral Plan of the Church in Bangladesh". He shared in brief the aims and objectives of the National Pastoral Workshop of the Local Church held at the CBCB Centre from August 28 to 31, 2018. He shared the highlights of the Assembly, especially the pastoral concerns and priorities of the local Church for the next ten years and how Dioceses and Religious Congregations together can contribute more vigorously in the ministry of evangelization and bring communion, and witness Christ to the greater society. There was an open discussion after two presentations. The half yearly assembly also included a meeting of BCR and matters related to it. The assembly ended with a Eucharistic celebration followed by lunch.

National Training Workshop on Small Christian Communities

On June 25-28, 2019, the National Training Workshop on 'Small Christian Communities' was organized by CCP DESK at the CBCB Centre, Mohammadpur, Dhaka. The Theme of the National Workshop was "Small Christian Communities: Preaching the gospel in family." The objectives of the Workshop were: to



deepen the understanding to the vision of the Church in a 'New Way of Being Church', to realize how SCCs strengthen people to be aware of the Word of God and practice it in their daily lives, to understand how SCCs empower the Laity to take part in the Mission of the Church in the world and to acquire Gospel sharing method and a new leadership. There were 72 participants from eight Dioceses in this training along with CCP team members and Facilitators. The workshop was facilitated by CCP team

members. The Workshop was inaugurated by Most. Rev. Shorot Francis Gomes. It started with a prayer service and enthronement of the Bible. All the participants were very active and cooperative to attend the workshop. These four days workshop was effective for the participants. During this workshop all the Dioceses made their plan for one year of their own and shared it with others. The workshop was concluded by a thanksgiving Mass on June 28, 2019 offered by Most. Rev. Shorot F. Gomes.

The BDPF Annual Seminar and AGM- 2019

On July 2-5, 2019 the Annual Seminar and AGM-2019 of *Bangladesh Diocesan Priests' Fraternity (BDPF)* was held at the Holy Spirit Major Seminary, Dhaka. Along with His Eminence Cardinal Patrick D'Rozario csc, 4 Bishops from different dioceses and 148 priests participated in the Annual Seminar and General Meeting 2019.

The main theme of the seminar was "**The Spirituality of the Diocesan Priests in Pastoral Ministry**". Rev. Fr. Marcus Murmu, a diocesan priest from Dinajpur, gave a presentation on the theme. He shared that our spirituality depends on mutual relationship. We need to experience Christ more and more with heart through serving the poor, marginalized, vulnerable people and witness the Gospel as missionary disciples.



His Eminence Cardinal Patrick D'Rozario, CSC spoke on the **Clericalism** as one of the vital issues in the present world. He shared that the Catholic Church needs to be aware of the seriousness of this clericalism and proper steps need to be taken to get rid of it. The Church all over the world is affected by sexual abuse and scandals by the members of the clergy. We have to be cautious about it and the image of the Catholic Church needs to be upheld by a good and holy life of Priests and Religious in the world.

His Excellency Subrato L. Howlader, CSC, Bishop of Barishal shared on **The Synod of the Youth in the Context of Bangladesh**. He shared on journeying with the youth, talking to them, listening to them and a special care must be given to the youth by the Church. His Excellency Gervas Rozario, Bishop of

Rajshahi spoke on the **Crisis Management in the Priestly Life**. He said that everybody has problems and different kind of problems, but he or she has to find out the crisis management tools to get rid of it. Fr. Paul Gomes shared on **Administrative work in Priestly life**, Fr. Jacob Biswas shared on **Priestly Pastoral Ministry: Pastoral Experience**, Fr. Anthony Sen spoke on **Priestly Pastoral Ministry: Relationship with civil administration**.

After every session there was time for open discussion. This year the Silver Jubilee, 25 years of priestly life of 5 priests including a Bishop was celebrated. Fr. Shishir Natale Gregory presented the financial report of 2018-2019. The Seminar and Annual General Meeting of BDPF 2019 was concluded with the Holy Eucharist presided by His Eminence Cardinal Patrick D'Rozario, CSC followed by dinner.

National Seminar of EC for Family Life 2019

The Episcopal Commission for Family Life organized a national seminar on July 18-20, 2019 at the Diocesan Social Formation Centre, Mymensingh. The Family Life Commission of the diocese of Mymensingh assisted in organizing the seminar. The theme of the seminar was "Christian Marriage and Love in the Family: Pastoral Concerns and Care of the Church to Families in the Present Complex Realities of Life." There were 75 participants from the Archdiocese of Dhaka and dioceses of Sylhet and Mymensingh. This seminar was arranged for those involved and responsible for premarital preparation at the parish levels, and also those involved in diocesan and regional family ministries and activities. There



was an inaugural ceremony and introduction of the participants at the beginning of the program.

The topics of the seminar were: Various Challenges to Families in the present Socio-cultural Realities of the dioceses, Christian Marriage, Importance of Premarital Instructions and Joy of Love in Families, Misunderstanding among the Couples and in the Family and Techniques of Counseling in solving misunderstandings and quarrels among problematic couples and families, Relationship among Married

Couples and Respect for Life, Church's Teachings and Thoughts on Marriage and Family, Life sharing of a married couple and Exploration of various ways in order to solve and meet the Challenges in Families. There was also a group discussion and an open forum for the participants. There was a drama on Family Life, and based on the drama, there had been discussion, feedbacks in order to learn how to watch movies and drama on TV and learn good things for family life from dramas and movies. The speakers were: Mr. Andrew Ritchil, Fr. Mintu L. Palma, Fr. Jyoti F. Costa, Mr. Benedict Murmu, married couple Mr. Pintu Areng and Mrs. Chompa Barmon, Most Rev. Ponen Paul Kubi, CSC, and Fr. Ashesh Dio. The program also included prayer services and daily Eucharistic celebrations and a cultural night.

National Module Course of EC for Laity 2019

On July 16-20, 2019, the Episcopal Commission for the Laity Organized a five day Modular Course at CBCB Centre. 56 participants (Male 32, Female 20 and Sister 4) from eight Dioceses attended the course. The Chairman of the Commission Bishop Shorot F. Gomes inaugurated the program by lightening a lamp and asked everyone to make cheerful participation in this training course. His Eminence Cardinal Patrick D' Rozario, CSC gave a presentation on the situations and signs of the time in the local Church of Bangladesh. The purpose of the course was to know about the Church, especially the role, dignity, mission and participation of the laity in the Church. Subject matters and resource persons of the course were: (a) Church in the light of the Bible (Fr. Shipon Peter Rebeiro); (b) Christian Leadership (Atul Francis Sarker); (c) Vocation and Mission of the Laity in the Church (Fr. Bulbul A. Rebeiro); (d) Theological analysis of the Church (Fr Simon Patrick Gomes); (e) Catholic Social Teachings of the Church (Fr Jyoti F. Costa); (f) Small Christian Communities (Fr. Albin M. Gomes); (g) Directives of the Church in Bangladesh (Cardinal Patrick D' Rozario, CSC); (h) The Mission Works of Laity in the Church (Fr. Albin M. Gomes); (i) Christian movements and organizations: nature, role and principles (Fr. Ajit Costa, OMI); (j) Formation and Spiritual life of the laity in the Church (Fr. Stanley C. Costa); (k) Family as



Domestic Church: Calling, Mission and Spirituality (Fr. Luke Kakon Corraya); (l) Spirituality of Mother Mary (Fr. Elias Palma, CSC) and (m) Socio-economic development of the Laity, participate in social security contributions, welfare-oriented and equality-based enterprises (Theophil N. Nokrek). There was also a Panel discussion by the Lay Leaders on Mission and Apostolate of the Laity. The program also included daily Mass and prayer services, cultural night, and certificate distribution. The participants were inspired to be more active in the Church's activities. The course was organized by Most Rev. Bishop Shorot Francis Gomes, Chairman, Theophil Nokrek, Secretary and five members of the Laity Commissions including three volunteers.

Seminar on Health Care: The EC- Health Care organized half a day seminar for the EC members and health care workers on July 26, 2019 at the CBCB Centre. Archbishop Moses Costa, CSC gave an overall orientation about health care in our context. The health charter, given by the Vatican was studied by the participants. There were three presentations and everyone appreciated the way it was presented in our context. There is a need of wider understanding about health care, and how homes should be seen as first hospitals to give good care, love and affection to the sick, elderly and the suffering people. There were 57 participants in this seminar. This seminar evoked to plan and organize this kind of seminar at diocesan levels to help health care workers to have a better understanding of their services.

All Christian Conference -2019

On July 27, 2019 the United Forum of Churches, Bangladesh (UFCB) organized an All Christians conference at CBCB Centre, Mohammadpur, Dhaka. The theme of the Conference for this year was: **“Ministry of Unity: Tolerance, Forgiveness and Love bind us together.”** There was a prayer service at the beginning of the conference that led all to a prayerful God-experience. His Eminence, Cardinal Patrick D' Rozario, CSC, Chairman of the UFCB welcomed all and shared in brief the goal and purpose of the Conference. Fr. Patrick Simon Gomes shared on the theme: “Ministry of Unity: Tolerance, Forgiveness and Love bind us together” from Biblical perspectives. He shared seven key points that can lead all to have better unity and communion among ourselves by practicing tolerance, forgiveness and loving attitude towards one another. Then, based on the main theme Mrs. Suchitra Behera shared her personal life-experience of unity and how to apply at individual level, Mr. Kajal Sen Gupta shared on the Church Life, Dr. Milton Biswas on the Organizational Life and Mr. Zacharius Chandon Gomes on Life with the Greater Community. All four of them shared that as Christians, we need to feel more and more the call to communion and to be witnesses of peace, love and solidarity. There was an open forum where some shared their experiences of unity among Christian churches and proposed some suggestions to eliminate divisions among the churches in order to have a greater harmony, unity and solidarity. His Eminence Cardinal Patrick D' Rozario CSC, Bishop Theotonius Gomes CSC, and Mr. Joyanto Adhikary shared their experiences on how to bring more unity among ourselves. Many felt the need of forgiveness, reconciliation and communion among ourselves for having misunderstanding (sometimes) among some of our organizations. Rev. Martha Das gave an update of the UFCB activities and wished more programs and activities in order to have greater unity and communion. Rev. David A. Das expressed thanks to each and everyone concerned on behalf of the Organizing Committee. Advocate Gloria Jhorna Sarker, M.P. led the concluding prayer of communion and commitment and His Eminence, Cardinal Patrick D' Rozario, CSC gave the final blessing. There were 90 participants all together in the conference.

Visit of Cardinal Antonio Tagle and Cardinal Charles Bo to Bangladesh

His Eminences, Card. Antonio Tagle, President of *Caritas Internationalis* and Card. Charles Bo, *President of FABC* made a visit to Bangladesh on July 28-31, 2019. They visited the Rohingya Refugee camps in Cox's Bazar along with His Eminence Card. Patrick D'Rozario, CSC and Archbishop Moses Costa, CSC, Msgr. Alvaro, Secretary to the Nuncio in Bangladesh and Mr. Francis Atul Sarker, Executive Director of Caritas Bangladesh and a few others Caritas Staff. They also visited the Chattogram Archbishop's House and Card. Tagle presided over a Mass for the people of Chattogram in the Cathedral. It was a historical event for the Archdiocese of Chattogram for visiting two Cardinals and celebrating Mass in the Cathedral. Cardinal Tagle was the main celebrant and shared in his homily that we need to deepen our friendship with Jesus as His followers. We have to love and behave with others as friends because Jesus always treats us as friends and loves us. We become true Christians by loving others as ourselves. Their visits also included meeting with the Bishops at the Nunciature in Dhaka, followed by a fellowship dinner, meeting the Home Ministry, a reception given by Caritas Bangladesh. Another reception was given by Archdiocese of Dhaka followed by a Eucharistic celebration at Holy Rosary Church, Tejgaon, Dhaka. Cardinal Charles Bo was the main celebrant there and Cardinal Antonio Tagle, Cardinal Patrick

D'Rozario, CSC, Bishop Shorot F. Gomes, Bishop Theotonijs Gomes, CSC and about 40 priests celebrated the Holy Mass together. There were about two thousand faithful attended the Holy Eucharist including many religious and others. In his homily, Cardinal Bo said, "I come here as your brother, your neighbor from Myanmar. We have a graceful



connection. When Pope Francis, the prophet of this century, thought about visiting those Christians in the margins, he chose our two countries. The Christian flocks in these countries are small, not powerful, and not rich but Pope Francis chose both of us for the simple reason: we are in the margins and as a Good shepherd he wanted to see those sheep far away from the center of Christianity and power. We are brothers and sisters in Faith. We are called to bear witness to the

Gospel in powerlessness and vulnerability. With Paul, we can proclaim when we are weak, we are strong in Christ. We are in Bangladesh on a pilgrimage of peace. Bangladesh is not a rich country, apart from economic challenges, the country lives through great natural disasters. Your sons and daughters toil in faraway countries. But with all the troubles, this simple country has welcomed the strangers, the abandoned and the destitute. Your country hosts one of the biggest refugee populations in the world. In the recent history, your country welcomed thousands of refugees from Myanmar. I prayerfully commend the big heartedness of your government and the people. Today's gospel talks of the man who found a treasure in the field. We have gathered here to look for the treasure of peace. Both Myanmar and Bangladesh is looking for the great treasure of peace. When Pope Francis was in his pilgrimage to our nation and your nation, his only plea to the Christian church was: Let the Catholic Church be the peace makers. We have come here to break the bread of peace. Peace is possible and peace is the only way.

Bangladesh is in a scene of an Exodus today. Amidst all the tragedies of the Jews, Moses was called by God to give the Commandments. The story of Exodus is the story of unending love of Yahweh, his care and concern for the people without home. We pray that thousands of refugees hosted in your land, like the Jews of the Exodus, feel the presence of the loving hand of God and reach a home. Thousands like the Bangladeshi workers are migrant workers in every part of Asia. They need to return home. As neighbors, we not only share borders but we share also our tragedies, our brokenness, and our displacements. Even though we grieve together but we also hope together too, for a world without war and displacement. This human tragedy needs to strengthen our faith resolve to serve more, not less." (Excerpts from the Homily of Cardinal Charles Bo, Holy Rosary Church, Tejgaon, Dhaka)

EC- Justice and Peace: National Pastoral Workshop on Migration 2019

On 8-10 August, 2019 the EC- Justice and Peace organized a national pastoral workshop on migration at the CBCB Centre. There were more than 75 participants from all the dioceses along with Cardinal Patrick D'Rozario, CSC, and 6 other Bishops. Ms. Naoko Maruyama, Regional Coordinator for East and Southeast Asia, Migrants and Refugees Section, Integral Human Development, Vatican City, came and shared 20 Pastoral Action Points for the global compacts. The theme of the workshop was "Understanding the Vulnerabilities of Migrants, Internally displaced people, Human Trafficking and Climate Change in the Asian Context and the Role of the Church". The workshop gave a global as well as local perspectives and better understanding of the Migrants issues. All the presentations were good and well prepared and all actively participated in discussions and open forum. This workshop deepened the understanding as there was a kind of direction given on how migrants need to be taken care of internally or locally at the diocesan and national levels. The Dicastery of IHD, Vatican, gave financial support for this workshop;

Child Protection Seminar

On May 18, 2019, a seminar was organized on Child Protection at the CBCB Centre jointly by EC-Justice and Peace and World Vision Bangladesh. This seminar created awareness among the participants and all realized their roles regarding child protection. In order to create more awareness among the people, the EC- Justice and Peace has been organizing seminars on child protection at the diocesan level.

Some information of CBCB Meeting

The third meeting of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh (CBCB) of 2019 was held on August 14 -15, 2019 at CBCB Centre. All the Bishops participated in the meeting. The meeting began at

8:30 AM on August 14, presided over by His Eminence, Cardinal Patrick D’Rozario CSC, Archbishop of Dhaka & President of the CBCB.

The main discussions of the meeting were as follows: Meeting the Chargé d’Affairés; MOTU PROPRIO BY THE SUPREME PONTIFF FRANCIS “*VOS ESTIS LUX MUNDI*”; *Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life*: First International Conference on the Pastoral Care of the Elderly; Pontifical Council for New Evangelization; Divine Cult: Latin Course for the Translators; Sharing on the Visit of His Eminences, Card. Antonio Tagle and Card. Charles Bo, to Bangladesh; All Christian Conference July 27, 2019; The Catholic Directory of Bangladesh 2019; Celebration by Christian Community: Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation and Golden Jubilee of Independent Bangladesh; Statements of the Fund under the custody of the Archbishop of Dhaka; Report of the Activities on “*Laudato Si*”; Extraordinary Mission Month of October, 2019; FABC- OEFF Consultation meeting in Bangkok, Thailand; Seminar on Awakening Climate Change Concerns in Seminaries, Thailand; Letter of FABC on FABC General Conference; Seminary Commission: (i) Staff of St. Joseph Seminary, Ramna and Spiritual director for Bulakipur Program (ii) HSMS vacant land Matters; EC- Social Communication: Christian Communication Centre Accounts and related matters; Review of the Secretaries of the Episcopal Commissions; Seminar on Health Care; EC- Justice and Peace: National Pastoral Workshop on Migration 2019; EC- Liturgy: Update on the publication of the *Ordo Missae*; BCEB – Update on Govt. Nitimala by Church Educational Institutions; EC- Theological Concerns; EC- for Christian Unity and Interreligious Dialogue, and Miscellaneous.

Inter-diocesan Appointments: (a) Fr. Rodon Robert Hadima is appointed as Vice Rector of the Holy Spirit Major Seminary, Banani, Dhaka; (b) Fr. Patrick S. Gomes as the Convener of the Biblical Apostolate Desk under EC- for Catechetics and Biblical Apostolate for a period of three years.

Workshop for Secretaries of Episcopal Commissions and Diocesan Pastoral Coordinators

The Coordinating Committee of the CBCB Secretariat organized a half-day workshop on August 30, 2019 at CBCB Centre, for the Secretaries of Episcopal Commissions, conveners/heads of various desks under Episcopal Commissions and Diocesan Pastoral Coordinators. There were 33 participants altogether along with Most Rev. Moses Costa, CSC, Secretary General of the CBCB. The workshop began at 8:30 AM with a prayer service and words of welcome. Fr. Jyoti F. Costa, Assistant Secretary General of the CBCB, shared the purpose of the workshop briefly. Archbishop Moses Costa, CSC, shared on the aims and objectives of Episcopal Commissions, how to love and serve the Church in a spirit of one body and communion. Based on National Pastoral Workshop 2018, Archbishop Moses shared the “Ten Top Pastoral Priorities of the Local Church in Bangladesh” in the light of the Pastoral Exhortation of the CBCB which was written and published. Then the participants were divided into 6 groups for discussion on the pastoral priorities and how these pastoral priorities are being taken at Commission and diocesan levels for action plan and how we can have more cooperation and collaboration among the Episcopal Commissions and dioceses for implementation of our pastoral plans. All the groups shared the reports of their fruitful discussions and all were very much enlightened by their sharing. There was also an open forum and some proposals were given in order to have more mutual communication, collaboration, participation and implantation of pastoral plans at commissions and diocesan levels. The workshop ended at 12:50 PM with a vote of thanks by the Secretary General, Archbishop Moses Costa, CSC and the recitation of the Angelus.



(Reporters: Fr. Patrick Gomes, Brother Ujjal P. Pereira, csc, Fr. Shishir N. Gregory, Sr. Mary Amrita, SMRA, Sr. Adline, CIC, Fr. Jyoti F. Costa, Sr. Mary Mitali, SMRA)

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