



**FABC**  
**OSC**

# Communication | N F O

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Vol. XXI, No. 8  
August 2006

## **VIETNAM: SEMINARIANS LEARN FROM FAITH AND EVANGELIZATION STORIES OF LAYPEOPLE**

Some 60 Redemptorist seminarians of Sai Gon Abbey in Ho Chi Minh dialogued with six lay Catholics and one catechumen June 16 about living and witnessing the faith. The seminarians interacted with the lay people in intimate sharing and dialogue to prepare them for a month-long pastoral practice in different parishes in July-August. The event was organized by Fr Matthieu Vu Khoi Phung, professor at the abbey, to widen the seminarians' horizons before they enter priesthood. "Religion is not a set of formulas, so we do not pay as much attention to rituals as to human life," said the 66-year old priest. "Only in this way can we evangelize effectively." (UCANEWS)

## **PHILIPPINES: RELIGIOUS SUPERIORS LAUNCH INFO DRIVE AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES**

The Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines (AMRSP) is heading an information and education drive to bring to peoples' greater awareness the deteriorating human rights situation in the country. In their recent separate annual assemblies, both women and men religious superiors of the Philippines called on the government to put an end to all human rights violations. The group also signed a letter addressed to fellow religious and friends asking them to remain vigilant and to oppose all kinds of violence. (CBCP MONITOR)

## **MYANMAR: PUBLIC RELATIONS BODY SET UP, DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES START TRAINING**

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Myanmar (CBCM) is setting up a public relations commission. Bishop Raymond Saw Po Ray of Mawlamyine was placed head of the commission while Augustine Mahn Tha Yin, a retired government university press manager, was appointed officer in charge. On July 5 to 7, a seminar on public relations basics was conducted for 28 representatives, nine priests and 19 laypeople, from Myanmar's three archdioceses and ten dioceses. Speakers discussed the importance of public relations and how the task should be handled in the Myanmar context. Present were Archbishop Paul Grawng of Mandalay and Archbishop Charles Bo of Yangon, respectively CBCM president and secretary general. (UCANEWS)

## **PAKISTAN: ARCHBISHOP-CAMPAIGNER OF LITURGY IN TRADITIONAL LANGUAGE DIES**

Archbishop Emeritus of Karachi Simeon Anthony Pereira died on August 21 at 78 years old. During the funeral mass on August 28, youth from the diocese sang the choruses in Urdu and English fulfilling one of the archbishop's objectives to create a liturgy in the traditional language to help youth approach the Gospel. Over 20 religious orders of the diocese attended the ceremony along with the bishops of Hyderabad, Faisalabad, Quetta and Islamabad as did the Apostolic Nuncio in Pakistan, Msgr. Adolfo Yllana. (CBCP MONITOR)

## **RADIO VERITAS ASIA BEEFS UP NEWS IN PROGRAMS**

Radio Veritas Asia's (RVA) Program Department organized a second seminar on news June 6-9 in its Quezon City studios. Like the first seminar in 2005, this year's seminar highlighted the need to increase the news component of RVA programs. This year, however, the focus was on how to select appropriate news for the 16-languages programs beamed throughout the continent. The facilitator of the seminar, Maryknoll Father Robert Astorino, discussed choosing and evaluating news sources to maintain RVA's credibility. The executive director of the news agency, UCANEWS, also gave an in-depth and concrete approach to news writing. Finally, the priest told the some 34 program coordinators and producers present that being effective in one's mission requires a deep understanding of that mission. RVA is a project of the FABC.

## **KOREA: CATHOLIC ENCYCLOPEDIA COMPLETED**

The Research Foundation for Korean Church History has completed the 12th and final volume of "The Korean Catholic Encyclopedia" on April 25, 2006. The project started in 1993 and has since involved over 2,500 experts and more than 12 million dollars to gather over 8,000 articles and 10,000 pictures about the Catholic faith and put them together in the compilation. The encyclopedia was written according to the spirit of Vatican II. (CBCP NEWSLETTER)

*11th Annual*  
**FABC-OSC Bishops' Meet**  
*Bukal ng Tipan Activity Center*  
*Taytay, Rizal, Philippines*  
*November 20-25, 2006*

*Theme:*  
Managing  
Communications  
for Bishops'  
Conferences

## **PHILIPPINES: BISHOPS ASKED TO PREVENT THE DEFACTING OF 'NATIONAL HERITAGE' CHURCHES**

The Heritage Conservation Society of the Philippines (HCS) petitioned the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) on July 3 to stop priests from "defacing" heritage churches. Accompanied by 600 signatures, the petition complain about parish priests who "modernize and renovate heritage churches" without consulting the CBCP Permanent Committee for the Cultural Heritage of the Church (PCCHC). There is no exact inventory of heritage churches or those built during the 500-year history of Catholic faith in the country. Thus, the petition seeks that all heritage churches be listed and monitored, and for CBCP to declare all churches 50 years or older as heritage churches. (UCANEWS)

### **ASIAN YOUTH MINISTERS WILL DEPEND ON INTERNET TO FACILITATE THEIR MINISTRIES**

Delegates of the fourth Asian Youth Minister's Meeting (AYMM IV) at Salesian Retreat House, Hong Kong August 7-8 say they will use the Internet to maintain the flow of information and ideas for their ministries. The Southeast Asia delegates from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Singapore agreed to share programs and activities for families and youth via the Internet. East Asia delegates from China, Hong Kong, Japan, Macau, Mongolia and Taiwan said they will form an e-group where they can share resources. They are also willing to contribute articles, news and features to a FABC-Youth Desk website once set up. Meanwhile, delegates from South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka) and another Southeast Asia group (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam) proposed to have meetings next year to review their implementation of the theme "Youth, Hope of Asian Families," theme of the fourth Asian Youth Day (AYD IV) which preceded the AYMM. The fifth AYD and AYMM in 2008 will, according to organizers, be held in the Philippines. Both events are organized by the Youth Desk of the FABC Office of Laity and Family. (UCANEWS)

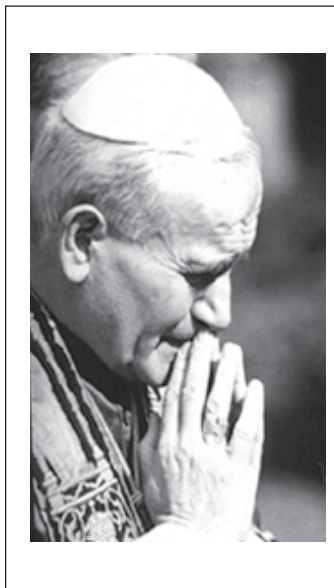
### **HONG KONG: BISHOP TONG CLARIFIES NEWS REPORT**

Hong Kong Auxiliary Bishop John Tong told "Sunday Examiner" diocesan newspaper that he was misquoted by Church-run news agency, UCANews, on his reaction to the ongoing dialogue between the Holy See and Beijing government. The news agency interviewed the prelate after a talk on "The search for Christian unity: where we stand today" during the Fifth Plenary Assembly of the FABC in South Korea July 18-20, 2005. The report later published quoted the Bishop as commenting that with the ongoing dialogue between Holy See and Beijing officials "the illegitimate ordinations (of bishops in China) will stop." But what he did say was "the illegitimate ordinations should (not "will") stop." The Bishop pointed out that the one word makes a radical difference to the meaning of his comment. In the same report, UCANews also quoted him as saying, "We should not expect too much. I think the Chinese government is not so sincere about dialogue." But the Bishop says it was never his intention to make any judgment about the sincerity of the Chinese approach to the dialogue. (SE)

### **KOREA: POPE JOHN PAUL II REMEMBERED**

The late Pope John Paul II was remembered in a special day of choral concert, audiovisual showing and sharings on April 6 at the Coste Hall of Myeongdong Cathedral in Seoul. The event entitled "I am happy and You should be happy too" was organized by the Lay Apostolate Council of Korea. Present was Seoul Auxiliary Bishop Andrew Yeom Soo-jung, president of the Korean bishops' lay apostolate committee.

(CBCK NEWSLETTER)



### **INDIA: DISTANCE LEARNING CLASSICAL DANCE**

The Bharathidasan University Business Development Centre and Kalai Kaviri College of Fine Arts in Tiruchirappalli offer the world's first off-campus degree program in "Bharathanatyam" classical dance. A three-year Bachelor of Fine Arts and two-year Master of Fine Arts degrees are open since 2004 to enthusiasts and practitioners of the centuries old Indian dance which originated in southern India. It was performed in Hindu temples before it was reestablished as a popular art form during the 1930s. For details on the courses, logon to <www.kalaikaviri-offcamp.com>

### **KOREA: 'KYEONGHYANG MAGAZINE' HITS 100 YEAR MARK**

"Kyeonghyang Magazine," the official magazine of the Catholic Church of Korea, celebrates its 100th anniversary this year with a symposium held at the bishops' conference Seoul headquarters on May 12. Bishop Paul Choi Deok-ki, president of the Korean bishops' social communications committee, was present and gave a congratulatory speech. He said, "Kyeonghyang Magazine reflects modern Church history in Korea. It also has served the Catholic Church in Korea well as a 'pastoral' magazine mirroring the *zeitgeist*" (spirit of the time). (CBCK NEWSLETTER)

### **INDIA: ST. PETER'S SEMINARY IN BANGALORE CELEBRATES 'EX-ALUMNI DAY' WITH WEBSITE LAUNCH**

St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary celebrated "Ex-Alumni Day" August 2-3 in its grounds in Bangalore. Bishops and priests alumni of the seminary participated in the event. The highlight of the event was the launching of an advanced website with interactive features, helping link students, alumni and scholars from around the globe. The site also features articles on priestly formation. (THE HERALD)

### **CHINA: CATHOLIC FESTIVAL IN PUBLIC PARK**

The diocese of Liao Ning in northeastern China organized a Catholic Festival in a public park in Wang Hua with hundreds of parishioners, priests and religious in attendance. Passersby were impressed by the festive atmosphere, and were welcomed by the participants to join in the singing and dancing. Liao Ning diocese, formerly a mission run by the MEP (Paris Foreign Mission) and Maryknoll Missionaries, has 100,000 Catholics spread in 47 parishes. Because of the scarcity of priests in Liao Ning, the religious and laity are actively involved in catechism, social and pastoral work. (FIDES)

### **PHILIPPINES: RADIO VERITAS-PHILIPPINES GOES SATELLITE**

Radio Veritas-Philippines "Radyo Totoo" (truth radio) now uses satellite to simultaneously broadcast its weekly religious and educational programs across the country thru the 48-member radio stations of the Catholic Media Network (CMN). RV-Phils broadcasts from Manila via Dream Satellite, the same carrier of Manila archdiocese's "TV Maria." The satellite broadcasts are received by the local stations and transmitted to listeners. This is a step forward for evangelization, says Jesuit Father James Reuter, secretary of the Philippine bishops' commission for social communication. RV-Phils "Radio Totoo" is the domestic commercial radio station owned and run by Manila archdiocese. Religious communities help in its programming, like the Manila-based Divine Word Fathers, and Daughters of St. Paul. Contrary to a report of *Agenzia Fides*, RV Phils is distinct from the FABC-run "Radio Veritas Asia" which beams in 16 languages throughout Asia. (FIDES/ OSC)