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PAKISTAN: ARCHDIOCESE OF KARACHI LAUNCHES NEW WEB-TV

The Archdiocese of Karachi announced a plan to broadcast programs on the Internet before the year ends. Fr. Arthur Charles, vicar general of the archdiocese and director of the Diocesan Catechetical Centre, said "Web TV will be a means for evangelization for the entire diocesan community, and for the country, especially the youth." The planned broadcast will feature programs on the Bible, lives of saints and social issues in both Urdu and English. In 2006, the Church in Pakistan launched the first Catholic Urdu weekly online. (FIDES)

VIETNAM: CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER JOINS CAMPAIGN AGAINST CATHOLICS OF HANOI

The government of Hanoi has recently turned to a children's magazine for its disinformation campaign against the Catholic Church. On October 13, "Thieu Nien Tien Phong" (pioneer children), a periodical for elementary school children, was used to spread what Fr. Dang Huu Chau from Hanoi calls "blatant lies" about the Church and Archbishop Joseph Ngo Quang Kiet. In one of the articles, a young male student described how he lost his faith because of the archbishop's words and actions. The pattern is the same throughout the government-controlled media like the newspaper "Nhan Dan" run by the communist party. (ASIANEWS)

TAIWAN: HSINCHU DIOCESE EVANGELIZES THRU MUSIC

A sacred music concert themed "Hymn of Love" was held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Cathedral, Hsinchu in October to celebrate 50 years of the cathedral's foundation. The event aimed to open the cathedral's doors and to "evangelize with music," said Hsin Chu Bishop John Baptist Lee at the Mass he presided. Hsinchu diocese was established in 1961, and has about 52,000 Catholics served by 90 priests. As of 2006, one-third of the priests in the diocese are younger missionaries from other parts of Asia. (FIDES/UCANEWS)

INDIA: AWARD WINNING FILMS

Two films from India have won in recent international film festivals. The best short film award went to "Seasons of Love" at the 11th Religion Today International Film Festival held in Rome Oct 29. The film of Fr. Jiji Kalavanal is about society's response to a youth contracting AIDS. This year marked the participation of Signis, world association for Catholic communication, as jury in the interfaith festival. Meanwhile, the Kokborok film from Tripura "Yarwang" (roots) won the jury's special mention award along with an Israeli film "Foul Gesture" at the 7th Asian Film Festival held in Mumbai Oct 16-23. (SAR NEWS/CNUA)

"...it is essential that social communications should assiduously defend the person and fully respect human dignity. Many people now think there is a need, in this sphere, for 'info-ethics'..." - Pope Benedict XVI, World Communication Day 2008

INDIA: KALAI KAVIRI FOUNDER, FR. GEORGE, PASSES AWAY

The founder of Kalai Kaviri, a fine arts institution in Tiruchirappalli, Fr. S. M. George, died in Vellore on Oct 20 after a brief illness. He was 68. Fr. George founded Kalai Kaviri in 1977 as the first and only institution of its kind in south India for Bharathanatyam and Carnatic music. He



elevated the learning of Bharathanatyam, the most ancient Indian classical dance forms, to the status of Doctoral Research. Fr. George was conferred the title "Kalaimamunivar" by the Tiruchirappalli World Tirukkural Conference in 2003, and "Monsignor" status by Pope John Paul II for his outstanding service to the Church through his cultural mission in India. (NEW KERALA)

KOREA: CHURCH PUSHES ECUMENICAL AND INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

The Church in Korea has increased efforts to help religions deepen their "respect for one another and willingly participate in dialogue." The Church has launched this move in the wake of Buddhist-led protests early this year against the alleged pro-Christian bias of the government. In his editorial for CBCK Newsletter's Fall 2008 issue, Fr. Peter Pai Young-ho, editor of the Church quarterly, said that the Church has led "all the faithful to take the lead for inter-religious communion and dialogue in their parishes and workplaces." He cited the CBCK-initiated visit of Catholic seminarians to the Orthodox Metropolis of Korea, the Anglican Church of Korea, the National Council of Churches in Korea, the headquarters of the Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism, and the Seonggyun-gwan Confucian Academy. This visitation was resolved to be a yearly event to strengthen mutual respect between religions in Korea. (CBCK NEWSLETTER)

INDIA: 'CONCERNED VOICE' LAUNCHED IN BANGALORE

A group of lay Christians called "Concerned Voice" was launched in Bangalore on October 25 to promote amity, improve documentation and dissemination of news and information, and to speak for the Church. The lay initiative was born out of a Media Response seminar organized by the social communication commission of the Indian bishops' conference and Bangalore archdiocese communication centre Sept 26-27. The group has the blessing of these bodies, the chairman of the organization Sunil Thomas, said. (SAR NEWS)

TAIWAN: TAICHUNG DIOCESE SEEKS TO PROTECT CULTURAL RESOURCES

The Diocese of Taichung has sponsored a seminar on November 18 seeking to conserve manuscripts, historical artifacts, monuments, poems and sacred music left behind by foreign missionaries in the diocese's 135 years history. "We have a duty to conserve them as a pearl of great price," Taichung Bishop Martin Su Yao-wen told representatives of Fu-Jen University, Taiwan's regional seminary, the Philanthropic Foundation of Bo Ai, the municipal museum, and many Church and social groups from Taichung's parishes. "The life of the diocese is a monument built by missionary pioneers," Bishop Su said. Catholic cultural resources should be protected as they not only belong to the Church but to society as large, he added. (FIDES)

KOREA: CHURCH GOES DIGITAL

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Korea (CBCK) has announced the automation of all its pastoral projects, communications and administration activities using information technology. The announcement of a new computer system was made in Seoul with Cardinal Nicholas Cheong at the helm. The new system digitizes and automates all documents and ecclesial registries, guaranteeing service speed and efficiency. It has been tested in the archdiocese for 10 years and is now extended to other dioceses in the country. (FIDES)

INDIA: CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRES TO GO HI-TECH

The general meeting of 62 members and associate members of the Association of Catholic Enquiry Centres India (ACECI) in Kolkata November 11-14 resolved to go hi-tech in proclaiming Jesus Christ and promoting the Bible. The decision was made on the occasion of the body's 50th anniversary to upgrade ACECI's correspondence courses and use new media in evangelization. Two new ACECI websites in English and Hindi will be created within the next two years. The association first offered its correspondence course in 1948 under the guidance of Jesuit Father Peter Sontag at Danapur in Bihar. (SAR NEWS)

TAIWAN: JESUITS CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF EVANGELIZATION AND CULTURAL PROMOTION THRU THE MASS MEDIA

Kuangchi Program Service (KPS) and Guanachi Cultural Group - the Jesuit-run radio/TV production and publishing house, respectively - celebrate 50 years of evangelization thru mass media this year. The publishing house has made a noteworthy contribution to social, cultural and religious education, a commentary said. In Taiwan, it has become a reference point for other publications in terms of truth, goodness and beauty. KPS, on the other hand, has helped upgrade the status of Catholic television, producing many audio-visual programs since 1958. Both centers are regarded as important instruments of evangelization in the country. (FIDES)

PAKISTAN: NOVICES LEARN ABOUT SOCIAL COMMUNICATION

Rabita Manzil, the national social communication centre of the Church, has conducted a three-day seminar on social communication in Lahore Oct 6-8. The participants were 18 sister-novices from seven religious congregations who are undergoing an "Inter-congregational Novitiate Program." The seminar included lectures, workshops and practical exercises on the importance, advantages and power of communication. It was facilitated by Rabita Manzil Director, Fr. Nadeem John Shakir. (RABITA MANZIL)

MYANMAR: 30 YEARS OF RADIO VERITAS ASIA'S MYANMAR SERVICE

The 30th anniversary of the Myanmar-language short-wave broadcasts of Radio Veritas Asia (RVA) was celebrated on Nov 29 at the Bishop's House in Mandalay, 580 kilometers north of Yangon. About 75 listeners from across Myanmar were present, along with seven Catholic priests and two Buddhist monks. RVA Myanmar service is estimated to have 600,000 listeners, about 75 percent of whom are non-Catholics. The station aims to build good relations with listeners who in turn offer feedback and advice. These serve as inputs to further improve broadcasts of the Manila-based station. RVA is a project of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC). (UCANEWS)

BANGLADESH: YOUNG PEOPLE TROOP TO INDIA TO LEARN LITURGICAL DANCE

Twelve Bangladeshi youth aged 18-20 trooped from Dhaka to Kolkata on Sept 25 for a two-week's dance workshop at the residence of Fr. Saju George Moolanthuruthil. The priest teaches Bharatanatyam, a classical dance form popular in southern India, which grew out of a traditional temple dance based on Hindu epic stories. Fr. Saju uses it to depict Christian themes such as the Trinity, Mary and the Risen Christ. The youth said they want to learn how to use this dance in liturgical celebrations when they return to Bangladesh. (UCANEWS)

CHINA: CHURCH POSTS AD IN LEADING PUBLICATIONS

Catholics of Tian Jin diocese have launched an ad campaign in major publications in August encouraging people to visit the diocesan Cathedral of Xi Kai and inquire about the Catholic faith. Priests, nuns and lay volunteers join in the campaign by welcoming visitors with warmth and responding to all questions. Built in 1914, the Cathedral of Xi Kai is a Roman-style church with a capacity of 2,000. The "French Church" as locals call it is dedicated to St. Joseph. Tian Jin diocese has one of the largest Catholic communities in China with 100,000 faithful, 30 priests, 40 nuns and 10 seminarians. The parish of Xi Kai cathedral has 30,000 Catholics. (FIDES)

KOREA: MAGAZINE MARKS 25 YEARS OF ENCOURAGING KOREANS TO READ THE BIBLE

The Catholic magazine, "Bible and Life," celebrated its 25th anniversary in a function held in Seoul Sept 26 with some 50 priests, religious and magazine staff in attendance. The Caritas Sisters of Miyasaki launched the monthly in Sept 1983 to encourage reading of the Bible. The magazine features Bible readings and reflections. The nuns were the first religious congregation to launch a magazine in the Korean Church. (UCANEWS)

INDIA: SIGNIS-WEST BENGAL HELD SCREENINGS OF ORISSA VIOLENCE

The West Bengal unit of "Signis," international Catholic organization of audio-visual communicators, has sponsored screenings of pictures and news clips on the violence against Christians in Orissa state. By mid-October, the 20-minute screenings were already held in six parishes in Kolkata. Fr. Felix Britto saw the presentations along with 400 other Catholics in Christ the King parish. He said he felt sorry for the Christians who lost relatives, homes and possessions but maintains he is not angry with the perpetrators of the violence. The anti-Christian violence in Orissa, West Bengal's southern neighbor, lasted for seven weeks since August 24 this year. It claimed at least 58 lives, mostly Christians, and displaced about 50,000 Christians. (UCANEWS)