



FABC
OSC

Communication | N F O

FEDERATION OF ASIAN BISHOPS' CONFERENCES - OFFICE OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATION

P.O. Box 2036, Manila 1099 Philippines

Tel: (+63 2) 732 7170, 338 7769 Fax: (+63 2) 732 7171

Email: fabc_osc@pldtdsl.net

Vol. XXI, No. 10

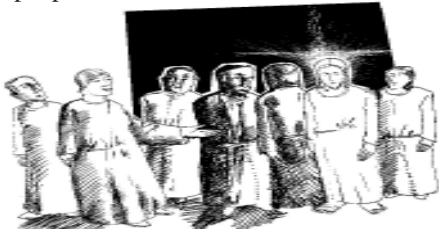
October 2006

OSC BISHOP APPOINTED ARCHBISHOP OF MUMBAI

The Holy See announced the appointment of Archbishop Oswald Gracias of Agra, India as the new archbishop of Bombay, India on October 16, 2006. Archbishop Gracias is chairman of the Catholic Bishops Conference of India (CBCI) Commission for Social Communication. He became member of the FABC-Office of Social Communication Executive Board in 2004. A canon law expert, Archbishop Gracias has been teaching canon law at Jnana Deepa Vidyapeeth (Light of Knowledge University) in Pune, western India. He will be officially installed as head of his new diocese on December 14. (VIS)

KOREA: RELIGION AND CULTURE FESTIVAL

The 10th Religion and Culture Festival organized by the Korean Council of Religious Leaders was held in Seoul in October. The festival celebrated the theme "Believers' Efforts to Promote the Culture of Sharing and Donation" and mainly raised funds to help North Korean escapees and migrant workers in South Korea. Participants were members of seven religions, including the Catholic Church, Protestant Churches, Buddhism, Won Buddhism, Confucianism, Chondogyo, and the Association of Ethnic Religious of Korea. Non-believers were also present at the event. Bishop Higinus Kim Hee-jong, president of the Korean Bishops' Commission for Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue hopes that "values cherished by religions like sharing and love may permeate the lives of all people, believers and non-believers" alike. (FIDES)



CHINA: CATHOLIC PUBLISHING HOUSE ANNIVERSARY HIGHLIGHTS DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONALLY CIRCULATED NEWSPAPER

Hebei Faith Press, managed by the Catholic Church in Hebei province, held a seminar in Shijiazhuang October 14-15 to celebrate its 15th anniversary. The seminar titled "Christian Faith and Modern Media" had more than 100 bishops, priests, correspondents, writers and government officials present. It featured talks by experts and Catholic media persons tracing the growth of "Faith" newspaper published by the same publishing house and its contribution to faith enrichment as well as cultural and social development in China. The newspaper, which was renamed "Faith 10-day" this year, is currently published every 10 days and has a national circulation of more than 50,000 copies, the highest circulating Church newspaper in China. It was the first newspaper to be published from among the five government-recognized religions in China. (UCANEWS)

ASIAN MISSION CONGRESS HIGHLIGHTS COMMUNICATION & COMMUNICATION DYNAMICS TO STRENGTHEN MISSION

The Asian Mission Congress (AMC) in Chiang Mai, Thailand October 18-22 reflected on the theme "Telling the Story of Jesus in Asia" with stories shared by Catholics as well as representatives of other religions. In the end, "important areas of concern" were identified by the more than 1,000 participants mainly from Asia (95%) but also from Europe, the Americas, Middle East and Oceania. These "priorities for our missionary task in Asia" include "deeper study of the Word of God," "proclaiming Jesus especially through witness" as well as "fostering attitudes and values of humility and openness" to enrich the missionary's personal encounter with Jesus. With regards to people of other faiths, the participants recommend education and formation "especially in our seminaries" for a more positive understanding and to remove prejudices against other religions. With regards to culture, the participants recommend "integrating local festivals and cultural forms of expression such as dance and music, art and architecture." They also urge the promotion of a "culture of service, compassion, disciplined life, meditation, silence, simplicity, reconciliation and harmony." The mission congress was organized by the FABC-Office of Evangelization together with other FABC offices and the Holy See's Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. The FABC-Office of Social Communication handled the Press Office for the congress, issuing news releases and organizing daily press conferences for some 34 international journalists present. The OSC also maintains the AMC section of the FABC website. Meanwhile, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Thailand website <www.cbct.org> hosted a live video streaming of the congress proceedings with the help of the Catholic Social Communications of Thailand (CSCT). Both local and international media work were coordinated by the FABC-OSC. The full text of the congress "Orientations and Priorities" and "Statement" can be downloaded from the FABC website at <www.fabc.org>

CHINESE PRODUCTIONS SHOWN AT SIGNIS TV PRODUCERS' SEMINAR

The Fifth Signis Television Producers' Seminar held in Madrid, Spain October 7-9 featured productions from over 20 countries two of which were produced by Catholic production centers in Taiwan and Hong Kong. "The Story of Xu Guangqi," jointly produced by Kwang Chi Society and Jiangsu Television, and the series "The Decline of Churches in China" by Hong Kong's Diocesan Audio-Visual Centre, were widely accepted and attracted the most buyers according to few delegates. The seminar, which ended on October 9, gave some of the 40 participants the chance to join the first World Congress of Catholic TV Stations October 10-12, jointly organized by the Pontifical Council for Social Communications and the archdiocese of Madrid. (SE)

HONGKONG: EXPERTS STRESS IMPORTANCE OF MEDIA EDUCATION

Experts in Hong Kong call on parents and Church leaders to help guide the youth in their consumption of media. In an interview with *Sunday Examiner*, Lam Keung, a social worker from Caritas-Hong Kong and convenor of the Anti-Pornographic and Violence Campaign, asked parents to help children learn to differentiate good information from bad. Meanwhile, Wong Kwok-fu, executive of the Hong Kong Christian Service (Media Education), said that media education should teach children how to analyze, scrutinize and appreciate. Parents should spend time learning about their children's favorite reading materials and TV programs and give them guidance. Anthony Fung Ying-him, who organizes media education activities for Caritas-Hong Kong and is associate professor of the School of Journalism and Communication at the Chinese University of Hong Kong said, "The Church knows it cannot rely entirely on the top-down approach in teaching the next generation... but through media education and seeing examples in their daily lives, they can learn the right values." He noted that of all media, the Internet has the most important impact on children. (SE)

INDIA: TWO INDIAN FILMS SELECTED FOR 'RELIGION TODAY' FESTIVAL

Two feature films from India were shown at the Religion Today International Film Festival in Trento, Italy October 11-14. They are "The Tree of Life" produced by Mr. Leo Thaddeus from Kochi, which won at the Polish Film Festival in May, and "Aisa Kyon Hotha Hai" (on AIDS) by Divine Word Father Dominic Emmanuel from Delhi. Among the 118 films from 18 countries and world's major religions, the selection committee chose 45 works. (THE HERALD)

PAKISTAN: RADIO VERITAS ASIA URDU SERVICE CELEBRATES 19TH ANNIVERSARY

The Urdu-language service of the FABC's Radio Veritas Asia celebrated its 19th anniversary with a special Mass on August 12 at Rabita Manzil, the Pakistani bishops' communications centre, in Lahore. About 50 people attended the event with speeches from past officials of the language service. Lahore Archbishop Lawrence Saldanha, episcopal chairman for communications in Pakistan and chairman of the FABC-OSC, lit a "Jubilee Candle" to start the 20th year of the Urdu service. The service includes a wide range of programs on Urdu literature, movie reviews, comedies and programs for women and youth. In 2006, the programs revolved around the theme "Culture of Forgiveness." Next year, the theme will be "Human Dignity." (UCANEWS)

SINGAPORE: VATICAN, SINGAPORE MAKE JOINT STAMP ISSUE

The Singapore Philatelic Museum (SPM) has launched a joint stamp issue October 12 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Singapore and the Holy See. The event followed on last June's celebrations that included talks by special Papal envoy Renato Cardinal Raffaele Martino, dinner and liturgical ceremonies. The joint stamp issue features two sets of stamps designed by Irio O. Fantini from Vatican City. One set shows the Merlion, Singapore's iconic landmark, and St. Peter's Basilica. A more expensive set depicts the flags of Singapore and the Holy See flying side by side. (CN)

INDIA: TALKING, ELECTRONIC BIBLES ON DISPLAY AT CHENNAI EXHIBIT

The Bible Society of India (BSI) displayed 525 varieties of the Bible in Chennai, Tamil Nadu in October including imported talking and electronic Bibles. The five-day exhibit offered Bibles in different formats for sale to visitors. BSI works with many organizations in India and its motto is to translate the Word of God in languages which people can understand and in packages they can afford. Today, the Bible is available in 49 different Indian languages. (THE HERALD)



PHILIPPINES: CHURCH LEADERS DENOUNCE ANNUAL WITCH FESTIVAL

The Vicar General of Capiz archdiocese in Panay island, central Philippines, denounced the annual "Aswang" (witch) festival in a three-page pastoral letter read out at all Masses in the archdiocese on October 22. Last year, Archbishop Onesimo Gordoncillo has sponsored the biggest caravan in the history of Capiz to oppose the Aswang Festival. The word "aswang" has many bad meanings, and although the festival is a fun time for people, it still is degrading to the people of Capiz, Father Neil Olano, of San Isidro in Pontevedra town said. The event was first organized in 2004 by Dugong Capiznon Incorporated (DCI) to promote tourism in the province and, according to a DCI officer, was dreamed up to counter the unfair stereotyping of the province as a haven of witches by poking fun at the tradition. (SE)

INDIA: MSGR. S.M. GEORGE RECEIVES CBCI-SIGNIS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Kalai Kaviri Fine Arts College founder, Msgr. S.M. George, was conferred the CBCI-Signis Lifetime Achievement Award at the joint national seminar of Signis-India and Caritas-India March 5-7, 2006 at Vailankanni Shrine, Nagapattinam. Msgr George was presented a plaque and ceremonial shawl by top officials of Signis-India (formerly Unda/OCIC) and CBCI (Catholic Bishops' Conference of India) Media Desk. Msgr George was recognized for his great contribution to Unda/OCIC, his leadership qualities and visionary plans. In response, he feels all his efforts for the growth of the Church have borne abundant fruit. Kalai Kaviri College of Fine Arts offers degree courses in the traditional art form Bharathanatyam (Indian classical dance) including a doctoral program and is located in Tiruchirappalli, India. Information can be downloaded from the official website at <www.kalaikaviri-offcamp.com> (WAVELENGTH)

EAST TIMOR: RADIO TIMOR KMANEK (RTK) ENTRUSTED TO DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES

"Radio Timor Kmanek," RTK, (The Voice of Our Lady) Catholic radio station of the diocese of Dili was formally entrusted to the Divine Word Missionaries (SVD) on September 30, 2006. The SVD missionaries will be responsible for the operations and financing of the station which was opened in 1992 by Bishop Dom Carlos Ximenes Belo, then bishop of the diocese. The station operates with AM and FM transmitters.