

Your Excellency,

Let me first of all wish you a very Happy and Peaceful New Year 2012!

On behalf of the Office of Theological Concerns (OTC) of the *Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences* (FABC), I hereby invite all the members of your Episcopal Conference for the Fourth Bishops' Institute of Theological Animation (BITA-IV) which will be held from 24th to 26th April 2012 at Baan Phu Waan Pastoral Institute in Sampran, Thailand [23rd April (arrival date); 27th April (departure date)]. Of course, we have been informing your Conference of this event for the past few months, and now we would like to officially invite Bishops of your Conference with the hope that as many as them would be encouraged to attend this BITA-IV which is entitled "Youth in Asia: Challenges of Fundamentalism and Relativism". I am also sure that your own representatives in the OTC, too, had already kept you informed of this event.

It will consist of inputs, Workshops, Plenary Sessions, sharing of opinions on the themes by Bishop-delegates, a panel discussion and creative pastoral responses, along with daily community Eucharistic celebration, and Morning and Evening community prayer services. Given below are a few of the salient items:

- Regional Reports by a Bishop-delegate from each of the four main Asian regions on their contextual situation with regard to the main theme.
- Fundamentalism: A Deeper Understanding & its Impact on the Youth (Sr. Anicia Co, RVM)
- Relativism: A Deeper Understanding & its Impact on the Youth (Rev. Fr. Tanaka)
- The Link between Fundamentalism and Relativism (Rev. Fr. Dominic Veliath, SDB)
- Fundamentalism & Relativism as one of the Causes for the Youth Leaving the Church (Rev. Fr. John Jun Yang Park)
- Panel Discussion consisting of Youth (Most Rev. Antonio Luis Tagle)
- Creative Pastoral Responses (Most Rev. Antonio Luis Tagle, Most Rev. Martinus Situmoran, OFM, Most Rev. Siripong)

Since Fundamentalism and Relativism are two very important phenomena in our Churches in Asia as already pointed out by both Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, and since our youth (the future of our Church) are negatively affected by them, we hope that your Conference and its member Bishops will be keenly interested in this BITA-IV. On our part, BITA-IV is an effort to deepen the understanding of these phenomena as they affect our youth in our Asian contexts, and then, give adequate pastoral responses based on our Catholic faith from within the same contexts.

The OTC will sponsor accommodation of all the participating Bishops and also the travel between the airport and the venue. We will be very grateful if at least two or more Bishop-members of your Episcopal Conference could participate at this important FABC event. **Kindly keep me informed of the participating Bishops by writing to vimalred@gmail.com on or before 31st January 2012. You may also write to our OTC representative in Thailand, Fr. Claudio Bertuccio, OMI, to the following address: cbertomi@truemail.co.th**

Thanking you and wishing Your Excellency a Happy and Grace-filled New Year 2012,

Fr. Vimal Tirimanna, CSsR
Executive Secretary
Office of Theological Concerns (FABC)
29th December 2011.