January 27, 2010

To: The Presidents of Episcopal Conferences
   Associate Members
   Standing Committee Members
   FABC Offices

Re: Final Document of the IX FABC Plenary Assembly

Your Eminences, Graces, Excellencies and Colleagues:

Greetings in the Lord!

May we send you the Final Document of the 9th FABC Plenary Assembly. You might recall that the Plenary Assembly approved it in principle and that the suggestions from the floor be incorporated. Subsequently Bishop Luis Antonio Tagle submitted a full document to the Central Committee. We studied the document and found it quite faithful to the thoughts and desires of the Plenary Assembly. Therefore, the Central Committee approved the document with a few minor improvements which they left to me to integrate and refine.

Echoing some of the observations of the Plenary Assembly, the Central Committee believes that the document is very pastoral, enlightening, sufficiently contextualized and catechetical.

Therefore, may I pass on to you the recommendations of the Central Committee for your pastoral action:
1. Let a pastoral or theological team present the document to your Conference and relate the document to your particular pastoral situation;
2. Bishops could use the document through retreats, recollections, and assemblies for the on-going formation of their priests;
3. We also wish to have houses of religious formation and seminaries use the document for formation in the Eucharist.
4. Finally, it should be disseminated to the parishes for the catechetical formation of the faithful.

I express my deep gratitude to you for your active participation during the Plenary Assembly to make the Final Document a true expression of our collegial thinking as well as one we can fruitfully use for the pastoral growth of all the faithful. I also give thanks to Bishop Luis Antonio Tagle and the drafting Committee in the Office of Theological Concerns for their excellent work.

With prayers and best wishes – in the Lord,

+Orlando B. Quevedo, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Cotabato
Secretary General, FABC