

## *Editorial*

*We know that the Holy Father, Pope Francis opened the Year of Mercy on Dec. 8, 2015, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, and closed it on November 20, 2016 on the Feast of Christ the King. This year of Mercy has brought tremendous impacts on the lives of the people all over the world. Like every local Church, the local Church of Bangladesh also spent this special year of grace in a spiritual manner. The Bishops decided and declared in their respective dioceses some places to make pilgrimages during the year of Mercy. Many people made time to make pilgrimages in those places. They prayed, made good confession, passed through the Holy Door and received indulgence, participated in the Holy Eucharist with devotion, and were renewed in mind and heart to begin their journey with Jesus once again with much faith, hope and love. Marking the formal end of this Holy Year of Mercy, Pope Francis on the Feast of Christ the King insisted that “God has no memory of sin,” and that God’s willingness to forgive will endure well after the curtain comes down on the theater of the jubilee. The Pope also repeated his characteristic appeal to Christians to reject the trappings of “power or glory,” and to embrace a life that’s “free, faithful, poor in means but rich in love.” Towards the end of the Holy year of Mercy, the Church in Bangladesh which is considered a “little flock” has received and witnessed a sign of God’s great Mercy, when on October 9, 2016, on the feast of the Holy Rosary, Pope Francis announced the name of Archbishop Patrick D’ Rozario, CSC as one of the 17 new Cardinals.*

*Pope Francis celebrated the Mass for the close of the Holy Year in St. Peter’s Square, in the presence of many of the world’s cardinals who had been on hand on November 19, Saturday for a consistory in which 17 new cardinals were created. The duties of the cardinals include attending the meetings of the College and making themselves available individually or in groups to the Pope as requested. Most have additional duties, such as leading a diocese or archdiocese or managing a department of the Roman Curia. A cardinal's primary duty is electing the pope when the see becomes vacant. During the sede vacante (the period between a pope's death or resignation and the election of his successor), the day-to-day governance of the Holy See is in the hands of the College of Cardinals. The right to enter the conclave of cardinals where the pope is elected is limited to those who have not reached the age of 80 years by the day the vacancy occurs.*

*At the close of the Holy Year of Mercy, Pope Francis said, “Even if the Holy Door closes, the true door of mercy, which is the heart of Christ, always remains open for us.” As we prepare for Christmas, let us once again firmly believe that God loved the world so much that He sent his only Son Jesus to the world and shown us His great mercy to save the humanity. Let the divine mercy of God penetrate our hearts and transform our lives to become more merciful and loving in our dealings and relationships with one another in our day to day life.*

*As we are going to say goodbye to this year of mercy, let us remain grateful to God for His loving mercy and graces he showered upon us all. Let us prepare ourselves for Christmas with the loving mercy of God, open the door of our hearts and allow Jesus to be born in our hearts during Christmas. Wish you Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year 2017 to all our valued readers of CBCB Newsletter.*

## **The First Cardinal from Bangladesh, His Eminence Patrick D' Rozario, CSC**

The Holy Father, Pope Francis named 17 new cardinals on Sunday, October 9, 2016 from Asia, Africa, North and South America, Europe and Oceania.

The Archbishop of Dhaka, Bangladesh, Most Rev. Patrick D' Rozario, CSC is one of the new Cardinals and he is the first Cardinal from Bangladesh. The Christian people of Bangladesh were immensely happy to hear this good news. People from all walks of life came to congratulate His Eminence, Cardinal Patrick D' Rozario, CSC at Holy Rosary Church, Tejgaon on the same day where he was celebrating the feast day Mass. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh also congratulated him in a special way during their meeting on November 9, 2016.

### **Brief life-sketch of His Eminence, Cardinal Patrick D'Rozario CSC**

Birth place: Padrishibpur

Date of Birth: October 1, 1943

School: Padrishibpur Primary and High School

College: Notre Dame College

Philosophy & Theology: Christ the King Seminary, Karachi, Pakistan

Final Profession: January 8, 1971

Ordained to Priesthood: October 8, 1972

Higher Studies: University of Louvain, Belgium

Appointment as Bishop of Rajshahi: May 21, 1990

Consecrated Bishop of Rajshahi: September 12, 1990

Appointment as Bishop of Chittagong: February 3, 1995

Installation as Bishop of Chittagong: April 21, 1995

Appointment as Coadjutor Archbishop: November 25, 2010

Archbishop of Dhaka: 22 October, 2011

Nominated as Cardinal by Pope Francis: 09 October 2016

Consistory of the New Cardinal in Rome: November 19, 2016



**Congratulations!**

Before his appointment as Bishop of Rajshahi in 1990, Bishop Patrick D'Rozario CSC worked in parishes for a few years (Pastor at Padrishibpur Church and Barisal Catholic Church), Assistant Director at Holy Cross Scholasticate at Notre Dame College (1976 – 1980) and taught Moral Theology at the Holy Spirit Major Seminary (1976 – 1982). Cardinal Patrick was the founding Director of the Pastoral and Retreat Centre at Barisal. While teaching in the Major Seminary he was the Dean of Studies and founding Editor of Prodigon, theological and pastoral review. Cardinal Rozario CSC was installed as Bishop of Chittagong in April 21, 1995. He was appointed as Coadjutor Archbishop of Dhaka on November 25, 2011 and Archbishop of Dhaka from October 22, 2011.

At present Cardinal Patrick D'Rozario CSC is the President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh (CBCB), Chairman of the Catholic Education Board and the Chairman of the FABC Office of Laity and Family. We wish His Eminence, our first Cardinal Patrick D' Rozario, CSC good health and mind and a long life. Our heartiest prayerful best wishes and Congratulations to him!

### **Thanksgiving Mass and Reception to the new Cardinal Patrick D' Rozario, CSC**

A thanksgiving Mass and Reception to the First Cardinal Patrick D' Rozario, CSC was arranged at the premise of St. Mary's Cathedral, Ramna, Dhaka on December 9, 2016. All the Bishops of Bangladesh, four Bishops from India including the Archbishop of Kolkata, Most Rev. Thomas D'Souza were present at the Mass and the reception. The Cardinal Rozario was the main celebrant

and Most Rev. Thomas D'Souza gave the homily in the Mass. All the Bishops of Bangladesh, four Bishops from India and more than 120 priests concelebrated the Thanksgiving Mass. Archbishop D'Souza in his homily shared on the plan of God in our lives. He said that the first Cardinal, His Eminence Patrick D' Rozario, CSC is not only a gift to the local Church of Bangladesh but also a gift to the Nation and to the Bengalees of India, especially West Bengal. Some Diplomats were present for the program and more than 2500 people attended the Mass.



After the Mass, a reception was accorded to His Eminence. The distinguished special guests spoke highly of His Eminence and expressed their good wishes to him. All are happy that though we are a small Church, we have a recognition from the Pope and the name of our local Church will be gradually known to the rest of the world.

### **A Courtesy Visit of His Eminence Cardinal Patrick with the Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina**

On November 8, 2016 His Eminence Cardinal Patrick D' Rozario, CSC had a courtesy with the Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Prime Minister's Office, Dhaka. Honorable Prime Minister was very happy to welcome the first Cardinal from Bangladesh, His Eminence Patrick D' Rozario, CSC. She congratulated His Eminence and also expressed her gratitude to the Holy Father, Pope Francis for choosing Archbishop Patrick D' Rozario, CSC as one of the new Cardinals on October 9, 2016. She hopes that Pope Francis will visit Bangladesh next year and she will write a thanksgiving letter to the Pope for the gift of the first Cardinal. The Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop George Kocherry and Most Rev. Shorot Francis Gomes, Auxiliary Bishop of Dhaka, were also present with His Eminence during the visit. It is also to mention that His Eminence also made a courtesy visit to the honorable President, Md. Abdul Hamid on November 29 at Bangabhavan.



**Reception at the Nunciature:** The Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop George Kocherry also arranged a reception in honor of His Eminence Cardinal Patrick D' Rozario, CSC on December 14, 2016. Diplomats, the Government Officials, Bishops, Priests, Religious, selected lay leaders, leaders of other faiths and distinguished guests were invited to the program. His Excellency, Archbishop George Kocherry, the Apostolic Nuncio to Bangladesh introduced His Eminence, Cardinal Patrick D' Rozario, CSC to the guests and shared in brief, the role of a Cardinal in the Church. He said that Cardinals are called 'Princes of the Church', and the Holy Father, Pope invites and consults the Cardinals on various matters. The Cardinals below 80 years old, take part in the conclave for the election of a new Pope. His Eminence Cardinal Rozario thanked all at the reception for their presence, support, prayers and good wishes. He expressed his sincere respect to the Nation and asked prayers to be able to do his responsibility as Cardinal, both for the local Church, for the Nation and for the universal Church at large.

### **Training Program on Ecumenism 2016**

Episcopal Commission for Christian Unity and Inter-religious Dialogue organized a two full days yearly training program from September 2-3, 2016 at the Caritas Regional Office, Chittagong. The

participants included parish representatives, parish councilors, teachers, religious leaders, priests and catechists from all the dioceses. Registration, prayer service and inauguration by cultural function, marked the day. Bishop Bejoy D' Cruze, OMI welcomed the participants and thanked the organizers and participants for their participation. Subject matter and resource persons of the program were: "Relationship among the Churches" by Bishop Bejoy D' Cruze, OMI, "Teaching of Vatican II on Ecumenism" by Fr. Patrick Gomes, "History of Inter-Church Movement" by Fr. Pius Pohdueng, OMI, "Churches according to different rites and their relationships" by Mr. Robi C. Costa, "Liturgy and Sacramental life of different Churches," by Bishop Theotonius Gomes, CSC, and "Inter-Church Marriage," by Fr. Mintu L. Palma followed by an open discussion. Most Rev. Moses M. Costa, CSC, Bishop of Chittagong offered the concluding Mass. The program helped to deepen an understanding on ecumenism and to build good relationship with others.

### **News from the EC- for Youth Commission: Reception & Thanksgiving Ceremony**

The Episcopal Commission for Youth accorded a thanksgiving ceremony to Bro. Ripon, CSC for his service for last two years in the Episcopal Commission for Youth as an Executive Secretary and the National Youth Coordinator and welcomed Bro. Ujjal, CSC the newly appointed Executive Secretary and National Youth Coordinator for Episcopal Commission for Youth on September 10, 2016. The Commission expressed good wishes to Bro. Ripon, CSC as he is appointed the 3<sup>rd</sup> General Councilor of the Congregation of Holy Cross in Rome, Italy. Most Rev. Lawrence Subroto Howlader, CSC, Chairman, Episcopal Commission for Youth, expressed his sincere thanks and gratitude to Brother Ripon James Gomes for his successful mission and congratulated him on his new appointment. He also welcomed Bro. Ujjal Placid Pereira, CSC the new Secretary. Some distinguished guests, some Priests, Religious and 77 YCS Animators were present at the program.

### **National YCS Animators Training Program**

The Episcopal Commission for Youth organized a National YCS (Young Christian Students) Training Program for the Animators from 8 - 11 September, 2016. The theme was, "***Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy***" (Mt 5:7). 77 Animators attended the Training Program from all over the country. The topics discussed in the training were: "History of YCS" by Sr. Runu Mrong, CSC, "Methodology of YCS" by Mr. Tony Wilson Costa, "Spirituality of YCS" by Sr. Roma Mistry, OSL and "Role of the Animator in the Training Program" by Sr. Mary Debashis, SMRA. The program also included a Panel discussion by Bro. Benoy S. Gomes, CSC, Sr. Mary Dipti, SMRA, Sr. Pauline Gomes, CSC and Mr. Choyan H. Rebeiro. Most Rev. Lawrence Subrato Howlader, CSC in his concluding speech mentioned that Animators' role is to accompany and guide young students develop and flourish their talents. He also distributed certificates to 77 participants. Bro. Ujjal Placid Pereira, CSC thanked all the participants, organizers, volunteers for their active participation and cooperation in the program.

### **National Education Convention by Bangladesh Catholic Education Board**

A National Education Convention (NEC) was organized by the Bangladesh Catholic Education Board (BCEB) in collaboration with the Formation of Youth and Teachers Program (FYTP) from September 12-14, 2016 at the CBCB Centre, Mohammadpur, Dhaka. The Chairman of BCEB and Archbishop of Dhaka, Most Rev. Patrick D' Rozario, CSC inaugurated the program on September 13. Most Rev. Theotonius Gomes, CSC (Emeritus) and Bro. Bijoy H. Rodrigues, CSC, Secretary of BCEB, were present as Special Guests. Main topics discussed in this convention included Visions, Missions, Priorities and Direction of the Church for Catholic Educational Institutions; Encyclical Letter of Pope Francis – *Laudato SI* (Praise be to God); Government Rules on Appointment, Emoluments and Education Management, and the Current Situation of Bangladesh, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis, reflection on Sustainable Development Goals, and Future Plans. The above topics were presented by Most Rev. Patrick D' Rozario, CSC,



Most Rev. Theotonius Gomes, CSC, Brother Bijoy H. Rodrigues, CSC and Mr. Jyoti F. Gomes (Asst. Secretary, BCEB). There were also group discussions and an open forum for chalking out future plans. The convention ended with a thanksgiving Mass offered by Most Rev. Patrick D' Rozario, CSC on September 14, 2016.

### **A Program on the life of St. Mother Teresa of Kolkata**

The Episcopal Commission for Christian Unity and Interreligious Dialogue organized with the help of a Committee, a program on September 29, 2016 on the occasion of the Canonization of St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta at CBCB Center, Dhaka. The theme was: "Mother Teresa declared a Saint: Sign of great compassion & loving service to humanity". There were about 150 people that included Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist and Christian leaders, Religious men & women, College & University students. The program started with a short prayer service, and lightening of the candles by the Chief and special guests. Sr. Purobi Chiran, RNDM read the Word of God from the Bible... "Whatever you do to the least of my brothers, you do unto me..." The convener of the program Fr. Jyoti Francis Costa welcomed all present. He said that the life of St. Mother Teresa was a sign of love, compassion and humble service to the humanity. She loved and served the poor, the abandoned, the voiceless and defenseless irrespective of caste and creed. Then, a 25 minutes Documentary on the life of St. Mother Teresa was shown on the big screen.

The main speaker honorable Archbishop Patrick D' Rozario, CSC spoke well on the life of St. Mother Teresa. He said that St. Mother Teresa discovered a vocation within her Religious vocation that God was calling her to a special ministry, that is, to love and serve the poorest of the poor in the society. St. Mother Teresa saw God present in every human person she met & cared for and served everyone with love and compassion. Most Rev. George Kocherry, the Apostolic Nunciature to Bangladesh shared the process of sainthood and the dedicated services of St. Mother Teresa. Other speakers were: Swami Divyannado Maharaj, Ramakrishna Math & Ramakrishna Mission, Mr. Jewel Areng, M P, Maulana Mazaharul Islam, Ambershah, Karwan bazaar Shahi Mosque, Dhaka and Prof. Dr. Biman Chandra Barua, Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Dhaka University. All of them spoke well and highlighted the life and services of St. Mother Teresa in the light of the teachings of their respective Religions. Most Rev. Bejoy N. D' Cruze, OMI, the Chairman of the Episcopal Commission for Christian Unity and Interreligious Dialogue thanked all present, especially the distinguished guests for their valuable sharing on the life of St. Mother Teresa at this special program and he also spoke briefly on the life of St. Mother Teresa. A leaflet on St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta was distributed to the participants.



### **Free Medical Camp held at Corpus Christi Church, Jalchatra**

On 30 Sept 2016, Friday, Association of Bangladesh Catholic Doctors (ABCD) organized a day long Free Medical Camp (FMC) for poor and distressed indigenous people at Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Jalchatra under Mymensingh Diocese. A Six member specialized ABCD medical team served more than 150 patients with free medications. The free medical camps held at Getchua village, Male and Female Hostels at Jalchatra Parish and Jalchatra village. Fr Robi Hubert Gomes CSC, Parish Priest and Fr Subash Costa CSC, both thanked the ABCD specialist



medical team for their free medical services to the poorest of the poor people under Jalchatra parish. An unanimous donor donated all medicines for the poor people equivalent to Tk. 30,000/=.

### **Annual Retreat of the Diocesan Priests (BDPF) – 2016**

The Annual Retreat arranged by the Bangladesh Diocesan Priests Fraternity (BDPF) was held at Social Pastoral Centre, Mymensingh in two groups (October 3 – 7 and October 10 – 14). Rev. Fr. Hubert A. Gomes, a local diocesan priest was the retreat preacher. Altogether 148 priests and 6 Bishops attended the retreats. Fr. Hubert shared his life experience who has been serving God and the Church as a priest for the last 44 years and his reflection was based on the Word of God and his priestly life experience. He especially emphasizes on evangelization, challenges of priestly life and he encouraged all to reach out to the people to be good pastor and shepherd following the example of Jesus the Good Shepherd. Fr. Kamol A. Corraya, Fr. Mintu L. Palma and Fr. Joyanto J. Raksam, President, Vice President and Secretary were among the organizers.

### **Free Medical camp held at Mathbari Mission, Gazipur**

A day long Free Medical Camp (FMC) was held at St. Augustine's Church, Mothbari, under the Archdiocese of Dhaka on 07 Oct 2016 for poor and distressed people of Mathbari and Kaligong areas. Mathbari Christian Cooperative Credit Union Ltd. organized the free medical camp with the help of the Association of Bangladesh Catholic Doctors (ABCD).

Mr Sadequrer Rahman Sarker, Deputy Register of Department of Cooperatives, Bangladesh Government was very happy to experience that Mathbari Christian Cooperative Credit Union (MCCCUL) not only helps people to alleviate their economic poverty, but also extends their assistance to the solution of people's physical and mental sickness by providing them specialized consultation by a group of experienced and young physician from ABCD who give free medical serves irrespective of caste and creed. The ABCD medical team with 5 nurses was able to visit and provide free medications to 250 patients on that day.

### **Silver Jubilee Celebration of Bangladesh Catholic Students' Movement (BCSM)**

Bangladesh Catholic Students' Movement (BCSM) celebrated its 25 years Silver Jubilee on 13-14 October, 2016 at CBCB Centre. The theme was: "Invocating Christian Leadership, Service and Mercy". His Eminence, Cardinal Patrick D' Rozario, CSC, Most Rev. George Kocherry, the Apostolic Nuncio to Bangladesh, Most Rev. Lawrence Subrato Howlader, CSC, Chairman of Episcopal Commission for Youth were present in the Jubilee Program as special guests. The Jubilee Program was decorated with valuable speeches of the honorable guests, documentation presentation, rally, crest distribution to the former members, gala cultural night and other events in the daylong schedule. The students and attendants enjoyed the celebration and were very much enthused to form and equip them to serve society and the nation.

### **The 16th AFCMA Congress held in Kyoto, Japan**

The 16<sup>th</sup> Asian Federation of Catholic Medical Associations (AFCMA) Congress was held from November 10-13, 2016 at Brighton Hotel, Kyoto, Japan. There were altogether 308 participants consisting of Medical and Dental Doctors, Nurses, Medical students and the Religious from all over the world. The Theme of the Congress was "What Should we do for the Least of Our Brethren" (Mathew 25:40). Dr. Edward Pallab Rozario and Dr. Noel Charles Gomes attended the program from Bangladesh. The next 17<sup>th</sup> AFCMA Congress will be hosted by Malaysia in 2020 and in 2018 the next International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations (IFCMA) will be held at Croatia.

### **The First National Seminar for the Elected UP Christian Members**

The Episcopal Commission for Laity organized for the first time a two days Seminar for the elected UP Christian Members from November 25 – 26, 2016 at the CBCB Centre. Altogether 58

participated (man 44 & women 14) at the seminar from eight Dioceses of Bangladesh. Mr. Jewel Areng, MP and Mr. Raymond Areng also attended the program. There were also representatives from Caritas, Women Desk, BCSM and Youth Commission as participants.

The objectives of the seminar were to be aware of the role of the Christians in civil life in the light of the teachings of the Church, to be aware of our participation as Christians in politics; to have a gathering of the elected UP Christian Members for mutual sharing and some future directions.

Subject matters and resource persons of the Seminar were: The Christians in the Civil life by His Eminence Cardinal Patrick D' Rozario, CSC, Participation of Christians in Politics and other related fields by Mr. Nirmol L. Rozatio, Indigenous and small Communities in the context of Bangladesh by Mr. Sanjib Drong, "Catholic Policy" in Social Activities by Most Rev. Shorot F. Gomes (Chairman, EC for the Laity); and Process of obtaining Civil Rights from the Public Administration by Mr. William Kolentuno. There was also a Panel discussion on the Service in Political Life by Mr. Jewel Areng, MP, Raymond Areng and eight elected UP Christian Members from eight dioceses. Most Rev. Shorot F. Gomes presided over the concluding Mass and he thanked the participants and the organizers for the success of the program. All wished to have such seminars in the future.

### **FABC Plenary Assembly held in Sri Lanka**

The eleventh plenary assembly of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference (FABC) is being held in Sri Lanka Nov. 29 – Dec. to 4. It is the first time that Sri Lanka is hosting the assembly, which was initially held in 1972. The conference's plenary assemblies are held every four years.

The theme for the assembly was *The Asian Catholic Family: Domestic Church of the Poor on a Mission of Mercy*. Participants discussed the "Joy of the gospel and the family in Asia in the light of the Synod on the Family." There were also interventions on the Document on behalf of all Catholic Bishops' Conferences in Asia under FABC.

Indian Cardinal Telesphore Placidus Toppo of Ranchi attended as the special envoy of Pope Francis. His Eminence Cardinal Patrick D' Rozario, CSC as President of the CBCB, Most Rev. Moses M. Costa, CSC and Most Rev. James Romen Boiragi as delegates of the CBCB and Most Rev. Subrato L. Howlader, CSC as member of the Office of Clergy of FABC attended from Bangladesh the Plenary Assembly held in Sri-Lanka.

### **Holy Childhood Animators Training Program – 2016**

The Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) organized a national training program for the children animators at Social Pastoral Centre, Mymensingh from December 8-10, 2016. The theme was "Mercy and Joy in Christian Family". Altogether 177 attended the program which included priests, a significant number of Sisters and Catechists and the rest were children Animators from different parishes of Bangladesh. The program began with the welcoming traditional dance. Most Rev. Sebastian Tudu, Bishop of Dinajpur diocese and Chairman of PMS celebrated the inaugural Mass. In his homily, he encouraged the participants to give more time to the children and help them to be formed in the light of the Gospel values and Church's teachings. Fr. Dominic Halder gave a presentation on the main theme. Sr. Zita Rema, SSMI shared on how to give effective classes to children, and Sr. Rebeca, CIC shared on the qualities of an Animator of the Holy Childhood. The program also included rally, stall exhibition, creative way of making materials by the Animators, life sharing of the Animators working with the children. A married couple shared on mercy and joy in their family life. Most Rev. Ponon Paul Kubi, CSC offered the concluding Mass and he also appreciated

the works of the Holy Childhood Animators and wished that the Animators would continue with much zeal and enthusiasm their valuable and loving services to the children,

### **A Seminar on Land Rights of Adivashis**

A seminar on “Land Rights of Adivasis” was held on December 11, 2016 at CBCB Centre. The “Land is our mother earth, without land we cannot survive” said the participants of the seminar. The seminar was organized jointly by Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace and Caritas Bangladesh. Prof. Dr. Akhter Hossain, Honorable Commissioner, National Human Rights Commission was present as Chief Guest and Mr. Francis Atul Sarker, Executive Director, Caritas Bangladesh as a Special Guest in the program. About 90 participants from plain land Adivasis of Dinajpur, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Sylhet and Dhaka Metropolitan City attended the Program. Most Rev. Gervas Rozario, Chairperson, Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace was the Chair of the seminar.

Mr. Sanjeeb Drong, General Secretary, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, presented the Key Note of the seminar. Special guest Mr. Francis Atul Sarker, Executive Director, Caritas Bangladesh said that Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace (ECJP) has taken on their shoulder to implement the activities related to Rights of Adivasis. Dr. Dalem Chandro Barman, Ex-Vice Chancellor, ASA University and Adivasi leader spoke on the issue. Professor Dr. Mesbah Kamal, University of Dhaka, Mr. Shamsul Huda, Executive Director, ALRD was the main discussants of the seminar. The chief guest Dr. Akhter Hossain assured to support Adivasis in the time of any human rights violation.

The seminar also included an open discussion and sharing of various problems faced by the participants and some recommendations were made in the seminar. The participants proposed to have such seminars at the diocesan level. The Secretary of the Commission Mr. Theophil Nokrek moderated the program and seminar was ended with a vote of thanks by Most Rev. Gervas Rozario, the Chairperson of the Commission.

### **Some information of CBCB Meeting**

The third meeting of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Bangladesh (CBCB) of 2016 was held on August 17 – 18, 2016 at CBCB Centre. All the Bishops participated in the meeting. As usual, the meeting began with the Holy Eucharistic celebration on August 17 presided over by Most Rev. Patrick D’Rozario CSC, Archbishop of Dhaka & President of the CBCB.

**Meeting with the Apostolic Nuncio:** Most Rev. George Kocherry and Msgr. Luca Marabese met with the Bishops during the CBCB Meeting. The Nuncio wanted to know about the overall present situation of the country, especially the situation of the local church of Bangladesh. The Nuncio writes recommendation letters to obtain visa when Bishops and Religious Superiors request letters for visas for his Priests/Religious. He mentioned that the Major Seminary Professors should make their profession of faith either on the day of inauguration of the Academic year or at some other time. The Nuncio gave a paper with some recommendations of the Pontifical Commission for Health Care Workers and asked the Bishops to implement if these are appropriate.

**Pastoral Theme for 2017:** The Bishops felt that the reflection on mercy and family should be continued for some more time and suggested the theme “Love in Families: Joy of the Church”.

**Inter-diocesan Appointment:** a) Fr. Shishir N. Gregory is appointed as Vice rector of St. Joseph Degree Seminary, Ramna and Fr. Peter Chanel Gomes as acting Spiritual director of the same seminary from October 2016 until he goes for higher studies in 2017. b) Fr. Louis S. Pereira is



appointed as Prefect of Studies of the Holy Spirit Major Seminary; c) Fr. Subrato B. Gomes as Spiritual Director of the Holy Spirit Major Seminary; d) Fr. Shipon Peter Rebeiro as Residential Staff Member of the Holy Spirit Major Seminary.

**Reflecting on National and Church Situation in Bangladesh:** The Bishops reflected and shared on the National and Church situation in Bangladesh. There have been some challenges and problems in different places at parish and diocesan levels regarding security and threat to dislocation of our people, especially Adivashis. We have to think and reflect more on the over all situation keeping our eyes and ears open and take necessary steps whenever require.

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