

## CBCB Newsletter

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### **International Conference on Vatican II**

Dharmaram College in Bangalore, India organized an international conference on revisiting Vatican II: 50 Years of Renewal on January 31 to February 3, 2013. Archbishop Patrick D'Rozario CSC, Bishop Moses Costa CSC, Bishop Bejoy D'Cruze OMI, Fr. Jyoti F. Costa, Mr. Aloysius Milon Khan and Ms. Lily A. Gomes attended from Bangladesh.

### **Free Medical Camp**

Association of Bangladesh Catholic Doctors (ABCD) arranged a free medical camp at Jalchatra parish on February 22, 2013 for the boys and girls of the boarding, seminarians and the people of Jechhua village. Upon arrival at Jalchatra, medical team members a donor of medicine were warmly welcomed by the students, catechists and Fr. Apollo Rozario, the parish priest. The doctors visited approximately 270 patients and distributed medicine free for Tk. 27,000 which was donated by Mr. Shelly Bernard Gomes. The medical team members comprised of Dr. Bernard B. Nath, Dr. Eva Sen, Dr. Noel Charles Gomes and Dr. Edward Pallab Rozario. Fr. Apollo highly appreciated the initiative of the medical doctors and hoped that the doctors will continue serve the poor and less privileged people. He also appealed to the well off people to come forward to assist the boys and girls of the boarding with monetary assistance to study in the school.

### **National Education Convention**

Bangladesh Catholic Education Board (BCEB) in cooperation of Caritas Formation of Youth and Teachers jointly organized two day long national education convention at CBCB Centre on February 21 – 23, 2013. All the headmaster/headmistress, principal, chairman of managing committee of junior and high schools, members of education commission attended this convention. The theme of the convention was national education policy – 2010: thoughts of the Catholic Church. In the inaugural session, Dr. Sheikh Ikramul Kabir, Director General of Bangladesh Education Management Academy was present as chief guest presided over Archbishop Patrick D'Rozario CSC, Chairman of Bangladesh Catholic Education Board.

In his speech Dr. Kabir said that Catholic Church in Bangladesh has been tremendously contributing in the field education keeping in mind the education policy of the country. Education board also values Catholic educational institutions. The Director General stated that Catholic education not only includes academic aspect of life but moral and formation of good citizens of the country.

Archbishop Patrick D'Rozario CSC in his keynote address emphasized on some ideas and convictions of the Catholic Church on education, identity of Catholic institutions, new

education policy and its challenges, national education policy – 2-10: thoughts and responsibility of the Catholic Church and some concerns of the Church. Identity of a Catholic institution explained by the Archbishop: institutions are run and inspired by the Catholic vision and mission; give emphasis on human rights, human dignity and responsibility; give priority on human, moral and spiritual values; form Catholic teachers and Catholic students in the Catholic faith; given priority to the poor, deprived, neglected and minority etc. Archbishop in his speech also stated that national education policy has also emphasized on moral and religious teachings which is directly related with the purpose of the Catholic educational institutions. Hence our attention to the moral and religious teaching should be more than ever now.

The convention also included presenting of school monogram, prayer service, Eucharistic celebration, sharing of the activities of Bangladesh Catholic Education Board, group discussion and reporting.

There are 1005 pre primary, primary school, 13 junior high school and 55 high schools run by the Catholic Church in Bangladesh.

### **Ground breaking Ceremony of Notre Dame University**

Ground breaking ceremony for a new Notre Dame University Bangladesh was held on the Notre Dame College premise on February 3, 2013. Archbishop Paulinus Costa, Archbishop Emeritus of Dhaka Archdiocese was present as chief guest. Before the ground breaking, Archbishop blessed the ground with holy water. Following the blessing, Archbishop first cut the ground also then the other invited guests dug up earth. Ceremonial talks were given by Fr. Benjamin Costa CSC, Vice-Chancellor designate of the University, Fr. James Cruze CSC, Provincial, Fr. Hemonto Pius Rozario CSC, Principal of Notre Dame College, the Managing Director of the construction firm and Director of the architectural firm. Fr. Hubert Palma CSC welcomed the guests and Fr. Sushanto A. Gomes CSC was the master of ceremony.

### **Module Course for the Laity**

Episcopal Commission for Laity organized a five day long module course for the laity at CBCB Centre on May 27 – 31, 2013. The purposes of the course were to study the nature of the Church, dignity of the Bishops, priests, religious and laity in the Church; mission, participation and ministry of the laity in the Church; role of the association, samity and organization and their management and leadership; strategy and efficiency of the training and formation of the laity in the Church. 50 lay representatives and a few Sisters and two priests attended the seminar. Subject matters and resource persons of the course were: Sharing of the present Church and participation of the laity (Archbishop Patrick D'Rozario CSC); Church in the light of the Bible (Fr. Patrick Gomes); Theological analysis of the Church (Bishop Theotonius Gomes CSC); Various models of the Church (Fr. Albin Gomes); Vocation and dignity of the laity in the Church (Archbishop Patrick D'Rozario CSC); Mission and Apostolic Ministry of the laity (Archbishop Patrick D'Rozario CSC); Thoughts of the Asian Church (Bishop Theotonius Gomes CSC); Pastoral Directives of the local Church in Bangladesh (Fr. Ajit V. Costa OMI); Apostolic Work and Church based

Ministry (Fr. Stanislaus Gomes); Christian Movements and Organizations; Nature, Role and Principles (Archbishop Patrick D'Rozario CSC); Christian Leadership and Management (Dr. Benedict Alo D'Rozario); Small Christian Communities (Fr. Albin Gomes); Training and formation of the Laity (Fr. Stanley Costa). Archbishop Patrick D'Rozario CSC celebrated the concluding mass and distributed certificates among the participants.

### **National Seminar on Second Vatican Council**

In this Year of Faith, remembering the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the starting of the Second Vatican Council in 1963, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh and the Holy Spirit Major Seminary jointly organized a National Seminar on the Second Vatican Council – A Revisiting of its Four Constitutions held at CBCB Centre on June 4 – 7, 2013. Altogether 108 participated in the seminar which includes the Bishops, priests, religious, laity, representatives of Christian organizations and members of other Churches. The seminar began with a welcoming dance performed by the aspirants of the RNDM Sisters, lighting of the candles and welcoming speeches by Fr. Joyonto Raksam (Convener) and Archbishop Patrick D'Rozario CSC. Bishop Theotoniuz Gomes CSC shared about his personal experience of the Second Vatican Council who was studying in Rome at that time. Each participant also introduced themselves in the opening ceremony which was conducted by Mr. Chayon H. Rebeiro. The purposes of the seminar were to study together the four constitutions of the Second Vatican Council, its impact on and to identify the challenges of and also its responses by the Church in Bangladesh. The Constitutions were presented by Fr. Patrick Gomes (Dei Verbum); Archbishop Patrick D'Rozario CSC ((Lumen Gentium); Bishop Gervas Rozario (Gaudium et Spes); Bishop Theotoniuz Gomes CSC (Sacrosanctum Concilium). Later on Archbishop Patrick D'Rozario CSC gave a brief presentation on the history and translation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church in Bangla and Fr. Adam S. Pereira CSC presented the content of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. No doubt to say that the Catechism of the Catholic Church is the fruit of the Second Vatican Council. At the end, Bishop Theotoniuz Gomes CSC presented the pastoral planning for the Church in Bangladesh based on the Second Vatican Council from 1985 onwards. Finally, the secretaries of workshops presented consolidated reports in the plenary assembly for further discussion.

After each of the presentation for one hour and half on the major topics the participants were divided into groups for workshops for an hour and half with a facilitator. The objective of each workshop was to study in a group the topic assigned with participation of everyone in the group. Each facilitator of a workshop presented a 15-20 minute presentation in the group on the topic: Constitutions on DV, LG, GS and SC: its impact on and challenges of and responses by the Church in Bangladesh. Facilitators moderated the participants to share their thoughts, ideas and opinions on the impact, challenges and responses which were recorded. Four secretaries (Fr. Eugene Anjus CSC, Fr. Jyoti F. Costa, Fr. Patrick Simon Gomes and Fr. Ajit V. Costa OMI) of the workshops summarized the main findings of the group discussion and presented a consolidated report of each workshop in the general session.

Fr. Jyoti F. Costa moderated the concluding ceremony where the participants were able to share their opinions of the seminar and came out with some recommendations. Fr. Joyonto Raskam, Convener of the Seminar thanked everybody for active participation and making the seminar a great success. Archbishop Patrick D'Rozario CSC presided over the concluding Eucharistic Celebration.

### **Days of Prayer and Penance: June 1 – 2**

Pope Francis invited all the Catholic Bishops of the world to have an Hour of Adoration and Prayer synchronized with Rome at 5:00 PM, Roman time, that is 9:00 PM Bangladesh local time on Sunday, June 2, 2013. In Eucharistic Adoration, the whole Church in Bangladesh was united with the Holy Father and the Universal Church as Body of Christ and prayed as intended by the Pope for: (1) World Peace including Bangladesh; (2) Poverty alleviation including poor and workers in Bangladesh; (3) Respect for women in Bangladesh context. This hour of adoration was an occasion to bring love and communion. This is for the first time in the history of the Church that all Catholics had an hour of adoration at the same time for a particular event.

As a follow-up of the Messages written in the name of the United Forum of Churches, Bangladesh (UFCB), on the occasion of Savar Tragedy and on the present situation of the country highlighting the poor and ordinary people, the Catholic Bishops announced a Day of Penance and Prayer on June 1, 2013 which included fasting, special collection and donation for the suffering people of the Savar Tragedy. Along with the Catholic Bishops, all other Churches also joined this Day of Prayer and Penance on that day. This event was announced in the daily newspaper with a press release. Fund collected on this day will be given to the suffering people of Savar Tragedy. The publication of the message in the Pratham Alo brought a lot of appreciation for the Church leaders in Bangladesh especially speaking at the right time with right perspective and with great motivation on the present situation. Priests, Religious and laity as well as some people of other religions spoke positively on the message.

### **National Seminar on Theologizing in Bangladesh**

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh (CBCB) and the Holy Spirit Major Seminary jointly organized a three day national seminar on Theologizing in Bangladesh on July 29 – 31, 2013 at CBCB Centre. There were 60 participants in the seminar. The objectives of the seminar were to know how to do theology, Methodology of doing theology; to identify the Theological Concerns in Bangladesh; to promote Academic Reflection in Bangladesh Church. Participants of the seminar were the professors of the Holy Spirit Major Seminary, Reflective thinkers and writers in Bangladesh Church (laity, religious and priests); Bishops and some Major Superiors; Priests, Religious especially Formators who hold degrees in Theology, Philosophy and other Religious Sciences. Resource Person of the Seminar was Fr. Vimal Anthony Tirimanna, CSSR, Professor of Moral Theology at Kandy Seminary, Sri Lanka and Alphonsianum in Rome an former Executive Secretary of the FABC Office of Theological Concerns. Fr. Vimal was assisted

by Bishop Theotonius Gomes CSC, Auxiliary Bishop of Dhaka and Professor of Sacred Scripture at the Holy Spirit Major Seminary.

The Seminar was opened with the Holy Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Bishop Theotonius Gomes CSC. Fr. Emmanuel K. Rozario, Rector of the Holy Spirit Major Seminary and Convener of the Seminar welcomed the participants. Archbishop Patrick D'Rozario CSC, Chairman of the Committee welcomed the Resource Person and explained the purpose of this particular Seminar on the Year of Faith. Fr. Vimal Tirimanna conducted sessions on what is Theologizing? How do we theologize in our teaching, pastoral ministry; Sources of Theology; The Role of Faith and Reason in Theologizing; Different methods of Theologizing within the Catholic Tradition; Inductive and Deductive Methods in Theologizing; Vatican II and Contextual Theology; Main Characteristics of the FABC/Asian Method of Theologizing; Dialogue with Religion and a few Relevant Issues; *Gaudium et Spes* and Dialogue with Social Realities etc. After each of the presentations Bishop Theotonius Gomes CSC clarified the points and shared the highlights in the context of Bangladesh.

Each day there were two workshops in four groups where the participants could share their own opinions and deepen their understanding on the socio-economic, political and cultural realities of Bangladesh and to see how we can theologize based on the present realities of Bangladesh. All the reports were presented in the plenary assemblies. There were some concrete proposals of the participants in regard to theologizing in Bangladesh including forming a committee to follow up of the seminar.

### **Series of Lectures on Moral Issues**

Fr. Vimal Anthony Tirimanna CSsR conducted a seminar with 300 participants on Moral Issues on August 1 – 2, 2013 at CBCB Centre. The participants included the Bishops, Priests and Religious; Lay Leaders of Parishes and other Organizations; Professors and Teachers in Secondary Schools, Colleges and Universities; College and University Students; Major Seminarians and so on. The program began with a short welcome by Fr. Emmanuel K. Rozario, Convener of the Program and Archbishop Patrick D'Rozario CSC. In his welcoming speech, Archbishop highlighted the importance of arranging lectures on the Year of Faith jointly by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh and Holy Spirit Major Seminary.

Fr. Vimal delivered his lectures on the following themes: Introduction to Fundamental Morals; the Dignity of a Properly Formed Conscience and the Duty of a Catholic Missionary Agent to form the Consciences of the Faithful; Catholic Marriage/Family and a Few Pastoral Issues; Some Contemporary Bio-Medical Issues; Globalization and its Implications for an Asian Country like Bangladesh and Plenary Session for any questions on Contemporary Moral Issues, especially pertaining to the Pastoral Ministry in Bangladesh.

At the end Archbishop Patrick D'Rozario CSC thanked everybody who worked sincerely for the success of the two seminars and especially thanks to Fr. Vimal Tirimanna CSsR for

his hard labor. Participants appreciated such initiative of the Church of organizing seminar on contemporary issues by an Asian Scholar.

### **Archbishop T.A Ganguly Library in DU**

Archbishop Patrick D'Rozario CSC inaugurated the 'Archbishop T.A. Ganguly Library of World Religions' in the department of World Religions and Culture of Dhaka University on September 2, 2013. The day is also the 36<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of Archbishop T.A. Ganguly, the first Bengali Archbishop. The inaugural session was presided over by Dr. Kazi Nurul Islam, the founder Chairman of the department and the chief guest was Dr. A.S.M Arefin Siddique, Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University. The distinguished guests present and spoke on the occasion were Archbishop Patrick D'Rozario CSC, Bishop Theotonius Gomes CSC and Prof. Mohammad Ilias, Chairman of the Department. Teachers, students, members of the board of trustee and other invited guests were present.

The program began with the recitation from the Holy Scriptures and placing them on the book selves. The students of the department of World Religions presented an inter-religious hymn which impressed all. Prof. Mohammad Ilias welcomed the guests. In his speech he invited all to work for dialogue, peace and harmony. This particular library will play a vital role in the live of the students, teachers and others interested for any research, he stated.

In his speech Archbishop Patrick D'Rozario CSC reminded that the centenary of Dhaka University which is called 'Oxford of the East' is very near. On this auspicious occasion it is another significant milestone in the history of the university to dedicate a library after Archbishop T.A. Ganguly. Archbishop Theotonius Amal Ganguly CSC was a great man. He obtained doctorate in Philosophy from the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, USA on his thesis 'Nature and Man' based on Upanishad. Archbishop Ganguly was the professor of Logic at Notre Dame College, later on Principal of the same college. His contribution is immense during the liberation war especially for sheltering the refugee and providing them food and medical treatment. After the liberation war he contributed a lot for distribution of relief, rehabilitation and development activities of Bangladesh.

It may be mentioned that with a proposal was raised to Archbishop Paulinus Costa, then Archbishop of Dhaka in 2010 with a view of introducing Archbishop T.A. Ganguly, Servant of God to all peoples, irrespective of faith and castes. Although it took a long time but at the end all the efforts came to fulfillment through establishing a library. On behalf of the Catholic Church in Bangladesh, Archbishop Patrick D'Rozario CSC donated a cheque of Twelve Lac and Fifty Thousand and a letter to the Vice Chancellor. A fund raising committee was formed with Fr. Tapon D'Rozario as convener. Other members of the committee were: Fr. Kamal A. Corraya (representative of the Archbishopop), Fr. James Cruze CSC (representative of the Holy Cross Priests' Society), Bro. Leo J. Pereira CSC (representative of the Holy Cross Brothers' Society), Mr. Prodip Stanley Gomes (representative of Caritas Bangladesh).

Vice Chancellor in his speech said that through the establishment of this library we are not only honoring or recognizing Archbishop T.A. Ganguly but recognizing through him the

University and its tradition of important and honorable role it played. He thanked the Church for its generous contribution towards the library. The Vice Chancellor called upon the students of World Religions and Culture to be the instrumental of peace and harmony and to be illuminated persons of the nation.

Speaking on this occasion Dr. Kazi Nurul Islam said that his dream is not only limited to an inter religious library but also he sees the possibility of establishing a museum of World Religions. He also thanked all who worked relentlessly to make this dream a reality. Fr. Tapon D'Rozario, Associate Professor of the department of World Religions and Culture of Dhaka University was the master of ceremony.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ABCD and Free Medical Camp**

The Association of Bangladesh Catholic Doctors (ABCD) celebrated fifth anniversary on September 6, 2013 at Koronulaya of Missionary of Charity Sisters in Tejgaon. Bishop Theotonijs Gomes CSC, Auxiliary Bishop of Dhaka and Advisor of ABCD was present as chief guest. Bishop Theotonijs in his speech stressed the need of nurturing our life to produce fruits and to enhance beauty to the world. Sr. Vera Cruz MC, Regional Superior of the Missionary of Charity in Bangladesh was present as special guest. Others present on this auspicious occasion were Sr. Maricor MC, House Superior of Koronulaya, Dr. Sebastian Halder, President of ABCD, Dr. Edward Pallab Rozario, Secretary General of ABCD.

Prior to this program, some Specialist Doctors (Sr. Dr. Arpa SMRA, Dr. Bernabas Hasdak, Dr. June Jacqueline Gomes, Dr. Jewel Benjamin Rozario, Dr. Sebastian Halder, Dr. Charles Sanjeej Kundu and Dr. Edward Pallab Rozario) of ABCD arranged a free medical camp for 50 patients at Bottomley Home Orphanage. The program ended with the Holy Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Bishop Theotonijs Gomes CSC.

### **National Training Program by CCUID**

Commission for Christian Unity and Inter religious Dialogue organized six days of training program at Caritas Centre of Sylhet diocese on September 14 – 19, 2013. Altogether 73 participated in that training program. Keynote address was presented by Most Rev. Bejoy D'Cruze OMI, Bishop of Sylhet on the Concept and description of Inter religious Dialogue. Other resource persons and their topics were as follows: Significance of Inter religious Dialogue in Vatican II and Post Vatican Documents (Fr. Patrick Gomes); Theology of Religion from Inter religious Perspective (Bishop Theotonijs Gomes CSC); Spirituality of Inter religious Dialogue (Mr. Robi Christopher D'Costa); Theology of Religions according to the teachings of the Church (Fr. Ajit Victor Costa, OMI); Significance of Inter religious Dialogue according to the documents of FABC (Fr. James Cruze, CSC); Inter religious Dialogue and its Practical Application: Hindu Perspective (Sri Joyanto Chdrabori); Inter religious Dialogue: Islamic Perspective (Md. Shah Nazrul Islam); Dynamics and Functions of Papal Inter religious Dialogue Commission and its World –wide Activities (Fr. George A. Gomes); Inter religious Dialogue in the Pastoral Plan of CBCB (Mr. Boniface Khongla); Inter religious Dialogue in Actions (Fr. Simon Hacha and Fr. Albinus Toppo); Dialogue of Life: Khasi Culture (Ms. Bably Talang); Garo

Culture (Mr. Gaytom Mrong); Tea-Estate People (Mr. Pius Nanuar) followed by open discussion. The training program had also a day long exposure at St. Patrick's Church, Jaflong. On the last day there was also a session on action plan and implementation in the respective dioceses. Fr. Ajit Victor Costa OMI and Sr. Swapna Gomes CIC were among the organizers of the program.

### **Visit of Delegates of Prison Ministry India (P.M.I)**

A team of Prison Ministry India led by Fr. Sebastian Vadakumpadan, National Coordinator, based in Bangalore visited Bangladesh in the first week of September for four days by the invitation of Bishop Bejoy D'Cruze OMI of Sylhet diocese. Other members of the team were from Chennai: Fr. G J Anthonysamy and Mr. A Jesu Raja, Chennai Unit Coordinator.

As part of their visit, they had meeting with some members of Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace and Caritas Bangladesh, meeting with the Major Superiors and those interested in this ministry, visit to the Inspector General of Prison, visit to the Archbishop Patrick D'Rozario and Msgr. Massimo Catterin, Charge de Affaires of the Holy See in Bangladesh.

Bishop Bejoy came to know about this extra ordinary and effective ministry of the prison during his last visit to India in January this year. A few Bangladeshi girls who were in the brothel of India were confined in the prison. These members of the team worked hard for their release from the prison and were able to send them back to Bangladesh. It may be mentioned that thousands of volunteers in India are involved with this ministry. In other ministries of the Church somebody easily get name, fame and known to the people for service. But in Prison ministry somebody gets only satisfaction and not any human applause. We will be rewarded for not what we are but what we do to the least, last and lost. Congratulations Fr. Sebastian, for your sincere and committed services in this field.

### **Annual Retreat of the BDPF**

The annual retreat of the Bangladesh Diocesan Priests' Fraternity (BDPF) was held in at Christo Jyoti Pastoral Centre, Rajshahi in two groups: September 30 – October 4 and October 7 – 11, 2013. Fr. James .... CSsR from Kerala, India conducted the retreats where 178 participated (8 Bishops, 168 priests and 2 deacons). The OMI priests also joined the Diocesan priests in the retreats. The theme of the retreat was “.....”.

There were two conferences, a longer homily during the mass, adoration and plenty of free time for personal prayer every day. The preacher stressed on driving out demons or our demonic attitude or behavior in the year of faith that as priests we can be all renewed in the spirit.

Fr. Kamal A. Corraya (president), Fr. Mintu Palma (vice president) and Fr. Jyoti F. Costa (secretary) were among the organizers.

## **Pontifical Solemn Mass**

Most Rev. George Kocherry, newly appointed Nuncio to Bangladesh celebrated a Pontifical Solemn Mass at Holy Rosary Church on November 7, 2013. All the Catholic Bishops, a significant number of priests and many faithful were present in the mass. Upon arrival at Holy Rosary Church the Nuncio was garlanded and received by the Bishops, priests, religious and laity while the school girls' guide of Bottomley Home High School played the drum. The Nuncio was taken to the Church directly for a solemn moment of silence prayer where he was given 'Chandan tilok' on the forehead which signifies welcome and well being.

The solemn mass began at 5:30 pm with a dance and a procession of the priests and Bishops from the rectory. In the beginning of the mass the Nuncio presented his Credentials to the Most Rev. Patrick D'Rozario CSC, Archbishop of Dhaka and President of CBCB. The letter was read in Bangla by Fr. Subroto Boniface Gomes which was originally written in Latin and signed by Tarcisius Cardinal Bertone. Then Archbishop Patrick on behalf of the Catholic Church in Bangladesh welcomed the Nuncio and wished him all the best as he discharges his responsibility as Papal Representative in Bangladesh. Archbishop Patrick mentioned about the love and respect people have for the Holy Father and his representative in Bangladesh. Most Rev. George Kocherry celebrated mass in English assisted at the altar by Most Rev. Patrick D'Rozario CSC and Most Rev. Moses Costa CSC. In his homily the Nuncio expressed his joy of being in Bangladesh as Papal Representative. He was happy to celebrate his first public mass at Holy Rosary Church with a huge number of faithful. His homily centered on the question of Jesus to Simon for the third time on the bank of the Sea of Tiberias, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?' 'Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs. Feed my sheep. Thus Jesus gave Peter and the Apostles the responsibility to lead and guide the Church. Pope and the Bishops are the successors of Peter and the Apostles. So the responsibility to feed the lambs is carried on all through the ages in Church by the Popes and the Bishops. The Nuncio also shared that he brought the cordial greetings and prayers and blessings of our Holy Father, Pope Francis. When Nuncio Kocherry met the Pope on June 21 and told him about his new assignment in Bangladesh, the Pope raised his hand and blessed the Nuncio and told him that this blessing is for the people of Bangladesh. So Nuncio was pleased to announce that the final blessing of this solemn Pontifical Mass, he would impart together with other Bishops, the special Apostolic Blessing with the plenary indulgences.

After the Mass, Nuncio Kocherry was given a short reception in which Prof. Gerald Rodrigues spoke on behalf of the Catholic community in Bangladesh, assured him of our support and prayers during his tenure as representative of the Holy Father.

## **Election of ABCD**

The Annual General Assembly (AGM) of the Association of Bangladesh Catholic Doctors (ABCD) and national workshop for the doctors and students of medical and dental colleges was held on November 08, 2013 at CBCB Centre. The theme of the workshop was 'Faith in the life of those in health services'. Bishop Moses Costa CSC, new Chairman of

Episcopal Commission for Health Care was present both in the AGM and election of ABCD. In his sharing Bishop Moses highly appreciated the doctors and the students saying that doctors and the students of medical are extending services to the government, private and NGO sectors and witnessing Christ to the people of other faith. Dr. Hemanto T. Gomes of Birdem presented on 'Hypertension and Management' and Dr. Apu Laweence Biswas of Khulna gave his personal testimony of challenges and ways of over coming of those challenges. 20 doctors, medical and dental students participated in the workshop and AGM. Newly elected office bearers of ABCD are: Dr. Noel Charles Gomes (President); Dr. Edward Pallab Rozario (Secretary); Dr. Bernabas Hasdak (Treasurer); Dr. Sanjib Kundu and Sr. Mary Arpa SMRA (Executive Members). Congratulations to the elected office bearers of ABCD and wish you all the best.

*Board of Editors:*

Fr. Subroto B. Gomes, Fr. Francis Gomes Sima, Mr. Sukumar Mullick

Published by CBCB Secretariat, 24/C Asad Avenue, Mohammadpur, Dhaka – 1207

**E mail:** [cbcbsec@dhaka.net](mailto:cbcbsec@dhaka.net)

**Web site:** [www.cbcbsec.org](http://www.cbcbsec.org)