

# CBCB Newsletter

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## Editorial

*When Jesus was born, Mathew said that His name should be called Emmanuel. Then he explained the meaning of it. He said the name, Emmanuel, means God with us. Matthew concluded his gospel in chapter 28, by the Lord saying, "Surely, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age." We are reminded every year when we celebrate Christmas, that God became human, took human flesh, He entered into human family. It is time for Christmas. Christmas is a feast of love and peace. God wants that we love and serve Him by loving and serving the poor, the needy and all the people, irrespective of caste and creed and live in communion in our society.*

*As we conclude the year, we remember with gratitude all that God has done for each one of us, to our families, communities, nation and the world at large. We remember that as children of God, we were able to do many things by His grace. We were able to continue our journey towards communion, communing in families, in communities and society. All were possible because God is with us. We take time to look at our lives and we could see that sometimes we were not with God, we did not feel and experience His graceful presence and power in our lives. We experience in our day to day lives that people are losing their faith. We also meet many people without hope or a future vision to accomplish the mission God entrusts to each one of us so that we could journey to the fullness of life. May the Child Jesus help us to be renewed in faith, hope and love so that we could live in accordance with His Will and the Gospel values.*

*As we are going to say goodbye to the year 2018, let us remain grateful to God for all His blessings He showered upon us all. Let us prepare ourselves for Christmas with loving hearts of harmony and peace and allow Jesus to be born in our hearts during Christmas. Wishing all our readers of the CBCB Newsletter, a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year 2019.*

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## **Complementary Norms of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh (CBCB)**

The following laws enacted by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh (CBCB), is promulgated by this Circular Letter in CBCB Newsletter. It will also be printed in a booklet signed by all the members of the CBCB and be distributed to all the Parish Priests and other persons concerned.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh decrees the following norms duly approved by the Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of the Peoples bearing Prot. N. 4158/18. Dated October 10, 2018

### **A. Obligatory**

#### **1. Can. 230 § 1:**

The Lay men of at least 25 years of age and known to be practicing the Catholic faith and in good reputation in the Catholic community, and after an adequate liturgical, doctrinal and spiritual preparation and proper training, determined by the Local Ordinary, can be installed on a stable basis as acolytes and lectors in accord with the prescribed liturgical rite.

#### **2. Can. 236:**

The permanent diaconate, married or celibate, will be for more mature candidates, aged at least 35 years, who enjoy a good reputation in the Catholic Community. They are to follow a theological and pastoral formation program for at least three years as prescribed *in Ratio formationis*.

The permanent deacons will be required to recite only the Office of Lauds and Vespers, preferably with members of their family (Ref. Can. 276 § 3)

#### **3. Can. 242:**

The Conference has a national program for priestly formation consisting of 4 years of theological and pastoral studies preceded by two years of Philosophical studies as prescribed in the *Ratio fundamentalis institutionis sacerdotalis* according to the norms of the supreme authority of the Church and approved by the Holy See. Two years of philosophy will be preceded by four years of studies to earn Bachelor Degree from

the State. The Charter of Priestly Formation, presented by the CBCB and duly approved by the Holy See, will be followed in all levels of formation.

4. **Can. 284:**

All clerics are to wear the white cassock as distinctive clerical dress or clerical collar as a distinctive sign. The religious clerics are to wear their religious habit as prescribed by their institutes or societies.

5. **Can. 496:**

Given the relative smallness of the Presbyterium in dioceses of the Conference, the Conference has opted that the Presbyterium itself will function as Priests' Council. All the priests, diocesan and religious, who are working in the Diocese with a definite appointment for an apostolate are the members of the Priests' Council. They will at least meet twice a year for the purpose of on-going formation, for updating on the magisterial teachings of the Church, for discussion on pastoral and administrative issues and making policies on them, building communion among the priests through sharing and fellowship, prayers and recollection and celebration of Sacraments, particularly Eucharist and the Sacrament of Penance. The Ordinary of the Diocese presides and the Vicar General or a selected priest moderates the sessions and the recording of the minutes are kept by the Chancellor or by the secretary appointed.

The other body is the College of Consultors, formed from the Presbyterium and to function according to Canon 502.

6. **Can. 538 § 3:**

The diocese will look after the needs of a resigned or retired diocesan priest, either incardinated in the diocese, or according to the specific norms established by the same diocese and according to the local customs. The specific norms and customs will be determined by the diocesan bishop in consultation with the College of Consultors. Those who are non-incardinated, are to be determined by the two Ordinaries of the sending and the receiving Dioceses. The matters related to the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life who resigned or retired are to be determined by their competent authority. All the diocesan priests who are incardinated or non-incardinated are maintained by the Diocese where they belong, for their food, accommodation, traveling, medication and medical treatment. For this purpose there will be arrangements of a fund in every diocese.

7. **Can. 772 § 2; Can. 804; Can. 831 § 2: Can. 832; Can. 804 § 1:**

- a) The programs of radio and television and of similar communication media organized by Church bodies will adhere to Church doctrines and morals and social teachings, supervised by relevant Episcopal Commission and the bishop concerned.
- b) All Clerics either Diocesan or belonging to the Institutes of Consecrated life, or society or Apostolic Life, participating in any official or regular manner in programs of Radio and Television and similar communication media must strictly follow the doctrine and morals of the Catholic Church. In as much as possible these programs should be preserved in written form, and be open for evaluation.
- c) The Local Ordinary or the person appointed by him will be responsible for the diocesan services, and the Bishop Chairman responsible for the Episcopal Social Communication and the Director of the National Communication Center shall be the competent authority to choose clerics either diocesan or those belonging to the Institutes of Consecrated life and Societies of Apostolic Life for Radio and Television broadcasts, considering their doctrinal knowledge and fidelity to the Magisterium, their professional ability with cultural preparation, and their moral life.
- d) All the Catholic Church-run educational institutions shall have regularly, religion and catechism classes according to the curriculum prepared by the Church and approved by the government. On week-ends special catechetical classes should be provided to those who do not go to Catholic Church-run schools and also to those who prepare for First Communion, Confirmation and for reception of other sacraments. The Diocesan Bishop will regulate and watch over it. (Ref. Can. 804 § 1)
- e) The Episcopal Catechetical Commission and Bangladesh Catholic Education Board under the Conference and the Diocesan Commissions under the authority of the Local Bishop shall be responsible for drawing up the catechism and religious instruction curriculum and formation programs for the children and the youth based on the new Catechism of the Catholic Church. The Commissions on

Catechetics and Education should assist the Government Text Book Board in preparing and evaluating the Christian common religion text books to be used in all schools in Bangladesh. (Can. 804 § 1).

**8. Can. 809, Can. 810 § 2:**

- a) Any Ecclesiastical University and Faculty to be established in the Catholic Church in Bangladesh, should be governed by the norms given in Apostolic Constitution, *Veritatis Gaudium*: on Ecclesiastical Universities and Faculties, December 27, 2017. The CBCB will be responsible for setting up, governing and supervising such academic institutions or allow others to set up with clear agreement with the competent authority of the Church either at the level of Episcopal Conference or at the Diocesan level.
- b) Either the Bishops' Conference or a Diocese or a Institute of Consecrated life, or Society or Apostolic Life, may establish a secular University in Bangladesh to be approved either by the Local Ordinary or by the Episcopal Conference. Although these universities or faculties may not be strictly called Catholic Universities, yet the Catholic doctrine and values must be clear in the nature, purpose, teaching, research work and administration of the institute. Either the Local Ordinary or the Bishops' Conference shall be the competent authority to oversee the Catholic principles and the doctrine.

**9. Can. 788 § 3: Can. 851 § 1:**

- a) The Local Ordinary, through the Catechetical Diocesan Commission or through specific persons appointed by him, shall determine the mode of preparation of parents for infant Baptism and for preparation of the Catechumens with specifications on: length of period in different phases of scrutiny, teaching curriculums, prerogatives and other requirements, like attending Service of the Word, Liturgy of the Word in the Eucharist without receiving communion, joining other spiritual exercises and religious devotions, and other sacramental either in private or in public; Catechumens shall have the right to a Christian burial (cf. Can. 206 § 2, Can. 1070 and 1183 § 1).
- b) The general steps indicated in the Rite for Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) are to be followed in substance for Catechumens, with or without liturgical rite. Baptism will be the liturgical rite in which official entrance to the Christian community is enacted, conferred preferably at Easter.
- c) The adults intending to receive baptism need to go through the various stages of enquiry and entrance, catechesis and election, reception of baptism and post-baptismal formation. Baptism, of course, is always a liturgical rite, which can be done during any time of the year, preferably at Easter. (Cf. Can. 851 § 1)

**10. Can. 877 § 3:**

In case of adoption at baptism, the names of the adopting parents will be recorded in the official baptismal register; but the names of the natural parents, if known and legal, will be kept with whatever details is available as private records.

**11. Can. 964 § 2:**

While face-to-face confession, accompanied by counseling, is an alternative form in a cultural situation, where it is customary in current use, the usual confessional with any form of kneeler and grill must be available for the penitent.

**12. Can. 1062 § 1:**

The promise by way of engagement is to be considered as oriented toward the final covenant vows at marriage itself. The engagement promise itself has no legal binding, except correct moral and social behavior. Any breach of promise of engagement cannot be taken to court, but conveniently only to the social forum for negotiation.

**13. Can.1067:**

Followed by pre-marriage instructions, investigation has to be made of both parties on the following: a) certificates of baptism/affidavits of parents or other documentations for proofs for the Catholics, non-Catholics baptized and un-baptized, b) the parties are free of any impediments; c) they have sufficient knowledge of the Christian faith, and d) their consent is free. For this pre-nuptial investigation prescribed questionnaire should be used. Banns will be written accordingly in the prescribed form, duly filled and signed by the parties. Three banns are to be published before the marriage takes place. On specific occasions for serious reasons, one or maximum of two banns may be dispensed with. A common prescribed form for

pre-nuptial investigation and banns writings, approved by the CBCB, should be used in all locations by competent persons.

**14. Can. 1126:**

A specific form in accordance with Can. 1125 is to be duly signed by the Catholic party or it may be done verbally in the presence of two witnesses and noted by the parish priest. It is preferable that the non-Catholic party be also present during the declaration and promise. The non-Catholic party will be informed (at least verbally in the presence of two witnesses) prior to the celebration of the marriage of these promises and obligations of the Catholic party. All the documentations relating to external forum be kept together with the marriage papers.

**15. Can. 1262:**

The optional contribution of the faithful during the celebration of the Mass, is the general form of financial contribution by the faithful. Parishes may collect specific collection, duly established by the parish council or in absence of parish council by the pastor himself, subject to the approval of the Local Ordinary. Some specific groups of faithful or individuals may be asked to contribute in a special way, with the approval of / in understanding with the Ordinary of the diocese. Fund-raising for the Church buildings and other Church foundations and institutions should have prior permission from the Local Ordinary. In all fund-raising efforts, purpose, procedure, supervision, accountability, must be clearly mentioned and financial statements be submitted to the local competent authority. For fund-raising activities of the Institutes of the Consecrated Life, Societies of Apostolic Life and other entities belong to their competent authority. However, the Local Ordinary should be informed and his prior consent be received.

**16. Can. 1277:**

The following are considered to be extraordinary administration where Diocesan Bishop requiring prior consent of the diocesan Finance Council and of the College of Consultors: a) procuring or alienation of land; b) construction of buildings of permanent nature; c) procuring or creating any pious foundations; and d) alienation of finances or property to a new ecclesiastical jurisdiction or similar entity in the diocese.

**17. Can. 1292 § 2:**

For alienation of ecclesiastical property, the Diocesan Bishop is required to have the consent of the Finance Council and the College of Consultors when the amount involved is between US \$ 10,000 (ten thousand US dollar) and US \$ 100,000 (one hundred thousand US dollar). When the amount involved is more than US\$ 100,000 (one hundred thousand US dollar) the Diocesan Bishop, together with the consent of the Finance Council and the College of Consultors, must also obtain the permission of the Holy See.

**18. Can. 1297:**

In the Diocese and the parishes within it, the diocesan bishop is the ecclesiastical authority for leasing or renting of Church property belonging respectively to the Diocese and to the parish. If the value of the property is above US\$ 10,000 (ten thousand US dollars), he needs the consent of the Finance Council and the College of the Consultors. If the value goes above US\$ 100,000 (hundred thousand US dollars), he also needs the permission of the Holy See.

**B. Optional Particular Norms:**

**1. Can. 522:**

Keeping in mind the value of stability of an appointment of a Parish Priest, the diocesan bishops, considering the special local situation, shall appoint parish priests for a determined period of time, usually a term of three to five years with possibility of renewal for further subsequent terms.

**2. Can. 535 § 1; Can. 895; Can. 958 § 1; Can. 1284 § 2, 7\*; Can 1307 § 2:**

In parishes Registers for Baptism, Confirmation, Marriages and Deaths are to be kept. Parishes are to keep family files and a census book, occasionally up-dated. Parish Priests of every parish should keep the recording of the Mass intentions and offerings done (Can. 958 § 1). Parish Priests, as diligent householders will keep on record all the legal documents of land, electricity bills and taxes, income and expenditures statements of the Parish and the institutions under the parish for which they are responsible. These documents are considered important by the civil and ecclesiastical authority. (Can. 1284 § 2, 7\*). A record book has to be kept in the parishes of the obligations and fulfillment of the pious foundations (Can 1307 § 2).

3. **Can. 755 § 2:**

The Conference has fostered participation in the ecumenical movement, especially through the Episcopal Commission and diocesan Commissions for Ecumenism, for common prayer, and sharing on pastoral and theological matters. Being a small Christian community, there is an on-going practice to present the entire Christian community to the Government and State, jointly by Heads of the Catholic Church and of other ecclesial bodies under the leadership of the Catholic Church.

4. **Can. 766:**

The homily is reserved to the priest or deacon at all liturgical celebrations (Can. 767§1). However, because of non-availability of ordained ministers, when Sunday Services or other ecclesial services are conducted, Religious men and women, catechist, or other worthy lay persons approved by the diocesan bishop, may preach or give religious instruction to the faithful.

5. **Can. 854:**

Baptism will be conferred by pouring of water and not by immersion.

6. **Can. 891**

The sacrament of Confirmation is to be conferred on the faithful at about the age of discretion, keeping the custom of conferring it a few years after normal reception of First Communion.

7. **Can. 1083 § 2**

In consonant with the current stipulation of the State, completion of 21 years for the boy and completion of 18 years for girl to enter marriage licitly is to be observed. Exceptions can be made, with due consideration of the spirit of the State stipulation, with permission of the Ordinary.

8. **Can. 1120:**

The Conference keeps the use of the celebration of marriage according to the Roman Rite. In future the Conference may have an adopted ritual with adaptation of some extra signs, symbols, gestures and local customs which could eventually receive "*recognitio*" from the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments before their use.

9. **Can. 1127 § 2**

The Conference retains the norms prescribed in this canon regarding the dispensation from canonical form of celebration of marriage. The following are some circumstances that would justify the dispensation: 1) strong opposition to the Catholic celebration of marriage when one of the partners is non-Catholic; 2) impossibility of the priest or deacon to reach on time the place the marriage already fixed; 3) need to avoid a dual celebration when the non-Catholic partner insists on a non-Catholic celebration.

10. **Can. 1236 § 1:**

The top of an altar for the celebration of the Eucharist may be of wood or concrete, besides being of stone. The base can be preferably of the same material.

**Can. 1246 § 2:**

The Conference retains as Holy Days of Obligation Christmas on the prescribed day (25 Dec.), transfer to Sunday the Feasts of Epiphany, St. Joseph (March 19), Ascension, Corpus Christi and Assumption, and abolishes as Holy Days of Obligation: the Feast of Holy Mother of God, Immaculate Conception, Saints Peter and Paul and All Saints.

11. **Can. 1251:**

The abstinence means abstaining from both meat and fish, and conveniently also eggs and alcoholic beverages.

12. **Can 1253:**

(a) Fasting and abstinence are obligatory on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday; (b) Fasting and abstinence is recommended for all Fridays during Lent; (c) Pious observance of fast and /or abstinence is encouraged for all Fridays or Wednesdays during the year, except on Solemnities; (d) a person may substitute or add to fast or abstinence with additional prayer, forgoing certain food or enjoyments, and acts of charity for the poor and destitute.

13. **Can. 1421 § 2**

Lay persons may be appointed as diocesan judges, if and when such competent person is available.

## Seminar on “Relationship between Hierarchical and Charismatic Gifts”

There was an one day seminar on “Relationship between Hierarchical and Charismatic Gifts” on September 5, 2018 at CBCB Centre, Mohammadpur, Dhaka organized by Episcopal Commission for Clergy and Religious (EC-CR). The Commission Secretary Fr. Anol Terence D’Costa, CSC welcomed everyone to the seminar and expressed the aim, goals and objectives of the seminar. His Eminence Cardinal Patrick D’Rozario, CSC was the key note speaker. There were 94 participants including 7 Bishops from 8 Dioceses in Bangladesh. The participants were Bishops, Major Superiors, Council members from Dioceses and Congregations, Parish Priests, House Superiors and other designated members from the dioceses and religious congregations. There was group sharing after the key note presentation, reporting, general discussions for common guidelines and understandings on own identity and mutual relationships. The seminar began with the Holy Eucharist celebrated by Most Rev. Bijoy D’Cruze, OMI and ended with a vote of thanks by the commission chairman Most Rev. Lawrence Subrato Howlader, CSC.



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### National Training Course organized by Women Desk under EC- Laity

A three-day National Training Course was organized by the Women Desk at the CDI (Caritas Development Institute) on September 8, 2018. There were 43 participants. Bishop Shorot Francis Gomes, Chairman of EC-Laity inaugurated the program and in his welcome address, appreciated the activities of the women and encouraged them to continue their dedicated services to the Church. His Eminence Cardinal Patrick D’ Rozario, CSC, Mr. Atul Francis Sarker, Mr. Ronjon Francis Rozario and a few others gave presentations on various topics. The participants felt that both men and women all need to work together hand in hand without making discriminations in the society.

**CAFE (IMCS) Asia Pacific:** The Chaplain Animator Formation Exchange program CAFE of International Movement of Catholic Students - Pax Romana Asia Pacific Region was held in Thailand from 11-19 September 2018 on the theme “*Mission of Accompaniment*” *Accompanying Asia Pacific Students’ Prophetic Action*” in Bangkok, Thailand. There were 26 Chaplains and Animators from various parts of the Asia participated in this program. From Bangladesh Brother Ujjal Placid Pereira, CSC the National Chaplain of BCSM joined this training program.

### National Training on Christian Unity -2018

The Episcopal Commission for Christian Unity and Inter-religious Dialogue organized a two-day annual Training course at Bishop’s House, Porgonabazar-Khadimnagar, Sylhet on September 20 - 23 2018, with 65 participants from 8 dioceses. The resource persons conducted the sessions on different relevant topics during the training on ecumenism. The enthusiastic participants brought forwards their personal experiences, comments regarding mixed marriage and brought forward many practical questions during the open discussion.

The program also included an inter-Church prayer service, thanksgiving Mass offered by Most Rev. Bishop Bejoy N. D’ Cruze, OMI, Bishop of Sylhet and Chairman, EC- CCUID. The goal of this training on Ecumenism is to prepare personnel/trainers and leaders for spreading the light of Christian Unity in their respective localities implementing programs locally.

**15<sup>th</sup> Bishops’ Synod on Youth 2018:** The 15th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops took place 3–28 October 2018 in the Vatican and had as its theme “*Young People, Faith, and Vocational Discernment*”. Most Rev. Lawrence Subrato Howlader, CSC, Chairman, EC- for Youth, was the delegation of the Catholic Bishops’ of Bangladesh.

**National YCS Animators’ Training Workshops:** The National YCS animators’ Training Workshops was held in BCR Center, Savar from 9-11 November 2018 on the theme “*Rekindling the Joy of the Gospel in the student milieu.*” Some 44 Chaplains and Animators from the seven dioceses (Barishal, Dhaka, Dinajpur, Khulna, Mymensingh, Rajshahi and Sylhet) and a few students of the BCR Theology course, participated in this program.

**26<sup>th</sup> National Christian Writers Workshop:** The Episcopal Commission for Youth arranged 26<sup>th</sup> National Christian Writers Workshops from 16 -17 November 2018 at CBCB Center, Dhaka. 54 participants from different dioceses and formation houses of Dhaka city participated in this workshop. The Episcopal Commission for Youth also arranged a prize giving ceremony for the winner of the National Literature Competition 2018. At the end of the program Certificates were distributed among the participants.

**23rd Annual Bishops' Meet 2018:** The FABC Office of the Social Communication (FABC-OSC) organized a program for the bishop responsible for social communication and the secretary of the commission at Bangkok, Thailand from November 19-23, 2018 with the theme **"The "Truth" about "Fake News" - New challenges in social communication and what we can do about it from a Christian perspective.** From the 41 participants, besides priests, there were 11 bishops and 3 lay persons. Bishop Romen James Boiragi and Fr. Augustine Bulbul Rebeiro attended the program from Bangladesh.

### Seminar on **Pastoral Perspectives on Accompaniment of Families**

There was a Seminar on **"Pastoral Perspectives on Accompaniment of Families in the Light of *Amoris Laetitia* for Bishops, Priests, & Lay Leaders"** organized by the FABC Office of the Clergy and Laity and Family, Pattaya, Thailand from November 19 - 23, 2018. During these days, there had been reflection on *Amoris Laetitia* and the teachings of the Church on Family since Vatican II. All felt a renewed call to listen deeply to the Word of God in the concrete situation of the families in Asia today. The Church has a mission of mercy especially to those who are in irregular situations and feel excluded. We realize the need to encourage the pastors and pastoral workers to welcome and accompany families in all situations; inspired by Jesus who walks with us as He did on the road to Emmaus (cf. Lk 24:13-35), this accompaniment needs to be consistent and ongoing. The participants recognized that experienced couples and stable families have a great potential to support and evangelize other families. Bishop Ponen Paul Kubi, CSC, Fr. Jyoti F. Costa, Fr. Michael Milon Dewri, and a married couple Mr and Mrs. Christopher and Latitia Anna Gomes from Bangladesh attended the seminar. Fr. Emmanuel K. Rozario from Bangladesh who was recently appointed Executive Secretary of the FABC Office of Laity and Family also attended the seminar.

**23<sup>rd</sup> National Conference and AGM of BCSM: "Youth Working in Interreligious/Intercultural Dialogue and Peace"** based on this topic the 23<sup>rd</sup> National Conference (NC) was held on 22 - 24 November, 2018 at Notre Dame College Dhaka. 75 students participated in this NC from 8 dioceses. His Eminence Cardinal Patrick D'Rozario, CSC and Most Rev. Lawrence Subrato Howlader, CSC accompanied the students and delivered valuable speeches during this NC. There was an Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2018 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day. All the dioceses and national executive committee presented their annual reports.

**A Joint Conference on Catholic Schools in Asia:** The FABC Office of Consecrated Life (OCL) and the Office of Education and Faith Formation (OEFF) organized a joint conference with the theme **"Catholic Schools in Asia: A Shared Mission among Bishops, Clergy, Consecrated Persons and Lay Faithful"** in the light of recent Papal documents on September 24-28, 2018 at Redemptorist Centre, Pattaya, Thailand. Fr. Patrick Gaffney, CSC, Mr. Jyoti F. Gomes, Sr. Shikha Gomes, CSC and Bro. Chandon Gomes, CSC from Bangladesh attended this Conference.

### **Training Workshop for the leaders of Christian Association and Organization**

The Desk of Lay Association and Organization under EC- Laity arranged a training workshop for the leaders of Christian Associations and Organizations, from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 at the CBCB Centre. The theme was **"We, Christian Leaders are for the care of Creation"**. There were 65 Christian leaders from 53 organizations from the Catholic Church of Bangladesh. Bishop Shorot Francis Gomes gave the orientation for the program and the welcome address. His Eminence Cardinal Patrick D' Rozario, CSC, Bishop Shorot Frances Gomes, Dr. Father Liton Hubert Gomes, CSC were the speakers on various topics. The EC- Laity, especially Miss Rebeca Quiah, Convener and Loretta Fraser, Secretary of DLAO Desk organized the program. The participants said that this program was quite helpful for them to be good and responsible leaders in the society, and inspired them to participate actively in the activities of the Church.



## Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, President of Caritas Internationalis Visited the Rohingya Refugees in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

His Eminence Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, President of Caritas Internationalis visited the Rohingya Refugees in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh on December 3, 2018. While visiting the refugee, he expressed his deep empathy



with them saying, "Jesus, who became poor, who became a refugee himself, but never stopped loving the people. I hope this message will encourage all of us, never to get tired of loving others." He was accompanied by Archbishop Moses M. Costa, CSC, Archbishop of Chattogram Catholic Archdiocese, Bishop Gervas Rozario, Bishop of Rajshahi Catholic Diocese and President of Caritas Bangladesh, Mr. Francis Atul Sarker, Executive Director, Mr. James Gomes, Regional Director, Mr Pintu William Gomes, Project Director (Emergency Response Programme) of Caritas Bangladesh.

Caritas Bangladesh (CB) arranged a reception and thanksgiving program on the occasion of the visit of His Eminence Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle at its Central Office on 4 December which was attended by the Bishops, Caritas Governing Body members, dignitaries, retired directors and present staff of CB. During the reception Cardinal Tagle said, "Caritas is doing many noble works. These should be known to others. Caritas presents the face of Jesus, the face of Church. So, Caritas must work with love and hope."



Then, in the afternoon, a reception was also accorded to him by the Dhaka Catholic Archdiocese at Tejgaon on 4 December. He enjoyed the colorful cultural programs performed by the youth of different ethnic groups in Bangladesh. He shared the spirit of Youth Synod 2018 and encouraged the young people to journey with the Church with faith, much hope and love. He offered a special Solemn Mass in the Holy Rosary Church, Tejgaon where Cardinal Patrick D' Rozario, CSC, Archbishop George Kocherry, Bishop Bijoy N. D' Cruze, OMI and many priests of Dhaka Archdiocese were also the co-celebrants. In his homily, Cardinal Tagle said, "Now it is the season of advent, time for our spiritual preparation. We are waiting for the coming of our savior and we must wait with hope. It is not only the external preparation, but also a preparation of heart, that is very important, and that we allow Jesus to be born in our hearts, who brings peace, hope and joy to us and to the world." His Eminence, Cardinal Patrick D' Rozario, CSC mentioned that Pope Francis visited Bangladesh last year from November 30, December 02, 2017 and it was first anniversary of the visit of Pope Francis to Bangladesh. He thanked Cardinal Tagle for visiting Bangladesh and for his valuable message, by which he inspired and encouraged the people to live a true Christian life.

Wishing all our beloved readers and benefactors  
**A MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
&  
**A Happy New Year 2019**



### **Board of Editors:**

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