



CBCB Newsletter

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Editorial

The whole world is passing through a difficult time due to covid-19 pandemic crisis. The coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic is not only a global health crisis of our time but also an unprecedented socio-economic crisis. Stressing every one of the countries it touches, it has the potential to create devastating social, economic and political effects that will leave deep and longstanding scars. Every day, people are losing jobs and income, with no way of knowing when normality will return. Many people all over the world are losing hope and are very much depressed as they see no remedies or vaccination yet for the corona virus Covid-19.

When such is the situation in the world everywhere, we need to put total trust in God, knowing and believing that God who is our Creator will protect us and new days will come when people will begin anew their normal life. As children and students cannot go to go to schools and colleges due to lockdown and health risks, the family, the parents are also worried about the future of their children. Both parents and children, youth and elderly people are bored and passing through a kind of psychological sickness and life for many people in general is becoming hopeless and helpless day by day.

In Bangladesh, not only corona virus but also floods, storms, heavy rain affected millions of people, especially the poor people in many districts. Many people have lost their houses, crops, and other valuable assets and living in inhumane situations.

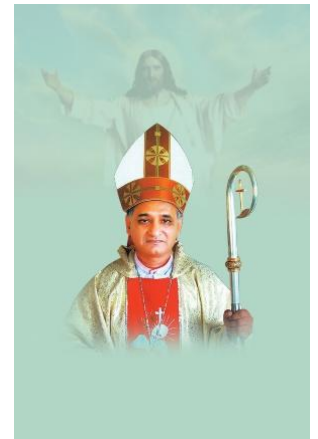
One of the saddest event of the local Church in Bangladesh is the death of Most Rev. Moses M. Costa, csc, the Archbishop of Chattogram Archdiocese and Secretary General of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh (CBCB) who died on July 13, 2020 as he was infected by corona virus in the beginning of June. He was brought to Dhaka, Square hospital for better treatment. After hospitalization, Archbishop Costa had improved. But later on, despite testing negative for Covid-19, due to internal impact of corona virus, his situation deteriorated. For 48 hours, he was in intensive care, where he had a series of strokes caused by cerebral hemorrhage, which proved fatal. Weakened by the infection, Archbishop Moses M. Costa, CSC, 70 years old, Archbishop of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Chattogram, finally died at Square Hospital in Dhaka. The local Church and many people were deeply affected and saddened by the loss of Archbishop Costa. He was a Bishop for 24 years and served the diocese of Dinajpur from 1996 to 2011 and then, was transferred to Chattogram diocese and served there till death. The diocese of Chattogram was elevated to the rank of Archdiocese in 2017 and he was appointed as first Archbishop of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Chattogram.

Wising all our readers, benefactors and well-wishers a safe and sound life and we pray that corona pandemic crisis will come to an end by divine intervention and the people of the world will back to normal life. Let us put our total trust in God and with hope, journey together in loving service of God and the people.

At a Glance: Life of Most Rev. Moses M. Costa CSC

Code of Arms: *Jibon Dhyano Sebai Milon Anando*

Name:	Moses Montu Costa CSC
Date of Birth and place	17 November, 1950, Vill: Tumilia, P: S: Kaligonj, Dist: Gazipur
Name of Parish	St. John the Baptist Church, Tumilia Parish
Parent's name:	Paul Hiron Costa (Hiron Pandit) Margaret M. Gomes
Elementary Education:	Tumilia Govt. Primary School
Formation/Seminary and Education:	Joined Little Flower Minor Seminary, Bandhura on 5 April, 1963 Passed SSC in 1969 and obtained 1 st Division from Humanities Group from Bandura Holy Cross High School, Dhaka Board
Formation/Seminary:	St. Joseph Seminary, Ramna (1969-1973) HSC: 1 st division, Notre Dame College, 1971 B.A: 2 nd Division, Notre Dame College, DU, 1973 Joined the Holy Cross Congregation in 1973
Philosophy and Theology Studies: Novitiate:	Holy Spirit Major Seminary, Banani (1974-1976 and 1978-1980) Sagardi, Barishal (1977-1978)
First Profession:	20 January, 1978 (Sagardi, Barishal)
Perpetual/Final Profession:	20 January, 1981
Ordained as Deacon:	21 January, 1981
Sacerdotal Ordination:	5 February, 1981 at Tumilia, Dhaka Archdiocese
Parochial/Priestly Ministry:	Asst. Parish Priest, Shreemongol Parish, Sylhet (1981-1983) Asst. Parish Priest, Jalchatra Parish (1983-1984) Rector, Holy Cross Scholasticate (Mathis House) 1990-1992 Rector, Holy Spirit Major Seminary, Banani (1992-1995) Rector, Holy Cross Scholasticate, Rampura (1995-1996) Counselor and Secretary, Sacred Heart Province, Bangladesh
Higher Studies and Teaching:	Licentiate in Pastoral Theology and Spirituality, St. Thomas Aquinas University, Rome (1984-1986) Licentiate in Psychology and Counseling, Gregorian University, Rome (1986-1989) Professor, Holy Spirit Major Seminary, Dhaka (1992-1996)
Elected Bishop of Dinajpur:	20 July, 1996
Consecrated as Bishop of Dinajpur:	6 September, 1996
Appointment as Bishop of Chittagong:	6 April, 2011
Installation in Chittagong:	27 May, 2011
Appointment as Metropolitan Archbishop of Chittagong:	2 February, 2017
Investiture of Pallium to the Metropolitan Archbishop:	8 September, 2017
Death	: July 13, 2020 (Dhaka, Square Hospital)



A short Reflection on the life of **ARCHBISHOP MOSES MONTU COSTA, CSC**

I was reflecting on the life of Archbishop Moses Montu Costa, csc. Many people after his death spoke many good things about him, especially the people who knew him for many years, who came to his contact or met him for some reasons, and many were impressed and touched by the simplicity of his life.

I knew him for the last 39 years. I met him at Hashnabad Parish when he was doing his diaconate ministry in 1981. I was a minor seminarian staying at Little Flower Seminary, Bandura.

I met him couple of times when he became a priest and he was my rector in the Holy Spirit Major Seminary, Banani, Dhaka for 3 years. He was also one of my teachers in the Major Seminary and I liked the way he used to teach us in the class. Finally, I had an opportunity to work with him very closely for about 6 years as assistant Secretary General of the CBCB. He shared with me many things when he came to the CBCB Centre for meetings and for some other reasons. He used to stay for some days and in the evening he shared a lot of important matters and I got very good insights and inspiration from his sharing. He sometimes wanted to know my opinion on matters he shared and I could share my ideas and opinions with him without any hesitation. He was very much approachable and anybody could come and talk to him. Out of my experience and journey with him for many years, I took some time to reflect on his life, especially I reflected on each letter of his name and I believe, God inspired and enlightened me to see Archbishop Moses Montu Costa in a spiritual manner, which I share in the following:



MOSES

M: Meek humble of heart
O: Obedient to God's Will
S: Simplicity in Life
E: Empathetic Person
S: Seeker of Truth & Justice

MONTU

M: Missionary & Visionary
O: Optimistic Person
N: Noble Character
T: Transparency in life
U: Union with Christ & others

COSTA

C: Christ-like exemplary shepherd
O: Organizer & open-minded
S: Solidarity with the poor & all
T: Transformer of Society
A: Active & attentive to others

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

Some information of CBCB Meeting

The 2nd meeting of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh (CBCB) of 2020 was held on August 12 -13, 2020 at CBCB Centre. All the Bishops participated in the meeting. The meeting began at 8:30 AM on August 12, presided over by His Eminence, Cardinal Patrick D'Rozario CSC, Archbishop of Dhaka & President of the CBCB.

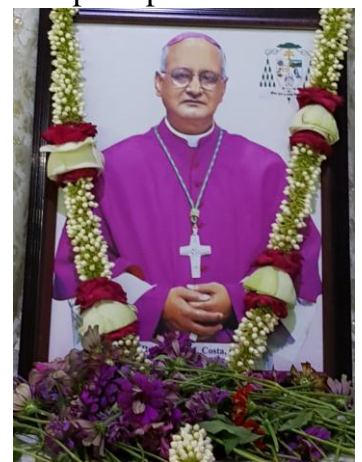
The main discussions of the meeting were as follows: Meeting the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop George Kocherry; Year of *Laudato Si* (May 2020 – May 2021); Centenary of the Birth of the father of the Nation and Golden Jubilee of Independence of Bangladesh; Words of Orientation by the President of the CBCB on Membership, Office Bearers of the CBCB, Statutes; Sharing on Covid-19 pandemic situation and our response; Guidelines for Papal Fund under the Custody of Cardinal Patrick D' Rozario, csc; FABC General Conference 2020 (Nov 3 - 20); Seminary Commission: (i) Director for Bulakipur Program, Banani Residential Staff; EC- Social Communication matters; EC- Youth, Secretary; EC- Liturgy and Prayer: Shorter *Ordo Missae*; BCEB – Updates; PMS Matters; Caritas Matters; CBCB Corona Fund for Prime Minister; St. Vincent de Paul Society; Tree Plantation program and a Mass for the departed soul of Archbishop Moses Costa, csc and Miscellaneous.

Tree Plantation-launching on behalf of the CBCB

There was a tree plantation-launching on behalf of the local Church, on August 14, 2020 at 5:30 at the CBCB Centre. As we are about 4 lac Catholics in Bangladesh, on the occasions of Centenary of the Birth of the father of the Nation and Golden Jubilee of Independence of Bangladesh and year of *Laudato Si*, the local Church decided to symbolically plant 400,000 plants, one each in two years, in all the dioceses. Each diocese will implement the tree plantation as per their numbers. To bring more awareness, a letter of the CBCB on the year of *Laudato Si*, written by the Secretary General, will be printed and circulated. The Pastoral Letter of the CBCB on *Laudato Si* was published in “Weekly Pratibeshi”.

Special Mass for the departed soul of Archbishop Moses Costa, csc

A special Mass was celebrated for the departed soul of Archbishop Moses M. Costa, csc on August 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the CBCB Centre. All the Bishops and members of Episcopal Bodies and Major Superiors of Religious Congregations and a selected few lay representatives took part in the Mass. His Eminence, Cardinal Patrick D' Rozario was the main celebrant. In the beginning of the Mass, everybody expressed their love, sentiments and respect to late Archbishop Moses Montu Costa, csc by giving flowers in front of the Photo of Archbishop Moses M. Costa which was decorated on the stage, near the altar. After the Gospel reading, almost everyone present in the Mass shared the following qualities and virtues of late Archbishop Moses M. Costa in one or two sentences:



Archbishop Moses M. Costa, was humble, simple, intelligent, wise, prudent, good organizer, deep thinker, a good exemplary shepherd, a good teacher of faith, reflective, spiritual and prayerful, approachable, amicable, sincere, love for God and the Church, special concern for the poor, needy and neglected people, sensitive to the needs of others, courageous and worked for truth and justice, dedicated and committed, integrated and holy person.

Inaugural Event of Season of Creation 2020

Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace and Caritas Bangladesh together inaugurated the Event of Season of Creation in Caritas Bangladesh (CB) campus on 31 August 2020. The campaign will be celebrated for the period from 1st September 2020 to 4th October 2020. A total of 86 participants participated in the event. The objective of the campaign is to focus on the pastoral care of our common home and offer our prayers and be inspired anew by closeness to nature and to undertake prophetic actions.



Most Rev. Bishop Gervas Rozario, President of CB and Bishop of Rajshahi Diocese attended as Chief Guest while Rev. Fr. Theotoni P. Reberio, Vice President of CB, Sr. Pauline Gomes, CSC, Secretary general of CB, Mr. Francis Atul Sarker, Executive Director of CB, Fr. Liton Hubert Gomes, Executive Secretary of Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace, Directors from Central Office and Senior High Officials of CB participated in the program.

Rev. Fr. Liton Gomes CSC, shared in brief the Holy Father's Message on caring of creation to Campaign and it was quite inspirational for participants to unite; to dialogue and spread the good news of creation- Almighty Creator can repair our common home with our active participation. Rev. Fr. Augustine Bulbul Reberio shared the background of the campaign and encouraged participants for planting trees, waste management and preserve the environment. Most Rev. Bishop Gervas Rozario inspired the participants for creating clean and green the environment, deepen our love to take action to care our common home. Later on, three local fruit trees were planted in the campus of CB. Mr. Francis Atul Sarker, ED of CB thanked all for arranging the inaugural event of Season of Creation in CB. The season of creation is observed in Religious Community, Seminaries, Caritas offices, World Vision offices, Credit unions at diocese and parish level for the period from 1st September 2020 to 4th October 2020 through prayer, tree plantation, establishing garbage management and kitchen gardening & food security awareness.

COVID -19: Humanitarian Response to the Affected Migrant Families in the Cities

The COVID-19 is declared as global epidemic by the World Health Organization (WHO), in Bangladesh, the 1st case of corona patient was identified on 8th March, 2020 reported by IEDCR officially at Dhaka. Here, gradually corona virus started spreading out from the returnees to family members and family members to neighbors and community. Dhaka city as a most densely populated area, has been identified as the most high risk zone. Information reveals that majority corona patient has been identified in Dhaka city, initially at Mirpur Tollarbagh area, then greater Mirpur area, Basabo and other parts of the city. The second highly infected is the closed District Narayanganj. Information from different sources revealed that there has been severe impact on the health, WASH, awareness and livelihood sector because of this corona crisis to the poor segment of people

living in the city, particularly the internal migrant workers. Almost 40% of the city population belongs to low-income earning households; daily labors, domestic workers, parlor workers, construction workers, rickshaw pullers, vendors, garments workers, street baggers and many more engaged in informal job sector. It is to be noted here that majority of this 40% are migrated people from the rural to Dhaka city. The lockdown declaration severely affected their livelihood options. These large numbers of population basically depend on daily earning.

In view of the above, Local Church in the cities under different parishes along with the Members of Migration Desk under Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace and Caritas jointly came to extend help to the suffering migrants at different locations in the cities, supported through awareness raising to protect and prevent from the spread of coronavirus including personal protection and safety measures to be followed. In addition, supported with unconditional cash distribution so that they can buy food, medicine and other basic necessities particularly the migrants households persons with differently abled, elderly people, widow. Low income people, unemployed, day labor, parlor workers, the *adivasi* migrants' people (indigenous peoples) and poorest families experience the highest degree scarcity of food and other basic needs to survive. As first round, a total of **340 migrants' families have been supported with Tk. 1,600/-** per families during April, 2020 (Mirpur parish area – 66hhs, Narayanganj -35hhs, Zirani Parish 47hhs, and Vatara - 145 hhs and St. Christina -47hhs).



Further, in the last week of April and during May 2020, another 607 migrant families have been supported with unconditional cash support with Tk.1600 per household; **54 families/internal *adivasi* families** at Barobagh Church, Mirpur area, where local Rev. Fr. Proshanto was present during distribution, **388 families** under Vattara Church, where Fr. Sagor and Subash Gomes (OMI) and Fr. Brian C. Gomes were present, local Ward Councilor also attended the distribution program, **94 families** has been distributed under St. Christina Church areas, where the Parish priest Fr. David was present and **71 households** in Narayanganj church areas.

It is to be noted here that many indigenous migrant workers coming from the Northern districts and works in Garment Factories and in other industries in Zarani parish areas and in Naranganj parish areas. Many of them are youths. Many young girls in Dhaka city works as parlor worker/domestic worker and they are facing severe crisis at this corona crisis. With our small efforts we are trying to support them to survive.

(Reporters: Fr. Liton H. Gomes, csc, and Fr. Jyoti F. Costa)

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