



CBCB Newsletter

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Editorial:

The Great Jubilee Year draws to its close, leaving a lasting impact on the life of the Church in Bangladesh. For the small Catholic community of this nation, the Jubilee was far more than a ceremonial observance: it became a powerful moment of solidarity, spiritual renewal, and public witness to hope and faith amid a challenging social climate. The theme “Pilgrims of Hope” carried special significance in a year marked by turbulence, tension, and uncertainty. Throughout the celebrations, the Church emphasized that the Jubilee should ignite hope, unity, and love—even in the midst of fear—offering a message not only for Catholics but for society at large. For Christians, it reaffirmed their resolve to remain united, steadfast, and visible.

The visit of Cardinal Michael Czerny, Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development (DPIHD), added great joy and vibrancy to this Jubilee Year. During his five-day pastoral journey to Bangladesh, Cardinal Czerny visited Cox’s Bazar, home to more than one million Rohingya refugees. He also met with the Catholic bishops of Bangladesh, held encounters with migrant workers, visited street children, and inaugurated the golden jubilee of the Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace. His encounters with internally migrant workers—celebrating Masses, praying with them, and listening to their struggles—sent a powerful message of dignity, compassion, and inclusion. For Christian laborers as well as marginalized communities who often live in precarious conditions, his visit offered moral support, encouragement, and renewed visibility. It reminded society that the Church stands beside those who are most vulnerable and often overlooked..

Advent also stirs the same spirit of expectation and trust. It reminds us to place our hope in Christ, who chose to be born in the poverty of a manger and to share in the lowliness of humanity, especially the suffering borne by workers whose labor is undervalued and whose voices are suppressed. Despite all difficulties, the coming of Christ renews our courage: a light shines in the darkness, calling us to walk forward as pilgrims of hope, committed to love, justice, and peace.



CBCB Holds National Celebration of Jubilee Year 2025 in Dhaka



The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh (CBCB) held the national celebration of the Jubilee Year 2025 on November 8 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Dhaka, bringing together Religious and lay faithful from across the country. The observance was held under the theme **“Pilgrims of Hope: Joy in Communion.”**

From early morning, clergy, Religious, and lay participants gathered on the cathedral premises in anticipation of the event. Bishop Subroto B. Gomes, Convener of the Celebration, formally welcomed the assembly and

highlighted the purpose and spiritual significance of the Jubilee. All nine bishops of the CBCB were present to inaugurate the celebration. Notable guests included Archbishop Kevin Randall, Apostolic Nuncio to Bangladesh; Cardinal Patrick D'Rozario, CSC, Archbishop Emeritus of Dhaka; and Bishop Theotonius Gomes, CSC, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Dhaka. Following the opening ceremony, the faithful entered the cathedral through the Holy Door, symbolizing the year of grace.

In his address of welcome, Bishop Paul Ponen Kubi, CSC, Secretary General of the CBCB, stated, *“Pilgrims of Hope means journeying together as one Church, awakening hope in a society overwhelmed by despair, and opening our hearts to receive God's mercy.”*



The keynote speech was delivered by Bishop Emmanuel K. Rozario of Barishal, who underscored the deeper meaning of the Holy Year. *“The true spirit of Jubilee is one of liberation and renewal—a time to return home, to rediscover what was lost, and to restore what is broken,”* he said. He noted that the Church in Bangladesh had spent the past year preparing spiritually through prayer, reflection, and works of mercy, in anticipation of the Jubilee.



Archbishop Bejoy N. D'Cruze, OMI, President of the CBCB and principal celebrant of the Eucharist, emphasized the transformative role of hope in Christian life. *“Hope guides our journey, shapes our outlook, transforms hearts, reconciles us with God, and renews love,”* he said. *“Reflecting on social attitudes, he added, ‘Our conversations often become exercises in criticism, discouraging ourselves and others. When we affirm one another instead, we cultivate hope and overcome despair.’* He concluded by reminding the faithful, *“Since God is the source of hope, we must pray to Him to receive its power.”*

After the Mass, Archbishop Kevin Randall and Cardinal Patrick D'Rozario offered brief messages. Quoting Pope Francis, Archbishop Randall remarked, *“Hope is the central theme of the Jubilee; it calls all Christians to become Pilgrims of Hope.”*

Cardinal D'Rozario observed, *“The hope given to us must remain alive in our hearts. In an age marked by unending and escalating conflicts, the Jubilee's theme carries profound significance. Hope never disappoints, for we are saved in hope.”*

The program also included testimonies on Jubilee experiences from various representatives and a documentary highlighting diocesan-level Jubilee activities throughout the year.

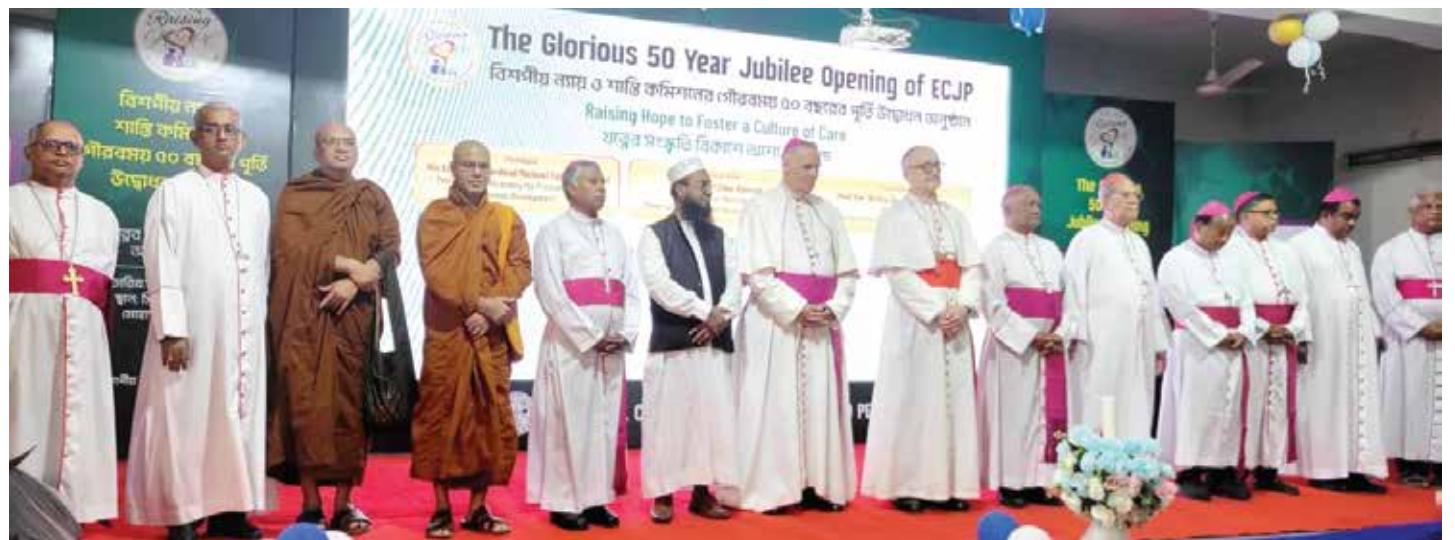
The day concluded with a vote of thanks by Fr. Tushar James Gomes, the Assistant Secretary General of the CBCB and the Secretary of the Central Committee. More than 500 faithful, including priests and Religious sisters, took part in the celebration.



Pastoral Visit of Cardinal Michael Felix Czerny, S.J. to Bangladesh

His Eminence Cardinal Michael Czerny, the Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development (DPIHD), visited Bangladesh from 1-5 November, 2025. During this pastoral visit, Cardinal Czerny met with the bishops of Bangladesh and the Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace, which is commemorating five decades of ministry this year. The Prefect of DPIHD took part in one of their days of Jubilee year celebration themed “Raising Hope to Foster a Culture of Care.”

Cardinal Michael Czerny began his visit with a colorful reception at Ramna Archbishop's House and presided Mass on All Saints day where 300 people attended at St. Mary's Cathedral, Dhaka. On All Souls' Day, the Prefect presided over a Mass with 15,000 people at the country's largest church, Holy Rosary Church, Tejgaon which was followed by a procession to the nearby cemetery. Cardinal inaugurated the glorious 50 year jubilee opening of ECJP, where 300 justice and peace workers attended the program, and in the Jubilee of Children, 300 children underprivileged and street children participated. In Morandangur, Modonpur, Narayanganj, Cardinal Czerny





stopped at the Peter Bhaban Credit Union Center under St. Paul Church, Narayanganj which is dedicated to providing pastoral care to migrant Christian indigenous families and offering them training courses. There, he celebrated Mass for the Jubilee of Migrants with some 800 people.

One of the significant events was that Cardinal Michael Czerny visited Cox's Bazar, which houses more than one million people, mostly Rohingya refugees from Myanmar. The cardinal travelled to the Cox's Bazar – Ukhia Rohingya Refugee Camp, One of the largest refugee camps, together with Archbishop Kevin Randall, Bishop Gervas Rozario and Fr. Liton Hubert Gomes, Executive Secretary for the Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh. His eminence was welcomed by Archbishop Lawrence Subrata Howlader CSC and the entire Caritas Bangladesh team, the Dicastery delegation visited Cox's Bazar as Caritas is very involved serving the women, children, families, and other vulnerable people.



Jubilee Pilgrimage of PMS Bangladesh

With deep gratitude and thanksgiving, the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) Bangladesh reflect on a spiritually enriching Jubilee Pilgrimage to Rome and Italy undertaken by 26 pilgrims during the Holy Year 2025. Through generous support and cooperation, all participants were able to receive visas and share in this grace-filled journey of faith, communion, and mission.

The pilgrimage began on 24 September with participation in the Public Audience of Pope Leo XIV at St. Peter's Square, followed by a solemn procession through the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica. These moments profoundly strengthened the pilgrims' sense of belonging to the Universal Church. The day concluded at the Centro Internazionale Animazione Missionaria (CIAM) with an evening of formation, Holy Mass, and fraternal fellowship with PMS leaders.

In the days that followed, the pilgrims journeyed through major spiritual and historical centers of Italy. In Padua and Venice, they venerated the tomb of St. Anthony and prayed at St. Mark's Basilica. A full day in



Assisi offered time for prayer at the tombs of St. Francis and St. Clare, inspiring reflections on humility, peace, and service.

A particularly moving highlight was the celebration of Holy Mass in Bengali on 27 September at the Cappella Cesi in the Basilica of St. Mary Major, expressing gratitude for the Church's inclusivity. The group also prayed at the tomb of Pope Francis, remembering his desire that pilgrims from economically disadvantaged countries share in the Jubilee—a wish made possible for PMS Bangladesh through the support of the Chapter of St. Peter.

The pilgrimage further included visits to key sites of early Christian witness, such as the Colosseum, Roman Forum, Catacomb of St. Callistus, Domine Quo Vadis, Tre Fontane, and Rome's Major Basilicas, passing through their Holy Doors. These encounters deepened the pilgrims' appreciation of the Church's heritage and the faith of the martyrs.

The journey concluded with the safe return of all pilgrims by 8 October, spiritually renewed and strengthened in missionary zeal. Participants described the pilgrimage as a profound experience of grace, marked by meaningful encounters, disciplined organization, and a balanced rhythm of prayer, formation, and fraternity.



This Jubilee Pilgrimage stands as a powerful testament to God's grace and the missionary vocation entrusted to the Church. It deepened communion with the Universal Church and renewed the commitment of PMS Bangladesh to witness the Gospel with joy and dedication, both at home and beyond.



Jubilee and Archbishop Moses Memorial Football Tournament 2025

Inspired by the value of “Healthy Entertainment and the Path of a Pure Life,” the Jubilee and Archbishop Moses Memorial Football Tournament 2025 was held for the first time on 14 November 2025 at the Ramna Cathedral Field, organized by the Episcopal Youth Commission (EYC). Eight teams representing various diocesan youth commissions and Catholic youth movements participated in the tournament.

The opening ceremony was led by Fr. Bikash James Rebeiro, CSC, Executive Secretary of the EYC and Convenor of the tournament. He welcomed all participants and recalled the long-standing journey of Catholic Youth Services, later known as the Episcopal Youth Commission under the CBCB. He paid special tribute to the late Archbishop Moses Costa, CSC, the founding president of the Commission, for his visionary leadership and lasting contributions to youth development.



This tournament, organized in the Jubilee Year, aimed to honor Archbishop Moses' 15 years of dedicated service (1998–2013) to the Youth Commission. Its objectives included promoting healthy recreation through sports, fostering self-awareness and creativity, encouraging the exchange of ideas, and nurturing Christian values among young people.

The ceremony featured the hoisting of the national, Jubilee, and EYC flags, the national anthem, a moment of silence and prayer in memory of Archbishop Moses, and an inaugural dance by the Dhaka Archdiocesan Youth Commission.

In his opening address, Bishop Subroto Boniface Gomes, President of the EYC, highlighted Archbishop Moses' profound impact on the youth of the Church in Bangladesh and emphasized that the tournament was organized to preserve his legacy and inspire future generations.

The one-day knockout tournament included seven matches. In the final, the Rajshahi Diocesan Youth Team emerged as champions after a competitive victory over the Khulna Diocesan Youth Team.

The prize-giving ceremony was presided over by Bishop Subroto B. Gomes, with Archbishop Bejoy N. D'Cruze, OMI, as the Chief Guest. In his address, Archbishop D'Cruze praised the participants for their discipline, sportsmanship, and respectful acceptance of both victory and defeat, encouraging them to carry these values into their daily lives.

The tournament concluded with the distribution of prizes and a vote of thanks, marking a meaningful celebration of the Jubilee Year and a fitting tribute to the legacy of Archbishop Moses.

National Bible Workshop 2025



The National Bible Workshop 2025 was held from 30 September to 4 October 2025 at the CBCB Centre organized by the Episcopal Commission for Biblical Apostolate. A total of 56 participants, with seven representatives from each diocese, took part in the workshop. Participants included catechists, Bible ministers, teachers, religious sisters, and youth.

The workshop was organized around the theme “The Word of God Is the Hope of Salvation,” in harmony with the Jubilee Year of Hope. The program was inaugurated on the evening of 30 September by Bishop Emmanuel K. Rozario, Chairman of the Bible Commission. On the following morning, after the celebration of Holy Mass, the Bishop offered an insightful session on the first five books of the Bible, presenting profound biblical knowledge in a clear and accessible manner.

The subsequent sessions were facilitated by esteemed biblical scholars and professors: Fr. Manuel Hembrom on the Historical Books; Fr. Patrick S. Gomes on the Prophetical Books, Fr. Tapan C. De Rozario on the Synoptic Gospels, and Fr. Shipon P. Rebeiro on the Pauline Letters. All facilitators used Power Point presentations and provided written materials to the participants. This year, the Bible Commission placed special emphasis on offering participants a general and foundational understanding of Sacred Scripture, guided by qualified biblical professors.

On the final day, the participants made a pilgrimage to Panjora, Nagori visiting the National Shrine of Saint Anthony of Padua. There, they attended a conference on the Pilgrimage of Hope and participated in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The workshop concluded with the Holy Mass, celebrated by Fr. Manuel Hembrom, Executive Secretary of the Bible Commission. The National Bible Workshop 2025 proved to be a spiritually enriching and educational experience, strengthening participants’ love for Scripture and deepening their understanding of the Word of God.

Episcopal Healthcare Commission Celebrates Jubilee Year



The Episcopal Healthcare Commission (EC-HC) organized a Jubilee Year Celebration from 12–13 December 2025 at the Pastoral Centre of the Mymensingh Diocese. A total of 93 participants—including 74 women and 19 men—took part in the program. Participants comprised nurses, doctors, health assistants, priests, and religious sisters representing eight Diocesan Healthcare Committees, along with members of the EC-HC Executive Committee, Nurses’ Guild, ABCD, and BARACA.



The program was inaugurated by Most Rev. Ponen Paul Kubi, CSC, Bishop of Mymensingh Diocese and Chairman of the EC-HC. In his inspiring address on the Jubilee theme, “Pilgrims of Hope,” he emphasized that the Jubilee celebration is a time to receive grace, forgiveness, and renewed hope in Jesus Christ.

Following the inauguration, participants proceeded in a prayerful procession to

Mymensingh Church, singing hymns and entering through the Holy Door as a sign of repentance and renewal. The Sacrament of Reconciliation was offered, and the liturgical celebrations were conducted by the Mymensingh team in collaboration with representatives from other dioceses.

Several enriching sessions were held during the celebration. Fr. Lintu D’ Costa, member of EC-HC, spoke on the significance of the Jubilee in Christian life. Ms. Lily Anthania Gomes, Secretary of EC-HC, and Dr. Edward Pallab D’Rozario, former Secretary, presented an overview of the CBCB Health Ministry (2003–2025). Fr. Tushar James Gomes, also a member of EC-HC, reflected on the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. All presentations were delivered using PowerPoint and visual aids.

A particularly moving segment included personal testimonies from six participants, who shared their experiences of the healing power of Jesus Christ, deeply touching those present. A special cultural program, based on the teachings of Jesus, was organized with the participation of various dioceses under the leadership of Sr. Leah Drong.

The program was skillfully moderated by Ms. Linuni Lipika Rozario, Ms. Mala Rebeiro, and Fr. Tapon Mrong. As a symbolic act of care for creation during the Jubilee Year, three trees were planted, organized by Fr. Verywell Chisim, Convenor of the Mymensingh Healthcare Commission.

The celebration concluded with special prayers for health and well-being, followed by a thanksgiving prayer led by Most Rev. Ponen Paul Kubi, CSC, invoking God’s continued blessings upon the healthcare ministry and all participants.

Seminar on Spiritual Healing: Pathways to Mental and Physical Well-being



The Diocesan Healthcare Commission of Sylhet organized a seminar titled “Spiritual Healing: Ways to Achieve Mental and Physical Well-being” on November 28, 2025, at the Bishop’s House in Sylhet. Inspired by the Gospel theme, “Your faith has healed you” (Luke 8:48), the seminar emphasized holistic care that nurtures both body and spirit.

The objectives of the seminar included

encouraging healthcare providers to care for patients with love and sincerity; maintain compassionate behavior while offering mental and emotional comfort; warmly welcome patients and listen attentively to their concerns; view service as a form of prayer; remain attentive to patients' unspoken expressions; and offer hope during critical moments of illness.

The seminar brought together 22 healthcare workers (19 women and 3 men) from various hospitals. It was facilitated by Sister Josephine Rosario, a Salesian Sister and Head Teacher of St. Francis de Sales School, Pargana Bazar, Khadimnagar, Sylhet, and Father Dominic Badol Rosario, OMI, Parish Priest of Khadimnagar Parish, Sylhet, and Convener of the Diocesan Healthcare Commission.

The Asian Mission Congress: The Great Pilgrimage of Hope



The Asian Mission Congress: The Great Pilgrimage of Hope was held at the Light Hotel, Penang, Malaysia, from 27–30 November 2025. The congress brought together 900 participants from 32 countries across Asia and other continents, including 10 Cardinals, 103 Archbishops and Bishops, 145 priests, as well as numerous

religious and lay faithful. The event was celebrated in a festive and vibrant atmosphere.

Each day began with a keynote address, followed by reflective conversations in the Spirit, impact sessions in various groups focusing on themes highlighted in the Bangkok Document, community prayers, and Eucharistic celebrations. The story of the Emmaus disciples served as a central backdrop for implementing the Synodal Journey, emphasizing dialogue, reflection, and communal discernment.

A delegation of 12 participants from Bangladesh—comprising 3 Bishops, 3 priests, 2 Sisters, and 4 lay members—actively engaged in the proceedings. The congress was recognized as a significant and transformative event, fostering mission-oriented collaboration and spiritual renewal across the continent.

It is hoped that the inspiration and insights gained from this gathering will contribute toward the 2033 celebration of the 2000-year Jubilee of the Paschal Mystery—commemorating the Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, as well as the Pentecost, the birth of the Church.



FABC Youth Meeting in Vietnam: Strengthening Youth Ministry Across Asia



From 15–18 September 2025, the FABC Meeting for Youth Animators and Directors of Youth Apostolates was held at Our Lady of Tàpao Center, Vietnam, bringing together 54 participants from 10 countries. The program focused on the Bangkok Document, youth engagement, and implementing the lessons of the 2018 Synod on Young People.

Bishop Emmanuel K. Rozario, Chairman of the FABC Office of Laity and Family, delivered the keynote on the situation of youth in Asia and the Church's pastoral response, linking the discussion to the Synodal Church, Jubilee 2025, and FABC50 celebrations.

The meeting featured keynote addresses, group discussions, workshops, and liturgical prayer, fostering collaboration, dialogue, and practical strategies for youth ministry across Asian dioceses. Participants left inspired to strengthen pastoral care, accompany young people, and promote a vibrant, synodal Church in their communities.

Bangladeshi YCS Chaplains and Animators Participate in CAT Training 2025



From 28 November to 4 December 2025, a YCS Chaplain and Animator Training Program (CAT) was held in Bengaluru, Karnataka, India, bringing together 45 participants from seven Asian countries. A team of ten members from Bangladesh, including teachers, priests, and religious sisters, actively took part in this international program.

The training featured a range of sessions relevant to contemporary

challenges in youth ministry. Highlights included insightful discussions on Artificial Intelligence (AI), exploring both its positive and negative impacts on students, and practical ways AI can be leveraged for evangelization. Other sessions focused on storytelling, critical analysis, and the theory of life transformation, equipping participants with tools to engage and inspire youth effectively.

Participants also shared experiences from the YCS movement in their respective countries, exchanging ideas on the challenges and opportunities of sustaining youth ministry in the digital era. These exchanges fostered collaboration and offered practical strategies for strengthening the movement for future generations.

Through this training, chaplains and animators gained valuable knowledge, inspiration, and practical insights to address emerging challenges and to empower young people in their faith journey.

SIGNIS Assembly 2025 Held in the Philippines



Approximately 75 Catholic media professionals from 11 Asian countries gathered in the Philippines from October 21–25 for the SIGNIS Asia Assembly 2025, responding to Pope Francis' call for responsible and hope-filled communication amid a rapidly evolving media landscape. Organized by SIGNIS Asia, a regional body of the World Catholic Association for Communication, the assembly opened in Manila and continued at the St. Paul Center for Renewal in Cavite. Bangladesh was represented by six delegates, all

members of the EC-SC, who participated actively throughout the assembly.

Guided by the theme “Whispers of Hope: Communicating Peace, Building Futures,” participants reflected on pressing realities across Asia, including war and conflict, poverty and hunger affecting children, the spread of misinformation, and the growing influence of harmful digital content on young people. Delegates emphasized the urgent need for value-based media initiatives that promote ethical attitudes and responsible media engagement.

Drawing inspiration from Pope Francis' message for World Communications Day, the assembly highlighted the importance of “gentle communication” that fosters dialogue, disarms aggression, and builds peace. Participants were encouraged to embody humility, patience, and truthfulness, while sharing stories that promote kindness, unity, and hope.

In its concluding statement, the assembly reaffirmed that Catholic media must serve as builders of trust and voices for the marginalized. Delegates committed themselves to peace-building communication, cross-cultural collaboration, youth formation, and responsible innovation, pledging to return to their home countries as missionaries of hope within Asia's diverse media environments.

CBCB President Unveils New Logo as EC-SC Marks Golden Jubilee in Bangladesh

The Episcopal Commission for Social Communications (EC-SC) marked its Golden Jubilee on December 13 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, with the unveiling of a new logo by Archbishop Bejoy N. D'Cruze, OMI, Archbishop of Dhaka and President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh (CBCB). The celebration underscored



the Church's enduring commitment to evangelization, truth, and social transformation through the media.

The program featured a stage drama titled *Rang Tulir Jibon* (The Life of a Paintbrush), performed by Banideepti, the cultural and audiovisual wing of EC-SC. Written and directed by Bindu Rozario, the play reflected Banideepti's expanded mission following

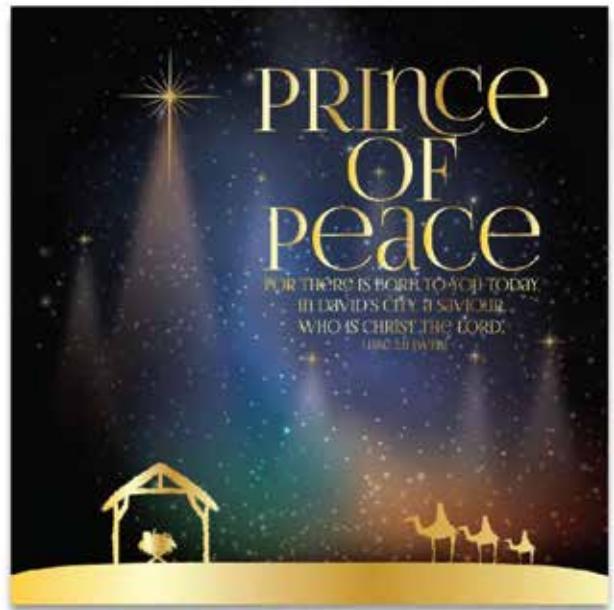
the recent launch of its theatre group, aimed at promoting Catholic values through artistic expression.

In his welcome address, Father Bulbul Augustine Rebeiro, Director of the Christian Communication Center, reflected on the commission's 50-year journey. He highlighted the jubilee theme, "Always Committed to Spreading the Truth," and paid tribute to those who have faithfully served the mission over the decades.

While unveiling the logo, Archbishop D'Cruze commended EC-SC for its significant contribution to communicating truth through media and praised Banideepti for using drama as a powerful tool to inspire values of love, service, justice, and mutual understanding. Dr. Benedict Alo D'Rozario, President of Caritas Asia, also addressed the gathering, emphasizing the vital role of theatre in fostering a more humane and compassionate society.

Bishops' Programs in 2026

- March 11-13:** First meeting of the CBCB including AGM of Episcopal Body
- April 7-18:** Bishops' Pilgrimage to India
- May 7:** Second Meeting of the CBCB
- May 8:** Caritas Meeting
- May 11-15:** FABC-OLF, Bangkok
- June 22-27:** Ad Limina Visit, Rome
(Departure on June 16).
- August 26-27:** Third Meeting of the CBCB
- November 11-12:** Fourth Meeting of the CBCB
- Nov. 13:** Caritas Meeting



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