

# CBCB Newsletter

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## *Editorial*

*The year 2020 was experienced by the people of the world as a very long year, not because it had more than 365 days but because the entire world was go through covid-19 pandemic crisis in all aspects of life. The covid-19 pandemic shattered the entire world and the people to a large extent. When covid-19 was spread to and fro and affecting one country after another, the people were awoken and many began to think and reflect what is going on and happening to the world.*

*The New Year 2021 began on January 1<sup>st</sup>. The Holy Father, Pope Francis as usual gave his message on the World Day of Peace as it is considered and observed all over the world. Pope Francis marked the day with a message titled: “Good Politics is at the Service of Peace.” Pope Francis compels everyone to be engaged in the work of advocating for and with those whose voices are marginalized, to ensure the protection and fulfillment of the ‘youngest and smallest.’*

*Holy Father Pope Francis wanted the entire world, especially the politicians to rethink and reflect not only about politics what has been going on but Good Politics, which is at the Service of Peace. The Pope says, “God created human beings as social and relational creatures, made in his own image. We are called to reach out and build relationships of love and justice, making love visible in structures and policies through political engagement.” Peace is what we all desire every day, but peace is what most of us miss in day to day lives. Do we ask ourselves, why the people of the world do not have peace though many efforts have been made to bring peace in countries and the entire world? Peace is not the absence of war. Peace is the fruit of justice. Peace is the fruit or the consequence of justice, that means, it demands a just living in all aspects of life, social, political, economic, cultural, psychological and human behavioral, spiritual, how we treat one another, in other words, it is inclusive at the individual, family, society, country, national and international level. A culture of mutual respect and dignity, care and love will make a difference in human life and society and positive attitudes towards each other can make a better global peaceful environment which all of us have been longing for thought-out centuries.*

*We thank God that His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed His Lordship, Rt. Rev. Lawrence Subroto Howlader, CSC as the new Metropolitan Archbishop of Chattogram, transferring him from the diocese of Barishal. It was announced simultaneously in the Vatican as well as in Chattogram and Barishal on Friday, Febryary19, 2021. We congratulate him and wish him a successful and effective ministry to the people God has entrusted to his care.*

*We do not lose hope and become hopeless and helpless, for we know that Christ the Lord is risen! His resurrection gives new hope, courage to continue our journey of life together. Alone we cannot go far, cannot do much but together we can. Jesus Christ rises within us, makes us aware about our mission to preach the Gospel to the whole world so that we do not lose hope, we do not be afraid, rather His presence within us, awakens all of us to love one another and remain in His love. Love begets love, hatred begets hatred. We should treasure these words in our hearts: “Love everyone, hatred for none.”*

*May the Risen Christ shower upon us all his gifts of love, hope, peace and joy so that we can bring His love, hope, joy and peace to the people we meet in our daily lives.*

***Wishing you all a Happy Easter and May the joy and peace of Easter remain in our hearts!***

## The Announcement of New Metropolitan Archbishop of Chattogram

His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed His Lordship, Rt. Rev. Lawrence Subroto Howlader, CSC as the new Metropolitan Archbishop of Chattogram, transferring him from the diocese of Barishal. It was announced simultaneously in the Vatican as well as in Chattogram and Barishal on Friday, February 19, 2021. We congratulate him and wish him a successful and effective ministry to the people God has entrusted to his care.



Archbishop Elect Subrato Lawrence Howlader, CSC was appointed by the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI as Auxiliary for the Diocese of Chittagong. It has been announced on May 7 in Rome and from all the dioceses of Bangladesh. He was then appointed as the First Bishop of Barishal Diocese, when the region of Barishal was erected as New Diocese bifurcating from the Diocese of Chattogram in 2016.

### Brief life-sketch of Archbishop Elect Subrata Howlader, CSC

Parents: Late Lalit Howlader and Ms. Theresa Howlader

Birth Place: Nobogram, Barisal, Chittagong Diocese

Date of Birth: September 11, 1965

School and Minor Seminary: Shebokalaya, Gournodi, Barisal

Novitiate: Holy Cross Novitiate, Barisal, 1887 - 1988

First Profession: August 2, 1988

Final Profession: August 6, 1993

College Studies: I.A from Government Hatem Ali College, Barisal

B.A from B. M. College, Barisal

Philosophy & Theology: Holy Spirit Major Seminary, Banani, Dhaka (1988 - 1993)

Priestly Ordination: December 31, 1994 held at Catholic Church, Barisal

### Assignments:

1995: Assistant pastor in Mariamnagar parish, Mymensingh diocese

1996 - 1998: Rector of St. Paul's Minor Seminary in Jalchatra, Mymensingh

1998 - 1999: Assistant Pastor in Pirgacha parish, Mymensingh diocese

2000: (Jan - June) Assistant in Mariamnagar parish, Mymensingh diocese

Studies: Licentiate on Depth Psychology, Spirituality and Counselling from Gregorian University, Rome (2000 - 2004)

Formator: Novice Master: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi, Barisal, from 2004 till 2009.

Consecrated as Auxiliary Bishop of Chattogram Diocese on July 3, 2009.

Installation as Bishop of Barishal Diocese on January 29, 2016

### Other Special Assignments:

Chaplain of Caritas Barisal Region

National Team Member of Spiritual Direction Course

Council Member of Holy Cross Congregation, Bangladesh

Member of the Holy Cross General Formation Commission, Rome.

## The First CBCB Meeting in 2021

The first meeting of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh (CBCB) in 2021 was held on February 24-25, 2021 at the CBCB Centre, Dhaka. His Grace, Archbishop Bejoy N. D'Cruze, OMI, the President of the CBCB and all other Bishops and Fr. Leonard C. Rebeiro, Administrator of the Chattogram Archdiocese were present at the meeting. As usual, the CBCB meeting began with the Holy Eucharistic celebration presided over by Archbishop Bejoy N. D'Cruze, OMI, the President of the CBCB. The main discussions of the meeting were as follows: Meeting with the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop George Kocherry; Year of *Laudato Si*; Year of St. Joseph; Holy Week Celebration 2021; Sharing on the Golden Jubilee of

EB Members for a 3 years term; EC - Youth: Secretary; EC- CCP (Desk) Director, EC - Liturgy and Prayer: Shorter *Ordo Missae*; EC – Catechetical and Biblical Apostolate, Executive Secretary; Caritas Matters: Personnel in higher positions.

## Annual Assembly of the Episcopal Bodies - 2021

As in other years, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh had an Annual Assembly with the Episcopal Bodies on February 26, 2021 at the CBCB Centre. His Grace, Archbishop Bejoy N. D'Cruze, OMI, all other Bishops, secretary/director of Episcopal Bodies and one representative of the affiliated desk or one member of each Episcopal Body (altogether 39 members) were present in the assembly. There are 15 Episcopal Bodies of the Catholic Bishops' Conference working in various fields in the country. All fourteen Episcopal bodies read out the summary reports of the yearly activities and plans of action. These Bodies are divided as related to Apostolate, related to Persons and related to Evangelization.

Due to the lack of time, some points for further reflections could not be done. Bishop Ponen Kubi, CSC invited all to reflect for a while and discern

Independent Bangladesh; HSMS Governing Body meeting, Bifurcation of Rajshahi Diocese; Papal Museum at Banani, Dhaka; Accounts of the CBCB Centre; FABC Central Committee zoom (online) meeting; FABC documents; Seminary Commission: (i) HSMS new Rector and Prefect of Studies (ii) Director for Bulakipur Program iii) *Ratio Nationalis* of the *Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Scacerdotalis*; EC-Social Communication matters; Approval for BCEB-GB & E Members for a 3 years term; EC - Youth: Secretary; EC- CCP (Desk) Director; EC - Liturgy and Prayer: Shorter *Ordo Missae*; EC – Catechetical and Biblical Apostolate, Secretary; Caritas Matters: Personnel in higher positions and miscellaneous.

what needs to be done in the Church in order have better formation of our children, youth and people in general and also for the good and wellbeing of the society. The following points were shared: 1) **Papal Recent documents:** Year of *Amoris Laetia*, Year of St. Joseph and Family ministries; 2) *Fratelli Tutti* and *Laudato Si*; 3) **Media:** Spoke Persons, digitalization, cultural transformation, impact of Corona Pandemic, etc.; 4) **Faith and Values Formation and Vocation:** Faith formation at all levels, especially to Children and more and more Youth formation and accompaniment with the youth; 5) **Golden Jubilee** of Independence of Bangladesh.

A brief orientation was given on the above mentioned points. 1) Holy Father Pope Francis will inaugurate the year of *Amoris Laetia* on March 19, 2021 on the feast day of St. Joseph. He emphasized discernment and accompaniment with families and we need to see the objectives and see how to disseminate its message to the grassroots levels. 2) **Fratelli Tutti** speaks about fraternity and social relationship. Pope indicates the black clouds and to face these challenges we need to work in collaboration. A renewal is needed in politics, economics, religions, societies and other areas in order to have better triple relationship: relationship with God, with fellow

human beings and with the nature as well to in order to safeguard the 'common home' of humanity. Human fraternity goes beyond religions and we need have an open mind and heart to be more inclusive. Human dignity needs to be emphasized for more integration in societies. 3) **Media education** is important. The need and importance of Spoke Person in every diocese and at national level needs to be implemented in order to deal well with media and also to face challenges of social media. The parents and elderly people need to learn proper use of media so that they can teach their children about it. There is digitalization, cultural transformation and its impact in the mindsets and attitudes of the people and the children. We should be well aware and give good and positive content in social media in order to challenge the negative ones. 4) **Faith and Values Formation and Vocation:** Faith formation at all levels, especially to Children and more and more Youth formation and accompaniment with the youth. Parents will be first teachers of faith formation in families and on-going formation is more important rather than only programs based activities. All commissions need to see that their programs have more positive effects and Christian and values formation aspects. 5) **Golden Jubilee of Independence of Bangladesh:** Archbishop Bejoy N. D'Cruze, omi highlighted some points of the celebration of Golden Jubilee of Independent Bangladesh. We need to observe with due respect national days at the diocesan and parish levels. We need to express and witness through various ways, programs our

### **Appointment of Inter diocesan Institution**

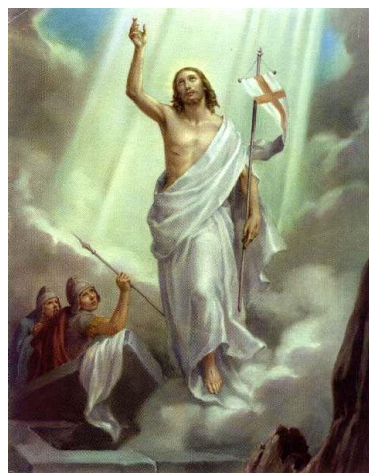
The CBCB appointed Fr. Francis Murmu from Dinajpur diocese as residential staff and Fr. Charles Pollet, sj as Librarian of Holy Spirit Major Seminary, Banani, Dhaka effective from Januray 2021.

### **Board of Editors:**

Fr. Jyoti F. Costa, Fr. Leonard Shankor Rozario, CSC, Mr. Sukumar Mullick  
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contributions to the nation, during and after the independent war of Bangladesh. The Central Committee will communicate to the responsible persons of the dioceses how to inaugurate the celebration of Independence. There is a plan to organize a common national program in Dhaka in December in order to celebrate the Jubilee of Independent Bangladesh. There are some sub-committees and some programs have been planned and committees are working on it.

The Secretary General, Bishop Ponen Kubi, CSC said that our cooperation as one body, as we heard and reflected today in the reading, is very important. We have chalked out and shared various important and vital issues. Respective Commissions and desks concerned will take these issues into consideration and in their future action-plan. Then, the Assistant Secretary General, Fr. Jyoti F. Costa announced that there would be a workshop on August 27, 2021, for the Secretaries of Episcopal Commissions/desks and 2 or 3 members from the diocesan pastoral team. The Secretaries of Episcopal Bodies were asked to prepare a short and sweet reports/news of their programs/activities for the CBCB Newsletter and send regularly to the CBCB Secretariat. It was suggested that the Annual Assembly be prepared with presentation of the reports of the Episcopal Bodies, as have been done during the past years. It may be good to pick up one or two main issues from the reports for in-depth discussions in the Annual Assembly.



**WISHING  
YOU ALL  
A HAPPY  
EASTER!**

