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Vol. XXII, No. 4

April 2007

KOREA: PRIEST-DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC DAILY APPOINTED BISHOP

Father Thaddeus Cho Hwan-Kil, director of the Catholic Daily "Maeil," was appointed auxiliary bishop of the archdiocese of Daegu on March 23. The bishop-elect was born in Hwa-Won, Korea in 1954 and ordained a priest in 1981. Daegu is some 300 kms southeast of Seoul. It is the fourth largest city in South Korea after Seoul, Busan and Incheon. Out of Daegu's 4.47 million population, nine percent are Catholics with 353 priests and 1,142 religious. (VIS)

BANGLADESH: ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL ROZARIO PASSES AWAY

Retired Archbishop Michael Rozario, 81, died on March 18 at a local hospital in Dhaka. Archbishop Rozario is the second local native Bengali archbishop of the country. The very first Bengali archbishop is the late Archbishop Theotonius Amal Ganguly whom Archbishop Rozario succeeded as prelate of Dhaka archdiocese in April 1978. Archbishop Rozario chaired Bangladesh bishops' social communication for two three-year terms ending in 1997. He was the first editor of the only Christian Weekly in Bangladesh. (UCAN/OSC)



KOREA: CATHOLIC AWARDS FOR FILM, RADIO AND TV

The 16th Korean Catholic Mass Communication Awards ceremony was held in Seoul in December last year under the auspices of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Korea's Committee for Social Communications. The bishops' committee presented awards for broadcasting, film, print journalism and publishing. "Most entries submitted dealt with human life," said Suwon Bishop Paul Choi Deog-ki, president of the bishops' committee. "This reflects a concern about the direction our society is going: neglecting life and spreading the culture of death. Through the media we hope to restore mankind's criteria for judgment, determination of values, ... sources of inspiration and models for living, which stand in contrast to the Word of God and his plan of salvation," the prelate added. (SIGNIS)

INDIA: 'SANDESHA' PRESENTS STATE-LEVEL AWARDS

"Sandesh Foundation for Culture and Foundation" presented the winners of this year's Karnataka State-level Sandesha Awards on February 12 at Sandesha, Mangalore. The awards were in the categories of Kannada literature, Konkani literature, Tulu literature, art, TV/Cinema, and media education. Special recognition awards were also given. Sandesha is the regional centre for social communications under the Karnataka Regional Catholic Bishops' Council. This is the sixteenth year the annual awards are given. (THE HERALD)

INDIA: PRIEST APPOINTED TO THE CENTRAL FILM CENSOR BOARD

The government of India's Information and Broadcasting Ministry appointed Salesian Fr. C.M. Paul as member to the Advisory Panel to the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). The Kolkata priest who served two terms as president of the national Catholic association for radio, TV and cinema (Unda/OCIC and Signis) is appointed to the government post for a two year term. CBFC Kolkata is responsible for the certification of films produced in Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Bengal, Sikkim and the seven states of northeast India. (THE HERALD)

RADIO VERITAS ASIA'S NEW MANAGEMENT SEEKS FOR MORE EFFICIENT NETWORKING

The new general manager of the Asian Catholic bishops' radio station is seeking more collaboration and networking in South Asia to improve efficiency and cut costs. Divine Word Father Roberto Ebisa, 42, who became the general manager of Manila-based Radio Veritas Asia (RVA) in January, says he plans "some changes" to improve the effectiveness of its service. "More collaborative work, learning from each other (and) networking are very important" to reduce costs and produce better programs, the priest said. Of the 16 language programs of RVA, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu and Hindi are widely spoken in India. The main language of Bangladesh is also the language in some parts of northeastern India. (UCANEWS)

INDIA: JESUIT LINGUISTS LEARN JOURNALISM

Three Jesuit seminarians took a journalism workshop from January 15-20 organized by the Catholic Information Service Society (CISS) in Ahmedabad. The goal was to introduce the seminarians studying Gujarati language to the basics of journalism skills. (THE HERALD)

JAPAN: BLOGS FOR EVANGELIZATION

Web blogs, or Internet pages mainly comprising texts, are becoming a popular channel for evangelizing in Japan. Priests and religious personnel have started their web blogs sometimes answering questions from the general public. Bishop Isao Kikuchi, 48, of Nigata diocese says he updates his blog everyday. Bishop Kenjiro Koriyama, 64, of Kagoshima diocese, also has a blog with film and audio files. Daughter of St Paul Sr Tanako Ono, 49, says blogs are a "new form of communication, indispensable for young people, a sort of 'net-diary' where people can open their hearts and encounter God." (FIDES)

INDIA: KCBC MEDIA AWARDS 2006

The Kerala Catholic Bishops' Council's (KCBC) Media Commission held the 17th annual Media Awards March 10 at the KCBC Centre, Kochi, Kerala. Awards were given in the areas of literature, culture, visionary thinking and valuable media contributions. The awardees were selected by a panel of media personnel headed by the chairman of the KCBC Media Commission, Bishop Thomas Chak-iaath. (THE HERALD)

PHILIPPINES: BISHOP BANS POLITICAL PROGRAMS ON AIR

Bishop Patricio Alo of Mati, Davao Oriental imposed a ban of political advertisements over the church-owned radio station DXHM-AM. Alo issued a memorandum stating that “no political block time programs should be allowed in the station.” The aim is to provide a level playing field to all political parties for the upcoming elections on May 14. (CBCP MONITOR)

THAILAND: FOR LENT, CHURCH JOINS WAR AGAINST SMOKING

About 30 laypeople and 10 media personnel gathered at a small community forum February 16 to discuss the dangers of smoking and why it should be stopped especially during the Lenten season. Organized by the NGO Action on Smoking and Health Foundation (ASH) and the Catholic Commission for Human Development, the event heard the voice of the Catholic Church on the issue of smoking. Bishop Michael Bunluen Mansap, retired bishop of Ubon Ratchathani, addressed the participants saying “If people can stop smoking in Lent time for 40 days, maybe they can stop smoking forever.” Redemptorist Bishop Philip Banchong Chaiyara, says the Catholic Commission for Human Development which he heads took the anti-smoking campaign this year in collaboration with the NGO for a healthier Thailand. The focus of the campaign will be Catholics during Lent. After Lent, the campaign will shift to Catholic schools. (UCANEWS)

INDIA: TWO PRIESTS AMONG 16 ARTISTS HONORED BY GOA GOV'T

Two priests were among 16 artists given honor by the State of Goa at the State Cultural Awards ceremony held in the capital Margao on February 16. Jesuit Father Moreno de Souza, 83, and Father Peter Cardozo, 60, were awarded for their excellent contribution to local literature and music education, respectively. (THE HERALD)

PAKISTAN: WAVE STUDIO STARTS 10-MINUTE PROGRAMS FOR RADIO VATICAN

WAVE (workshop audiovisual education), the national recording studio of the Pakistan Catholic bishops' conference, started producing 10 minute spots for Radio Vatican in March in preparation for initial broadcast on April 1, Palm Sunday. WAVE Director Fr Nadeem Shakar announced this at the March 15 annual meeting of the studio's board members along with its Chairman, Archbishop Lawrence Saldanha of Lahore and president of the Catholic bishops' conference of Pakistan. The meeting also reviewed and commended WAVE's other productions like audiocassettes on the Sacraments. Archbishop Saldanha said audiocassettes remain important in the age of Internet. Through audiocassettes, different questions of the faithful could be answered, the prelate added. (WAVE)

INDIA: SAR NEWS CHIEF EDITOR WINS SUVARTA 'OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION' TO JOURNALISM AWARD

Indian Catholic Press Association (ICPA) President and Editor-in-Chief of SAR (South Asian Religious) News Agency, Michael Gonsalves, was conferred “Suvarta Journalism Award 2007 for Outstanding Contribution to Journalism” in Vasai, Maharashtra on March 25. Vasai diocesan Father Francis D'Britto, editor of the 53-year-old “Suvarta” (good news) Marathi monthly magazine, said the award recognizes distinct service in journalism. Other individuals awarded on the occasion include two religious sisters, two priests and one lay person for outstanding contribution in their respective fields. (SAR NEWS)

STUDENTS MEET WITH POPE VIA SATELLITE TV

The March 10 satellite-relayed prayer meeting with Pope Benedict XVI brought excitement to students who took part in the event which had the theme “Intellectual Charity, the Way to Renewed Cooperation between Europe and Asia.”

In Hong Kong, 140 Chinese and foreign Catholics at the Cathedral in Hong Kong met the Pope along with Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-kui who after the event distributed pamphlets of Pope John Paul II's exhortation “Ecclesia in Europa.” Some students felt excitement, while others were touched by the special two-way telecast organized by the Hong Kong Federation of Catholic Students. A prayer booklet in Chinese prepared for the gathering translated the words “intellectual charity” in the theme into “rational merciful love.”

In Manila, Philippines the celebrations started before midnight of March 10 (4pm Rome-time) in front of the main building of the Pontifical University of Santo Tomas. More than 700 students gathered before a giant screen for the satellite feed provided by the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) sang, danced and prayed together with Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines, Archbishop Fernando Filoni, Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, and other local Church leaders.

In India, some 500 university students in Kolkata came face to face with the Pope and had Bible readings, sharings and reflections. During intervals, music was played by the Italian Musical Institute and the Conservatory Choir. Archbishop Lucas Sirkar of Calcutta was present along with Cardinal Telephore Toppo of Ranchi, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India. The venue for the satellite broadcast was around the tomb of Blessed Teresa of Kolkata, which according to observers is an apt place to discuss charity.

In Rawalpindi, Pakistan about 100 local students of Ave Maria College of Professional and Applied Sciences, and St Mary's High School joined Bishop Anthony Lobo of Islamabad-Rawalpindi in greeting the Pope. The students also prayed the rosary both in Urdu and English. Ten Muslim students joined the event as observers. Holding the international prayer meeting in a Muslim-dominated country like Pakistan, besides predominantly Hindu India, Christian Philippines and Buddhist Hong Kong, unites local Catholics with the universal Church and gives an assurance that they are not alone, comments an religious nun present at the event.

The worldwide televised meeting with students was organized by Rome diocese's Pastoral Office for Universities to mark the fifth European Day for Universities. Aside from the four Asian venues, the Pope met students from seven other cities in Europe during the two-way satellite telecast. (UCANEWS)

MA THEOLOGY MAJOR IN SOCIAL/PASTORAL COMMUNICATION, FIRST SEMESTER 2007-08

The MA Theology major in social/pastoral communication program at the Pontifical University of Santo Tomas, Manila will offer in June “Introduction to Social Communication,” “Faith and Film” and “Pastoral Communication I” beside other related courses. The graduate program started in the school year 2001-2002.

