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# Communication | N F O

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## INDIA: ONLINE KONKANI BIBLE LAUNCHED

A Konkani-speaking Catholic community in South India has launched the online Konkani Bible on July 26 with the help of friends and Mangalore diocese. The Bible project is part of the community's website at <[www.konkanicatholics.com](http://www.konkanicatholics.com)>. Austine Crasta, who runs the website, says the online Bible is "for Konkani Catholics in remote corners of the world who do not have access to the Bible in their mother tongue." About 1.7 million people in India use Konkani, one of the 22 officially recognized languages. Most live on the southwestern coast of India, served by Mangalore, Kanwar dioceses and Goa archdiocese. (UCANEWS)

## INDONESIA: GOV'T AGENCY HELPS 'LITTLE MISSIONERS' LEARN ABOUT LITURGICAL ART

The Religious Affairs Ministry's Directorate General for Catholic Community Guidance (*Bimas Katolik*, Indonesian acronym) joined the Indonesian bishops' Commission for Liturgy in sponsoring a liturgical art event held July 10-12 in predominantly Christian Nusa Tenggara Timur province. Besides helping children understand liturgy, the program aims to deepen their faith and live of Catholic liturgy, especially the Eucharist, a *Bimas Katolik* official said. Some 77 children and 14 faith-formation educators from Ende and Kupang archdioceses and Atambua and Denpasar dioceses attended the event titled "Little Missioners, Let Us Proclaim the Kingdom of God" at St. Joseph Church of Naikoten in Kupang, West Timor. (UCANEWS)

## THAILAND: BOOK ON CHRISTIAN HISTORY IN THAI KINGDOM RELEASED

The 725-page book titled "A History of Christian Proclamation in Siam and Laos," covering more than 400 years of Christianity in Thailand and Laos, was launched on July 19 at Saengtham College, also known as *Lux Mundi* (Light of the World) National Seminary in Samphran, Nakhon Pathom province, west of Bangkok. The book launch coincided with Thailand's annual Catholic Book Fair which featured the country's 10 largest Catholic publishers and saw about 500 priests, nuns, Catholic lay people and few Buddhist guests. About 95 percent of Thailand's 64 million people are Buddhists, 3.8 percent are Muslims and only 0.5 percent are Christians. (UCANEWS)

## EAST TIMOR: MEDALS FOR BISHOP, PRIESTS AND NUNS

The government has awarded the Dom Martinho da Costa Lopes Medal to five deceased Catholic clergy and religious in recognition of their participation in the liberation of Timor Leste. The award was conferred posthumously on Monsignor da Costa Lopes himself, Fr Hilario Madeira of Dili diocese, Fr Mario do Carmo Lemos Belo of Baucau diocese, and Canossian Sisters Maria Celeste de Carvalho and Erminia Cazzaniga. Monsignor da Costa Lopes, apostolic administrator of Dili from 1977 to 1983, denounced Indonesia's occupation and violation of people's rights. He died in exile in Portugal in 1990. (WORLD MISSION)

## POPE NAMES NEW PRESIDENT OF HOLY SEE'S COMMUNICATION COUNCIL

Pope Benedict XVI has named Archbishop Claudio Maria Celli president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, replacing Archbishop John Foley who handled the post for an extraordinary period of 23 years. Archbishop Celli was for 12 years secretary of the Administration of the Patrimony of the Apostolic See, and before that served in the Secretariat of State. Archbishop Foley will become head of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, replacing Carlo Cardinal Furno, who is retiring at the age of 85. Archbishop Foley always showed a special interest in the communication of the Church in Asia and was closely connected to the FABC-Office of Social Communication. We thank him in a special way and count on his continued prayers and support. (SE/OSC)

## KOREA: DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY GIVEN TO VATICAN

South Korea's vice minister of information and communications, Younghwan Yoo, presented the new technology called T-DMB (terrestrial digital multimedia broadcasting) to the Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone on July 19. Present at the event were Pier Carlo Cuscianna, director of telecommunications for Vatican City's governorate, and Jesuit Fr Federico Lombardi, director of Vatican Radio and Vatican Television Center. T-DMB will enable broadcasts to mobile devices that are equipped with digital multimedia broadcasting receivers (DMB). The technology was pioneered by South Korea. (ZENIT)

## HONG KONG: TEXT OF PAPAL LETTER REMOVED FROM CATHOLIC WEBSITES IN MAINLAND CHINA

A few hours after the Vatican issued Pope Benedict XVI's letter to Catholics in China on June 30, several mainland Catholic websites had uploaded the simplified Chinese version of the letter. However, most of those sites, which usually carry news on the Universal Church, the China Church and the pope, had removed the text by the next day. A priest in charge of one website said government officials came to his office on June 29 inquiring about the letter. On July 1, he was told that he was not allowed to upload it. The priest pointed out that this was not the first time they had been told "not to put certain news reports and articles on the Internet like China-Holy See relations and what Joseph Cardinal Ze Ze-kiun, the bishop of Hong Kong, says." (UCANEWS)

## BISHOPS' MEET 2007 TAKES ON 'EUCHARIST AND COMMUNICATION'

This year's "FABC-OSC Bishops' Meet" of Bishops-chairmen for communication and their secretaries, will reflect on "Eucharist and Communication" from Nov 26 to Dec 1 at the Gabrielite Center in Bangkok. This is the 12th annual Bishops' Meet organized by the FABC-OSC. The results will be brought to the 9th Plenary Assembly of the "Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences" in early 2009 on the theme "Living Eucharist in Asia."

## **PHILIPPINES: CACERES RENEWAL COMMUNITIES LAUNCHES TV CENTER**

The Caceres Renewal Communities (CRC) and Lord's Little Flock Covenanted Community (LLFCC) held the ground breaking ceremony of the proposed CRC TV center at the Archbishop's Residence Compound, in Naga City on June 3. The group hopes to bring the Holy Mass into every home in Bicol and to produce religious programs for TV. In his message during the ceremony, Archbishop Leonardo Legaspi mentioned the sorry state of Catholic media in the country vis-a-vis the flourishing TV and radio stations operated by other denominations like *Iglesia ni Cristo* (church of Christ), *Ang Dating Daan* (the old road) and different Protestant sects. (CBCP MONITOR)

## **SINGAPORE: YOUNG PEOPLE URGE CHANGE IN TEACHING STYLE TO MAKE CHURCH RELEVANT**

The Church needs to change its way of teaching catechism and relating to young people so it can reach to them more effectively, opined young people who attended an archdiocesan youth forum. The forum, titled "Youth, the hope of the Church," was held on May 27, Pentecost Sunday, at the Church of the Holy Spirit. A participant commented: "We're very concerned. A relationship with Jesus does not seem to be the focus of our catechism classes. The emphasis instead is on Church teachings or knowledge of God." Another participant said: "Our catechism needs to be experiential instead of being taught in a very doctrinal manner. We are unable to appreciate that type of learning." These and other feedback from the forum will be collated and submitted to Singapore Archbishop Nicholas Chia and the archdiocesan priests' senate. (SE)

## **INDONESIA: BISHOP URGES YOUTH TO USE MODERN GADGETRY WISELY, APPRECIATE GREATNESS OF NATURE**

Young people should use the Internet and other modern technology wisely and not to ignore the greatness of nature said Jesuit Bishop Julianus Sunarka of Purwokerto. The prelate was addressing some 500 young Catholics gathered at the Kaliori Marian Shrine in Banyumas, Central Java province, on June 24 to close the Diocesan Youth Year. "If we make our lives dependent on cellular phones, the Internet, electronic games and engineered things, we will not live in the real world but fall into an artificial one," the bishop said. The Youth Year ran from June 4, 2006, Pentecost Sunday, to June 24, feast of St John the Baptist, this year. During that time, the diocese arranged special youth activities like Masses, training sessions for personal development, sex education and pilgrimages. (UCANEWS)

## **INDIA: 'ASIAN TRADING CORPORATION' PROMOTES CHRISTIAN LITERATURE IN INDIA**

The Asian Trading Corporation (ATC) in Bangalore has become an important publishing house promoting Christian literature in India. Since 1946, ATC has published over 700 volumes many of which were reprinted works of foreign authors and books. Its collection consists of books on Theology, Liturgy, Scripture, Catechesis and Religious Life, Spirituality, Philosophy, Communication, Prayer, Sociology, Counselling and Indology. It aims to present the richness of Christian literature to Indian readers. ATC took part at the First Asian Mission Congress held in Thailand in October 2006 to serve the 1000 participants who came from all over Asia. Many were surprised, says ATC Partner Nigel Fernandes, at the number and variety of Christian publications from India. (FIDES)

## **BANGLADESH: WORKSHOP HELPS EMPOWER 'RELUCTANT' CHRISTIANS TO BE JOURNALISTS**

Some 39 young Catholic writers, reporters and students from different parishes attended a media training workshop at Tejgaon Catholic Church in Dhaka on May 11. This is the third workshop organized by *Samabarta* (balanced message), the monthly magazine run by a Catholic credit union group, since 2005. This year the workshop focused on "justice and well-being" and included group discussions on the qualities of an ideal writer, a question-and-answer session and a discussion of ethics. (THE HERALD)

## **PHILIPPINES: MEDIA WORKERS MUST BE RESPONSIBLE, VETERAN CHURCH OFFICIAL SAYS**

Philippine journalists must become more responsible even as guns and libel cases continue to threaten their lives and profession, Jesuit Father James Reuter said in an interview on May 3, World Press Freedom Day. The executive secretary of the Philippine Bishops' Commission on Social Communications and Mass Media said that although press freedom all over the world is a "blessing," it has to be "matched by equal responsibility." The 91-year old missionary from New Jersey, USA, stressed that presenting the "whole picture" is "necessary" in journalism. (THE HERALD)

## **PAKISTAN: CATHOLIC PRESS PROMOTES HARMONY AND PEACE**

Members of the Catholic press in Pakistan have taken the cause of fostering communal harmony and peace, said Father Rashid Khalid, president of the National Journalists' Forum of Pakistan. Christians are permitted to have their prayer houses and do their prayers but they constantly live in fear, the priest said. There is social discrimination in the country on account of religion and the blasphemy law is often misused against Christians. The Catholic press in Pakistan had four periodicals including two English weeklies. The oldest of them is the 75-year old "National Catholic *Nakeeb*" (Herald) with a circulation of about 1,000. Pakistan has 160 million people out of whom about 5 million are Christians. Of this number, 2 million are Catholics. (THE HERALD)

## **BANGLADESH PRIEST IS NEW SACPA PRESIDENT**

Father Bakul Stanislaus Rosario from Bangladesh was chosen new president of the South Asian Catholic Press Association (SACPA) at the general assembly of the International Union of the Catholic Press June 8 at Sherbrooke, Canada. Vice-president is Ignatius Gonsalves from India, and Qaiser Felix from Pakistan as secretary. (THE HERALD)

## **INDIA: "THEATER FOR CHRIST"**

A group of Catholic Christians from different parishes in Kolkata archdiocese formed an organization called "Theater for Christ" to promote Christian values via theater. On May 16, the group met Archbishop Lucas Sirkar and presented their objectives and plans initially involving Sunday school children in small-scale dramas and a Christmas play in December 2007. (THE HERALD)



*How is (the) common good protected and promoted? Educating children to be discriminating in their use of the media is the responsibility of parents, Church, and school.*

*— Pope Benedict XVI, Message for the 41st World Communication Day*