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教宗方濟各

第一屆世界祖父母及 長者日文告 (2021年7月25日)

「我同你們天天在一起。」

親愛的祖父母們、

親愛的年長的朋友們：

「我同你們天天在一起」（瑪廿八20）：這是主升天前向祂的門徒們所作的承諾。親愛的祖父、祖母，這也是祂今天要對你重複的話。在這第一屆世界祖父母及長者日，「我同你們天天在一起」也是我作為羅馬主教和

一個像你一樣的長者，要傳遞給你們的話：整個教會都在親近你——應該說：親近我們——關心你、愛你，也不想讓你孤單。

我很清楚你是在一個艱難的時刻收到這份文告：疫情就像無從預料的暴風一樣，突然侵襲我們；這對每個人都是一場考驗，但對我們長者卻更是如此。我們中有很多人人生病，有些人過世，或經歷了配偶或摯愛的死亡，不少人被迫要獨處，長期被孤立。

上主知道我們在這段時間裡所經歷的各種苦楚。祂親近那些遭受排擠而受苦的人們。我們的孤單在疫情期間更是煎熬，上主也感同身受。相傳，耶穌的祖父聖若亞敬因為沒有小孩，於是感覺自

己跟周遭的人都有距離感；他的人生——跟他的妻子亞納的人生一樣——被看作一無是處。於是上主派遣天使安慰他。當他在城門外黯然神傷之時，上主的一位使者向他顯現，說：「若亞敬，若亞敬！上主俯聽了你持續的祈禱。」¹喬托在他的一幅著名壁畫中，²似乎將這個場景設定在夜晚，一如往常的一個失眠夜晚，充滿了我們許多人已經習以為常的回憶、擔憂和渴望。

即使是在最黑暗的時刻，就像疫情中的這幾個月裡，上

¹ 該情節記載於雅各原始福音書。

² 本圖像已被選為世界祖父母及長者日之標誌。

主仍然持續派遣天使們來安慰我們寂寞的心情，並提醒我們：「我同你們天天在一起。」祂向你說，向我說，向所有的人說。在長期的孤立與社交生活緩慢地恢復之後，這就是我想在今年首次慶祝這個日子的意義：願每位祖父、每位祖母、每位長者，尤其是我們中最孤獨的，都能迎接天使的拜訪！

這些天使帶有的面容，有時候會是孫兒孫女的、其他家族成員的、老朋友的，或是我們在這艱難時刻所遇到的人的。我們在這段時間，懂得擁抱與拜訪對我們有多麼地重要，而讓我難過的是，在某些地方，這仍然是奢望！

然而，上主從不讓我們的生命缺乏祂的聖言，因此祂也透過聖言來派遣祂的使者。我們每天都要讀一段福音，用聖詠來祈禱，翻閱先知書！我們會繼續被天主的信實打動。聖經會幫助我們了解，上主在我今天的生活中要求的是什麼。其實，在一天當中的每個時辰（參閱：瑪廿1~16），在生命之中的每個季節，祂都一直在派遣工人前往祂的葡萄園。我本人可以作證：當我在一個可以說是退休的年紀，已經不覺得自己能有什麼新的作為時，我卻蒙召成為了羅馬的主教。上主總是與我們親近，總是如此，祂透過嶄新的邀請、嶄新的話語、嶄新的安慰，總是與我們親近。你們知道上主是永世長存的，祂永不退休，從來不會。

在瑪竇福音中，耶穌對宗徒們說：「所以你們要去使萬民成為門徒，因父及子及聖神之名給他們授洗，教訓他們遵守我所吩咐你們的一切。看！我同你們天天在一起，直到今世的終結」（瑪廿八19~20）。今天，這段話也同樣傳達給我們，幫助我們更好地了解我們的召叫：守護我們的根源，把信仰傳遞給年輕人，並關心幼兒。各位要想一想：現在這個年紀，我們的召叫是什麼？守護我們的根源，把信仰傳遞給年輕人，關心幼兒。這一點，你們不可忘記。

不論你現在幾歲、是否仍在工作，或是孤身一人或有家庭，或在年輕時當祖父母或者以後才為人祖父母，不論你是獨立生活還是需要人照顧，這一切都無關緊要。因為宣講福音、將傳統延續給孫兒、孫女，這兩個任務都是沒有退休年紀的。你要起身，更要走出自我，去做些不同的事情。

在這歷史性的關鍵時刻，你也有一個新的召叫。你可能會想：這怎麼可能？我已經沒有體力，也沒辦法再做什麼了。我都已經這麼習慣現在的生活了，又怎麼能做不同的事情？家人都已經讓我這麼擔心了，我又怎麼可能去為窮人貢獻一己之力？我連自己住的地方都出不去，還怎麼去擴展視野？我的孤獨不就是個沉重的擔子嗎？你們有多少人問過這個問題：我的孤獨不就是個沉重的擔子嗎？耶穌自己就曾經聽過尼苛德摩問了這樣的問

題：「人已年老，怎樣能重生呢？」（若三4）。主回答道，這是有可能的，只要我們將自己的心向聖神的工作開放——祂的風隨意思吹。聖神有自由去祂願意去的地方，做祂願意做的事情。

正如我曾多次提及的，這世界經歷過現在的危機之後，不會保持原狀，不是更好就是更差。「但願這不是另一個我們沒有從中汲取教訓的歷史慘劇。但願我們不要忘記那些因醫療系統逐年崩塌，導致呼吸器數量不足，而在疫情中死去的長者。但願這深沉的悲痛沒有白費，而推動我們向前邁進，投入新的生活，並重新發現我們彼此需要、彼此虧欠，好使人類大家庭同心合力，重獲新生」（《眾位弟兄》，35）。沒有人能自己拯救自己。我們都互相虧欠。我們都是弟兄姊妹。

有鑑於此，我想跟你說：在兄弟情誼與人際友愛之中，需要有你

一起建立明天的世界：在風平浪靜之後——我們與子孫們——一同生活的世界。「我們必須積極投入更新和支持受創的社會」（《眾位弟兄》，77）。在支撐這座新建築物的支柱中，有三大支柱是你比誰都更能幫忙豎立起來的。它們分別是夢想、記憶和祈禱。上主的親近會恩賜我們所需要的力量，即使是最體弱多病的，都能在夢想、記憶和祈禱的道路上踏上一段新的旅程。

岳厄爾先知曾經說過這樣的許諾：「你們的老人要看夢境，你們的青年要見神視」（岳三1）。世界的未來，就取決於長者和青年之間的盟約。如果不是青年，誰又能擔起長者的夢想，使之成真？但若有所實現，我們就必須繼續做夢。我們的正義之夢、和平之夢、精誠團結之夢，都可以讓我們的青年得以擁有嶄新的視野；如此，我們便可以一同打造未來。你必須作見證，讓人知道在艱困的考驗中，還是可以有煥然一新的事物。我相信你的人生已經不是第一次經歷困難，而你也都安然度過了。現在，你要從這些經驗中學習，度過現在的難關。

因此，我們的夢想都與記憶交織著。當我想到戰爭的痛苦能使年輕人學習到和平的價值，這多麼寶貴。你若經歷過戰爭的痛苦，就必須將這個訊息傳遞下去。守住記憶，是每位長者真正的使命：守住記憶，並傳遞給他人。在納粹大屠殺中倖存的埃迪特·布魯克曾說：「哪怕只為光照一個人的良心，就算記住那些曾發生過和仍在發生的事情，甚至守住記憶會帶來痛苦，這都是值得的。對我而言，記憶就是生活。」³我也想到了我自己的祖父母，以及你們當中有人曾經移居國外，知道離開家鄉是多麼艱難的事。直到今天，有許多人仍然為了尋求將來而離開故土，其中有些人可能還在我們身邊照顧著

³ 記憶就是生活，寫作即為呼吸。《羅馬觀察報》，2021年1月26日。

我們。這樣的記憶有助於建造一個更符合人性、更互相接納的世界。然而，若是沒有記憶，我們將無從建造；沒有地基，也就無法建築房子。永遠無法。而生命的根基，就是記憶。

最後，是祈禱。我的前任——教宗本篤，是一位有聖德的長者，一直在持續地為教會祈禱、工作，他曾說：「長者的祈禱可以守護世界，而且可能比許多狂熱的活動還更有效力。」⁴ 這是他在任期的最後所說的話。非常地美。你的祈禱是很珍貴的資源：是教會與世界都迫切需要的深呼吸（參閱：《福音的喜樂》，262）。尤其在人類大家庭的這個艱鉅時刻，當我們同舟共濟，航行於疫情的狂風巨浪之中，你為世界、為教會的祈禱，有著莫大的價值：它開導我們，讓我們能寧靜地相信，馬上就要靠岸了。

親愛的祖父、親愛的祖母，在這篇文告的結尾，我想跟你介紹一位真福的例子：富高神父——他很快就要成為聖人。作為阿爾及利亞的一位隱修士，他曾表明「自己的願望：成為每一個人的弟兄」（《眾位弟兄》，287）。他的生命故事告訴我們，即使在自己的曠野中孤身一人，還是可以為全世界的窮人代禱，可以真正地成為一個眾人的弟兄、眾人的姊妹。

⁴ 訪問「壽比南山養老院」（Viva gli Anziani），2012年11月2日。

通過他的榜樣，我祈求上主讓我們每個人都能開闊自己的心胸，能夠對窮人的痛苦有所知覺，並為他們的需要代禱。願我們每個人都能向眾人——特別向年輕人——傳述今天所聽到的安慰：

「我同你們天天在一起！」要勇往直前，並鼓起勇氣！願天主降福你們。

教宗方濟各

羅馬，拉特朗聖若望大殿

2021年5月31日，聖母訪親節

（台灣地區主教團 恭譯）





Prot. N.757/21/1

法令

宗座聖赦院為增進信友的虔敬，並為人靈的得救，憑藉蒙天主召選的教宗方濟各所授予之權柄，應允平信徒及家庭和生命部部長——羅馬天主教凱文·若瑟·法雷爾樞機的請求，在教宗欽定為首屆世界祖父母及長者日的7月第四主日，依照慣常的條件〔領受和好聖事、在彌撒中恭領聖體，並為教宗的意向祈禱〕，惠然自教會天上的寶庫，頒賜全大赦予基於真心懺悔和愛德，於2021年7月25日、首屆世界祖父母及長者日，親身參與教宗在梵蒂岡宗座大殿主持的隆重典禮或世界各地舉行的相關慶典的祖父母、長者及所有信友；本大赦亦可讓予煉獄的靈魂。

本聖赦院於同日亦頒賜全大赦予那些以親身或透過視訊方式，奉獻時間去悉心探望他們有需要或有困難（如患病、被遺棄、殘障或類似狀況）的年長弟兄姊妹們的眾信友。

無法出門參禮的患病長者，以及所有因重大理由不能外出者，若決意擺脫一切罪惡及盡快滿全以上三個慣常條

件，在心靈上共襄盛舉，尤其透過電視或電台，甚或新的社交媒體，收聽教宗的訓勉和收看慶典，並將自己的祈禱和生活上的困苦，奉獻給慈悲的天主，亦能獲得全大赦。

因此，為更方便信眾憑著掌握天國鑰匙的教會，接受天主的寬恕，本聖赦院懇請獲授聽告解權力的司鐸們，本著牧靈上的愛德，以慷慨的精神，隨時施行修和聖事。

本法令對首屆祖父母及長者日具有效力，與此法令相牴觸之任何措施，一概無效。

於羅馬宗座聖赦院

主曆 2021 年 5 月 13 日耶穌升天節

聖赦院院長——皮亞琴扎樞機

（Mauro Card.Piacenza）

副院長——克尼基爾

（KrzysztofNykiel）

（台灣地區主教團與香港教區合譯）

世界祖父母及長者日祈禱文

(每年七月第四個主日，接近「聖雅敬及聖安納」紀念日)

祖父母及長者的祈禱文

主啊，我感謝祢，感謝祢與我同在的慰藉。在孤寂的時候，祢是我的盼望，我的信心。從年輕起，祢就是我的磐石，我的保障。

我感謝祢，賜我美滿的家庭，得享松柏之壽。為生命中經歷過的種種喜悅和困苦，為已經實現及有待完成的夢想，我感謝祢！上主，我感謝祢，召喚我到達這個生命結出美果的時刻。

上主，請豐厚我的信德，使我成為祢和平的工具；教導我擁抱比我更痛苦的人，永遠懷抱夢想，並向後代子孫傳述祢的奇能異事。

求祢保護並引領教宗方濟各和祢的教會，使福音真光遍及寰宇，達於地極。

上主，求祢派遣祢的聖神來更新世界，使瘟疫得以消退，戰亂得以平息，憂苦的人得到安慰。

主啊，在此風燭垂暮之年，請扶持我，幫助我充實地活出祢所賜予的每個時刻，並確信祢天天都與我在一起，直到生命的終結。

阿們。

譯自：聖座平信徒家庭暨生命部

臺灣地區主教團禮儀委員會 譯

2021年第2次主教團會議紀錄 (視訊會議)

時間：2021年6月7日（一），10:00~11:30

地點：各主教公署

出席：李克勉主教、鍾安住總主教、劉振忠總主教、
黃兆明主教、蘇耀文主教、李若望主教

主持人：主教團主席——李克勉主教

紀錄：陳科神父

會前禱

主席致詞

主教團主席李克勉主教——以主教團名義於：

- 5月21日致函給周守仁候任主教，祝賀他被教宗任命為香港教區主教，並且會為他及他未來的牧職祈禱。
- 6月1日致函給馬星汶主教團主席——Sebastian Francis主教，因沈高略樞機主教蒙主恩召表示哀悼。信件副本給佳代辦。
- 6月2日致函給外交部，感謝吳釗燮部長提供沈高略樞機主教在台的醫療服務。沈高略樞機主教遺體於6月11日18:30汶萊皇家航空公司戴運回家鄉。

討論議題

1. 全國福傳大會的收尾（預計今年無法開）

說明：由於疫情至今6月仍然嚴峻，使全國福傳大會的最終籌備會議也無法召開。由此可見，全國福傳大會無法於8月如期召開，但之前各教區的努力不應被抹滅，我們需要使之有一完善方式收尾。

方法：

1. 各教區對〈台灣全國福傳大會的工作文件〉問卷的回覆，以及教區福傳大會的成果，於6月底呈交全國福傳大會籌備小組。籌備小組於閉幕彌撒前完成工作文件，並在彌撒中奉獻，明年各教區報告執行成果。8月底向傳信部呈報該工作文件。
2. 8月7日（六）全國福傳大會只舉行閉幕彌撒。彌撒時間與地點，視情況作最後決定。
3. 請Tagle樞機予以台灣全國福傳大會一訊息，在閉幕彌撒中宣讀。

決議：同意，通過。

2. 2023世界主教會議在地方教會的進程。

說明：下一屆世界主教會議「為一個共議精神的教會：共融、參與和使命」（參閱：世界主教會議〈通函〉中文翻譯）。為了強調這個共議之旅是分享之旅，2021年10月9~10日，教宗會在梵蒂岡慶祝主教會議的開幕。隔週主日，2021年10月17日，地方教會——各教區則會在自己的教區慶祝主教會議的開幕。

雖然地方教會的全國福傳大會，在的目的上，與世界主教會議並不相同，但在性質和意義上，卻與世界主教會議有其連貫性，因為這次世界主教會議也是從基層開始，一直到教會的中央及上層。此訊息必須清楚向教會全體表達，為促進基層的積極參與及投入該世界主教會議過程中，達成2023年世界主教會議目的。

方法：

主教團準備一文字說明，於2022年6月30前擬稿，7月初公布：首先為解釋全國福傳大會只舉行閉幕彌撒原因，表示各教區自開始以來的工作持續進行，以及宣布明年將有一的全國福傳大會各教區執行報告活動。但主教團在此同時也宣布2023年世界主教會議目的、進展（10月17日在各區開始）及進行方法。

決議：同意，通過。

3. 總修院人事案。

說明：依照2021年第一次主教團會議決議，總修院培訓隊新的生活導師，按優先順序詢。因第一順位外籍司祭修會團體有無法克服之問題無法接任，而本籍神父也無法接任總修院生活導師任務，因此主教團需要找另一生活導師人選。

決議：各主教繼續考慮人選，7月1日再行決定。必要時，請現在隊團再延任一年。

臨時動議

1. 停辦原定2021年7月30日至8月3日第14屆台灣青年日。

- 1) 第14屆台灣青年日由花蓮教區承辦，原定於2021年7月30日至8月3日於花蓮舉行。
- 2) 2020年因新冠肺炎疫情爆發，配合中央疫情中心之防疫措施，因而順延一年舉行。疫情卻又於今年5月再度爆發，且比去年更為嚴重。因此花蓮教區台灣青年日籌備小組於5月25日召開臨時會，決議向主教團提報「停辦第14屆台灣青年日」之建議。
- 3) 為肯定並感謝花蓮教區自2019年來為台灣青年日籌備工作積極的付出，不論在人力、物力及資源上展現出的熱情與活力。雖因疫情的關係，整個步調都被打亂，但不希望這近三年的投入無疾而終；在這期間有許多不為大多數人知的努力付出、討論溝通、訪視邀約及實體上的準備工作。不只是為花蓮教區留下深刻極寶貴的回憶與紀錄，也是為台灣教會提供豐富的資產。因此主教們期許籌備小組能將這籌備期間的過程，以多樣貌的方式呈現，分享給所有教友。
- 4) 有關未來有關全國青年日的工作的規劃，待青年組李若望主教與全國青年輔導進行規劃後，於11月主教團秋季會議前提案。

決議：同意，通過。

Chinese Regional Bishops' Conference Minutes of the 1st Plenary Assembly, 2021 (Spring Plenary Assembly)

Date: April 6-9, 2021 (Tuesday-Friday)

Venue: CRBC Administrative Building (39 An-Ju St., 10622 Taan District, Taipei)

President: Most Rev. John Baptist Lee

Attendees: Most Rev. Thomas Chung, Most Rev. Peter Liu, Most Rev. Martin Su, Most Rev. John Lee

Absentee: Most Rev. Philip Huang

Invitees: Msgr. Arnaldo Catalan, Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., Apostolic Nunciature Fr. John Baptist Wu, Apostolic Administrator of Chiayi

Secretary: Fr. Otfried Chan, Secretary General

Opening Prayer

Address of Msgr. Arnaldo Catalan, Chargé d'Affaire a.i. Apostolic Nunciature(Summary)

- Msgr. Catalan thanks CRBC for inviting him to the Plenary Assembly and greets the Bishops with a “very happy Easter”.
- Amoris Laetitia Family year began on March 19, 2021 and

will end on June 26, 2022. It is in the process aiming to make known to the holy people of God the Church's new perspective on the family by Amoris Laetitia, an apostolic exhortation released after two Synods of Bishops. Pope Francis reminded that there are two aspects at the heart of all family pastoral ministry, “the frankness of the proclamation of the Gospel and the tenderness of accompaniment”. “This proclamation cannot and must never be given from above or from outside.” The Church proclaims the Gospel of the family by immersing herself in real life, “knowing firsthand the daily struggles of spouses and parents, their problems, their sufferings, all those small and large situations that weigh down and sometimes hinder their journey.”

- The population in Taiwan is ageing continuously. National Development Council reported that by 2025, 1 out of 5 citizens will be 65 of age, and that in 2034 more than half of Taiwan's population will be 50 and above. For the Church in Taiwan and its mission of evangelization, this future predicament poses not only the question of whether we would have people to evangelize but more fundamentally, whether we would have people.
- During this time of pandemic, it is helpful for the Church to assist families to enhance the relationship, to rediscover the importance of simple words and gestures in the daily experience of family life so that the contents of Amoris Laetitia may be lived out in all their richness. Moreover, strengthening family values, and especially the willingness to have children and bring them up in the faith among young couples, do not only assure us of renewed population, it can also be a source,

God willing, of future priestly and religious vocations that the Catholic Church in Taiwan is so much in need of.

- The Dicastery for the Laity, the Family and Life has received the work report Mrs. Clare Yeh, Consultant, who has been spreading the news of Amoris Laetitia to the families in Taiwan for World Meeting of Families. Msgr. Catalan thanks the Dioceses for helping Mrs. Clare Yeh in her work.

Address of the President, CRBC

Bishop John Baptist Lee thanks Msgr. Arnaldo Catalan for his coming and welcomes him on behalf of all the Bishops.

A. Reports

I. Secretariat

1. The project of *Graduate Institute of Cross-Cultural Studies* (FJCU) on the “Documentation of the Church Properties of the Catholic Church in Taiwan”.
2. Letter from the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. A conference at a local level is to be held on October 3, 2021, by Stella Maris Seafarers’ Center in Taichung Diocese. (To be confirmed)
3. Letters from the FABC (electing 3 bishops-delegates, Most Rev. John Baptist Lee, Most Rev. Thomas Chung, Most Rev. Martin Su, to attend the 50th anniversary of FABC, and CRBC annual membership contribution, which has been adjusted from US\$1,000.- to US\$1,200.-).
4. Letter from the Embassy of R.O.C. to the Holy See (Exhibition

of Indigenous Statutes of Our Lady, in Taiwan).

5. Personnel of the IT Services of the CRBC Secretariat (sharing with Radio Veritas).
 6. Varia by the General Services of the Secretariat:
 - a) The setting of mutual right of superficies with Fu-Jen Catholic University (FJCU).
 - b) The land lot serial no. 212 on the part of Gui-He Rd. which belongs to CRBC is occupied by some neighbors who had built their homes on it. Xinzhuang Land Office, being asked to survey the boundary, has confirmed the occupation of the neighbors on January 27, 2021. The information of the occupants has been acquired by the application of the land registration transcriptions on March 9, 2021. The above-mentioned occupation and the negotiation between the tenants and CRBC will be entrusted to Attorney Hsieh, of Legal Affairs of FJCU.
 - c) The order of Mass wine once every three year was loaded on March 13, 2021. The arrival of the shipment is scheduled for May 2, 2021 and its delivery to all the Dioceses by May 10.
 - d) The fire safety report on the CRBC Administrative Building has to be done by May 31, 2021.
 7. On the recognition of the Baptism of other Christian denominations by the Catholic Church.
- II. Caritas Taiwan (Commission for Social Development)
- III. Commission for Doctrine of the Faith and Catechetical Instruction, Bible Apostolate

IV. Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People

V. Commission for Interreligious Dialogue and Ecumenical Cooperation

Commission for Promoting Christian Unity

VI. Taiwan National Evangelization Congress

VII. Commission for Evangelization, Section for Youth

VIII. Commission for Evangelization, Section for Family

IX. Commission for Sacred Liturgy

X. Commission for Aborigine Apostolate

XI. Catholic Charismatic Renewal Service Team

XII. Commission for Education and Culture

XIII. Radio Veritas (Commission for Social Development)

XIV. Pontifical Mission Societies Taiwan

XV. Commission of Pastoral-Health Care

B. Contents of the Proposals

I. Secretariat

II. Commission for Aborigine Apostolate

III. Commission for Evangelization, Section for Youth &

Commission for the Clergy, Section for Vocation Promotion

IV. Taiwan National Evangelization Congress

V. Hsinchu Diocese

VI. Association for Canon Law Study

VII. Caritas Taiwan

VIII. Taiwan Catholic Regional Seminary

IX. Chiayi Diocese

X. Commission for Evangelization, Section for Family

XI. Taipei Archdiocese, Commission for Bioethics

Proposals:

I. Secretariat

A. The final account and work reports of Secretariat of CRBC of 2020.

Explanation:

1. Please see attached documents: “2020 Final Account” and “2020 Work Reports”.
2. After approval, they will be submitted to the competent authorities for examination.

Resolution: Approved.

B. Clarification on an entry of NT\$2,075,597.- in the books of CRBC of 2003.

Explanation:

1. The Ministry of Interior informed the Secretariat that it had discovered an entry of NT\$2,075,597.- in the account books of 2003 of CRBC, which has not been put into the annual balance.

2. According to the minutes of the Plenary Meeting of the Bishops' Conference of April 18, 2003, it was the amount of old books, an internal donation to the CRBC by Fr. John Baptist Wu, the then Secretary General of the Bishops' Conference.
3. The entry is purely technical and entails no real money. It can be deleted from the account books.

Resolution: Approved.

C. A land lot of 996.44m² belonging to CRBC which is located in Sec. 11, Guei-He District (Tai-Shan) for technical reason has been divided by the Department of Land Administration of New Taipei City into two areas with respective new serial numbers as it lies between the separate line of two different districts. (cf. attached documents)

Resolution: Approved.

D. The project of exchange of land between FJCU and CRBC, which is for building the hospital of FJCU and the New Seminary, requires the approval (recognitio) of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples (cf. Can. 1297).

Explanation: At the Bishops' Conference of November, 24-28, 2008, it was decided that CRBC and FJCU could begin their project of land exchange. As the land owned by both parts are church properties, so it was believed that CRBC and FJCU should just follow the prescriptions of the MOE.

However, the project was later understood by the Government as

“sale of land” and was subject to very high land value increment tax. As a result of that, the initial project of “exchange of land” is modified to “setting of mutual right of superficies” (cf. attached document). And it is now the moment to report the project to CEP to for canonical approval.

Resolution: CRBC will write a formal letter to the CEP with related documents to give an account on the project.

II. Commission for Aborigine Apostolate

A. Personnel adjustment of the Commission for Aborigine Apostolate in view of the requirements of the work, - an indigenous lay person is need, - and the capacities of the Executive Secretary.

Explanation: The indigenous Catholics make up an important percentage in the local Church and the Commission for Aborigine Apostolate must have an indigenous staff member who understands their culture so as to carry out effectively pastoral plans for them. Currently, neither the Executive Secretary nor his secretary is an indigenous. Viewing that the Executive Secretary has reached his age of retirement, it is time to look for an indigenous person to occupy the post.

Means:

1. CRBC will look for a well-trained person
2. His/Her salary will be paid by CRBC
3. He/She may work either in the Secretariat or in Tainan, the Diocese of the President of the Commission.

4. The current Executive Secretary can help as counselor after retirement.
5. Any suitable candidates recommended by the Bishops will be taken into consideration.

Resolution: The Chairman of the Commission of Aborigine Apostolate can hire a secretary paying him/her NTD30,000.- per month.

III. Section for Youth (Commission for Evangelization) & Commission for the Section for Vocational Promotion (Commission for the Clergy)

A. Personnel adjustment of the Section for Youth in connection with the Section for Vocational Promotion in view of the requirements of the work and the capacities of the Executive Secretary.

Explanation: The growth of faith of the youth and their spiritual accompaniment go hand in hand with the promotion of vocations. There is a Section for the Youth (under the Commission for Evangelization), and there is a Section for Vocational Promotion (under the Commission for Clergy). And both Sections work for young Catholics. Viewing the affinity in the nature of their work, they should collaborate instead of operating each on their own at a national level as vocations come from young children and the youth. Therefore, the joint collaboration of both Sections also requires a person who is familiar with the liturgy and the catechism, with pastoral experience with the youth, capable of communicating with other dioceses in foreign countries both by writing and by speaking, and coordinating with the counterparts of the local

Dioceses, knowing how to prepare projects and making budgets.

Means: The Section for the Youth and the Section for Vocational Promotion share the same Executive Secretary. He/she will be paid by CRBC and may have his/her office in the Secretariat, the Major Seminary or the Diocese of Tainan.

Resolution: The Section for the Youth and the Section for Vocation Promotion can conjointly employ a person to be the Executive Secretary for both Sections offering him/her the salary of NTD30,000.- according to the planned budget.

B. Taiwan Youth Day is scheduled for July 30 to August 3, 2021. Now due to the pandemic, whether or not TWD 2021 should be postponed? In case of non-postponement, supporting measures specifically for the WYD will be necessary in order to abide with the epidemic preventive measures of the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control.

Explanation:

1. According to the resolution of Plenary Assembly of the Bishops' Conference (November 27-30, 2018), Taiwan Youth Day (TYD) is to be organized by the dioceses in turn only when there is NO World Youth Day (WYD) or Asian Youth Day (ASD) in that year.
2. The Asian Youth Day for 2021 was planned to take place in India, but the Bishops' Conference of India announced that it was unable to host the ASD.
3. The Diocese of Hualien had been entrusted the organization of TYD but had to postpone it because of the pandemic after having

making the necessary preparation. For the organizers of the Diocese, it was disheartening. The cancellation of TYD would further the morale of the organizing team and discourage people to attend.

4. The supporting measures for hosting the TYD

- a. Setting the quota of 40 persons per Diocese, in order to keep the total number of attendants within 500 people.
- b. After the first preparatory meeting of the TYD, advertizing the TYD by means of videos and of social media platforms to keep people informed about the progress of the preparation.
- c. And other sanitary rules and preventive measures to avoid Covid-19 infection.

Resolution: The TYD will take place as planned with all necessary supporting measures.

IV. Taiwan National Evangelization Congress

A. Delegates from each Diocese for the discussion during the Congress, competence and obligations.

Explanation:

1. According to the “Pastoral guide for the parishes of the Catholic Church in Taiwan”, the topics that need be discussed are as follows:
 1. a. Introduction b. The basic principles of a missionary oriented pastoral action in the parish.

2. a. The liturgy

b. The involvement of the laity and the sisters in the leadership of the parish

3. a. The family

b. The children in the Church

4. a. The youth in the Church

5. a. The Christian Faith Communities (CFC)

b. The catechumenate of adults

6. a. The pastoral care of the faithful who are distant from the Church

7. a. Missionary spirit and direct evangelism

2. The attendants of the NEC will be assigned to seven different groups, each including a bishop, seven priests, a representative religious sister, four laypeople, a youth and several other attendants of the Congress. Each group will pick up a topic for discussion. Besides the attendants designated in the list, the group that will discuss topic no. 4 (on the youth in the Church and their life in parish) must have other 8 young people for the discussion.
3. The leader of the group was appointed by each Diocese upon the recommendation of their Bishops at the Bishops’ Conference to be in charge of the discussions in group, and the leaders will convene a meeting in May.

Resolution: The assignment of the leader and topic per group are as follows:

- Taipei Archdiocese: Rev. Peter Lo, topic no. 4 a. The youth in the Church
- Taichung Diocese: Rev. Benedict Hsu, topic no. 6a The pastoral care of the faithful who are distant from the Church
- Kaohsiung Diocese: Rev. Dominic Tu, topic no. 1 a. Introduction b. The basic principles of a missionary oriented pastoral action in the parish
- Chaiyi Diocese: a. Missionary spirit and direct evangelism
- Hsinchu Diocese: Rev. Alexander Truong, topic 2a. The liturgy
 - b. The involvement of the laity and the sisters in the leadership of the parish
- Hualien Diocese: Rev. Peter Chen, topic 3. a. The family
 - b. The children in the Church

B. Funding of the National Evangelization Congress and the sharing of costs

Explanation:

1. The total estimated budget for the National Evangelization Congress is NTD1,000,000.- According to the resolution of the 2nd National Preparatory Meeting, it was decided that:

- the costs for the venue in Fu-Jen Catholic University will be fully sponsored by Fu-Jen Catholic University (approximation: NTD150,000.-);
 - the accommodation for four days (approximation: NTD300,000.-) without including the travel expenses of the participants from each Diocese;
 - the costs for the meals and refreshments during the Congress will be covered by the CRBC (approximation: NTD200,000.-);
 - the publicizing materials, printed matters, decoration materials and other items (approximation: NTD100,000.-).
2. The Commission for Evangelization (CRBC) has received a donation of NTD500,000.- from Catholic Triple Virtue Charity Commission of Taipei Archdiocese.
 3. In order not to exceed the budget without having recourse to registration fees, it is necessary to share the costs as follows. CRBC will bear the costs for meals and refreshment, the travel expenses of attendants will be covered by their belonging Dioceses.

Resolution: The costs for accommodation and the travel expenses of the attendants will be covered by their belonging Dioceses.

V. Hsinchu Diocese

A. Amendment of the Statutes of the National Pastoral Council of Laity and the creation of a team for this specific task.

Explanation:

1. The first article of the Statutes of National Council of Lay Apostolate referring to Lumen Gentium no. 9 states that the new Covenant instituted by Christ is the new People of God. Pope Paul VI says, "In dioceses, insofar as possible, there should be councils which assist the apostolic work of the Church either in the field of evangelization and sanctification or in the charitable, social, or other spheres, and here it is fitting that the clergy and Religious should cooperate with the laity. While preserving the proper character and autonomy of each organization, these councils will be able to promote the mutual coordination of various lay associations and enterprises. Councils of this type should be established as far as possible also on the parochial, interparochial, and interdiocesan level as well as in the national or international sphere." (Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity, no.26) In other words, the National Council of Lay Apostolate should be a community of communion between the laity and the Hierarchy.
2. Nevertheless, in the second and third chapter of the current Statutes, it says nothing about the communion between the laity and the Hierarchy. On the other hand, the National Council of Lay Apostolate was created almost 50 years ago (in 1972), and its Statutes were revised and then approved by the Bishops' Conference 20 years ago. It is necessary to revise them again.
3. The ecclesiology of Vatican II had been adopted by the Canon Law Edition of 1983 and articulated in canonical terminology. It must be consulted for the revision of the Statutes.
4. Further discussions

5. The revision of the Statutes need be entrusted to a group of relevant persons.
6. The final draft is to be submitted to the next Plenary Assembly for approval

Resolution: It is agreed to create a group for the revision of the Statutes and its members will be: the President of the Episcopal Commission for Evangelization, the President of the National Pastoral Council of Laity, the Chancellor or any suitable cleric plus a suitable layperson of each Diocese. The list of the members is to be submitted to the Secretariat before April 30.

B. Organizing a series of video-programs on "Life, Science and Faith" on YouTube and by means of other social media.**Explanation:**

1. Most of the social media support theories and ideas that reject or misinterpret Christian faith, thus hindering the evangelization work of the Church.
2. Radio Veritas should produce video-programs on topics like "Life, Science and Faith" with each Diocese and broadcast them on YouTube.
3. Catholic professor, Mr. Li Jiatong (李家同), can be the moderator and invite scientists and renowned scholars to share their experience with Catholic faith in their daily life by means of dialogue, as so to help the public to have an objective view of Catholic faith and discover Christ's genuine love.
4. Detailed plan (cf. attached documents)

5. Further discussions
6. If the proposal is accepted, each Diocese is requested to recommend a guest to be invited.

Proposal: Approved. The name list of the guests is to be submitted to the Secretariat before April 30.

C. The creation of a group for the regulation of Mass offerings

Explanation:

According to Canon Law:

Can. 945 §1 In accordance with the approved custom of the Church, any priest who celebrates or concelebrates a Mass may accept an offering to apply the Mass for a specific intention.

Can. 947 Even the semblance of trafficking or trading is to be entirely excluded from Mass offerings.

As priests nowadays no longer live on Mass offerings, in order to avoid any profit-making behavior, it is necessary to establish new rules as regards Mass offerings that are to be promulgated in the local Church.

Resolution: It is agreed to create a group for the regulation of Mass offerings. The members of this group will be the same as the group that is entrusted the amendment of the Statutes of the National Council of Lay Apostolate, i.e., the Chancellor or any suitable cleric and a layperson of each Diocese.

D. The creation of a group for Integral Human Development,

thus enforcing the operation of the Episcopal Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerary.

Resolution: Approved. The President (in charge) of the Episcopal Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerary, Bishop John Baptist Lee and its Executive Secretary, Rev. Fr. Joy Tajonera, MM, will report at the next Plenary Assembly (in November, 2021).

VI. Association for Canon Law Study

A. Proposal: Continuation of the proposal of Association for Canon Law Study which was discussed in the 3rd plenary assembly, 2020: drafting the cases that need be regulated canonically by means of general decrees.

Explanation:

1. According to Can. 455

§1. A conference of bishops can only issue general decrees in cases where universal law has prescribed it or a special mandate of the Apostolic See has established it either *motu proprio* or at the request of the conference itself.

§2. The decrees mentioned in §1, in order to be enacted validly in a plenary meeting, must be passed by at least a two thirds vote of the prelates who belong to the conference and possess a deliberative vote. They do not obtain binding force unless they have been legitimately promulgated after having been reviewed by the Apostolic See.

§3. The conference of bishops itself determines the manner of

promulgation and the time when the decrees take effect.

§4. In cases in which neither universal law nor a special mandate of the Apostolic See has granted the power mentioned in §1 to a conference of bishops, the competence of each diocesan bishop remains intact, nor is a conference or its president able to act in the name of all the bishops unless each and every bishop has given consent.

2. For the benefit of pastoral and evangelical ministry, the application to regulate the general decree according to the 3rd plenary assembly in 2020.

Can. 284 Clerics are to wear suitable ecclesiastical garb according to the norms issued by the conference of bishops and according to legitimate local customs.

Can. 535 §1. Each parish is to have parochial registers, that is, those of baptisms, marriages, deaths, and others as prescribed by the conference of bishops or the diocesan bishop. The pastor is to see to it that these registers are accurately inscribed and carefully preserved.

For the follow-up of the proposal which was discussed at the last Plenary Assembly, the amended articles are to be found in the attached documents, with a new amendment of article regarding Can 535 §1 on the registers.

Means:

The Bishops must first agree on the content of the general decrees of the CRBC. Then the texts will be sent to the Holy See for

approval (recognitio). After the Holy See has given its approval, the decrees will be issued and promulgated by CRBC.

Resolution: Accepted are the texts of the decrees for the Complementary Norms of CRBC of the following 17 articles:

Canon 230 §1 - Lectors and Acolytes

Canon 284 - Clerical Attire

Canon 535 §1 - Parish Register

Canon. 755 §1- Ecumenical Movement

Canon 766 - Lay Preaching

Canon 891 - Age for Confirmation

Canon 895 - The Confirmation Registration and Notification

Canon 1062 §1 – Engagement

Canon 1067 - The Investigation of Freedom to Marry

Canon 1083 §2 –Age for Celebration of Marriage

Canon 1126 - Mixed Marriages

Canon 1246 §2 - Holy Days of Obligation

Canon 1251 – Days of Abstinence and Fasting

Canon 1253 - Observance of Fasting and Abstinence

Canon 1277 - Acts of Extraordinary Administration by Diocesan Bishop

Canon 1292 §1 - Minimum and Maximum Sums,
Alienation of Church Property

Canon 1297 - Leasing of Church Property

(The full context of the decrees will be published after they have been approved by the Holy See)

VII. Caritas Taiwan (Commission for Social Development)

A. Proposal: The right and ownership of CRBC (Caritas Taiwan) on 9/F, Section A of Central Building of CICM (No. 2, Sec. 1, Zhongshan N. Rd., Zhongshan Dist., Taipei City).

Resolution: The Secretariat is to communicate the stand of CRBC to CICM by a written letter.

VIII. Taiwan Catholic Regional Seminary (Commission for the Clergy)

A. Proposal: Team Change of the Seminary.

Explanation:

The 3-year term of service of formation team will be due on July 31, 2021. Current formation team members:

Rector: Rev. Étienne Frécon, MEP.

Vice-Rector and Formator: Rev. John Su

Dean of General Affairs: Rev. Bartolomeo Lu

Resolution: A new Formator is to be found, - according to the three candidates recommended by the Bishops, in order of preference, - whose name will be announced when his appointment is confirmed.

IX. Chiayi Diocese

A. Proposal: The request of Chiayi Diocese for the Coronation of Our Lady of Chunghua enshrined at the Shrine of the Our

Lady of Chunghua (in Meishan) has been approved by the Holy See. A Mass will be celebrated in honor of the Coronation of Our Lady of Chunghua and is scheduled for August 2021. As Card. Luis Tagle, Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples will come to Taiwan in August, he is invited to be the celebrant. The support and the assistance of CRBC are needed.

Explanation: In accordance with the resolution of the Council of Consultors in Chiayi Diocese on March 23, 2021, the date of the Coronation is to be arranged according to the schedule of the Prefect around August when Evangelization Congress taking place. The first draft of the Coronation arrangement is as below.

Means:

1. Date: Sunday afternoon, August 8, 2021
2. Venue: Sacred Hearts High School in Yunlin

Resolution: Approved. The event of the day is added on to the itinerary of Card. Tagle who is invited to attend the Taiwan National Evangelization Congress.

X. Commission for Evangelization, Section for Family

A. “National Core Team for the Protection of Life” will cooperate with the Archdiocese of Taipei in order to prepare the event of “March for Life”. Afterwards the events will be held in each Diocese in turn, in the hope that it will become a regular event at the national level.

Explanation:

1. In 1984, the “Genetic Health Act” was promulgated in Taiwan. In other words, abortion became legal. According to the estimation of the Medical Association, 500,000 unborn babies are reported to be killed every year in Taiwan, far beyond the annual official number of new-born babies.
2. The Diocese of Hsinchu held on May 11, 2019 the 1st “March for Life”. It is hoped that through this activity, the public gets sensitized to the importance of the life of unborn babies. 600 people came to join that March.
3. Thanks to the support of the Bishops the proposal of Section for Family was accepted during the autumn Plenary Assembly, 2019. In order that this activity can have greater impact, the Section for Family plans to extend it to a national scale, sharing the experience of other countries and transfers the rally to the capital, Taipei, in cooperation with other communities, on the Saturday before the Mother’s Day in 2020. An organization plan of “March for Life” with detailed information is available.
4. Due to the resurge of the Covic-19 pandemic, “March for Life” which was to be held before Mother’s Day 2020 on a national scale, has been postponed to 2022 provisionally before the situation becomes clear in 2021.
5. In order to make the rally become a national event, and to foster a common acknowledgement of it within the Church and in society before it takes place in 2022, during the autumn Plenary Assembly (2019) the Section for Family proposed to create a “National Core Team for the Protection of Life” which

comprises the representatives from each Diocese and the Section for Family. The proposal found the support and the approval of the Bishops.

6. The first meeting, held on March 13, 2021, following the creation of “National Core Team for the Protection of Life”, has decided that the first March will place in Taipei, the capital, with its symbolic meaning, and that “March for Life” 2022, is looking forward to cooperating with the Archdiocese of Taipei
7. “National Core Team for the Protection of Life” may cooperate with each Diocese, preparing the March on a national scale after the rally in 2022, and the March can therefore take place in each Diocese in turn every one to three years.

Means:

1. The Bishops are invited to join the March in 2022.
2. The Ordinary of each Diocese is requested to support that the “National Core Team for the Protection of Life” and its cooperation with each Diocese, preparing the March on a national scale after the rally in 2022, and the March can therefore take place in each Diocese in turn every one to three years. It is hoped that the events will be become a regular important event of Taiwan Church.

Resolution: Approved.

B. Amendment of the text for renewing the matrimonial vows which is to be inserted to the liturgy of Mass celebration for the commemoration of the anniversary of marriage.

Explanation:

1. The ceremony of renewing the marriage vows is commonly inserted in the Mass celebration after a marriage counseling or on the Feast of the Holy Family by some of the marriage counseling communities or some parishes, in the hope that this not only reinforces the faith of married couples on their journey of conjugal life, but also will encourage single lay people to embrace matrimony overcoming their fear and the challenges of conjugal life.
2. However, from the perspective of the Canon Law, just as the sacrament of Baptism can be received once only, the Sacrament of marriage can also be received once only. Therefore, the text for renewing the marriage vows cannot be the same as the text for the celebration of the sacrament of marriage.
3. In the Mass celebration for the commemoration of the anniversary of the marriage, after the homily the celebrant can consult the texts of the Diocese of Hong Kong for couple(s) to renew their marriage vows.

Means:

1. The Ordinary of each Diocese is requested to approve that the Mass celebration for the “commemoration of anniversary of marriage” can be held on the Feast of the Holy Family in all parish of Taiwan, or after a marriage counseling of the couple(s).
2. If the related rite is considered to be not thorough enough or does not fit in the local custom of the Church in Taiwan, the preparation of a more suitable can be entrusted to the Episcopal

Commission for Sacred Liturgy.

Resolution: Approved. The Episcopal Commission for Sacred Liturgy will examine the available and make necessary adaptations if necessary.

XI. Taipei Archdiocese

A. Proposal: In order to encourage each Diocese, its deaneries and sodalities to send 2 or 3 persons to be “seed teachers” so that update information on bioethics and human rights law can be duly spread and correctly explained within the Church.

Explanation: New laws on bioethics and regarding human rights are in preparation. The Dioceses must be sufficiently prepared in cases these laws come into effects.

Resolution: Approved. The Dioceses are to appoint some people to attend the courses held by Commission for Bioethics of the Taipei Archdiocese, in order to be seed teachers through by specific training.

XII. Taiwan Catholic Regional Seminary (Commission for Clergy)

A. Proposal: On-going Formation for Priests for 2021

Theme: Taiwan National Evangelization Congress

Date: August 16-19, 2021

Venue: Taiwan Catholic Regional Seminary

Goal:

1. Responding to and cooperating with the Taiwan National

Evangelization Congress.

2. To reassure that the resolutions of Congress be well received and implemented by the priests.
3. Sharing opinions.
4. Establishing the correlation between spirituality and pastoral ministry.
5. In-depth conference and analysis on the very themes discussed at the Congress.

Resolution: Approved. The list of lecturers will be the same as the list of team leaders of the Congress discussion teams.

Provisional Motion

I. National Council of Lay Apostolate

Proposal: Fund-raising project for CRBC by selling local grapes (Target amount: NTD1,000,000.- Totally, 10,000 boxes, price per box NTD400.- and from each box NTD100.- for CRBC.).

Explanation: June is the season for the harvest of local grapes. So the fund-raising action can start in June.

Resolution: Approved.

Memorandum

CRBC and AMRSMW Joint Meeting

Date: May 10, 2021, 10am~3pm

Venue: Central Building Meeting Room (10F, No. 2, Sec. 1, Zhongshan N. Rd., Zhongshan Dist., Taipei City)

Taiwan National Evangelization Congress

Date: August 4-7, 2021

Venue: Fu-Jen Catholic University, Taipei

CRBC 2nd Standing Committee, 2021

Date: March 24, 2021, 3pm

Venue: CRBC (39 An-Ju Street, Taipei)

CRBC Autumn Plenary Assembly, 2021

Date: November 22-25, 2021

Venue: CRBC (39 An-Ju Street, Taipei)

Chinese Regional Bishops' Conference Minutes of the 2nd Bishops' (Video) Conference, 2021

Date: 10:00am~11:30am, Monday, June 7, 2021

Venue: Curia of each Diocese

President: Most Rev. John Baptist Lee

Attendees: Most Rev. John Baptist Lee, Most Rev. Thomas Chung,
Most Rev. Peter Liu, Most Rev. Philip Huang,
Most Rev. Martin Su, Most Rev. John Lee

Secretary: Fr. Otfried Chan, Secretary General

Opening Prayer

Address of the President, CRBC

The President of CRBC, Most Rev. John Baptist Lee, sent a letter in the name of CRBC to :

- Most Rev. Stephen Chow (Bishop-elect) on May 21 to congratulate him on the appointment as the Bishop of the Diocese of Hong Kong, and pray for him and his pastoral ministry.
- Most Rev. Sebastian Francis, President of Bishops' Conference of Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei, on June 1, to offer condolences on the passing of Cardinal Cornelius Sim. The copy of the letter has sent to Msgr. Arnaldo Catalan.

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs on June 2, to thank the Minister, Mr. Joseph Wu, for the medical treatment offered to the late Cardinal Cornelius Sim during his stay in Taiwan. The remains of the Cardinal will be transported to his hometown at 6:30 pm on June 11 by Royal Brunei Airlines.

Agenda

1. The National Evangelization Congress which probably cannot take place.

Explanation: As the pandemic still rages on now in June, the final preparatory meeting is unable to be held in June, and neither is the Congress in August. One still need to find a proper way to bring it to an ending, signifying that the hard work of each Diocese that has been accomplished will not be in vain.

Means:

1. The written responses to the working document ('Pastoral guide for parishes of the Catholic Church in Taiwan') of each Diocese will be all collected and sent to the preparatory group before the end of June. The preparatory group will compile the responses of the Dioceses and edit them into a final document as a booklet. Even though the National Evangelization Congress cannot take place, a Mass should be celebrated for the closing ceremony of the Congress and can be broadcasted online. At the closing ceremony of the Congress, the booklet will be presented, symbolizing the commitment of each Diocese. A copy of the booklet will be sent to the Congregation for the Evangelization of

Peoples, by the end of August.

2. The date and venue of the closing ceremony with Mass celebration will be decided according to the development of the pandemic.
3. Although Cardinal Tagle cannot come due to the pandemic, one can request him to give a written message or recorded in a video to the Congress to be read or shown at the ending of the Mass

Resolution: Approved.

2. The procedure for conducting the Synod of Bishops at the level of particular Churches, in 2021.

Explanation:

The journey toward the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops will follow the following path:

- **Opening of the Synod (October 2021):** The opening of the Synod will take place in the Vatican and in every diocese. The Holy Father in the Vatican will inaugurate this synodal path: 9-10th October. Under the guidance of the local bishop, each diocese will open with the same celebration on Sunday 17th October.
- **Diocesan Phase (October 2021 – April 2022):** The objective of this phase is to consult the People of God (cf. *Episcopalis Communio*, 5, 2) so that the synodal process is carried out through listening to all of the baptised, who are the subject of the *sensus fidei* – infallible –in *credendo*.
- **Continental Phase (September 2022 – March 2023):** The purpose of this phase is to promote dialogue at the continental

level about the text of the first *Instrumentum Laboris* and deepen discernment within the specific cultural context of each continent.

- **Universal Church Phase (October 2023):** The General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops will send the second *Instrumentum Laboris* to the participants of the Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. Celebration of the Synod of Bishops will take place in Rome according to the norms established in the Apostolic Constitution *Episcopalis Communio*. (October 2023)

Means:

A written communication will be announced by CRBC in early July: Firstly, the reason why only the closing ceremony of the National Evangelization Congress with Mass will take place virtually. Secondly, the work that each Diocese has accomplished from the beginning will be presented in a report during the closing ceremony. Thirdly, the purpose and the process (starting from each Diocese on October 17) of the Synod of Bishops, in 2023.

Resolution: Approved.

3. New Team of Formators for the Major Seminary.

Explanation: In accordance with the resolution of the 1st Plenary Meeting in 2021, the candidates as the new formators of the Major Seminary have been proposed in order of preference. The first foreign candidate is unable to take over the position due to insurmountable difficulties in his religious institute, and the third local candidate is not available for the task of Formator in the

Seminary. Therefore, CRBC needs to find another candidate.

Resolution: The Bishops will keep on looking for a new candidate and the decision will be made by July 1. The present team of formators will serve for an additional year if necessary.

Provisional Motion

1. The cancellation of 14th Taiwan Youth Day (TYD) which was scheduled to take place on July 30~August 3, 2021.

Explanation:

1. The 14th Taiwan Youth Day (TYD) is to be held by Hualien Diocese and was scheduled for July 30~August 3, 2021, in Hualien.
2. Because of the pandemic in 2020, the TYD had already been postponed to this year in accordance with the precautionary measures of National Health Command Center. The sudden outbreak of pandemic in last May, however, is even more severe than in last year. The preparatory group of Hualien Diocese, therefore, convened a meeting on May 25 and suggested to CRBC that the 14th TYD should be cancelled for safety reasons.
3. Whether or not the TYD can place, the enthusiasm and the hard work of the preparatory group of Hualien Diocese from 2019 till now cannot be denied, and the fruit of their work must be not forgotten. Therefore, the Bishops hope that the preparatory group put down in written documents their fruit of their work and their experience and share them in various ways with all the lay

people.

4. The work plan for TYD in the future has to wait for the discussion before being finalized by Most Rev. John Lee, President of the Section for Youth and National Counselor of the Pastoral of the Youth. The work plan will be submitted in November, at the Autumn Plenary Assembly.

Resolution: Approved.



Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the First World Day for Grand- parents and the Elderly

(25 July 2021)

“I am with you always”

Dear Grandfathers and Grandmothers,

Dear Elderly Friends,

“I am with you always” (*Mt 28:20*): this is the promise the Lord made to his disciples before he ascended into heaven. They are the words that he repeats to you today, dear grandfathers and grandmothers, dear elderly friends. “I am with you always” are also the words that I, as Bishop of Rome and an elderly person like yourselves, would like to address to you on this first World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly. The whole Church is close to you – to us – and cares about you, loves you and does not want to leave you alone!

I am well aware that this Message comes to you at a difficult time: the pandemic swept down on us like an unexpected and furious storm; it has been a time of trial for everyone, but especially for us elderly persons. Many of us fell ill, others died or experienced the death of spouses or loved ones, while

others found themselves isolated and alone for long periods.

The Lord is aware of all that we have been through in this time. He is close to those who felt isolated and alone, feelings that became more acute during the pandemic. Tradition has it that Saint Joachim, the grandfather of Jesus, felt estranged from those around him because he had no children; his life, like that of his wife Anne, was considered useless. So the Lord sent an angel to console him. While he mused sadly outside the city gates, a messenger from the Lord appeared to him and said, “Joachim, Joachim! The Lord has heard your insistent prayer”.¹ Giotto, in one of his celebrated frescoes,² seems to set the scene at night, one of those many sleepless nights, filled with memories, worries and longings to which many of us have come to be accustomed.

Even at the darkest moments, as in these months of pandemic, the Lord continues to send *angels* to console our loneliness and to remind us: “I am with you always”. He says this to you, and he says it to me. That is the meaning of this Day, which I wanted to celebrate for the first time in this particular year, as a long period of isolation ends and social life slowly resumes. May every grandfather, every grandmother, every older person, especially those among us who are most alone, receive the visit of an *angel*!

¹ The episode is narrated in the Proto-evangelium of James.

² This image has been chosen as the logo for the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly.

At times those angels will have the face of our grandchildren, at others, the face of family members, lifelong friends or those we have come to know during these trying times, when we have learned how important hugs and visits are for each of us. How sad it makes me that in some places these are still not possible!

The Lord, however, also sends us messengers through his words, which are always at hand. Let us try to read a page of the Gospel every day, to pray with the psalms, to read the prophets! We will be comforted by the Lord's faithfulness. The Scriptures will also help us to understand what the Lord is asking of our lives today. For at every hour of the day (cf. *Mt* 20:1-16) and in every season of life, he continues to send labourers into his vineyard. I was called to become the Bishop of Rome when I had reached, so to speak, retirement age and thought I would not be doing anything new. The Lord is always – *always* – close to us. He is close to us with new possibilities, new ideas, new consolations, but always close to us. You know that the Lord is eternal; he never, ever goes into retirement.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells the Apostles, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (28:19-20). These words are also addressed to us today. They help us better understand that our vocation is to preserve our roots, to

pass on the faith to the young, and to care for the little ones. Think about it: what is our vocation today, at our age? To preserve our roots, to pass on the faith to the young and to care for the little ones. Never forget this.

It makes no difference how old you are, whether you still work or not, whether you are alone or have a family, whether you became a grandmother or grandfather at a young age or later, whether you are still independent or need assistance. Because there is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel and handing down traditions to your grandchildren. You just need to set out and undertake something new.

At this crucial moment in history, you have a renewed vocation. You may wonder: How this can be possible? My energy is running out and I don't think I can do much. How can I begin to act differently when habit is so much a part of my life? How can I devote myself to those who are poor when I am already so concerned about my family? How can I broaden my vision when I can't even leave the residence where I live? Isn't my solitude already a sufficiently heavy burden? How many of you are asking just that question: isn't my solitude already a sufficiently heavy burden? Jesus himself heard a similar question from Nicodemus, who asked, "How can a man be born when he is old?" (*Jn* 3:4). It can happen, the Lord replies, if we open our hearts to the working of the Holy Spirit, who blows where he wills. The Holy

Spirit whose freedom is such that goes wherever, and does whatever, he wills.

As I have often observed, we will not emerge from the present crisis as we were before, but either better or worse. And “God willing... this may prove not to be just another tragedy of history from which we learned nothing... If only we might keep in mind all those elderly persons who died for lack of respirators... If only this immense sorrow may not prove useless, but enable us to take a step forward towards a new style of life. If only we might discover once for all that we need one another, and that in this way our human frailty can experience a rebirth” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 35). No one is saved alone. We are all indebted to one another. We are all brothers and sisters.

Given this, I want to tell you that you are needed in order to help build, in fraternity and social friendship, the world of tomorrow: the world in which we, together with our children and grandchildren, will live once the storm has subsided. All of us must “take an active part in renewing and supporting our troubled societies” (*ibid.*, 77). Among the pillars that support this new edifice, there are three that you, better than anyone else, can help to set up. Those three pillars are dreams, memory and prayer. The Lord’s closeness will grant to all, even the frailest among us, the strength needed to embark on a new journey along the path of dreams, memory and prayer.

The prophet Joel once promised: “Your old men shall dream *dreams*, and your young men will have visions” (3:1). The future of the world depends on this covenant between young and old. Who, if not the young, can take the dreams of the elderly and make them come true? Yet for this to happen, it is necessary that we continue to dream. Our dreams of justice, of peace, of solidarity can make it possible for our young people to have new visions; in this way, together, we can build the future. You need to show that it is possible to emerge renewed from an experience of hardship. I am sure that you have had more than one such experience: in your life you have faced any number of troubles and yet were able to pull through. Use those experiences to learn how to pull through now.

Dreams are thus intertwined with *memory*. I think of the painful memory of war, and its importance for helping the young to learn the value of peace. Those among you who experienced the suffering of war must pass on this message. Keeping memory alive is a true mission for every elderly person: keeping memory alive and sharing it with others. Edith Bruck, who survived the horror of the Shoah, has said that “even illuminating a single conscience is worth the effort and pain of keeping alive the memory of what has been.” She went on to say: “For me, memory is life.”³ I also think of my own grandparents, and those among you who

³ Memory is life, writing is breath. *L'Osservatore Romano*, January 26, 2021.

had to emigrate and know how hard it is to leave everything behind, as so many people continue to do today, in hope of a future. Some of those people may even now be at our side, caring for us. These kinds of memory can help to build a more humane and welcoming world. Without memory, however, we will never be able to build; without a foundation, we can never build a house. Never. And the foundation of life is memory.

Finally, prayer. As my predecessor, Pope Benedict, himself a saintly elderly person who continues to pray and work for the Church, once said: “the prayer of the elderly can protect the world, helping it perhaps more effectively than the frenetic activity of many others.”⁴ He spoke those words in 2012, towards the end of his pontificate. There is something beautiful here. Your prayer is a very precious resource: a deep breath that the Church and the world urgently need (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 262). Especially in these difficult times for our human family, as we continue to sail in the same boat across the stormy sea of the pandemic, your intercession for the world and for the Church has great value: it inspires in everyone the serene trust that we will soon come to shore.

Dear grandmother, dear grandfather, dear elderly friends, in concluding this Message to you, I would also like to mention the example of Blessed (and soon Saint) Charles de Foucauld. He lived as a hermit in Algeria and there testified to “his

⁴ Visit to the Group Home “Viva gli Anziani” , 2 November 2012.

desire to feel himself a brother to all” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 287). The story of his life shows how it is possible, even in the solitude of one’s own desert, to intercede for the poor of the whole world and to become, in truth, a universal brother or sister.

I ask the Lord that, also through his example, all of us may open our hearts in sensitivity to the sufferings of the poor and intercede for their needs. May each of us learn to repeat to all, and especially to the young, the words of consolation we have heard spoken to us today: “I am with you always”! Keep moving forward! May the Lord grant you his blessing.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 31 May 2021, Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

FRANCIS



Prot. N. 757/21/1

DECREE

The Apostolic Penitentiary, in order to increase the devotion of the faithful and for the salvation of souls, by virtue of the faculties attributed to it by the Supreme Pontiff Pope Francis by Divine Providence, listening to the recent request presented by the Most Eminent Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church, Kevin Joseph Farrell, Prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, on the occasion of the First World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly, recently instituted by the Supreme Pontiff on the fourth Sunday of the month of July, graciously grants the Plenary Indulgence from the heavenly treasures of the Church, under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer according to the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff) to grandparents, the elderly and all the faithful who, motivated by a true spirit of penance and charity, will participate on 25 July 2021, on the occasion of the First World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly, in the solemn celebration that the Most Holy Father Francis will preside over in the Vatican Papal Basilica or at the various functions that will be held throughout the world, who may also apply it as suffrage for the souls in Purgatory.

This Court of Mercy also grants the Plenary Indulgence on this same day to the faithful who devote adequate time to actually or

virtually visiting their elderly brothers and sisters in need or in difficulty (such as the sick, the abandoned, the disabled and other similar cases).

The Plenary Indulgence may also be granted to, provided that they detach themselves from any sins and intend to fulfill the three usual conditions as soon as possible, the elderly sick and all those who, unable to leave their homes for a serious reason, will unite themselves spiritually to the sacred functions of the World Day, offering to the Merciful God their prayers, pains or sufferings of their lives, especially during the transmission, -through the means of television and radio, but also through the new means of social communication, of the words of the Supreme Pontiff and the celebrations.

Therefore, in order to facilitate access to divine forgiveness through the Keys of the Church, out of pastoral charity, this Penitentiary earnestly requests priests, equipped with the appropriate faculties to hear confessions, to make themselves available, in a ready and generous spirit, for the celebration of Penance.

This Decree is valid for the First World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly, notwithstanding any provision to the contrary.

Given at Rome, at the See of the Apostolic Penitentiary, on 13 May, on the Ascension of the Lord, in the year of the Incarnation of the Lord 2021.

MAURO CARD. PIACENZA
Major Penitentiary

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出版日期：2021年9月

