

HOMILY

Mass of the Holy Spirit to Open the Congress

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Bishop of Taichung

*Host of the 2nd Asia Pacific Congress
on Migration, Family, and Mission 2014*

Your Beatitude, Gregorios III

Your Excellencies, Most Reverend Bishops

Reverend Fathers, Sisters, delegates of the 2nd Asia Pacific Congress on Migration, Family, and Mission

Friends, GOOD MORNING!

It is a great blessing for me to celebrate this Mass of the Holy Spirit on the opening of your Congress today which is also the 7th Anniversary of my Episcopal Ordination. This was not planned, a coincidence perhaps but I believe God sends a message for all of us. The message of *Communio in Missio*. The Church in Asia, particularly in Taiwan, is in communion with the Universal Church in her Mission towards the people on the move and for the pastoral care of the Church in Diaspora.

I am happy that in this mass of the Holy Spirit, the presence of the Patriarch of the Eastern Catholic Church, His Beatitude Patriarch Gregorios III; the bishops, the Clergy, the religious, and Laity in the Asia Pacific Region are here as a symbol of Communion among churches in the Universal Church. We are all one, especially in our prayers and compassion particularly to those persecuted Christians and the minorities in the middle east and the world, those who are displaced by wars and natural disasters, those who are victims of human trafficking and abuses, those migrants who became human commodities for economic gains. We are one with our seafarers who, in their pursuit of happiness have to undergo the dangers and loneliness in the seven seas in order to connect continents and archipelagoes with the goods they are bringing.

Our readings today gave us the impetus from the Holy Spirit to bring glad tidings. In this congress, we will gather in the same room, we will experience the presence of Jesus bringing peace and commissioning us to go in a mission, »as the Father has sent me, so I send you« Send, where? I believe, He is sending us to the fertile ground of migration.

We come from different places in the world, we speak different languages, we live in different cultures and traditions, but we gather here today to listen to the only one language, which is the THE LANGUAGE OF THE HEART, we are here to share one culture and tradition, which is THE CULTURE OF LIFE, LOVE, AND THE CULTURE OF WELCOME. To practice the same tradition which is being passed to us from the time of Pentecost. This is why the people of different languages in the past understood the disciples because they were speaking in unison the language of the heart and living in communion the culture of love. This is the Language, this is the Culture and Tradition of the CATHOLIC CHURCH as inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Once again, I am happy to welcome you all. You have chosen my Diocese as a room where the

disciples gathered to see the wounds of Jesus in the wounds of the suffering migrants and displaced people and to receive a mission to heal their wounds.
GOD LOVES YOU!
