

FCBCO ASSEMBLY SESSION PROCESS

'SAVE THE OCEAN TO SAVE MOTHER EARTH'

5-10th February

The Pearl Resort, Pacific Harbor



Aim of the Assembly

To enhance the FCBCO Goals (refer to FCBCO constitution Appendix 1).

1. to promote and defend whatever is for the common good;
2. to contribute more effectively to the common good of the Universal Church;
3. to promote the well-being of the family of nations by drawing on the cultural riches of the peoples of Oceania;
4. to give visible expression to the unity in diversity with which the Holy Spirit has endowed the Particular Churches in the various nations of Oceania;
5. to deepen the collegial spirit and to strengthen solidarity (synodality) among the members of the four-member Conferences

Methodology of the FCBCO Assembly

- Pastoral Circle is a tool to help Church organizations respond effectively to social and ecological issues. (Appendix 3)
- Synod on Synodality Process – Listening to people, Listening to the Holy Spirit, Discernment.
- Spiritual Conversations (Appendix 4)

Outcomes of the Assembly

To establish the FCBCO pastoral plan.

To have an Organization and Support Structure.

FRIDAY 10th February		ORGANIZATION & SUPPORT STRUCTURE			
7:20-7:45	MORNING PRAYER MASS	Focus on mission, sending out. PNG			Liturgy Team
7:45-8:00 am	MASS BREAKFAST	Mass for Cardinal Archbishop Dew			Liturgy Team
9.00	Gathering the Fruits of Wednesday's Reflections	Chair invites member of the FT or Exec to present a synthesis.	FT and Exec meet on Wednesday night to prepare 10 min synthesis.		
8.00	BREAKFAST				
9.00	Gathering the Fruit of Thursday's Reflections	Chair invites member of the FT or Exec to present a synthesis. Chair invites facilitator to introduce the pastoral response stage of the Assembly. Chair explains the tasks for the day of the Assembly.	FT & Exec meet on Thursday night to prepare synthesis for and draft FCBCO Pastoral Plan 2023-2027. 5 minute introduction to the pastoral response	30 mins	
9.30	Organisation and support structure	Exec Member presents the Draft FCBCO Pastoral Plan. Bishops discuss the Plan and the organization and support structure needed to implement it.	Present draft Plan 10 mins. Discussion in Conference groups and in plenary.	60 mins	
10.30	PASTORAL GOAL SETTING	Chair introduces Facilitator to lead the Bishops in a	5-minute Brainstorm introduction to the goals for the	60 mins	
11.00	NEW FCBCO COUNCIL SELECTION PROCESS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Selection of New FCBCO Exec. Council 2. Conferences present their representative to FCBCO Council 3. Australia presents the next President of FCBCO 4. Passing on of the FCBCO Pastoral Mission Plan 5. Next Plenary Assembly date 		120 mins	

Appendix 1: FCBCO Goals, Role & Functions (extracted from the FCBCO STATUTES 1992)

GOALS

6. to promote and defend whatever is for the common good;
7. to contribute more effectively to the common good of the Universal Church;
8. to promote the well-being of the family of nations by drawing on the cultural riches of the peoples of Oceania;
9. to give visible expression to the unity in diversity with which the Holy Spirit has endowed the Particular Churches in the various nations of Oceania;
10. to deepen the collegial spirit and to strengthen solidarity among the members of the four-member Conferences

ROLE

The role of the Federation is:

1. to provide an ecclesial structure whereby the members of the four member-Conferences can

collaborate to carry out joint pastoral action for Christ's faithful of their nations.

FUNCTION

The function of the Federation is:

1. to provide the means whereby the members of the four member-Conferences can share their interests, insights, experiences, and concerns.

2. to enable the members of the four member-Conferences to become more aware of each other's Particular Churches and issues affecting these Churches;
3. to enable the members of the four member-Conferences to discuss and formulate joint pastoral action in matters of common concern

Appendix 2: The FCBCO Theological and Pastoral Context

FCBCO is located the Pacific Ocean or the Ocean Island Nations. The Ocean is a very important part of the earth. Scientists argue caring for the earth must begin with caring for the ocean. The ocean is important for the following reasons:

1. The Ocean produces more oxygen than the Amazon

The ocean covers 70% of the earth's surface. It produces 70% of the world's oxygen. It does not matter how far we live from the sea; from every ten breaths you take seven come from the ocean. Phytoplankton is a microscopic plant, a component of the plankton, which spends its life being carried by oceanic currents. Basically, these tiny little organisms act in the same way as tree leaves do on land. Phytoplankton absorbs carbon dioxide and releases oxygen. We do not see them, so we tend to forget about them if we even know about them in the first place. They are one of the tiniest beings on the planet, but one of the most important to have around, keeping us alive.

2. The Marine Ecosystem is the Largest Ecosystem on Earth

The oceans alone cover about 70% of the Earth's surface or 140,000,000 square miles. The average ocean depth is about 12,000 feet and the deepest point is the Mariana Trench in the Pacific Ocean with a depth of about 32,800 feet.

3. The Marine Ecosystem has the Greatest Biodiversity on Earth

Almost half of the known species on Earth live in marine ecosystems and scientists suspect there may be another 1 million yet to be discovered. Roughly 700,000 to 1 million species live in the oceans. Human being's well-being depends on biodiversity.

4. Mangrove Forests are Diverse Ecosystems

Mangrove forests are found on tropical and subtropical marine coastlines and tidal areas. They contain small trees and shrubs tolerant of salt water. The root systems of the forests form tangled webs of habitat where many species of fish, invertebrates, seabirds, and waterfowl live, reproduce, and mature.

5. The Ocean regulates the Earth climate.

In many ways, the sea regulates our climate. It soaks up the heat and transports warm water from the equator to the poles, and cold water from the poles to the tropics. Without these currents, the weather would be extreme in some regions, and fewer places would be habitable.

It regulates rain and droughts. Holding 97% of the water of our planet, almost all rain that drops on land comes from the sea. The ocean absorbs CO₂, to keep the carbon cycle, and accordingly temperatures on earth, in balance. It is like our global climate control system.

6. It is an important source of food.

The ocean is the number one source of protein for more than a billion people. Fish accounts for about 15.7% of the animal protein consumed globally. Although not everything is fish and seafood. Humans have traditionally used algae and sea plants for cooking sushi, seaweed pancit in Philippines, sea grapes, dulse, etc. There is a growing tendency of using algae and sea plants on our daily and start-ups like, “This is seaweed...” are making sure to introduce it in our supermarkets.

Considering the world population growing by 1.5 million people every week, we are relying on the ocean more and more for survival, and we need from an alternative and nutritious food sources. For those who are not into eating insects, edible seaweed might be a good alternative.

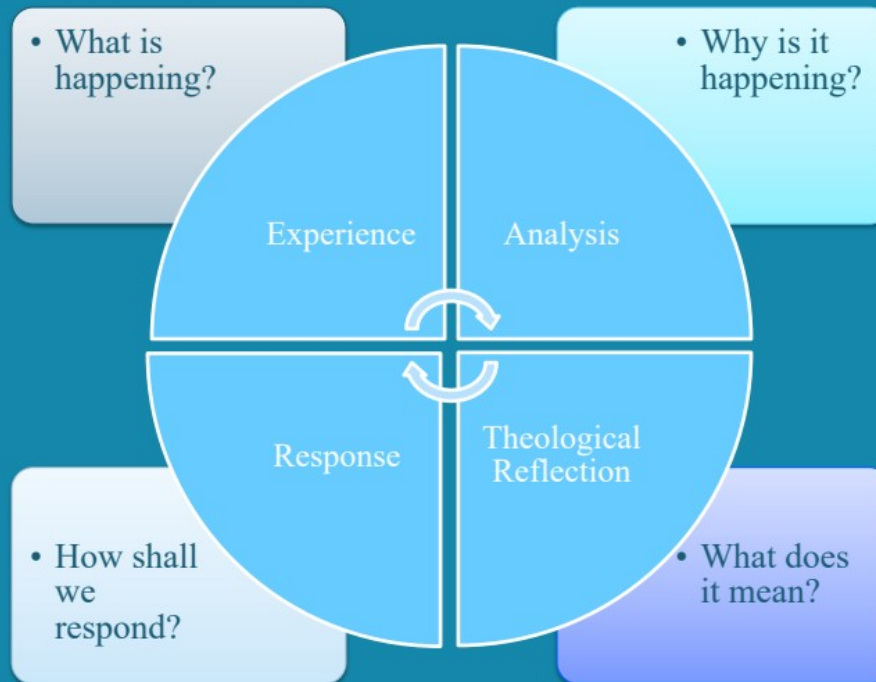
7. Many creatures depend on and live in the Ocean.

The ocean is not just home to us ocean lovers, but it is home to the greatest abundance of life on our planet. When you sail across an ocean, you will see dolphins, whales or a turtle popping up to take a breath. That is just what we see on the surface; there is more life below the ocean’s surface than on land. Experts predict that there are more than 300,000 different species underwater and is still not clear how many of them we know.

All the creatures that live in the Ocean play an essential role in the trophic chain of the ecosystems. Due to climate change, the ocean has been warming and losing oxygen, and becoming too acidic. Many marine species have already been adjusting their geographic and depth ranges with changes in sea temperature. However, not all species may be able to move to avoid thermal stress, and global warming has already been correlated with mass mortalities in the Mediterranean.

With more than 60% of the world's population living on the coastline, we all depend on a healthy sea just as much as these beautiful creatures.

Four Questions



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APPENDIX 4

The Spiritual Conversion

General Secretariat for the Synod of the Bishops

What is spiritual conversation? Spiritual conversation focuses on the quality of one's capacity to listen as well as the quality of the words spoken. This means paying attention to the spiritual movements in oneself and in the other person during the conversation, which requires being attentive to more than simply the words expressed. This quality of attention is an act of respecting, welcoming, and being hospitable to others as they are. It is an approach that takes seriously what happens in the hearts of those who are conversing. There are two necessary attitudes that are fundamental to this process: Active listening and speaking from the heart.

What is the primary goal of spiritual conversation? The aim is to create an atmosphere of trust and welcome, so that people can express themselves more freely. This helps them to take seriously what happens within them as they listen to others and speak. Ultimately, this interior attentiveness makes us more aware of the presence and participation of the Holy Spirit in the process of sharing and discernment.

What is the focus of spiritual conversation? The focus is on the person with whom one is speaking and oneself, and what we are experiencing on a spiritual level. The fundamental question is: "What is happening in the other person and in me, and how is the Lord working here?"

a) Active Listening

- The goal is to try and understand others as they are.
- Listening not only to what the other person says, but also to what he or she means and what he or she might be experiencing on a deeper level. This means listening with a heart that is open and receptive.
- This way of listening is "active" because it involves paying attention to more than one level of expression of the other. In order to do so, one must participate actively in the listening process.
- Listen to the other while he or she is speaking, and do not focus on what you are going to say afterwards.
- Welcoming, without judgment, what the other person says, no matter what one thinks about the person or what they have said. Each person is an expert on his or her own life. We must listen in a way that is "more disposed to giving a good interpretation to what the other says than condemning it as false" (Spiritual Exercises, no. 22)
- We must believe that the Holy Spirit speaks to us through the other person.
- Welcoming without prejudice is a deep way of welcoming the other in his or her radical uniqueness.
- Active listening is letting oneself be influenced by the other and learn from the other.

- Active listening is demanding because it requires humility, openness, patience, and involvement, but it is an effective way of taking others seriously.

b) Speaking from the Heart

This means sincerely expressing oneself, one's experience, one's sentiments and thoughts.

- it involves speaking about one's own experience and what one truly thinks and feels.
- We take responsibility not only for what we say, but also for what we feel. We do not blame others for what we feel.
- Share the truth as we see it and as we live it, but do not impose it.
- Speaking from the heart is offering a generous gift to the other, in return for being actively listened to.
- This process is greatly enriched by a regular personal practice of the Examen Prayer. Without a habit of discernment and knowledge of oneself, one cannot actively listen or speak

What are the desired attitudes for spiritual conversation?

- Active and attentive listening
- Listen to others without judgment
- Pay attention not only to the words, but also to the tone and feelings of the speaker
- Avoid the temptation of using the time to prepare what you will say instead of listening
- Intentional speaking
- Express your experiences, thoughts, and feelings as clearly as you can
- Listen actively to yourself, mindful of your own thoughts and feelings as you speak
- Monitor possible tendencies to be self-centred when speaking