



FORO INTERNACIONAL ACCIÓN CATÓLICA INTERNATIONAL FORUM CATHOLIC ACTION

10 of March 2021
11.30 (India) - 15.00 (Philippines)

**ASIA
CONTINENTAL
MEETING**

**ENCUENTRO
CONTINENTAL
ASIA**

INTRODUCTION

Rafael CORSO

Coordinator of IFCA Secretariat, President of CA Argentina

Dear brothers and sisters, I thank you with all my heart for the opportunity to participate in this continental meeting of ASIA IFCA. I do it on behalf of the Secretariat of the International Forum composed of the Presidents of Catholic Action of Burundi, Senegal, Spain, Italy and Argentina, democratically elected at the last Assembly held in 2017 in Rome, for the promotion and service to all expressions of Catholic Action in the World.

We want to accompany each of your countries, knowing that often the Christian message is carried at personal and community risk, as evidenced by the persecution and death of many brothers and sisters in some countries of Asia and not only also in these our times .

Pope Francis, in his recent apostolic visit to Iraq, gave testimony of a Church persecuted and victimized by extremist religious movements that have subjugated and expelled our brothers and sisters and especially women and girls, buying and selling them as commodities in an attempt to break their faith.

However, our journey of faith and life is one of hope, of celebration, as children of God, who is both a merciful Father, and rich in blessings, who invites us to human brotherhood and to the tireless search for justice and peace, through growth in social friendship.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Lord of History,... "even though we walk through a dark valley we fear no evil",... He is with us! and we want to bring the joy of His Good News as missionary disciples to the world today. This is our mission. Mission with all and for all!

In Fratelli Tutti 271 Pope Francis told us, "The different religions, based on their respect for each human person as a creature called to be a child of God, contribute significantly to building fraternity and defending justice in society. Dialogue between the followers of different religions does not take place simply for the sake of diplomacy, consideration or tolerance. In the words of the Bishops of India, *"the goal of dialogue is to establish friendship, peace and harmony, and to share spiritual and moral values and experiences in a spirit of truth and love"*

Thanks to the bishops of India.

As IFCA, special thanks go to Bishop Felix Machado, Archbishop of Vasai, secretary of the Indian Bishops' Conference and our long-time friend in the journey of Catholic Action, to Sandro Calvani, international consultant who has been accompanying us for many years from Bangkok.

We begin with a prayer to the Holy Spirit and reflect on a brief text by Pope Francis to the laity of Korea that introduces our meeting in the best possible way.