



ETHIOPIAN CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT

Newsletter

Vol. III - No.2

June 2005

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*Workshop for Teachers and
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(Nekemte, 12-16 July 2005)*

*ECS Staff Annual Outing
(August 2005)*

*Donors/Partners Meeting
Addis Ababa,
(14 September 2005)*

*ECS Annual Retreat
at Galilee Centre
(16-17 September 2005)*

Bishops Lobby Tour 2005

By: Philipp Rohrer, CIDSE

At the end of May 2005, CIDSE – an alliance of 15 catholic development organizations from Europe and North America – has invited Cardinals and Bishops from Southern countries for lobby meetings with European governments. This tour took place only a few weeks ahead of the G8 summit in Scotland, where the heads of state of the eight world's richest countries will meet. In Berlin, London and Paris the church leaders met high ranking government representatives, in Brussels they met the president of the European commission.

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Photo above shows His Grace, Archbishop Berhaneyesus D Souraphiel, CM meeting the President of the EU Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso. (Photo: Credit CIDSE)



Archbishop Berhaneyesus (2nd from right, at back row above) among his fellow church leaders from North and South in front of Downing Street 10, the house of the British Prime Minister Tony Blair (Photo:Credit Caroline Irby, CAFOD).

The Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat (ECS)Newsletter
is published quarterly by the ECS Social Communications Department

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Bishops' XIth Ordinary Assembly in Adigrat

by
Leticia Padolina
Coordination Office, ECS

The XIth Ordinary Assembly of the Catholic Bishops of Ethiopia took place in Adigrat from 20-22 June 2005.

The Bishops delegation left Addis Ababa Airport in the morning of Saturday, 18 June for Adigrat via Mekelle on Flight ET 100. They were met on arrival at Mekelle Airport VIP Lounge by H.E. Abune Tesfaselassie Medhin, Eparch of Adigrat who hosted the Bishops XIth Ordinary Assembly in Adigrat.

A grand welcome awaited the delegation that was motorcaded from the airport to Mekelle City where visits were arranged. Catholic faithful lined the streets clapping their hands as the delegation approached the first stop – The Mekelle Catholic Parish Church. The next stop was at the home of the Daughters of Charity (DOC) where the Bishops were briefed about their activities before proceeding to the Lazarists' House. The Bishops also visited the Mother Theresa Home in Mekelle.

Lunch was served at the Mekelle Parish Hall. Immediately after lunch, the group continued with the next leg of the journey. The drive from Mekelle took them to the St Mary's Catholic Church at Wukro where they made a brief stop over to visit the Church for prayer and to give their blessing to the faithful before proceeding to Adigrat.

At 1530 hrs, the delegation reached Adigrat where a throng of well-wishers greeted them right at the curve that leads to the road entering the Adigrat Cathedral compound.

Colourful leis were presented to the arriving guests as they stepped down their cars and escorted to the Cathedral where a short programme was given and words of gratitude expressed, in appreciation for all the arrangements prepared for the Bishops' arrival.

The following day - Pentecost Sunday – Mass was celebrated at the Cathedral . After Mass,



Adigrat Catholic Cathedral

breakfast with the Faithful was served at the Minor Seminary Compound.

In the afternoon, a programme was shown at the new Tsinseta-Mariam (Immaculate Conception High School) Auditorium. The scheduled 2-hour drama, songs and circus show turned out to be longer . The drama, the songs and the breathtaking circus performers captured the interest of the guests and all those present in the School Auditorium. The guests enjoyed the students performances on stage. The day ended in a very festive mood.

During the week, VISITS were made to the AdigratCatholic Secretariat (ADCS) where the Bishops were familiarized with the activities of the Secretariat and a guided tour of the different departments was arranged and provided by Ato Teweolde H/Selassie, ADCS Assistant Secretary General.

The next stop was at Sebeya Parish where the Bishops were warmly welcomed by the Sebeya Faithful.

From Sebeye, the Bishops proceeded to Alitena and returned to Adigrat via Zalanbessa where they also made a brief visit to the Filippini Sisters there. The following day, they proceeded to Adwa where the



(Photoabove) Abune Abraham addressing the Sebeya faithful



(Photo above): Sebeya Parish.. a partial view of the Catholic faithful

new Church of the Mary Help of Christians, built by the Salesians of Don Bosco.was inaugurated.

A visit to the historical sites in Axum was also arranged by the Salesians of Don Bosco.

After a week-long absence from their respective Vicariates/Eparchies/Prefectures, they finally took off from Axum Airport, on board an Ethiopian Airlines flight back to Addis Ababa.



... the newly inaugurated Church of Mary Help of Christians, ADWA (Built by the Salesians of Don Bosco)

NEWS BRIEFS...

A Send-Off Get-Togetjher

On Thursday, the 9th of June, the Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat (ECS) and the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) jointly organized a send-off party for the outgoing CRS Country Representative, Ms Ann Bousquet.

Friends, colleagues and well-wishers from the religious and the international organizations led by H.E.Rt. Rev.Msgr. Leonardus Dobbelaar, CM, Vicar Apostolic of Nekemte, Rev. Abba Tsegaye Keneni, ECS Secretary General, Msgr. Robinson Wijesinghe, Counsellor, Vatican Embassy, Addis Ababa, Bro. Vincent Pelletier, CNEWA Regional Director, Bro Cesare Bullo of the Salesians of Don Bosco, Mr David Donovan, CRS Deputy Country Representative and many others graced the festive occasion.

H. E. Rt. Rev. Msgr. Leonardus Dobbelaar, CM, Vicar Apostolic of Nekemte offered the opening prayer.

Words of appreciation have been expressed, by friends and well-wishers who were present, in grateful recognition of the distinguished and exemplary support and contribution provided by CRS to the religious and development activities of the Ethiopian Catholic Church during Ms Ann Bousquet's **seven-year term** as Deputy Country Representative for 2 years and as Country Representative for 5 years with CRS.



Rev. Abba Tsegaye said some parting words of gratitude for Ann's untiring support, in particular, to the Social Development activities of ECS and in general, to the Ethiopian Catholic Church. **He presented gifts** to Ann signifying the never-ending appreciation of her valuable contribution to ECS.

H.E. Rt. Rev. Msgr. Dobbelaar, Msgr. Wijesinghe, Abba Kidanemariam Ghebray, Bro. Vincent, Sr. Laetitia, Sr. Graca, Mr Donovan and many others took turns to express their appreciation and sincere thanks to Ann.

By

Dr Tesfaye Gizaw

Database Manager and PR Officer, ECS

The Ethiopian Catholic Church website

The Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat (RCS) is happy to announce that the Ethiopian Catholic Church (ECC) website can now be accessed at <http://www.ecs.org.et>

Official inauguration of the website is expected to take place by August 2005.

The Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat desires that this web site be used as a forum where our Dioceses, national and international partners and concerned individuals could make contact and be informed about the activities of the Church.

It is also believed that people from every corner could now get better opportunity to easily discuss the growth of the Church. They can share their opinions and contribute a lot to the accomplishment of the goals and objectives of the Catholic Church in Ethiopia.

ECS therefore, encourages and invites all concerned parties to make use of this valuable resource and participate in giving feedback so that whatever suggestions received could be used to improve the service that the site offers.

SIGNIS Africa Assembly 2005

The National representatives of SIGNIS Africa met for their General Assembly in Kampala from 29 May to 4 June 2005. Various topics were discussed during the Assembly. Each ecclesiastical region presented the respective communications activities and strategies. Similarly a

(Please see next page)

In response, Ann thanked everyone for coming to join the gathering to bid her 'goodbye'. She also thanked all those who unselfishly provided unwavering support and cooperation during her term as CRS Ethiopia Country Representative.



Ann cutting the ceremonial cake

EthiopiaLives.net

(Contributed by Jannie Oosthuizen
CAFOD/TROCAIRE, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

Nineteen Ethiopians are turning their cameras onto their own lives to present a very personal view of life in Ethiopia, as a contrast to the images which are selected by professional photographers visiting Ethiopia from other countries. The photographs are stunningly beautiful, and are already creating a great deal of interest in Europe.

Over a period of six months, the photographers will capture their own day-to-day lives and upload photos to their website **www.EthiopiaLives.net**. People from all over the world are invited to email in feedback and support to the participants. The website will be launched in Europe on 3rd July 2005, and the photographers hope that the project will support the international campaign to Make Poverty History.

The participants come from many parts of the country, and from very different walks of life. They are from the capital city Addis Ababa, from the Borana region in the far South of Ethiopia, and from around Mekelle in the Tigray region. Their ages range from 15 to mid-fifties. The only thing that links them is that none have been involved in a project like this, or will normally have had the opportunity to present their own view of Ethiopia to an international audience.



(Church window. Photograph by Sr Medhin Abraha).

The project is co-ordinated by CAFOD & Trócaire, the Catholic development agencies for England, Ireland and Wales. The photographers were discovered through diverse Ethiopian NGO's: the Medical Missionaries of Mary, the Daughters of Charity in Tigray, and the Adigrat Diocese Catholic Secretariat (all of whom are part of the Ethiopian Catholic Church), as well as the Ethiopian Gemini Trust and Action For Development. These NGOs are providing ongoing logistical support to the photographers during the project period. Because some participants had not previously had the opportunity to use digital cameras, photographic training was provided in Ethiopia in May 2005 by the professional photographer Annie Bungeroth.

SIGNIS ...

(Continued from page 4)

representative from SIGNIS Asia presented a briefing about their activities in that region.

Explanations were given from CAMECO representative regarding the differences between "a project" and "an application" and also CAMECO's criteria for project evaluation and guidelines for presenting Projects. In the same way, the SIGNIS World representative presented a briefing on Strategic Planning and Project Management, and SIGNIS criteria and guidelines.

The assembly also discussed the question of the Indian Ocean Islands as part of Africa ecclesiastically but were

moved to the SIGNIS International group in November 2001. The assembly agreed that Madagascar be represented by a delegate as an observer both at World and SIGNIS Africa level to ensure that the question is addressed and resolved. Other topics discussed during the assembly were the presentation of SIGNIS Services Rome and presentation of AMECEA radios and media centers. Finally the assembly elected new SIGNIS Africa delegates composed of a President, Vice-president, Secretary/Treasurer, three delegates (one observer and two alternates). At the same time two delegates were elected to represent SIGNIS Africa on the SIGNIS World board.

A Visit to the HIV/AIDS Programs in Uganda

By
Ato Ephrem W/Meskel
HIV/AIDS Coordinator
Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat (ECS)

A team composed of the ECS, Pastoral Department Head, the ECS-HIV/AIDS Program Coordinator and the President of the Priest Association of Our Lady, visited the HIV/AIDS programs in Uganda. The aim of the exposure visit was to learn from the experiences of Uganda, the pioneer in HIV/AIDS prevention and control in the world.

The team visited St. Kizito Secondary School and Youth Alive. St. Kizito Secondary School is one of the Catholic Schools found in Kampala and it is owned by Comboni Fathers of Mbuya Parish. The beneficiaries of the school include: Orphan of AIDS scourge, immigrants of war thorn northern Uganda, children of majority poor of Mbuya Parish, and children of the low wage earners of the civil service-most of whom pay fees in fractions. Despite this fact the school has given strong emphasis on the morality of the students in relation to prevention and control of HIV/AIDS.

St. Kizito Secondary School HIV/AIDS prevention and control program focuses on changing the behavior of the students and as well as teachers. Education For Life, a behavioral change intervention, is one of the major activities being implemented in the school. In addition to this strong tool for behavioral change, the school has guidance and counseling service. The service is strategically formed in such a way that a professional counselor leads the program; however key players in providing the counseling services are students who are trained in peer counseling.

Youth Alive is a registered Catholic non-governmental organization for and by the youth. Youth Alive was started by a group of youth under the guidance of Sr. Dr. Miriam Duggan in Kamwocya- a Kampala suburb, which was severely affected by diversity of social and health problems; chief among them HIV/AIDS. This team realized that the most infected and affected were the youth. As such a youth friendly HIV/AIDS prevention strategy was designed which resulted

in the foundation of Youth Alive. Youth Alive started as a peer support group. As more and more groups were established, the first one became the secretariat with an established office on the 1st of July 1993 and in fulfillment of the legal requirements, Youth Alive was registered as an NGO in 1995.

Youth Alive is a pioneer organization in Uganda working on Behavioral Change Intervention through promotion of abstinence before marriage and being faithful in marriage. Education For Life, similarly, is the key tool used to change the behavior of the youth. However they work in a wide range of activities related to behavioral change.

The visiting team, having the opportunity to visit school and out-of-school HIV/AIDS program on youth, learned and observed the following major issues:

- Commitment of St. Kizito Secondary School administration to respond to HIV/AIDS pandemic.
- Guidance and Counseling service including peer-counseling service was found to very important.
- Full participation of students/youth in the programs behavioral change interventions. The ownership of the program by the students is also an important observation.
- Local Initiatives are stronger and leads to success if the beginning the program is a response to a problem. Youth Alive is a good example in this regard.
- Behavioral change is possible. However there should be appropriate program and one should be patient. Because changes in behavior can't happen over night, it may take a very long time. Despite these facts, the final outcome of the program will be rewarding, promising, and sustainable.
- Openness and Spirituality: The team observed openness, which contributed a lot for information dissemination, and reduction of stigma and discrimination. On top of this spirituality is also found to be very helpful. In St. Kizito Secondary School spiritual associations, which are formed by the students, contributed a lot to morality of the students as the school directress commented. Spirituality is the base for morality and behavioral change is easier to attain where there is morality.

“Anyone who is not with us is against us”

(LK 9:50)

By**Ato Berhanu Tamene****ECS Justice and Peace Desk Officer**

The mission of the Church is widely understood as the promotion of justice in the human society through peaceful means by involving itself in the fields of social, development and pastoral activities. These are the means to fight injustices of all kind and enhance integral human development. The expected outcome by using all the means available can only be materialized when the actors in the fields are committed and guided by the vision of the Church as to bring peace and freedom to the people who are in need.

At the end of the special Synod of African Bishops in 1994, the statement they came up with read thus, “...by the same token we do not wish to deny our responsibility as pastors. We have not always done what we could in order to form the laity for life in society, to Christian vision of politics and economics...If we desire peace, we should all work for justice...Hence, education towards the common good as well as to a respect for pluralism will be one of the pastoral tasks which are the priority in our times.” (Final message of the synod, No. 33-34)

*Justice and Peace Workshop in Gigessa*

Certainly a lot has been done in line of working for justice. There are people who are committed to promote peace and eradicate injustices by involving themselves in the fight and by the way they live, but often not without cost. However, there are still the cry of the poor, the marginalized and the victims of all injustices heard from all the corners. If we listen carefully to the voices of the cry, it is a call for **SUPPPORT** and **ASSURANCE**. It is not saying and coming up with the “to do” list, but the cry is heard as saying in the horizon that ‘we are raising our voices, but we request your assurance that you support us as leaders’. I think as actors on the field and agents of peace, we can no longer be silent to the cry of the people who thirst for the fruits of peace.

*(Please turn to page13)***Bishops Lobby (Continued from page 1)**

Archbishop Abune Berhaneyessus SOURAPHIEL from Addis Abeba was part of this delegation, representing the African continent together with fellow Archbishops Medardo Joseph MAZOMBWE (Zambia) and John ONAIYEKAN (Nigeria), president of the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM). They were joined by the Cardinals Oscar RODRIGUEZ (Honduras) and Telesphore P. TOPPO (India).

This initiative was part of the CIDSE campaign on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and of the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP). GCAP is the world’s largest anti-poverty coalition, whose organizations together represent more than 150 million people globally. The campaign, bringing together charities, trade unions, faith groups, grassroots movements and women’s groups across 72 countries, is aiming to make a breakthrough on poverty in 2005 and calling on world leaders to honour their promises on combating poverty.

At the high-level meetings with representatives of governments (Chancellor Schroeder, Finance Minister Eichel, CDU head Angela Merkel in Berlin, Finance Minister Brown in London, Presidential Advisor Camdessus in Paris, President of EU Commission Barroso in Brussels), the church leaders were

accompanied by Cardinals and Bishops from the visited countries. Together, they released a declaration entitled “Act today for our common good”, where they demand trade justice, debt cancellation and more and better development aid.

After meeting President Barroso, Archbishop Souraphiel said: “Barroso stated we have the resources to take action but the important thing is to get the political will and organisation – not only here but also in the so called third world countries that there will be good governance, transparency and accountability.”

Besides the meetings with the politicians the hosting organizations arranged much appreciated exchanges with staff, campaigners and volunteers. The sheer amount of requests for interviews and well attended press conferences were clear signs for the high interest by the media.

On the overall, the Lobby Tour was seen as being a success by all involved. One of the participants proposed to meet again in two years time, ahead of the G8 summit in Germany. The pressure on the world leaders to make serious steps ahead in the fight against poverty has to be maintained beyond 2005.

Footnote: for the declaration and more information about the Lobby Tour please visit www.cidse.org or contact Philipp Rohrer (rohrer@cidse.org).

Special Feature...

**Ethiopian Catholic Church
Coordination Meeting 2005**

By:

Dr. Daniel Keftassa
ECC-SADCO Assistant Executive Director

1 Summary

The Ethiopian Catholic Church Coordination Meeting was conducted on 23-28 May 2005 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It is a follow-up to the 2004 Ethiopia Coordination Meeting held in Freiburg, Germany. The Ethiopia Coordination Meeting has been regularly conducted since 2001. The original purpose of the Ethiopia Coordination Meeting which began during the 1984/85 drought/famine and mostly taking place in Europe, was to contribute to the efficient coordination of emergency interventions. The 2004 Meeting focused on food security issues as a practical link between the emergency interventions and the long-term development as part of the national poverty reduction strategy where the Pastoral agents (Missio) also participated. The 2005 ECC-Coordination Meeting focused on wider aspects of the socio-pastoral and development issues that the Catholic Church addresses.

A total fifty eight (58) participants composed of donor partners (14), Diocesan Catholic Secretariats (17), Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat (22), Bishops representative (1), invited guests (3) congregations (1) attended the meeting that was officially launched by the keynote address of His Excellency, Ato Simon Mechale, Commissioner, Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE).



The main objectives of the Ethiopia Coordination Meeting are.

- To better understand each other and strengthen partnership,
- To ensure achieving common objectives of poverty alleviation and solidarity,
- To create opportunities to the donor partners to observe the realities on the ground
- To express expectations from each other.



ECC-Coordination Meeting 2005 participants

The major themes were:

1. Food security as a means to address deep rooted poverty (response and approach)
2. Urban social rehabilitation and development focusing on vulnerable groups (women and children)



3. The response of Ethiopian Catholic Church to the HIV/AIDS pandemic
4. Strengthening the role and capacity of the Ethiopian Catholic Church for promotion of social justice through advocacy and lobbying, gender and development and the rights of the marginalized and vulnerable groups

(Please see next page)

5. Creating common understanding towards integral human development
6. Institutional capacity issues and strategic planning at National and Diocesan levels.

The **core agenda** of the meeting

1. Implementation of Post-emergency Rehabilitation Program
2. Food Security and Safety-net Program (strategy and experience)
3. Implication of Current Trends on Global and Local Development Initiatives to ECC Intervention
4. Working relations and expectations (ECS – DCSs, Partners-ECS, Partners – DCSs, DCSs – Parishes/congregations)
5. Future Focus of the ECC – integrated approach to socio-pastoral and development work
6. Preparation for the second five (2006-2010) Year ECC/ECS strategic plan

The field visits were organized to **Meki** Catholic Secretariat (post-emergency rehabilitation program, micro-finance institution), **Emdiber** (office establishment, water project and Atat Hospital) and Addis **Ababa Archdiocese** (the Federal Food security office and OCHA, HIV/AIDS counseling center (MMM), Urban Social Development program focusing on children and women (DOC).

The following main **findings and recommendations** are based on the field visits, group reflections and plenary discussions:

Food security – productive safety net

The objective of productive safety net program (PSNP) is to provide transfers to the food insecure population in chronically food insecure Woredas in a way that prevents asset depletion at the household level and creates assets at the community level i.e. Cash or Food Resource Transfers to meet basic needs, Protect assets depletion of households and Create community assets. The PSNP consist of two components; a labor-intensive public works and a direct support component to ensure support to those HH who have no labor and support alternatives.

Observations: The program is top-down government/international donors driven. The safety net program is too ambitious (5 million beneficiaries) without piloting. It is based on “learning by doing”

There is lack of capacity and preparation at woreda level (technical and financial) to implement the program. Lack

of coordination and complementarity between PSNP and other food security interventions.

Negative impact of the delay: The program has temporarily obscured humanitarian situation. The role of civil society is not defined

Recommendations: Integration of short & long-term intervention. Link relief, rehabilitation and development interventions. Monitor the impact of PSNP on other FS interventions. Document and disseminate the lessons from different contexts. Resurrect Emergency Task Force.

Urban social rehabilitation and development

ECC/ECS stressed that urban poverty is increasing very fast and the Church needs to give due attention to the problem. The urban social development is being addressed by some of the participating donor partners (e.g. DCV, CAFOD, CORDAID, MISEREOR, C. Austria, SCIAF, etc.). It is suggested that the urban social development issues can be addressed through promotion of Social Justice, HIV/AIDS and Promotion of Family Life (Children, Women). These activities could serve as a link between the pastoral and social development work.

HIV/AIDS - prevention, care, support, stigma and discrimination

The problem is increasing. The magnitude of the problem exceeds the response by the government and non-government agencies. Inadequate capacity in government offices to manage international funds. The Church has less access to the international funds managed by the government. The work at the grass roots level is not adequate. Inadequate net working & experience sharing among the Catholic Church institutions. There is lack of both technical and financial capacity to adequately address the problem.

The future focus should be on mainstreaming HIV and AIDS in pastoral ministry, social, development and emergency relief interventions. The response requires more effort in care and support to PLWHA and their families besides awareness raising and prevention activities. It is recommended that there is a need for enhancing the capacity of Ethiopian Catholic Church institutions for effective response to HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Social justice

Incorporate gender issues in social development programs. Need for gender balanced development planning and implementation. Need for advocacy to influence policies on social, cultural, religious and traditional rules, regulations that undermine the role of women in social and development work.

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Ethiopia Coordination (Continued from page 9)

Promote improved targeting systems to address the needy and disadvantaged. The experiences and Church values could be well applied/transmitted through addressing social justice.

Holistic Mission of the Church – bridging pastoral and social development

Donor partners with development mandates are ready to support 'integrated' approach but ECC/ECS need to ensure sufficient capacity at ECS level for pastoral coordination, which should include building bridges between the pastoral and social work. ECC/ECS needs to look at the creative possibilities for a more integrated approach. For example, the link between Food Security work (Productive Safety Net Program at community level) with a Justice and Peace agenda e.g. entitlements issue ensuring that the most vulnerable are receiving support. The other example could be linking the Church's role in care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS and Justice and Peace such as a campaign at national level for access to anti-retroviral drugs and the means by which these can be sustained? Exposure visits of ECS/DCS staff to some of the Justice and Peace programs which are more developed – such as in Zimbabwe and Zambia to give pictures of what a more integrated approach might look like.

It is recommended that the bishops and pastoral coordinators need to participate in the Partner Coordination meeting. One suggestion would be that the donor partners would ask some of their senior bishops or theologians to accompany them to attract the Ethiopian bishops to attend the meeting to enable a greater diversity of discussion. This might also attract some of the pastoral organizations to attend as well.

Strategic Plan and longer-term support/coordination

The donor partners very well accept the second phase strategic planning. Partners are ready to provide financial and technical support to the process. A gentle and subtle pace and motivation of the Bishops and Dioceses to participate actively is suggested.

A more regular meeting (every 2-3 months) of the donor partners based in Addis Ababa is suggested to share information about the work with ECS/DCS and in Europe/US, and those donor partners based in Europe and US would like to engage more regularly with the wider donor group and ECS in between the annual partner coordination meetings. ECS to convene the meetings of the donor partners based in Addis Ababa. This mechanism could also be the means by which donor partners engage in the strategic planning process and the means by which the donor partners and ECS can discuss longer term institutional

funding issues – with greater transparency and complementarity.

Capacity issues

Diocesan offices have different capacity and there is a need to support the new dioceses without compromising for the stronger dioceses. Less experienced Dioceses need to build up their capacities slowly and demonstrate good performance. Focus on smaller scale, more innovative projects to test out capacities and build on community level assets, rather than trying to replicate large scale programs being undertaken by the stronger Dioceses. Develop a clear vision and strategic direction based on the experience and realities on the ground. The focus has to be to develop strategic direction and approach to the social and development work rather than focusing on infrastructure as a priority. ECS needs to make needs assessment at different levels and use the information for planning organizational capacity development to diocesan offices. Partners need to develop strategy to provide capacity building support both to the dioceses and ECS. Strengthen ECS to be able to provide capacity support to DCSs.

Donors/ECS/DCS/congregation/parish partnerships

ECS and DCSs are legally mandated to represent the Church at Federal and regional levels, respectively. The working relations and cooperation at all levels is important for the coordination, facilitation and for legal purposes. All Church organs are interdependent. This interdependence needs to be understood, recognized and respected. We want to see the church as one body with different responsibilities.

The three-way; Dioceses, ECS and the donor partners' collaborative way is suggested so that the proposals that the DCSs produce have a better chance of being funded. Need for more discipline from the donors side in promoting ECS as a service to DCSs, and also making use of ECS to comment and endorse the proposal before going ahead with funding.

Expectations from each other**ECS expectations from DCSs**

In-depth understandings of the working relations. Enhance information flow. Need for a minimum structure. Strengthen the link between the Pastoral and social and development work

ECS expectations from Donor partners

1. Understand and support the roles of ECS (roles at national level, at DCS level, etc.)
2. Enhance the cooperation to ECS in promoting the principles and approaches of "Human Integral Development" to achieve its Mission.

(Please see next page)

3. Give due emphasis and attention to newly emerging Diocese (Secretariats) without compromising the support of strong or traditional Diocese.

Diocesan expectations from ECS

- Better understand the role of ECS and DCS, internalize and make known the Guideline for working relationship.
- Support for capacity building efforts of Diocese. Already some effort being exerted. The already established links need to be further strengthened.
- The same with coordination, facilitation role of ECS. There are good beginnings to seek financial support for common projects/programs. E.g. Food Security

Diocesan expectations from donor partners

The partnership should be based on TRUE PARTNERSHIP

- Flexibility
- Support for capacity building, income generation (for Diocesan Offices)

Donor Partners expectations from ECS

- ECS to “take positions” based on priorities and good knowledge of grassroots (i.e. HIV/AIDS, Food Security)
- Be innovative and experimental-promote this with DCS partners
- Improved reporting (learning cycles)
- Capacitating Dioceses and parishes to meet agreements drawn up with donor partners (or don't take the funds).
- Build lobbying capacity for advocacy
- ECS to participate actively at national level policy/ implementation managements and communicate outcomes to concerned DCS and others.
- Equip donor partners to support ECS local advocacy initiatives (Pastoral letters, Bishops Conference, etc) and make links to wider advocacy campaigns.

- Donor partners to form a more established forum for coordinating longer term institutional support for ECS (to complement project by project) funding - perhaps un-earmarked common pot, multi-year-to give ECS room to take risks.

Donor partners expectations from DCS

- Contribute to ECS “positions”
- DCS to adopt national-level strategies to which they have contributed e.g. HIV/AIDS, Food Security
- DCS - to contribute to ECS financially if ECS provides added value
- Support inter-diocesan exchanges

Partners’ expectations from parishes/congregations

- Contribute and adopt national strategies
- Dialogue between Bishops Conference and Provincials of Congregations on boundaries and ways of working
- ECS’s donors to ensure endorsement of congregation proposals by Diocesan Bishops and seek comments from ECS

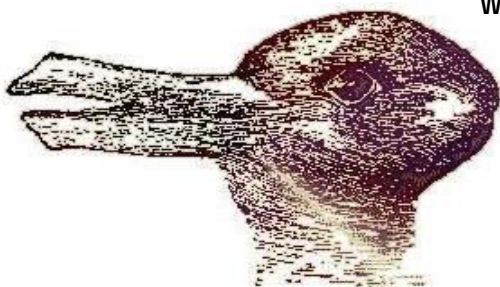
On the organization of the meeting

The planning and overall coordination was well done. The workshop style enabled more productive group discussions and better outcomes. The field visits to Emdiber and Meki helped to observe the realities on the ground. The meeting helped the participants to look beyond emergencies to a broader view of the work of ECS/ECC, even dipping into Women in Development, HIV/AIDS and other areas. Meeting with the head of food security office and OCHA in their offices were extremely informative and helped the participants understand the wider policy environment in which ECC is working – they were also more open with the visitors than they would have been in a large, formal setting.

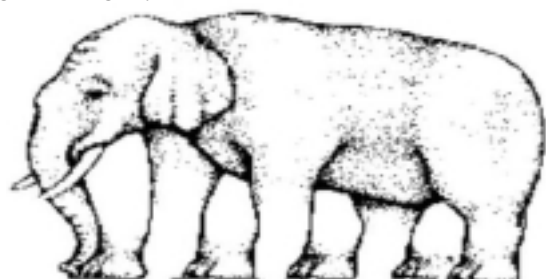
It is recommended to hold such a meeting in Ethiopia with perhaps only occasional meetings in Europe/US hosted by a donor partner when there is a specific need to do so.

The date of the meeting needs to be set at a regular date every year and should be decided well in advance before the meeting. The month of May has been suggested as a preferable time for the meeting.

WHAT DO YOU SEE BELOW?



A Rabbit... Or A Duck?
hint: the duck is looking left, the rabbit is looking right



How many legs does this elephant have?

ECC-SADCO General Assembly

By:

Dr Daniel Keftassa

ECC-SADCO Assistant Executive Director

The 5th General Assembly of the Ethiopian Catholic Church Social and Development Commission (ECC-SADCO) was carried out on April 12-13, 2005, at the Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat (ECS) Conference Hall.

The participants of the General Assembly were all Diocesan Social & Development Coordinating Offices (SDCOs) each represented by two delegates -20 (10 DCSs, 2 delegates each), all

ECS Governing Board members (14) and ECS technical staff

Out of the expected 34 voting members, 28 were represented, the highest level of participation since the establishment of ECC-SADCO.

The **major agenda items** of the General Assembly were:

1. ECC-SADCO and ECC-SDCOs annual report (2004) and plan (2005)
2. The 2004 ECC-SADCO audit report and approval
3. Post-emergency rehabilitation program including ECC medium term food security program and productive safety net program
4. ECC initiatives and emerging programs on HIV/AIDS prevention and control
5. ECC initiatives in Justice and Peace program in line with Catholic Social Teaching
6. The status of ECC-policy and strategy formulation process and preparations for the 2nd phase (2006-2010) ECC/ECS five years strategic plan

The following issues were **highlighted** during the General Assembly

1 **Enhancing teamwork**

One of the contributions of the restructuring and strategic planning has been improved working relation between Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat and Diocesan Catholic Secretariats (DCSs). The understanding of common thinking for common goal is showing progressive improvement

The relations and cooperation between ECS and DCSs have considerably developed. The relation has become clearer and functional. ECS has played a considerable role for this better working relations and cooperation through workshops, training, consultation meetings and facilitation for Diocesan offices based on the mandates given to it by the Episcopal Conference and requests coming from the Diocesan Secretariats.

2 **Integration of pastoral dimension in social and development work**

Some encouraging efforts are being made to practically integrate the social and pastoral dimensions of the Church's work. Seminars and trainings are being given on Catholic Social Teaching both by ECS and Diocesan offices

Special attention should be given for close cooperation and integration of pastoral and development work.

Issues of Gender, HIV/AIDS, Human rights, Justice and Peace, integral human development need to be taken as cross cutting issues in all social and development work

The Catholic Social Teaching needs to be understood in a deeper sense and applied by all social and development workers of the Church

3 **Policy and strategy development**

Common policy and strategic approach enables us to have a unified understanding and approach to our social and development work.

A common policy and strategy will also help us to respond to the internal and external environment more timely and uniformly.

4 **Restructuring and Organizational Transformation**

The Ethiopian Catholic Church Social and Development Commission and the Diocesan Catholic Secretariats have been under dynamic restructuring and organizational transformation process since 1999.

(Please tsee next page)

This effort needs to be encouraged to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the social and development services

5 Focus on Long term and sustainable development

A number of integrated community development programs are emerging under the Diocesan Secretariats.

One of the indications for the Church's commitment towards long term and sustainable is the strategic link of emergency with long term and sustainable food security programs

Community empowerment is being understood as the only way to achieve sustainable development.

6 Special effort to curb the HIV/AIDS Pandemic

The effort being made to mitigate the impacts of HIV/AIDS by Catholic Church institutions is very encouraging. New projects on the prevention and control are emerging.

However, the magnitude of the problem requires well-coordinated and intensified effort.

A multi-sectoral approach needs to be adopted. HIV/AIDS should be mainstreamed into all the pastoral, social and development projects and programs.

7 ECC/ECS involvement in Justice and Peace issues

The Ethiopian Catholic Church has been active in the promotion of peace and reconciliation between Ethiopia and Eritrea in the last years of border conflict. The Church is known for promotion of social justice at different levels.

The newly established Justice and Peace office has already done a commendable effort.

Anyone who is not...

(Continued from page 7)

When this request is not given due consideration, quite often we hear the other side of the coin - those who denounce the injustices of some kind committed within the "church". By the "church" here is meant to leadership qualities - which can simply be enumerated as self-interest, imposition, nepotism, corruption, power struggle, promiscuity and employee - employer relationship. The connotation is negative if it is considered as an attack against individuals. But these are purely human practices at any level of leadership and has nothing to do with the "Mother Church" which protects all her children, but they are indicative that something which is not in line with the church's mission is going on. However, such practices do not deter the universal church from fulfilling its mission. In fact these people who raise their voices against and denounce

We need to develop the concept and strategy of the Church's involvement in justice, peace and human rights issues.

Our mission of integral human development will only be attained through a practical application of the social teaching of the Church on justice, peace and basic human right

Close collaboration of all Diocesan offices and Catholic Church institutions is essential

8 A way forward

The last five years, after restructuring of ECS and Diocesan Secretariats, have special place in the Catholic Church social and development work. The quality of work and approach to development has shown progressive improvement.

Although a number of achievements have been recorded in the past few years, a lot needs to be done as a way forward to reach and serve the communities that need our assistance.

The restructuring process of some Diocesan offices needs to be encouraged.

ECS is preparing for the second phase (2006-2010) strategic planning. The participation and close collaboration of all Diocesan Secretariats is required to develop the second five years of ECS strategic planning.

All concerned offices need to be prepared to maximize the benefits of the forthcoming Ethiopian Catholic Church Coordination Meeting in May 2005

The assembly was officially opened and chaired by His Grace Abune Berhaneyesus D. Souraphiel, the President of the Ethiopian Bishops Conference and Episcopal Commissioner of the ECC-SADCO.

the malpractices of the individuals on the areas of leadership quality should not be seen as rebels and avoided by all means, but allies in the fight of injustices and promoters of peace, because, they are pointing out some weaknesses on the journey and seeking for the corrective measures without neglecting the indication pointed out.

On the other hand these people should be considered emphatically very strong allies because, if they are against the whole system, they should have been out long back from the system. It is true also as the teachings of Jesus points out, "Anyone who is not with us is against us". Hence, let's revive the moto of the Bishops that, ...If we desire peace, we should committee ourselves to denounce injustices committed against human rights...and support those who are victims to stand for their rights by themselves.

New Staff Members at ECS...

Ato Alelign Melaku joined ECS on the first of June 2005 as the Social Rehabilitation Officer in the Social Rehabilitation Unit.

Ato Alelign is a Sociologist who graduated in the year 2000 from the Addis Ababa University, Sociology and Social Administration Department in 2000. He worked in various places in Ethiopia, both for governmental and non governmental institutions where he gained experiences in designing, implementing and monitoring various community based project activities in a holistic manner. This gave him the opportunity to develop the insight, the experience, and the devotion to work relentlessly towards alleviating poverty. in Ethiopia. Ato Alelign joined the Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat with the main aim at contributing his own share in endeavouring to help the activities of the Catholic Church of Ethiopia to the best of his ability with the spirit of collaboration and goodwill.



Ato Alelign Melaku

Sr Dinknesh Gurmessa, a graduate of the Wolliso St Luke College of Nursing, is part of the 'first-borns of St Luke' as they were fondly called by the Principal Tutor, Sr. Carmel Mary FMM.



Sr Dinknesh Gurmessa

Soon after graduation, Sr Dinknesh has taught at the same college for two years She worked as a Senior Clinical Nurse and attended a one-year course of in—service education from 2000 to 2003. Sr Dinknesh gained a lot of experience especially when she handled the one-year up-grading course from Health Assistants to Senior Clinical Nurse for 100 students.

On 6 June 2005, Sr. Dinknesh joined the Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat as School HIV/AIDS Coordinator. She hopes to contribute to the fight against HIV/AIDS by bringing a behavioural change in the lives of the young generation in the schools. She is very grateful to God and to all those who helped in the makings of what she is today.

Ato Hailegabriel Wolde started work with ECS on 10 March 2005. He graduated in 1991 with a diploma in Comprehensive Nursing from the Centralized School of Nursing of Addis Ababa, now under the Addis Ababa University Medical Faculty. In 1999, he completed his B.Sc. degree in PublicHealth from the Jimma University. In 2004, he graduated with an M.Sc. degree in Health Promotion from the University of Ulster at Jordanstown, New Ireland. He worked as a Public Health professional at different levels and at various locations before leaving for the United Kingdom to undertake his post-graduate study.



Ato Hailegabriel Wolde

He has special interest in endemic health problems which have enormous social and economic impact such as filarial diseases and malaria. His academic background and wealth of professional experience combined with his keen interest in and his ambition to serve the ECS Health Department will no doubt be very good commendations for him to effectively coordinate the department's day to day activities and facilitate the successful achievement of its goals towards promoting the health of the poor and the under-privileged.

PRESS RELEASE



CIDSE delivers over 260,000 postcards to Tony Blair

Brussels, 29 June 2005 - At the G8 summit next week, the catholic network CIDSE expects Tony Blair to announce that he has received tens of thousands postcards from all over the world asking the G8 to double aid and improve its quality, cancel debt that prevents the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, end dumping immediately and let developing countries protect their farmers. Delivering over 260,000 postcards addressed to him as the host of the G8 summit,

CIDSE reminded the UK Prime Minister that these cards represented the voices of responsible citizens from all over the world who are expecting courageous decisions to end poverty to be made at next week's meeting.

On releasing the total count of postcards sent to Blair, Christiane Overkamp, Secretary-General of CIDSE remarked: 'The high priority given to development at this year's G8 Summit and the announcement on debt by G7 Finance Ministers in June are encouraging. However, actions so far have failed to go far enough to signal willingness to put an end to the continuing crisis of poverty today.'

The postcards were collected through a mass awareness and mobilization campaign that formed part of the Global Call to Action against Poverty and was launched at the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre in January 2005. Since it began, the postcard campaign has been taken up all over the world spanning from Europe to Africa, Latin America and Asia. Five Catholic Bishops from developing countries visiting Europe in May to lend their voice to CIDSE's call to the G8, visited 10 Downing Street with one batch of the postcards in a demonstration of the support that this campaign has received across all sections of society. This weekend CIDSE will join the "Make Poverty History" Rally in Edinburgh and be part of the giant human white band around the city center symbolizing the global movement calling upon the G8 to end poverty.

Setting the benchmarks of what CIDSE would consider a true demonstration of commitment to end poverty, Ms Overkamp said: 'Only a change in the way of doing business by the formation of a genuine partnership with people in developing countries will allow those steeped in impoverishment to lift themselves out of their present situations. Anything short of this will be unacceptable to us, the generation that has set itself the task to turn the tide on poverty by committing to the Millennium Development Goals.'

Notes to the editor:

- *During the G8 summit, CIDSE will be represented in Scotland through Christiane Overkamp, Secretary General.
For information, requests for comments and interviews please contact Philipp Rohrer (rohre@cidse.org; +32-2-282 40 71)*
- *CIDSE is an alliance of 15 catholic development organizations from Europe and North America (www.cidse.org)*
- *The Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) is the world's largest anti-poverty coalition, whose organizations together represent more than 150 million people globally. The campaign, bringing together charities, trade unions, faith groups, grassroots movements and women groups across 72 countries, is aiming to make a breakthrough on poverty in 2005 and calling all world leaders to honour their promises on combating poverty (www.whiteband.org)*

POST- ELECTION MESSAGE OF THE BISHOPS OF THE ETHIOPIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH***To our Catholic Faithful and to All People of Goodwill***

We, the Catholic Bishops of Ethiopia, gathered together in Adigrat for our ordinary assembly, greet you with the words of the Apostles and wish you grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit (cf 2 Tim. 1:2). Apart from discussing and deliberating on matters related to the Ethiopian Catholic Church, we took into consideration recent events in our country. We recall with a degree of national pride the recent elections as an important step towards democratisation and the active participation of the Ethiopian people. The international community has also expressed its admiration and appreciation for the responsible and peaceful manner in which the elections were conducted.

Unfortunately, after the remarkable and historic elections, incidence of violence occurred. We abhor violence of any kind, and in the name of God we appeal for peace, tolerance and goodwill. We deeply regret this and offer our deepest sympathy to those families who subsequently have tragically lost their members. We urge all those concerned to enhance the quality of the people's lives by creating an atmosphere of mutual respect, since that leads to peace, stability and development. To that end and, indeed, for the common good of all Ethiopians, we encourage all concerned to take steps in promoting tolerance and mutual respect.

In the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ we repeat His words: "Peace I leave with you; my own peace I give to you. . .Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid" (Jn. 14: 27).

For our part, as the Bishops of the Ethiopian Catholic Church, with God's help we appeal to you to be responsible citizens who pray for the gift of peace, unity, love and mutual understanding.

It is our prayerful wish that the outcome of the elections, expressing the will of the people, be respected by all.

May the Holy Spirit enlighten and guide all of us.

GOD BLESS ETHIOPIA!

1. Most Rev. Archbishop Berhaneyesus D. Souraphiel, CM
Metropolitan Archbishop of Addis ababa
2. Rt. Rev. Msgr. Domenico Marinozzi, OFM, Cap, Vicar Apostolic of Soddo-Hosanna
3. Rt. Rev. Msgr. Lorenzo Ceresoli, MCCJ, Vicar Apostolic of Awassa
4. Abune Woldetensae Ghebreghiorghis, OFM, Cap, Vicar Apostolic of Harar
5. Rt. Rev. Msgr. Leonardus Dobbelaar, CM, Vicar Apostolic of Nekemte
6. Abune Tesfaselassie Medhin, Eparch of Adigrat
7. Abune Kidane-Mariam Teklehaimanot, Emeritus Eparch of Adigrat
8. Abune Abraham Desta, Vicar Apostolic of Meki
9. Abune Musie Ghebreghiorghis, OFM, Cap, Eparch of Emdibir
10. Msgr. Theo Van Ruyven, CM, Prefect Apostolic of Jimma-Bonga
11. Msgr. Angelo Moreschi, SDB, Prefect Apostolic of Gambella

Adigrat, June 19, 2005

Ethiopian Feast of Pentecost

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