



CBCE-GS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

“Which of you shall have an ass or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the sabbath day?”
(Luke 14:5)



Pastoral

The National Laity Council has elected new leaders

The National Laity Council in a meeting held at Mojo Consolata Fathers Center from 1-4 September 2024 has elected new leaders for the next four years. Here below is the list of the newly elected leaders:

- Ato Markos Yohannes
from the Arch Diocese of Addis Ababa-
chairman
- Ato Takele Petros
from Meki Vicariat-vice chairman
- Ato Fikre Fersha
from the Eparch of Emdibir-member
- Ato Mesfin Mero
from J – Bonga Vicariate-member
- Ato Bekele Moliso
from Soddo Vicariat-member
- Ato Getachew Heramo
from Hosana Vicariate-member
- W/rt Sara Adebo
from Hosana Vicariate-member

Following this election, the incoming leadership has organized a farewell ceremony at CBCE Selam hall on 12 October 2024 to thank and honor the outgoing chairman and his team who have served the Council for the last four year. CBCE- GS Pastoral Office praised the relentless service to the Pastoral Ministry of our National Church. ↓



Workshop on Safeguarding for Rectors and Seminarians

A workshop organized by AMECEA Pastoral Office on Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults has been conducted from October 24-27/2024 at Capuchin Franciscan Institute of Philosophy and Theology (CFIPT) in Addis Ababa.

The participants for the first two days (Thursday and Friday/Oct. 24-25/2024) were priests mainly rectors of the major seminaries, and the participants for Saturday and Sunday (Oct. 26-27/2024) were the major seminarians and the sisters who are studying at CFIPT.

The workshop was conducted by AMECEA representative who came from Nairobi namely Rev. Fr Emmanuel Chimombo, the outgoing Pastoral Coordinator of AMECEA and Fr Florence Rutaihwa, the incoming Pastoral Coordinator, Mr. George Tukul, AMECEA Safeguarding Officer and Miss Pauline Wanjiru, Administrative Assistant of AMECEA Pastoral Coordination Office. Miss Merhawit Chala, CBCE-GS national Safeguarding officer also gave a talk regarding safeguarding policy and what the office is doing at the local level.



Rectors of the major seminaries and the seminarians including the sisters who are studying at the institute were so glad to have such a workshop on the timely topic. Abba ABERA Makebo, the Deputy Secretary and Pastoral Coordinator welcomed the guests from AMECEA and all the participants. Then opened with a prayer, and Abba ABENET Abebe, the National Director for Family, Laity and Youth Ministry made a closing prayer. The guests departed to their respective destination, Nairobi-KENYA on Monday evening.



Education

Ethiopian Catholic Church Social and Development Commission Partners with Caritas Poland for Educational Support

The Ethiopian Catholic Church Social and Development Commission (ECC-SDCO) has signed a landmark agreement with Caritas Poland on September 2nd 2024, initiating a project to enhance educational infrastructure and student well-being in conflict-affected areas of Ethiopia. The pilot project, based in the Adigrat Eparchy, addresses critical needs by implementing school feeding programs and renovating school sanitation facilities. This effort aims to support 34 schools in the region, improving students' learning conditions through targeted nutritional and hygiene interventions.

The decision to begin in Adigrat Eparchy follows a careful needs assessment by Caritas Poland, recognizing the importance of a nutritious meal program to aid student focus and academic performance. Simultaneously, school toilet renovations will help ensure improved sanitation standards, supporting healthier conditions and reducing absenteeism, particularly among female students. ECC-SDCO and Caritas Poland remain dedicated to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment within targeted schools in Adigrat Eparchy.

Future Expansion of the Initiative to Additional Dioceses

Caritas Poland has shown interest in expanding support to other dioceses after the completion of the pilot project, which is to last three years. This pilot approach allows ECC-SDCO and Caritas Poland to measure the impact of their work, gather feedback from schools and local communities, and make necessary adjustments for future phases. Should the program succeed, the potential expansion of school feeding programs and sanitation improvements could benefit thousands of students beyond the Adigrat Eparchy. ↓

Strengthening the Partnership Between ECC-SDCO and Caritas Poland

On October 17, 2014, a delegation from Caritas Poland visited ECC-SDCO's National Office, engaging in meaningful discussions with the National Office Administration and Department Leaders. The exchange offered Caritas Poland a platform to share its international experiences and operational strategies while gaining insights into the Ethiopian Catholic Church's local priorities. During the visit, ECC-SDCO highlighted its intervention sectors, which encompass health, education, water and sanitation, emergency relief, and livelihood development in Ethiopia's most underserved communities.

The delegation also toured the Meki Diocese, observing quality services in schools, orphanages, and girls' hostels. In Adigrat Eparchy, they visited project schools and expressed satisfaction with the project's progress, reaffirming their commitment to supporting.



Safeguarding

- Attend regional conference on care reform organized by AMECEA, CRS and KCCB in Nairobi, Kenya.
- Facilitation and organization of workshop in collaboration AMECEA Safeguarding desk, national family and laity unit as well as pastoral coordination office for all major seminarian and rectors at CFIPT for 4 days.
- Finalization and submission of different proposals to partners
- Compile final report of project implementation
- Attend Non-financial support assessment on zoom meeting
- Attend, participate and finalize assessment of the partner requirement on the capturing learning of a project implementation.
- Distribution of IEC materials to dioceses
- Attend UN Child protection AoR cluster meeting

Plan

- Purchase and Place safeguarding compliant handling and receiving channels (box) for safeguarding concerns.
- Conduct annual refresher training on safeguarding policy for national office staff
- Attend UN cluster meeting
- Continue with the follow-up on diocesan safeguarding activity implementation.
- safeguarding activity implementation.

Youth

- On October 17, 2024, the Youth Ministry Coordinator participated in a virtual networking event organized by the Peacemakers Network, focused on the theme “Fostering Connection in the Climate, Peace, and Security Space.” This networking session brought together young people from various continents to discuss key thematic areas, celebrate their successes, review the challenges they face, seek potential solutions, and make recommendations for moving forward.
 - Meetings with Saint John Paul II TVET College and Youth Center coordinators regarding potential collaboration with the Youth Ministry Office.
 - Submitted a new proposal for the program “Night to Shine”. The program focused on God’s love for individuals with special needs and disabilities. It’s designed to honor, celebrate, and integrate people with special need and disability in our Church and society.
- ## Plan
- Preparations for the 39th World Youth Day that is going to be celebrated on the day of “Christ the King” in diocesan level.





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