



# CBCE-GS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

*“The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him;  
and he will shew them his covenant.”*

*Ps. 25:14*



# CBCE – AD LIMINA VISIT



## Ethiopian Catholic Bishops Embark on Ad Limina Visit to Rome

The Ethiopian Catholic Bishops Conference went to the Holy See in Rome for their quinquennial Ad Limina visit with Pope Francis. This pilgrimage allowed Bishops to renew their bonds with the Holy Father, visit the tombs of Saints, explore Vatican Dicasteries, and share updates on the Ethiopian Catholic Church, including both its triumphs and its struggles.

The Ad Limina visit commenced on June 22, 2024, with two days of retreat and reflection. The Ad Limina visit continues with a series of meetings with Vatican Dicasteries. These meetings aim to align the Ethiopian Church's thinking with that of the Holy See and Pope Francis.

As part of their visit, the Bishops visited the Pontifical Ethiopian College in Vatican, an institution with over a century of history. They met with college officials and students, fostering a sense of community and connection.

This Ad Limina visit holds particular significance as it marks the return of His Excellency Abune Tesfaselasie, Bishop of Eparchy of Adigrat, who was unable to attend previous Bishops gatherings for the past four years due to the ongoing conflict in Ethiopia.



While the Ad Limina visit typically occurs every five years, this gathering was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, this marks the first Ad Limina visit for Ethiopian Bishops in ten years in the presence of all Ethiopian Bishops united in prayer for peace in the Church and the Nation.



## Pastoral

On 18 June 2024, Ethiopian Catholic Church delegation led by his Eminence Cardinal Berhanes, together with other members of Inter-Religious Council of Ethiopia has visited Ethiopian Airlines group and has signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together, not as a business partnership but as peace relationship/partnership, to promote peace, human fraternity, mutual respect regardless of religion, color, race, status ...etc.



Pastoral Ministries Coordination office has organized a workshop from 24-28 June 2024 in Mojo Consolata Fathers Center for Pastoral agents from all Ecclesiastical jurisdictions of Ethiopia on Synodality (working together in communion, participation and mission).



# Safeguarding

- Attended training on Trauma Healing organized by Bible Society of Ethiopia.
- Orientation provided to priest association on the new CBCE safeguarding policy
- Fund transfer to diocesan offices for the implementation of Safeguarding policy activities
- CBCE safeguarding policy familiarization session for a school community at Ashera, Hosanna
- Dissemination of policy documents and IEC materials to dioceses
- Share progress and way forward of the safeguarding policy with the ADCS delegates at Addis Ababa.
- Prepare safeguarding progress reports to be presented at the Ad-limina meeting of the Bishops.
- Finalize and revise the three-year strategic plan for the safeguarding office
- Attend Zoom meeting with the Porticus advisory team and memorie initiative delegates.
- Diocesan follow up

## Plan

- Finalize the new project proposal USCCB
- Finalized dissemination of published documents
- Put in place the compliant handling channel
- Compile and Finalize the CA report.
- Attend UN cluster meeting
- Continue with the follow-up on diocesan safeguarding activity implementation.



*Training on Trauma Healing Organized by Bible Society of Ethiopia (BSE)*



*CBCE safeguarding policy familiarization session at Ashera, Hosanna*



*Orientation provided to Our Lady Catholic Priest Association*

# Education

## • Education Cluster two days' workshop

The Federal Ministry of education in collaboration with Save the Children prepared two days' workshop on Towards Harmonized Approach to Quality Education for Out of School Children in Ethiopia. 25-26 June 2024 Grand Palace Hotel, Addis Ababa.

The workshop focused on the condition of children who are out of school. The workshop displayed that there are three ways that children can be out of school.

1. Those children who never gone to school
2. Those children joined schools but dropped out of schools
3. Those children who are in schools but at risk of drop out.

## ***The Objectives of the workshop was***

The workshop led by Ethiopia's Ministry of Education aimed to align actions and quality standards among the government, civic society, and development partners to improve education for out-of-school children and adolescents. The focus was on federal policy guidelines, program approaches, and necessary resources. The workshop sought to enhance dialogue and partnerships, with the first day dedicated to policy discussions and the second to finalizing the Accelerated Education Work Plan. Objectives include understanding methodologies for measuring out-of-school children, sharing successful educational models, creating pathways for second-chance education, and finalizing the work plan for 2024-2025.

## • Activities with the Ministry of Education

As is known, the Catholic Church is in the process of signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Federal Ministry of Education. Currently, the MoE legal department is processing the MoU document. Once it is finalized, the signing will take place.

This MoU aims to enhance collaboration between the Catholic Church and the Ministry of Education, focusing on various educational initiatives and programs. The agreement will likely cover areas such as curriculum development, teacher training, and the provision of educational resources. Duty free import educational materials etc. By formalizing this partnership, both parties hope to improve the quality of education and ensure that it aligns with shared values and objectives. The Catholic Church has a long-standing history of involvement in education, and this MoU represents a significant step in strengthening its role and contributions within the national education system. The signing of the MoU will mark the beginning of a new chapter in their collaborative efforts to advance education for all.

• In the month of June,2014 the Federal Ministry of Education has produced and distributed new guideline concerning the category of Schools and brief descriptions. With this document there are also standard guidelines. These are;

1. General Guideline for international schools, Community schools, Non-Profit making schools and Charity based schools
2. Standard guideline documents for secondary schools, Primary schools and Kindergarten or pre-primary schools.

All these documents are shared to all diocese, so that all schools will get through their respective diocesan offices.

## ***Plan***

- Follow up the MoU finalization
- Seek for potential donors and send project proposals
- Prepare and facilitate a discussion forum with school directors and other concerning partners on the above released documents
- And probably make a traveling to Tigray region to assess the condition education service and seek support from donors.

# Youth

- Attended the first African Women of Faith Conference that was held in Addis Ababa from June 10th to 15th, 2024. The conference aimed to strengthen the capacity of Women of Faith in their role in advocacy and lobbying regarding freedom of religion and belief, as well as gender equality. The Conference included training on lobby and advocacy, high level engagement with African Union Policy makers, Netherland Embassies' delegate to AU and exposure visit to Charity Organization.
- Facilitation for successful Scholarship applicants of the SCYP in the 2024/ 2025 academic year.
- Translation and Proofreading team working on the full version of the resource book "Navigating with God". We had a follow up virtual gathering.
- Mobilized Young Volunteers to engage in "Talithakoum" Youth Ambassadors Program.
- New Project proposal under development.

## Plan

- Organize information sharing session for successful Scholarship applicants of the SCYP in the 2024/ 2025 academic year.
- Assist Focolare Movement in Organizing Gen-Fest program.
- Work on project reports.
- Translation and Proofreading team will continue working on the resource book "Navigating with God"
- Attend monthly SCPR & IT department capacity building training, department meetings and Pastoral team meetings.
- Mobilize volunteers for different requests





**Catholic Bishops' Conference of Ethiopia**