

MINUTES

*Catholic Biblical Federation
10th Plenary Assembly
Mar Del Plata, Argentina*



PROCLAIMING
THE WORD

Gift of Life for
a Fragile World

(Rom 8:22-23)

Opening Day

April 15, 2023

M01/15/04/23 OPENING EUCHARIST OF THE 10TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF THE CBF

1.1 Opening Eucharist of the 10th Plenary Assembly of the Catholic Biblical Federation (CBF)

Opening Eucharist of the Plenary Assembly was held at the Catholic Cathedral of Mar del Plata: Basílica De San Pedro Y Santa Cecilia on April 15, 2023, starting at 6 p.m. The Eucharistic Celebration was presided by the Bishop of the Diocese of Mar Del Plata, Mons. Gabriel Mestre, who is the host of the Assembly.

1.2 Bible Procession

After the conclusion of the service, the assembly participants were led in a procession, carrying the Bible, from the Basilica to the venue of the Assembly: Hotel 13 de Julio, located nearby.

M02/15/04/23 OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony was held in the main hall at the Assembly's Venue and consisted of five steps.

2.1 Welcome by the Coordinator of the Latin American and the Caribbean Region, Mgter. Gerardo Garcia Helder

The Coordinator of the CBF's Latin American and Caribbean Region welcomed all participants to Argentina, expressed joy and appreciation to all present for their effort and commitment to undertake the long journey, and invited them to participate in the opening ceremony.

2.2 Enthronement of the Word of God

- 2.2.1 The Bible was solemnly placed at the stand in the center of the assembly hall and was then honored by the participants and paid homage to the Word of God in four processions of the representatives from the CBF regions: the Americas, Asia, Africa, and Europa

2.3 Welcome by the General Secretary of the CBF, Fr. Jan Stefanow, SVD

- 2.3.1 The General Secretary extended a warm welcome to all present and expressed his overwhelming delight and relief that the Plenary Assembly, on the third attempt, was finally taking place after the unprecedented disruption caused by the global pandemic. He acknowledged the enormous efforts and sacrifices made by everyone involved in making this gathering possible, despite the challenges and uncertainties of the past years.

2.4 Address of the President of the CBF, Card. Luis Antonio G. Tagle,

Pro-Prefetto per la Sezione per la prima evangelizzazione e le nuove Chiese particolari del Dicastero per l'Evangelizzazione.

- 2.4.1 The address of the President was prerecorded and televised in Assembly's hall. The Cardinal apologized for being unable to attend in person due to his duties in the Dicastery of Evangelization. He stated that, given the state of the world, the theme of the Assembly, "The Gift of Life for a Fragile World," was providential as it takes place in the context of the world grappling with conflict, division, and wounds. He asked all to continue to proclaim the Word in this broken world.
- 2.4.2 The President stated that such a proclamation requires listening. Referring to Romans 8:19-27 he urged the participants to listen to the groans of the world and humanity, and the groans of the Spirit who wants to pray with us and in us. Likewise, he urged the participants to listen to the groaning of Jesus crucified and risen, as his pain could be an expression of peace in the midst of suffering. He much desired to be at the Assembly, to listen and to hear the message of hope. He concluded by stating that he prays for all and asked to remember Pope Francis in his apostleship and continue proclaiming God's work.

2.5 Official Opening of the Plenary Assembly: Moderator of the CBF Executive Committee, Bp. Mathieu Madega Lebouakehan

- 2.5.1 The Bishop Moderator welcomed all and expressed his heartfelt thanks to all participants for their dedicated efforts and unwavering commitment. He thanked the Bishop of Mar del Plata for his hospitality and for hosting the event.
- 2.5.2 The Bishop then officially opened the assembly by leading the attendees in singing of the *Veni Creator*, declaring the Assembly officially opened at **7:58 p.m. on April 15, 2023.**