

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)

Day 2

April 16, 2023

M01/16/04/23 MORNING SESSION

The Assembly Delegates, divided into six groups, participated in the Sunday Eucharist in five locations in Mar del Plata, according to the following arrangement:

1. Casa de Libertad y Misericordia

Grupo: 35 en inglés + 5 en español

Preside Misa 10.30 hs.: Mons. Gabriel Mestre (obispo de Mar del Plata, Argentina)

2. Hogar de Cristo Cura Mugica

Grupo: 25 en español

Preside Misa 9 hs. (Capilla NS de la Merced): Mons. Ciro Quispe López (obispo de July, Perú)

3. Comunidad Santa Rosa del Mar

Preside Misa 9.30 hs.: Bishop Lucio Andrice Muandula (obispo de Xaixai, Mozambique)

4. Parroquia Asunción grupo Lectio

Grupo: 12 en francés + 13 en español

Preside Misa 11.30 hs.: Mons. Edgardo Cedeño SVD (obispo de Penonomé, Panamá)

5. Pastoral del duelo en EUT 25 personas

Referente en el lugar: Diácono Enrique Morales

Grupo: 25 en español

Preside Misa 11 hs. (Catedral): Mons. Damián Nannini (obispo de San Miguel, Argentina)

6. Familias Carismáticas en EUT 25 personas

Grupo: 25 en español

Preside Misa 9 hs. (Catedral): Mons. Ramón Dus (arzobispo de Resistencia, Argentina)

The delegates celebrated Sunday's Eucharist in several communities of the local Church in Mar del Plata to highlight that the CBF mission and work are carried out in the context of the local and the universal Church.

M02/16/04/23 INTRODUCTION BY THE CBF GENERAL SECRETARY

The second part of the day began at 3 p.m. The first point of order was the introduction to the Plenary Assembly by the CBF General Secretary (GS), Fr. Jan Stefanów, SVD.

2.1 Convocation of the Plenary Assembly

The GS stated that the Assembly is finally taking place at the third attempt. The Assembly was initially scheduled for 2021 but was canceled because of the pandemic, and the second attempt in 2022 did not take place because of the lack of quorum. Finally, taking place in 2023 at the third attempt, the Plenary Assembly does not require a quorum, which was confirmed by the Holy See lawyer, Mons. Marcus Graulich.

2.2 The Composition of the Assembly

The GS reminded the delegates that the Assembly is an official function where only the official delegates are entitled to vote.

The 10th Plenary Assembly composition is as follows:

Full members delegates:	40
Full members proxy delegates:	4
Associate members delegates:	72
Associate members proxy delegates:	9

TOTAL:	125

The delegates were given personal voting cards, which will be used during the Assembly: red cards for the full member delegates and green cards for the associate member delegates.

M03/16/04/23 CONFIRMATION OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY

The GS introduced Fr. Wojciech Szypula, SVD, whom he has asked to serve as the General Secretary of the Assembly. Fr. Szypula is a lecturer in Biblical Studies at Tangaza University College, Nairobi, Kenya, with an extensive experience in biblical ministry. He cooperated with CBF over the years, and the GS, entrusted with selecting and proposing the secretary, was confident that the proposed person could fulfill the task in question. Voting for Fr. Szypula was carried out by the delegates, and he was confirmed as the 10th Plenary Assembly's General Secretary.

M04/16/04/23 CONFIRMATION OF THE MODERATORS FOR THE FORMATIVE PART OF THE ASSEMBLY

The GS presented the moderators for each of the three formative days of the assembly with a brief personal introduction. These are Prof. Séamus O'Connell, Ms. Stefania De Vito, and Prof. Ernesto Borghi. Voting for the moderators was carried out, and they were confirmed in their posts.

M05/16/04/23 APOLOGIES FOR THE DIFFICULTIES

The GS apologized for the difficulties and challenges encountered during the preparatory phase of the assembly. There were two primary sources of the issues and problems faced by many delegates.

First, there was the move of the CBF headquarters from Germany to Rome, which was a long and complex process completed only in March 2023, that is one month before the Assembly.

Second, unsuspectedly, many delegates experienced unforeseen difficulties obtaining an Argentinian visa. The GS apologized for this but emphasized that the visa and travel challenges contradicted the assurances and initial impressions about the country's immigration policies.

M06/16/04/23 ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF THE CBF REPORTS

GS stated that one of the primary purposes of the Plenary Assembly is to provide information to the Delegates on the Administration and Finances of the organization. He alluded to the difficulties with the financial report due to the unexpected death of the CBF treasurer, Mr. Holger Sichler, in 2022.

The presentation of the administrative reports was delayed due to difficulties with the internet. Eventually, two administrative reports were presented via an internet connection, starting at 5.15 p.m.

The first report was the general administrative and financial report of Sr. Margarita Gruber; the second was the detailed financial report of Oliver Bludovsky.

M07/16/04/23 REGIONAL REPORTS

All reports are presented to the general secretariat and available in an abbreviated form in the Assembly's documentation.

7.1 South-Eastern Europe. Coordinator: Prof. Ernesto Borghi

Question Raised: A concern was raised about the availability of the French Missal and its price. The only biblical and liturgical publications available from the Pauline Press are expensive.

The response of Prof Borghi indicated that are difficulties in publishing and distribution of French and other countries when it comes to publishing. No solutions were immediately available, but the coordinator said he would investigate the matter.

7.2 Central Europe. Coordinator: Fr. Eduard Patrascu

Remark: Prof Borghi congratulated Fr. Patrascu on his contribution to translating the Bible into Romanian, who commented on the process and efforts that went into this translation, which he shared with another priest, who sadly is seriously ill.

7.3 The Roman Subregion

The subregion of Rome is particular because it consists of representatives of various religious congregations that work in other regions. Its activities are geared towards sharing information, coordinating, and developing initiatives. These meetings take place twice a year. The coordinator was Corrado Pastore SDB, a Salesian from the Pontifical Salesian University. He now retired and was replaced by a new Coordinator, a Salesian who could not be present, but a representative from the subregion is available.

7.4 Central America and Caribbeans. Coordinator: Mgter. Gerardo Garcia Helder

The intervention from the Delegate from the Colombia region emphasized that the essential for the coordination is communication, in addition to funding.

The GS stated that the FEBIC LAC was invited to the CELAM synodal process, but the offer still needs to be taken.

7.5 South East Asia Region. Delegates: Ms. Yvonne Lui and Fr. Kisok John Pak

A regional delegate added that the Biblical apostolate in various forms and through multiple means is extended even into mainland China.

The day concluded with the presentation of the various publications from the institutions and publication houses represented by the delegates.