

MINUTES

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



The Closing Day

April 21, 2023

M01/21/04/23 DISCUSSION OF THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE ASSEMBLY'S FINAL STATEMENT

The last day of the assembly commenced with the review of the initial draft of the final statement, which was prepared by the assembly's secretary. This draft was formulated based on the inputs gathered from the drafting groups, regional and subregional feedback, and notes taken by the secretariat. The document's structure was given the green light, and the content was deemed satisfactory.

The delegates were requested to provide their inputs and corrections, which they should submit to the secretariat before April 30, 2023. The final version of the statement will be ready for publication by May 30, 2023.

M02/21/04/23 CLOSING OF THE ASSEMBLY

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

After the introduction and welcome by the CBF Secretary General, Fr. Jan Stefanów (SG), Cardinal L. A. Tagle addressed the Assembly via Zoom, beginning at 10:37. A transcript of his speech is placed among the assembly documents.

2.2 The Official Closing of the Assembly

The President, Card. Tagle declared the 10th Plenary Assembly of the Catholic Biblical Federation closed at 11.23 a.m.

The new executive committee members were then officially presented to President, with Ms. Mary Sperry introduced as the elected moderator of the executive committee, and Bp. Lucio Andrice Muandula as the vice moderator.

As a symbolic gesture of closure and gratitude, a root was used to represent the mission of the CBF to root the world in the Word of God. This root was carried out of the Assembly Hall, followed by the open book of the Bible, signifying the importance of the Word of God and the beginning of the mission flowing the empowerment and the direction of the Assembly.

M03/20/04/23 THE CLOSING EUCHARIST

The last act of the Assembly was the closing Eucharist presided by Bp. Francis Xavier Vira. The closing homily was delivered by CBF Secretary General Fr. Jan Stefanów. In his homily, he raised two major points.

First, based on the first reading, he stated that despite facing two significant crises, the CBF has survived, which confirms that it is indeed God's project, God's work. This encourages us to press forward confidently and reassures us that our efforts align with God's will.

The second point, based on the Gospel, touched on sharing the bread, which represents the bread of life. The speaker highlighted the significant size difference between the altar and the lectern, symbolizing the comparatively small space allotted for the Word of God. This serves as a reminder of the need to address this issue and make it our mission to prioritize the Word of God.

In conclusion, he stated that Jesus entrusted his disciples with the mission of feeding the hungry and those in need. Like them, we are called to continue this work despite our frailty and brokenness. Although broken and fragile ourselves, we must still break the bread and nourish God's people with the sustenance that comes from his Word.

The Eucharist concluded at 12.34, and with it, the 10th Plenary Assembly of the Catholic Biblical Federation has come to a close.