

# *Souvenir Booklet*

## **The Journey to the Cardinalate**

# **His Eminence Cardinal Sebastian Francis**



**January 2024**



Address : 290, Jalan Macalister, 10450,  
Penang, Malaysia

Telephone : +604-229 2742

Email : admin@pgdiocese.org

Website : <https://pgdiocese.org/>

*The Journey to the Cardinalate*  
**His Eminence Cardinal Sebastian Francis**

6

T

2

6

AS



**IN CARDINAL'S OWN WORDS**

Called to continue the mission 1  
Universality, Inculturation, Evangelisation 3  
Duties extend beyond local obligations 5  
Admiration for Pope Francis 7

**ABOUT THE MAN**

Biodata 9  
Education 11

**PERSONAL SIGNIFICANT MOMENTS & PERSONAL BELIEF** 13

**APPOINTMENTS & AWARDS**

Appointments 16  
Awards 20

**THE COAT OF ARMS OF CARDINAL SEBASTIAN FRANCIS** 21

**CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES** 23

**MOMENTS CAPTURED ON FILM** 49

*The Journey to the Cardinalate*  
**His Eminence Cardinal Sebastian Francis**



**U**nexpectedly appointed as a cardinal, I found myself at a juncture I hadn't foreseen. At 72, my sights were set on retiring at 75, the focus always on the mission's continuity rather than on titles. My immediate reaction? A contemplation on the potential loss of privacy and personal liberty.

This appointment, however, fosters a deep sense of connection with Pope Francis and the Universal Church, a bond that I cherish.

Recognising that I am not alone, I instinctively recalled the esteemed cardinals who came before me. I am humbled to follow in the paths of the late Cardinal Soter Fernandez (Malaysia), the late Cardinal Cornelius Sim (Brunei), and now alongside Cardinal William Goh (Singapore). We all belong to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Malaysia-Singapore-Brunei.

Many have inquired, *'Have you ever pondered why the Holy Father selected you to join the ranks of his esteemed cardinals?'*

The straightforward truth is that I never dwelt on it. Speculation tends to fall into stereotypical patterns, which I find rather tiresome. Primarily, the choice rests with the Holy Father, he bears the greater responsibility in answering that question than I do. People are fixated on the 'Why'. Why was I appointed Bishop of Penang? Why was I entrusted with chairing the FABC Office of Social Communications? Why was I elevated to cardinal?

For me, the answer lies in the division of responsibilities and the seamless continuation of our shared mission. Embracing this call, this selection, is crucial for us to carry forward the mission. For example, I view my presence in the diocese of Penang as an

## *Called to Continue the Mission*

---

extension of the legacy left by the late bishops Francis Chan, Gregory Yong, Soter Fernandez and Bishop Emeritus Anthony Selvanayagam. I prefer not to squander time contemplating why God singled me out. Instead, I simply acknowledge, *'Okay, I've been chosen,'* and focus on advancing the mission.

Every bishop should be prepared, with sleeves rolled up, ready to answer the call - whether anticipated or not - to assist the Pope in governing the universal Church. In my role as a cardinal, I advocate for embracing the local phrase *turun padang* signifying a commitment to engaging with and addressing the realities on the ground.





I felt deeply inspired reading the Holy Father's appointment letter to me. In it, Pope Francis stressed three fundamental principles: the "universality of the Church," the "inculturation of the faith," and the "evangelisation of cultures." These weren't just my takeaways; they were his clear directives to me.

Beginning with the idea of universality, the Pope's message was strikingly straightforward. He delved extensively into Pentecost, explicitly tying it to the concept of universality. He highlighted how Pentecost marked the birth of universality within the Church, broadening its focus from Judaism or Israel to encompass the entire universe. The Pope's emphasis on universality didn't imply uniformity - a hallmark of Francis. Instead, he emphasised that universality unfolded at Pentecost through a symphony of unity. He drew upon Acts 2:9-11, embracing diverse regions, even those entrenched in conflict, like Judea. Sadly, the world hasn't shifted much since then. Yet, the Pope underscored the Church's responsibility to convey a message that transcends sectarianism - a universal message relevant to all humanity.

Furthermore, he urged me to embrace the idea of "inculturating the faith." While the faith itself is Catholic, the Pope stressed the importance of integrating it into diverse cultural landscapes worldwide - whether in Asia, Africa, the Americas, Latin America, Europe, Russia or any other region where cultural roots need to

intertwine with faith. He highlighted that not only should the faith adapt, but the cultures themselves should embody the Gospel's values.

It's crucial to recognise that while these directives might seem new to some, they're not a departure from the Church's long-standing mission. The Pope's emphasis on universality, inculturation, and the evangelisation of cultures is a continuation of the Church's enduring mission.

The groundwork for our path was laid long ago. Our Malaysian Church has been steering in this direction since Vatican II, notably culminating in our *Aggionormento* of 1976. This journey isn't about a single individual's plans but rather, the collective dedication of many in integrating faith with culture.

I entered the priesthood after these pivotal moments. I see my role as building upon the solid foundations established by my predecessors, not as a solo act but as part of a legacy. It's essential to avoid a narrative centred on a single person; the real essence lies in the continuity of our mission. I appreciate the reinforcement, but it mirrors what the Malaysian Church has long been progressing towards, and indeed, the broader path that the Church in Asia has embraced.

The beauty of the Catholic Church lies in its continuum, not in individual identities, whether it's Pope Francis or me, Cardinal Sebastian, or any other person. I invite everyone to participate in this ongoing mission, a continuation that transcends personalities and spans generations.



## *Duties Extend Beyond Local Obligations*

5

Pope Francis, in his letter to me dated July 9, 2023, appointed me to join the clergy of Rome. As a newly appointed cardinal, I was also entrusted with a church in Rome, specifically the Church of Our Lady, Cause of Our Joy, symbolising my connection to Pope Francis, the Bishop of Rome.

Symbolism holds significant weight in the Catholic tradition, and these symbols convey a profound narrative. Why assign me a church in Rome within the Diocese of Rome? Is it due to a lack of responsibilities in my current area, the Penang Diocese, which spans five states? No, it's a symbolic gesture indicating, *"You're now part of the Diocese of Rome, under the leadership of Pope Francis. Embrace his ministry."* This symbolic tie was emphasised by assigning me a particular parish in Rome, a choice that pleasantly surprised me given my strong belief in the virtue of joy.

The theme of joy resonates deeply, mirroring Pope Francis' commencement of his ministry with the encyclical *Gaudium et Spes* centred on the joy of the Gospel. When I received the Parish of Mary, Cause of Our Joy, I was astounded.

During the consistory, approximately 20 individuals from that parish, spanning various ages, eagerly awaited the announcement of their new cardinal. Their genuine excitement moved me deeply. Despite the language barrier, I greeted and kissed each one of them, fostering an immediate bond.

Subsequently, I visited the parish, touched by the warm reception of the parishioners. Though an official visit is planned for my next

## *Duties Extend Beyond Local Obligations*

---

trip to Rome, this gesture signifies more than a mere formality. It underscores the Church's message to the cardinals: *"Your duty extends beyond your local obligations in Penang; you're now integral to the Diocese of Rome under Pope Francis' guidance."*

Neglecting to pray for and pastor these individuals would be neglecting my obligations. Thus, my responsibilities have expanded, encompassing them in my thoughts and prayers. In return, they pledged their reciprocal support. This symbolic transition serves as a reminder to integrate their concerns into my pastoral duties.

The name "Mary the Cause of Our Joy" speaks volumes. Upon meeting the parishioners, their palpable joy was infectious and inspiring. This joy serves as a testament to their faith and offers encouragement for my journey ahead.



## *Admiration for Pope Francis*

I was honoured to be appointed as the Bishop of the Diocese of Penang in 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI, continuing the sacred mission entrusted to St. Peter, the Apostle, in solidarity with all past and present Popes. I deeply admire the interconnected triad of charisms presented by Pope Francis.

**The Joy of the Gospel:** Pope Francis articulates that joy transcends mere emotion; it is bestowed as grace and a gift by the Holy Spirit. This profound joy, a fruit of the Spirit, remains unattainable without His presence.

**The Mercy of the Gospel:** Pope Francis expounds on how Jesus exemplifies divine justice by saving sinners, emphasising that God's true justice is manifested through merciful salvation. As disciples of Jesus, we're called to empathise with one another, sharing burdens and practicing compassion. Pope Francis dedicated 2016 as the Year of Mercy.

**Hope is a Gift from the Holy Spirit:** Pope Francis explained that hope transcends mere optimism for Christians; it embodies an enduring anticipation, bestowed as a divine gift by the Holy Spirit. It is a miraculous force of rejuvenation, unfailingly sustaining us. Notably, Pope Francis has designated 2025 as the Jubilee Year of Hope.

The interconnection of these three charisms - Joy, Mercy, and Hope - constitutes the divine message conveyed by the Holy Spirit through our Holy Father.

Observing the current state of our world, I find it profoundly fitting that in 2025, we dedicated our prayers to hope - for refugees, migrants, victims of human trafficking, civilians enduring conflict zones, and all those grappling with distress.

Indeed, Christ is Hope!



*The Journey to the Cardinalate*  
**His Eminence Cardinal Sebastian Francis**



# ABOUT THE MAN

<b>Biodata:</b>	His Eminence Cardinal Dato' Seri Sebastian Francis
<b>Office:</b>	The Titular Roman Catholic Bishop of Penang
<b>Diocese:</b>	The Roman Catholic Diocese of Penang is situated in the Northern region of West Malaysia, covering 5 states namely Penang, Perlis, Kedah, Perak dan Kelantan. The Diocese of Penang and the Diocese of Melaka-Johor are Suffragan Dioceses of the Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur
<b>Birth Date:</b>	11 November 1951
<b>Birth Place:</b>	Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia
<b>Sacrament of Baptism:</b>	18 November 1951
<b>Sacrament of First Holy Communion:</b>	04 October 1959
<b>Sacrament of Confirmation:</b>	05 August 1962
<b>Parents:</b>	Meachery Joseph Francis, born in Kerala, India in 1895; Mary Kollanur Joseph, born in Kerala, India in 1917
<b>Languages:</b>	English, Malay, Tamil
<b>Hobbies:</b>	Reading, travelling, outdoor activities such as hiking, hill climbing and brisk walking.





- 1958 - 1963** Primary Education @ St. Joseph's Primary School, Johor Bahru run by the Brothers of St. Gabriel for six (6) years.
- 1964 - 1967** Secondary Education at Monfort Secondary School, Singapore also run by the Brothers of St. Gabriel for four (4) years (until Senior Cambridge).
- 1964 - 1966** Joined the Juniorate of the Brothers of St. Gabriel in Singapore and resided with the Brothers in Community.
- 1967 - 1970** Joined St. Francis Xavier's Minor Seminary in Singapore.
- 1967** Passed Senior Cambridge examination in Singapore.
- 1970** Passed Higher School Certificate at St. Francis Xavier's Minor Seminary in Singapore.
- 1971** Enrolled into College General Major Seminary in Penang, Malaysia and completed two years course in Initiation and Philosophy in 1972.
- 1973** Worked as a temporary teacher at St. Theresa's Secondary School, Sungai Petani, Kedah (a Government Aided Mission School run by the De La Salle Christian Brothers) and assisted in the Church of Christ the King, Sungai Petani, Kedah, Malaysia as a Seminarian on pastoral leave for one year.
- 1974** Returned to College General Major Seminary in Penang, Malaysia and completed Theology in 1976.





PERSONAL  
SIGNIFICANT  
MOMENTS

&

PERSONAL  
BELIEF

## PERSONAL SIGNIFICANT MOMENTS

Attracted to spending time with the rural indigenous communities in Sabah and Sarawak, Peninsular Malaysia, Bali, Indonesia, Australia and India which His Eminence has personally visited; Loves seeing lives of the indigenous in the rural areas and aboriginal communities at its original and innocence which is not spoiled by the modern contemporary and artificial lifestyles.

## PERSONAL BELIEF

Must include life of contemplation and reflection in silence which people generally call prayer and also must have spiritual energy for sustenance. Must have good human & emotional maturity and balance, always be opened to creative thinking inclusive of all especially ethnic, racial and religious differences. Open to the Gospel values of LOVE, TRUTH, SACRIFICE, FREEDOM and BEAUTY which is mentioned in the Coat of Arms represented by the five arrows.



*Cardinal Sebastian Francis*  
**Bishop of Penang**

**APPOINTMENTS**

**&**

**AWARDS**

## APPOINTMENTS

- January 1977** Ordained Deacon at Church of the Immaculate COncption, Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia and appointed to the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Johor Bahru, Johor.
- 28 July 1977** Ordained Diocesan priest of Melaka-Johor Diocese at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia.
- July 1977 -  
September 1977** Assistant Priest at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Johor Bahru, Johor.
- September 1977 -  
January 1981** Assistant Priest at Church of St. Francis Xavier, Melaka
- January 1981 -  
October 1981** Assistant Priest at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Johor Bahru, Johor.
- January 1981 -  
January 1984** Appointed as a Consultor of the Melaka-Johor Diocese.
- October 1981 -  
June 1983** Studied Dogmatic Theology at the Angelicum Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome, Italy.
- June 1984 -  
December 1984** Studied and practiced Bahasa Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur, Indonesia and Keningau, Sabah.
- January 1985 -  
June 1998** Lecturer for Dogmatic Theology, Formator and Spiritual Director at College General, Penang.

- September 1985 - June 1998** - Chaplain to University Undergraduates at University Sains Malaysia, Penang, Malaysia and appointed Spiritual Director for Tamil Charismatic Renewal, Diocese of Penang, Malaysia.
- December 1987 - February 1988** - Served at Church of Sacred Heart, Queensland, Australia
- July 1990 - June 1991** - Studied and obtained Advanced Degree in Justice and Peace from Maryknoll School of Theology in New York, USA.
- July 1991 - June 1998** - Second term as Lecturer, Formator, Spiritual Director at College General, Penang, Malaysia.
- July 1992 - September 1992** - Pursued Programme on Personal Growth, Development and Spirituality for formators in Ashirvad, Bangalore, India.
- September 1996 - June 1998** - Administrator of the Church of Immaculate Conception, Pulau Tikus, Penang, Malaysia.
- July 1998 - February 1999** - Pursued Spirituality Course at St. Joseph's Spirituality Centre, Bangalore, India.
- February 1999 - May 2003** - Appointed Assistant Priest and then as the Administrator of Sacred Heart Cathedral, Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia.
- March 1999 - March 2008** - Appointed Director of Pastoral Institute of Melaka-Johor Diocese, Malaysia.
- 1999** - Appointed member of the Peninsular Malaysia Pastoral Team (PMPT) and Chairman of its meetings.

- February 2000 - 2011** Appointed Vicar General of Melaka-Johor Diocese, Malaysia.
- December 2001 - May 2003** Appointed Diocesan Administrator of Melaka-Johor Diocese, Malaysia.
- April 2003 - January 2011** Appointed Parish Priest of Church of St. Louis, Kluang, JOhor and the Administrator of Church of St. Philip, Segamat, Church of St. Peter, Mersing, Church of St. Henry, Batu Pahat and Church of St. Anthony, Cha'ah.
- 2006 - 2011** Appointed Chairman of the Melaka-Johor Diocesan Finance Committee.
- 2006** Organised the Peninsular Malaysia Pastoral Convention (PMPC) III for the Peninsular Malaysia Arch/Dioceses and the Melaka-Johor Diocesan Synod.
- 2009** Director of Formation for seven candidates to the Permanent Diaconate ordained at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in August 2011.
- Jan 2011** Appointed Parish Priest of Church of Christ the King, Kulai, Johor.
- March 2012** Appointed Assistant Priest at St. Peter's Church, Melaka.
- 7 July 2012** Appointed Bishop of Penang
- 20 August 2012 - Present** Ordained and installed as the Bishop of Penang, Rt. Rev. Sebastian Francis, D.D.

- 2015 - 2017** Appointed Vice President of the Malaysian Consultative Council of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism and Taoism (MCCBCHST) and the Christian Federation of Malaysia (CFM).
- 2017 - 2023** Appointed President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei (CBCMSB) and member of the Central Committee for the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference (FABC).
- January 2023** Appointed Chairman of the FABC Office of Social Communication (OSC) which includes the governance of the Radio Veritas Asia (RVA).
- 9 July 2023** Elected to the College of Cardinals
- August 2023** President of the Episcopal Regional Commission for Social Communication, for Consecrated Life and for Malaysian Catholic Education Council, Catholic Bishops' Conference of Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei
- 30 September 2023** Appointed Cardinal at the Consistory in Rome and assigned a parish in Rome at the Church of Mary, Cause of Our Joy (Parrocchia S. Maria Causa Nostrae Laetitiae) located at Piazza Siderea, 1/A 00133 Rome, Italy
- 04 October 2023** Appointed Member of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.



## AWARDS

---

**09 July 2016**

Received the state award, Darjah Setia Pangkuan Negeri (DSPN) which carries the title Dato' in conjunction with the Yang Di-Pertua Negeri Pulau Pinang TYT Tun Dato' Seri Utama Abdul Rahman Abbas' 78th birthday celebration on the 9th of July 2016.

**22 July 2021**

Awarded the degree of Darjah Gemilang Pangkuan Negeri (D.G.P.N.) and was bestowed the title Dato' Seri on 22 July 2021.





# THE COAT OF ARMS OF CARDINAL SEBASTIAN FRANCIS



### THE ECCLESIASTICAL HAT OR GALERO

In heraldry, this broad-brimmed ecclesiastical hat symbolizes the clergy

### THE LAMB OF GOD

The **Victorious LAMB OF GOD** is prominently depicted in the shield (Rev 5:9-10). It recalls the unconditional and vicarious sacrifice offered to procure salvation for all humanity. The **LAMB** rests on the Word of God. The Word and Eucharist will be the foundation for his episcopal ministry.

An allusion is also made to the Bride of the Lamb (Rev 21:9). The local Church is the Bride and the bishop is the head of the local Church.

### THE 15 TASSELS (FORMERLY 6)

The increase in tassels signifies a promotion in ecclesiastical office. It also recalls the day Christ was crucified, the 15th day of Nisan in the Jewish calendar. Cardinals are exhorted "to act with courage, even to shedding of your blood" like Christ.

### THE QUIVER OF ARROWS

Attribute to St. Sebastian, the weapons used in his martyrdom. The quiver contains five arrows representing the Gospel values of **LOVE, TRUTH, SACRIFICE, BEAUTY** and **FREEDOM**.



### THE FIVE-POINTED STAR

The five (5) points of the Star represents the five (5) States which make up the Diocese of Penang. The States are **PERLIS** Indra Kayangan, **KEDAH** Darul Aman, **PULAU PINANG**, **KELANTAN** Darul Naim and **PERAK** Darul Ridzuan. The colour yellow depicts the UNITY of the Faithful in these five States.

### THE MOTTO

The Latin words "**FIAT VOLUNTAS TUA**" translated as "Obedience to God's will." Recalls the reply of the Blessed Virgin Mary when she was invited by the Archangel Gabriel to be the mother of Jesus Christ (Lk 1:38) **AND** the disposition of Jesus while praying in the Garden of Gethsemane (Lk 22:43)

## REPRESENTATION OF COLOURS IN THE COAT OF ARMS

**Red on shield:** Signifies magnanimity and fortitude of the saints and martyrs.

**Blue on shield:** Signifies loyalty, chastity, strength and faith, emulating the virtues of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

**Yellow on the Star:** Signifies the unity of the faithful in the 5 states of the Diocese of Penang.

**Scarlet Red on the Ecclesiastical Hat & Tassels:** Signifies the martyrdom of Christ and His followers. Cardinals use this colour to symbolize their willingness to defend their faith with their own blood.

**Gold on the Cross:** Represents the Glory and Divinity of Christ, the Head of the Church.

the begin

congratulations



## LETTER OF POPE FRANCIS TO CARDINAL SEBASTIAN FRANCIS

To The Most Reverend Sebastian Francis  
Bishop of Penang,

Dear Brother,

In being created a Cardinal, you will become part of  
the clergy of Rome. Welcome!

This membership expresses the unity of the Church  
and the bond of all the Churches  
with that of Rome.

This closeness does not diminish  
the rich reality of the Church in her variety of  
languages and cultures; that is her universality,  
which has nothing to do with uniformity.

Universality was revealed on the morning of  
Pentecost by the symphonic unity of  
**“Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of  
Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus  
and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and  
the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and  
visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,  
Cretans and Arabs”**

*(Acts 2:9-11).*



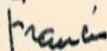
The call to universality impels us to implant the faith in every culture, each with its own values and distinctive characteristics (inculturation of the faith). A faith incapable of inculturation is not a genuine faith, for it succumbs to the temptation of ‘uniformity’, typical of a rigid way of thinking. At the same time, alongside the inculturation of faith, there is the evangelization of cultures. These two aspects — inculturation of faith and evangelization of cultures — are inseparable.

I hope that this short reflection will help you live these two dimensions fully in your own vocation as a Pastor.

Know that I am praying for you; please do not forget to do so for me.

May Jesus bless you and may the Blessed Virgin Mary accompany you.

Faternally,



Rome, Saint John Lateran, 9 July 2023



APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE  
MALAYSIA

Kuala Lumpur, 8 January 2024

Your Eminence,

I was indeed delighted, when I heard the good news that His Holiness Pope Francis had called you to be a Member of the College of Cardinals.

Taking this occasion of the thanksgiving Mass at the Minor Basilica of the Shrine of St. Anne, I would like to convey once again my heartfelt congratulatory wishes to you for being the second Cardinal of Malaysia, and another Bishop elevated to the cardinalate from this Episcopal Conference.

May the Lord continue to bless you and bring His good works to fulfilment through your journey and service to the Church in Penang, and now also to the Universal Church.

Once again offering my personal congratulations and prayerful best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

(Wojciech Zaluski)  
Apostolic Nuncio

---

His Eminence  
Card. Sebastian FRANCIS  
Bishop of Penang

PENANG



*William Cardinal Goh*

Dear Cardinal Sebastian,

It is with great joy that I welcome you to the College of Cardinals.

Your appointment will certainly add to the voice of the growing Church in Asia, and strengthen the faith of the people of God in our region.

As a leader, you have always led with wisdom and compassion, and it is a privilege to serve with you in our Bishops' Conference.

Please accept my heartiest congratulations and best wishes in your appointment.

Rest assured of my prayerful support and solidarity as you assume your new service to the Vicar of Christ and the universal Church.

Wishing you God's abundant blessings. Ad Multos Annos!

Fraternally yours in Christ,

H. Em. William Cardinal Goh  
Archbishop of Singapore



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF THE  
**Diocese of Kidapawan**  
 P.O BOX 75, 9400 CITY OF KIDAPAWAN, PHILIPPINES



14<sup>th</sup> of November 2023

**HIS EMINENCE  
 CARDINAL SEBASTIAN FRANCIS**  
 Roman Catholic Diocese of Penang

Your Eminence:

Greetings of Peace and Unity!

It is with great jubilation that I congratulate you for being created a Cardinal of the Church by His Holiness Pope Francis. The Holy Mother Church has charged you with great responsibility to bring forth the message of salvation to all strata of humanity. With faith and confidence in the loving accompaniment of the Good Shepherd, let us be one with the psalmist who proclaims;

*"It is good to give thanks to Lord, to sing praises to your name, O most High...For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work...How great are your works, O Lord! (Ps. 92:1-5).*

May the Blessed Mother, Mary Mediatrix of All Grace, the Patroness of the Diocese of Kidapawan, accompany and cover you with her mantle of protection as you carry out your charge as shepherd of the Local Church of Penang and as the prince of the Church.

My sincerest congratulations!

Semper Vobiscum,

**MOST REV. JOSE COLIN M. BGAFORO, D.D.**  
 Bishop  
 Diocese of Kidapawan

BISHOP'S RESIDENCE: BALINDOG, 9400 KIDAPAWAN CITY, PHILIPPINES  
 TEL. NOS (064) 572-1774 TO 75 FAX NO. (064) 572-177





Oswald Cardinal Gracias

**ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE**  
 21, Nathalal Parekh Marg,  
 Mumbai - 400 001.  
 TEL. : 2202 1093/1193/1293  
 FAX : 91-22-2285 3872  
 Email : diocesebombay@gmail.com

## MESSAGE

It is with immense joy and reverence that we extend our heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the new appointment of His Eminence Cardinal Sebastian Francis to the Sacred College of Cardinals. This momentous event, wherein the Holy Father, Pope Francis, has bestowed upon him the esteemed title of Cardinal, is truly a testament to his unwavering dedication and profound service to the Church.

As we celebrate this remarkable achievement, let us reflect on the significance of His Eminence's new role in the College of Cardinals. His elevation is not only a recognition of his personal virtues and spiritual leadership but also a reflection of the vibrant and devout community that is The Roman Catholic Diocese of Penang.

I have had the privilege of working closely with Cardinal Francis at the FABC. I have noticed his special competence for personnel management, his very humane approach in all challenging situations and his whole hearted dedication for the service of the people entrusted to his care.

May this appointment bring new blessings, graces, and guidance to your community, and may His Eminence Cardinal Sebastian Francis continue to be a beacon of faith and inspiration for all. We join together in prayer, gratitude, and joy as we mark this historic moment in the life of your diocese.

May the grace of the Almighty continue to shine upon The Roman Catholic Diocese of Penang, and may His Eminence Cardinal Sebastian Francis carry out his sacred duties with humility, compassion, and love.

✠ Oswald Cardinal Gracias  
 Archbishop of Bombay

November 17, 2023

### Congratulatory Message to H. Em. Card. Sebastian Francis

Heartfelt congratulations to His Eminence Card. Sebastian Francis. With this cardinal's purple, You become even more closely associated with the mystery of Christ, dead and risen, and with his Bride, the Church. May the power of Your witness inspire many sons and daughters of Asia to follow Christ the way, the truth and the life, under the leadership of the Successor of St. Peter, whom as a cardinal You are called to assist, ready to give Your life for the cause of the Gospel. We are with You in the joy of this gift to the Church of Asia, a small but enthusiastic flock in the great multitudes of this noble continent.

We give thanks with You and for You to the Lord of the vineyard. Congratulations and best wishes for deep consolation in your new ministry.

Card. Giorgio Marengo, I.M.C.  
Apostolic Prefect of Ulaanbaatar  
Mongolia

Your Eminence Cardinal Sebastian Francis,

It has been a real joy and privilege to get to know you at the FABC50 General Conference.

Thanks to your generous invitations, I joined in the memorable Solemn Declaration of the Minor Basilica of St. Anne in Jan 2023 and return gratefully now in Jan 2024 to celebrate your appointment to the cardinalate.

Praise God for your selfless dedication to His Mission! Heartfelt congratulations and prayers.

-- Gerald Kong (Singapore)



한국천주교주교회의·한국천주교중앙협의회  
CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF KOREA

74, Myeonmok-ro, Gwangjin-gu, Seoul 04918, Korea  
tel 82-2-460-7500 fax 82-2-460-7505 www.cbck.or.kr cbck@cbck.or.kr

Organizing Committee of the Thanksgiving Solemn Mass

Diocese of Penang, Malaysia

E-mail: tsm@pgdiocese.org

Prot. No. 207/2023

November 20, 2023

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Most Rev. Matthias RI Iong-hoon, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Korea, I would like to send you his congratulatory message on celebrating the creation of His Eminence Sebastian Cardinal Francis as a new Cardinal by His Holiness Pope Francis in a consistory held on September 30, 2023. Attached please find the message.

Even though it would be a great honor to attend the Thanksgiving Solemn Mass to be celebrated by H. E. Cardinal Francis on January 8, 2024, I deeply regret to inform you that the Most. Rev. Matthias RI will not be able to attend the above-mentioned Mass due to the fully occupied schedule in his diocese.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the Catholic Church in Malaysia, assuring of our prayer for the fraternal solidarity and love to be continued.

With all my best wishes and prayers, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Stephanus LEE Cheol Soo

Secretary General

Catholic Bishops' Conference of Korea



### Congratulatory Message from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Korea

On behalf of all the Bishops in Korea, I would like to extend our warmhearted congratulations to Your Eminence on your creation as a new Cardinal in a consistory held on September 30, 2023, with all the faithful in Catholic Church in Malaysia.

When it comes to the history of the Catholic Church in Korea, I truly believe that if I miss this chance to mention the special relationship between the Diocese of Penang and the Catholic Church in Korea, I will regret it. Back in the 1800s, the Catholic Church in Korea sent some seminarians to a Seminary in Penang with fervent hope that we would have more Korean priests. However, unfortunately, there was a time that we could not send any more seminarians because of the urgent situation caused by Byeong-in Persecution in 1866 during the Joseon Dynasty. After overcoming the difficult time, some more seminarians could be sent to Penang on a few times. As a result, the Catholic Church in Korea bore abundant fruit in having many Korean priests, who later committed themselves to disseminate the faith and the doctrine of the Catholic Church.

The Korean faithful including the clergy, religious, and missionaries who are carrying out the pastoral work in Catholic Church in Malaysia today, cherish the spiritual heritage from the long-standing invaluable relationship between the Diocese of Penang and the Catholic Church in Korea.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to Your Eminence for showing fraternal love and care to the Korean faithful who are living their faith life in the Catholic Church in Malaysia.

In addition, I am sure that Your Eminence will perform valuable services to the People of God in Malaysia in consideration of its diversity of languages, cultures, and ideologies, so that they can form "one body" in Christ as members of a synodal Church.



한국천주교주교회의·한국천주교중앙협의회  
CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF KOREA

74, Myeonnok-ro, Gwangjin-gu, Seoul 04918, Korea  
tel 82-2-460-7500 fax 82-2-460-7505 www.cbck.or.kr cbck@cbck.or.kr

Please be assured of our ardent prayer for Our Father to grant you proper health and discernment for your role of assisting the Holy Father. I also pray that God always accompanies and guides you to announce the merciful love of God to all men and women on earth.

November 20, 2023

+ Matthias R.

+ Matthias RI long-hoon

Bishop of Suwon

President

Catholic Bishops' Conference of Korea

The people of God in the Apostolic Vicariate in Brunei Darussalam convey its warmest congratulation to His Eminence Cardinal Sebastian Francis on your recent elevation to the College of Cardinals. May the God of hope fill you with great wisdom and courage as you encourage the People of God to follow the Good Shepherd without fear and hesitation.

Fr. Robert Leong

Diocesan Administrator of the Apostolic Vicariate in Brunei Darussalam

## THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LUCKNOW

**Gerald John Mathias**  
BISHOP OF LUCKNOW



**BISHOP'S HOUSE**

Hazratganj, P.B. 70  
Lucknow - 226 001 U.P. (India)  
Phone : 6393115513  
E-mail : lucknowdiocese@gmail.com

24 November 2023

His Eminence  
Sebastian Cardinal Francis  
Bishop of Penang  
Malaysia

Your Eminence,

First of all, please accept my Hearty Congratulations on your appointment and creation as Cardinal by Pope Francis at the Consistory on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 in the Vatican City.

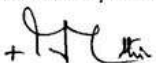
I have received the invitation to a Thanksgiving Mass to celebrate your appointment as Cardinal scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 in the Minor Basilica of St. Anne, Bukit Mertajam, Penang.

Please accept my regrets as I will not be able to attend this Celebration. But I pray and wish for the success of the grand function.

I have fond memories of our meetings and interactions on a few occasions during different meetings particularly during the FABC General Conference 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand. I found you as a friendly person, active and energetic, full of enthusiasm. I wish you God's abundant blessings as you assume your new role as the Cardinal of the Roman Church. May God grant you good health and happiness always. May you continue to exercise servant leadership, synodal leadership and passionate leadership not only in your Diocese but in Asia and Universal Church. Hope to meet you sometimes, somewhere again.

With renewed Congrats and prayerful best wishes,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

  
† Gerald John Mathias  
Bishop of Lucknow





天主教會台灣地區主教團  
Chinese Regional Bishops' Conference

106 台北市安居街 39 號  
39 An Ju Street, Taan District, Taipei City, 106, Taiwan, R.O.C.  
<http://www.catholic.org.tw> Email: [bishopconf@catholic.org.tw](mailto:bishopconf@catholic.org.tw)  
Tel: (02)2737-6602 Fax: (02)2732-8603

30 November 2023

Prot. (112) 112056

Your Eminence, greetings from Taiwan!

We, bishops of CRBC (Taiwan), are now having our Autumn General Assembly. Therefore, we would like to make avail ourselves of this providential opportunity to present to you our heart-felt congratulations on your elevation to the rank of Cardinal, also on behalf of Bishop Nibert Pu, Bishop of Chiayi, who cannot join us due to health reasons. We would also like to ensure you that you will be in our joint prayers on the day of your Thanksgiving Solemn Mass, on 8 January 2024, and wish you in advance a very beautiful celebration.

Asking God to bless abundantly you and your future ministry as a Cardinal to the College of Cardinals, in communion with the Holy Father,

We remain  
Devotedly yours in Christ,

+ John Lee

Bishop John Baptist Lee  
President, CRBC, & Bishop of Hsinchu



+ Thomas Chung

Archbishop Thomas Chung  
Vice-President, CRBC, & Bishop of Taipei

+ Peter Liu

Archbishop Peter Liu  
Bishop of Kaohsiung

+ Philip Huang

Bishop Philip Huang  
Bishop of Hualien

+ Martin Su

Bishop Martin Su  
Bishop of Taichung

+ John B. Huang, OFM

Bishop John Baptist Huang  
Bishop of Tainan



CONGRÉGATIO  
PRO GENTIUM EVANGELIZATIONE

PROT...N. 4486/23

30 November 2023

Dear Eminence Sebastian Francis,

I am extremely pleased, indeed honoured to write this congratulatory message, as the entire Church in Malaysia, particularly the Diocese of Penang is celebrating the appointment of their pastor, Cardinal Sebastian Francis, as a member of the College of Cardinals by Pope Francis.

As a pastor, His Eminence, Cardinal Sebastian Francis, encourages the laity to take up leadership positions in the pastoral ministry of the Diocese. He has a heart for the young people and promotes evangelization through social media.

Taking into consideration the multi-religious situation of the country and more particularly the Diocese of Penang, Cardinal Sebastian's active involvement in interreligious dialogue is very much appreciated not only by the Catholics but also by the people of various religions in Malaysia.

On 28 March 2013 during the Chrism Mass, Pope Francis asked the pastors of the Church "to live with the smell of the sheep." Cardinal Sebastian is a Shepherd who "knows the smell of his sheep" and encourages the sheep to develop their God-given talents for the service of their neighbour.

In the name of the Dicastery for Evangelization, I wish Cardinal Sebastian Francis, the clergy, the religious and the lay faithful of the Diocese of Penang a fruitful and joyful celebration on the 8 of January 2024.

We thank the almighty God for the wonders that He has worked in the Church through the person of Cardinal Sebastian. I remain,

*+ Luis Antonio G. Card. Tagle*  
Luis Antonio G. Card. TAGLE  
Pro-Prefect





ARCHBISHOP OF KUALA LUMPUR  
(USKUP AGUNG KUALA LUMPUR)

528, Jalan Bukit Nanas, 50250 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Tel: 603-2078 8828/ 2078 5089/ 2072 6606 | Fax: 603-2031 3815  
archbishop@archkl.org | www.archkl.org

Your Eminence, Cardinal Sebastian Francis,

On behalf of the entire Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur and its devoted faithful, I extend heartfelt congratulations on your elevation to the esteemed status of Cardinal.

We are immensely proud of your appointment to the College of Cardinals. Your leadership, boldness, and unwavering devotion to the teachings of Christ have been an inspiration to clergy and laity alike. Your elevation is a reflection of your remarkable contributions to the Church and your deep-rooted commitment to the well-being of our global community.

As a valued member of our Catholic Bishops Conference, your elevation reinforces our conviction that your presence and insights will be invaluable in shaping the direction of our shared mission of fostering faith, unity and compassion within our communities. Your wisdom and experience will undoubtedly serve as a guiding light as we navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for our Church in this region.

Your Eminence, your elevation fills our hearts with great joy and strengthens our resolve to follow the trail you've blazed—a path marked by selfless service, boundless love, and unyielding faith. As you embark on this new chapter in your sacred journey, may the Holy Spirit continue to guide and bless you abundantly with wisdom, strength, and grace.

Please be assured of our prayers and support as you carry out your sacred duties as Cardinal.

Yours affectionately,

+Most Reverend Julian Leow Beng Kim, D.D.  
Archbishop of Kuala Lumpur



*Rt. Rev. Bernard Paul*  
*Bishop of Malacca-Johore Diocese*

**CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FOR HIS EMINENCE  
 CARDINAL SEBASTIAN FRANCIS**

**"Faith is about learning to say yes to the moment  
 right in front of you.**

**Only after you say your yes do you recognize that Christ is here,  
 in this person, in this event."**

**Congratulations!**

**He walks with you, your Eminence.**

**Together Building His Kingdom,**



**+ Right Reverend Bernard Paul, D.D.  
 Bishop of Malacca Johore Diocese**



## BISHOP OF MIRI

562 Jalan Miri-Pujut (Next to Bomba Miri), 98000 Miri, Sarawak, Malaysia.

P.O. Box 108, 98007 Miri, Sarawak, Malaysia.

Tel: 085-433035 / 423035

Fax: 085-433035 / 415135

E-mail: dioceseofmiri1@gmail.com

His Eminence Sebastian Cardinal Francis  
Diocese of Penang

27<sup>th</sup> December 2023

### A Great Blessing for the Church in Malaysia

Dear Cardinal Francis,

On behalf of the Diocese of Miri, I warmly congratulate your Eminence on your elevation to the rank of Cardinal in the Church.

Your elevation is a great blessing for the Christians in Malaysia as it will strengthen the unity and solidarity of our minority Church with the Universal Church while we walk the path to mission and evangelization.

May Jesus, the Prince of Peace impart his blessing upon your Eminence, the Diocese of Penang in this synodal journey.

In solidarity,

+ *Richard Ng*

Bishop Richard Ng  
Bishop of Miri



## *Diocese of Keningau*

P. O. BOX 256, 89008 KENINGAU, SABAH, MALAYSIA.  
 PHONE: (60-87) 332 935  
 FAX: (60-87) 331 411

**His Eminence Cardinal Sebastian Francis,**

Puji Tuhan dan syabas!

Kami Umat Allah Keuskupan Keningau – para Paderi, Religius dan umat Awam mengucapkan setinggi-tinggi tahniah kepada yang teramat Mulia Kardinal Sebastian Francis atas pengangkatan sebagai seorang Kardinal oleh Sri Paus Francis bagi kami di Malaysia.

Tuhan menyertai dan melindungi Kardinal sepanjang pelayanan.

Syukur dan puji Tuhan,

**+Bishop Datuk Cornelius Piong**  
 2/1/2024

#### MESSAGE FROM THE CARITAS ASIA PRESIDENT

We, 25 Caritas Member Organizations in Asia, are delighted to know that the Roman Catholic Diocese of Penang is celebrating on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 the new appointment of His Eminence Cardinal Sebastian Francis, as Cardinal to the Sacred College of Cardinals. The Holy Father Pope Francis has created him a Cardinal at the consistory in the Vatican City on the 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.

#### A HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL SEBASTIAN FRANCIS!

God has bestowed many blessings upon the Catholic Church in Malaysia. This is our joy and happiness that He has shown His generosity with the elevation of Archbishop Sebastian Francis, as the second Cardinal of Malaysia.

I have had the great good fortune to meet Archbishop Sebastian Francis for the first time in 2019 in Johor Bahru during a meeting of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei. Through his blessing and support our that visit's mission to restart of Caritas Malaysia was successful. Thereafter, I met him a couple of times, and the latest one was in October 2022 in Bangkok during the FABC's 50th General Conference. I found him loving, caring, inspiring, simple, smiling, radiant, humble and helpful.

We wish that his service to the Catholic Church be a clear witness for the benefit of God's holy and faithful people. We would request for his continued prayer for our family and mission.

We assure our prayers for him. We pray for his long life and good health.

May God grant him abundant blessings upon His Eminence Cardinal Sebastian Francis and upon the Catholic Church in Malaysia.

Benedict Alo D'Rozario

Regional President, Caritas Asia

2 December, 2023



CARITAS ASIA is one of the 7 Regional Offices of Caritas Internationalis. The Asia Region is home to 23 National Caritas member organizations located in Central Asia, East Asia, South Asia and Southeast Asia.

[www.caritas.org](http://www.caritas.org)



December 2023

**His Eminence Cardinal Sebastian Francis**  
Penang, Malaysia

Your Eminence,

Our warmest congratulations on your appointment by the Holy Father as Cardinal of Santa Maria Causa Nostrae Laetitiae.

It is our hope that this responsibility bestowed upon you will bring you ever closer to the people of God and will bring you deeper consolations as you live your vocation faithfully. We accompany you with our prayers and best wishes. We look forward to meaningful collaborations with you.

May the Holy Spirit inspire you and your works. We lift you up to the care of our Blessed Mother Mary.

United in Christ's Mission,

Board of Trustees, Personnel, and Members  
Catholic Safeguarding Institute, Inc

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor CIC Center, Seminary Drive, Ateneo de Manila University,  
Katipunan Ave., Loyola Heights, Quezon City 1108  
Tel. +63.2.426.6001 loc. 4806

[www.catholicsafeguarding.net](http://www.catholicsafeguarding.net)  
[info@catholic-safeguarding.net](mailto:info@catholic-safeguarding.net)

*The Journey to the Cardinalate*  
**His Eminence Cardinal Sebastian Francis**



Congratulations to His Eminence, Sebastian Cardinal Francis of the Diocese of Penang.



Catholic Health Care Asia

The Canonical Stewards of Catholic Health Care Asia wish to send their best wishes and assurance of prayers on this blessed occasion. It is a great honor for the Asian Church and for our region to have a Cardinal in Malaysia. We realise it is also a heavy responsibility for the well being of the universal church and wish to offer our continued support.

Thank you for your service to the Church and to CHCA and we hope to continue to work together to bring about the reign of God in all hearts and minds.

Every good wish and blessing for good health and fruitful service.

Canonical Stewards of Catholic Health Care Asia

Chair Ms Wendy M Louis  
 Vice-Chair Ms Pamela Kung  
 Sr Jane Bertelsen FMDM  
 Sr Helena McEvelly FMDM  
 Mr Fredrick McGuire  
 Ms Anita Fam  
 Mr David Nayar  
 Mr Nicholas Chan  
 Dr Mark Tan

NECF Malaysia is a member of the World Evangelical Alliance,  
a global body that represents 600 million evangelicals and national evangelical alliances in 130 countries

22 December 2023

**Congratulatory Message**

Dear Cardinal Sebastian Francis,

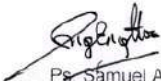
On behalf of the Council Members of National Evangelical Christian Fellowship Malaysia (NECF), we celebrate and congratulate the appointment of His Eminence Cardinal Sebastian Francis, as Cardinal to the Sacred College of Cardinals.

Truly it is a great joy for both the Catholic and the Malaysian Church to be given such honor.

We would also like to convey our regrets that we will not be available to attend the Thanksgiving Solemn Mass on January 8, 2024 to be held at Minor Basilica of St Anne, Bukit Mertajam, Penang.

We wish your Grace, the very best in this most excellent position.

God Bless.



Ps Samuel Ang  
On behalf of NECF Council

*An Evangelical Voice Since 1982*

Office Address: 32 Jalan SS 2/103, 47300 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia  
Tel: 603 7727 8227 Fax: 603 7729 1139 Email: [enquiries@necf.org.my](mailto:enquiries@necf.org.my) Website: [www.necf.org.my](http://www.necf.org.my)



## Archbishop of Kota Kinabalu

Catholic Archdiocesan Centre, Jalan Sang Kancil 3, Karamuning, 88300 Kota Kinabalu  
 P.O. Box: 10289, 88803-Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia  
 Telephone: (+60)88-203300, 276006, 211722 Fax: (+60)88-273688

### CONGRATULATION MESSAGE

When Bishop Sebastian Francis' name was listed among 21 others in the September 30 Consistory for Creation of New Cardinals, we rejoice and thank God that the Malaysian Church is again spotlighted by the Vatican after the passing of our late Cardinal Soter Fernandez

We in Kota Kinabalu share the joy of the elevation of Bishop Sebastian to the rank of Cardinals. His pastoral leadership through the Malaysian Bishops' Conference has been felt even locally here.

We are confident that Cardinal Sebastian will play his role well as a prince of the Church. We wish His Eminence God's choicest blessings in his service to the Holy Father and to the universal Church.

Ad multos annos, Your Eminence!

Your Fraternally

Abp John Wong

Dear Sebastian Cardinal Francis,

On behalf of Archbishops Emeriti Peter Chung and John Ha, Priests and religious of the Archdiocese of Kuching, I extend our congratulations and prayers for your as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cardinal of Malaysia.

I recalled that it was only last year on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023, the Catholic Bishops, Christian leaders and faithful were here to celebrate the elevation and Solemn Declaration as the Minor Basilica of St Ann. Tonight, we are indeed overjoyed once again to give thanks to the Lord as we celebrate your appointment to the College of Cardinals in the Catholic Church.

With support and prayers for Your Eminence in your new responsibilities for the Church in Malaysia and in the wider context of Asia.



Archbishop Simon Poh  
President, Catholic Bishops' Conference of Malaysia



Dear Cardinal Sebastian Francis,

I warmly congratulate Your Eminence on your elevation to the Sacred College of Cardinals. That elevation is a blessing and honour not only to the diocese of Penang but also to the Church in Asia in general. May Your Eminence be blessed and protected by the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Msgr. Henricus Pidyarto Gunawan, Bishop of Malang, Indonesia)

Shalom!

I would like to commend and congratulate my brother in Christ, His Eminence Cardinal Sebastian Francis, a faithful and diligent servant of our Lord Jesus is being recognised for his efforts and commitment to the Kingdom of God. I pray that God will continue to use him greatly in his new journey as a Cardinal to the Sacred College of Cardinals and continue to bless him with wisdom and courage as he continues this good fight.

Blessings,  
Rt Rev Dr Stephen Soe

Suffragan Bishop of the Northern Peninsula Area Diocese,  
Anglican Diocese of West Malaysia

Our heartiest congratulations to His Eminence, Sebastian Cardinal Francis, Bishop of Penang, on his appointment as a Cardinal of the Sacred College of Cardinals.

May the Lord God empower you with His wisdom and strength and the Holy Spirit guide you always in your global spiritual responsibilities.

Tan Kong Beng,  
Executive Secretary,

The Christian Federation of Malaysia (CFM)



## DIOCESE OF SANDAKAN

<https://www.dioceseofsandakan.org/>

(Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Jalan Puncak, Pusat Bandar Sandakan,  
90000 Sandakan, Sabah, Malaysia)  
P O Box 2039, 90723 Sandakan, Sabah, Malaysia  
Tel: (089) 224623, 217071 E-mail: dospo1@gmail.com

### CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL SEBASTIAN FRANCIS AS THE NEWLY ELEVATED CARDINAL

On behalf of all the parishioners, the religious, and the clergy in the Diocese of Sandakan, I would like to offer my wholehearted congratulations to His Eminence Cardinal Sebastian Francis as the newly elevated Cardinal. It is a delight and a privilege for us all that we now have a second Malaysian Cardinal.

His Eminence is known to be a man of goodwill towards all people of religious backgrounds, and this augurs well in a multi-racial and multi-religious country like ours. Your decades of priestly ministry and later as a bishop have equipped you well for this vital role, especially in our challenging world.

Your motto "Fiat Voluntas Tua" is a reflection of your readiness to submit to the will of God as you continue to serve His flock with unconditional love, constant joy, unwavering faith and hope, and in the spirit of a synodal Church.

### CONGRATULATIONS AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU!

Ad multos annos

+Bishop Datuk Julius Dusin Gitom  
Diocese of Sandakan



*The Journey to the Cardinalate*  
**His Eminence Cardinal Sebastian Francis**





## MOMENTS







*The Journey to the Cardinalate*  
**His Eminence Cardinal Sebastian Francis**





*The Journey to the Cardinalate*  
**His Eminence Cardinal Sebastian Francis**



*The Journey to the Cardinalate*  
**His Eminence Cardinal Sebastian Francis**



*Esti. 1955*

**DIOCESE OF PENANG**  
MALAYSIA



**SOCIAL COMMUNICATION**  
**DIOCESE OF PENANG**

Compiled and designed by  
Maria Yeap

2024 © Diocese of Penang