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OFICINA DE PRENSA DE LA SANTA SEDE



BUREAU DE PRESSE DU SAINT-SIEGE
PRESSEAMT DES HEILIGEN STUHLIS

BOLLETTINO

SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE

N. 0629

Giovedì 30.12.2004

Pubblicazione: Immediata

Sommario:

- ◆ LE UDIENZE
- ◆ RINUNCE E NOMINE
- ◆ DICHIARAZIONE DEI VESCOVI DELLA CONFERENZA EPISCOPALE DELLO SRI LANKA

◆ LE UDIENZE

LE UDIENZE

Il Santo Padre ha ricevuto questa mattina in Udienza:

Padre Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, Preposito Generale della Compagnia di Gesù (Gesuiti).

[02066-01.01]

RINUNCE E NOMINE • RINUNCIA DEL VESCOVO DI LOS TEQUES (VENEZUELA) E NOMINA DEL SUCCESSORE

Il Santo Padre ha accettato la rinuncia al governo pastorale della diocesi di Los Teques (Venezuela), presentata da S.E. Mons. Ramon Ovidio Pérez Morales in conformità al can. 401 § 2 del Codice di Diritto Canonico.

Giovanni Paolo II ha nominato Vescovo di Los Teques (Venezuela) S.E. Mons. Freddy Jesús Fuenmayor Suárez, finora Vescovo di Cabimas.

S.E. Mons. Freddy Jesús Fuenmayor Suárez

S.E. Mons. Freddy Jesús Fuenmayor Suárez è nato a Maracaibo (Venezuela) il 6 novembre 1949.

Ha compiuto gli studi ecclesiastici nel Seminario di *Santa Rosa de Lima* a Caracas, completandoli, quindi, presso la Pontificia Università Gregoriana ove ha ottenuto la licenza in Teologia.

Ordinato sacerdote il 3 aprile 1976 i incardinato nella diocesi di Los Teques, ha svolto il suo ministero sacerdotale come vice-parroco, parroco, responsabile diocesano per la pastorale vocazionale e giovanile, vice-Rettore e poi Rettore del Seminario Interdiocesano di Caracas.

Eletto Vescovo di Cabimas il 12 marzo 1994, ha ricevuto la consacrazione episcopale il 23 aprile successivo.

[02067-01.01]

DICHIARAZIONE DEI VESCOVI DELLA CONFERENZA EPISCOPALE DELLO SRI LANKA

The full impact of the calamity caused by the Tsunami in the Indian Ocean, has now dawned on us and the Catholic Bishops' Conference expresses our sincere condolences to all those affected by the terrible loss of life and sufferings.

The tragedy of this magnitude has not struck our country since the time of Vihara Maha Devi recorded in the Mahawamsa and it calls for the support and co-operation of every one. We offer our sympathies and prayers to all those bereaved by the loss of loved ones, like parents and children and to those who have suffered from injuries or loss of property.

We are however consoled by the Holy Scriptures (Psalms 145-146) that we are not abandoned to ourselves and that the vicissitudes of our day are not dominated by chaos or fate and so we call on our people to take courage and face the situation bravely. We ask all our people and Catholics in particular to go to the help of those affected irrespective of differences in ethnicity or religion. We are all brothers and sisters and in this tragedy we should display our brotherly love for each other.

We appeal:

- To all the people in the affected areas, to be calm and law-abiding and to those inclined to prey on others, to restrain themselves and not seek to profit from the misfortunes of others.
- Those who were unaffected to provide material or financial help as well as psychological support, to all those who are victims.
- To Catholic organizations, engaged in social services in the various parishes to organize such relief for those affected in whichever part of the country.
- To Catholic associations, to organize prayers to ask the Lord give our people the courage and determination to tide-over this calamity.

We appeal to the International community to come to the aid of the government and the country to relieve the misery of the victims as the magnitude of the calamity is too heavy for our Country to bear alone.

This grave moment calls together to rally round to assist in whatever way we can, those who have been affected by this terrible natural disaster.

Bishop Joseph Vianney Fernando
President Catholic Bishops' Conference in Sri Lanka

Bishop Marius Peiris
Secretary General Catholic Bishops' Conference in Sri Lanka

[02068-02.03] [Original text: English]

[B0629-XX.02]
