

Intervention of Domingos Lam Ka Tseung, Bishop of Macau

Most Holy Father, Your Eminencies, Bishops, Delegates, Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I present this intervention as the Bishop of Macau.

As we enter the 21st century in the third millennium, thanks to advanced transport and social communication facilities, the world becomes smaller and smaller each year. On the other hand, due to the multitude of information one receives (voluntarily and not voluntarily) each day, one may find himself in awkward situations:

1. Being busy with so much business, one may find no time even for his family;
2. Having been given so much information, and often, information conveyed by quasi-similar terms, one may lose his sense of direction (What to do, how to do, to whom to give an account, in whose name and authority, and so on).

We religious persons and Christians, must find a balance in such situations; we have

1. to acknowledge and ascertain our own role in Asian society;
2. to strive and have a clear idea of the information we receive.

In the eyes of Asian people, the primary role of the consecrated person is to bring holiness to those they encounter, by word and example, even at the cost of heroic self-denial; while the devout followers of religion, each in their milieu, are to practice the faith and do good, and bring others to the same religion.

Are we determined to change this mentality of Asian people at the risk of allowing our religion to be labeled by Asian people as followers of a foreign religion forever?

[original in English]