



BOLLETTINO

SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE



Erection of the Metropolitan Church sui iuris Eritrean and appointment of the first Metropolitan

The Holy Father erected the Metropolitan Church *sui iuris* Eritrean dividing dall'Arcieparchia Metro Addis Ababa. The headquarters of the new Metropolitan Church is Asmara that has been elevated to Metropolitan Archeparchy. The Holy Father appointed first Metropolitan S.E. Mons. Mengheseab Tesfamariam, MCCJ hitherto eparchial bishop of Asmara.

The Metropolitan Church sui iuris

The Metropolitan Church sui iuris, is governed by the canons 155-173 CCEO and in its canonical form is distinguished by having an ecclesiastical province headed by a Metropolitan. The Metropolitan of a Church sui iuris within the boundaries of the same Church exercises her authority over other bishops, the clergy and the faithful in accordance with the fees mentioned above. In this, his task is assisted by other bishops assembled in council of hierarchs. At this collective body of government has the legislative power, to present the list of possible candidates for the episcopacy for the subsequent appointment by the Roman Pontiff, the management of the liturgical norms, and all the other skills necessary for the government of the Church sui iuris provided law.

The new Metropolitan sui iuris extends on all Eritrean territory and includes the following eparchies:

- Archeparchy of Asmara, with the following regions: Central (Asmara), the Northern Red Sea (Massawa) and South (Mendefera). The territory is 23,886 sq km, with 30,886 Catholics out of 1,308,015 inhabitants. It was built with the Constitution Apostolica Quod Venerabiles of Pope John XXIII of February 20, 1961, raising the Apostolic Exarchate to Eparchy.
- The Eparchy of Barentu covers almost the entire region of Gash-Barka. The territory is 44 986 sq km, with 40 543 Catholics of 765,000 inhabitants. It was erected on 21 December 1995 with the Apostolic Constitution Quia opportunum di Pope John Paul II, by splitting up the territory dall'Eparchia Asmara.
- The Eparchy of Keren includes the provinces of Senhit and Sahil. The territory is 25,949 sq km, with 48 494 of 445 860 inhabitants Catholics. It was erected December 21, 1995 with the Apostolic Constitution communitates in orb of Pope John Paul II, by splitting up the territory dall'Eparchia Asmara.
- The Eparchy of Segheneity includes the region of the Red Sea and the Southern part of Debub. The land area is 29 499 square kilometers, with 35 557 of 306 636 inhabitants Catholics. It was erected February 24, 2012 with the Apostolic Constitution Cum sit visum of Pope Benedict XVI, dismembering the territory dall'Eparchia Asmara.

S.E. Mons. Menghsteab Tesfamariam, M.C.C.J.

S.E. Mons. Menghsteab Tesfamariam, MCCJ, was born on 24 December 1948 in Berakit, eparchy of Asmara. He entered the novitiate of the Comboni Missionaries on 1 September 1971 and issued temporary vows June 25, 1973. After five years, March 15, 1978, has professed perpetual vows. He studied and attended regular courses Institutional philosophy and theology to the priesthood. Ordained a priest February 18, 1979, he became assistant priest at Namalu, Uganda, 1979-1985. It is dedicated to the training of the Comboni postulants in Addis Ababa, 1985-1990. From 1 July to 31 December 1990, he attended a year at the University of Chicago (USA). Subsequently, from 1 January 1991 to 31 October 1993, was in charge of the training of the Comboni School in Chicago and from 1 November 1993 to 31 December 1996 has been named local Superior always in Chicago. On 25 June 2001 he was appointed by Pope John Paul II, Bishop of Asmara and received episcopal ordination from its predecessor Zekarias Yohannes September 16, 2001. Since 2001 is the eparchial bishop of Asmara.