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Prot. N.: 036 / 2014

29 January 2014



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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

I am writing to brief you on the status of our "Cathedral Project" in the Kingdom of Bahrain. You must have observed the absence of a prototype exhibit hosted on our website <u>avona.org</u>. We have been inundated with calls and emails warranting this action. We were compelled to withdraw the exhibit since it was just an architect's conceptualization of the project based on initial discussions with our experts.

I am glad to report that, with your prayers and support, much progress has been made since the concept stage (albeit with your prayers and support). We are now at a stage where we have invited bids from potential contractors for the entire project, be it architectural, civil, structural, illumination, furnishing, fittings, etc. The committee will shortlist suitable contractors once all bids are in, and thereafter select one based on, amongst other factors, cost, quality, duration, etc. We seek your prayers for the collective wisdom of our committee members to make an informed, rational, and enlightened choice.

In the interim, we will be posting regular updates as to the status of the project. Once the contract is signed, we shall also upload the final design with interactive navigation.

I am glad most of the parishes have initiated endeavors to raise funds for the project. May God bless our efforts as we make headway to contribute, in a meaningful way, for the construction of the Vicariate Cathedral in the Kingdom of Bahrain dedicated to Our Lady of Arabia.

Yours in Christ.

+ Camillo Ballin, MCCJ

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