## **Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

## Greetings of peace!

My warmest greetings and congratulations to all the members of Catholic Doctors Association of Malaysia, CDAM your president Dr. Juliet Matthews and Dr. Freddie Loh Tak Seng the over-all chairman of the 17th Asian Federation of Catholic Medical Associations (AFCMA) convention. Hosting this huge gathering of catholic medical doctors from 14 member asian countries indeed entails a very big responsibility consuming long working hours, physical activity, mental processing, cooperation and patience. I salute you all for these.



Its theme "Building Bridges through Healing and Spirituality" was very well conceived. Every human being must envision to build bridges not only in the home, the community, or in the country-but in the entire world as we are all brothers and sisters with the Lord. As physicians, we are called to a mission of healing; but as catholic Physicians, may our way of healing not just be a profession but an action of love and mercy. With that bridge, we can go out to every man and woman bringing the goodness and tenderness of God.

As the second Filipino Physician elected as president of Asian Federation of Catholic Medical Associations, it is an honour and a blessing to be given this opportunity to lead a group of catholic physicians. Let us continue to make a positive difference in the lives of people around us; strengthen our commitment towards quality compassionate care to patients and families, especially those from at-risk, vulnerable and hard-to-access communities. Let us be vibrant and relevant to the challenges in our present time, working together to face the changes; while involving divine guidance in our medical practice.

Again, wishing you all the best and congratulations.

MANUEL M. PO, MD, MPH President, AFCMA