

Vocation Promoters Meet



The Province organized a two days' of Vocation Mission Promoters' Meeting on 29th & 30th August 2016 at Good Shepherd Convent Chennai. There were twenty two Sisters who participated in it. The meeting began with a prayer service led by Sr. Amalorpavamary. Sr. Mariam Kulangara the convener of formation welcomed the gathering and invited the vocation mission promoters to think, to dialogue and to plan together. Sr. Sabina Pathrose, the Province Leader, delivered the opening message. She invited the vocation Mission Promoters to make known the mission of the congregation. She gave three questions to share in the group.

1. Are you happy to be a Vocation Mission Promoter?
2. Does it give you Joy?
3. Do you get support and encouragement from your community?

The Sisters responded positively and expressed that they were happy to make known the redemptive mission of Christ and our Congregational Charism of sharing the merciful and compassionate love of Jesus the Good Shepherd. Sr. Sabina then encouraged the sisters to go beyond ourselves and to appreciate the efforts taken by every Sister in promoting vocations to our Province. She also reminded us to include Lay Mission Partners in Vocation Promotion Mission.

After the health break, the community Vocation Mission Promoters shared their activities during the year 2015-2016.

Sr. Amalaropava Mary then shared her experience as a Vocation Mission Promoter and the inputs received from Tamil Nadu Vocation Promoters sessions. She

emphasized the following points:

Characteristics of the Vocation Promoters- Be prayerful, approachable and friendly, be knowledgeable about modern technology and update oneself with realities, lead an exemplary life, etc

Characteristics of youth - They are capable of doing anything, talented, creative, energetic, hardworking, clear ideas about the future, good communication, multi- talented, seek attention, appreciation and accompaniment.

Spiritual activities for the vocation promoters- Rosary, Eucharist, visiting Blessed Sacrament, prayer for vocation in every formation house etc

New strategies to recruit vocation- To have frequent contacts with the aspiring candidates, implement vocation club in our schools, update the events about vocation promotion in our Province, give advertisement in Madha TV and other catholic magazines in various languages etc.

In the afternoon we began the session at 3 pm. Fr. Victor Roch S.J. enlightened the group with the following points for the vocation promotion:-

The reasons for the few vocations to religious life- Lack of attractive images in the church, Society is more attractive, celibacy requirement, expanding awareness of laity, religious life unattractive, no peak experience, no models in religious life etc.

Ways to increase vocations to religious life: Need for attractive image, need for broad based approach, need for community involvement, Openness to all forms of vocation, the Life style to be religious, open and welcoming community, etc.

Aims of education: The integrated, humane Christian promotion of the people, make the young people more responsible.

A to A for Vocation promotion:

A- Apostolic Home, Advertisements

B- Book Marks, Brochures, Being Happy

C- Campus Ministry, Catechism, counseling, Contact, CD

D- Devotion, Dedication

E- Exemplary life, Email,

F- Film, Face book

A – Accompaniment.

After the evening health break Sr. Amala continued the session. She gave a few questions, which she had received at the Tamil Nadu vocation Promoters Meet 2016, to reflect and to answer. She also shared 30 innovations in the last 30 years. Sr Kala thanked Sr. Amala for sharing her experience with the group. The session concluded at 5.30 pm

On the second day the meeting began at 9am with a meaningful prayer conducted by Sr. Arockia Mary. Sr. Mariam presented the power point on Vocation Mission Promotion; it was very creative and inspiring. It challenged each one of us as we were reflecting about how passionate we are in our call to spread the good news of Christ and reconciliation with one another in our mission. Vocation is a cheer gift of

God and our life should be a life of witness. After her sharing we were divided into four groups to reflect on the questions below:

Vocation mission promoters -Report of Group- 1, 2, 3 & 4

1. Am I really convinced of my call to this way of life in spite of its challenges and struggle?

Yes a strong yes because we strongly experienced God's powerful presence specially when we went through challenges and struggles.

Our Vow of Zeal is a strong driving force which motivates us to carry on the Mission.

We believe God will always give us the grace when He allows us to go through the struggles.

Our experience even at the worst time is that nobody and no situations can take away our vocations if God has called us to share His redemptive Mission.

2. Do I have the passion to spread the mission of Jesus the Good Shepherd?

- Yes we have the passion to spread the mission of Jesus. Our very response to His call helps us to be instrument in spreading his mission.

- Feel specially called to this particular congregation of ours to spread the mission of reconciliation

- Very much passionate with the person of Christ. With the mind and heart of Christ we are motivated to spread the mission of Jesus.



- Living in the presence of God and seeking His guidance, making a prayer in our hearts before we venture into the ministry:

- Going with the faith that when we are for God he works through us

- Jesus has chosen us to be His hands, legs, voice, and heart and mind for he hasn't of his own in this present time.

3. Am I really enthusiastic about inviting persons to participate in His Mission of reconciliation? If so how do I do it in everyday life and on special occasions?

Yes, through our Catechism classes, assembly, BCC prayers, family visits, sharing the Charism with our own staff, children and parents on special occasions like St. Mary Euphrasia's birthday, chalice meetings, lay Mission partners meetings, our dealings and relationship with others specially our students. Our inclusiveness in our dealings with the people and our relationship with them is a reconciling presence where they will experience healing from their brokenness.

Our simple life style too is an attractive force which will invite people to be part of us

In our day today living, invite people to be part of our ministry. Also clarifying what our life means- life of commitment and dedication to Christ and the people.

Our actions are louder than our words- make known our mission through our approach to the people.

Speaking aloud about our ministries on special occasions like Good Shepherd Sunday, Congregational feast days and birthdays also display various articles on our mission and charism. We also could invite our partner to share our story with them.

4. How do I live according to His expectation and the expectations of our constitution and province?

We need to improve more in promoting the vocations. Need to renew our lives in order to practice the values of Jesus in our life. Live a joyful life. Have passion for our mission. Have mutual relationships with others and treat everyone with a welcoming attitude.

5. Am I authentic in my dealings, behavior and actions? How.

Yes, we try to live a consistent life. It is a struggle to live an authentic life because there is a pull between my values and the values of others. We try to comprise on our values and sometimes we behave in a way to please others.

6. What is our response given in formation guidelines – Promoting Partnership?

Open invitation to all our lay partners in welcoming them to spread the kingdom values through our way of life.

Encourage them, trust/involve and make them feel that they are part of our Mission with a greater responsibility.

Word of appreciation as and when needed especially when they complete some tasks.

Treat them with love and respect keeping our Mission at the center.

Taking part in the activities of the church. Teaching the children, involving others to take part in our celebrations.

Involving our mission partners in our ministry and making known our mission more and more through them. Reaching out to others through them and deepening our involvement for the sake of the kingdom.

To speak to people from all walks of life who can be our mission partners and in turn they will encourage many more to be part of this mission of reconciliation.

Whoever we meet, share about our mission. Many people are taken up by us.

We need to share not only with our paid staff but also with others who have many resources.

We had a meaningful and enriching sharing in the groups, after which Sr. Kala shared the strategic plan about the Mission, Goal, Core values and objectives. It was very clear and informative. Strategic plan boosted and challenged the vocation promoters to go forward with zeal and love for the vocation. In the afternoon session we had Strategic plan according to the society wise and it was presented to the larger group. The four societies agreed to send the plan to Sr. Kala through email.

- Points to remember when we go for vocations:
- Not to mention about the work experience during the vocation trip
- Whenever you go for vocations the content should be the same by the vocation promoters.
- Modules need to be prepared by the commission.
- Keep good documentation of all the matters with regard to vocations in the community file.

The two days session was concluded at 5. 30pm with a vote of thanks by Sr. Aruna and a thanksgiving hymn.