

The 3rd Province Assembly

Central East India / Nepal

This year we had the third Province Assembly as a new province. We had the assembly in two batches one was organised in Chennai from 6th to 9th July and the second was organised in Pune from 20th to 23rd July 2017. 78 sisters participated. The sisters who are studying could not attend the assembly.

Sr. Sabina the Province Leader addressed the gathering with the welcome note to this 3rd province assembly and invited the group to share what the word integration means to us at this point and a symbol. The responses were:

- Inter-connectedness, growing together,
- Honey comb, love, networking and coming together,
- Oneness, being as a whole, rainbow, tree,
- Wheel, like bread becoming one.
- Inclusiveness etc...

Sister also mentioned to the group what is the purpose of organising this Province Meet:

- To share with the sisters of the province the input sessions attended by Sr. Deanna and Mrs. Sashi on integration theory, Ecology and partnership in Sri-Lanka in the month of August 2016.
- Also to share the workshop attended by Srs. Sabina, Pushpa, Jacqueline, Resi, Taskila and lay mission partners, Mr. Sathyan and Mr. Bimol, in Philippines on Anti-Human Trafficking in the month of October 2016.
- The province concerns

In conclusion, Sr. Sabina said that we should take this seriously and make integration a part of our mission.





Sr. Deanna took over the session on integration by inviting the group to share about our hopes and expectations of the session. The responses were:

- To improve the quality of our mission
- Understanding of integration, sharing of experiences for learning
- Practical points to approach our ministry with integration
- Internalize life, community and mission-how to integrate and make it part of our life
- Without compartmentalising, how to work together in our ministries

Mrs. Sashi continued the sharing as to why the meeting was organised at the APC level, who were present and the congregational initiatives towards integration of Spirituality, justice and peace, mission development and John 13 as a friendship model community by creating five committees namely formation, risking for life, community for mission, Good Shepherd Partnership and creators of a new now (CGS). The purpose was to search a way forward in our shepherding mission.

She referred to Philip Newell's saying which was quoted by Philip Pinto Cfc: "Do we realize that growing in the awareness that we are bearers of Presence, along with a faith commitment to honour that Presence in one another and on the earth, hold the key to transformation in our World? "

In line with the congregational chapter theme, we were asked to reflect: "what do we mean when we use the word 'Integration'?" Five elements, it's a constant influence in two ways Positive and Negative and integration is a way beyond.

This session on integration, ecology and partnership ended with the formation of a spider web by linking the duppatas (Long cloth) each one carried and made a web. We Sang.....Bind us together Lord representing the integration for the mission

Sr. Sabina and Pushpa shared the workshop attended in Philippines with skilled facilitation

The theme was to "Listen the Cry of Women and Children Trafficked".

Pictures were placed on the Board. Sister Sabina asked the participants to look into the faces of the children and read their faces. These are the realities of the world. The Group norms were agreed and accepted by the sisters.

The Goal of the session was:

- To deepen the awareness of Human Trafficking
- To work towards systematic services to the victims through prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnership”.

Keeping the goal in mind the objectives were framed for each aspect. Each objective had different activities. The activities were explained in a creative way eliciting the information from participants.

Objectives: Awareness of Human Trafficking

- Commitment of the congregation to address human trafficking
- To know the causes of human trafficking
- To know the effects of human trafficking.

Objectives: Prevention

- To learn more about prevention of H.T
- Good Shepherd sisters’ initiatives to combat H.T in India/Nepal
- Advocacy to create policies and programmes for victims and at high risk individuals

Objectives: Protection

To know more about protective measures

- To know more about Running of a Protection shelter for the victims of human trafficking.

Objectives: Prosecution

- To know about prosecution and its proceedings
- To prepare the victims for prosecution
- To share successful convicted cases

Objectives: Partnership

- To know about partnership
- Involvement in the congregation for H T
- Importance of partnership and collaboration with the partners.

The session concluded with the ritual by placing the action plan near the lighted candle in the middle of the circle and sang a song ‘we shall overcome....’ In Hindi, Telugu and English.



Some of the comments and appreciation of the participants of the skilled facilitation

The theme for the skilled facilitation was “Listen to the cry of women and children trafficked”. The goal, objectives and the group norms were explained at the beginning of the session. The session was enriching, enlightening and very informative for all of us to know more about the anti human trafficking. This session illustrated the answers from the participants, motivated and encouraged every individual to bring our hidden talents and skills in a more creative and innovative way. It also paved a platform for each of the participants to exhibit their potentials to the maximum level of their capacity. We have gained a lot from this skilled facilitation which will enable us to go forward to work against human trafficking.

- ❖ Skilled and creative way of presentation – very good, made us active and alert
- ❖ Awakened us to do something, burning with zeal
- ❖ Group – involved all of us and made us to participate well
- ❖ This method drew out each one’s potentiality
- ❖ The transfer in was very appropriate for each session

The ambience was very colorful and welcoming. Presentation was excellent and presented very methodically. Discussions in the group were done in a very friendly manner. The whole sessions can be very well remembered as it was the work of the group. The action plan will be implemented without delay

- It was good and prepared well
- Brought more involvement
- Co-learning and wisdom sharing
- Resource is being utilized
- Broadening our ideas and thoughts creatively

Skilled facilitation methodology was superb, beyond my words. Really I enjoyed all the sessions. This was one of the participants friendly, participative approach, non-threatening and very inclusive. Thank you very much Srs. Sabina & Pushpa for your time and all the trouble you took. We will carry with us much learning for our mission against Human Trafficking.

Srs. Sabina & Pushpa

