

Asian Young Holy Family Seekers

Flash - 02



09.05.2015

Gathering Sri Lanka

The Cosmic atmosphere was very conducive to start the day with fresh energy and renewed hope. The rain and thunder that shook us during the night was just another sign of the energy that is present among us and the power that lives within us to become daring to move forward relying on the ONE WHO moves us on.

The young seekers led the Morning Prayer with Bhajan that set the tone for the participants to enter fully into the presence of our Creator God. The calmness and freshness of the morning was calling each one to enter into the awesome presence of God who is at work in each one. The sacredness that is in every created thing and life as a precious gift from God our Creator was brought into the day's prayer through a powerful and effective video clip that portrayed the reality of the signs of the times in today's context.

**Yes! We were touched!
Something is definitely happening within
us.**



NEWS IN BRIEF

The Young Holy Family seekers brought us into the whole world to keep us in touch with the signs of the times, and the crying situations of the different countries around the world and the church.

**Well done Young Seekers!
The world is within our reach!**



The Asian Heritage



The Young Holy Family Seekers presented their countries and contexts vividly, lively, colorfully in creative and passionate way. With a sense of true belonging, they presented their countries and its situation and concerns and the life and ministries of their UNITS.



PHILIPPINES



Democratic Republic

- Population - 98 million
- Land -7100 Islands

Languages:

- Major Language: 78
- Dialects: 500
- Predominantly Catholic: 85%

- Below poverty line: 80%
- Pre Foreign & Local Corporations profit from the Filipino labour, Land, forests, and mines.

Concerns:

- Massive Poverty
- Corruption
- Families broken / separated.
- Unemployment
- Drugs
- Abused women & children
- Environmental



Holy Family Presence:

- Foundation: Oct. 24.1984
- Missionaries 10
- Filipinas 03

- Lay Associates 79
- Priest Associates 03

New Ministries of the Unit of Philippines:

- Women & Children Abused
- Migrants
- Trafficking
- Hospital Ministry
- Care giving terminally ill
- Children in special Home.
- Youth ministry

SRI LANKA – Colombo Province

Democratic Republic

Population - 20.6.Millions.

Religions :

Buddhists:	70.19 %
Hindus:	12.16%
Muslims:	9.17%
Christians:	7.45%
Others:	0.45

Literacy Rate

Male:	97.01
Female	98.06

Concerns:

- Fundamentalism
- Shallow faith
- Church more dogmatic than mission oriented

Social:

- Values Disfigured
- Family problems
- Drug addiction
- Suicides
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Environmental:

- Climate change
- Pollution
- Sale of forests to multinationals.

Economic

- Fostering private sectors
- Increase in export to cover current account deficit



- Child and Women abuse
- Gender issues due to tourism
- Migration
- Selfish motives of politicians

- Fiscal imbalances and reversing the declining trend in revenue collection

Holy Family Presence:

Our ministries and our mission focus are on:

- Schools 75
- Pre- Schools: 1500
- Nursing
- Social ministries
- Counselling
- Children's Homes
- Elder's homes
- Building PBN Family
- JPIC

Personal: Apostolic Sisters

❖ Perpetually professed	249	❖ Lay Associate Committed	411
❖ Temporary professed	21	❖ In Formation	07
❖ Novices	05	❖ Priest Associate Committed	25
❖ Postulants	06	❖ In Formation	02
❖ Seculars	07	❖ Holy Family Youth	184
		❖ Children of the HF	715

Sri Lanka – Jaffna Province

Personnel: Apostolic Sisters

- Perpetually professed 220
- Temporary professed 20
- Novices 04
- Postulants 04
- Seculars 10
- Lay Associate Committed 711
- Priest Associate Committed 21
- Holy Family Youth 322
- Children of the Holy Family 480
- Numbers of Communities



Post war Development:

- High ways are open for public use
- Security Check points have been reduced
- Security restrictions have been lifted
- Security forces are actively involved in clearing land mines
- Displaced people have been re – settled
- New avenues for productive employment.
- Potential tourism in the North.

Concern for sustainable solution to the Ethnic problem.

- Land grabbing by Armed Forces.
- Illegal Land Distribution to the majority.
- Problem of the disappeared
- Problems faced by ex-combatants' family & relatives
- Sexual Violence by Armed Forces
- Discrimination in employment
- Forced use of long – term contraceptive
- Dark tourism (captured areas)
- Militarization & Impunity
- Loss of livelihood
- Lack of basic Facilities in resettled areas.
- Occupation of schools by Armed Forces
- Psychological Trauma



Holy Family Ministries:

- Teaching in Schools
- Pre Schools
- Community Based rehabilitation for victims of war
- Children's homes
- Special home to care for children affected by war
- Homes for Special children
- Counseling the traumatized
- Livelihood projects for women-headed families and single mothers.
- Prison ministry
- Collaborate with other congregations for rehabilitation and livelihood for re-settled people.
- Youth ministry
- Visiting the elderly and sick in Homes
- Inter-religious Dialogue
- PBN Familian Ministries
- Promoting Environment safety

India

- ❖ Official language – Hindi
- ❖ 18 other official languages&2000 dialects
- ❖ Union Government – 28 States
- ❖ Population 1.27 billion
- ❖ World's 4th largest economy and well developed technology and pool of Scientists.
- ❖ Literacy Rate 74%
- ❖ Child labour rate 12.59million
- ❖ Catholics (166 Dioceses) 19.09million
- ❖ Rural folks – poor 72%
- ❖ Corruption wide spread
- ❖ Under – nourished -18%
- ❖ Christian Church run Educational institutions, Hospitals& Social centers



Holy Family presence:

Apostolic Sisters:

▪ Perpetually professed	47
▪ Temporary professed	19
▪ Novices	03
▪ Postulants	07
▪ Contemplatives	02
▪ Seculars	02
▪ Lay Associates Committed	97
▪ In Formation	42
▪ Priest Associates Committed	10
▪ In Formation	07
▪ Holy Family Youth	28
▪ Children of the HF	131
▪ Numbers of Communities	11
▪ Numbers of Dioceses	09



MINISTRIES: The Poor are our priority

- Teaching formal & non- formal
- Health, Education, health work & Mobile Dispensaries
- Nursing in Hospitals.
- Social work
- Pastoral ministries

- Prison ministry
- Hostel service
- Care & Education for Special Children
- Job oriented Trainings for women
- Creating Self-Help Groups
- Caring for Refugees
- Collaborating with other congregations in the ministries of education and youth camps

Pakistan

- Democratic Islamic Republic
- Population 189 millions
- Language -Urdu
- Religion – Muslims- 96.28%
- Christians – 1.59%
- Hindus, Siks

- Provinces: Punjab, Sindh, KPK, and Boluchistian

- Natural Resources: Oil, Gas, Coal, Salt, Milk, rice, wheat, cotton, Sugarcane, Dates,
- Mango, Citrus fruits Etc...

Seasons: Summer, winter, autumn, spring

Beautiful places: Swat, Kagan, Zarat, and Muree

Political situation: Wants only fam

Country's situation: Corruption, terrorism and religious extremism. People live in fear.



Challenges: are faced politically, culturally, socially, economically, religiously even in family life. No respect for the human being.

Holy Family seed was planted on 4th Feb 1975 in Okra- by 3 sisters. Mission began under a tree.

- We are 31 Apostolic Sisters. Pakistanis 22 & Missionaries 9.
9 convents in 7 Dioceses.

Ministries: Engaged in teaching, nursing, social & pastoral Apostolates, peace and justice, visiting the houses, working with children, youth and women.

Hope for future: To work in Tribal areas

FAMILY CORNER



We were privileged to have two of our Secular Members to share their vocation, life and commitment. A rare opportunity indeed to listen to them! Once again we were being reminded that WE ARE FAMILY!

MARKET PLACE

Holy Family **“Market Place”** – was a very rich enterprise that attracted the multinationals who flocked to bargain, compromise and to venture on an ‘Export’ Business.

They were given strict orders to study the strategies and conditions posted all along the walls before stepping into the “market for real”.

Business was a 100% success. Holy Family has turned out to be the Millionaire of the day!

Take a look at the pictures! Fantastic! Wonderful!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH US?

“WE ARE OPEN”





AN INTER-FAITH ENCOUNTER



Another rare opportunity came our way to listen to Fr. Rienzie Perera, Vicar General of the Anglican Church who drew the attention of the “Young Holy Family Seekers” by his deep and thought-provoking reflection based on the Logo. **The highlights were:**

1. We are God’s children, carrying God’s image within us. It is our responsibility to carry that image in us.
2. God calls you with a purpose; identify that call, live and fulfill it.
3. We are all placed in our contexts to be in solidarity with one another.
4. We are all Theologians at grass-root level. Who is a theologian? The one who wrestles with God and struggles with peoples.
5. We are called to struggle with people to restore the brokenness that was brought into humanity and to fight other forms of brokenness – poverty and violence.
6. Our prayer needs to be reflected in our Actions.
7. Mary lived her song of Magnificat and it’s very challenging.
8. You need to transform in order for the world to be transformed.

God's question:

1. Where are my people? I see their misery.
2. I have heard my people's cry.
3. What have you done?
4. Can you hear God's call? "Go"
5. We block the mission by our excuses.
Are we prepared to deny ourselves?
6. The call to serve is a call to die with Jesus.

WHERE ARE YOU? ARE YOU READY?

Respond to these Questions:

1. What prevents us as a religious ordered to imitate Jesus in our context today?
2. What are the principalities, powers, structures which prevent the church to be authentic?
3. Gospel empowers us to train and form People.
4. In what way has the Gospel empowered you to be on a transforming mission ?
5. We live in a Patriarchal world where women are domesticated and forced into submission.
6. What is your experience as a Sister?
7. It is a broken and bleeding world.
8. How do you exercise Healing and Reconciling Ministry?
9. How will you as ministers of God exercise innovative and transforming ministry?

Thought-provoking and challenging questions led the "Seekers" to search from within and to respond daringly with transparency and passion, focusing on WHO and WHERE they are in today's context. The Day came to a close with a fruitful exchange of sharing and thanking God for the surprises and questions to move us where we dare not go!

The end of Day Two!



