



ECHOES

PARTICIPANTS

General Leadership Team:

Ana Maria ALCALDE DE ARRIBA
Geni DOS SANTOS CAMARGO
Jesmin FERNANDO
Christa MARIATHAS
Georgine MUFOGOTO
Veronica RAPITSO

Colombo - Sri Lanka:

Chandani JAYASURIYA
Shevoni FERNANDOPULLE
Indrani FERNANDO
Catherine LIYANARACHCHI
Madonna FONSEKA
Sanjeevani HENDALAGE

India:

Jeya Mary AROCKIAM
Vimala Kumari DUBBAKU
Sahaya Selvi ANTONYSAMY
Latha LAWRENCE
Metilda LOURDUSAMY

Jaffna - Sri Lanka:

Annet Theophane S.CROOS
Maristella SOOSAIPILLAI
Antonitta MARK
Jacqueline Vijaya JOSEPH
Matilda Vasanthi FRANCIS
Prothmary MARIANANTHAM

Pakistan:

Parveen FALAKSHER
Saira ANJUM
Yvonne FERNANDO
Mariam BOOTA

Philippines:

Maria Goretti PEIRIS
Subhashini RAJA RAJ
Lourdes Merita FERNANDO
Liezl ESTEVES

Secretary:

Puvana THURAIAMY



THE ASIAN CONTINENTAL MEETING OF LEADERSHIP TEAMS

07 - 16 JULY 2023

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

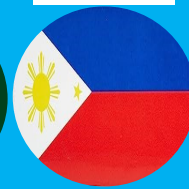
India



Pakistan



Philippines



Sri Lanka



The Asian Continental Meeting took place at Bolawalana, Sri Lanka, from July 7–16, 2023, and the theme was "Let us go over to the other side".

The twenty-five participants came from five Units and four countries: India, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka, as well as the General Leadership Team.

On the 6th evening, the participants were welcomed by the Novitiate Community. The novices performed dances representing the three cultures (Tamil, Sinhala and Pakistani), which were enriching and colourful.



01
07.07.2023

A creative way of combining introductions with the Opening prayer was led by the GLT.

Each Leader was given a picture of one object commonly used in small boats, such as the helm, lifejacket, or backpack. Leaders were asked to spontaneously express the meaning of their objects and expectations. The Team



members followed their Leaders, pronouncing their names and their expectations.

Here are some expectations:

Welcome to newness

Openness to the work of the Spirit

Searching and journeying together towards transformation

Getting to know each other and the reality of each Unit

Growing together in communion



Then, Ana Maria, the Superior General, called each member by name, and the Leaders were given a lighted candle.

Together, each Leadership Team proceeded to the meeting-hall and placed the candle in front of a statue of the Founder.

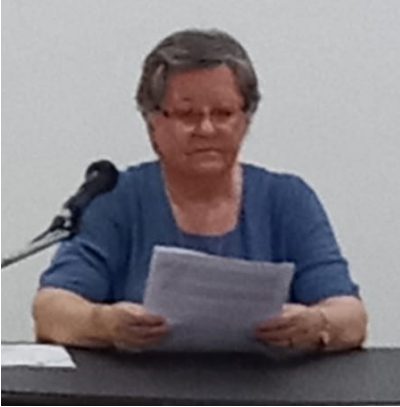
"Let us go over to the other side"

Holding hands and giving and receiving energy, the participants sang "Consciousness Waking...".

The Word of God guided the group towards the goal of the meeting:

"That day, when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat." (Mk 4:35–36)

Opening Words from Ana Maria



In her opening speech, Ana Maria welcomed each member to the meeting and presented the objectives:

"Dear Sisters, welcome to this meeting, representing all the Apostolic Sisters of the Asian Continent.

The general objective of this meeting is to give continuity to the post-chapter process in order to deepen and implement the decisions

taken as an Institute. In each Province and Delegation, you have already taken some important steps to implement these decisions at the local level, taking into account the particular realities of the Apostolic Group in each country.

She stressed the following: "We become aware of the diversity of situations that the Councils present here are experiencing, and if we become aware of this, we will have an accurate vision of the reality lived; we will be able to listen, to welcome, to understand each other, and to make decisions. Everything belongs to us; everything is

ours, and we are responsible for integrating, giving meaning to, and accompanying this diversity.

What is experienced in one part of the Institute or the Family affects the whole, for we are part of a single network, woven with threads of different colours and textures. (...)

Each generation has to discern and make its own choices, according to the historical moment in which the Institute, the Province, or the Delegation is living, in order to introduce those changes that will allow us to keep the Charism alive and to carry out the mission more effectively today."

She emphasized the objectives for the Continental Meeting as follows:

- ☞ To get to know each other and the realities of our countries.
- ☞ To live and explore together "leadership towards transformation".
- ☞ By deepening the "evaluation of our presence", to make concrete decisions for the Continent and proposals for the Institute.

"Let us go over to the other side"

PRESENTATION OF EACH UNIT

The Philippines, Colombo, Jaffna, Pakistan and India presented the reality of their lived experience, as well as the impact and challenges emerging from the General Chapter.

Statistical Outline of the FAMILY in Asia:

	COLOMBO	JAFFNA	INDIA	PAKISTAN	PHILIPPINES	ASIA
SISTERS	240	212	66	31	10	559
COMMUNITIES	48	33	12	09	03	105
CONSECRATED SECULARS	04	09	05	01	03 (In formation)	22
LAY ASSOCIATES	548	970	114	40	79	1751
PRIEST ASSOCIATES	25	21	16	04	04	70

After each presentation, there was time for clarification and comments.

The day's work ended with a personal rereading and integration of what had been experienced.

- "Daily walk with the breath of the Spirit".



The morning, the prayer was led by the Jaffna Unit. The day's work was centred on the **Summary of the Evaluation of the Holy Family Presence in Asia**. It was a time of deep reflection on the situation of the Unit, the continent, and the Institute.

Three topics were taken for personal reflection, group discussion, and sharing in the general assembly.

- ⇒ Communities for Mission
- ⇒ Presence and Ministries
- ⇒ Impact, Energies, and Challenges

Communities for mission:



In the light of our own experience and the different experiences shared in the evaluation, what do you think of our current community life?

"Let us go over to the other side"

Here are some main points from the report:

- ☞ The Community Project leads us to live a quality life, do our ministry effectively, and evaluate periodically to strengthen interpersonal relationships.
- ☞ Living a very simple lifestyle, being approachable, and being flexible.
- ☞ Training Sisters to take care of the elderly Sisters and provide necessary facilities with a sense of gratitude.
- ☞ Individualism, addiction to Mass Media, less communication among the members, and no quality listening, genuine bonds are lacking in the community.
- ☞ The increase in the number of sick and aged is a big concern with regard to taking care of them and training personnel.
- ☞ The community should be open to everything that contributes to the life of the Church and the World.

Presence and Ministries

Are our ministries relevant for today's needs?
Or are these ministries responsible for the existence of our Units or Institutes?

Name one area that calls for our concern at this time of collective discernment on our Asian Continental journey.

The response from the General Assembly

- ⇒ **Ecumenical Project:** Inter-religious Dialogue and Collaboration to bring about Peace and Harmony in our multi-cultural and multi-religious society
- ⇒ Uplifting women and the children in poor areas, those who do not have basic needs.
- ⇒ Our existing ministries should have a new approach and creativity to be

- relevant in today's context.
- ⇒ Prevention of abuse of children and vulnerable adults; Drug addicts; Human trafficking; counselling services for broken families; we need to train the Sisters for professional skills and language skills.
- ⇒ With the new insertion of East Asian countries (Thailand), Intercultural communities need to be formed.

Challenges

Taking into account everything that has been presented so far, what are the greatest challenges (3-5) that the Holy Family must face on the Asian Continent to continue making a positive impact?

ASIAN
CONTINENT

"Let us go over to the other side"

Responses:

- ☞ Fewer people are entering religious life, and existing members are aging. Therefore, the need to find strategies to make young members professional in various fields, especially in human resources and management,
- ☞ Protecting Mother Earth is the greatest challenge.
- ☞ Sudden changes in policies and laws in the government, church, and society are challenges to the Sisters' ability to continue their ministry.
- ☞ Today, the whole world is facing an economic crisis that affects our whole system, life, and ministry.
- ☞ Lack of Professional training and studies to meet the emerging needs

Finally, the Sisters took time to integrate the day by writing the daily journal.

03

09.07.2023

The third day of the meeting, Sunday, began with a prayerful atmosphere. The Philippines Unit led the prayer, which helped the participants connect with nature and vibrate positive energy. Selected readings from the letter of Pope Francis for the Year of

Consecrated Life –
Nov.2014.

“Live the mysticism of encounter, which entails the ability to hear, to listen to other people; the ability to seek together ways and means”

The facilitator invited the

group to enter into the reality of the Asian Context.

However, there was a concern regarding the **community of Malawi**, its challenges, and a small presentation of the Malawi community that belongs to the Colombo Unit. A short presentation on the life of the community took place.

OUR MISSION IN BENGA-MALAWI



The insertion in Malawi was on November 2, 2018. Four Sisters: Matilda Lazarus,



Girly Perera, Sudarshani, and Nishali. It was an invitation from the MCSPA Fathers (Missionary Community of St. Paul the Apostle). At the

same time, it was a gift to the Congregation for its 200-year foundation.

Focus of the Community

There are two main areas they have given attention to: sewing, making food, and preparing an organic home garden. This is facilitated by training sessions.

Girls are also one of the

“Let us go over to the other side”

priorities. The Sisters also maintain the Girls' Hostel for the primary school to protect them from the challenges around them and encourage them in their studies.

One Sister is engaged in formal education at a school run by MCSPA fathers. They could meet their basic needs and support their children in

their studies.

There is a plan to train in sewing and cooking, which they have already done, and to distribute chicks and piglets in July.

Two children's groups have been formed with the aim of spreading basic Christian values and expanding more children's groups in the

parish.

The youth in the Parish have weekly meetings. They are being taught to reflect on the Word of God, enlighten their lives, and be more open to the needs of their society. Those who have left school are encouraged to start small businesses. At present, there are two pre-novices and six in the contact phase.

Ruki Fernando, a lay person from Sri Lanka, who works on human rights in several countries, especially Asian countries, gave a contribution on the topic "Asian socio-economic political context".

Before beginning his session, he asked to honour two important events that took place in the history of Sri Lanka on this same date, **July 9:**

- ⇒ **An unprecedented number of people took part in a protest in Colombo that pressured President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, on July 9, 2022.**
- ⇒ **St. Peter's church bombing. An estimated 147 people were killed in Navali, Jaffna, on 9 July 1995.**

The sharing was based on his own experiences with regards to working on social disconnect and justice in different dimensions, especially economic justice, gender, racial, ethic, climate, and environmental justice.



The study explored three main areas:

- **Social**
- **Political (Legal)**
- **Economic**

These are very important areas that affect humans. He elaborated and brought out some points:

- ◆ **Law, political,**
- ◆ **Institution of government checks and balances**
- ◆ **Practice, tradition**
- ◆ **Situation on the ground.**

He spoke about many areas of Asian reality today: concern within the country, cross-country concern, and Refugees. Finally, he threw a question to the Holy Family congregation:



"What are the areas in which the Holy Family Sisters are involved, and how do you collaborate?"

"Let us go over to the other side"

The afternoon session was a time of listening to the Global reality of Human Trafficking presented by **Marie Power** from the **Britain and Ireland Unit**.

She shared her experience with modern-day slavery and the trafficking of human beings.

There are three types of trafficking:

- ☉ Sex trafficking
- ☉ Labour trafficking
- ☉ Organ trafficking

The presentation helped to understand the global facts and the statistics, which helped to reflect more on the reality of the context. Listening to reality is the greatest challenge, and it also makes us stand in solidarity with our brothers and



sisters who are trapped in various forms of trafficking.

NEW NEEDS

We continued to reflect on the summary of Evaluation Topic No. 4: New Needs

After having a small interaction with the group regarding this topic, the group was invited to reflect on the following :

After giving attention to the Asian context, the world reality, and reading and reflecting on the document, what do you strongly feel about the reality of the context and our response and desire as members of the Holy Family?



Here are some main points from the sharing in the general assembly:

- ☩ Personal transformation at all levels
- ☩ Give preference to the family apostolate.
- ☩ Strengthening the visits, giving counseling to individuals and families.
- ☩ Respond to the urgent needs to protect

the children and youth from different types of abuse: drug addicts, education for street, beach, and tribal children, dropouts, and sex education.

- ☩ It was proposed that as an Asian continent, at least one member of the

"Let us go over to the other side"

Unit could network with other organizations or likeminded people on contemporary social issues.

Ω To train the Sisters (as legal advisors, social workers, counsellors, communication technology professionals, etc.) to work with enthusiasm and take risks to respond to the new emerging reality.

Ω There is a great need to close some communities in order to respond and expand to reach other countries we are

not familiar with.

Ω Prepare the Sisters for intercultural communities in Asia, in countries where our presence and Charism are not yet shared.

Ω Care for our common home, Mother Earth.

Ω Our desire should go with the reality of the needs in the context or Unit; proper discernment is needed.

The day ended journal writing with a Hymn: "Listen to the voice of your God, who is calling..."

04

10.07.2023

The prayer was led by the Colombo Unit: "God is active and presence in silence..." God is within and around us. Experience inner silence. The selected hymn was very appropriate for us to begin the day.

The facilitator projected some images and asked the Sisters "What does it say to you"? A particular image allowed us to view it as "a bend and not the end".

She continued, saying, "Be brave enough to travel to the unknown. We have the capacity to transform. We are the drivers on this long journey to take Holy Family actions from what

we desire to what we want."

We have spoken about a lack of members, maintenance issues, relationship issues in the communities, and responses to intercultural living. So, this is the right time to take "a new bend".

Until the lunch break, time was given for personal reflection and group sharing on the General Chapter Declaration and Unit Chapter. To analyse the above documents, a prepared leaflet on "The seven most common misguided efforts" was given:

Make new and improved versions of the past.

Try harder, not differently.

Play it safe rather than innovate.

Download the same information rather than create a new operating system.

Engage in incremental rather than deep change.

Avoid something bad rather than create something good.

Focus on external change rather than inner work.

"Let us go over to the other side"

In the afternoon, all gathered in the main hall to present the report of the morning's work. **What do you feel is very heavy to carry and is not helpful for the journey?**

- ▷ Mentality of "I" and "My" feelings
- ▷ Fear of taking risks, making mistakes, rejection, expressing oneself, and criticism.
- ▷ Letting go of non-perseverance of what we have drawn from personal projects and a common action plan
- ▷ No confidence in one's own capacity and non-acceptance of one's own vulnerability.
- ▷ Not giving quality time to oneself for the inner journey.
- ▷ Reluctant to create new possibilities for growth for the Sisters at all levels.
- ▷ Interpersonal conflicts.
- ▷ Prejudices about the members and expecting others to change.
- ▷ Holding on to the old mentality and attitudes and expecting a radical change and transformation.
- ▷ Looking for something extraordinary that is beyond one's own capacity and has too many demands of the Church, society, and State.
- ▷ Anxious about the uncertain future and fear of losing ministries and places.
- ▷ Do not have the courage to speak the truth and fear of challenging.
- ▷ Outward journey instead of an inward journey.
- ▷ Targeting the personal interest of getting degrees rather than focusing on a mission.

The day wound up with spending time in silence for integration and the writing of a personal journal.

In the evening, a colourful cultural program took place. The Mistress of Ceremonies welcomed all the Sisters who were in cultural costume. They presented the richness of their own cultural heritage in



"Let us go over to the other side"



Cultural Evening

05
11.07.2023

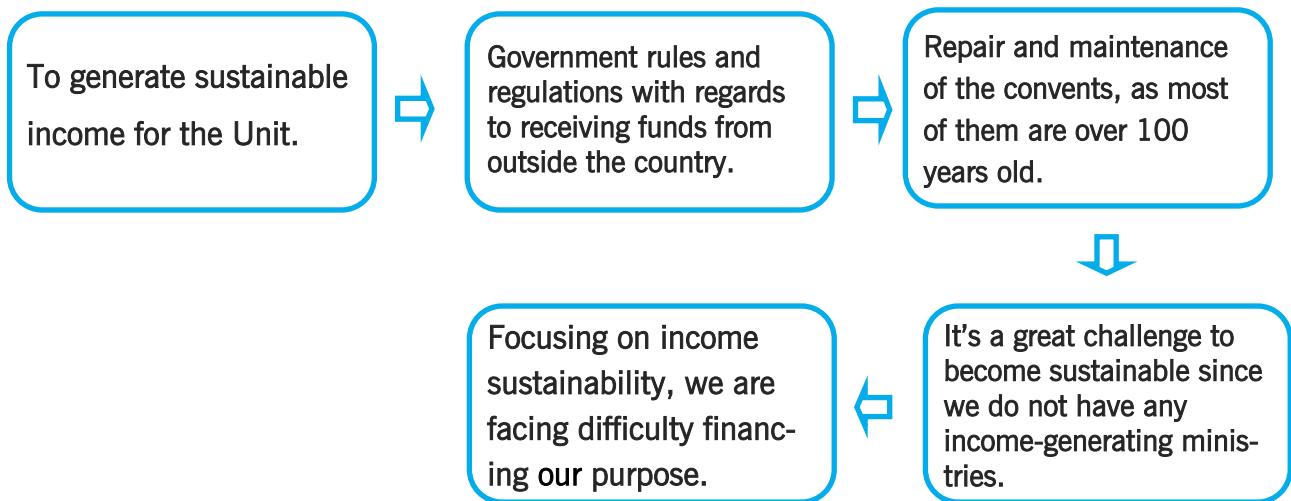
The day was focused on the "Global Financial situation". Veronica Raptiso, General Bursar, started the session by giving words of encouragement and instructions for the day.



The prayer was led by the General Leadership Team along with the Bursars of five Units. All the Bursars were invited to present a challenge specific to their own Unit and a selected verse from the Bible, and after reading, they placed a lighted candle around the arranged prayer corner.

"Let us go over to the other side"

Challenges

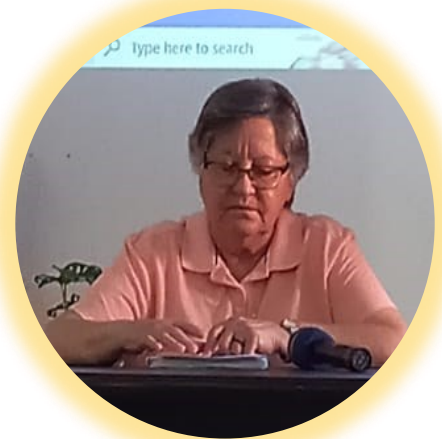


The entire day was devoted to raising awareness of the financial issues facing the Institute. Ana Maria delivered the introduction and her reflection. **There is a strong relationship between Mission and Resources (Human and Financial resources), and these resources are scarce. We are therefore aware of the need to equip our Sisters with knowledge and skills and to care for their wellbeing so that we can respond to the needs around us.** Likewise, we pay or have to pay more attention to planning for Financial resources and ensure that they are aligned with Mission

priorities - where do we see our Charism or Living of Mission mostly needed, now and in the future?- that is, **we aim to ensure Sustainability for the future.**

"Money must serve and not rule," says Pope Francis (EG n. 58). So that the orientation and purpose of financial resources are at the service of the mission of the Institute, according to our charism, all of us, but especially those of us who have the service of leadership, are responsible for ensuring that this is the case".

She concluded her reflection with the words of Pope



Francis: **"To be faithful to the Charism often requires an act of courage: it is not a matter of selling everything or giving up all our works, but of discerning seriously, keeping our eyes fixed on Christ, our ears attentive to his Word and to the voice of the poor. In this way, our works can, at the same time, be fruitful for the Institute's journey and express God's predilection for the poor".**

"Let us go over to the other side"

The General Bursar then continued, sharing about the International Administration of Goods Team and their task, especially with regard to the steps taken in line with the General Chapter options. Those are:

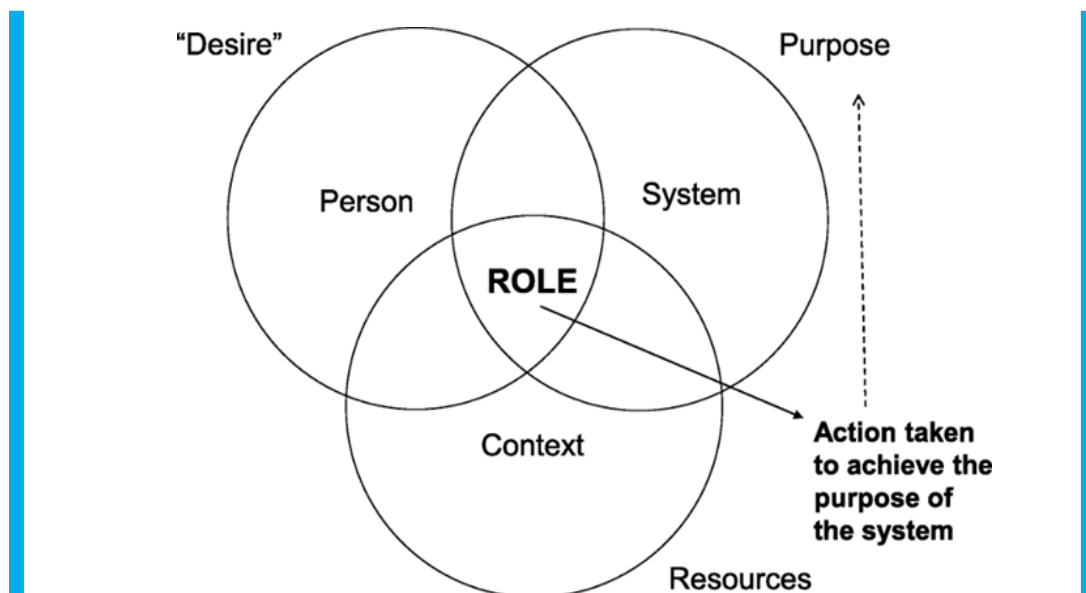
- ☞ Setting up a Financial Sustainability Plan
- ☞ Functioning of the CIO
- ☞ Creation of an Asset Stewardship Policy
- ☞ Formation for the Administration of Goods
- ☞ Responsibility of Each Member



We are calling for a **“letting go” of the mentality of my country or my Unit** and moving towards the mentality of **our Institute or our Family** (2021 GC), because we really have to align these resources with Mission Priorities. We really have to plan for the sustainability of the whole Institute in terms of Human and Financial Resources, not just the sustainability of our

Units. She quoted James Elrod in his book, *Creating Financially Sustainable Congregations*: *“Unless Church / Congregational Leaders are willing to discuss the relationship between money and Mission openly, they can’t build support within the Congregation required to create a financially sustainable Congregation.”* (James L.

Elrod Jr. 2021) And she explained our Responsibility toward the system of the institute: *It is our responsibility to ensure the sustainability of the System / Institute in terms of planning for Human resources and Financial Resources in the Institute,* for these resources are both essential for carrying out the Mission.



“Let us go over to the other side”

We have to be ready to keep on asking ourselves questions such as: *In the next 10, 20, 50,... years where will the Living of Mission be directed?*

- ☞ What will be the needs? What kinds of needs – Health Care, Formation, Infrastructure?
- ☞ From where will we get the resources (human and financial) to meet the demand?
- ☞ How best can we plan for these resources so that we can sustain the Mission in the future?

These questions will remind us that resources are essential for mission. In the past, we received documents on **Community Life for Mission, Vowed Life for Mission, and Formation for Mission.** Is it not time to have in our minds and hearts, and in writing, a document called **Resources for Mission?**

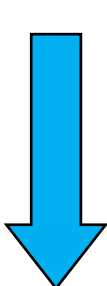
The current situation of our human resources in Asia

UNIT	2020	2022	VARIANCE
India	67	65	-2
Pakistan	30	32	+2
Philippines	11	10	-1
Jaffna	225	217	-8
Colombo	254	244	-10
TOTAL	587	568	-19

Current situation of our human resources, Globally

CONTINENT	2020	2022	VARIANCE
Asia	587	568	-19
Africa	171	170	-1
Europe	478	404	-74
Latin America	31	29	-2
Canada	44	36	-8
TOTAL	1311	1207	-104

CURRENT SITUATION: FINANCIAL RESOURCES



- ⇒ 9 Units and the other 3 Administration places depend on Pooling from the General Administration.
- ⇒ 8 Units are able to meet their own expenses.
- ⇒ If this is the situation with Human and Financial Resources, how do we plan for the future?

“Let us go over to the other side”

Everyone was excited to listen to **Amanda FRANCIS** via **Zoom**. She presented the theme, Linking Mission with Resources.

Main Resources: Property and Investments:

We are clearly driven by our Mission, ministry, and charism and have the structure and financial resources necessary to accomplish these objectives.

- ◆ Mission viabilities
- ◆ Property and investments

Financial Leadership Triangle

- Mission and activities
- Financial Resources
- Institute capacity

Main resources Property and Investment

We will need to be financial leaders and know where we are in the triangle. Property and investments are key asserts of the Institute. She awakened the group by ask-



ing a question: *why does the institute need investment?*

- ☞ To generate future income for the long term
- ☞ To look after the sisters both those working on the mission and those in need of care
- ☞ To fund future missions

Investment income will need to be supplemented by other income in the future, including earned income and fund-raised income.

The next question was, *How do you create a meaningful property investment?*

Collate the detailed list of the properties of the Institute and divide it into **two categories**:

- Own and occupied
- Occupied but not owned

In the afternoon, Amanda continued the presentation, speaking about **Charitable Incorporated organizations - CIO**. It was a great opportunity for the Sisters to learn more about the CIO.

At the close of the day, the General Bursar summarized the session, inviting the Sisters to name areas that call for our attention, today and for the future of our Institute, regarding linking Mission with Resources (Human and Financial Resources). The last topic mentioned was the plan for formation in the field of Formation for Administration of Goods, according to the Declaration of General Chapter 2021.

06

12.07.2023

The Prayer led by the Pakistan Unit: *“Leading from Within”*. It is a call to person-

al mindfulness and transformation of oneself. To lead others, we first need to allow

ourselves to be led and formed by the Spirit of God, the Creator.

“Let us go over to the other side”

The facilitator invited the Sisters to work in their **own Leadership Team**. Questions were given for group sharing, and it was asked to bring the report of the sharing to the general assembly.

- ☞ Name one leader who inspires you, who has made a real transformation in the world?
- ☞ Share his / her leadership Characteristics / qualities that we need to have as Holy Family leaders so that we can lead towards transformation.

Some leaders who inspired the Sisters: **Pope Francis' life, Dr. Abdul Kalam, and Fr. Michael Rodrigo (OMI).**

Here are some characteristics of these great leaders:

- ⇒ Faith in God: Inner capacity, God within
- ⇒ Visionary-dreamer, give direction to the church or the country.
- ⇒ Walk the talk as an integrated person.
- ⇒ Motivate others

- ⇒ Close to the struggle of the world - conflict, poverty, climate issues, youth, peripheries, families, migrants, refugees
- ⇒ Prophet for the day in the context
- ⇒ Simple life
- ⇒ Good listener
- ⇒ Open to newness
- ⇒ Accept one's own strengths and weaknesses (vulnerabilities).



The participants were invited to look at two images, related to vision in the exercise of leadership: **the Giraffe stands on some ground but has a wider picture, while the chick**

has a limited view.

It is a great challenge to look beyond our feelings and uncertainties and always have a bigger picture instead of a closer view.

Connecting the above reflection to the boat crossing to the other shore, we are conscious of the crossing at present, but the view is different when standing on one side and looking at the other side,.

The next step was an exercise in analysing a recent decision made by the local ULT in light of this list of capabilities and the vision models for leadership service. In groups, one Unit presented the case, and the other observed and gave feedback.

At the end of the day, a **"Letting Go Celebration"** took place.

"Let us go over to the other side"

07

13.07.2023

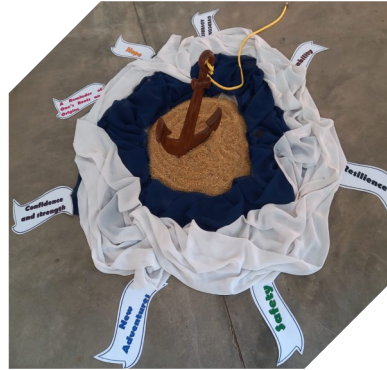
The day was dedicated to silence.

The Indian Unit led the morning prayer, and the symbol of the reflection was an ANCHOR.

"An anchor is an indispensable part of the sailing vessel

and essential for the sailor.

The sole purpose of an anchor is to maintain the



safety of the ship and its passengers. It stands as a sign of hope to secure a desired location, giving the go signal for the vessel to touch on safe grounds during unpredictable weather conditions in the sea. God is our unshakable Anchor and Stronghold; our Rock and

Ana Maria introduced the theme of the day, which was entirely dedicated to personal reflection and the contemplation of leaders, men and women of the Bible, who were able to provoke transformation in their particular context and historical moment. For this reason, they are an inspiration for us today.

Through texts referring to his work as a leader, Pierre Bienvenu Noailles was also proposed as an example that inspires us in our service as leaders.



08

14.07.2023

Prayer was conducted by the Sisters of the Philippines Unit.

"We recognized the energy of being and working together as Family for mission in the diversity that enriches and unites us, thus becoming a sign of the hope that is so longed

*for by our world". (20th General Chapter)
God uses the storms in our lives to reveal Himself to us in ways we've never known before. He is there to sustain us and give us hope.*

The group entered the third part of the 'U' theory process: **Realizing**. It was time to identify responses to the needs of the context.

"Let us go over to the other side"

Common decisions for the Continent of Asia

- ☞ **Rooted in Spirituality and inner transformation, quality community living**
- ☞ **Rise up Asia:** Create networks on the continent to respond to the needs of human trafficking, refugees, and migrants.
- ☞ **Intercultural Living:** Formation on Intercultural Living for All the Sisters, according to Different Stages and Circumstances of Life
 - **New insertion in Asia (Vietnam or another place)**
 - **Share human resources**
- ☞ **Sustainable living and finance:** create a group ACA (Asian Continental Administration of Goods) with Unit Bursars and Administration of Goods members in each Unit.
 - **Simple life style**
 - **Property management**
 - **Income-generating**

The participants were asked to work in groups to prepare an action plan in these four areas. After a heavy day, they took time in silence to integrate and write their journal.

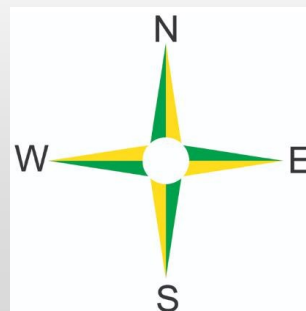


The Sisters from Pakistan led the prayer. The theme was *"Planning for the Way Forward."* God has called us to plan together our way forward in the journey of faith, with hope and strength.

In the General Assembly, each group presented the action plan for each topic. The Sisters discussed, bringing clarifications and suggestions on the action plan. Finally, all agreed on the edited action plan and finalized it in one voice.

Then, Ana Maria took the floor and appreciated the collaboration and hard work done. The working day was concluded by dedicating quality time to re-reading the personal experience lived in this meeting with the materi-

al provided "Proposal for Personal Reading," inspired by the **4 cardinal points of the compass.**



"Let us go over to the other side"



10

16.07.2023

The new day was welcomed in a climate of gratitude to God. It arrived with new plans and surprises for each participant. The facilitator invited each one to look back

on the previous days and hope that we have reached the newness of what we had expected from the Asian Continent. The morning prayer was led

by the Indian Sisters with the theme **'The journey that we have made'**. As the disciples of Emmaus said, **'our hearts are burning today'**.

Ana Maria availed of the opportunity to give information about our Founder's Cause, which is still in process. The Grace to be presented is being analysed by the experts.

Other issues were also shared and cleared:

- ⦿ The necessary information that has to be given to the Superior General by the accompaniers of the Priest Associates
- ⦿ The use of the terminology "Unit": This terminology is not recognized by the Vatican, so we cannot use it in official documents.

Final evaluation

Four questions were given as a guide for a general evaluation, which was made in groups and shared in plenary.

- ☞ Well prepared, and the methodology is very clear. gradually took us deeper each day. Recapitulations before starting the day were very helpful.
- ☞ Communications through the media were very useful and fast. It inspires us to take full part. Well planned and organized.
- ☞ It was appreciated that the GLT took time to listen to each team.
- ☞ We are eagerly waiting to hear about the next Asian meeting. Where will it be?
- ☞ A day could be given for relaxation and exposure.

"Let us go over to the other side"



After the evaluation, Ana Maria concluded the Asian Continental Meeting with her enriching words: **‘Everything comes to an end, and you may be full of energy to share with all your members when you return to your country’.**

"It is impossible to capture in a few paragraphs the richness of the experience we have lived during these days. What we can say is that we have lived an experience of synodality because **participation, communion, and**

mission have been very present throughout the meeting. We have created or strengthened bonds among us, and by getting to know each other, we can be more supportive and closer to each other and work in a network for the animation and development of the mission in Asia. (...)
Transformation happens if, with patience and perseverance, we remain in process and if we remain firm in faith (trust) and hope in periods of

The closing prayer was prepared by Colombo and Jaffna Provinces. All the leaders gathered in the hall, holding their symbols in their hands.
"We have come to the end of our ten-day journey together as Asian Continental Leaders. When we started the programme, we were filled with different feelings like anxiety, excitement, joy, and hope. We have experienced the Holy Family spirit -

Communion and togetherness among us in all our movements-and sharing our lives, energy, thoughts, and experiences has enriched us in many ways. Our collaboration, contributions, and shared responsibilities helped us find ways to draw up a plan for our future. The systematic and well-planned programme by the GLT members enabled us to participate well and with much enthusiasm. Remem-

bering all these blessings, which are generally difficult to accept and accompany because we often resist and close ourselves off out of fear of the unknown and of what is beyond our control.

I encourage you **to live bold leadership in this time of transition, uncertainty, and vulnerability.** Let us not forget that we were founded in a time of crisis and social upheaval. Those times were not easier than ours, but those who preceded us knew how to live the Gospel consistently and to respond to the needs of society. They found the source of energy and passion for the mission in **the Spirit of God Alone."**

bering all these blessings, with hearts full of gratitude, let us enter into the final prayer-ritual. The guidance of the Spirit and the blessings of our Founder bring newness and energy to become agents of transformation and women of Communion."
May we grow more and more aware of the countless blessings that we are, and may our lives become a blessing to others in return.

"Let us go over to the other side"



Colombo



Jaffna



Pakistan



India



Philippines



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