

**REPORT OF THE
24TH UNIT ASSEMBLY**



DARE TO LIVE

SENT FOR MISSION



JOE BEACH, MAMALLAPURAM

22-25 OCT. 2015

Name of the Participants

TAMIL NADU

PAVUNJUR

Sr. Gracy RAYAPPA
Sr. Rose Mary SWAMINATHAN
Sr. Helen 'A' KATTAR
Sr. Rosilin ANTONY
Sr. Bernetta POOPALARAYEE
Sr. Vanakka Mary IRUDAYAM
Sr. Amali MANUEL

CHENNAI

Sr. Mary AROKIAM
Sr. Philominal ANTHONISAMY
Sr. John Mary FERNANDO
Sr. Josephine ANTONIDASAN
Sr. Shanthi ARULANANTHAM
Sr. Punitha Latha ARULANANDAM
Sr. Sahaya Mary SUVAKKIN
Sr. Regina ARULANANDHU
Sr. Jeraldin AROCKIASAMY
Sr. Phillomina AMALRAJ
Sr. Arockia Mari FRANCIS
Sr. Prince Elizebeth SAVARIYAR
Sr. Sunitha MARIADHAS
Sr. Sagaya Mari DAVID
Sr. Bhavani ITHEMSETTY
Sr. Veronical DHIVYA NATHAN

KALIAKKAVILAI

Sr. Mary Alice ELIAS
Sr. Mary Florence Latha LAWRENCE
Sr. Immaculate THURAIRAJA
Sr. Mercy Rani JEBAMALAI
Sr. Sathiyamarthal DOSS
Sr. Rama Sowmya KUMMUKURI

MADURAI

Sr. Josepha SAMINATHAR
Sr. Jacintha SOOSAIMARIAN
Sr. Fatima SAVERIMUTHU
Sr. Desneves Mary ARULANDHU
Sr. Jansi Rani FRANCIS
Sr. Arockia Gana Gracy SAVARIMUTHU

KEELA UCHANI

Sr. Mary Angel SAVERIMUTHU
Sr. Rose Mary ANTHONY
Sr. Metilda LOURDUSAMY
Sr. Lalitha Mary AROCKIANATHAN

MANGALAMKOMBU

Sr. Santhiya MATHEW
Sr. Vimala MARIA FRANCIS
Sr. Jancy JOSEPH
Sr. Mary Jini NAYAGAM
Sr. Maria Powlin Mary INNASI MUTHU

KOMBUTHOOKI

Sr. Viyakula Mary JOSEPH
Sr. Sahaya Selvi ANTONYSAMY
Sr. Sharmila MENNESA

ANDHRA PRADESH

RAMAKUPPAM

Sr. Joseph Mary THANISLAS
Sr. Peter ASIRVATHAM
Sr. Sahaya Mary SANDANAM
Sr. Joji Suseela BOBBILI

RAMANAKKAPET

Sr. Siriya Pushpam ANTONY
Sr. Marion SEBAMALAI
Sr. Kamazh VINCENT
Sr. Jeya AROKIAM
Sr. Francina IRUTHAYA NATHAN
Sr. Sagaya Vinnarasi MARIASINGAM
Sr. Sunitha SAYALA
Sr. Nirmala DODDI

MULAGALAMPADU

Sr. Milred ROZARIO
Sr. Sugirtha MICHAEL
Sr. Iruthaya Mary MARIYA DOSS
Sr. Salomi Reshma EKKA
Sr. Suseela BADUGU

CHHATTISGARH

BODA

Sr. Leema FRANCIS
Sr. Glory MARIA DHAS
Sr. Maria Angel SAVARIRAJ
Sr. Vimala Kumari DUBBAKU
Sr. LalithaKumari LAKKAPAMU

REPORT OF THE 24TH UNIT ASSEMBLY

THEME: DARE TO LIVE – SENT FOR MISSION

Day One: 22. 10. 2015

Oct. 22nd was a graceful day chosen by God to the Unit-India and his Spirit guided all the sisters from the states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh to gather as a Family at Joe Beach, Family Resort & Conference Centre of Sisters DMI, Mahapallipuram and to participate in 24th Unit Assembly. Fresh and cool breeze from Joe Beach and its natural surroundings had kept the participants with joy and enthusiasm.

At 8.45 a.m. all the sisters assembled in the conference hall for Opening Prayer. 69 sisters were present for this historical event of our Unit Assembly. Due to ill health Sr. Jesu Mary Iruthayam was unable to participate in this Assembly. Everyone was welcomed with the fragrance of sandal paste and kumkum pottu. Sr. Santhiya, the Unit Councilor invited all the participants to enter into the Unit Assembly with the theme “**Dare to live - sent for Mission**”. Sr. Mary, the Unit Leader, led the procession with the lighted paschal candle as a sign of welcoming the Risen Christ in our midst. According to the foundations, all the community leaders carried the lighted candles along with their community members and followed Sr. Mary. In a spirit of prayer, they placed the candles in network, at the foot of the Holy Family.



The logo chosen for the theme of the Assembly was **Globe and Fire**. The meaning of the logo - the **fire** represents our passion for God's own mission. God's love for the world and it urges us to be open and to listen to the realities of the world. The **Globe** reminds us through which God speaks to us, inspires us, and energizes us, calling us to change our way of seeing, hearing, speaking and engaging. We realize that the reality of this

world, where everyone & everything is on the move. It tells us to be outward looking, to commit ourselves to live in a state of Exodus, to be with, to live and to offer our **gift of COMMUNION**.

After the opening prayer, Sr. Mary welcomed Sr. Aquinas Cyril from Jaffna Province, to facilitate the Assembly. Sr. John Mary honoured her with a shawl. Sr. Aquinas accepted the invitation whole heartedly and appreciated the hard work of the unit leadership team and assured her prayers for the success of the Assembly. She invited the unit leader to deliver the opening talk and her team to present the report of the unit for the year 2014-2015. Before presenting the report Sr. Mary welcomed Srs. Martha, Gracy, Powlin, Veronica and Rama Sowyma who were participating in the assembly for the first time.



The opening talk is as follows....

It is God's special blessings for each one of us. We are in the year dedicated to Consecrated life. Our Holy Father Pope Francis calls the religious to 'wake up the world' with the joy of the Gospel.

The theme of the General Chapter of 2014: "***Sent for Mission, if we don't dare now then when?***" still invites us to be daring from within. For each one of us, our commitment is to make oneself available for the good of the other, keeping the whole institute as our focus. Our '***Being***' as ***Holy Family Consecrated person*** is emphasized often at various levels through **Unit Chapter, Chapter transmission** and **Community animation**. **BEING** need to be expressed in our community lives, in our interdependence, respecting one another in our diverse culture and with the whole universe. The living of joy and happiness within oneself leads to share God's goodness to all. When we look back and evaluate our life at different levels personally, community and as a Unit, we are able to identify the areas in which we have grown and the areas that we need to die to our selfishness, mind setup, and struggles to live the life of '***Communion***'.

Delegation Assembly is a time of renewal for all of us. We are here today to be still for a few days and ask ourselves where we are going, how, why and which direction we have to move forward to make the Chapter call alive in our day today life, situation and mission. The theme of our 24th UNIT Assembly is: '**DARE TO LIVE – SENT FOR MISSION**'. Let us begin our journey in faith specially in living our "**Vowed for**

mission” according to our Constitutions and the Chapter documents, in the awareness that we become stewards to transmit our tradition to younger ones.

In *‘Laudato Si’* encyclical in no.160 Pope Francis says,

“What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?”

“This question doesn’t have to do with the environment alone and in isolation; the issue cannot be approached piecemeal”. This leads us to ask ourselves about the meaning of existence and its values at the basis of social life. “What is the purpose of our life in the world? What is the goal of our work and all our efforts? What need does the earth have of us?”

Let our theme come alive which we want to evaluate and talk about it in the life of our Unit. This experience will enrich us in our purpose to renew ourselves and to plan for the coming years.

The unit leadership team presented the report; it had covered the following areas:

- Initial and Ongoing Formation
- Community animation
- Ministries
- Teams of participation
- Family events and celebrations

Sr. Aquinas, the facilitator requested the participants to give big applause for 30 seconds for the well prepared and creative presentation of the report by the unit leadership team.

Sr. Mary clarified doubts in the following on which the clarification were requested.

- The blessing of the new house at Pavunjur
- Sr. Helen’s Jubilee
- Sr. Latha’s studies in Ireland

The following matters were added in the report:

- Sr. Alice’s Jubilee date
- Computer Centre at Mulagamlampadu which was opened on 4th August 2014

Srs. Marion and Milred also expressed their words of appreciation to the Unit Leadership Team for their wonderful effort. Sr. Helen appreciated Sr. Jeraldin’s quality and hard work. Sr. Mary read out the prayerful greetings of Sr. Ana Maria our Superior General and Council.



“Dare to live – sent for Mission”

22 - 25 October 2015

“... Filled with passion for the mission of Jesus, in our world of increasingly rapid change, we welcome and offer the gift of communion with the urgency that this time requires.” (CC 2014)

Dear Sisters

We assure you of our closeness as you begin your Assembly, to trace out together your journey for the future, conscious of your experience in the past and what it is in the present. Your theme is relevant for our times and may you courageously walk together to discover new possibilities to respond to the most urgent needs so that Mission becomes our Life!

Kumudini
Jacinta *Sitha* *Micheline*
Geetha



We also received the assurance of prayers, good wishes and words of encouragement from Jaffna Provincial and her Council and Srs. Pushpam, Sophia, Canice, Jude, Clara Peris, Jacintha Marie and Kala. We received warm wishes of Lay associates from Madurai, Chennai and Ramanakkapeta, Pre-Novices from Madurai, Kaliakkavilai and candidates from Ramanakkapeta.

Sr. Aquinas the facilitator announced the names of the committee members and their roles.

Secretary Committee: Srs. Rosilin, Lalitha Mary, Mercy Rani, Iruthaya Mary and Sahaya Mary Sandanam.

Drafting Committee: Srs. Bernertta, Latha, Kamazh, Shanthi and Vimala Kumari


Steering Committee: Srs. Mary Arokiam, Rose Mary S, Mary Alice, Jaya Mary and Mary Jini.

After tea break, Sr. Santhiya introduced the resource person Sr. Rosy, Provincial of Holy Cross, Trichy to the assembly. Sr. Rosy took over the session and shared her output message on Consecrated Apostolic Life – its challenges and our response with an inspiring story (The pregnant Deer).

On the basis of the theme she asked the following questions:

- ✓ Are our lives credible?
- ✓ What is the cost we have paid for it?
- ✓ How meaningful is this life for me?

The following points were highlighted in her talk:



- Realities of the world
- Money revolution and alarming developments
- Amnesia of the poor
- Culture of violence and death
- Disappearance of social consciousness and social responsibility
- Communication revolution
- New development in media
- Technological revolution
- Hurry sickness – (I have no time, stress sickness)
- Crisis in vocation
- Struggles against vowed life and ministries
- Financial crisis
- Globalization of market economy resulting in the birth of new victims –(E.g. New poor)
- Purpose of consecrated life is -‘To be committed – God seekers’
- The fundamental aspect of our consecrated life is faith
- Christ centered life
- Joyful witness through simple life - austerity, hardworking, responsible, serene, realistic humanly and mature, available to God and others.
- Community life is a great challenge
- Acceptance, Affection and Achievement are needed for the joyful community building.

In the afternoon session, we reflected on the theme 'Mission'.

Mission, the reign of God was the primary concern of Jesus. We were divided into groups according to the communities. The following questions were given for reflection.

1. **Looking at our communities, ministries and mission which are the areas we have to grow regarding obedience, poverty, accountability, discernment, relationships, the poor, etc.,**
2. **To live our meaningful Consecrated Apostolic Religious Life –what is the Lord calling us to renew in our lives for a better witnessing and authenticity.**

The Group community reports were presented in the general assembly. Sr. Rosy synthesized the report into five main areas of our consecrated life

- Spirituality of God Alone
- Right relationship with oneself, other, God and the whole universe
- Faith and obedience
- Compassion for the poor in our ministry
- Evangelization

Sr. Bhavani thanked Sr. Rosy for her rich and powerful message.

Later, we were invited by Maduari and Mangalamkombu communities at 6.30 p.m. to gather at the entrance of the conference hall to praise God for his faithfulness and love towards Srs. Alice, Angel, Marian and Helen respectively for the past 25, 50 and 60 years of their religious life in the Holy Family. They were cordially invited by a prayer dance and all the sisters joined them in procession and entered the Eucharistic celebration. Frs. Nallappan - Provincial OMI, Servatius - Priest Associate, Alexis Manohar - Parish Priest of Meenambakkam and Arokiasamy OMI concelebrated the mass. Fr. Servatius in his sermon gave a message on religious call. "I must know whom I trust in my life and whom I totally depend on". Jesus calls everybody to participate in the discipleship to live in a radical way. He invites us to face challenges and trials in order to be witnesses to him. He explained through a beautiful story (Woodcutter and an Axe), how the disciples of religious need to be alert, available and respond to the signs of the times.





After the Eucharistic celebration we had jubilation's – cutting of the jubilee cake ceremony which was followed by a creative and expressive cultural programme. At the end of the programme Srs. Marion and Alice expressed their gratitude to everyone. The day's programme concluded with a family meal.

Day 2: 23.10.2015

The Lord has blessed us to see another day with freshness and glamour. At 6.30 a.m. the Eucharist was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Servatius. It was organized by the sisters of the community of Kombuthooki. The scripture readings were taken from Rom.7:18-25 and Lk. 12:54-59.

Fr. Servatius in his homily mentioned about the vision of Pope St. John the 23rd; fifty years back the Pope introduced to the Church to read the signs of the time. On this basis Fr. Servatius enlightened us that the Holy Family sisters are called to be relevant to the present society by interpreting the spirituality and Charism according to the signs of the time.

At 8.30 a. m. the Unit Assembly began with Morning Prayer conducted by Pavunjur Community. The theme was **“Truth Alone takes us to God”**. We were invited to meditate the dialogue between Jesus and Samaritan Woman from St. John's Gospel 4th Chapter along with video clip on Psalm 139:23-24. The prayer was concluded with our Venerable Good Father's blessings taken from the ST. No: 253.

The facilitator thanked the Sisters of the Pavunjur Community for the meaningful and inspiring prayer. She called out the secretary team, to submit the previous day's report and Sr. Mercy presented it in the assembly. Srs. Aquinas and Latha appreciated the effort of the secretary team and the participants accepted the report unanimously.

Sr. Kamazh was invited by the facilitator to present the current information about economic, political, social, cultural, educational and religious context of India briefly.

The following points were dealt with according to the preamble of the Indian constitutions:

- ✓ India is a Sovereign, Social, Secular, Republic and Democratic Country with multiple religions and it has 15 languages and more than 1000 dialects.
- ✓ Status of women
- ✓ New poverty bench mark
- ✓ Literacy rate map
- ✓ Farmers' suicides
- ✓ Unequal situations
- ✓ Corruption
- ✓ Christianity and Roman Catholic Religion in India

Sr. Kamazh concluded the presentation with a question “What is the difference between Equality and Justice? And what are we going to do for this?”

Sr. Aquinas, the facilitator thanked and appreciated Sr. Kamazh for her informative presentation. She said that we need not go by number but by quality life. Then Sister invited Sr. Glory to give the synthesized evaluation of the reality of our Unit which had been already done by all the communities.

STRENGTHS OF OUR UNIT

- * In our creative ways of praying, we are able to see God in everything and everything in God, which is our strength.
- * Our human resources, - our sisters are young and energetic to take up responsibilities.
- * Sisters are educated according to the needs of the situations called for by ministries; the knowledge needed is kept updated.
- * Our Spirituality and Charism are the driving forces, to live by all five vocations; Our family with five vocations, collaborating in our Parish based activities
- * Willingness and generosity of Sisters, to opt for any ministry, Missionary and Contemplative lives.
- * Presence of all our communities in poor areas; we take a stand to uplift especially the most needy poor in our areas. Our response to the signs of the time.
- * According to the needs, our moving out, in order to reach out even to the North - India (different culture, languages etc.)
- * Our collaboration with other Congregations and NGO's
- * Animation from the GLT, ULT and letters are strength giving, support and help.

WEAKNESS OF OUR UNIT

- * Lack of faith and prayer life. There is the need to foster reading habit.
- * Fear of taking risks: challenging each other; of having community dialogue; facing the truth and standing up for justice
- * Need for discernment in taking up responsibilities
- * Individualism, comparisons
- * Wanting in the sense of belonging, family spirit, sisterly love and communion. Suspicion towards Sisters, lack of trust
- * There is the need for life – witnessing
- * Failure in taking correct decisions, at the right time
- * Generosity and willingness to commit oneself in ministries and interest to promote Pastoral care of Vocation is wanted
- * Support and chances given to some, while some others are left out. We need to opt for any ministries according to the needs of the time
- * Though we are aware of our inter-culturality, the use of the common language – that is English is neglected, forgotten at all levels
- * There is a need for quality Leadership at all levels
- * No respect for community needs and views
- * Need for discipline, especially in the use of communication and mass media, lack of time management
- * Insufficient financial resources for sustainability

CHALLENGES

- * Our presence in difficult areas and different cultures, doing collaborative ministries with other Congregations, NGO's is a challenge
- * In today's context – with the new BJP Government, evangelization and social apostolate is a challenge
- * Not having our own institutions is a challenge
- * To work hard to make the Holy Family known in the present world is a challenge
- * Closing down our school, ministry places, enabled us to move toward new involvement is a challenge (Kombuthooki, evening tuition, computer centre)
- * It is a challenge to question each other about our consumerist choices, to differentiate between our wants and needs
- * It is a challenge to question each other on our use of the means of communication and mass-media. Need for time management

OPPORTUNITIES

- * At each phase of our Unit- our life is renewed, challenged by the force of our Charism.
- * Calling from the Universal and local church to live our prophetic and mystic life which is a constant reminder.
- * Opportunities for sisters to qualify themselves in view of mission.
- * Possibilities of networking and collaborating with other organizations / Religious congregations eg: Mithra, JRS and Montfort Brothers.
- * Animation by our GLT, to move forward – to keep our Charism alive according to the changing times of situation.
- * Availability of our Founder’s writings, Pope’s encyclicals, exhortations, and other Holy Family documents and communications.
- * Good will, enthusiasm and zeal found among the members (Sisters) to promote life; to make themselves available for foreign Mission; Contemplative life and the realization to live “interculturality”.
- * In a young Delegation like ours, the fact that there is time and energy to be of service to life.
- * The possibilities present for growth: Spiritual Guidance, Renewal Course, Counseling Ongoing Formation, Retreats and Professional studies etc.
- * There are clear signs of the times calling for our generous response by way of new ministries.

The Facilitator thanked Sr. Glory for her clear presentation.

Sr. Punitha, the Unit Bursar was invited by the facilitator to present the financial report of our Unit. She submitted the financial report of the past two years from April 2013 to March 2015 with the power point presentation on “Consecrated Life - a Radical Path to Holiness by living the Vow of Gospel Poverty”. The following points were dealt with:

- Consecrated person is constantly discerning the Will of God
- Consecrated person chooses to become poor, obedient and chaste
- Poverty does not consist of just, rather converting everything to others
- Consecrated Life consist of three traits: Mystics, Prophets and Servants
- Our Charism ‘Communion’ is a gift to share with all

After presenting her report, Sr. Punitha clarified the following doubts.

- ✓ Sr. Rosilin raised a question about the expenses of the teams of participation.
- ✓ Sr. Aquinas asked what is the meaning of society?
- ✓ Sr. Helen enquired that if the ruling government stops foreign fund coming in, what would happen in our future?

The Facilitator thanked Sr. Punitha for her meticulous and creative presentation.

After tea break, the facilitator presided over the session on the theme of our Unit Assembly, “**Dare to live – Sent for Mission**”. The following messages were stressed in her vibrant and valuable sharing.

DARE TO LIVE is an invitation to Attentive Listening, Deep Love, Share, To be sent-spend oneself, Mission, New Consciousness and a Transformed Awareness.

Dare to live a wakeup call, to live differently, not compartmentalized but integrated, not in isolation but as communities and new way of being human.

Re-visioning the vows

Obedience in Community – Listening & Mutual collaboration

Celibacy – Primacy of God in one’s life. Jesus becomes the inner Guru-Mysticism – Life of contemplation.

Poverty – Everything is gift – use with gratitude, reverence and respect, sparingly and frugally, nothing belongs to anyone. Nature’s good common to all.

Obedience, Celibacy and Poverty call us to live the – Aim, Counter-cultural, nature’s way, Gospel way and Holy Family way – “Sought God Alone”,- God is the only treasure and conscious choice in the midst of Temptations and Pit falls.

In the afternoon session Sr. Aquinas animated the Sisters by her rich reflective message and led us to interiorize on ‘**Sent for Mission**’ – **Community for Mission** with the following points:

From the beginning human beings are called to live as a community (Gen 1:30).

- Religious life too which is modeled on Trinitarian, Apostolic and Jerusalem Communities is a way of life in the Church expected to live as a community in a radical way
- Holy Family our model, **3 lives** unique, **united as one in** loving, seeking and desiring only **God’s Will**
- To be a model for the Society to live together in Harmony, Peace and Love even when the fellow members are not likeable. The Kingdom that **God desires** for humanity is one where the **lion and lamb graze together.**(Is: 11: 6 – 10 – oneness in heart and mind)
- Called to be experts in communion – As members we have a Common Goal. Personal preferences over looked, Love and service to one another, Mutual understanding and Prayerful support, Sharing of responsibility and one’s joys and sorrows. **To sum up** –the **3 Ls** – **sharing of Love, Labour and Leisure.**

- Two fold of community mission is : ‘**Being and Doing**’, ‘**Witness and Prophets**’
- The religious are sent on mission to proclaim the message of Jesus Christ.
- Prophet is the one who interprets the will of God according to the signs of the times.
- General chapter reminds us to Call to the Mission – **Go.....Exodus**
 - Go – call to mission,
 - Go - demands exodus , transformation, availability and change of mind set and self-emptying
- Go to the whole world to identify the periphery and look at the challenges from the people point of view.
 - Jesus’ Way – He came close to the poor. Asked what needed? (Mk. 10:51, Naim, Blind, Zacheus).
 - Not powering over, not as Messiah, but as Companions on the journey.....as their good angels...(Preface to GR – PBN)
 - Challenge to Mission can be addressed through a threefold measures: A search for God, Service to the others and a life of communion.

Sister concluded the session with an appeal to respond to **Missionary Call**

- ✓ Total availability and surrender to God
- ✓ To be models of Contemplation and Commitment.

At 5.15 p.m. we gathered again to continue our session. Sr. Aquinas gave the following question for personal reflection on the document of “Vowed for Mission and Post Chapter Circular no.319 by Sr. Ana Maria, Superior General. **“What are the four strongest calls (challenges) you feel addressed to our unit to be responded in the coming years 2015 – 2020? And why?”**

Before we dispersed, Sister called upon Sr. Alice, to pray the discernment prayer and with this inspiration we spent one hour in silence and prayer.

At 7.p.m. the evening prayer was conducted by the sisters of Kaliakkavilai community with prayerful reflection and hymns. The day’s programme was ended with a documentary film ‘Connection for Change’.

Day 3: 24. 10. 2015

We welcomed the 3rd day with Eucharistic celebration prepared by the Sisters of Ramakuppam Community. Scripture readings were taken from Rom. 8: 1 - 11 and Lk.13:1-9.The Mass was offered by Rev. Fr. Bernadine OSM for the Birthday of

Sr. Jacintha Soosai Marian. In the introduction, the priest shared about the life history of the day's saint, St. Antony Maria Claret also in the sermon, he explained about the 7 attitudes for healthy community life, life of flesh and spirit. After the Mass we greeted our dear Sr. Jasintha with birthday song and good wishes.

At 8.30 a.m., we assembled in the conference hall for the Morning Prayer. Sisters of the Uchani Community were invited by Sr. John Mary to lead the prayer. The community conducted the prayer on the theme of **Consecrated Life** and they guided us to reflect on the basis of threefold call (i.e.) to be human, to be happy, and to be holy. Sr. John Mary thanked the Uchani Community for their provoking and inspiring prayer.

She called the secretary team to present the previous day's report. Sr. Iruthaya Mary read the report. Sr. Helen appreciated the team and she said that all the points have come without missing anything. Sr. Marion also appreciated the hard work of the secretary team. The report was proposed by Sr. Sahaya Selvi and seconded it by Sr. Prince Elizabeth. The first day report was proposed by Sr. Jeya and seconded by Sr. Alice. Sr. Aquinas the facilitator asked Sr. John Mary to read out the name list of the eight groups. The facilitator introduced the method of work to the groups which they have to follow in group sharing on yesterday's questionnaire. The method of work – Corporate Listening had four steps.

1. Silence for a while
2. Simple sharing in the group (each one shares, others just listen if clarification needed, only at the end when all have shared)
3. Silence for a while, when ready each one shares in brief what she had heard from the group.
4. A consensus is sought (this does not mean that there is unanimous option or all support the option.

All can see that a good decision or a good course of action for unit.

At the end after few moments of silence, the group reflects and shares its feeling.

The group sharing was continued till tea break. After tea break, the reports of the groups were submitted in the General Assembly. The outcomes of the report were synthesized once again in the assembly. The following points were prioritized.

1. Spirit of God Alone
2. Formation of Leaders and formators
3. Quality community life, relationship and membership
4. Responding to the signs of the time and new ministries
5. Pastoral Care of Vocations

Again the facilitator introduced the ‘**Smart**’ to the assembly regarding the activities needed to live these priorities. The activities or means to be:

- S** – Specific
- M** – Measurable
- A** – Achievable
- R** – Review / Evaluate
- T** – Time

The facilitator also gave another format to the groups to write the priorities and programmed it. The format is as follows: Priorities in the first column, What, Why, How, Who, Monitoring/Evaluation. Each priority was given to two combined groups and the fifth priority, ‘Pastoral Care of Vocations’ was given to all the groups. The group report was presented in the general assembly. The priorities were given to drafting committee to work on it.



In the assembly there was a proposal to release a Sister as full time promoter of Pastoral Care of Vocations. The facilitator asked the assembly to respond to the proposal. Sr. Vanakka Mary, the Government Aided Teacher from Pavunjur Community volunteered willingly. There was a long discussion regarding this matter. The facilitator asked the Leadership Team to oversee the process. Sr. Vanakka Mary was firm in her decision. Finally the facilitator appreciated her decision and there was a big applause to her. The day programme was wound with recreation by Sisters of Mulagamlampadu and Mangalamkombu communities.

Day 4: 25. 10. 2015

The 4th day began with the Holy Eucharist, celebrated by Rev. Fr. Savariyappan OSM. Inspiring scripture texts were: Jer. 21:7-9, Heb. 5:1-6 and Mark: 10:46-52. Meaningful hymns were taken by Chennai Community Sisters and it helped us to participate in the liturgy prayerfully. In his sermon, the priest shared a brief message on the Gospel. ‘We are called to be the followers of Christ, to live in God’s providence and to promote the life of poor, orphan, widows and destitute. Can we really say that we are for them? The blind man’s genuine desire is to see God’s work. What we have seen so far and what do we want to see further and what do we want from God? We are not to be hindrance for others who are doing good. We make the kingdom of God powerless when we are not ready to give up our egoism and comfort zones.’

We proceeded to the third day with the Morning Prayer conducted by the Sisters of Boda Community. They guided us to reflect on the theme ‘**Where are you O God...**’ with the help of a video clip. Sr. Santhiya thanked Boda Community for the stimulating and thought provoking prayer.

Sr. Santhiya invited the secretary to present the third day report. Sr. Lalitha Mary read the report. The omitted points were mentioned by the participants such as:

- ❖ Sr. Mary the Unit leader asked the assembly – a Sister to volunteer for the ministry of Pastoral Care of Vocations.
- ❖ The first two days’ proposals and subsequent of the reports were need to be added.
- ❖ Sr. Sahayam Suvakkin asked to add in the report that the recreation ended with a prayer to the Holy Family.
- ❖ Sr. Milred mentioned that the acceptance of the previous day report was not added.

With all these amendments, Sr. Shanthi appreciated and proposed the report and Sr. Joseph Mary seconded it. Sr. Santhiya thanked Sr. Lalitha Mary and invited Sr. Aquinas, the facilitator to chair the session of the day. The facilitator thanked the participants for their corporate listening and to bring out the evaluation of the Assembly systematically. Sister called out the Drafting Committee to present the summarized priorities of our unit for the year 2015-2020. Sr. Vimala Kumari read out the priorities.

Priority: 1: Fostering and deepening the Spirit of God Alone.

*“In their earthly life, Jesus, Mary and Joseph loved, sought and desired nothing but God Alone. He was the object of all their action. It was this spirit that guided them everything”.
(The Spirit proper to the members of the Family, General rules, 1851)*

We commit ourselves to:

- ☞ Be faithful for an hour of personal prayer and daily examination of consciousness.
- ☞ Give space for silence and solitude, to consciously live God’s presence in our daily life.
- ☞ We nourish our life by prayerful reading of the Word of God, the Chapter Document ‘Vowed for Mission’, our Founder’s writings; Selected Texts, Sources, Dossiers and materials from GLT on the ‘Spirit of God Alone.’
- ☞ At regular intervals, organize community recollection, based on the theme: “Spirit of God Alone”
- ☞ Inculcate the Holy Family values of gentleness, humility, availability and dependence on God’s Providence.
- ☞ Carry out an evaluation in community, once in three months.

Priority: 2: We strive to live a quality community life characterized by mutual love and responsible membership.

“Community life is built up through our acceptance of one another, genuine affection and humble service as at Nazareth”. (Const. 38)

We commit ourselves to:

- ☞ Accept each member as God sent-with her strengths and limitations; appreciate the goodness in all.
- ☞ Participate joyfully in the life of the community by openness in dialogue; whole hearted co-operation in its undertakings and pray for one another daily. Our concern for each other’s life, support in the ministries is an expression of our sense of belonging.
- ☞ Discern and draw up a ‘Community Project’, make all efforts to implement and occasionally evaluate its aspects.
- ☞ Through prayer and communication, strengthen our family bonds with the communities in our Unit, Institute and the members of our Family.
- ☞ We will be conscious in our verbal communication; develop our feminine qualities. Give time for recreation and celebrate community days meaningfully.
- ☞ Have community reconciliation thrice a year.

Priority: 3: Formation of Leaders and Formators to be at the service of our Unit.

We recognize we still have much letting go and learning ahead of us in every area of service we offer. All can become a valuable contribution to communion if exposed to the light in Communal Discernment. (VFM 4.6)

- ☞ Potential and integrated leaders and formators, capable of discernment be identified; and provided with necessary opportunities.
- ☞ Annual evaluation will help the leaders and formators to renew the life and mission of the unit.

Priority: 4: Attentive to the signs of the time and responding it by being innovative in our existing ministries and making ourselves available for new ministries

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; He has appointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and new sight to the blind, to free the oppressed and announce the Lord’s year of mercy (Lk. 4:18-19)

We commit ourselves to:

- ☞ Recognize the needs of the people, by being in touch with the local and global reality of the present day.
- ☞ Train two sisters according to the needs required by new ministries such as Family Counseling and rehabilitations of drug addicts.
- ☞ Collaborate with other NGO’s and like-minded organizations.
- ☞ Once a year, animation and evaluations to update our existing ministries.

Priority: 5: Pastoral Care of Vocations

“We believe that God calls young people to promote communion in our world today, and to go into their global culture to get to know them and to appreciate their values...” (Chapter Decree on PCV 2008)

We commit ourselves to:

- ☞ Release one Sister as full time responsible for PCV
- ☞ Each community takes the responsibility to entrust one Sister with this purpose, this ministry is carried out by means of catechizing, family visits and youth animation (value education; songs; playlets etc...).
- ☞ Make known our Family through Mass media (communication, pamphlets, facebook and advertisements etc...
- ☞ Pray for vocations on the 10th day of every month.

With all the amendments and clarifications the priorities were unanimously accepted by the assembly.

On behalf of Unit India, Sr. Jaya Mary extended our sincere thanks and appreciation to Sr. Aquinas for her efficient, dynamic, simple, vibrant way of animation during these four days. A song of blessing and wishes was sung by the Sisters to Sr. Aquinas and every one expressed their gratitude by giving a big applause to her. Sr. Aquinas too expressed her heartfelt thanks to Sr. Mary and Council, for calling her to facilitate the Unit Assembly and to everybody for cooperation and active participation.

Sr. Mary expressed her appreciation of Sr. Vanakka Mary for her courageous step to be a full time worker of Pastoral Care of Vocations. She informed that Sr. Sagaya Mary David is going to join the Contemplative Life and is leaving on 2nd December 2015 to Sri Lanka. Sister thanked for her valuable presence, dedication and availability. Sr. Sagaya Mary David too expressed her gratitude to our sisters with tears, especially to Unit Leadership Teams, all her Formators and whoever helped for her growth. The session continued as...

❖ **Discussion on Collaborative Work with Montfort Brothers at Kombuthooki**

The collaborative works (teaching, nursing, social work & boarding) of our Sisters in Kombuthooki was appreciated well and requested them to share their fruitful experience and suggestions whether to continue the work with the Montfort brothers in future. Sr. Mary asked the assembly for volunteers to continue this ministry at Kombuthooki. Srs. Milred, Mary Jini and Prince Elizabeth volunteered for this work.

❖ **New Foundation at North India**

Sr. Mary, the Unit Leader asked volunteers for New Foundation in North India. Srs. Rose Mary S, Sahaya Selvi, Santhiya, Regina, Sahayamary Sandanam, Vinnarasi, Sunitha M, Bhavani and Veronical volunteered for this new mission.

In the assembly, all were reminded to keep up our common language English. Sr. Peter asked clarification about pocket money and Sr. Punitha explained it clearly. On behalf of ULT Sr. Punitha thanked the facilitator Sr. Aquinas for her inspirational thoughts and efficient leadership skills. She also conveyed her gratitude to the community leaders and communities for conducting creative and meaningful liturgy, morning and evening prayer services. Sister thanked the Teams of participation, the Sisters who arranged and decorated the hall for the assembly and for the Jubilee Celebration. Sr. Alice thanked our Unit Leadership Team for their effort, hard work, systematic, creative plan and presentation. Finally we gave a cheer and warm clap to the ULT.

At the end the following portion of the message from Circular No. 319 of Sr. Ana Maria was read by Sr. Mary the Unit Leader and concluded the Assembly.

“The elderly Sisters offer us their wisdom, the young bring energy and newness, the middle-aged share mature experience, and all of us bring passion for the mission and unconditional self-giving to the end”.

We wound up our 24th Unit Assembly with closing prayer service led by Ramanakkapeta community. We all came in procession and each of us received a Word of God which was read out by the Sisters that symbolizes the assurance of our **God’s call to send outfor His Mission.** We praised and thanked God for His powerful presence and guidance during the Unit Assembly. The prayer concluded with the hymn, ‘**STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS**’. As our final gesture of sisterly affection we moved around, exchanged good wishes support to one another to begin anew our Holy Family way of life.



Secretary Team:

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Sahayamary Sandanam**

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