

What we heard from the Regions and the General Custodian's Report - November 2014



The following are the emerging themes from our deep listening to the reports from the regions and the report of the General Custodian at our pre-chapter meeting.

The full reports are available on the Missionary Servant web site.

The process we utilized included:

- Listening to each regional report
- In small groups identifying the important issues from each region
- Listening to and dialoguing with the General Custodian's report
- Identifying the important issues from the General Custodian's report
- In small groups identifying the common issues of most importance that emerged in the regional reports and General Custodian's report
- Meeting in small groups to amplify the themes in a coherent statement and add questions to explore what further discussion we needed from the regions.

The result of our work is as follows:

FORMING IN THE CHARISM

We look for candidates who, in addition to meeting the canonical requirements, manifest a love of God, a zeal for neighbor, and a spirit of sacrifice. The candidates are to be acquainted with the life and spirit of the missionary cenacle. (*Constitution #40*) The ST identity needs to be fostered among our candidates and students with appropriate structures and opportunities. This identity is best caught in the context of an encounter with authentic Missionary Servant life lived in mission. Each ST confrere has the responsibility to pass on our identity as mentors and enkindle the charism in our younger members.

- How can we better instill the Cenacle Charism in our candidates and men in formation?
- What challenges do you experience in our Cenacles that inhibit our charism from being more present?

MISSION

Our specific mission is the preservation of the faith in those areas and among those people who are spiritually neglected and abandoned, especially the poor, and our chief effort is to develop a missionary spirit in the laity' with the goal that every catholic be an apostle (*Constitution #5*)

- What are the methods or models you use for apostolic formation? How can the mission committee help you to implement methods and models of apostolic formation in order to form a missionary spirit in the laity?
- How can we concretely promote and mutually support the Missionary Cenacle Family, especially the MCA?
- As a missionary methodology, how do you understand systemic change? What do you need to implement systemic change in your mission? What is inhibiting you from implementing it?

SPIRITUALITY

We commit ourselves with greater vigor to the process of our own conversion and seek to support one another in love, through the structures of our Missionary Servant life (*Acts, XIV General Cenacle*) Our spirituality is apostolic and flows from concrete experience illuminated by the Gospel:

- What are the structures that promote apostolic spirituality in your life as a Missionary Servant?
- Do the Spiritual Exercises of the Missionary Cenacle contribute to your spirituality?
- What other means or structures do we need in order to foster this kind of apostolic spirituality?

ON GOING FORMATION IN COMMUNITY

With genuine love we call each other to grow in apostolic holiness through encouragement and mutually appropriate accountability (*Constitution #33*) Each confrere has the responsibility to care for other members and to build stronger community. However, there are confreres who are hurting, living in difficult situations, and even some who have left the Congregation not feeling cared for. As a community we need the skills to respond to this need, especially in light of our growing multicultural and younger congregation. Could a team be established to provide opportunities to develop the skills to respond to our brothers' needs and to be a resource to help us accompany one another more effectively?

- Do you see the value of such a team?
- Are there other ways to do this?

DISCERNING FUTURE LEADERSHIP

In order to implement the decisions of this General Cenacle we will need leaders with specific gifts and skills. We suggest a new process for the election of leadership at the General Cenacle. This process would involve an open discernment process where we would consider what type of leadership we need at this time, what specific gifts or skills are needed and identify who has those gifts or skills. This discernment would also consider who might work together with the General Custodian as an effective team for the Congregation at this time.

- What would you like the General Cenacle to take into consideration when discerning new leadership?
- What process of discernment would you suggest to assist the members of the General Cenacle in choosing who might be called to leadership at this time?
- What are the skills the leadership team would collectively need to best serve the congregation in this historic moment?

WHAT OTHER ISSUES SHOULD BE EXPLORED AT THE GENERAL CENACLE?

TIME LINE of preparations for General Cenacle (GC)

January - February	Regional Meetings held
February 28	Regional reports due to coordinating committee (Steve Vesely)
March 15	Committee Reports to be submitted to coordinating committee
March 15	Proposals submitted to coordinating committee
March 1	Straw ballot for leadership (all confreres)
March 31	Summary of regional reports sent to all confreres Proposals to be sent to GC members Committee Reports sent to GC members
May 24-29	General Cenacle