

California/Idaho/Arizona Region, Fall Meeting, October 2014

We are asking you as delegates to be listening to the conversation through three lenses that come from Pope Francis exhortation, Joy of the Gospel # 226ff.

1. Where are the signs of unity and or/areas of conflict as you listen to the discussion?

#### Signs of Unity

- + Desire to listen to one another.
- + Desire for a spiritual backing – the doing of God’s will.
- + Desire to do and not spend more time talking. (“ time greater than space” )
- + Use what is in place (MVP, Formation Programs).
- + Future of formation across cultures and countries.
- + A sense of regional identity.
- + Care for one another.
- + A welcoming of Pope Francis’ Joy of the Gospel.
- + Most everyone was present at the meeting.
- + Everyone concerned with lay formation.

#### Signs of conflict.

- + Generations.
- + Culture.
- + Language.
- + Lack of follow up.
- + “ Going back to the drawing board” and not getting anything really off the ground.
- + Mission assignments made with lack of clarity of criteria.
- + The future of the MCF. The MCA is dwindling; the MSBT’s are in serious decline.

2. What are the realities of your region that are emerging? What ideas and hopes are emerging?

- + Multicultural, multi generational, bilingual reality.
- + Formation of missionary disciples, ST and laity.
- + With the laity, a focus on the development of missionary disciples in a practical and larger scale.
- + Make investment now for the long run, centers of formation for laity.
- + Evangelization of “lapsed” Catholics.
- + Encounter with the Lord as priority.

3. Where did the regional conversation deal with the whole congregation, where did you focus on your part of the vineyard?

- + A review of the Vocation and Formation programs.
- + Renewed efforts in favor of Religious Brother vocation.

- + Incorporate the cultural reality to the whole of the congregation.
- Evangelization centers.
- Outreach to those in spiritual need.
- Welcome to men in formation.
- Mission to the Hispanic reality.

Our Regional Discussion found the following direction to pursue

1. Missionary efforts must flow from and lead to the Lord.
2. The multi cultural reality needs to be taken into account in all aspects of the Congregation.
3. There needs to be a focus on lapsed Catholics.
4. In addition to sacramental ministry there is a need to create “evangelization centers” to promote the encounter with the Lord Jesus.
  - Need to designate full time personnel.
  - Outreach by a “spiritualized” laity.
5. The year of mission of the professed as well as other areas of formation need to be reviewed.
6. There is a need to identify bases and personnel to form missionary disciples in a long term commitment.