

Apostolic Communities of Laity in Formation

The meeting of ST Custodians in Mexico in July 2014 arrived a consensus that we need to promote the apostolic formation along the guidelines of CALF. This reinforces the CALF proposal initiated in the General Cenacle of 2007 and the work of the Mission Committee of the General Cenacle of 2011. Vatican II has called us to be attentive to the signs of the times. Pope Francis is moving the Church to promote a time of the signs in which clear, concrete actions are being implemented for the world to see. As a Congregation we are attentive to the formation of laity. Without exception our missions promote lay involvement in the Church's Mission. Our latest Chapters are calling us to very specific, organized and mobilized with methods of apostolic formation on a large scale.

The Mission Committee promotes a model that would establish centers of apostolic laity formation with its four stages of Kerygma (Encounter with Christ), Koinonia (Faith Community), Didache (On-going formation) and Diakonia (Missionary Service). This guide flows from the method's of evangelization that were used by the early Church as manifested in the Acts of the Apostles, as well as efforts of Fr. Judge in the formation of the Missionary Cenacle. More recently the model has been promoted in the new evangelization in the documents of Aparecida and encouraged by the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis, "The Joy of the Gospel."

In these 3 ½ years the Mission Committee has promoted this guide in several ways.

1. The four-stage guideline of CALF was used as self-evaluating instrument for all of our missions. The instrument encouraged our STs to review the formation of laity according to the stages and report it the annual mission evaluation.
2. The Parish in Coachella, CA with the Valley Missionary Program was initiated to help develop a working model. The model continues to develop strongly in all its stages. Special attention is been placed on the formation of the 145 small faith communities in the retreat program and formation of the parish leaders in the Catholic faith and mission (koinonia). Also missionary outreach especially to farmworkers and youth (Diakonia) has been initiated. More and more the CALF efforts are united in the parish and the Valley Missionary Program.
3. Other parish missions are developing apostolic formation of laity along the guideline of CALF. Our Lady of Victory, Compton, CA participates in the Valley Missionary Program and has established its own retreat team and coordinators for the small faith communities. Chimihuacan, Mexico continues the format of the Busqueda encounters. Fr. Francisco Nunez has initiated the Busqueda format and encounters in Hidalgo. (the committee members have not been designated to visit and evaluate the programs in Mexico.) Fr. Bob Goodyear in the Native American Mission of Tucker, Mississippi has a full curriculum of missionary disciple formation organized around the liturgical and catechetical formation.
4. Non -parish missions: The formation house in Costa Rica has initiated the Dios Familia encounters. They are in early stages and have not yet established small faith communities to continue formation.

The Mission Committee acknowledges that other missions may have efforts that incorporate the CALF guide. However, the committee members have not visited or reviewed these missions.

The CALF guideline is still not fully understood. The next Council with a Vicar for Missions may be able to visit and communicate the dynamic of the four stages of CALF. To assist with familiarizing others with the model of CALF a video presentation is available on YOUTUBE.

In English: <http://youtu.be/C6Echk0QkMM>

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