

COLOMBIA REGION

MISSIONARY SERVANTS OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

RE: REPORT OF REGIONAL MEETING OF FEBRUARY, 2015

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CENACLE, GUAMAL, MAGDALENA

Present: Mariano Fernández, S.T., Luis Fernando Díaz, S.T., Edwin Guerra, S.T

ST. JOSEPH'S MISSIONARY CENACLE, LA ESTRELLA, ANTIOQUIA

Present: Gilberto Rodríguez, S.T., Diovany F. Ramos, S.T., Raúl Mejía, S.T., Raúl Vásquez, S.T., José de Jesús Martínez, S.T., Alexander Díaz, S.T., Andrethène Alexandre, S.T., Guiteau A. Charles, S.T., John A. Franco, S.T., Juan C. Cabrera, S.T., Gustavo Baloco, S.T., Eder Tufay, S.T.

The meeting began with prayer followed by a scriptural reading and the letter from the steering committee for the General Cenacle. We reflected together resulting in what follows:

___ We are all invited to make proposals. There are always things that are lacking and the chapter season is a privileged time. Ideas come as gifts on how we can make the congregation better. It is a good motivation to picture the future of the community.

___ The Chapter ought to be seen as an instrument of light and of salt of the earth. It is of vital importance to be called to meet as members, but the question is, ¿are we really seeing it this way, as a privileged moment?

___ To be a Missionary Servant is a gift. ¿Do we recognize ourselves as a gift? ¿Are we clear about what we are for the world and what role we play in the Church? It is a privilege to be able to contribute to the General Cenacle. It is a moment to express our concerns without fear and to ask ourselves, ¿what is our identity and where are we going?

___ In unity we look for what really are the signs of the times in which we live, the general situation of the Church and the future of the congregation.

We then proceeded to explain the dynamics of the meeting. The result follows:

FORMATION IN THE CHARISM

___ **If our response is dealing with the formation programs, we think that a formation counsel that includes priests in missions or in apostolic work, is an urgent consideration for these programs. This would include the evaluation of the Holy**

Week, summer and Christmas periods. This would provide a general and wide vision of the skills in the different formative areas.

___ If we are talking about formation we are talking about responsibility and shared responsibility. That would include all those who are not members of the VDC. How to look out for, through our witness, in a concrete way, the wellbeing of the congregation, the formation of new members and the good name of the congregation.

___ It is through our example that the Cenacle spirit is transmitted. Seeing a Missionary Servant impassioned by his mission fills us up so as to learn and want to be impassioned with mission in the same way. We must give importance to the fact that each Missionary Servant should become aware of his role and also that he transmits, through his example, his very being as a Trinitarian Missionary.

___ Being more human and treating one another like true brothers and not like just fellow laborers. A humanitarian spirit has to be developed in the mission.

___ We have to return to the Rule of Life and to our constitution because there is the essence of our charism. We have to make them real in our life, in order to see more humanity in our cenacles.

___ There is a problem in concentrating all responsibility in one individual. One person alone has to be Custodian, economist legal representative and pastor. We should think of other administrative models and share responsibility with other Missionary Servants living in the same cenacle. A cooperative spirit will then be achieved.

___ Sometimes we trust lay people more than our own brothers in delegating responsibilities. Lack of trust is not helpful in transmitting the charism or the spirit of brotherhood.

___ It is necessary to treat one another like brothers and not like slaves who only work in the mission like so many other workers in the parish or mission. We need to take seriously communal spaces, prayer, recreation.

___ In the post novitiate there no proper mission for us to develop the Trinitarian charism.

SPIRITUALITY

___ It is beautiful to talk about the concept of family, but we have to be sincere and recognize that in every family someone has to represent authority. Maybe that is what we see indirectly and unconsciously, a superiority struggle incarnated in lay people and in the Sisters.

___ It is urgent to enter into a spirituality of communion, or in a spirituality that includes other people, that accepts one's brothers and which motivates us to be more a religious congregation, an identity of life for the Kingdom.

___ Spaces to be together, to dare to give priority to being brothers

___ In our lives as Missionary Servants there are some structures that promote our apostolic spirituality. These are: personal and community prayer in which we put in the hands of the Lord all our activities, difficulties and apostolic joys and we recover our strength to return to the mission field. Another structure is our Missionary Cenacle devotions especially to the Holy Spirit, the experience of the Eucharist, the apostolate, the spiritual accompaniment, the sacraments, doing team work and not as individuals.

___ Among other structures needed to develop this type of spirituality we recommend the seriousness and experience of the annual retreats or every six months and the spiritual accompaniment of all members.

ON-GOING FORMATION IN COMMUNITY

___ Several brothers from Guamal have this to say: How many committees are there in the congregation? Perhaps this was the first question we asked ourselves. Is it necessary to name more committees? There are resources available, why not take advantage of Custodians or regional coordinators who have been chosen by the members. Let us give the regional coordinator a wider range of action according to the reason he was elected by the members according to whom he must have the tools needed to be the voice and the place of encounter of the members.

___ Generally the brothers at the Estrella Cenacle think that it would be a valuable thing to establish a team that can provide opportunities to develop the skills of the brothers and their accompaniment, especially those experiencing difficulties. Moreover, it would be something special to have a concern for maintaining ties with the brothers that have left the congregation. This would very well reflect our Christian and human identity which should distinguish us.

___ The brothers in the Guamal Cenacle think that a greater presence of the liaison member of the Council is necessary, a greater concern for the regions.

LEADERSHIP

___ In leadership a difference must be established between a brother who is suited to administer and a brother suited to be a good director with everything this implies.

___ Leaders not only must know what the charism is, but also must live it as well as be able to transmit it.

___ We recommend that leaders be well developed, personally and humanly. By the same token they should possess a strong spirituality, a good sense of community, in short, a man filled with the Holy Spirit.

___ At the moment of electing leaders we should pray to the Holy Spirit for the election of suitable candidates with the necessary skills for leadership and not elect people because we like them, they are friends or they will serve my interests.

___ Let the leaders be anointed men, full of the Holy Spirit, who are anxious to exercise their ministry, that they serve and not compete, good communicators and willing to take counsel.

___ The alternative method for election is not considered viable and is confusing. It can lead to campaigning or to make leadership a guetto. Let us continue being led by the Spirit who is supposed to guide the delegates.

MISSION

___ Colombia is crying out for a new mission where the newly professed may develop the apostolic spirit of our charism. However, the brothers in Guamal are of the opinion that such a new mission should be near them, while the brothers in La Estrella think in Medellín or near the post-novitiate.

___ We think it is necessary to go back to the Extended Council and that regional coordinators be in charge of the mission team.

___ The function of the regional coordinator is still confused

___ We can talk about the apostolate, vocations, charism, the laity...but what comes to mind is the effort that each member makes in his daily life, that his relationship with another leaves him impregnated with his love for the charism.

___ It is necessary to make an inventory of the resources that we have in the congregation, like tools, experiences, and materials so as to take advantage of them in our formation and to inspire the apostolic spirit in the lay people we accompany.

___ There is a desire to form MCA, we are waiting for the right time. We need to be motivated and that the MCA also become involved

___ Some of the brothers from the Cenacle in Guamal think that the theory and practice of systemic change breeds confusion. The brothers from La Estrella say they understand the value of systemic change but that more formation and information is needed.

___ It is a challenge to open attention spaces to respond integrally to pastoral problems in the mission. Evangelization should be integral. As a region and in this same aspect, we think we need to keep on forming ourselves and receiving formation. This goes with what we understand as systemic change.

___ We believe we have to study thoroughly the culture of the people where we are present because we think that the culture of the people and our own culture is what keeps us from developing a mission with a systemic change perspective. It is no secret to any of us that in evangelizing, consciousness raising is the most difficult part. This is the great challenge of systemic change.

February 28, 2015