

MINUTES OF THE SILVER SPRING REGIONAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2015

Fr. Judge M. C., Adelphi MD

PRESENT: Richard Mc Cann, Jordan Baxter, Bill Coombs, Hilary Mettes, Boris Farrah, Stephen Ernst, Louis Murphy, Steven Vesely, Ed Sittinger, John Skrodinsky, Victor Seidel, Chris Reilly, Walter O' Donnell, Howard Piller, Roberto Mena, Joel Bladt, Stephen Giorno, Anselm Deehr, Rudy Breunig Jim O'Bryan, and Dan Mclaughlin.

- 1) We began our meeting with prayer led by Rudy Breunig.
- 2) Handout from the General Cenacle coordinating committee includes a compilation of Regional reports and concerns; observations based on John Edmunds report and the deliberations of the Pre-Chapter,

FORMING IN THE CHARISM

The confreres mentioned the following; **A)** We need to define our terms e.g. what do we mean by mission, or systemic change. Systemic change in the dictionary seems to be a change that affects the whole organization. It is the process of trying to get to the root of a problem by working with the people for a solution. Beyond the definition, we need specific guidelines, like the Vincentians have. We heard several examples of systemic change: the credit union at Fides House, Jaime Pfeiffer's work in Coamo, PR. Instead of giving someone a fish, one is taught to fish. Formation programs will teach our students processes for systemic change. **B)** How can we instill the cenacle charism in our candidates? We are different from the diocesan priests. We must accept the challenges and mistakes of the past. There is a grace to be discovered in past errors as a theology of failure. We could invite the newly ordained/finally professed to our cenacle for mass and sharing. We (FJMC) have spoken with the novices in Mexico using SKYP. Formators could use the Book of Memories in their programs. We have much material like photos, movies that could be sent out electronically. There are also old issues of the Missionary Servant Magazine with great mission stories.

MISSION

What are the practical methods and models that we have for apostolic formation? **A)** We need to engage the people we serve and together raise their and our consciousness. The expression of this engagement will be different in each cenacle. We need specific mechanism and training for realizing this. The formation of apostles would help in the mission evaluation process. **B)** It is very important to encourage Missionary Cenacle Family and support the sisters in their difficulties. **C)** Our relationship with the MCA seems distant. However, it is growing in Latin America and Puerto Rico. We pray each day for an MCA cenacle through the ordo. The MCA national scene is difficult but on the local level, it is much better. Sr. Debbie Wilson has designed

a process for forming MCAs and Dennis Berry wrote a book on MCA spirituality. The group of MSBT and ST spiritual directors for the MCA has dissipated. Roberto is involved in the formation of a lay group that might become an MCA.

SPIRITUALITY

A) How do we individually express basic devotional practices (Incarnation, Holy Trinity, and Passion of Christ)? What about practices like the rosary or the Stations of the Cross? **B)** The spiritual exercises are helpful because its basis is Cenacle Spirituality. They began with the labors of Frs. Stephen Quinn and Vincent Fitzpatrick. Dennis Berry with others continued their work. Missionary Cenacle Ordo is also helpful.

ONGOING FORMATION IN COMMUNITY

There were questions regarding the team approach, helping confreres who are hurting or are in difficult situations, particularly younger confreres. **A)** For some this seems more like a formation issue while others felt it was the council's responsibility. However, some confreres find it difficult to speak with those in authority (formation director or council member). Perhaps a team modeled on the Equity Committee or an individual would be a better response. **B)** There are multiple reasons why confreres leave the congregation. Some should not have been professed. Others thought they had a vocation and realized they did not have the call. Others returned the gift of a vocation to God. Some left because the challenge to serve the poor was not fulfilled.

C) The mentoring committee might help us hear from the younger confreres. We need their feedback. Some of our young confreres in formation feel we need a better sense of what multicultural really means.

DISCERNING FUTURE LEADERSHIP

A) There are models of discernment involving a whole community in the selection of its leadership. Perhaps we need a process of choosing delegates based on age or culture. **B)** Many of the models of discernment involve discussing people for a position in leadership. However, the Conduct of the General Cenacle discourages discussing possible candidates for leadership. **C)** The members of the General Cenacle should take seriously the straw ballot.

OTHER ISSUES FOR THE GENERAL CENACLE

A) The GC should consider the vocation of the Missionary Brother. There is a committee working on this. **B)** The General Cenacle should discern the question of the number of delegates (32) for consequent General Cenacles. Are there too many delegates for the size of our community? Would a lower number be more efficient and less costly? **C)** The region decided to take a take a vote.

Less number of delegates: 9.

Abstain: 4

Keep as is: 3

Our next regional meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2015** at the Fr. Judge MC 9:30AM-3:30PM.

We closed with a prayer led by Walter O'Donnell.

Stephen Ernst, ST
Coordinator