

**Meeting of JPCC (Justice, Peace & Care for Creation) Asia Pasific Coordinators -**  
**January 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> 2013**

**1<sup>st</sup> Meeting Session**  
**Report from Each Zone**

**Vietnam - Sr Maria Ha Dihn, OP**

In building justice and peace in Vietnam, they have only committed their selves through simple forms of ministries such as : taking care of human life from womb to womb, from children to youth, etc. the example are :

1. Caring for the neglected elderly women

Suoi tien (fairy stream) shelter, a sweet home for neglected elderly women, run by the Dominican sisters of Tam Hiep, can accommodate until 100 persons. The sisters help in cleaning rooms, washing clothes, providing healthcare, feeding, bathing, praying, etc.

2. Training vocational skills and creating jobs for the youth

The Dominican sisters of Bui chu established a sewing and embroidering garment factory in order to help young people to get the appropriate work in a healthy environment.

3. Providing education for the handicapped, poor, street children and youth

St. Martin Center, run by the Dominican sisters of Thanh Tam, is a small school for around 70 children of disabilities such as visual, hearing, language, and mobility impairments. They also help to organized education, healthcare and shelter for many students, so they can finish their school.

4. Protect the life of unborn children and the welfare of mothers

Dominican sisters have built a warm house with the purpose to promote the life and welfare of mothers during pregnancy and of their children from the time of conception up to, during and after birth. The sisters try to create a good condition in order these unfortunate young mothers are able to live with safe and peaceful.

**Philippines - Fr Bienvenido Jr., OP**

1. Philippines were just able to move after the conference of Philippines Dominican Family by making a conference for the labor. There were all participants from different Dominican families, and we got speakers from labor, government, and church.
2. One of collaborative works with Dominican Family occurred on responding the typhoon in Mindanao. Dominican families were able to provide some amount to help rehabilitation of the victims. During Ondoy typhoon there was some amount donated as well as goods. More collaborative works are still ongoing.
3. There is new promoter, Fr Pablo Tiong who has gathered network with all Dominican school for outreach program to work among the poor and giving the poor education as well as scholarship.

**Sr Cecilia Bayani, OP**

1. The works of the woman includes conference on judicial killing and human right.

2. The sisters' collaboratively handling pastoral ministry for the abused women and children.
3. Planting 800 trees in the sisters' convent to celebrate 800 anniversaries.
4. The sister also educates students on contraception for Dominicans actually stands against the reproductive bill which allowing minors to use contraception under parents' supervision.

**Japan - Fr Raymond L.**

We are not really confronted with the same cases like other regions, but in Japan, there are many problems after the tsunami. Due to the situation, there is a program for social reconstruction such as giving a better place for the children of the tsunami victims.

Moreover, there is also support over people who has been under pressure due to the work and financial status. Aside from that, there is also an orphanage that is organized by the sisters.

**Indonesia - Sr Hermine, OP**

After the Sawangan meeting on July 2010, we delegates the mission on several area which are:

- Central Java which focuses on garbage management, visitation of the convent workers' families and the plantation of trees;
- West Java which focuses on garbage management, land utilization, prison visit, workers' families visit, giving Holy Communion to the sick, care for human trafficking issues, loans for tricycles;
- DKI Jakarta which focuses on garbage management, utilization of land, catfish production as a source of protein, honey production.

Since then, each region has worked on their specific action plans. Below are the concrete actions that they have taken.

- DKI Jakarta:

Educating the children about garbage management, catfish has been harvested, utilized the land to grow vegetables for the children, honey has been harvested and produced successfully once, visits to the children families, recollection and recreation for the workers of the school .

- West Java:

Prison visit, visits to the families of the workers of the convent. They found that many of the families of the workers actually live in very poor houses, therefore they gave some financial support to the families for house reparation. During the prison visits, they found more than five teenagers who graduated from Santa Maria, a Catholic school, who are in jail because of their involvement with drugs. One of them was even working for an international drug-dealer network. There are also issues with many overseas foreign workers (OFWs) who were Catholic, many of them could only manage to finish primary three, they marry at the age of 14 or 15 years old and they are sent to work as domestic housemaid in Kuwait, Jordan, Malaysia and Hongkong. They prefer to be OFWs

because of the higher wages they can earn overseas though there are cases of abuse or rape. There is an OFW who was not paid for 9 months, after seeking refuge to the Indonesian Embassy, she was sent back to Indonesia and in Jakarta airport, she had to get a loan for transport fees so she can return to home. The sisters provide free training and working skill for them so they can work in Indonesia, but it is difficult to change their mindset because they want to get higher wages by working overseas. A worker in the convent was an OFW, her sister who was an OFW came home because she was raped in Saudi Arabia and she was pregnant. West Java has the highest rate of human trafficking in Indonesia. There are situations where the sisters cannot give financial loans to the needy because of the issue of Christianization.

- Central Java:  
Participated in training programs for garbage management, prison visits, welfare of convent workers and the planting of trees and plants.

#### **Sr Teresa, OP**

prison visit story; joined with Legion of Mary in their work; visit the families of the convent workers, they felt happy and appreciated by the visits of the sisters.

#### **Theo Atmadi, OP**

In Jakarta The lay Dominican supports sisters on garbage management, farm and the catfish breeding. Moreover, during the Eid'l Fitri holiday, the Dominican laity helped the sisters with their housework as the workers were off during the religious holiday.

Transfer and sharing of knowledge and expertise between convents. Technology helps in communication & sharing of experiences.

#### Suggestion:

The solution to the Christianization issue is to be familiar and personal with the locals. Mistrust will lessen and mutual appreciation will grow as relationship deepens.

#### **Australia & New Zealand – Sr Gabriella Kelly, OP**

Currently in Australia, there are 30 convents. Their main concern is the abuse of women and children, climate change and issues of development of the Aborigines.

One of the problems faced is getting in touch with the convents in various parts of Australia and New Zealand; hence, it is difficult to get their input and written reports.

The main concerns of the Dominicans in New Zealand include the lobbying action to protect the environment and human trafficking issues.

The Dominican friars of Australia are not that concerned with justice & peace, as they are focusing on theology and preaching.

#### **SOUTH ASIA REPORT: - Fr Prakash L., OP**

in India has been running a project for children from the street collaborating with an NGO. Due to several hindrances, Fr Prakash is now assisted by the sisters who are doing various ministries. Indeed, more effort is needed to contact them and compile their activities. We must ask them to participate and collaborate by sharing their activities and experiences.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting Session**

### **PLAN FOR JPCC MEETING 2014: Inter-religious Dialogue**

The 2014 meeting will be in Indonesia. The theme is “Inter-religious dialogue in Asia-Pacific”. We plan to have a joint meeting with IDEO, the Dominican Institute of Oriental studies, focusing on the study of Islam.

Some suggestions in the agenda are as follows; to encourage people for inter-religious dialogue and peace building in religious conflict environment.

However, there is a concern that joining the meeting with IDEO will blur the theme of Justice and Peace. We have to make sure that other religions will be represented during the meeting, such as the indigenous religions of the Aborigines. Hence, there is a need for direct contact with the Dominicans specializing in the studies of religions in each country. We will also make sure that the joint meeting with IDEO will give a lot of focus on the justice and peace aspect of inter-religious dialogue with Islam.

### **SUGGESTION FOR JPCC 2014**

#### **1. Theme**

*Coming together as bridge-makers: the challenge of interfaith dialogue and peace building in our regions*

(a joint conference of the Asia-Pacific Justice peace and Care of Creation Network and Journees Romaines Dominicaines\*)