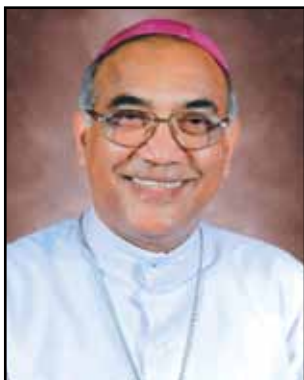




COMMUNION

Message



Most Rev Dr. Aloysius Paul D'Souza
Bishop of Mangalore Diocese
Chairperson – Commission for SCCs

Dear Members,

187 bishops of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) came together at the Alphonsian Pastoral Institute, Palai in Kerala, the place sanctified by St. Alphonsa, from February 5 -12, 2014, for the 31st Plenary Assembly. In continuation of the 30th Plenary Assembly's theme, Role of the Church for a Better India, the Bishops deliberated, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, on the theme: "Renewed Church for a Renewed Society - Responding to the Call of Vatican II".

The Conference recalled the Church's self-understanding, enshrined in the Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*, as the pilgrim People of God, a community rooted in a deep experience of the Trinitarian God in Christ Jesus. *Ad Gentes*, reminds us that the Church is a community with a mission to evangelize, to proclaim the good news of Jesus to all, a mission entrusted to her by Jesus and the Spirit. The Church exercises her mission in a world marked by a tremendous imbalance: a few very rich and the vast majority poor struggling to eke out a living.

The Church in India has tried to live up to the vision of Vatican II. Several people have been led to a deep experience of God through reading the Word of God, through the traditional practices of piety and through the Charismatic Movement. In many places Small Christian Communities (SCCs), rooted in the Word and Eucharist have been established. "These communities are a sign of vitality within the Church, an instrument of formation and evangelization, and a solid starting point for a new society based on a 'civilization of love'" (Redemptoris Missio, 51).

At times, SCCs have been considered mere prayer groups and Sunday Liturgy preparation groups; they are much more than these. They are for us the "concrete expression of Church in the neighborhood" (FC -85) and they promote three aspects of Christian life. That is:

- The formation of the faithful in Faith.
- The sharing of Faith experiences.
- The living of Faith (witnessing).

So, when the SCC comes together, it needs to take into account these three aspects and plan well the proceedings. NST for SCCs has published a study book 'DIIPA INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP' on SCCs. This is a very good resource book and is helpful in many ways. First of all, all SCCs receive a basic formation which is common for all. Thus the Church in Karnataka, gives a very good image of the Church as the 'ONE' Catholic Church. Secondly, the book clarifies the misconceptions that prevail in the minds of the faithful about the SCC like seeing SCC as one more association or treating SCC like a prayer group, etc. Thirdly, this text ensures that SCC animators are exposed to and initiated into the participatory and empowering method most suited for SCC animation. Other methods like expert teaching or long lectures etc., keep people as passive listeners. I would request all the Diocesan Secretaries to make use of this book and strengthen SCCs in their respective Dioceses by conducting regular ongoing training programs for Priests, Religious and Laity.

I am sure that the road ahead of us is challenging. But we count on the presence of the Risen Lord who, through the power of His Spirit, "makes all things new" (Rev. 21:5). All renewal is always the work of the Spirit. We place our efforts at renewing the Church in view of renewing society in the hands of Mary, our Mother, and the Star of Evangelization.

May Risen Lord bless all of you.





Rev Fr. Harold Pereira.
Regional Secretary -
Commission for SCCs

From the editor's desk

I am happy to place before you the present issue of our Regional SCC Newsletter 'COMMUNION'. The "SCCs National Convention 2013" at Goa has given fresh lease of life to SCCs in Karnataka. Based on the suggestion of the participants who attended the SCCs National Convention 2013 the Regional Council for SCCs is planning for a Regional Convention.

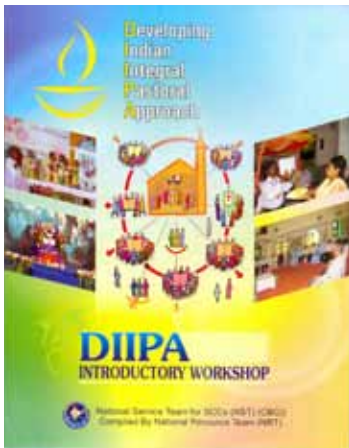
I visited SCC Secretaries of Karwar, Gulbarga, Bellary, Chikmagalur, and Mangalore Dioceses and received feedback about the First National SCC Convention 2013 and learnt that the SCC Convention has created a great amount of awareness among the people and has motivated the participants. Before the spirit of the First National SCC Convention dies, there is a need to have a Regional SCC Convention. Since 2015 is the silver Jubilee year of 'The Final Statement of the Fifth Plenary Assembly of Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference (FABC) Bandung, Indonesia July 27, 1990 (Bandung Statement), it is befitting to have the First Regional SCC Convention in this year. I make an appeal to all the Diocesan Secretaries and the animators to think in this line and help us by giving your valuable suggestions to realize this dream.

A few Diocesan Secretaries (Mangalore, Gulbarga, Shimoga, Bellary, Mysore, Udupi, Belgaum and Bangalore) have submitted their annual SCC reports. I wish that the others also submit their reports in time so that I may consolidate all the reports and send it to the National Secretary on time.

I am deeply pleased to share my joy with the readers the note of appreciation written by the Emeritus Auxiliary of Mumbai Archdiocese Most Rev. Bosco Penha about our Region's SCC work.

I take this opportunity to thank all the Diocesan Secretaries for their hard work in building communities and wish them best of luck for their future ministry.

May God bless our SCCs.



At the three days' (14th-17th March 2014) NCSCCs meeting which took place at Prabhodana, Mysore organized by NST for SCCs, the above study book '**DIIPA INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP**' on SCCs compiled by National Resource Team (NRT) was released by Most Rev. Gerald Mathias, Chairman, CCBI Laity Commission.



The various papers presented at the 'International Theological Congress on SCCs' at PAC Nagpur from August 17th -19th 2011 are edited and compiled in a book form with a title "**BREAKING GROUND**" by NST for SCCs was released by Most Rev. Thomas Dabre, Chairman, NST for SCCs.

Bishop Bosco Penha



Our Lady of Salvation Church, S.K. Bole Road, Dadar,
Mumbai 400 028. Tel.: 2431 0895

November 25, 2013

Fr. Harold Pereira
Karnataka Regional Pastoral Centre
Wheeler Road Extn.
Bangalore-84

Dear Fr. Harold,

It was a great joy meeting you at the recent Convention of the Small Christian Communities. But what brought me even more joy, encouragement and hope was the very systematic way in which your Commission is working to implement SCCs in the Diocese of Karnataka. The power point presentation was very well done. This was not the case some years ago. I am therefore amazed at how methodically the Commission is working at present. Perhaps it is due to the leadership of Bishop Aloysius? I am therefore sending a copy of this letter to him as well.

Please convey my congratulations, appreciation and gratitude to all the members of your Commission.

Praying for God's continued and abundant blessings on the work of your Commission and with affectionate good wishes,

Bishop Bosco Penha
Em. Aux. Bishop
Archdiocese of Bombay

Gratefully,

Copy: Bishop Aloysius D' Souza, Mangalore; for information Warm congratulations! What a joy it was to meet you.

NATIONAL COUICL FOR SCCs AT MYSORE

The third meeting of the National Council for SCCs was held at Prabhodana, Mysore from 14th -17th March, 2014. Three members from Karnataka Region participated in it.

On the first day (14th): the meeting began with a Bible Enthronement. At the introductory session the participants were sent into smaller groups to discuss on the following three questions:

1. What are the significant events that took place in the region after the Kolkota meeting 2012?
2. What is the impact of the First SCC National Convention 2013 at Goa?
3. What are the challenges ahead?

On the second day (15th)

The Inaugural Eucharist was presided by Most Rev Thomas Vazhappilly, Bishop of Mysore.

Session I: Summary report of the 13 regions was presented by Fr. Peter Emmanuel of Delhi Archdiocese.

Session II: The Importance of Team building, Animation, Methodology was done in small groups.

Session III: Introduction of New NST Introductory text, its history, importance and content.



The DIIPA Introductory Workshop book was released by Bp. Gerald Mathias and two lessons of the same book were given for group study.

On the third day (16th)

Study of the lessons in smaller groups was continued and after the presentation of the lessons plenum session was held to evaluate team work and leanings. There was a half day city sightseeing.

On the fourth day (17th)

Session I: Presentation by Abp Emeritus Vincent Concessao & team on Parliamentary Election.

Session II: SCCs can enable Socio-Economic –Political action (group study).

Session III: Follow up of SCC survey conclusions and revive of implementation of Regional Vision – Mission plans.

Then Region-wise planning and reporting took place. The meeting concluded with Eucharistic celebration by Most Rev. Thomas Dabre, Chairman NST for SCCs.

Mr. V. M. Francis (NRT member, Bangalore)



*SCC Animators training on
2nd March 2014 at Bunkal Parish
of Chikmagalur Diocese*



*SCC Animators training on
9th March 2014 at Shomoga.*



*Archdiocesan Deacons training
from 23rd to 25th January 2014
at Bangalore. Archdiocese*

DIOCESAN REPORTS OF SCCS (2013-2014)

I DIOCESE OF UDUPI

- 25/08/2013 - Kundapur deanery level training for Wado Committee members at St. Mary's Junior College, Kundapur. 225 participants were present.
- 26/08/2013 - SCC training to the priests of Udupi Deanery.
- 26, 27/08/2013 - Mr. Walter D' Souza, and Mr. Walter Martis attended the two days' TOT program at KRPC, Bangalore.
- 29/09/2013 - A half day training program at Koteswar parish, 35 participants.
- 13/10/2013 - Formation of Diocesan Animation Team, 10 Participants.
- 27/10/2013 - A half day training program at Udupi for Udupi Deaneary, 120 participants.
- 29/10/2013 - Formation for clergy of Shirva Deanery at Pangala Parish.
- 18 – 22/11/2103 - 14 participants attended the First National SCC Convention 2013 at Goa.
- 14/01/2014 - Finalized the Vision, Mission statements and objectives (pastoral plan).
- 02/03/2014 - A one day training for animators of Karkal Deanery at Ajejar parish, 100 Participants.

Fr. Alphonse D' Lima (Diocesan Secretary for SCCs)

II DIOCESE OF GULBARGA

Karnataka Regional Secretary for Commission for SCCs, Fr. Harold Pereira visited the Gulbarga Diocese on 8th, 9th and 10th of March 2014. On 8th evening along with the DAT of Gulbarga Diocese two each SCC units of Ujini and Santhpur centers were visited.



On 9th after the Eucharist at Santhpur Centre, a half day training program was held for 23 animators of Ujini, Santhpur, Bidar and Bhalki. On the same day evening two SCC units of Bhalki and one of Bidar centers were visited.

On 10th small get-together for DAT of Gulbarga Diocese was held at Hulsoor. Fr. Harold Pereira visited every DAT religious members in their respective Centers and lay members in their families. He also met the Bishop of Gulbarga. On 10th afternoon, he met Fr. Anil Crasta the parish priest of Itaga centre. In the evening, he visited the Cathedral parish priest, Fr Sunil Andrade.

On 11th morning, he celebrated thanksgiving Eucharist at Bishop's House. He thanked the Diocese for taking keen interest in building the Christian Communities around the Word of God through SCC.

- 12/06/2013 – Attended SCC directors meet at KRPC Bangalore.
- 26, 27/08/2013 – TOT program at KRPC, Bangalore, 5 participants.
- 18 – 22/11/2013 – 7 participants attended the First National SCC Convention 2013 at Goa.

Fr. Clary D' Souza (Diocesan Secretary for SCCs)

III DIOCESE OF MYSORE

- 10,11/08/2013 – Meeting of the SCC animators at St. Anne's Church, Virajpet, 14 participants.
- 17/08/2013 – Visit to the PP and Assistant PP of Our Lady of the Poor Church, Bannimantap.
- 26, 27/08/2013 – TOT program at KRPC, Bangalore, 5 participants.
- 01/09/2013 – One day training at of Our Lady of the Poor Church, Bannimantap.
- 29/09/2013 – Visit to Our Lady of Fatima Church, Kadamullur.
- 26, 27/10/ 2013 – Visit to Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Martalli and St Francis Xavier's Church.
- 18 – 22/11/2103 – 11 participants attended the First National SCC Convention 2013 at Goa.
- 26/01/2013 – An inauguration of 10 SCC units in Shanivarasanthe.

Fr. Prashant Kumar (Diocesan Secretary for SCCs)

IV ARCHDIOCESE OF BANGALORE

- 27- 29/05/2013 – Animators training at Sacred Heart Church, 40 participants.
- 10/08/2013 – SCC training for the Religious at St. Charles Boromeo Convent, 30 participants
- 18 – 22/11/2103 – 22 participants attended the First National SCC Convention 2013 at Goa.
- 23 – 25 /01/ 2014 – SCC Training for Deacons at Paalana Bhavan, 7 participants.
- 25 /01/2014 – Training of Animators, 150 participants.

Fr. Susai Raj (Diocesan Secretary for SCCs)

V DIOCESE OF SHIMOGA

- 12/6/2013 – Attended SCC directors meet at KRPC Bangalore.
- 26, 27/08/2013 – TOT program at KRPC, Bangalore, 4 participants.



- 27/10/2013 – SCC awareness program - Ragigudda Parishioners, 300 participants
- 10/11/2013 – SCC training for Core Committee- Holy Family Deanery, 30 Participants
- 01/12/2013 – SCC awareness program- Hosanagar Parishioners, 250 Participants
- 18 – 22/11/2013 – 8 participants attended the First National SCC Convention 2013 at Goa.
- 02/02/2014 – SCC orientation program - Little Flower Deanery, 56 participants
- 16/02/2014 – SCC awareness program- Davanagere Parishioners, 75 participants.
- 19/02/ 2014 – Training of the Trainers-SMSSS, Shimoga, 19 participants.
- 02/03/2014 – SCC awareness program - Paper Town, Bhadravathi, 190 participants.
- 09/03/2014 – SCC awareness program – Kargal, 190 participants.

Fr. Dumming Dias (Diocesan Secretary for SCCs)

VI DIOCESE OF MANGALORE

- 12/6/2013 – Attended SCC directors meet at KRPC Bangalore.
- 26/07/2013 – Deanery Conveners and Coordinators meeting
- 26, 27/08/2013 – TOT program at KRPC, Bangalore, 5 participants.
- 27/10/2013 – Parish Animators training at Pastoral Institute, Bajjodi, 100 participants.
- 18 – 22/11/2013 – 24 participants attended the First National SCC Convention 2013 at Goa.
- 06/12/2013 – Deanery Conveners and Coordinators meeting
- 27/02/2014 – City Deanery Convention, 400 Participants
- 27/03/2014 – Deanery Conveners and Coordinators meeting
- 27/03/2014 – Kinnigoli Deanery Convention, 250 Participants
- 29/03/2014 – SCC Seminar for Regents at St Joseph's Seminary, 30 Regents participated.

Fr. Walter D' Souza (Diocesan Secretary for SCCs)

VII DIOCESE OF BELGAUM

- 12/06/2013 – Attended SCC directors meet at KRPC Bangalore
- 26, 27/08/2013 – TOT program at KRPC, Bangalore, 4 participants.
- 18 – 22/11/2103 – 17 participants attended the First National SCC Convention 2013 at Goa.
- 01/12/2013 – SCC Animators meeting at Sevalaya Dharwad, 36 Participants
- 08/12/2013 – SCC Animators meeting at Divine Mercy church, Hunchinatti, 25 Participants
- 15/12/2013 – SCC Animators meeting at Milagaris Church, Khanapur, 12 Participants

Fr. Stanley D' Souza (Diocesan Secretary for SCCs)

VIII DIOCESE OF BELLARY

- 12/6/2013 – Attended SCC directors meet at KRPC Bangalore.
- 26, 27/08/2013 – TOT program at KRPC, Bangalore, 5 participants.
- 06/10/2013 – SCC Animators training at Bishop's House Bellary, 72 participated
- 18 – 22/11/2103 – 14 participants attended the First National SCC Convention 2013 at Goa.
- 11 /03/2014 – The Regional Secretary visited the Diocese.

Fr. Anil Kumar (Diocesan Secretary for SCCs)

REGIONAL COMMISSION'S PAST ACTIVITIES:

- 12/06/2013 – Diocesan SCC Secretaries meeting at KRPC Bangalore, 13 participants.
- 26, 27/08/2013 – TOT program at KRPC, Bangalore, 33 participants.
- 18 – 22/11/2103 – 3 persons from the region attended the First National SCC Convention 2013 at Goa.
- 28/11/ 2013 – Joint meet of 3 Commissions at KRPC, Bangalore.
- 19/01/ 2014 – SCC Sunday Celebration at Omzoor parish, Mangalore Diocese



- 23 – 25/01/ 2014 – Archdiocesan 7 Deacons SCC training at Paalanabavan, Bangalore.
- 28/01/ 2014 – KRPPIC meeting at KRPC, Bangalore.
- 30/01/ 2014 – CCK planning meeting, Ashirvad, Bangalore.
- 02/02/ 2014 – Half day SCC training at Parapady church, Udupi Diocese (75 participants)
- 16/02/ 2014 – SCC preaching at Naganyapalya Church, Bangalore.
- 19/02/ 2014 – DAT training at Shimoga (19 participants)
- 22/02/ 2014 – CCK meeting at KROSS, Bangalore.
- 23/02/ 2014 – Preaching on SCC at Sacred Heart Parish, Bangalore.
- 27/02/ 2014 – Deanery Convention at Kinnigoli, Mangalore (250 participants).
- 02/03/2014 – One day training at Bunkal Parish, Chikmaglur Diocese (52 participants)
- 09/03/ 2014 – Animators Training at Bhalki, Gulbarga Diocese (23 Animators).
- 11/03/ 2014 – Visit to Bellary Diocesan SCC Secretary at Kustagi.
- 14 -17/03/ 2014 – NCSCCs meeting at Mysore.

Sr. Emilia Monteiro SMI – Regional Joint Secretary.

Journeying Together Towards The Third Millennium

Summary of the Bandung statement- (The Final Statement of the 5th Plenary Assembly of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference 1990, Bandung Indonesia issued on July 27, 1990).

I. Introduction

At Bandung in Indonesia Bishops, priests, religious & laity came together experienced a communion that resembled the Asian church in miniature. In an atmosphere of mutual sharing and dialogue, they considered the theme "The Emerging Challenges for the Church in Asia and Churches respond to these challenges".

II. The Challenges and hopes

A. The challenges of Ferment and Change in Asia

1. Emergence of popular movements in the society
2. Globalization
3. New Economic Prosperity benefiting the elite group
4. Widespread ethnic and communal conflict and violence
5. Religious fundamentalism
6. Modernization
7. Exploitation of Natural resources
8. Violation of Human Rights

B. The Challenges of Continuing Injustice

1. Massive Poverty and people are debarred from access to natural resources
2. Unemployment, Child abortion
3. Cultural Imperialism, limit based on religion, caste, political, economic, ethnic, etc

C. Hope at Cross Roads

1. Growth in consciousness about Justice
2. Communities desiring to break the barriers and build the bridges of relationship.
3. The Desire for ecumenical and interreligious dialogue
4. Emergence of Basic Ecclesial communities in the Neighborhood
5. An Era of Crisis and Era of Grace

To be continued.

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To

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and Mr. Joseph M Fernandes.

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