



## *Good Shepherd Asia Pacific Partnership*

### **GSAPP – A DECADE, A MILESTONE**

07-09 January 2019, Restful Waters, Singapore



*"If we have succeeded to some extent in accomplishing our aims, it is only by virtue of the love, full of zeal that we have shown." St. Mary Euphrasia Pelletier*

#### **Lauding a decade of Partnership in Asia-Pacific – a precious GIFT**

*"The Good Shepherd has chosen you,  
He has made you partners in His Mission to all peoples so that you may bear fruit."- SME*

To visualize and dream of Partnership for Mission is one thing,  
To lead, mentor and make Co-responsibility a reality is another,  
But to change the identity of Good Shepherd Mission for the future,  
Needs a visionary and charismatic leader!

Sr. Noelene White, Chair-person, GSAPP has been a *Good Shepherd*,  
Gently shepherding the team since 2008,  
And propelling the co-workers in mission  
To own and rejoice the fruit of labour!

And what more can one desire,  
Than to have APC Leaders in their midst,  
Blessing, and bidding adieu to the team which has been  
Sowing the seeds, harvesting and sharing the fruits of Partnership?

***"Our experience of Good Shepherd draws us together.  
The strength of our partnership propels us out for mission."***

The three-day meeting was the pinnacle of Mission Enrichment, having Srs. Joan Lopez and Chatarina Supatmiyati representing APC (Province Leaders) apart from the virtual presence of Sr. Monica Walsh and the support of the other members in spirit.

**“This is only the last meeting of GSAPP, not the last work; we are Integrated for Mission”, “Partnership continues to develop and flourish in different ways – zeal lived through co-responsibility for the mission has added colour and richness to GS Mission”** - the unified voice of the team members.

### **Formation and Partnership for Mission**

The team had piloted a survey in each unit regarding *‘Formation and Partnership for Mission’*, which was duly presented by each mission partner. It was very encouraging to know that the Co-responsibility Module and GS Credo were being utilized for Formation, Mission Programs included *Good Shepherd Family Gatherings on various occasions – particularly:*

The significance of November 21, as a day of Renewal of Commitment for the Sisters has transcended to a completely new dimension in INDONESIA where all the Mission Partners (Sisters, Staff, Volunteers and Benefactors) renew their sacred commitment in true fellowship, respecting the religious differences and celebrate being *‘Together for Mission’*.

There was a felt need to connect the persons who are responsible for Formation of Mission Partners across the region through different forums, thereby sharing resources and ideas.



#### **Handing over the Baton:**

*"Though old stars burn out and die, look to the new and even beyond"*

As the region transitions towards Integrated Approach, with the Regional Integration Committee carrying the torch forward, GSAPP team concluded its role. The team will collate its achievements over the last ten years, and archive it in the form of a booklet. Further, the lived experience of partnership and co-responsibility has enlivened the mission, a good practice which is a valuable ingredient to pave way for the new dawn.

**We will run the race together....and Integration will drive the Mission.**

**It is not who carries the baton, but that the baton is carried to the finish!**

Sashirekha shared the journey of APIC since 2018, explaining the vision and mission, roles and responsibilities of the APIC team, further highlighting the valuable role of GSAPP representatives as enablers who can implement Integration particularly at the grassroots. Gendrie explained the Integration Framework as a roadmap to help each unit to transition to this new model.



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## **A grand closure:**

Sr. Noelene White led the group through a reflective experience, igniting the commitment of Co-responsibility in each member. The room was warm with gratitude, openness and promise of bright tomorrows!

*What mindset has changed in me and in my unit since Partnership evolved? “Mutuality, trust, shared charism, change of mindsets, extended community, gratitude to the team for holding and tending to each other, mission is alive”*

*What is the practical way I can continue to be a champion of Partnership/ Co-responsibility into the future?*

*“Be open to growth, support each other, communicate, network, be part of the transition and rejoice each effort”*

*My experience in the Partnership team....*



*“GSAPP has become a driving force in the growth of our provincial partnership.*

*We encouraged each other and learned from each other so that our relationship could grow.”*

*“My experience of partnership was very positive since it has a beautiful history and definite future. It is important and essential to have, to strengthen, and to deepen it”*

*“You are my family, my support system”*

*“SAMPOORNA – complete and fulfilling”*

*“A sacred journey of embedding relationship of God with one another – One in Mission”*

## **Félicitations, Au revoir----**

Sr. Monica Walsh, Link person for Partnership – APC sent her congratulatory message, commending the team guided by dynamic Sr. Noelene White, for their significant contribution to AP region. Words of gratitude to the visionaries who worked tirelessly to make this reality, to the Province of Singapore-Malaysia for being generous hosts for so many



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gatherings, to Sr. Anne Dalton for almost being a member in the team, by her loving availability as facilitator, to all the former team members and Unit leaders for their unstinting support and to the International team for their valuable guidance.

### **A journey to remember.....**

The session closed with a memorable ritual led by Sr. Joan Lopez and Melina Ong. Part of the process of creating fresh and healthy water involves washing sand and gravel, a time consuming task. This process was used as a symbol in the ritual.

***Just put your hands into the dirty sand, water and pebbles and let your mind go free!***

***Little do you realize that this sand play will actually produce clear potable water!***



At the end of the activity, each one of us had relived the experience of partnership and joy of creating new life and meaning.

Special appreciation to APC and the Province of Australia- New Zealand for the certificate of appreciation for each member of the team.

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