



Good Shepherd Asia Pacific Partnership & Formation

Good Shepherd Convent, Nayakakanda, Wattala – Sri Lanka

January 22 to 26, 2018

“How happy are we, who are co-workers with the Good Shepherd in His Mission of love and friendship for each person”

St. Mary Euphrasia Pelletier

Celebrating a decade of Partnership in Asia Pacific



SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES

2008: *A rich seed is sown – 72 Mission Partners (sisters and lay) are ignited and inspired- (Kuala Lumpur Gathering)*

“Our experience of Good Shepherd draws us together; the strength of our partnership propels us out for mission.

2013: *‘Mission Partners (sisters and lay people) accept responsibility together for effective and sustainable Good Shepherd Mission into the future. (Co-responsibility Statement)*

2016: *Formation Module on Co-responsibility for Mission developed by Formation and Partnership teams - an outcome of the First Joint meeting on Formation held in the Philippines 2015.*

2018: *Mission Partners own the Mission; celebrate 10 years of co-responsibility and prepare for a new Integrated Approach to sustain Good Shepherd Mission into the future.*

Ably guided and mentored by Sr. Noelene White, Chair-person and gently steered by Sr. Anne Dalton as facilitator along with co-facilitator, Sr. Anya Bourbon, the GSAPP team rekindled their passion for *Shepherding the GS Mission*, over four days of sharing of success stories, refreshing ideas, hopes and dreams.

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The strength of our partnership propels us out for mission.”***

We lift each other up...

While some Units reported immense growth of lay leadership and building new structures that support co-responsibility, some others shared the joy of lay people who identify as co-workers in mission - *from 'working for' to 'working with' GS Mission*. The mutually trusting group explored ways to support each other in areas of language/cultural challenges and mind-sets. The need to archive the growth and development of GSAPP was expressed.

Third Joint Meeting of Partnership and Formation Core Teams: Joint Formation Experience



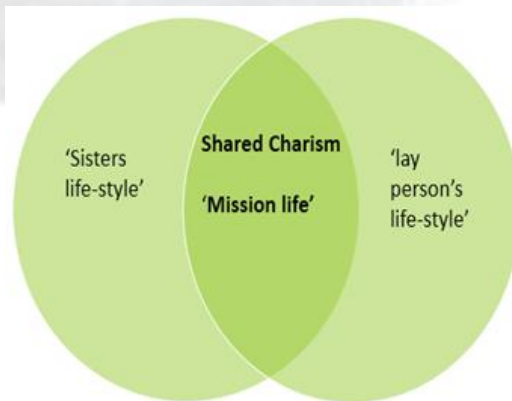
"Be quite sure that as long as beautiful unity exists, God will never cease to fill us with blessings and favours..." SME

The Formation team guided by Sr. Roshanthi Ranwatta, Chairperson, welcomed their new unit members and prepared them to engage in the third mutually enriching joint meeting of both core teams.

Preparing for Integration:

A meaningful reflection: *"We are here on this holy ground for God has called us to be together. We are here for the sake of the call as mission partners. No other reason at all, it is just for the sake of the call"* set the tone of the meeting.

**We do not own Good Shepherd Mission.
The Mission is of God.
It is God's to share.**



Co-responsibility for Mission – Listening to the signs of Time:

Gendrie-Klein-Breteler traced significant references on co-responsibility from SME's time till date, recalling with gratitude the prophetic vision and contribution of Srs. Susan Chia and Pam Molony, thereby stimulating the group to explore new pathways for engagement of lay so as to enliven the mission and make both sisters and lay co-responsible for its sustenance.

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Transformation for Mission - International Committee

Dr. Jason Furtado presented the process of Conversation Circles, an appreciative inquiry 4-D model which includes **discovery, dream, design, and destiny**. This method of engaging in meaningful and reflective conversations is aimed towards formulating new ideas and plans for strengthening the many gifts we currently share.



Some shared gems

- *I am co-responsible as a co-worker in God's mission*
- *If you want to go fast, you go alone, if you want to go farther, go together – African proverb*
- *Appreciative inquiry and positive attitude will promote co-responsibility*
- *Interconnectedness and transformation*



Beautiful, strong, endless, connecting---

Sashirekha refreshed the concept of Spiral Dynamics to help the joint team to reflect on the question: *“Where is Integration asking us to SHIFT to and what do we need to do to make it happen?”* The realization that the transition to an integrated approach will require complete metamorphosis within self, prepared the group to further use Four Quadrants approach guided by Gendrie-Klein-Breteler, to explore:

- ways of developing structures that promote mutual partnership
- growing through our differences
- going beyond our own resistances
- recognising the talents and resources that we have
- discerning what needs to change & what is enduring



More gems shared.....

- *We are ready to make the SHIFT*
- *This experience of working together is itself Joint formation*
- *I am able to see which ^vmême I am in and which quadrant I need to work on for Myself, My community and My mission*
- *Together we experienced growing in consciousness and co-responsibility*

Recommendations to the Integration Working Group:

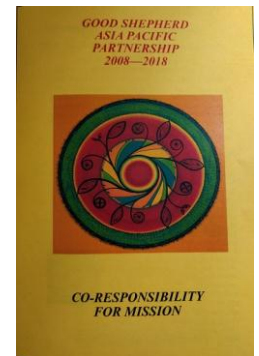
At the end of two days, the joint group reflected and prepared the recommendations to be forwarded to the Integration Working Group for consideration. It was remarkable that practicing

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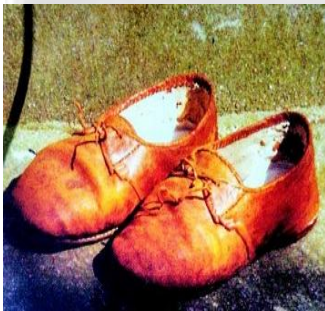
the theory of Spiral Dynamics and 4 Quadrants' approach had paved a way to "listen to the spirit" and respond as "true shepherds".

Giving thanks for what has BEEN,

Sr. Noelene White led the GSAPP team through a spiritual experience, commemorating the Sacred Journey of Partnership/ Co-responsibility for Mission in Asia Pacific from 2008 – 2018. Our hearts sang the Ode to Gratitude - *A Remembering Heart* as we offered in thanksgiving, the audacious and prophetic leaders who had dared to walk in the shoes of Saint Mary Euphrasia Pelletier. The presence of Sr. Joan Lopez and Theresa Symons whose role in this sacred journey has been very significant, was very meaningful. Expressions of appreciation and gratitude were expressed to Sr. Noelene White for her dynamic leadership as Chairperson and Sr. Anne Dalton, for being a congenial facilitator, through the journey of ten years. Srs. Stella and Rasangi who are finishing their time on the GSAPP team were acknowledged and thanked for their fellowship in the team.



Moving forward in HOPE.....



"A century from now, what shall be said of the Good Shepherd journey in these times? And who will the shapers have been?"

The concluding ritual, dedicated to the vibrant future of GS Mission, under the fold of visionary leaders, took place with the group chanting a Blessing:

*May the gift of leadership awaken in us a vocation---
May leadership be for us a true adventure of growth.*

The energized torchbearers continue their journey of Co-responsibility in THEIR FOOTSTEPS



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