

**FINAL STATEMENT
SCCs DIRECTORS' MEET 2010
SOUTH ZONE, INDIA
Cluny Provincialate, Trichy, Tamilnadu, South India.
From 15th - 18th March, 2010.**

**“Do this in Memory of Me.” (Lk.22:19)
Bread Broken and Word Shared in SCCs**

1. Preamble

- 1.1 The First South Indian SCCs Directors' Meet was held at Cluny Provincialate, Trichy, TN, South India with 63 participants from 4 regions: Karnataka, Kerala, Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh from March 15th to 18th 2010.

Drawing inspiration from the National Meet at Nagpur from 30th of Sept. - 2nd of Oct., 2009 and 5th AsIPA General Assembly at the Regional Major Seminary, Davao city, Philippines from 20th - 28th of October, 2009, this SCCs DIRECTORS' MEET 2010 SOUTH ZONE, INDIA was organized. The organizers, who were part of Davao AsIPA Assembly considered it appropriate to bring the experience of that Assembly to the dioceses in South India. Hence they took the same theme, “*Do this in Memory of me (Lk.22:19): Bread Broken and Word Shared in SSCs*”, also for this assembly. We shared how the Word and the Eucharist were lived in the SCCs and we were challenged as to how SCCs can become catalysts of integral evangelization.

2. Reality in South India

- 2.1. SCCs have been greatly instrumental in people cultivating openness to the Word of God and allowing it to touch their lives and transforming them. The fact that the South Indian SCCs project has generated around 65,000 Small Communities is the real proof for this.
- 2.2. SCCs help people to come together like the early Christians and share their joys and sorrows in a real fraternal spirit, which is a characteristic mark of an ecclesial community.
- 2.3. SCCs provide life based catechesis in an ongoing way, helping them to grow in faith.
- 2.4. SCCs motivate people to forgive and reconcile with one another, at times even after many years and even after bitter court fights.
- 2.5. SCCs have created an interest in people in the field of public and civic life.

2.6. In many communities the Word of God built prophets who invited the community to see unjust situation and find solutions.

3. Theological Insights

3.1. The Small Christian Communities are a great sign of the working of the Holy Spirit in the church in these times and very especially in India it has become an Integral Pastoral Approach. If SCCs were to be meaningful it has to be centered on the Word of God and the Eucharist.

3.2. The Word of God we break and share in SCCs enlightens people and becomes the way and light for their life.

3.3. The interpreting of the Word for life is not the right of the learned alone, but also the privilege of the people to whom also the Word is given so that they may have life in abundance.(Jn. 10:10)

3.4. Only those who allow God to discipline themselves in the ways of Word of God will have the power of God to further justice according to the kingdom mission of Jesus. Being a Christian every person has a role to fight against injustices. Gospel Sharing leads to gradual evangelization of the whole community, transforming as agents of the kingdom.

3.5. SCCs through their sharing and services help the community to become aware of the deeper meaning of “breaking the bread” which begins in the Sunday Eucharist and is carried on to their daily lives.

3.6. If we empower the members of the SCCs with the concrete planning they in turn would ensure the realization of their basic needs and the human rights. SCCs influence the spiritual, political, cultural and social life of the people.

3.7. When Jesus gave this command, “*Do This in Memory of Me*” it is not just to perform the ritual alone, but it is a gratuitous gift of grace to bring into life the anamnesis of the mystery of life of Jesus Christ. The Eucharist makes present the total self-giving and sacrificial love of Jesus (Jn: 10:17) so that we may have life in abundance. (Jn: 10:10).

4. Challenges

4.1. We realize that `Sharing the Word and Breaking the Bread` have great implication for the daily life of the believing community. It demands unconditional fidelity to the teaching of Jesus and willingness to sacrifice oneself for the good of the neighbour. Although SCCs have

initiated a conversion in this direction it still remains a great challenge to make the whole community aware of this.

- 4.2. Although Gospel sharing has helped many people to love the Word of God and allow the Word to transform them, it still remains a very sad reality that the great majority of our Catholics do not open the Bible.
- 4.3. Though the Hierarchy recognizes and promotes SCCs at the diocesan level, a lot more coordination and empowerment is required at the regional, Diocesan level.
- 4.4. The presence and involvement of men and the youth is necessary to make SCCs vibrant and effective.
- 4.5. There is a tendency in many to consider SCCs as a prayer group rather than an instrument of the Holy Spirit to carry on the mission of the Church.
- 4.6. Divisive forces (Caste, languages, etc.) are deep rooted in the Catholic Church.
- 4.7. The co-ordination of the efforts for forming, strengthening and sustaining SCCs in the diocese and the regional level is a demanding task and there aren't enough motivated, zealous and trained animators to take up this task.
- 4.8. It is disheartening to note that the directors of SCCs are not receiving full support from many parish priests for forming and strengthening SCCs in the parishes.
- 4.9. We need to give a lot more attention and training to build up and sustain sufficient leaders from among the laity, who can sustain SCCs.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 5.1. There should be opportunity for Inter-regional sharing at the meetings that could be held once in two years in different regions.
- 5.2. It should be ensured that all the Diocesan Directors attend such meetings.
- 5.3. It is felt that exposure to the culture of the place of the meeting should be made possible, such as, outings, visiting the local SCCs units etc.

6. Conclusion:

- 6.1. It is for the first time in the history of South India that the four regional co-ordinators along with the diocesan directors came together to learn, share and

plan for the growth of SCCs in South India. We are grateful to God for this genuinely ecclesial experience.

6.2. The participants of the South Indian SCCs Directors' Meeting, through the live-in and exchanges on the subject have come to a deeper awareness about the importance of sharing the Word of God and celebrating the Eucharist meaningfully and live it in day-to-day lives and how SCCs are the best means to lead people to such experience.

6.3. We are grateful to His Excellencies Most Rev. Devadoss Ambrose DD, Chairman for SCC, TN, Most Rev. Antony Devotta DD, Bishop of Trichy, Most Rev. Neethinathan DD, Bishop of Chingleput, Most Rev. F. Antonysamy DD, Bishop of Kumbakonam, Rev. Fr. Thomas Vijay, SAC, Secretary, NST for SCC, CBCI, Rev. Fr. Faustine Lobo coordinator of KRPPC, Karnataka, for their presence, valuable insights and cooperation for the success of this meet.

- 5.1. We are indebted to Rev. Fr. Gilbert D'Souza the coordinator of SCCs Directors meet 2010, South Zone, India, and the chief organizers, Rev Fr. Jose Kottoor, Rev. Rev. Fr. Vijay Isaac of Kerala Fr. Panneer Selvam, N.T, Rev. Fr. Dusi Devaraju AP, the executive members, regional secretaries, and the local team.
- 5.2. Our hearts are raised in gratitude to the Almighty God and for the maternal intercession of Blessed Virgin Mary for the success of this meeting. May the words of Jesus at the last supper "Do this in memory of me" be realized in every member of all our SCCs in South India.