

NATIONAL SERVICE TEAM (NST) FOR SCCs

(Catholic Bishops Conference of India)

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Chairperson: Most Rev. Thomas Dabre, bishop of Pune Secretary: Thomas Vijay SAC

Members: Most Rev. Bosco Penha, Mumbai, Most Rev. Vincent Kypmat, Jowai, Most Rev. Ignatius Mascarenhas, Simla-Chandigarh

Co-opted members: Rev. Fr. Paul Puthanangady SDB, Rev. Fr. Joe Dias SVD, Rev. Sr. Christin Joseph HC, Mr. Gordon Morris, Mr. Elvin Colaco, Mrs Jeyaseeli

WORKSHOP FOR BISHOPS AND TEAM OF WEST BENGAL AND NORTH-EAST

At Seva Kendra Kolkata, March 9th to 12th 2012

1. Welcome & Inauguration

There were 85 participants including 11 bishops from the 2 regions. All the dioceses of West Bengal and all except Guwahati, Itanagar and Tezpur of North-east were represented. The inaugural meeting was chaired by Most Rev. Gerald Mathias of Lucknow, CCBI Laity Commission Chairman and member of NST.

Archbishop Thomas D'Souza welcomed all the participants to Calcutta. He appreciated the hard work of Fr. Sarto, Sr. Christin and team who prepared for a few months for this meeting.

He said that SCCs is the only way to be church today and it calls for full support from bishops, clergy and religious. As a sharing in the mission of the local church to hold this event here and the

Bible Rally, all the families in WB region will contribute Rs. 10 each towards the expense of this event. The SCCs will collect it. I wish you all the best and may Mother Theresa of Calcutta, who loved the poorest, bless us.



Then Bishop Gerald, welcomed all the participants on behalf of NST and CCBI Laity commission and explained the rationale of this meeting of resource teams with bishop from these two regions. Following YKJ 2000, which took SCCs as the single agenda for follow up, NST has been taking different steps to organize SCCs in a systematic way until now. So we have now

National Service Team (NST) and then the National Council for SCCs (NCSCCs) in which representatives from all the 13 regions are present. Every region also should now form Regional Councils with representatives from each diocese in the region. The bishops and priests need to be fully convinced about the importance of SCCs and need to work together in order to make any significant impact on SCCs. Without it starting here and there will only waste our energy. There is a great hunger for the Word in people; that is what is making them to go to protestant preachers. SCCs provide an effective means for satisfying this hunger for Word in people and create deeper fellowship and bonding among them. Knowing the importance SCCs have in the life of Church today, I encourage you to involve fully and wholeheartedly in this workshop and hopefully it will give you new insights and motivation to go back to your places and work more actively to promote SCCs.

The inaugural Mass on March 9th evening was celebrated by Bp. Gerald Mathias. In his homily he focused on the story of Joseph who was sold to the Egyptians out of jealousy. This type of things happens today too. What is important is to note how Joseph responded in deep faith and God used him in the furthering of the salvation of Israel community. In the Gospel parable of the vineyard Jesus teaches us that we are all accountable to God for whatever is entrusted to us in this world. SCCs help us to become authentic Christians and become servants of one another.



2. Reporting of Dioceses

1. Dibrugarh, NE

- 11 parishes in the diocese
 - Needs to take SCC building seriously
 - In 2012 we will start another 50 SCCs
 -
- > No full time animator for SCCs
 - > Total no. of SCCs now - 35

2. Manipur, NE

- 40 parishes > 8 parishes have SCCs
- Need to revive SCCs > motivate clergy
- Bishop need to insist on it > Need animation team
- There are 8 SCCs in the diocese

3. Tura, NE

- 40 parishes > 17 parishes with SCCs
- There is DAT with 10 members > 32 SCCs in the diocese
- Many priests in the old way > Some priests show no interest
- Need a lot more formation > Build relationship with priests

4. Aizol, NE

- 4 parishes with SCCs > 27 SCCs in the diocese
- DAT with 9 members > DAT meets every 2 months
- DAT conducts trainings > Lack of finance
- Not everyone shows interest in SCCs > Distance is a problem

5. Jowai, NE

- Have 12 parishes > Have SCCs in all parishes
- There is DAT > Conducts regular formation
- There are 255 SCCs > PPC not in line with SCCs
- All priests need to promote SCCs > Deepen faith of people

6. Shillong, NE

- 33 parishes > SCCs in 26 parishes
- 451 SCCs in the diocese > Conflicts with Associations
- Clergy, religious not motivated in SCCs > Need to visit all parishes
- Need to train priests > Will try to double number of SCCs

7. Bongaon NE

- 30 parishes > 12 parishes with SCCs
- 30 SCCs in the diocese > Need to activate dormant SCCs
- More training needed

8. Agartala NE

- 16 parishes > 8 parishes with SCCs
- 45 SCCs in the diocese > DAT has 7 members
- Priests are open, but not active about SCCs > Clergy need to be more active
- Will prepare deanery based teams

9. Noinstoin NE

- 16 parishes > 247 SCCs in the diocese
- DAT has 21 members > Need to hold more training
- Need clergy support

10. Diphu NE

- 21 parishes > 14 parishes have SCCs
- 32 SCCs in the diocese > Coordinator over-burdened
- Distance is a problem > priests, sisters do not know local dialects
- Many priests like old way > People like charismatic prayer more
- Lack of literature in local language
- Priority for evangelization, education, development
- Need a full time coordinator > Build up DAT, funds

11. Miao NE

- Introduced SCCs in 7 parishes > Total 200 SCCs in the diocese
- Bishop and priests in favour of SCCs > Need to train leaders
- Need to train leaders for GS > Many dialects, difficult to learn
- Men are not interested in such things

12. Guwahati NE – absent

13. Itanagar - absent

14. Tezpur NE - absent

15. Baruipur WB

- 20 parishes > SCCs seen as another association
- People are poor, illiterate > Clergy not involved in SCCs
- PPCs not active > 52 SCCs in the diocese
- Need to do a lot of ground work to promote SCCs in parishes

16. Raiganj WB

- 30 parishes > 15 parishes with SCCs
- 52 SCCs in the diocese > there is 1 full time lay animator
- Need full time coordinator for SCCs > People need reconciliation
- Need regular formation > visit parishes

17. Jalpaiguri WB

- 30 parishes > 9 parishes with SCCs
- 88 SCCs in the diocese > There is a DAT
- Need to sustain enthusiasm in people for SCCs
- Need greater involvement of clergy

18. Asonsol WB

- 29 parishes and 14 quasi parishes > 103 SCCs in the diocese
- People are illiterate and poor > Needs committed animators
- More clergy support needed

19. Darjeeling WB

- 36 parishes, 11 quasi parishes > PPC elected through SCCs
- Parish financial committees working > 400 SCCs in the diocese
- People have grown in caring, service, self-reliant
- DAT exists > No place to hold training

20. Bagdogra WB

- 17 parishes, 2 quasi parishes > 10 parishes with SCCs
- DAT exists > People more committed in faith now
- Greater love for the Word in people > more fellowship and service in people
- Need to motivate clergy more > more trainings needed
- Illiteracy is another problem

21. Kolakata WB

- No of parishes > many city parishes have SCCs
- 362 SCCs in the diocese > DAT with 6 members
- Formation goes on > Need to motivate clergy
- More formation needed

3. Homily of Bp Thomas Pulloppilly during Mass:

The Word in a double-edged sword. The Word is also a healing power. There is a thirst for Word in people. Pope Benedict XVI called the synod of the Word in order to help us to take the Word more seriously in our lives. Post-synodal document Verbum Domini is a great teaching on the Word for the Church.

SCCs can capture the power of the Word and live it in their life. GS is a tool to help people to live the Word.

4. Fr. Francis Scaria > SCCs – the New Way of Being Church

Fr. Francis Scaria said that SCCs is not an option, but it is the new way of being Church. He beautifully used the example of David trying to arm himself with Saul's armaments to fight Goliath and he could not walk with its heavy weight and David being too small for it. Then David goes ahead with the power of the Lord and defeats Goliath with his slings. In the Church too, if we are tied up too much with institutional structures, we will be unable to move ahead with the work of the Lord. SCCs is a new way of being church which will help us to move ahead and renew the Church with the power of the Word of God.

5. Bp S. Singaroyan of Salem on “The Process of SCC Development in Tamil Nadu Region”

Bp Singaroyan began by saying, “I believe in SCCs. I believe that SCCs is the way of being Church. I believe that it is the only way we can be church.” He thinks that SCCs are the most effective way of evangelizing, doing catechesis, youth ministry, adult catechesis, doing catechesis, youth ministry, adult catechesis and promoting development of community.



Process of SCC Development in TN Region

The Biblical/Liturgical renewal since Vatican II made a strong impact on the Church in TN. The Charismatic movement also played a significant role in renewing the Church and activating the laity in TN. Thirdly the social service sector of TN church did a huge awakening in masses at educational, political, human developmental level and empowerment process of the ordinary people. These developments in the church prepared the ground for SCCs.

Just before Jubilee 2000, TN region took “Renew” programme as a means to awakening the people. This led to a growing awareness in the people that that there is a need to renew the whole church in

TN. So there was a movement to create “Renew 2000” groups everywhere. These groups did not always find support in their priests; but they tried to continue. After the Jubilee 2000 celebrations these groups remained without a clear vision for the future. Then the CCBI meeting in Calcutta made a great appeal to give top priority to SCCs. So we decided to promote SCCs in the all the Latin diocese of our Region and constituted a team to promote SCCs. The New Way of Being church through SCCs meant, for us, sharing of leadership and mission by the whole community. In 2007 TN bishops held an evaluation of SCC building process in the region. The result showed that 40% of the parishes have started SCCs and the rest is doing nothing. So the bishops stated that the rest 60% of parishes have to start SCCs within the next 2 years. We appointed one full-time priest for promoting SCCs who did a very good job and now there are SCCs in most parishes. The region held several retreats for clergy and religious with a view to inspire them to promote participative community building.

The bishops made it mandatory that :

- there should be parish pastoral councils and parish financial committees in all parishes.
- all associations should be functioning well.
- SCCs is the basic structure for all pastoral activities in the parish.

With the spreading of SCCs, many good things to happen in communities – people growing in faith, becoming active in parishes, helping one another, reconciling one another, people taking initiatives in bringing back lapsed Catholics, getting involved in political awakening, and many more things. Although there were many priests who refused to cooperate initially, these good developments in parishes made them open themselves to promote SCCs.

Doing Ministries

In the traditional sense, we have commissions and each one does his own work, often one has nothing to do with the other.

Now with the SCCs being seen as Church in miniature, the SCC is responsible for what the Church stands for in their area/neighbourhood. The coordinator does not take it over from the people, but enables and coordinates it.

When I go to parishes for my pastoral visits, I stay in the parish for a few days and visit all SCCs. I listen to their stories and experiences and gives them encouraging messages. This makes all to see that I take SCCs serious and helps in the growing of SCCs in my diocese.

Responses from the other bishops Present:

Bp Cyprian Monis of Asansol > So far I was not insisting on SCCs in my diocese. Now I will insist that all priests take it up seriously.

Bp Stephen Rotlunga Aizawl > Our diocese is a hilly region and villages are far. I do not have a full timer to promote SCCs.

Bp Stephen Lepcha Darjeeling > SCCs is the New Way of Being church. I have got from these meetings a very clear idea of SCCs. SCCs will be given priority in Darjeeling diocese.

Bp Clement Tirkey of Jalpaiguri > I am convinced that SCCs must be promoted; but I find it difficult to proceed. SCCs is church in miniature and both PPCs and Parish Financial councils must be properly established in parishes. SCC should be the basis for pastoral activities. It will take a long time for us to put it into practice.

Bp Singaroyan > The religious existing in a parish do not have an independent parallel existence. They are part of SCCs in which they exist and must fully participate in it. In some communities, they divide the members and make them part of different SCCs so that many SCCs have the benefit.

Archbishop Thomas D'Souza of Calcutta > We had problems in finding a good coordinator in Bagdogra diocese which I continue to guide. But we still managed to promote SCCs in the diocese and there is a growing sense of community and service among the people. They do half yearly evaluation and we are working to build up a good animation team in the diocese.

In Calcutta, we have a Regional Service Team and we have to a lot of work to build up SCCs in the archdiocese.

Bp Singaroyan > SCCs must be mission-oriented. If they do not take on mission, then they will fall apart.

Bp Thomas Pulloppillil of Bongegaon > Sr. Agnes did some pioneering work in SCCs some years back. Fr. Linesh is now trying to promote it.

Bp Singaroyan > SCCs is not an end in itself; but an instrument for carrying out the Kingdom mission everywhere effectively – it is privileged and timely response. Privileged in the sense that if we have SCCs that Church will be renewed completely and timely means for our present time it is the most apt means to renew and activate the whole church while the world is trying to distract our people from God.

6. Bishops and Clergy Meeting

The following were some points which came up in the discussion

- The regions and dioceses should not only say that SCCs is our priority; but insist on it and follow it through.
- It is also necessary to build up strong clergy community, without which they will not promote it.
- All pastoral activities in the parish should be directed through SCCs.

- SCCs is the New Way of Being Church and is for the good of the whole church. So it includes the religious too.
- Bishops should consistently insist that SCCs must be built in all parishes.
- It is good to Gospel Sharing in all clergy recollections
- WE cannot bulldoze people into it; we have to be patient with them.
- Many hang on to old systems and structures and hang on to power; such people will take time to let go.
- There must be continuous efforts to train priests, religious and catechists.

7. Meeting of Lay Animators

There was a very positive tone to the laity's role. The general consensus was that the laity needs to take more responsibility for promotion and sustenance of SCCs and stop blaming the clergy for their failures. They felt that they need to give more time to SCC ministry and take more training on regular basis in order to become more competent in dealing with community building issues.

8. Meeting of Sister Animators

The sister-animators in the group also met separately and discussed about their role in animating SCCs and ways they could be more effective in animating communities.

9. Bible Rally

A Bible rally was organized by the Calcutta archdiocese. About 5000 people joined the 2 kms-long rally with the Bible, ending up with the solemn Eucharistic celebration at Don Bosco grounds, Calcutta.





10. NE Regional Plan for 2012-13

1. Forming the Regional Council – Each Diocese will send representative to the Regional Council These representatives consisted of:

- The Diocesan SCC Coordinator
- The Secretary
- 1 lay man
- 1 lay woman
- 1 male youth representative and
- 1 female youth representative

The members of the Council must have some knowledge and background on SCC. The names of the Council must be sent to the Regional Secretary as earlier as possible.

2. Each Diocese will also form a Diocesan Council/ Diocesan Resource Team and Parish Animation Team.

3. Division of the North East Region into Zones as follows:

ZONE A- Tura- Bongaigoan- Guwahati: To coordinate- *Rev. Fr. Linesh Chacko*

ZONE B- Tezpur-Itanagar- Dibrugarh- Miao: To coordinate- *Rev. Fr. Paulus Kullu*

ZONE C- Diphu-Kohima- Imphal: To coordinate – *Rev. Fr. Mark Thang Khan Ai*

ZONE D- Jowai- Nongstoin- Shillong: To coordinate *Rev. Fr. Cosmos Jyrwa*

ZONE E- Aizawl- Agartala: To coordinate- *Rev. Fr. Lancy D'Souza*

4. Training Programmes:

01. Each diocese will train the faithful the laity, the clergy and religious to take part in SCC. The Regional Team will assist the dioceses in the above training.

02. A three days workshop for the Regional Council as well as the Diocesan team will be animated as a preparation on Evangelization for the 'Year of Faith 2013'

Date: July 17-20, 2012

Venue: *still to be finalised*

05. Proposed programmes:

To organise at least two trainings at each Zone:

- Introductory Workshops for all
- Team Trainings for those who have completed the Introductory Workshop
- Leadership trainings for the Resource Team / Parish Animation Team
- To motivate priests and sisters on the New Way of being Church.

06. Future programmes:

Formation for the Resource Team (Diocese/Parish Level)

01. Leadership Team Training: September 27-30, 2013 (Tura)

02. Introductory Workshop (Priests/Sisters): October 1-4, 2012 (Diphu)

03. SCC and the Eucharist: October 5-7, 2012 (Diphu)

(For the trainings in Tura and Diphu, Mr. Gordon Morris the CCBI Secretary will join the Regional Team.)

04. Deepening Workshop: By January 2013

05. SCC as instrument of Evangelization: By March 2013

06. SCC and the Eucharist By April 2013

The 'YEAR OF FAITH 2013':

01. The above training programmes will be intimated to the North East Bishops by the Regional Chairman on SCC in the meeting **April 14-15, 2012.**

02. To celebrate the Year of faith at the National level, a National Convention will be held on **October 2013**, details information will be given to all the Regions.

03. There was a proposal to have the **Regional Convention** to celebrate the 'Year of Faith' 2013 in collaboration with all the North East Bishops.

North East Representatives for the Workshop:

Sl. No.	Members	Dioceses
01.	Bp. Stephen Rotlunga	Aizawl
02.	Sr. Amanda Fanai MSMHC	-
03.	Mr. Joseph	-
04.	Mr.Thangan	-
05.	Bp. Lumen Monteiro	Agartala
06.	Fr. Lancy D'Souza	-
07.	Mr. Ashin Uchai	-
08.	Bp. Thomas Pulloppillil	Bongaigoan
09.	Fr. Linesh Chacko	-
10.	Fr. Tojo	-
11.	Fr. Paulus Kullu	Dibrugarh
12.	Fr. Robert Kachua	-
13.	Mr. Peter Paul Baghwar	-
14.	Fr. N.V. Joseph	Diphu
15.	Mr. Samuel Ingti	-
16.	Fr. Mark Thang Khan Ai	Imphal
17.	Fr. Tomy .O	-
18.	Mr. Micheal Kolksans	-

19.	Fr. Hilarius Lamare Chairman for NE. SCCs	Jowai
20.	Sr. Martina L. Thabah MSMHC	-
21.	Mrs. Rimaya S. Manners	-
22.	Fr. Alexander	Miao
23.	Sr. Felicita Kujur MSMHC	-
24.	Mr. Likhum Mossang	-
25.	Fr. Cosmos Jyrwa	Nongstoiñ
26.	Sr. Waris Warjri MSMHC	-
27.	Mr. Vincent Lyngdoh	-
28.	Fr. Francis Kharpan	Shillong
29.	Fr. Lawrence Kharluni	-
30.	Sr. Ris Mary Marweiñ MSMHC	-
31.	Mr. Edmund Syiem	-
32.	Fr. Hubert T. Sangma	Tura
33.	Mr. Romanush D. Sangma	-

NOTE:

- Each Diocese will plan, will organise, will animate trainings programmes and will evaluate at their own convenient times.
- Reports to submit to the Regional Secretary for all the activities implemented.

DEAD LINE for submitting the names for REGIONAL COUNCIL by April 2012. Please consider this as urgent and very important. Forward through email or by post as earlier as possible. martinathabah@gmail.com

Rev. Fr. Hilarius Lamare
SCC Regional Chairman

Sr. Martina L. Thabah MSMHC
SCC Regional Secretary

11. Action Plan of West Bengal/Sikkim Region

"The participants from West Bengal and Sikkim region proposed to evolve Diocesan SCC Council and Regional SCC Council. Regional SCC council will consists of representatives from each diocese comprising the Diocesan Coordinator for SCC, diocesan animator, a religious sister, a lay man, lay woman, a young girl and a young boy. They will formulate vision, objectives and thrust for the region. Each diocese will present their activities, success stories and challenges during the annual meeting for the learning of all.

The members of the diocesan Council and the members of the Regional Council need regular training both for their personal growth and for the growth of the community. The Regional Service Team will organise and facilitate the training with the assistance from the NST members.

The members also suggested for a Regional Service Team (RST). The RST will plan, monitor, review and train the diocesan animators and facilitate the Diocesan service Teams to function well.

Archbishop Thomas D'Souza suggested bringing a coordinative effort of all the commission secretaries to formulate a pastoral vision for each region and to work collaboratively for the dynamic growth of the Church.

Training on the New Way of Being Church is to be conducted in six phases in the region for SCC animators

An orientation programme will be organised at the diocesan level and at the Regional level for better coordination of various commissions under the umbrella of SCC.

An orientation for the priests is essential to convince them about the importance of SCC in every parish"

Reported by Fr. I.P Sarto

Regional Coordinator

Fr. Thomas Vijay SAC

Secretary, NST for SCCs (CBCI)