

EGC Transmission 2021 - an unforgettable event

The Virtual transmission took place on 30th August to September 3rd 2021.

This was an unbelievable and unforgettable experience for the Province of Sri Lanka. At present Sri Lanka is under lockdown due to the pandemic. We are unable to move or travel and are confined to our homes in order to be safe. However, the virtual transmission gave us the opportunity to interact, to chat, to share, to see and enjoy meeting everyone in the Province including our dearest elderly sisters in Galle community. The impossibility was made possible through this virtual transmission. I raise my heart in gratitude to God for there is nothing impossible to God. He has done marvels.

“No mind can understand, no eye can see the marvels God has in store for those who love him”
(Rom. 8:38)

First day the sharing was on ‘**Fraterlli Tutti**’ by Fr. Devin (IVD).

Some of the points highlighted were:

Each moment is a context which will demand action on our part. Context must lead to Reflection and then action should be the result of reflection and prayer. If there is no reflection and from the context we move to action it will not have its desired effect since we have not taken the context into prayer. The result of contemplation is action or mission. Contemplation is walking with people and taking a loving look at the reality leading to action.

Many problems in society are relationship problems. A different culture is vital to resolve this issue. The Pope spoke of a cultural encounter. Humility is what we needed to solve relationship problems.

Who is the stranger? The stranger is someone vulnerable and insignificant and we need to reach out to them, thus making the strangers into neighbours. There are strangers in our communities!

We need to develop sincere self-giving without any ulterior motive. Life exists where there is communion and fraternity, without these two there is death.

We need to build bridges. Building a road is easy but not building a bridge. One has to take so many aspects into consideration in building a bridge, similarly to build relationships one has to consider values and virtues of individuals. Self-awareness is very vital as well as is authenticity to build a relationship. One has to invest on the vulnerable as they are God’s people, first seeking them out in the community and then in the mission.

The Icon of Mercy and the Stranger:

The Icon of Mercy is a portrayal of the heart of God. A heart opened to the whole world. The world belongs to all irrespective of caste, creed and colour. The only solution is Love and mercy.

The Icon of Mercy and the Good Samaritan captured the hearts of the assembly and there was a deep sharing on this. The world is wounded and we are invited to listen to the cry the vulnerable.



The following Day as Father had completed his input; the Sisters gave inputs on Contemplative leadership, Dialog and active listening, the VUCA world, and embracing fragility and vulnerability.

According to Pope Francis, each of us is vulnerable inside. We are poor, in need of everything and we are beggars. Vulnerability is the greatest mission of courage. We have to become poor in spirit.

Questions were then given for group discussion.

What prevents us from noticing the stranger in the community?

What choices we have to make to come down from the donkey?

What are the vitalities and challenges?

What are the new horizons and what will be the consequences?

The sisters shared on these with enthusiasm and openness.

We were then invited to identify the new horizons and our responses. Some of the new horizons identified were:

Education: The pandemic has severely disrupted the education of the children. Sadly, for some children, the inability to continue their education due inadequate facilities of online education and other means, they have resulted in resorting to suicide. There is a vast mission on the need for education not only literally but as integrated, taking the whole person and environment into account. Value education and morals have to be in the curriculum in order to bring a new society and new heaven and new earth.

Economic Development: The pandemic has made the poor become poorer and hence the urgent need to raise the standard of the poor. The vulnerable, those under poverty line and those living in the periphery have now been pushed back beyond the border. The new horizon invites us to move out of our comfort zone and share with the vulnerable. The Pope invited the church to accommodate the poor in our buildings and share with them. He calls the Church the Church of the poor and calling us to give priority to the service of the poor.

Social Justice: The Pandemic has created inequality. The wealth and health of the world is unequally shared and grabbed by the powerful and the 10% of the population. They are enjoying 85% of the world resources while the 90% of the population who are below the margin of the poverty line, are struggling to survive. There is a call to work for justice and equal sharing of the world's resources. The option to launch in the field of justice is a great demand in the VUCA world which is Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous. This invites us to take the risk of losing one's name and fame in order that the poor of Yahweh will be taken care of.

Caring for the common home: The pandemic has added to the destruction of the nature and creation which was already on the verge of decaying. Caring for the common Home has been the vast topic of discussion during the recent past all over the world. The O zone is greatly damaged by the richest and powerful nations in the world. Pollution in every sphere is increasing and the nature and creation is being slowly wiped out and would be out of the face of the earth soon. There is an urgent need to care for mother earth and to take necessary step to build her up before she faces death.

Communities gave valuable suggestions for caring of the common home.

- Cultivate our gardens in our premises and help the communities and the Province.
- Cultivate our gardens and help the poor from the produce.
- Rent out a portion of land and get the income;

What will be the consequences of responding to the new horizon?

Some of the consequences expressed were;

- Financial difficulties
- Commitment to continue
- Time management
- Non-cooperation from beneficiaries due to the pandemic
- Opting out for justice and taking up the challenges to highlight the unjust issues will lead to face the consequences from authorities.

The discussion and sharing was fruitful and highlighted many issues which indicated the active involvement of the sisters in the present situation.

I would end up with my dream for myself and the Province.

My dream is being a contemplative SCJM walking with the people and taking a long loving look at the reality. Listen to the signs of the times, leaving the comfort zone, daring to take the risk, launch deep into the reality and hear the message of God. There is a mystery in the History. Every historical event has a mystery hence to contemplate the historical event is to listen to the message of God, see the mystery and to respond.

It is an urgent call from God at present and we cannot delay.

The virtual transmission was an unforgettable experience both in sharing and discussion and meeting almost all the sisters of the Province even under situation of lockdown and keeping social distance.

“I know the plans I have in mind for you. It is Yahweh who speaks. Plans for peace and not disaster, reserving a future full of hope for you”. (Jer. 29: 11)

The future is full of hope and we are called to bring hope to the vulnerable and fragile. Let us thank God for the marvels he has done in our lives and our Province and move forward, daring to trust in a challenging God and in a future that is for us to create.

Sr. Nichola Emmanuel scjm



