

JPIC CONCERNS – FORMATORS RESPONSE

Jharsuguda, February 23, 24 2013.

FORUM of Religious for Justice and Peace, Orissa unit and the Commission for Vocations, Clergy and Religious, Orissa, organized a Workshop for the formators. On February 23 and 24 2013, 32 formators, both religious and diocesan (16 sisters 1 brother and 15 priests), from all over Orissa gathered together to respond to the JPIC Concerns in and Religious/Priestly formation. Streevani, Pune, helped to arrange the resource persons. Sr. Julie George, SspS, the director of Streevani, Pune and Br. Varghese Theckanath, SG, the director of Montfort Social Institute, Hyderabad, were the main resource persons.



The participants came with the felt need for introducing/strengthening the JPIC concern in formation at all levels as it is very much neglected in our formation programs. Through the input sessions and the discussions we became aware of the urgency to face the truth of the poor and the discriminated. The workshop led the participants to take an overview of the present situation of JPIC in India, especially in Orissa and concentrated on the issues of Human Rights (HR) and Gender Equality.

The values expressed in the 30 articles of the Universal declaration of Human Rights are expressed in a vocabulary acceptable to all, irrespective of religious, cultural, national differences. They are basic to JPIC. They are identifiable with the values of the Gospel.

Gender equality is a HR issue. Increasing violence and discrimination against women and girl children are a major concern today. Social systems like patriarchy and hierarchy are discriminatory and are often destructive forces against women and girl children. We need to educate ourselves to become more gender sensitive. The Gender Policy of the Catholic Church of India issued by the CBCI is a help and should be taken seriously.

At the end of the two days workshop the formators decided on the following steps:

- HR be made part of the syllabus in our formation programs. Relevant materials. We will gather materials and share with each other.
- The formation communities will join the UN HR day celebrations with some social involvement and liturgical programs.
- In our formation communities we will put into practice the principles of HR among formators, the formees and the auxiliary staff.
- Take note of the HR violations and promotion of HR in our area.
- We will procure copies of the Gender Policy of the Catholic Church of India and make it available to the staff and students and study them.
- We want pay special attention to educate ourselves and our formees with regard to Gender equality
- We will use inclusive language
- We will promote Gender sensitivity and protest against gender discriminations and injustices
- The formators also realised the need to share and help each other. So they proposed to meet every year for a meeting taking any one formation concerns.

The participants appreciated the resourceful and inspiring resource persons and the effort put in by Nicholas Barla, SVD the FORUM Convenor and T.K. Kurian, SVD, the Secretary of the Commission for Vocations, Clergy and Religious, Orissa, to organize the workshop.

Sr. Emilia Lakra, H.M.