

CONSULTATION ON MISSIONARY ANIMATION OF CHILDREN FINAL RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Preamble

We, thirty four participants from among, National Directors of Pontifical Mission Societies and National Secretaries of Missionary Childhood in Asia, the Chairman and the Executive Secretary of the Office of Evangelization of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences, the Co-ordinator of the FABC-OE Desk for the Missionary Animation of Children, the Secretary General of the Pontifical Missionary Society of the Holy Childhood and the Director of the "Three Kings' Action" in Germany, met at the Archdiocesan Retreat House, Tewatta, Ragama, Sri-Lanka from 3-6 February 2000, in order to discern God's will for us in the new millennium on the matter concerning the missionary animation of children in Asia.

We praise and thank God for the precious gift of our children, and we wish to acknowledge and affirm their great potential as missionaries of Jesus in Asia. It is our firm belief that the children ought to become the architects of mission in this vast continent today and in the future. It is an affirmation, which projects itself with hope in the Lord into the new millennium.

We have prayerfully reflected about the call of the Lord to evangelize and to transform society, the challenge of sin and suffering visible all around us and the great capacity and zeal the young ones possess for a missionary commitment today.

Recommendations:

With the above in mind we recommend:

1. **That** the FABC-OE Desk for Missionary Animation of Children, prepares a hand-book which could serve as a guide for the National Offices of the PMS, as well as the National Episcopal Commissions for Evangelization and their diocesan counter-parts, keeping in mind the following aims:
 - a. Systematic faith and missionary formation of the children,
 - b. Their preparation for the Sacraments,
 - c. Vocational guidance, and
 - d. All round human promotion.
2. **That** the Desk brings out a common Holy Childhood prayer written by the children themselves.
3. **That** the Desk for Missionary Animation of Children, becomes a center for dissemination of information as well as for sharing of materials and resources among the Asian countries and any others who may ask for them.
4. **That** the Desk makes use of FABC-OE bulletin "*Proclaim*", other available FABC publications as well as publications like "*Fides*" for the dissemination of information on its activities.

5. **That** the Desk takes steps to organize a new SOMA preferably in Bangkok in the year 2000, in order to prepare a co-group of missionary Animators for Asia.
6. **That** the Desk makes available, to all the Asian countries a model missionary animation programme.
7. **That** the Desk strives to involve parents more closely in its programmes, since the family as the Domestic Church, is the first school of missionary animation.
8. **That** the Desk produces whatever material is necessary for the Missionary Animation of children.
9. **That** the participation of children be encouraged on special occasions like the Jubilee Year or Missionary Congresses.
10. **That** the Office of Evangelization takes up as its own responsibility the promotion of necessary awareness within the FABC and the individual Bishops' Conferences about the indispensable role of children in the work of evangelization.
11. **That** the FABC takes up the missionary animation of children as a theme of study at its next plenary assembly.
12. **That** the General Secretariat in its communications and personal dealings with individual Bishops encourages their participation in the missionary animation and formation of children.

Resolutions

Acknowledging the importance and the urgency of the recommendations made above, we resolve:

1. **To** endorse and strengthen the special Desk established under the aegis of the FABC Office of Evangelization for Missionary Animation and Formation of Children, which we consider an absolute priority in the new millennium. This Desk will serve, coordinate, and stimulate the local Churches in the motivation of children to mission.
2. **To** constitute an Advisory Board consisting of
 - The Coordinator of the FABC-OE Desk for children.
 - The Secretary of the same Desk.
 - The Bishop representing the FABC-OE in the Desk.
 - The Executive Secretary of the FABC-OE.
 - The General Secretary of the Pontifical Society of the Holy Childhood in Rome.
 - The Four Regional Representatives of the National Directors of PMS.
3. **That** the Board co-opts two other members when it is deemed necessary.
4. **That** the Board meets at least once every year.
5. **That** the Board produces a set of guidelines for the functioning of the Desk.
6. **That** this consultation involving Bishops, Chairmen of Episcopal Commissions for Missions, National Directors of PMS and National Secretaries of Holy Childhood, Asia as well as the Chairman and the Executive Secretary of the FABC-OE, the Bishop in charge of the Desk in the OE, the Co-ordinator and the Secretary of the Desk as well as the Secretary General of the Pontifical Society of Holy Childhood in

Rome, be held *every three years* in order to take decisions on basic orientations and policies.

Conclusion

We are confident that as our Universal Shepherd, Pope John Paul II stated, “The third Christian millennium” would allow Asia to reap “a great harvest of faith”. We call upon Mary, our mother and the Star of Evangelization to intercede for us and for our children and to shelter us all in her maternal care as we, trusting in the Lord, cast our nets into the deep, seeking that harvest for the Lord in Asia.