

South Asia Meeting on Women III

Twenty-five women, four bishops and two priests, from Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, and India with their Bangladesh hosts gathered at the CBCB Centre; Dhaka; from 20th to 24th January 2010, for the Third South Asia Meeting on Women, organized by the Women's Desk of the FABC Office of Laity & Family.

His Excellency, Archbishop Joseph Marino, Nuncio to Bangladesh graced the occasion by celebrating the inaugural Eucharist and delivering the homily focusing on the theme "Women Living the Eucharist in South Asia". Abp. Paulinus D'Costa welcomed the delegates at the inaugural session, Bishop Patrick D'Rozario csc, delivered the inaugural address and Bishop Theotonijs Gomes delivered the keynote address.

Visits to NGOs reaching out to women, the sharing of women's stories from the countries in the region; and the input by Sr. Cyrilla on her own and other women's personal experience of living the Eucharist; confirmed that when women experience brokenness they bring it to the Eucharist for reconciliation, healing, peace and communion. In their turn they become bread broken and shared for others. The Eucharist is being lived powerfully by broken women, when they make a conscious decision to counter the cause of their brokenness with dignity, and help others to do the same.

The inputs by Ms. Wendy Louis on women's participation in the mission of the Church based on the vision of FABC, and by Sr. Evelyn Monteiro on 'Mary Living the Eucharist in Asia', challenged the participants to commit themselves to promote the Mary of the Gospels in theology and devotion as a powerful and prophetic paradigm for discipleship; to bring peace and justice to the troubled South Asia region inspired by "Mary of the Magnificat" and to acknowledge and promote the contribution of women in building and maintaining Small Christian Communities (SCCs) and in the broader mission of the Church.

"Do this in memory of me" (Lk 22:19). *As bread broken and shared...*, resonated with the experiences of the women and the stories shared. The women committed to strive continuously to rediscover the significance of the Eucharist and to live it meaningfully.