

## **Formation commission**

**XH, May 11, 2014 - 2 PM - 4 PM**

**Participants: Provincial, Am, Phuoc, George, Ahn, Binh, Chinh, Brother (10 SDB)**

### **Input**

1. GC27 formation issues (EAO top choices: 8/14 related to ongoing formation)
2. How to live radically Gospel-inspired life? Need of basic tool: spiritual direction...
3. Learn the moral from the departures of our confreres (or low motivated SDBs)

### **Dialogue**

Q - spiritual direction? many talks in the past, no improvement! (political will, some SDB prepared, province - wide drive to help all perpetually professed to be guided and guide)

Q - qualified teachers not enough! philosophy + theology for our big province  
and ongoing need for qualified formators

Q - Our situation: we have not qualified rectors as spiritual directors. If we are not prepared, we can't practice it. How can we prepare our rectors to be a good spiritual directors?

A - Personalization of formation (self-transformation, spiritual guide).

Q - Recent extraordinary visitation (2011) - provincial long term planning. How to guarantee this? (SWOT, OPP, plan + realization + evaluation)

Q - Planning mentality, who does implement it, who is in charge? no evaluation system?

Q - Secular companies they have planning mentality - without evaluation they don't sell, don't profit. I studied seminar on planning (products evaluated, feedback sheet - based on it, they improve. We have no system to evaluate the product' - infidelity on what? close, exact observation (we don't interpret well, only doing). Need to be frank about this!

Q - Will of the province - SDB should have a radical approach to the Gospel, Word is the foundation (3 vows). From the formation perspective we think about age gap, education background. We can set up the goals, but who will implement? Our destinataries are changing (life style). Subjects are living in an ongoing changing situation. Could we have any plan, direction? Ex - we open the VTC, but the youth is not eager to accept our way of education. We are getting angry, upset, losing loving kindness - not practicing PSDB. We need to prepare people to this new youth culture. Not only finishing courses, but our brothers are not psychologically prepared to faced this issues? To live radically...

### **EAO sharing - what can VIE offer + what could VIE need?**

#### **VIE province offer**

- Already asked by Fr. Cereda to share among the Salesian Center of Studies (Torino), but so far no concrete move happened (but we believe, it's possible) XH
- share personnel
- resource persons for talks, resources sent to other province (FIN) teachers, formators
- personnel for migrant ministry (GIA, CIN - Taiwan, KOR)
- interesting experience from KOR, migrant workers ministry (helpful for personal growth of the respective SDB). Why don't we choose more SDB for this ministry (5-10 years) - Cross cultural experiences; growing solidarity and mutual support, learning

among our provinces. KOR - why don't they send some confreres here (100.000 workers), intercultural community?

- Without a good formation we might not have in near future many SDB to offer!

### **VIE province needs**

- To prepare our personnel in different fields (also future missionaries)
- FIN, Radio talk show (Fr. Nolasco - Drans) = need to consolidate this experience
- English camp in Vietnam (continues with FIS help - every June- July)
- Psychologist from other EAO provinces (SDB care foremost; already some in need) and no psychological test for our candidates (aspirants, prenovices). FIN - Mon (counselling), FIS - Ronel (Master) 'Mental block' in our province (after initial formation, who send our confreres - they don't want to study further?)
- Good director of formation house (father) - heart offered to the confreres (Italy). We learn from their life-example was our precious experience. Send our rectors to learn abroad.
- Formators should live together as brothers (basic, central point). We need 'too busy rectors in formation houses, taking care about diocesan or external (30% maximum!)
- Need to form vocation guides (courses for formators), sometimes strong character formators destroy the effectiveness of our formation.
- Education is not a strong point of VIE Salesians: many (strong faith+) **zealous** Salesians without a solid **professional pedagogical experience** (missing in our formation, SDB are not aware deeply about children, youth psychology). How to harmonize these two elements?
- How to make our Province more open to the EAO region: need of exchanging teaching resources (from THA, KOR, FIN-FIS)

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NB - Ongoing communication between the Regional Councilor and the Formation commission (if necessary) encouraged (vklementsdb@gmail.com) on white board

### **Follow up - emerging points**

1. Need to prepare long term provincial specialization plan (formation as priority)
2. Education - pedagogy field seems be the urgency for YM field preparation
3. Formation of formators (vocation, spiritual accompaniment, team work)

### **Formation commission members (Fr. Am - head commission)**

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Yours,  
Am.

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