

SUPERIORS - FORMATORS MEETING

Twenty three Superiors and Formators attended the Superiors-Formators Meeting held at SSCS Tagaytay on September 9-11, 2014.

DAY 1: Rev. Fr. PERCY BACANI, MJ gave us a National and Church Situationer

The following are some of the challenges he presented to us, which I feel we must seriously ponder:



- Ours is a patronage politics that needs to be changed into participatory politics. How can we contribute to this change through our Benedictine schools and apostolates?
- Our family system needs to be examined to lessen and eventually remove the political dynasties in our country. The family system has crept into everything we do, even in religious life. Are we contributing to change this reality?
- The poverty in our country is both political and cultural. We need to examine and evaluate the kind of education we give in all our schools so that there will be hope for the future of our country.
- Corruption is worldwide. In Korea, for example, they put in jail after due process their former president! In our country, we have a former president who is now mayor of Manila but, if we speak of justice, should be in jail.
- There are 2-3 thousand Filipinos who leave the country daily to be OFW. This phenomenon was also true to Italy. These Italians, who worked outside their country, returned home and started the change! Can we do this in our country?
- PCP II stressed Integral Evangelization. Are our schools venues for evangelization? Are we making Gospel values alive in our schools? Or are we failing? Do we develop our students and employees to be agents of transformation in our society?



Day 2 and 3: The wisdom of Sister KAREN JOSEPH, OSB that came from her wealth of experiences showed in her simplicity.



The two topics she shared with us were on “Monastic Leadership: Seven Pillars of Wisdom” and “Spiritual Direction”.

Some of the points I have culled from her insight-full and inspiring sharing:

- The seven pillars of monastic leadership:
 1. Holding the place of Christ ...RB 2: 2 RB 63: 13
 2. Visioning the journey and destination....RB Prologue 49 RB 72: 11-12
 3. Caring with compassion... RB 2: 34 RB 27: 1
 4. Communicating with respect...RB 3: 1-2
 5. Discerning with peace... RB 64: 17-19
 6. Remembering contemplatively... RB 64: 7 RB 2: 35
 7. Tending of self... RB 2: 39-40 Prologue 19-20
- Spiritual direction is about holy listening. We all need help in our journey of life. One of this help is spiritual direction.
- If a person does the ministry of spiritual direction, she needs to do her ‘housecleaning’ first.
- Confidentiality is vital in spiritual direction.
- As a spiritual director, one should be faithful to her prayer or else she will be like an empty vessel that makes a lot of noise.
- Spiritual direction is meeting with another person to see how God is present in her life and how God is leading her in the present moment. How does the Directee find God in the daily experiences of her life?
- Some qualities of a spiritual director: has listening skills, is compassionate, has the ability to challenge and encourage, has certain knowledge of today’s church, has knowledge of Scripture, integrates Scriptures in daily life and keeps strict confidentiality.

Sr. Karen shared that Abbot Jerome Kodell, OSB said this seems to be the “mantra” of God in the Bible: “ I AM WITH YOU. I LOVE YOU. TRUST ME.”

This “mantra” is very assuring that whatever we are doing and wherever we are, we are not alone!

By: Sr. Adela Arabia, OSB