

## RNDM MISSION PROMOTERS' WORKSHOP

Mariam Nilaya Convent, Bengaluru, South India

3-12 April 2018

Dear Sisters and Friends,

We are thrilled to share with you our experiences on the RNDM Mission Promoters' Workshop which was held in Bengaluru, South India. We were 15 participants from 8 provinces: Rita Kyi Kyi Aung, Josephine Moses and Rita Phyo from Myanmar, Lucia Kim Cuong from Vietnam, Anna Ngan Ha from Kenya, Purobi Chiran and David Paroi from Bangladesh, Delma Barrientos from the Philippines, FultiMary Sun from North East India, Suja Sebastian and Monica Riahtam from India Central, Ida Wilma Fernandez, Lily Vaz and Flavy Castelino from South India. Vinitha Kurian, Province Leader also participated in the workshop.



The workshop began on the afternoon of 3<sup>rd</sup> April, with the welcome ritual by the host Province. Sister Vinitha Kurian together with the Sisters of Mariam Nilaya, Mariam Nivas, Aspirants and Novices welcomed us according to the local culture. We were honoured with the ritual of washing hands, *aarati*, *chandan*, garland and shawl which made us feel very special to enter into the sacred space. In procession we went to Euphrasie Hut where Sister Vinitha welcomed us officially and

shared with us a brief history of the place. A sacred South Indian dance called 'Bharatanatyam' was performed by the students of Mariam Nilaya School. From there we proceeded to the session hall, carrying the Icon of the Trinity, picture of Euphrasie and a lighted candle.



Sisters Crescencia Sun and Smitha Thomas heartily welcomed the participants to the workshop and gave the orientation of the program and we shared our hopes and expectations.

Fr. Lord Winner CMF, the Asst. General Mission Procurator, Rome was the resource person from 4-7 April. His input sessions were both theoretical and practical on Project planning using PRA tools, Logical Framework Approach, Proposal Writing and Fundraising. His presentation was very enriching as he shared with us his knowledge and expertise in this field. The training was very useful and



educative especially for those of us who are new in project writing and fundraising. We were very happy to receive resources materials like handouts, CDs and a book on Mission Project Service for our ongoing learning and practice. At the end of his course, Fr. Winner surprised us with the Certificate of Award.

The IMDO team presented on Misesan Cara, the Irish funding agency that has been supporting some of the major projects in the Congregation. Carmel Terry, RNDM liaison to Misesan Cara was unable to be present with us, as she was denied visa for India. We are grateful to Carmel for a very productive skype call and for sharing in detail about Misesan Cara, especially on their revised forms for project application. We appreciate her support and patience in clarifying our doubts and queries.

The IMDO team also shared on the Spirituality of Fundraising and RNDM Strategic Planning that led to a dynamic group discussion and clarification. We were happy and grateful to Sister Catherine Brabender who shared at length through Skype on Vision, RNDM Strategic Planning related to projects and funding. We regret that she was not able to be present with us physically on account of her ill health. The practical work of Strategic Planning on individual projects helped us to understand the importance of making a Strategic Plan even for our daily activities.



This sessions presented by Sisters Crescencia and Smitha deepened our understanding of IMDO and its progress over the years. They explained to us clearly on the role of Mission Promoter, RNDM Solidarity Funding and Christmas Catalogue, Child Sponsorship, School Partnership, RNDM Volunteers, the importance of Child Safeguarding Policy, Information on Funding Agencies and their areas of interest, Mission Promotion and fundraising, Communication, Accountability and Transparency in all funding related activities.

We were honored with a warm welcome by the Catholic community at St. Vincent Pallotti Church, Banaswadi at the Sunday Mass.





We were delighted to have a day off after the first week of our workshop. An outing to Bengaluru City Park was such an amazing experience for some of us who came here for the first time. In spite of the heat we enjoyed the outing, sightseeing and shopping.

Throughout the Program, every Province and Region enriched us with creative power point presentation of each provinces' life and mission.

We were also spiritually enriched by the well-prepared morning and evening prayers from each province. A thanksgiving Mass was organized on the last day and the Workshop was concluded with a blessing ritual.

The finale of the Mission Promoters' Workshop was an agape with the Provincialate and Novitiate communities of Miriam Nilaya. We also thank the Novitiate community and Mariam Nivas for the delicious dinner and the fun time we shared together.

The participants of MPW are grateful to the CLT, PLTs, RLTs and IMDO for the wonderful opportunity to empower us with skills and knowledge for our mission. We thank all the sisters at Mariam Nilaya Community who have been the greatest support for the smooth running of this workshop. We appreciate the loving service rendered by the sisters and support staff to make the program a great success. Our sincere appreciation and heartfelt gratitude to Srs.Crescencia and Smitha who meticulously planned for this workshop and accompanied us and shared with us their wisdom, knowledge and experince on Mission Promotion in the Congregation, all through this workshop.

The message of our Chapter document ***"We are one, We are love"*** was greatly experienced among us as we shared our life and passion for Mission.

Our sincere thanks to all our sisters across the Congregation for supporting us with prayers and good wishes. We are grateful to Miseen Cara for the financial support towards this workshop.



***The Participants of MPW 2018  
Bangalore, India.***