



DIIPA News letter

Developing Indian Integral Pastoral Approach

Official organ of the Commission for SCCs (CCBI)

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A. Report of The Various Programmes And Activities of The Commission For BECs/SCCs

1. BEC/SCC Commission Meeting:

The commission for small Christian Communities had a virtual meeting on 2nd June 2020 to discuss and plan various activities as we could not meet physically. All the member Bishops of the Commission were present for the meeting. After sharing about the problems that are caused by Covid-19 it was decided to call for the NST meeting and a meeting of all regional coordinators in order to plan and assess the situations at different regions.

2. Joint Meeting of NST and Regional Coordinators:

Joint meeting of the regional coordinators was held on 10th June 2020. There were 26 participants for the meeting. Each participant shared about the activities done during this period of Covid-19. We have planned to design various programme modules and short video clips to help people in the grassroots. Family Gospel sharing need to be encouraged as physical gathering in groups is not possible. Awareness programmes on distancing, wearing Masks, and sanitizations were also need to be organized. Prepared liturgies could also be circulated. We must also take up challenging steps to help one another. Social media and WhatsApp groups need to be initiated to enthuse and give more push to the aspect of being connected. The Media desk could be active to produce more creative modules.

3. National Resource Team Meeting:

Members of the National Resource Team had a virtual meeting on 13th June 2020 and chocked out plans to assist the parishes and dioceses in responding to the present situation. The problem of Migrants in the country need to be addressed and so it was planned to have a meeting with the commission for youth and Migrants.

4. Northern Regional meeting:

A meeting of the northern region was organized on 15th June 2020. There were 12 Participants from various dioceses of North India. Apart from sharing of activities done during the Pandemic period it was suggested that each diocese also could organize virtual meetings so as to encourage and stimulate the animators and leaders at grassroots. Keeping connectivity with one another is very important at this time as many people are tensed and worried. It was suggested that dioceses apart from online masses and prayers

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From The Editor's Pen

Life, Now and Then

Life on wider terms can be completely unpredictable. Perhaps like man proposes one way and God disposes the other way. Life is rebooting in its own way and its frenetic pace has begun to slow down. We often keep predicting life and behave as if we are going to live forever but life has surprised all with a sad and shocking standstill. Old life patterns and new normal struggles are juggling and it makes us feel sensitive to the current situation in a world making us vulnerable which perhaps will leave many depression. But the million dollar question is how many of us have the courage, strength and resilience to face it spot on?



The new modes of doing, the new modes of coping and the new you with reverberating old life is making us feel antsy right now. Making a major lifestyle change could be the audacious move as on date by making smart precautions and channelizing our thoughts, energy, behaviour, manners in constructive ways. It's time for big radical change - For new channels to float in.

It's time for flexibility to take over. Flexibility precedes predictability and adaptation only to the new will make us toot our horns in front of tough situation. It's time to let go of old patterns and embrace new styles to discover the unknown. Change is the spice of life. Paradigm of paying close attention to all details to the new has arrived. Having the attitude of flexibility can prevent stress and make life more adventurous. The show must go on with modern tools like mask, social distancing, isolation, meditation, yoga, physical exercise and positive thinking, and Scripture reading, Gospel sharing etc. These are most precious assets today than gold in lockers, bit coins and Sensex. Even the wealthiest were not spared by fury of nature. We need to reform our approach towards our surroundings i.e humanity, animals, nature to restore what we have lost. What you sow-so you reap! Whatever mother Earth provided us free of cost in now costing heavily on us. It's a wakeup call to mend the ties and not to take things for granted. The choices is yours: To retain or exit, to be flexible or rigid, to hold on to old or move on, to regret life or make it adventurous, to live or to die, to respect it or resent it. Embrace the major shift in paradigm of life - then and now: A whole new world - A second innings for all to live in peace and harmony with every damn living being existing and alive here to experience life in perfect balance with economy too. As responsible Christians and members of BEC/SCC we need to hold on to what the lord tells us –“Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” (Mk: 6: 50)

Fr. George Jacob Palackaparambil SAC
Executive Secretary
Commission for SCCs (CCBI)

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also could conduct study sessions and bible quiz competitions, etc.

5. Kerala Regional Meeting:

A virtual meeting of the Kerala region was called by Fr. Thomas Tharayil the regional coordinator on 15th June 2020. Involvement of youth in various activities of the parish was the main point of discussion. The forth coming Panchayat election was also discussed as to how we need to be alert in selecting our leaders.

6. Nagpur Archdiocesan BEC Core Team Meeting:

Nagpur Archdiocesan BEC core Team was held on 21st June. All the team members were present. Archbishop Elias Gonsalves in his message spoke of the innovative ways that we must try to work at this time of Covid-19. All the deanery coordinators were asked to conduct a meeting of the animators of the BEC and present a report about it at the next meeting.

7. Joint Meeting of the NST/NRT with the Commission for Youth:

Joint meeting of the NST/NRT with the commission for youth was organised on 22nd June 2020. There were 18 participants for this meeting. Fr. Chetan Machado presented an over view of the various activities carried out during this time and the problems that are faced by the youth commission. He also posed certain questions that the young people are facing and the meeting decided to work together and collaborate with the youth commission to encourage more and more youth to the life stream of the church.

8. Odisha Regional Meeting:

Meeting of the Odisha regional BEC team was held on 23rd June 2020. Bishop Niranjan Sualsingh the Chairman of the region addressed the meeting and gave the message. Bishop spoke about the importance of connectedness with one another at this time of Covid -19. There were 12 participants for the meeting.

9. North East Regional Meeting:

North East regional meeting was held on 2nd July 2020. There were 12 participants for the meeting.

The main points that was discussed in the meeting were:

- Family Gospel sharing
- Encourage the youth in our locality
- We need to keep the connectedness in our area
- Every diocesan coordinator to call a meeting of his diocesan animators
- Collaborate with other commissions in the dioceses.

10. Joint Meeting of NST with the Commission for Migrants:

Joint meeting of NST with CCBI commission for Migrants was organized on 6th July 2020. Fr. Jaison Vadassery the Executive secretary to the Migrant Commission presented a short report of the present situation of the Migrants in the Country. It was decided to prepare a data based plan, collection of information, psycho spiritual support to help the migrants who are struggling to find job or to have a proper living.

11. Kerala Regional Meeting:

A second meeting of the Kerala region was held on 8th July 2020. The diocesan directors expressed the idea of looking forward to preparing guidelines of new pastoral approach. Short term and long term planning, training resource teams are important aspects to be considered.

12. BEC Jharkhand Regional Meeting:

Jharkhand regional meeting was held on 13th July 2020. There were 12 participants for the meeting. During the pandemic the SCC and the youth are very active in helping the people who are in need. Mobile connectivity is kept up with the people. Many people helped in different ways to give food and rations to people. People are being encouraged to have the family prayer and Gospel sharing.

13. Bihar Regional Meeting:

BEC Bihar regional meeting was organized on 14th July 2020. There were 8 participants for the meeting. Planed to work together with other commissions of the diocese by organizing webinars among them. The problems that the migrant workers are facing were also part of the discussion and considered to approach them in whatever way possible.

14. West Bengal/Sikkim Regional Meeting:

West Bengal and Sikkim regional meeting was held on 16th July 2020. There were 18 participants for the meeting. There was sharing of experiences of social actions undertaken during the time of Pandemic. Implementation of Laudato si programme was considered. Problem of Migrant workers was a point of deliberation. Many leaders in the region came up with different social outreach programmes. Bishop Clement Turkey of Jalpaiguri diocese spoke of his plan to establish a media centre for the diocese in order to have a better communication. It was pointed out that Dialogue with people of other religions, adult catechesis, agriculture, animation programme need to be encouraged. Networking, input sessions for people, collaboration with local government and SCC wise masses are some of the things they have planned to do in the region.

15. Jhansi Diocesan Meeting:

Commission also took the initiative to organize a virtual meeting of the Jhansi diocesan SCC team members on 19th July 2020. Parish animators and diocesan in charges were present along with Bishop Peter Parapullil for the meeting. Bishop Peter asked everyone to be actively involved in helping the people who need ration and other sorts of financial assistances and insisted on having Gospel sharing in families.

16. Nagpur Diocesan SCC Team Meeting:

Some of the Suggestions that came forth in the meeting were the following.

- Create awareness in the community about hygiene, mask and social distancing.
- Begin to have Gospel Sharing in the families to strengthen our faith life.
- Encourage, Empower our Youth since they are the ones who can be more active

- in the parishes.
- We need to have connectivity with the families in the locality as well as with the Parish Priest.
- Bible reading need to be encouraged among the family members.
- Within the SCC Units a 'WhatsApp' group can be formed.
- Parishes could hold a virtual meeting of the SCC unit leaders and discuss the situation in the parishes and the problems that people face.
- If there are migrant workers who need to be helped in our parishes they need to be assisted through SCCs.

17. A Joint Meeting of CCBI Commission of Ecology, Catechetics, Laity, Women and Family with SCC/BEC Commission.

SCC commission organised a joint meeting of various CCBI commissions on 23rd July 2020. There was an intense sharing by each commission in response to the present situation of the pandemic. There was also an input session on the topic how to live with Covid-19. The input sessions were presented by Shri. S. Jay Kumar IPS, Additional Commissioner of Police Mumbai, Dr. Sammeer Dayal Adwani MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Pulmonary Medicine, GMC Nagpur and Dr. Sr. Bindu George of St. Joseph Hospital, Nagpur. The sharing and presentations were very fruitful. Fr. Stephan Alathara, Deputy Secretary General, mentioned that all commissions must work under the umbrella of SCC/BEC and collaborate together.

18. Karnataka Regional SCC Meeting:

Karnataka Regional SCC/BEC meeting was held on 28th July 2020. Bishop Peter Paul of Mangalore diocese spoke of SCC as a wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit to build the church. It has the tremendous potential for evangelization. It leads people to Eucharistic worship, to bring people to Jesus and thus come to the personal encounter with him. There was reporting from each diocese and then planning for the future works.

19. BEC/SCC Training of the Animators of the Kolkata Archdiocese:

Fr. George Jacob the Executive Secretary conducted a virtual training programme on BEC for the animators of Kolkata archdiocese on 7th August 2020. There were 18 Participants for the training. The topic was on the shift of BEC from SCC and its basic understanding.

20. Introductory Workshop for the Youth:

Four days of SCC training was organized in English for youth from 17th to 20th August. Participants were from Kolkata, Chandigarh, Delhi and Ajmer and about 70 youth attended the programme. We also had a training programme for the youth of the Hindi speaking areas from 11th to 14th August, there were 55 participants and a third training for the youth was organized from 27th to 30th August. In all these what was noticed was that there was an over whelming response from the side of youth to learn about SCC way of life and they shared that this lock-down has brought them very close to God. They all expressed their wish to work for the growth of the Church by establishing SCCs/BECs.

The above workshops were animated by Frs. George Jacob, Joachim Fernandez, Wilfred Masih, Mr. Sameer (Member NST) and Sr. Christin Joseph.

21. Introductory Workshop for the SCC Animators/Leaders:

Four days of introductory workshop for the leaders and diocesan SCC animators of Hindi speaking areas was organized on Zoom platform on 29th July to 1st August. Frs. George Jacob, Thomas Vijay and Sr. Christin Joseph animated the sessions. It was arranged in two groups at different timings as there were many persons wanting to participate. First group had 25 participants and second group had 35 participants. This was the first training programme after the lockdown started and all participants appreciated the session.

22. BEC/SCC Workshop for the Fourth year Theologians:

Fr. George Jacob animated a five days of virtual classes for the fourth year theologians of Prabodhana Seminary Mysore (Pallottine Theologate). There were 19 students who participated the five days of sessions and found that the sessions were very informative and need of the hour.

Small Christian Communities are very effective means to bring renewal and new evangelization in the Catholic Church as it focuses on SCCs and gives attention to each and every individual. SCCs are nourished by the Eucharist and sustained by the Word of God unitedly they cause the transformation at every nook and corner of the world.

Reports Bro. Vijay Kanmuri SAC, Mysore

The classes on SCC was so enriching, effective and a wake up call for all of us. Insights gained by this course will help us to create SCCs in the parishes wherever we shall do our ministry. Through SCCs together with the help of Gospel Sharing, we can make our parishes vibrant and lively. It is the way of being the Church, it's a sign of unity in the Church, and it's the fellowship among all. So, being the Disciples of Christ let's make known Christ and reach Christ to the people in and around us through SCCs.

Reports Bro. Sachin Kumar Hemrom, SAC, Mysore

23. BEC/SCC Workshop for Priests and Religious.

Commission organized a four days of training session (online) for the priests and religious (CRI) from 10th to 13th September. There were 40 participants from various places. All the priests and sisters who attended the sessions were of the opinion that this sort of workshops should be given continually as to make the clergy and religious aware of the need to establish BECs/SCCs in their own places of work. The sessions were very good and all appreciated organizers. Fr. George Jacob and Sr. Christin Joseph animated the sessions. The religious communities were encouraged to begin Gospel Sharing in their own communities in order to come out of their ghetto mentality.

B.Regional News:

B.1. W. Bengal- Sikkim Region: (Sr. Christin reports)

1. 2nd to 7th July Regular credit course on SCC theology was conducted for second year theologians of Morning Star collage, Barrackpore. Examination for the same was conducted on 17th July.
2. 15th to 17th July: A two day training for SCC animators of the Region to use Zoom and Google apps for meetings, Gospel sharing and online classes. It was conducted in Chetana Pastoral centre, Burdwan.
3. W. Bengal and Sikkim regional Team met in Chetana, Pastoral Centre, Burdwan on 3rd September. Eight priests from five dioceses, two lay persons, Sr. Christin, HC and Fr. Rajesh, OMI attended. It was suggested that each diocese organize training for SCC animators/ DST members/ youth for 20 to 30 participants.
4. A five day video shooting and editing training was conducted from 31st August to 5th September for the W. Bengal-Sikkim Region. There were 11 enthusiastic and hardworking participants who were given the basics of video shooting and editing with minimum facilities.
5. Over 300 catholic youth were interviewed about the pandemic experiences and their dream for a post Covid-19 Church. A video is being prepared based on a short summary of these interviews.
6. Visits to SCCs and youth in the Parish of Asansol diocese with the aim to make them aware and to guide them in fulfilling their Christian duties towards their neighbour.

B.2. Jharkhand Region: (Sr. Christin Reports)

1. A two day Training for SCC Animators was conducted in SDC, Dumka. 30 participants took part in the training. The main topics dealt with were: sharing of pandemic experiences, Love conquers fear, Viruses that are stronger than Corona in the society today and the role of SCCs during this global crisis of pandemic.
2. A two day youth training was conducted for youth leaders of Dumka. 14 leaders of youth took part in the programme. Topics dealt with were: their experiences of Pandemic and lock down , Love conquers fear, the dream for a post covid-19 Church, their role in fulfilling their dream for the Church and Christus Vivit.





Forth Coming Virtual Programme

Date	Programme	Venue
Oct. 6th to 9th	SCC Leaders Training	PAC, Nagpur
Oct. 12th to 16th	SCC workshop for CRI	PAC, Nagpur
Oct. 20th	NST meeting	PAC, Nagpur
Oct. 27th	NRT meeting	PAC, Nagpur
Nov. 4th	Regional Coordinators meeting	PAC, Nagpur
Nov. 10th to 14th	SCC Team Training	PAC, Nagpur
Nov. 24 to 27th	SCC Diocesan directors meeting	PAC, Nagpur
Dec. 8th to 12th	SCC workshop for Youth	PAC, Nagpur
Dec. 15th to 19th	SCC Introductory workshop in Hindi/English	PAC, Nagpur

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