

Pastoral Activities of the Korean Catholic Church
through the Small Christian Community
centered on the activities of 'SCCs National Committee
(2004-2006)

I. Summary

1. Purpose

The Korean Catholic Church wants to be a 'community of communion' where all the people of God participate in through vitalizing the SCCs.

2. Organization

(1) The Korean Catholic Church has been trying to promote the evangelization through SCCs from 1990s, and in 2001 has established 'The SCCs National Committee' with collaboration of the Pastoral Directors for lay people. The Church tried to vitalize the SCCs setting up a 'SCC sub-committee' in the Catholic Bishop's Conference of Korea.

(2) 'The SCCs National Committee' is formed with the Committee of the Representatives of the Dioceses, Planning and Study Committee, Inspection Committee and Actual Affairs Committee.

3. Important Activities

- (1) Promotion of the communion and cooperation between dioceses and parishes related to SCC
- (2) Academic Study on the subjects related to SCC
- (3) Developing the pastoral programs to vitalize the SCC
- (4) Education for the formation of the SCC leaders
- (5) Searching out and expansion of the pastoral activity models of SCC
- (6) Holding and supporting of the National Meetings related to SCC
- (7) International Solidarity Activities for the SCC

II. Realizations of the Important Activities

1. Symposium on the SCC in 2004 (2 nights and 3 days)

- (1) Date : 12-7-2004 - 13-7-2004(2 nights 3days)
- (2) Place : St. Jeong Ha Sang Education Center in Daejeon
- (3) Purpose: Evaluation on SCC in Korean Catholic Church of last 10 years and to understand present tasks and prospects
- (4) Contents: lectures on SCC and discussion on the lectures done
- (5) Participants: 247 participants from 14 dioceses of Korea and from Japan (bishops 6, priests 63, religious 19 and lay people 159).
- (6) Evaluation : Looked at the background of the introduction of SCC in the Korean Catholic Church and the actual situation. Tried to understand the SCC in the theological and practical dimensions and enlighten the SCC in various dimensions such as leadership, apostolic movements, spiritualities and so on. Thus this

symposium could offer the theoretical scheme of the SCC pastoral inculturalization and could prepare the springboard to reset the direction to go on with the SCC.

2. The third SCC National Assembly

- (1) Date : 13-7-2004 - 15-7-2004
- (2) Place: St. Jeong Ha Sang Education Center in Daejeon
- (3) Purpose: Evaluation on the pastoral activities of SCC during last 10 years and finding of the future prospects
- (4) Contents: presentation and sharing of the experiences made in the dioceses and parishes. Offering the results of study done on the example cases, and conversation with bishops
- (5) Participants: 247 representatives of 14 Korean dioceses and of Japan(6 bishops, 63 priests, 19 religious and 159 lay people).
- (6) Evaluation : it was a moment of understanding SCC through practical evaluation. SCCs were understood as an integral pastoral access.

3. Basic Formation for SCC in 2005(2 times)

- (1) Date : 1st : 29-8-2005 - 1-9-2005(3nights and 4days)
2nd: 28-11-2005 - 30-11-2005(2nights and 3days)
- (2) Place : St. Jeong Ha Sang Education Center in Daejeon
- (3) Purpose: Formation of the professional teams of the service members for SCC, who can do the SCC education in the diocese, parish and elsewhere offering educations of the theological principles, management principles and important programs on SCC in a profound way.

(4) Contents : SCC theological principles, programs of SCCs meetings, leadership and catechism

(5) Participants:

1st: 231 from 13 dioceses(bishops 4, priests 57, religious 25 and lay people 145)

2nd: 206 from 13 dioceses(bishops 2, monsignor 1, priests 27, religious 50 and lay people 126)

4. The 4th SCC National Assembly

(1) Date : 28-8-2006 - 30-8-2006(2nights and 3days)

(2) Place: St. Jeong Ha Sang Education Center in Daejeon

(3) Purpose: to have a moment of sharing joys of being together with God in SCC experiencing personally the Small Community life

(4) Contents: a feast of the Small Communities(each diocese offered experiences done through the Small Christian Community lives), presentation of the model cases of dioceses and parishes, and other sharing.

(5) Participants: 251 from 13 diocese(bishops 3, priests 42, religious 30 and lay people 176)

(6) Evaluation: could experience the church in which the priests, religious and lay people participate and be together

III. Activity plan

1. publishing a manual of SCC : will start the publishing work of the manual of SCC which can be used in all dioceses from 2007.

Pusan Diocese

1. Country/ Diocese : Pusan

2. Status of PPCs(**representative, consultative, pastoral**)

The PPCs(Parish Pastoral Councils) are not yet organized based on the small community of the Area/Ban. Only in some parishes, the PPCs are organized based on the small community: the president of the Laity Activity Council and the responsables of the Kuyeok/Ban area form the SCCs and the PPC supports these Small Community organizations.

3. **Key Developments since 2003 in SCC development Experiences of empowering SCCs to serve Mission :**

* Important facts in the development of SCC after the 3rd ASIPA(experiences/examples of the members of the SCC of serving with more sprint):

About 3 years has passed since we have started the SCC and we are trying to form the volunteers for each Kuyeok area and Ban area.

We have good examples of SCCs. They are making good Gospel sharing, but because of the lack of the active support from the parish priest, and because the lay people are not yet well accustomed to active faith living, we think we need more time. But we see that little by little, the faithful are changing their understanding. For example, at first, also during the education, they complained much about the priests, but they became more interested in what they had to do and there were many requests for the re-education programs.

4. Important lessons and insights learnt in maintaining SCCs:

We believe that most dioceses of Korean Catholic Church are in the similar situation: having few farmers in the diocese. The Pusan Diocese is the same. Most of the population are working in various camps and since there are many organizations and movements active in the parish, the responsible of the Ban area say that it's practically difficult to have Gospel sharing meeting once a week. All are agree that the Gospel sharing meeting is very important for every day life. But we feel that we should study more how to adjust for the actual situation of the faithful to have a better results from this sharing.

5. Plans in the immediate future

We have decided that we will change the 'organizations of the parish' so as to facilitate the practice of the Small Community Life and announced this decision through the Pastoral Letter of the Diocese written for the year of 2007. We are preparing also the better education of the volunteers of the "Ban" area so that they can make a better services for the practical life sharing. We can be optimistic on the future prospective of valuable Small Community Pastoral Work with the cooperation of the priests who have interests in SCC even though it is difficult to go on.

Masan Diocese

1. Country : Korea/ Masan Diocese
2. Number of the parishes: 67(including 1 Common Pastoral Parish and 2 Associate Parishes)

Year	31-12-2002	31-12-2005
Parishes	61	67
SCC based on BAN area	1,180	1,180
average no. of families in a SCC BAN area	8.52	8.52
average participants in the SCC 'BAN' meeting(%)	51.76	51.76
Average no. of the SCC 'BAN' area meeting in a month	once a month	once a month
Contents of the meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * reading the Gospel * Gospel sharing * Mass in Kuyeok/Ban area * sharing foods together 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Gospel sharing: 7 step Gospel sharing. 'Our Journey Together' (year 2006), materials for Gospel sharing * Mass in Kuyeok/BAN area, Reading the Bible * Audio-visual education, * Liberal prayers

3. No. of SCCs(approximately)

4. Actual situation of the Parish Pastoral Council

Many parishes have their organizations based on the Parish Pastoral Council.

* Notes : Example of a Parish Pastoral Council of the Kaeum-dong Parish

1. Organizing each committee and election of the president of the committee(special case)

* method of organization : recommend more than 5 persons in each area(written specification of the committee that recommends) to the Parish Pastoral Council:

2. Important meetings(special case)

1) monthly meeting of the committee members

* members: all members of each committee, responsible for the Kuyeok areas concerned (mission section-mission committee, service section-social welfare committee, public relations section-public relations committee, friendship section-general affair committee).

* meeting : once a month(the following Sunday after the meeting of the permanent members of the parish pastoral council)

* tasks: settlement of monthly activities. report on the parish pastoral council, future planning

2) SCC Council

* SCCs are the roots of the Parish and basic communities(structures) and belong to the presidential members of the Parish Pastoral Council(do not belong to the Kuyeok area committee. Kuyeok area committee is a professional functional structure as the other committees).

* The vice president of the parish pastoral council should participate in this council and manifest the connection between this council and the presidential members of the Parish Pastoral Council.

(1) formed by : vice president of the Parish Pastoral Council, committee members of the Kuyeok area, leaders of the male and female of Kuyeok area, vice leaders of the

male and female of Kuyeok area, general secretary, disciples, vice disciples, general secretary.

(2) meeting : once a month(the following Sunday after the meeting of the permanent members of the parish pastoral council).

-Kuyeok Committee members meeting : preparation and expedition of the meeting.

- Vice president : manages the opening and closing of the session and consultation.

(3) tasks : presentation of the SCC activities and decision of the activities to do.

Preparation of the Kuyeok area meeting and SCC meeting and study.

5. Family community and Small Christian Community: Small Christian Community activities related to the strengthening of the family community, practical examples, results.

'Let's pray at 21:00' movement: encourages all family members to gather together to pray at 21:00 in any forms. When it's not possible to gather together at 21:00, pray where one finds him/herself for the same intention. Preparing and distributing prayer books suitable for family use or portable.

6. Plans in the immediate future

- Supplied "Our Journey Together", the catechism books. And did the education for the service members.

1) Introducing "Our Journey Together" and its presentation

- for priests (March 2006): presented "Our Journey Together" to the priests during the spring time study and training course for the priests.

- for the religious/lay people (April 2006) : presented "Our Journey Together" to the religious and lay people of the parishes in the diocese(participated 253 persons).

2) Workshop for the education group of "Our Journey Together"(April 2006)

The professional committee members of SCC suggested during their meeting the idea of making an effective workshop for the service members considering that the Masan Diocese is situated in a large territory.

- The 1st Workshop(28-29 April 2006)

Was held at the Parish of Namhae and we used the materials prepared by the Integrated Pastoral Study Center of Seoul and the curriculum prepared by Kwangju and Pusan Dioceses.

* Preparation : 6 professional members of SCC prepared the teaching programs following the contents of "Our Journey Together"(prepared power-points).

* Working in unity: each of them presented the teaching programs prepared, and reflected on them together (so as to correct together). In this way they could give the united character of the teaching program. As we tried from the beginning, we decided to have the service members education program in two places considering the geological situations: one for Jinju and Tongyeong area and the other for the Masan and Changwon area.

- 2nd Workshop(19-05-2006)

Was done at the Parish of Sinan-dong in Jinju for the Jinju and Tongyeong area. A new trainer group formed by mostly priests(6 people) was added to the original trainers and did the same program as that of the 1st workshop. And the professional

members of SCC who participated in the 1st workshop presented the programs corrected and recomposed.

3) Service members' Education

The teaching program which is suitable for the situation of Masan Diocese was recomposed and two service members' education were held during July and August in 2006 in two places: for Jinju and Tongyeong area, and for Masan and Changwon area. The service members from Jinju and Tongyeong area had completed their training on 25th August and those from Masan and Changwon area will finish the course on 1st September.

Teaching Program for the service members of "Our Journey Together"

Course	hours	contents	notes
1st step	3	"Why should we make journey together?" "The Church where we are together"	
	2	What catechism is "Our journey together"?	practice(1)
2nd step	1:30	How to do the preparative meeting and self evaluation?	
	1:30	Method of making "I want to know" program and questions and answers	
	2	Roles and attitudes of the service members	practice(2)
3rd step	1:30	Law of marriage	
	1:30	About the preparation for the baptism (the significance of the baptism)	

	2:30	How to do the catechism according to "Our Journey Together"? (How to manage those who drop out of the catechism and who are absent) The Mass and the graduate	parish priest is requested to be present
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Participants: Masan and Changwon area: from 20 parishes, 148 persons

/ Jinju and Tongyeong area: from 12 parishes 146 persons

4) Plans

- Service members education and re-education of the service members

Plan : we are planning to have this education course more than 2 times a year

Contents: leadership, mutual communications, prayer

- Workshop of the education group for service members

Plan : we are planning to have this workshop more than 2 times a year

Contents : "Our Journey Together" and corrected contents of it for the special

situations of Masan Diocese.

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