Summary Report of the Workshop in Kenya on

Building Christian Fellowship in Institutions of Learning through SCCs

Donum Dei Retreat Centre
Karen, Nairobi, Kenya
21 to 24 May, 2015

The Workshop on the "Building of Christian Fellowship in Institutions of Learning through SCCs" for Chaplains and Students of Kenya was held at Donum Dei Retreat Centre in Karen, Nairobi, Kenya from 21 to 24 May, 2015. The workshop was organized by the AMECEA Pastoral Department in collaboration with the Pastoral Department of the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB) and the International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS). This workshop was one in the series of workshop aimed at the "Strengthening of Small Christian Communities as Model of Evangelization at the Grassroots Level" in the AMECEA Region. The Workshop was attended by 28 participants from the following universities: Kenyatta, Maseno, University of Nairobi, Masinde Muliro, Lower Kabete, Laikipia, Moi, University of Eldoret, Chuka, Egerton and Kisumu. There were two chaplains which was lower than the actual number that was expected.

The main objective of the workshop was to enhance the role and place chaplaincy in the strengthening of Christian fellowship through SCCs. As was expressed through the expectations of the participants, the students experience a strong sense of fellowship within the context of the life of the Catholic Church. In order to help promote close collaboration and participation, the participants were divided in five groups as SCCs: St. Mary SCC, St. John SCC, St. Kizito SCC, Uganda Martyrs SCC and Sacred Heart SCC.

The main themes and topics that were presented were:

1. Sharing on the AMECEA Priority of SCCs vis a vis Students (Fr. Pikiti Febian Mulenga)
2. Motivation Input on Chaplaincy and Pastoral Ministry in Universities (Fr. Lance Nadeau)
3. Information and Communication Technology for Evangelization (Mr. Denis Ongaria)
4. Advocacy and Lobbying Skills (Mr. Michael from IYCS)

A number of challenges were identified that make very difficult to students in the institution of learning to live their Christian faith and participate actively in SCCs/BSGs. Some of them are: time factors because of many activities, limited facilities/rooms for meetings, collision between official university calendar and times for SCCs meetings, some of the unhealthy relationships between members of SCCs, instances of negative ethnicity, some negative external influence from politics, some financial problems, uncooperative chaplains, lack of chaplains, lack of seminars and workshops about SCCs and other issues related to leadership.

In proposing the action plan, the participants resolved to embark on the following areas as part of the follow-up (follow-down) to strengthen fellowship among students.

1. Reporting to various communities or universities the members come from and update their Chaplains/Community Leaders.
2. Joint training of students on the importance of IMCS, YCS, SCCs.
3. Joint Rally and Mass so that Catholic students from different institutions of learning are able to meet and share their faith.
4. Social Platform through ICT in order to keep friends among student using social media.
5. Recollection as groups in universities to encourage prayer and faith building.
6. Charity work as acts of solidarity with those who are in need.
7. Institutional visits to strengthen next works of collaboration among chaplains.
8. Leadership training for community leaders will strengthen the church.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- To promote an annual Catholic Students Forum for students either at national or diocesan level as an occasion to meet with bishops so that they give guidance to pastoral care of students in institutions of learning.
- To hold an annual meeting of chaplains with Catholic Student Leaders in order to create and promote a network of collaboration among institutions of learning.
- To enhance collaboration between AMECEA and KCCB in supporting the initiative of the IMCS/IYCS to promote pastoral activities for students in the institutions of learning.
- AMECEA Pastoral Department to embark on a research project to assess and evaluate the "Impact and Efficiency of Catholic Chaplaincy in Institutions of Higher Learning."

Conclusion

The meeting was concluded with a closing ceremony that was attended by Fr. Charles Odira of KCCB. He thanked AMECEA and all the participants for the success of the workshop. He assured the delegates of the Catholic Bishops' commitment to ministering to the youth in the institutions of learning.

Prepared by:

Fr. Febian Pikiti Mulenga
AMECEA PASTORAL DEPARTMENT

THEME: "BUILDING CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP IN INSTITUTIONS OF LEARNING THROUGH SCCs"

DATES: 21 – 24 MAY 2015

VENUE: DONUM DEI CENTRE, KAREN, NAIROBI, KENYA

DAY ONE, 22 May 2015

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Individual introduction took place with everyone talking of the likes and dislikes of him/herself, the institutions of learning they were coming from, sharing an adjective that accompanies one's name and this created a lot of fun. The facilitator was Chantal from Mali and Regional Leader of the International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS).

RULES IN THE HOUSE

➢ Mobile phones on silent mode or being switched off.
➢ Time consciousness.
➢ Minimum movement of personnel.
➢ Active listening and turn taking.
➢ Responsible.
➢ Active participation from individuals.

SANCTIONS

Sitting on the floor while the session is on for a fifteen minutes time.

EXPECTATIONS

➢ How to improve on the existing Christian fellowship communities in campus.
➢ How the Small Christian Communities are run in different institutions.
➢ Know the challenges the faced and how to overcome them.
➢ How to form the Small Christian communities on our campuses.
➢ Getting the background information on AMECEA and its relation with IMCS.
➢ Socialization amongst individuals hence networking increase proximity.
➢ Identify and propose solutions to solve the issues that arises in Christian Communities.

FEARS

➢ Not being able to go out and preach the word as the Protestants do.
➢ Not to get the solutions to these challenges.
➢ The trainers may not satisfy our expectations, hence boredom.
➢ Time factor because the days for the workshop are very few.

Chaplains in group discussion

SHARING ON THE AMECEA PASTORAL PRIORITY OF SCCs VIS-A-VIS STUDENTS BY FR. FEBIAN PIKITI

Fr. Febian Pikiti Mulenga, the Pastoral Coordinator of the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa (***AMECEA***), looked at the "Building of SCCs as Pastoral Priority for AMECEA" in relation to the life of youth in institutions of learning. He helped the participants to share their actual situation of SCCs and how they can create support to students in their dreams and then give them the forum to share their experiences in the light of faith. The SCCs are important to students because they provide a forum for young people who are searching for good social relationships and friendship. In most of the universities in Kenya, SCCs are referred as Bible Study Groups (BSGs). Fr. Pikiti emphasized the following areas about SCCs/BSGs:

SCCs/BSGs to promote prayer life and reverence for God,
SCCs/BSGs to support students in their prayer life (*Mark* 9:2-8),
SCCs/BSGs as place of nourishment by the Word of God,
SCCs/BSGs nurturing of vocations and ministries,
SCCs/BSGs promote integral development.

The reality today is that we are all coming from situations where most of our young people are living in abject poverty, unemployment, abuses of all forms, and a sense of hopelessness because society is not meeting their needs.

MOTIVATIION INPUT ON CHAPLAINCY AND PASTORAL MINISTRY IN UNIVERSITIES BY FR. LANCE NADEAU

1. The primary responsibility of evangelization in the Catholic community is the bishop.
2. Financial help should be the role of bishop to help the youth especially in evangelization.
3. The largest and youngest labor force in the world will come from Africa in the next 15-20 years.
4. As Catholics in Africa the youth have the responsibility of evangelizing.
5. We are reminded that we don't know the *Bible* vastly.
6. The Kingdom of God is not a place but it's an action. Evangelization is really about transformation.
7. Evangelization in the church belongs to the baptized and is not the sole responsibility of the bishops, fathers, sisters, catechists. etc.
8. The Parish Pastoral Council coordinates the Small Christian Communities in the institutions mostly.
9. Training of personnel on management and trending issues should be considered in the pastoral community.

Chaplaincy is all about collaboration. This involves the interaction between the officials and the laypeople. The main challenges include:

1. Numbers of students in the universities has continued to grow very rapidly while the chaplaincy services remain threatened.
2. Shortage of trained personnel in chaplaincy remains a reality in Kenya and in most AMECEA countries.
3. Lack of a mission and vision on youth chaplaincy in tertiary institutions of learning is another major challenge. Most of the dioceses do not take this ministry as a priority and to have it included in the Diocesan Pastoral Plan.
4. Facilities and programs: Since chaplaincy is left to the initiative of individual priests or religious orders, investment in infrastructure and programs is very limited.
5. The presence of God is confirmed in the human relations. Since chaplaincy is not all about spiritual nourishment but is also about social nourishment, we should set goals as a chaplaincy. These include:

   a. Empowering the youth to live as true disciples of Christ in the world of today.
   b. Responsible participation to help the students to build on whatever has been put in place.
   c. To foster a holistic approach in order to improve on the spiritual goals.
   d. Presenting the Gospel of Christ to young people so that they are encouraged with enthusiasm to share it with others.

Collaborative areas of chaplaincy are:

1. Evangelizing ministry: Promote responsible participation of students in the church through different ministries to the sick, Eucharist, ushering or lectors. This will promote active involvement of students.
2. Advocacy ministry: To promote a critical and reflective community that look at issues in order to promote positive change in society.
3. Catechesis: Resource team to promote catechesis, Christian formation and life witness to the faith.
4. Leadership development: Students are a good resource in themselves with creative initiatives that will energize the Church community dynamic. Their leadership role is for the building of the Ecclesial Community (1 *Corinthians* 12:12ff).

5. Worship: To encourage novelty by promoting active participation in prayer groups, SCCs/BSGs and lay apostolate groups.
6. Community life.
7. Justice and peace.
8. Leadership development.
9. Pastoral care.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Involves testimony and more of an interactive kind of a session.

(Fr. George): They should be instituted in the university system.
(Collet Kawira): Companion availability.
(Lazarus Kioko): Activities we undertake being taken more seriously by the institution.

Motivating Factors as a Chaplaincy
Student's participation in the church activities, interactive kind of a session without negligence of your denomination-socio-interaction.
Hierarchical Support
Initially there were no any kind of a support and hence we had to mutate (adapt) in order to survive especially in terms of facility allocation. We are forced to use the lecture hall which sometimes is multipurpose. The support from the parish was not forthcoming. There is negligence hence the students have come in buy seats to help in during the mass.
How often are you invited in the panel associated with planning?
We are somehow neglected in the issues to deal with planning. It's in the recent years that the diocese has come up with a five year kind of plan but it's not still efficient in things to deal with the logistics.
Availability of Information on the Existence of the Catholic Community
Adverts are placed strategically making it easy for a new person to easily access the community and join them in the worship.
Motivating Factor in joining YCS
The leadership did set a good example and this somehow made me join them and feel at home.
The Reason you are still a Catholic
Word of God Sharing is making one close to God.
The reason why some students leave the Catholic faith
Negligence from the chaplaincy and this demotivates the students. Curriculum set up is somehow not favorable. This goes hand in hand with the flexibility of the system to ensure that every student fits into the system.
Visit from the Chaplaincy
Once in a semester during major events which are mostly rare.
Activities
Small Christian groups help with facilitation of the activities. They include SCCs, IMCS, Legion of Mary, etc. The activities they engage in mostly include cleaning the chapel, *Bible* study, etc.
View on the issues raised by the Chaplaincy
They are real and we as students help him in terms of administering some of his roles. He also has an office where he can run his job. The facility in use is moderate in terms of

standards. I often get in touch with our chaplaincy almost every day as an individual and this extends to the students.

Publicity

There is availability of publicity measures that make us conspicuous. We use the shirts, adverts, social media sites and other means to ensure that we are conspicuous and can be heard.

DAY TWO: 23 May 2015

FIRST SESSION: GROUP DISCUSSIONS

	CHALLENGES	ROLE OF CHAPLAINS	RESOURCES NEEDED TO SUSTAIN SCCs	STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE RESOURCE MOBILIZATION	ROLE OF ICT
	Time Factor	Offering Spiritual Nourishment	Adequate Financial Resources	Proper project planning	Posting of *Bible* verses and spiritual texts
	Residential issues make it difficult to coordinate	Guidance and Counselling	Human Resources- Good leadership, Good adequate number of persons within the SCCs,	Income Generating Activities/Small Enterprises	Provision of regular updates on activities

Lack of facilities/rooms for meetings	Mentorship and Role Modelling	Time	Proper Accounting and Transparency	Movies and documentaries as a way of enhancing faith and motivating students to attend SCCs
Collision between official university calendar and SCCs	Oversight of the SCC	Catholic Students office	Support from the Diocese	Online Discussions on topical issues
Unhealthy relationships between members of SCCs	Administration of the Chaplaincy	Chaplains House	Motivation	*Bible* applications on phones
Negative Ethnicity	Safeguard interest of the chaplaincy	Sacramentals	Harmonized Leadership	Projection of songs and readings
Negative external influence	Liaison between SCCs and the university	ICT	Time Management	Networking
Financial Problems	Face of the Catholic Community		Effective Communication	Conducting virtual meetings
Lack of Chaplains	Organize Catechism sessions		Friend Raising as a basis of fund raising	Keeping Records
Uncooperative chaplains and patrons	Facilitate leadership sessions for students		Project proposals to donors	
Lack of Seminars and Workshops	Availability and participation in SCCs		Alumni involvement	
Coordination of offertory collection for mass	Mediation of conflicts in cases where the leadership cannot resolve conflicts between SCCs		Selling religious articles	
Branding			Partnership with sister institutions	
Fall out of members			Membership fees	

SECOND SESSION: INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY FOR EVANGELIZATION BY MR. DENIS ONG' ARIA

ICT-- information communication technology for evangelization. Spreading the Good News to others. The responsibility of evangelization is the baptized personnel. Small Christian Communities have these key elements.

1. Prayer
2. Learning
3. Service or mission
4. Faith sharing
5. Support
6. ICT is very rapid, reaches many and is an instant means to evangelize
7. Forms of technology that exist: email, websites and blogs, Facebook, Twitter, Skype, WhatsApp

Advantages

1. Lowers cost
2. Reaches many
3. Always available
4. Enhances peer to peer evangelism
5. Enhances collaboration -- several volunteer contributors and all participate
6. Nonprofit giving is increasing online

Disadvantages

1. Addictive
2. No agreeable standards of use -- each group has to set its own parameters
3. Security and privacy of people, information and data is not always guaranteed
4. There's no sufficient knowledge on how to use it.

Best Practices with Social Media

1. Establish the need for an ICT tool
2. Know your audience and target only your audience not general public
3. Follow back and interact
4. Let the platform be proactive
5. Keep the brand alive
6. Ensure the security of information of the data on your platform
7. Use the data you have to improve

THIRD SESSION: LOBBYING AND ADVOCACY SKILLS BY MR. MICHAEL

IYCS has taken part in various advocacy and lobbying skills. Key among these was the most recent UNCCC on environment.

Lobbying: This is using various communication strategies to influence decision makers to bring about change. Advocacy: This refers to an organized effort at creating awareness around issues that affect society. Advocacy is meant to inform he community /people how public policy affects/impacts on service provision and therefore their lives

The speaker then went on to mention that advocacy can either be people-centered or policy-centered. The Let's Do It! World Website (http://www.letsdoitworld.org) was used to show an example of people-centered advocacy. For effective advocacy to happen, the following steps have to be taken:

- Team building
- Communication
- Mapping
- Outsourcing partners e.g. Media, Govt, Politicians
- Registration of volunteers

There are various advocacy methods:

- Face to face which includes meeting one on one with stakeholders to influence policy
- Public Meetings this could include town hall meetings
- Letter writing campaigns
- Petitions
- Press statements or conferences
- Social media tools
- Poster/flyers
- Demonstrations (last resort)
- Songs, slogans and drama, e.g. as was witnessed during the Haiti conference

The participants were taken through steps in planning to advocate and lobby on a particular issue:

- Its important to determine the issue
- Carry out research and collect data
- Identify targets
- Identify constituents -- allies, opponents and observers
- Build coalitions
- Develop the message
- Plan the advocacy message
- Fundraise
- Launch the campaign
- Monitor and evaluate
- Document the campaign/actions

FOURTH SESSION: ACTION PLANNING

KISUMU METROPOLITAN: Maseno, Moi, UOE and MMUST

ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	TIMELINE	RESOURCES	POTENTIAL BARRIERS	COMMUNICATION PLAN
Reporting to various communities	Representative of Community	1 week (25 May to 1 June, 2015)	Human Resource, Time and ICT	Nonfunctional ICT facilities, low turnout of members	Communicate to chair of the Catholic Community Send the Report for dissemination Use of common email or dropbox
Joint Training of Students on IMCS, YCS, SCCs	Officials	1 June-30 June	Human Resources, ICT and Finance	Unavailability of trainers and trainees Financial constraints Lack of training venue Laxity on part of officials	Meeting to set out of training date by officials Communication to Trainers and Trainees
Joint Rally and Mass	Officials	1 July-30 September	Human Resources and ICT	Clash of university calendar with groups calendars Laxity on the part of the officials	Communication between officials in the Metro institutions
NAIROBI METROPOLITAN					
Social Platform	Pius Oyuga, UON	3 days (23 -- 26 May	ICT	Dormant members, Lack of applications, misinterpretation of information	Contacts of all persons
Recollection	Michael Wamalwa	Sept -- December 2015	Time, Finances, Transport	Geographical factors, Change in weather patterns, Uncooperative members, collision of events	Chairpersons of the various institutions to coordinate with other leaders Communicate with members
Charity Work	Collete, KU and Nairobi Metro	Jan -- March 2016	Finances, Time, Human Resource, Venue	Communication breakdown, Uncooperative members,	Communication through social media

				Insufficient funds	
Institutional Visits	Urbanus	September -- December 2015	Time, Human Resource, Finance	Communication Breakdown, Uncooperative members	Facebook and Whatsapp
Leadership Training	Elizabeth and IMCS and IYCS	Jan -- March 2016	Human Resource, Time, Facilitator, Finance	Lack of funds, Venue	ICT

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