

JAPAN VICE PROVINCE

KOREA MISSION

SPRING MEETING

CHURCH IN JAPAN

N.I.C.E. AND ITS AFTERMATH

Input/Facilitator

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Munakata

Fukuoka

March 25-27, 1996

オプレート会管区研修会・プログラム



3月25日（月）

- 7:30 朝の祈り
- 8:00 朝食
- 9:00 ～ 10:00 NICE-1からNICE-2 司教団メッセージと課題発表
- 10:30 ～ 11:30 NICE-2の課題 説明と考察
- 12:00 昼食
- 14:00 ～ 15:00 NICE-2の課題 分かち合い
- 15:30 ～ 16:30 NICE-2の課題 グループ作業
- 17:00 晩の祈りとミサ
- 18:00 夕食
- 19:30 ～ 20:30 NICE-2以後の取り組み 説明と考察

3月26日（火）

- 7:30 朝の祈り
- 8:00 朝食
- 9:00 ～ 10:00 NICE-2以後の取り組み 分かち合い
- 10:30 ～ 11:30 NICE-2以後の取り組み グループ作業
- 12:00 昼食
- 14:00 ～ 15:00 NICE-2以後の取り組み 発表・意見交換
- 15:30 ～ 16:30 まとめ
- 17:00 晩の祈りとミサ
- 18:00 夕食

SEPTEMBER 19 (25th Sunday of the Year):Topics for the Sermon

1. *What is NICE (National Incentive Convention for Evangelization)?*

The Church must become a visible sign of the Kingdom of God, with the mission of becoming an instrument for its extension. However, the Catholic Church in Japan, divided as it is into the 16 Dioceses, even from the point of view of its numerical strength, cannot fulfil that mission sufficiently as long as it remains as small as it now is. NICE therefore, while respecting the territoriality of the various Dioceses, is a renewal movement necessary to build up a readiness to advance the Church of Japan as a whole. The present situation, essence and attitudes of the Church must always, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, be renewed unceasingly. NICE therefore, should provide a unique opportunity for such a renewal of the Church.

2. NICE I aimed at overcoming the gap between faith and life, Church and Society. Under the topic of "Building an Open Church" presented the following challenges:"A Church That Walks with Society", "A Faith that is Nurtured through Life" and "An Evangelizing Parish". Nice II, taking as its point of departure "From the Present Reality of the Family" which is the meeting point of faith and life, aims at "Studying How Evangelization Should Proceed". Hence NICE II is trying to concentrate its focus more than NICE I.

3. What NICE II aims at is to lead the community of the Church to feel sympathy with the joys and sufferings of the people in their various situations and family realities and thus to be able to present to them companionship that share those experiences together with them. Within the actual reality in which each lives, it is hoped that we would help to find the Christ who lives and carries his cross, the Risen Christ who makes possible pardon, joy and reconciliation, and on that basis to explore new ways of evangelization.

4. Such a sharing of sympathy and common experiences will surely continue from now on a national scale. This is an appeal to all the Faithful of the Church of Japan. With the representatives of the various Dioceses at the center, may such sharing be deepened, prayers and sacrifices be offered, and a real cooperation may be obtained so that this NICE II be indeed an excellent occasion for the renewal of the whole Church.

5. From September 19 (25th Sunday of the Year) until the last day of the Convention to be held in Nagasaki, October 24 (30th Sunday of the Year, World

Mission Sunday) we want to turn those 36 days into a "Month of Prayer". Please pray that the preparations at Diocesan level may be well accomplished, that the Convention itself may become a good occasion for the renewal of the Church in Japan, that the convention of the church community may become a reality.

6. *From the Gospel of Today (Mt 20:1-16)*

Here the Lord Jesus is explaining the parable of the Kingdom of God. He is underlining that those invited to the Kingdom of God are not receiving a salary for the work done but all depends on the gracious initiative of God. Salvation is never something, as the Pharisees believed, that is brought about as a result of our efforts, but something utterly depending on the good will and love that is the grace of God. This is what Jesus is stressing. "He saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them: 'You too go to my vineyard'". And then "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" The vineyard is the situation of society. There is where the whole Church made up of bishops, priests, religious and Faithful has a role to fulfil to build the Kingdom of God. Indeed we all have been invited as collaborators of the building of the Kingdom of God; this is what we were baptized for.

In the Kingdom of God every person is cherished as it befits the respect due to the children of God. Not just out of a sort of humanism but on the basis of their being all children of God which is a far greater level of importance and value. There the value of each individual is never ignored due to the mentality and the value system of the world or of the majority. There are things that only such a person can bring about. The importance of each individual in the eyes of God is well shown by His concern to leave behind the 99 sheep and go to search for the one lost sheep. Further, in the Kingdom of God all are brothers and sisters of one another as common children of the same father God. This does not just mean that they keep friendly relations; it is desirable that we, as brothers and sisters, share the responsibility for our mutual mistakes and failures, as well as atoning together for them.

At long last in another month NICE II will open in Nagasaki. Its theme is "Finding the Ideal of Evangelization from the Realities of Family Life". Approaching with sympathy the real situation of the families who must confront joys and pleasures, sufferings and sadness, we recognize them as our common property and try to remember how much Christ is alive in them all and through eyes of faith discover the Kingdom of God at work in our midst. Considering as our brothers and sisters all the members of our surrounding families is how we can indeed walk together with the Risen Christ among us. If we can consider their joys and pains as our own, they will feel invited to share with us openly their own worries and joys, too, and this will provide us a new way to share

4.

with them the Good News which we believe.

In this way evangelization will start from us all, the faithful of Japan turning our eyes to the families that surround us and opening our ears to their message. The Kingdom of God to which all are been invited does not tolerate that we remain idle as third persons who do not feel like doing anything. We are all interpellated and addressed as active doers. NICE II should not end by being a meeting of only the representatives. Let us even more than up to now participate actively with our prayerful collaboration.

<i>GENERAL INTERCESSION (PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL)</i>
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Here we composed 3 forms that can be used all throughout the "Month of Prayer":

A. During this "Month of Prayer" in preparation for NICE II we _____
(community of faith) each one of us, keeping each other's concern in our hearts, that we may in the middle of our lives search for ways to live up to the Gospel.

B. Send to us _____ (community of faith) your inspiration anew. That through NICE II our life of faith may be renewed. That together with Christ we may become a true community that walks towards you.

C. Confronting NICE II grant us abundant inspiration to share with one another. That each one of us may feel represented by our representatives and reflect in them our own hearts. That in such walking we may feel the protection and inspiration of Christ.

To the faithful, Religious and priests of Japan
on the occasion of the publication of

THE AGENDA FOR THE SECOND NATIONAL INCENTIVE CONVENTION FOR EVANGELIZATION

Exactly two years ago (August 1990) the Bishops' Conference decided on "The Family" as the theme for the Second National Incentive Convention for Evangelisation (hereafter NICE-2). At that time we asked you to think over how the theme could be handled best. We wish to express here our gratitude for the many discussion topics sent to us in such a short period.

We, the Bishops at our general meetings of the Bishops' Conference, studied the proposals from all the dioceses and then considered what should be discussed at NICE-2 and what would be our objective there. After much deliberation, we chose the following theme.

"FINDING THE IDEAL OF EVANGELIZATION FROM THE REALITIES OF FAMILY LIFE"

From the fact that family ties provide a solid foundation for modern people, the family is thus a source of joy but at the same time undeniably the family is also a source of suffering. As we read over the materials for discussion sent to us we were once more made aware of the pain and anguish found in so many contemporary families. We became aware as well that no matter how much they cry out in distress, they do not give in to the trials but bravely struggle to overcome them.

As we examined the problems it became clear that there are two causes, namely, people's egoism and immaturity and the ongoing pressures rising from Japan's complex economically-centered society. We believe that Christ who suffered and rose again will be our strength in changing and overcoming these present conditions. How is the ever-present, living Christ consoling us.....how is Christ giving us light, strength and hope? It is our desire that we can seek Christ together, reassess our personal relationship with him and come to grips with the very grave questions confronting modern people.

We beg of you to continue your discussions under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and make due preparation for NICE-2, which will be held in Nagasaki from October 21st to the 24th, 1993. In obedience to the words of Jesus let us pray together that the will of the Father may be done on this earth.

July 4, 1992

Catholic Bishops' Conference of Japan

FINDING THE IDEAL OF EVANGELIZATION FROM THE REALITIES OF FAMILY LIFE

-Building Families Founded on the Will of God -

1. To Look at the Present State of the Family Compassionately and Respond to it's Problems as Our Own.

God who loves all humanity was moved by the voices of his suffering people and sent Moses to them (cf. Exodus 3). Remembering this loving God and sharing the pain and anxiety of families, as we considered the input from our people, we felt the need for a process by which we can see their problems as our own. We must not approach next year's national convention as objective observers but as a people who respond together to the pain and suffering of others. We must come to see the family's problems as common burdens to be shared and borne together.

Below is a list of the pain and suffering which cry out for our compassion and some problems that we are called to hold in common:

1. *Husband and Wife (Man and Woman)*
2. *Sex*
3. *The Transmission of Life*
4. *Parent and Child*
5. *Handing on the Faith*
6. *Aging Family*
7. *Persons living singly (People living alone)*
8. *The Separated; The Divorced*
9. *The Traditional Household System*
10. *The Sick; The Handicapped*
11. *The Weak and Vulnerable (The Victimized and The Discriminated)*
12. *Relationships with Persons of Different Nationalities*
13. *Relationships with Neighborhood Community*
14. *Relationships in the Work-place (Business)*
15. *Relationships at School*
16. *Other*

2. To Deepen Our Relationship with Christ who Cares for People Individually and thus Build a Community of Love.

We believe that Christ, who values every single person and fosters the family community, is at work in the midst of the present realities. What is his real message for us? What strength, hope and comfort is Christ offering us? Let us pray, listen and seek.

3. Aiming to Create a Faith Community which Witnesses Christ to every Family.

In order to deepen our awareness of Christ's human presence among us let us examine our definition of faith community and respond to our mission as Christ expects. Some aspects for re-examination:

1. *Faith Communities: Conversion of heart and consciousness of our mission*
(*The diocese, the parish, the religious community, the family*)
2. *Liturgical renewal: our ceremonies and related areas*
3. *Reassessment of church organization and management*
4. *Establishment of faith as the basis of education*
5. *Interrelationship of Japanese society with Asia and the world*

NICE-2の課題

- (1)共感と共有を求めて現実を直視する生き方（個人・教会共同体）と、現実を直視しない生き方とを比べてください。雰囲気、メンバー同士の関係、元気さ、開かれている度合いなど思い浮かぶ違いを書きだしてください。（現実と向かい合う姿勢がポイント）

現実を直視する生き方	現実を直視しない生き方

- (2)生きたキリストと結ばれている信仰と、キリストに結ばれていない信仰とを比べ、思い浮かぶことを書きだしてください。（個人の信仰の状態がポイント）

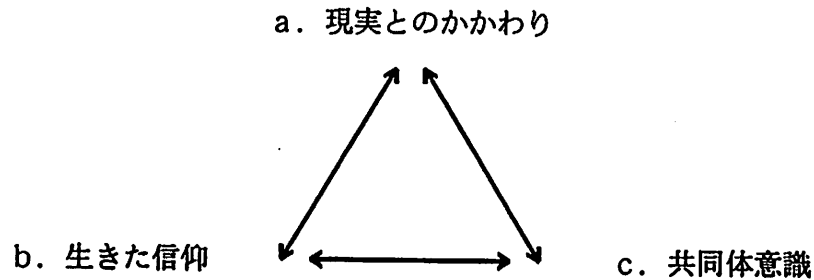
キリストに結ばれた信仰	キリストに結ばれていない信仰

- (3)キリストの福音を伝え証しする共同体と、証しとはなっていない共同体とを比べ、思い浮かぶことを書きだしてください。（共同体のあり方がポイント）

キリストを証しする共同体	証しとはなっていない共同体

NICE-2以後の取り組み

〔説明〕 司教団が1992年7月に発表した課題には、三つの要素がありました。この三つの要素は互いに関連し合っています。図式化すると下のようになります。



〔質問1〕 次のような場合、どのようになると思いますか。

(1) aとbはあるのだが、cが欠けている場合（Aタイプ）

(2) aとcはあるのだが、bが欠けている場合（Bタイプ）

(3) bとcはあるのだが、aが欠けている場合（Cタイプ）

〔質問2〕 新たな歩みを踏み出すことができるように考えてみましょう。

(1) あなたは自分自身を振り返ってみて、〔質問1〕で分析した三つのタイプのうち、どれに近いと思いますか。

(2) あなた自身は、欠けている部分を補うために、どのような回心、自己養成が必要だと思いますか。自分自身への提案として、具体的に書いてください。

- (3) 日本の教会は、上記の三つの要素がバランスよく根づいた信者、教会共同体を育てたいと考えています。上の(2)で書き出したことをさらに広げて考え、それぞれのタイプの信者や教会共同体のために、どういう方策が考えられるか、思いつくものをできるだけ挙げてください。その場合、①どのタイプのため ②何を ③だれが ④いつ ⑤どのように、といったようなことを書き添えてあると、整理するときに助かります。

(例：①Cタイプの教会共同体の刷新のため、②元「軍隊慰安婦」が求めている謝罪の意味を、③司祭が、④ミサの中の説教で、⑤福音とのつながりを明確にしつつ解説)