



Report: Spring meeting 2018
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Questions for group sharing:

1. WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN DONE?
2. WHAT IF I STARTED OVER AGAIN AT THE AGE OF 40?
3. WHAT CAN WE DO NOW?

What could have been done?

- Could have been more sensitive to the Japanese culture and her values.
- Could have been developing more team-oriented ministries than one-man-show projects.

NB. Shocked by the fact that how unable to see the reality of what could have been done. Because, minds are full of what is done and unable to think beyond that.

What if I started over again at the age of 40?

- Set up a program like they have in Korea. Non-parish work.
- Korea's formation program has produced 6 new guys this year.
- More effort in preaching the gospel.
- Would emphasize kindergarten apostolate.
- Would not be bursar.
- Would get involved in prison work, a much-neglected apostolate in Japan.
- If everyone was 40, there would be a balance among ideas and projection of works, also support and challenging each other.
- Would create a scientific calculation system whereby we can judge our progress and make decisions based on facts.
- Would obtain a greater knowledge of the land, culture and thinking of people.
- Would recognize the gospel values existing in society and build gospel values on them.
- Missionary activity relevant to the times.
- Would prepare better my work in North Korea.
- Would stress teamwork, any project should involve at least two oblates, for support/continuation if one dies/etc.
- Would emphasize more work with young people, buy a van and travel around meeting people on their level.
- At 40, there would be no age gap, easier to communicate, etc
- Would go out of the parish and meet people.
- Trend: parishes decreasing in number therefore go out.
- Would clarify OMI identity for Japan in order to know why I am here.

- Would study and research how to use "mass-media" to communicate gospel values.
- Missionary means being sent to do a mission. What is my mission? I would encourage formulating a policy so that all would know what allowed before coming to Japan.

4. **What can we do now?** – Personal level, Community level & Regional level

Two groups answered this question.

Group 1:

{Since some of the members of the group are set to move to their new assignments in the next few days that sharing was divided into two parts}.

What can we do in the next few weeks, few months?

What can we do in the next 5-10 years?

- Personal level:

What we can do is really to have a personal conversion, a heart which is open, a heart which is ready to listen to the voices of the people and learn from them. Though, we carry with us vast knowledge, experience and skills, yet there is still room for improvement. Thus, we are challenged to really have an open heart which is also ready to adopt to whatever situation which is offered in front of us. It is said that to be a change to the world, we should start the change within.

- Community level:

Our delegation is gifted with many missionaries from different nationalities. This internationality is a blessing and a curse. It is a blessing because we bring with us different gifts from different backgrounds. However, it is a curse because at times it hinders us from becoming a united group. Thus, what we can do then is to really understand and accept each Asian culture in order for us to achieve a common vision.

What we can do in the next 5-10 years?

To regroup again ourselves as a unit and evaluate our ministries. Let us ask ourselves - Do we still make a relevant presence in the world or are we just trying to survive?

The group also discussed about strengthening our respective communities. We need to exert effort to cooperate and contribute for the betterment of our communities. Praying and faith sharing together is a no brainer but at times we need to just gather and be brothers to each other.

Group 2:

Personal level:

- As I am aged I do not want to get sick and suffer for the rest of my life. Hope I have done enough till now.
- As much as I can for mission and ministry I am doing it. Especially MAMI, youth, counselling and so on.
- Doing hospital ministry, vocation promotion, helping with mass and so on.
- As I am going to a new place will try to identify the needs and involve myself to do whatever I can.

Community level:

- Being in the community I will render my services whatever my neighbor wants it.
- In the community, I help in different ways such as cooking, celebrating mass, catechism, bible class and so on.
- Living together we can help each other in ministry and it is the sign of our witness. Make difference among the people.
- As a community have meals, prayer and sharing together.

Regional level:

- Putting few communities together we make regional so that will be same as community ministry.
- We can do whatever is necessary.