BOTSWANA PROVINCE

REPORT-Mission Animation/MISSION SECRETARY

Following the resolutions that we have taken at our workshop in Angola in March 2009, I organized On-going Formation Program for the young confreres (under six) in our province in May 2009 and another in January 2010. The confreres benefited a lot from these programs. The response and the participation of the confreres was almost hundred percent. I also involved the confreres in Zimbabwe for On-going Formation Program although Zimbabwe is not part of Botswana Province.

As a province we would like to have On-going Formation of the under six every year and the other two groups (middle aged and the senior confreres) will have once in three years. I am happy that I have the support of the provincial administration to organize such programs. For the middle aged confreres there will be an ongoing formation program in June 2010 at Lusaka. This year the main theme of the Formation program was on the Year of Priesthood. We always end this program with open and honest individual sharing of our struggles and challenges we face in the mission and also struggles of working with confreres etc, which brings the group together and build a good support group for one another.

In this year, 2010, I would like to work towards forming an SVD Lay Association Group in our Province but starting with South Africa. It's very difficult for me to organize something of this nature for the whole province at one time since we work in three countries. I am also working towards printing a simple booklet that would highlight the origin of our Society and Founder and some of our Society prayers etc. This will be given to the members who join the SVD Lay Association.

In short, this is all what I could do for the province after our workshop in Angola, as the Mission Secretary. One of the biggest obstacles that I face in my job is that we are in three countries and so coordination in all the levels is extremely difficult. To bring confreres together for any workshop is very expensive and time consuming. Therefore, I organize the program when we come together as a province for Assembly, Chapter, Family Feast etc so that in one travel we do many things. It has its disadvantage too but we have no other choice.

Regards,

Fr.Sunny John Vattapparayil
Mission Secretary, and Mission Animation Coordinator, Botswana Province.