

Unity and complementarity of the different groups with Redemptorist Spirituality

On behalf of the Commission, I congratulate you all on the Success of the Conference so far. I have a few words of advice for you as you round up this Conference which I hope you will find helpful.

1. We need to have a separate and clear identity for each group to avoid conflict in future. E.g., while the Confraternity members promote devotions to our Mother of Perpetual help, members of the League of St Gerard Majella are to focus on promoting devotions to St Gerard. Lay missionaries join the Confreres in preaching the gospel, while redemptorists youth is our mentoring platform to build capacity in our youth, for the future.
2. We need to see each of us irrespective of the group you belong to, as part of a large redemptorist family. We are one in the Most holy Redeemer.
3. Need for Unity and Love. We must live what we preach. We must live like Jesus by accommodating all. No discrimination. No quarrelling, no gossiping, no fighting, no rancor. Our objective is to win people to Jesus by our conduct and by the way we live. Let the world see us live so well that they will seek to join us. Let us Live by the examples of Jesus, Mary and the Redemptorist Saints and Blessed. We are all called to become saints, so let us strive to attain Sainthood.
4. Be innovative in our approach to evangelization. Following the examples of St Clement Hofbauer, we must preach the Gospel Anew. Let us never get tired of teaching and preaching Plentiful Redemption every day, but in a new way.
5. Look for the poor and most abandoned and give them hope and succor through our charity initiatives. As redemptorists, we do not only preach love, but we also show love. Let the Catholic Hymn .whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me, be our guiding light. Our Founder, St Alphonsus sacrificed a lot for the Congregation we are enjoying today. It is our own turn to make sacrifices for the groups we represent. Let us make every sacrifice with love and generosity of heart.
6. We are not in competition with our Confreres and with each other. We must respect and obey the Priests and brothers that work with us. We are called by the Congregation to assist them in their missionary work. We do not own the groups ; they belong to the Congregation so we must at all times remember that we are lay partners called to support the work of the Mission. Let there be mutual respect amongst us and reverence. Allow each group to grow organically. There is no rush. It's better to grow gradually, steadily, and fruitfully than to grow very fast and collapse. We must learn how to manage the Success we have achieved so far. Let those who lead, lead in humility , love and selfless service to God and humanity. Remember that Jesus, our Most Holy Redeemer, washed the feet of the apostles to teach us humility in service. As a leader, you are the last not the first.
7. Get to know more about the congregation and love the Congregation with all your heart and with all your strength. Be an Ambassador of the Congregation wherever you find yourself.
8. Be obedient to instructions. Let us abide by the constitutions, byelaws and guidelines approved for each group by the Congregation. We must avoid cliques, factions and holding on

to power indefinitely. Obedience is the strength of our congregation. Learn this from St Gerard Majella.

9. In all you do, think of the future. Think sustainability. Seek ways to make the groups attractive to the younger generation. We need to bring the youth in so that the groups and this beautiful partnership will not die with us. Let us have a succession plan and work towards it. I look forward to seeing the establishment of Redemptorists Youth Vocation Ministry in the Unit. There are so many young people in the Countries where we work. Let us bring them in and create an opportunity for mentoring and empowerment for youth in the Congregation. Let us catch them young.

10. Show gratitude. We have to find ways to support the Congregation financially. We are called to support with our time, our talent, and our treasure. No one is too poor to give something. We live in a community and this community life is not just for the professed but also for the Lay Partners. We must support the Congregation and each other, especially the less privileged among us. The poor we seek live within and among us. Let us show love in every way we can. My closing words for the Unit today, both Professed and Lay is, LIVE IN LOVE. FORGIVE EACH OTHER, LET US BEGIN ANEW!!!

Love is the most attractive force in life and people will always go wherever they find love.

Love! Love!! Love!!!

That is all we need. Love yourself, love your neighbor, love the Congregation, Love the members of your group.

May Jesus our Most Holy Redeemer strengthen us for the work of the Mission, may Our Mother of Perpetual Help, all Redemptorists Saints and Blessed, accompany you with their prayers.

Thank you all for your availability to serve. We sincerely appreciate your sacrifice of love.

Once again, congratulations for a very successful Conference.

Lady Judith Agu