

Couples for Christ Greater Mekong Area (GMA) Conference
Bangkok, Thailand
8-10 December 2006

**"This salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles;
they will listen"
(Acts 28:28)**

Guidelines and talking points for speakers/moderators

General

- The following are mere “guidelines”, not “rules”. Panel members should pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit in their presentations. Prayer and reflection are the more important elements that the panel members ought to observe, and then allow the Holy Spirit to speak through them.
- Speakers and moderators should read carefully the Conference background documents, particularly the four issues of Aquila and Priscilla by Jun/Jean Uriarte, the Encyclical of Pope John Paul II “Redemptoris Missio” and the outcomes of the past Conferences. These documents, which are available online at the Conference website, should form the basis of the talks and sharings at the Conference.
- Presentations should be kept focused and short no longer than 15 minutes for each panel speaker. Powerpoint should be no more than 10 slides. The Moderator should ensure that panelists observe this strictly.
- It is suggested that the panelist include actual experiences in their respective communities/countries in presenting the topic assigned to them as well as suggestions on how best to carry out the respective dialogues, e.g, dialogue with religions, dialogue with cultures, dialogue with the poor.
- For the Moderators, please ensure that interventions and contributions from the floor are properly managed. These interventions should not be limited to questions directed to the panelists but should also include short sharing of experiences related to the three dialogues as well as suggestions on how to implement mission ad gentes through these dialogues.

Dialogue with Religions

- Share your community’s experiences with members from other religions. In Bangkok, there are Buddhist husbands married to Christians wives who are currently active members of the community.
- Does the community provide opportunities for members to receive proper instructions about other religious traditions?
- Do you have many members in mixed marriages (one spouse non-Catholic), how are the needs of Catholic spouse supported (encouraged to go to church, CFC meetings, regularly); Are CFC members friendly with or often visit non-Catholic spouse?

- Does non-Catholic spouse against/support Catholic spouse in church/CFC activities? What could the CFC community do or have done to correct/support this situation?

Dialogue with Cultures

- Share your community's experiences in proclaiming the message of the Gospel so that it would be easily understood to peoples in various cultures?
- What practices or traditions in the cultural environment of CFC community best express the Gospel of Jesus?
- What qualities are needed for CFC missionaries who come from other cultures to be effective evangelizers in other cultural environment (e.g. they must learn the language, must immerse themselves in the cultural milieu of the country, should move beyond their own cultural limitations, etc)?
- What are prevailing social trends conducive to Christian growth in your locality, what prevailing social trends are against or obstruct Christian growth?
- How does the community counteract the growing secularism and consumerism?
- Does the community fully integrate the media and modern communication technology to spread the Christian message? For example, do you provide online instructions and teaching materials?

Dialogue with the Poor

- Is your community involved in the work for the poor? Share your community's experiences and lessons learned in this area.
- What initiatives/projects your community has undertaken to help the poor?
- How do you share the stories of Jesus through this work?
- Any stories of people who have profound experience of conversion through the work for the poor?
- How do you address the poor within our CFC community?
- CFC has Social Ministry and GK programs. What more could CFC do in your areas?