

# **Chapter of Mats**

**Shanthi Sadhana FISI: 18 - 22 April 2005**

## **Emerging conclusions**

### **1. Life in Brotherhood**

- 1.1. A friar is not to be kept too long in an office such as that of a superior, director, principal, manager, treasurer, parish priest. Friars ought to exercise authority in a spirit of faith, prayer and humble service.
- 1.2. After the provincial chapter sufficient time is to be taken to consult the friars before forming the communities.
- 1.3. Religious obedience is to be exercised in the spirit of the gospel and of fraternal dialogue.
- 1.4. Adequate preparation is to precede an effective local chapter which is to take place in an atmosphere of prayer, mutual respect and trust, with a proper agenda and freedom to voice one's opinion unencumbered by any inhibition.
- 1.5. Capuchin celebrations of any kind ought to be held in such a way that they reflect the genuine image of friars minor.

### **2. Prayer and Contemplation**

- 2.1 Prayer is the soul of apostolic life, backbone of religious life, hallmark of a friar minor. No work or activity should be a hindrance to friars' personal and communitarian prayers.
- 2.2. Praying for the members of the province on their days of celebration, for the deceased friars on the days of their death anniversary and for the infirm at the time of their recovery is an excellent gesture of fraternal communion.

### **3. Service in the Church**

- 3.1. While ministering in the local church the friars need to preserve the Franciscan ideal of minority willing to render any pastoral service irrespective of the quantum of remuneration. Care for souls may never be conditioned by financial gains.

### **4. Formation**

- 4.1. The formators are expected to be role-models to the formees.
- 4.2. The formees are to be treated as brothers in St. Francis both in the formation houses and in other fraternities they may visit.
- 4.3. The formation in the province should be charism oriented rather than career oriented.
- 4.4. Vocations to the Order are to be promoted from all the territories of the province without any discrimination.
- 4.5 Bearing in mind the increasing number of brothers in formation required attention need be given to forming every brother into a friar minor without being satisfied with just the classroom lectures.
- 4.6. The formators should not be burdened with other responsibilities incompatible with their primary task of formation.
- 4.7. Together with the intellectual formation due importance should be given to the healthy spiritual, emotional, psychological and physical growth of the formee.
- 4.8. The formees are to be led to proper conviction about the life of prayer and strengthening of minoritic attitude in such a way that they continue in the same spirit after their formation period.

## **5. Structures and Gadgets**

- 5.1. There should be a uniform policy in transfers especially regarding the duration in a particular office.
- 5.2. Franciscan flexibility is to be expected in the mind-set of the friars as well as in their other dealings. The same principle is to be observed in accepting transfers.
- 5.3. Capuchin constructions and buildings are to be built keeping in mind the demands of Franciscan minority. Existing buildings are to be utilized for the benefit of the people without detriment to the constitutional requirement of enclosure.
- 5.4. The local communities are to decide about the maintenance of cell phones used by those friars who have obtained prior permission.
- 5.5. The friars need to make right and just use of the vehicles that does not go against the spirit of poverty and minority.
- 5.6. The vehicles could be made available to the guest friars under certain conditions.
- 5.7. The brothers in formation are to be duly cautioned regarding the proper and safe use of vehicles.

## **6. Justice and Peace**

- 6.1. The traditional Capuchin ministries in hospitals, prisons etc. could be revived in the province.
- 6.2. *Vimukti* activities could be extended to more regions in Karnataka in view of reaching out to a greater number of the poor and the needy.
- 6.3. The local fraternities could take initiatives to provide basic education and boarding facilities to poor children.

## **7. Ecology**

- 7.1. Conscious of their charism, the friars should give greater attention towards cleanliness and tidiness in and around their own residences.
- 7.2. Flower gardens could be better maintained and more trees could be grown in the compounds of the friaries and other houses where friars live.
- 7.3. The disposable waste of any kind could be made use of to produce compost manure.
- 7.4. Wherever possible and necessary, rain water-harvesting and water shedding programmes could be initiated.

## **8. Collaboration**

- 8.1. In formation houses of the province greater collaboration by the teaching personnel from the vice-provinces could be encouraged.
- 8.2. At the international level, greater expression to personnel solidarity could be given by accepting to help the needy Capuchin provinces abroad.

## **9. Medicare**

- 9.1. There is a need of following greater uniformity in matters of Medicare, regarding the choice of a hospital, doctors, rooms etc. so that the spirit of minority and poverty is not violated.

## **10. Miscellaneous**

- 10.1. The impressions of the laity about the life of minority and poverty as lived by the friars in the province presented in one of the resource papers merit a closer look and reflection during the local chapters.