



## SSCC Ongoing Formation Program, Lima 2010

### Paschal Time, Time of Grace

#### 2º Week: THE COMMUNITY, journeying towards the utopia.

Dear brothers and sisters,

From the 15th to the 21st of April we have had our “second week” in our on-going formation gathering, and the topic was Community. We were very fortunate to be accompanied in this reflection by Simón Pedro Arnold, a Benedictine Belgian priest, resident in Peru for several decades, in the Monastery of the Resurrection in Chucuito (Puno).

We started the itinerary of this week remembering some foundations of theological anthropology and other general foundations of our community life. We continued with a reflection on becoming a person within the community, cenobite life in contrast with other ways, the Gospel as a journey at the same time personal and in community, fraternal correction, and the journey in humility and community as a school of life. We went on our way taking the time to deepen the process from silence to the word: the “wisdom of speaking”, the word as the possibility of building communion and also violence and the call to recreate our word. We advanced on our journey with a reflection on interculturality and with a beautiful deepening of the vows and the kingdom. The last reflection of the week dealt with the topic of creative fidelity and how to recreate the conditions for a real experience of faith. We finished our week of work with a day of recollection on the topic, “the price of Grace”.

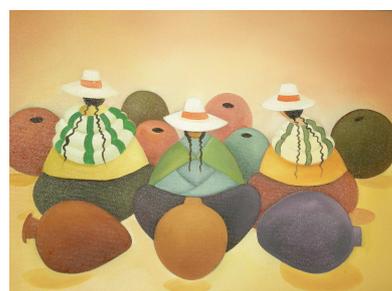
The sharing of the group has generated a space where life has been flowing, the different experiences, questions, blocks and dreams that we carry from each of our experiences in community and our own experience of faith. The sharing was rich, challenging and sincere about what we are living and discussing.

*“In the same way as the rain that falls on the earth, it does not go back to heaven empty ...”* we want to share in this communication what has been for us a point of reflection and sharing, like drops of grace and refreshment for our life.



*God is relationship, movement, creation, life. What does not belong to God is the desire to stop movement, exclude the other, compete with the other, and keep for oneself.*

*The community is a mystical school; the first responsibility of the community is to facilitate for its members the encounter with God.*



*The community is a school of humanity, "hate evil but love your brother that does the evil", "journey in the rhythm of the slowest member of the community, so that the slowest one will not lose hope and the strongest one will keep her desire for more", "give each to one according to his or her needs"...*



*Humility is not to be "bent over the others soil", but humility is to "stand on our own soil", happy with what God has given me.*

*The community is the school of ethics, a place for searching for the truth and a space of mercy.*



*Reestablish relationships, with no interest other than the objective of love.*



*The kingdom is not a model to be built; the kingdom is a new way of relating.*

*The only urgency is to love; the rest is only a distraction to make us feel important.*



*The community makes prayer and prayer makes the community*



*The loneliness of Jesus is the human loneliness.*

*To love is more important than to be right.*

*Doubt is the condition for faith; it is what allows the risk of faith.*

*What defines the human being is to be a human being reconciled with his/her wound, with his/her limitations and fragility, not the perfect human being but the forgiven one, the human being according to God is the Ecce Homo, the vulnerable one.*



*The community is the itinerary of shared loneliness in love. We are questing for God we are in solidarity in this quest.*



*It is in the melting pot of his loneliness, that Jesus says "no one takes away my life; it is I that give it away."*

*Crisis is not the end of the world but the beginning of a new world.*



## From silence to a word...

*I feel that this week has consolidated more our journey as sisters and friends. It has been a time to chat and debate on what made our heart feel on fire, coming closer to a God of movement, the God of the dance, of gratuity and creative fidelity. A God that constantly invites us to change and to be something new, leaving in our hearts more hopes than certainties*

Rocío Vinueza, Comunidad Putina Punco (Puno, Peru)



*This week was in beautiful continuity with what we already started, I found myself with the challenge of recreating the relationship with myself, with the Lord of Life that is always in movement, and without any absolute the relationships with "the others". This leads me to the need to prioritize space, deepen the silence and go more profoundly into the encounter with the WORD.*

*It comes to me like an intuition, that our reparative spirituality can be oriented in these times, as an urgency to recreate relationships as a gift of Grace.*

*This challenge is not easy. We take refuge in the urgencies of the mission, but as we become more conscious of our ss.cc. consecration to be recreated daily, the new and evangelizing relationships, the openness and constant dialogue with interculturality... will enable the way to the kingdom in our modern world.*

Sara Banda, Provincial Community (Lima, Peru)

*I thank God for this wonderful time that he is realizing in my life and in the life of each of the sisters in this on-going formation gathering.*

*On this second module on the community I was very touched by the idea of community life as a help to share the goodness of God.*

*In this search, the essential is the journey of encounter with God who is Love, that brings us to the closeness with Jesus that is a concrete way of coming closer to the other, the other reveals Jesus.*

*Our call to live in community is not for us an ideal, but the conviction that our following of Jesus who calls us together, and at the same time as a learning that happens inside the community.*

*This is why, the efficiency of our mission passes by the listening to Jesus who calls us and sends us. This is how our religious life will become a way of conversion.*

Colette Buhangize, R.D. Congo

