



Catholic Cultural Diversity Network Convocation
May 6-8, 2010 University of Notre Dame

Asian and Pacific Islanders Family

Who We Are

- Diverse and rich, brought values and gifts
- New and different sense of family yet united in the Catholic faith
 - from nuclear to extended family
 - reality of mixed marriages
 - integrated especially the US-born
- Cross-cultural experiences, work and worship with different groups
- More similarities than differences
- Experience language difficulties at first
- Image of God is not a white man
- We discovered during our conversations with other families that we have much in common - our family values, the challenges we face and our dreams for our families

Challenges We Face

- Chinese concept always together and reflected in the writing system
- Challenge + Opportunity = “Crisis”
Wei is danger or threat + Ji is opportunity



Major Challenges/Issues

- **Youth and Young adult leadership**
 - *not in national and regional arenas, lack faith and skill formation*
 - *ethnic ministries mainly for first generation immigrants, weak in generational differentiated ministries*
 - *lack effective use of technology for evangelization*
 - *more vigorous support for vocations*
 - *changing values, language, culture create confusion*
- **Visibility in society and the larger church**
 - *APIs remain invisible in many parishes and dioceses, 50% of API's in the west coast*
 - *API's considered as one family/the same*
 - *No critical mass, still in ethnic silos, still timid, quiet*
- **Diversity**
 - *racism masking as diversity*
 - *socio-economic issues, poverty*
- **Institutional church, popular religiosity and movements**
 - *tension and mistrust of popular religiosity, no affirmation or recognition*

Opportunities and Next Steps

- **Formation especially for youth and young adult leaders to truly form them (certification) and empower them to lead the church of the future**
 - *Work with existing diocesan religious education offices and supplement what is lacking in cultural, language and cross-cultural elements*
 - *Find or build resources and offer regular periodic small programs like the Redemptorist Renewal Center seminars in Tucson ; build upon past events*
 - *Identify young adult resource persons like Eunice and Stan and use them to guide plans and programs*
 - *Invite national leaders and resources from National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry*
 - *Establish centers for formation and leadership training targeting young adults as well as other age groups (family catechesis)*
 - *Create an Asian Pacific formation team which can develop materials incorporating cultural perspectives*
- **Use technology/social media for outreach and evangelization – make it fun**
 - *Find out what is already available from local churches and ethnic communities*
 - *Develop a data-base of Asian and Pacific resources in from all disciplines and make available in different media*
- **Develop intercultural skills of leaders emphasizing ethnic culture and language sensitivity as well as specific to “young adult culture”**

Opportunities and Next Steps

- API's take charge, step up as leaders in the larger church , do not wait to be invited
- Pass the torch!
- Identify resources, cultural gifts and share with others – e.g. learn from Korean and Vietnamese models of youth and young adult ministry
- Highlight, appreciate and utilize gifts among groups, no matter how small the size of particular community
- Advocate for other Asian and Pacific communities especially the small groups who are underserved
- Need a Pan Asian Pacific voice to hear, acknowledge and tell our story. Invite buy-in of Asian clergy
- Form coalitions for economy of scale in structure, procedures, point of contact, intergenerational and grassroots
- Invite buy-in of clergy and religious
- Utilize potential synergy among different API groups, as well as with other ethnic and cultural groups
- Visibility is not just seen in numbers. Voices must be heard, gifts and contributions to society and the Church acknowledged, recognized and accepted. The time is not the future but NOW. Action should commence from US,- Asian and Pacific Islander Catholics.