



D: TRAINING FOR PARISH TEAMS

D\4

We Are Sent to Create Unity

**(Second example of an Awareness Programme
for the Sunday Liturgy)**

TOPICS OF AsIPA TEXTS:

A : GOSPEL SHARING

B : SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

C : A PARTICIPATORY CHURCH

D : TRAINING FOR PARISH TEAMS

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AsIPA D: TRAINING FOR PARISH TEAMS
(Pastoral Leaders)

D14

“WE ARE SENT TO CREATE UNITY”

(Second example of an
Awareness Programme for the Sunday liturgy)

Display in church before:

Topic:

We are sent to create UNITY

Poster:

(Draw your own
poster on large
paper!)



Prepare captions to be used during the service:

- (1) "Father, may they be ONE in US!"
- (2) "That the world may believe!"
- (3) "Bear with one another!"
- (4) "Compassion - gentleness -
humility - patience!"

People needed: 9-10

Prepare also: appropriate hymns.

Introduction to the service and penitential rite

In the name of the Father.....

Welcome to our celebration.....

(Priest:)

Our Asian bishops encourage us to search for a 'new way of being church' and to become a 'participatory church'.

Such a church, they said at the Fifth General Assembly in Bandung, must be a 'communion of communities'. In small Christian communities they share the gospel of Jesus, support one another and work together, united as they are in 'one mind and heart'. (FABC5,#8)

Our parish team will help us in this celebration to discover the deeper meaning of this important aspect of the new way of being church:

‘We are sent to create unity!’ (→ *topic-poster*)

Let us now place ourselves before the loving Lord and ask pardon for disunity and quarrels which we may have caused, even unknowingly.

Lord have mercy... Glory to God...
Opening prayer..

Role play before the first reading:

(2nd facilitator:)

“Before we listen to God’s message in the readings we would like to show you a short drama.”

Three different groups of three or four people:

Each group forms a closed party.

With gestures they indicate that they do not want anything to do with each other.

(2nd facilitator:)

In our role play we saw different little groups, sticking together. There was no communication between them. We saw that they were very happy among themselves.

(1st facilitator)

puts the following questions to the congregation.

Team-members can help to answer from among faithful.

Questions:

- *What is the problem with these people whom we saw in the role play?--*
- *Do we have a similar problem in our own parish?--*

Introduction to the 1st reading:

(1st facilitator:)

“Now let us listen to God’s word and find out what he has to tell us about our calling as Christians!”

Reading: Colossians 3,12-15

(How Christians live together!)

Response:



You are called to-ge-ther, as parts of one bo-dy

Responsorial hymn: Col 1,15-18

1. Christ is the image of the unseen God
and the first born of all creation,
for in him were created
all things in heaven and on earth. **(R)**

2. Before anything was created he existed,
and holds all things together.
Now the Church is his body,
he is its head. (R)

Gospel acclamation:

(1st facilitator:)

“Now we greet and acclaim the Risen Lord who will speak to us in the gospel.”

(Cantor:)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia *(Repeated by all!)*

“May they be one in us,
as you are in me and I am in you!”

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: **John 17,21-23**

Shared homily

(1st and 2nd facilitator:)

1st: “**In the gospel**, Jesus has revealed to us today in a nutshell the purpose and mission of his whole life: ‘Father, may they be ONE in US!’, he says.
(Caption no.1!)

2nd. When Jesus says “ONE in US” he obviously thinks of his intimate unity with the Father and the Holy Spirit. What a mystery! God himself is a loving and caring community. And Jesus wants all peoples, all nations, all cultures, all language groups to participate in this

loving community which we find in God! This is the summary of Christ's mission: 'Father may they be one in US!'"

1st. "We make lots of plans and schemes to evangelize and to proclaim the Good News. But what is the way of evangelization which the Lord suggests to us today?"

2nd. "May they be ONE that the world may BELIEVE"
(*Caption no.2*)

This is fascinating and powerful simplicity:
If you create unity and keep unity with US, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Lord says, the world will believe!

This is the Lord's programme of evangelization!

Priest: In our 'new way of being church' we are called to participate in this mission of Christ: We are sent to create UNITY wherever we are!
St. Paul gives us the key words for creating a loving community which can give witness to the world of God's love:

1st. "Bear with one another!"
(*Caption no.3*)
Even if we talk different languages, live in different houses, have different means of transport, are dressed differently, have different school education: Bear with one another, says St. Paul.

2nd. “Forgive each other, show ‘compassion, gentleness, humility and patience!
(Caption no.4)

Priest: This is the vision of our ‘new way of being church’:
 A church which is a sharing community and goes out to create UNITY!

1st. Question *(put to the congregation):*

- **How does this vision challenge our daily routine in the parish?—**

Priest:

It is especially in our neighbourhood groups where our a sharing and caring parish community can be seen in action: In these small groups, neighbours become ONE in Christ (*→ large poster!*), where they support one another and work together, united in ‘one mind and heart’. If this is happening - people around us will believe, because we are sent to create UNITY.

Please contact the priest or one of our team if you wish to know more about the deeper reasons for neighbourhood groups and how they can develop into small Christian communities.

Petitions:

(2/3 members of the parish team prepare and celebrate the petitions. They may also invite members of other language groups to prepare [and read] petitions in their own language.)

(1st facilitator:)

Before the blessing:

Today we tried to make ourselves aware of this important aspect of the new way of being church: "We are sent to create UNITY!"

This is Christ's way of evangelization!
It is the "gospel way of being church!"

Now we ask for the Lord's blessing. We ask him to strengthen us for our mission at home, in the parish and at work!

METHOD OF ASIPA TEXTS

ASIPA TEXTS are compiled for Christian men and women at grass root level of the parish. They can be conducted most fruitfully in Small Christian Communities, Neighbourhood Communities, Parish Pastoral Councils or any other small groups in the parish.

ASIPA TEXTS can also be used with larger groups, e.g. in the parish hall - provided the “participatory method” is maintained in smaller working groups.

Features of the “ASIPA approach”

1. ASIPA TEXTS adopt a **“participatory approach”** in which all participants of a group search and discover for themselves as far as they are able to.
2. The texts are compiled in such a way that the facilitator can use them with a **minimum of preparation**.
3. The facilitator is requested to **follow the text** as closely as possible and allow the participants to contribute when indicated in the text.
4. The facilitator is not content with one answer to a question but he/she encourages as many participants as possible to search for an answer. **“Buzz groups”** of 2/3 are helpful to achieve maximum participation.
5. The **SUPPLEMENT** can help add to the findings of the participants and summarize them.
6. The **SUMMARY** is meant to be used as ‘input’.

ASIPA:

As-ian -I-ntegral -P-astoral -A-pproach

The Asian Bishops declared in the Final Statement of their Fifth Plenary Session in Bandung: The Church of 1990s has to be a "Participatory Church", a "Communion of Communities", a Church that "witnesses to the Risen Lord" (*FABC5,#8*).

The question was, how to promote this "new way of being Church". Therefore, late in 1993, jointly sponsored by the FABC Offices of Human Development and of Laity, a consultation meeting was held in Malaysia. It was during this consultation that the pastoral process for promoting a "Participatory Church" in Asia was termed ASIPA: Asian Integral Pastoral Approach.

ASIPA TEXTS (training programmes) follow this directive:

ASIAN

They want to implement the vision of the Asian Bishops and help Asian Christians face Asian life in the light of the gospel.

INTEGRAL

They aim at achieving a balance between the "spiritual" and the "social", between the individual and the community, between hierarchical leadership and the co-responsibility of the laity.

PASTORAL

They train the laity in their pastoral mission in Church and world.

APPROACH

The process of ASIPA TEXTS can be described as a pastoral approach which is "Christ- and Community centred". It involves the participants of workshops to search for themselves and allows them to experience a "New Way of Being Church."
