

**FINAL STATEMENT OF THE
2nd ASIA PACIFIC CONGRESS ON MIGRATION, FAMILY AND MISSION**
Taiwan Sept 25-28, 2014
Stella Matutina Girls High School
Diocese of Taichung

Episcopal Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People

Preamble:

Coming together from 19 countries of the Asia Pacific Region, the 80 participants including His Beatitude Gregorios III, Bishops, Priests, Nuns and lay persons met in Taichung, Taiwan from Sept 25-28, 2014. Among us were representatives of the International Catholic Migration Commission - Asia Working Group, (ICMC-AWG); Office of Human Development of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences & Caritas Internacionales. Called together by the Chinese Regional Bishops conference - and organized by the Episcopal Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People we stand in solidarity with each other in our common concern for people on the move...We deliberated on the Theme: MIGRATION, FAMILY AND MISSION.

I. Our Inspiration to commit ourselves to the Mission of Migrants and their families comes from the Old Testament event of the Exodus where we read: - "When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall do him no harm. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as a brother among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you (too) were strangers in the land of Egypt..." In the New Testament we are inspired by the Holy Family who are directly impacted with fleeing/moving/rushing away under conditions of a violent emergency..." Jesus' words are always with us. He teaches us to treat others like we would like them to treat us.

The social Teachings of the Church over the past 100 years and more; and such guidelines as "Migrantes Caritas Christi" are to be kept in mind as we reach out to Migrant workers. More specifically in this day and age the words of Pope Francis have urged ... that ..." together we can and we must try for their liberation; especially since they are bruised and hurt.

Amidst all this our inspiration to reach out to Migrants and their families come from the very fact of their plight itself..

II. We recognize how Migration impacts on the relation between nations and how governments insufficiently address the root causes and well-being of Migrants; how they remain ambivalent about the implementation of the rights and the search for the well-being of migrant workers.

We also see the worsening and adverse conditions endured by domestic workers, caregivers, seafarers, fish- workers; the growing number of foreign students in need of pastoral care; the increasing number of displaced people due to natural and man-made disasters and the increasing number of migrant workers becoming victims of human trafficking.

We further recognize that as Church we cannot but be witnesses to the conditions of Migrants and their families; that unless we collaborate across countries in our Region; (Arch) dioceses, parishes, and with church based NGO's; welfare agencies we may not be able to strategize and plan meaningfully.

It will be inevitable that we may be called upon to make sacrifices - personal, institutional or otherwise - to respond to a need from Migrant(s) and or any of their family members.

III. As Church we cannot stay silent/mute witnesses to the conditions of Migrants and their families and we are determined to make it our MISSION and plan of action to work towards a better world for them by promoting the Human Dignity of all Migrants; taking up issues of justice that affect families and make them critical in understanding their challenges; being a voice on behalf of those who unjustly suffer, are internally displaced and /or have to take refuge in a country not their own. It is important to join hands and forces across countries in our Region (Arch) dioceses, parishes, and Church based NGO's/ Welfare Agencies to strategize and plan meaningfully.

We work towards making Migrants' children a keen focus of our attention, especially in the field of integral education and formation; and we urge Parents working abroad to avoid spoiling their children but to focus on essentials.

Supporting to our best capacity those that intend to leave for another country is not going to be easy,

We need to make efforts to orient returning migrants when jobs are available; to help them to organize & control their finances; and contribute to solutions for the issues they face mainly due to separation and cultural differences.

A great help in this field would be organizing religion based gatherings - such as Prayer groups, Bible classes, Migrant & Sea-Sunday Celebrations; organizing social activities in the parishes; encouraging connectivity between family members whenever possible. And in doing all this to Instill and proclaim HOPE in the lives of the people like a light house in a dark harbour .

Finally, we entrust this work to the care of the Holy Family of Nazareth, Jesus Mary and Joseph! Relying on their protection we hope to carry forward the task entrusted to us.

Taiwan, 28th Sept. 2014

FORMULATED AND SIGNED BY:

THE 80 DELEGATES OF THE 2ND ASIA PACIFIC CONGRESS ON MIGRATION, FAMILY, AND MISSION 2014 - TAIWAN