

Statement of AMOR XIV

We, 98 women religious from 20 countries representing the Conferences of Major Superiors of Asia/Oceania came together at Aaron Retreat Centre, Uiwang City, South Korea for AMOR XIV from April 24 – May 4, 2006 (Asia/Oceania Meeting of Women Religious) to reflect on the theme *Mary and Women Religious of Asia/Oceania: Contemplative Prophets*. We were privileged to have the presence of three Sisters of Korean Won Buddhism with us.

We deepened the meaning of our call to be contemplative prophets, bringing with us the concerns and hopes of the countries where we live and serve. Country reports brought us closer to the specific realities and issues that called forth our solidarity and commitment. The three day exposure program gave opportunities for us to experience the present day issues/concerns of the Korean society and Church and how people in various walks of life respond to them in prophetic and contemplative ways. Theological reflection helped us to enter into this experience; to reflect and internalise the struggles, hopes and achievements of the people and situations we encountered, some of which were similar to situations in our own countries.

We felt challenged and enriched through the process of group sharing and the input of the resource persons to make paradigm shifts in theology and spirituality. These moved us towards a more cosmic understanding of our participation in salvation history. Eucharistic celebrations and creative prayer services led by Sisters from various countries, enabled us to experience the diversity and universality of our call to be contemplative prophets today.

Confronted by issues of globalisation, neocolonisation, consumerism, exploitation, gender discrimination, geopolitical realities and ecological concerns, we hear God's renewed call to us, women religious of Asia/Oceania, to embrace a contemplative prophetic stance. Against this backdrop we looked at Mary, 'truly our sister', companion along our journey, model of the true disciple of Jesus and servant leader.

Therefore we believe:

in our blessedness as women

in an incarnational spirituality which is inclusive and empowering, enabling us to build solidarity and partnership

in our call to be contemplative prophets to bring God's compassion, healing, peace and harmony, especially to the excluded/marginalized

in the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit – Sophia within us, as in Mary, nurturing sisterhood with all women, particularly those whose dignity is not respected.

And we commit ourselves:

to use every opportunity to empower women so that each one celebrates her blessedness

to create bonds of communion and reconciliation between people of different races, religions, castes, political ideology and socio-economic conditions

to rediscover Mary by deeply rooting ourselves in scripture and contemporary theology

to live and proclaim the Gospel values and be willing to take risks for the cause of justice and peace in partnership with others

to create and work for right relationships within the Church, society and the whole of creation.

to strengthen the AMOR network through concrete actions of solidarity.

We entrust this AMOR XIV experience, that has renewed and strengthened our call to be contemplative prophets, to Mary 'truly our sister' and companion.

AMOR XIV Participants
May 4, 2006