

REGIONAL REPORT - KERALA REGION 2017-2018

DATE : 18th & 19th November 2017

VENUE : Ursuline Provincialate, Kannur



The Kerala Region held its Regional Meeting at Ursuline Provincialate, Kannur, on 18th & 19th November of 2017. 37 members attended. After the registration and breakfast, all gathered for Rosary at the Chapel where servant of God Sr. Maria Celine Kannanackal's tomb is. A moment of silence was maintained in honour of Late Sr. Dr. Mary Marcellus, the former President of Kerala Region, who had left for her Heavenly abode 2 days before our meet.



Rev. Fr. Mathew Perumbil, CBCI Health Secretary, spoke to us on National Health Policy and the changing priorities of Catholic Health Care in India, touching on the challenges of being a Sister Doctor, problems of having a small or medium Health Care facilities, Nursing education, quality of nurses, financial problems and laws against the management. He emphasized that our mission is to continue God's work of giving life and bringing about healing to the

person we touch.

A brief moment of silence was maintained invoking the power of the Holy Spirit and thereafter Sr. Dr. Betty Jose SH, President of the Kerala Region, welcomed the Chief Guest and other dignitaries including the delegates. Sr. Dr. Betty highlighted the most relevant and current issues faced by the Sister Doctors which can be confronted in 3 different ways – 1) Free from it. 2) Surrender to it. 3) Face it courageously.

His Lordship, Rev. Dr. Alex Vadakkumthala, Bishop of Kannur, expressed his happiness of being with Sister Doctors. He expressed his great happiness and thanks for getting numerous help from SDFI to manage 6 disasters when he was working in the CBCI Health Commission. He began with an article, 'Lighting Lives,' published in 'THE WEEK' magazine on 17th November 2017. It was about Dr. Ida Scudder who started Vellore Medical College, to expose the core value of serving people based on 1Cor:13 i.e. Love. A Doctor needs God for every step she/he takes, every word she/he speaks. Jesus, the Divine Healer, is the model par excellence for those in health care, especially for a Sister Doctor. The Gospel of Life is at the heart of Jesus' message. The priorities of a Sister Doctor should be - 1. Prayer 2. Physical fitness 3. Patience 4. Honesty 5. Joy. Bishop Alex inaugurated the Meeting by lighting the lamp.

Sr. Veena UMI, Vice Provincial, felicitated the gathering. She told us that to be a Doctor is to be an intermediary between man and God. A Sister Doctor lives her twin

vocation as a Nun and as a Doctor. She elaborated the word Doctor:

D - Detective, Delicate

O - Open-minded, Observant

C - Caring, Concerned, Compassionate, Confident,
Creative, Calm, Comforter

T - Trustworthy, Thinker, Teacher, Thoughtful

O - Obedient, Open-hearted

R - Realistic, Respectful, Responsible, Reliever, Reassuring



The vote of thanks to Sr. Veena was given by Sr. Dr. Elsy Lukose.

The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Rev. Dr. Alex Vadakkumthala, Bishop of Kannur.

Rev. Adv. Thomas Therakam, the resource person, explained the JJ Act and POCSO ACT (Protection Of Children from Sexual Offence).

Sr. Dr. Betty discussed the Silver Jubilee agenda and the theme for the project was to conduct cancer awareness programmes for women. The Kerala Region was allotted to organise 2 cancer detection camps and 6 cancer awareness classes.

The members discussed on the following points:

1. Psychiatric problems are more than we imagine, and thus the need for awareness regarding psychiatric problems.
2. Palliative psychiatry is a one year course, which will be very much useful for our daily practice.
3. St. John's is planning to conduct psychiatry classes for Sister Doctors, and thus make maximum use of it. Our psychiatric Sister Doctors are able to give information regarding this.

4. Jubilee celebration will be conducted on 26th, 27th & 28th January 2018 at St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences, Bangalore, and Kerala Region has to arrange the venue. Sr. Dr. Johncia, Sr. Dr. Alphonsa SABS and Sr. Dr. Mary Therese CSN, agreed to help.
5. It was proposed that the next AGBM cum Conference venue could be South Kerala. The topic proposed is Medico Legal Laws.
6. Sr. Dr. Betty informed the members that SDFI is an executive member of KCBC Health Commission.

The members remembered and paid homage to the departed souls of Sr. Dr. Mary Litty, Sr. Dr. Hilaria, Sr. Dr. Ancilit, Sr. Dr. Rosamma, Sr. Dr. Patricia and Sr. Dr. Mary Marcellus. The accounts for the year 2016 were presented by Sr. Dr. Elsy.

The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Benny Puthannada, Rector of Mother Home, Pariyaram. He gave us a brief input on the value of Human Life and how Medical Science seems to have forgotten the value of it. He quoted from Holy Bible to show the importance of life. We should respect the human body which is a mystery. The members later sat in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, which was conducted by Fr. Benny. The vote of thanks was expressed by Sr. Dr. Vineetha to Sr. Vinaya, Provincial



Superior, Sr. Veena, Assistant Provincial, Sr. Annie, Superior, and Sr. Sherly Principal; and all were honoured with a memento. The two days Kerala Region Meeting came to an end with a hymn of 'Thanks' to God. After lunch the participants bid goodbye to one another, with the thought of meeting again at the SDFI National Conference in Bangalore.

Sr. Dr. Betty Jose SH
President, Kerala Region