Workshop 7: 
Religious Pluralism and Search for a New Order

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A. Search for a New Order

Because there is dissatisfaction with the present order - due to its injustice, self-destructiveness, not fulfilling human aspirations and safeguarding nature.

Areas of required renewal

1) in interpersonal relations, family, sexes. 
2) within nations - class, communities, religions. 
3) internationally - super powers, regions, TNCs. 
4) nature, planet, earth. 
5) in Christian Churches - Mission and mission studies.

Requirements for a New Order

1) In interpersonal relations 
   respect for dignity and rights of each person, need of an environment of acceptance, love and sharing.

   The Sexes 

   situation of oppression of women (at home, in work, in society, in religion) 
   realization of equality in dignity and rights 
   reciprocity in relationships and responsibilities 
   towards fulfilment of both female and male.

2) Within nations 

   - to build just, free, peaceful and democratic societies in relationships of social groups (classes, castes, communities of race, religion, language) 
   - to provide opportunities for personal and group self-realization (food, housing, education, leisure) 
   - freedoms of speech, association, movement worship (security of life; prevent domination by powerful both legal and illegal).

3) Internationally 

   A new world order of justice, peace, freedom and care of nature 

   - politically 
     - where power is not used against the weak 
     - prevent domination by super powers and regional powers. 
       Control of arms production and trade. 
   - economically 
     - fair trade, production for use, not waste 
     - fair distribution of world's resources 
     - readjustment of population to land and resources available in the world - Planetary justice 
     - control over TNCs
- culturally - prevent domination of news by the world's multi-national news agencies and super powers. Sharing of Research and Technology;
- a culture of respect for nature, of care of the earth, prevention of waste pollution, exhaustion of non-renewable resources.

A new order in which human beings are the highest value, and all everywhere have a chance of a decent human existence and growth to their full human potential.

B. Religions and ideological pluralism is a fact in many areas of the world.

Religions

- with highly developed meta-cosmic perspectives
- which are regarded as popular religiosity with cosmic explanations of reality.

Religious ambivalent

- original inspiration liberative of humankind
- later routinization of charism tends to be self-centered - Religion becomes one sociological group among others.
- competing with other religions as communal groups
- clericalization, hierarchization, authoritative

Popular religiosity is the more widespread aspect of Religiosity (in Asia?)
Very often the religions have been allied to the dominant state power and other powers that dominate society. They have then supported oppression and injustice rather than helped in the liberation of the poor, weak and marginalized.

Religions and Ideologies

- endeavour to give other worldly solution to human search
- the expectation of the future is a motivation to goodness and socially transformative action
- seek solutions within this world - with a kind of analysis and transformative action.

Religions implicitly or explicitly relate to ideologies.
Ideologies (in Asia) need religions to get to the masses of people, who are religious by tradition.

Core Values of Religions

- tend in the same direction - of truth, justice, love, freedom with different accents - gnostic and agapeic.
- can also be related to core values of ideologies.
  Taking the best of all - (not best of one and worst of others).
  Each religion has a vision of a new order of Justice and Love and hence a MISSION.

Core Values - a source for inspiration in action - Peace and Justice work
- a level of dialogue in study, in prayer - Assisi
- dialogue of "Communicatio in sacris" - entering the religious experience of the other - Aloy CWF
- dialogue of life - life style - relating to the poverty life struggles of the poor - Fr. Mike.