

CFSM SINGAPORE
THE REVIEW OF LIFE

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN DAY

BY

MARY TAN

LEADER OF THE WOODLANDS CFSM GROUP

CHRISTIAN FAMILY AND SOCIAL MOVEMENT
No 2 Highland Road, #03-12, Singapore 549102.

The Singapore Christian Family Social Movement's Patron is **Archbishop William Goh.**

Our National Chaplain is **Father Dominique Deme.**

The Movement bases its commitment on faith in Jesus Christ and is committed to working together with others - regardless of race, culture or creed - to improve their living conditions and build up a society of love peace and justice. The approach used by the Movement is based on the method developed by **JOSEPH CARDIJN** to "**SEE-JUDGE-ACT**"

CFSM REVIEW OF LIFE

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BY MARY TAN.

International Women's Day is a global day to **acknowledge and honor women around the world for the contributions we make each day to society**. Celebrated in many countries worldwide, it recognizes women's contributions, inspires progress, and sensitizes the public to the difficulties still faced by many women and girls throughout the world.

Marked annually on March 8th, International Women's Day is one of the most important days of the year to:

- celebrate women's achievements
- raise awareness about women's equality
- lobby for accelerated gender parity

Women are the cornerstone of the family and, it follows, the cornerstone of their communities. To influence a woman is to influence her children, and to influence her children is to influence the next generation.

Being a daughter, wife, mother and sister is often a thankless task, one with late nights and early mornings, endless laundry, cleaning and cooking, and caring for children when they are not feeling well. She cares deeply about her parents, husband, children and siblings where always putting their needs ahead of her own.

For many moms they do all this while working a full time job, and still have to juggle with career, social and family. And it is even tougher for single parents, performing both roles as mother and father for their children and struggling to make ends meet, provide basic living standards and coach children with their homework.

Without women in our lives, the world just wouldn't be the same. Jesus was brought into the world by a strong woman and, even at the beginning of humanity God put a woman on Earth to accompany man. There are many Bible verses about women that show their strength time and time again during hardship, life's most fearful moments, and in happy times, too.

In the controversy, in this modern era, there are more women including Christian women would pursue their dreams rather than build family, with the knowledge of all the issues performing the duty as wife and mother where many remain singles or childless.

SHORT HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BY VINCENT WOON

In 1909 the first National Women's Day was celebrated North America and Europe at the turn of the twentieth century. Throughout the years, International Women's Day has served as a platform for women (and men) to rally together and advocate for women's rights. Whether it was protesting for the right to vote or ending discrimination in the workforce, International Women's Day has fostered unity.

In 1995 a historic roadmap for gender equality was established in Beijing and The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was introduced. 189 governments from around the world came together and agreed on critical areas for empowering women. The roadmap called for *"a world where each woman and girl can exercise her choices, such as participating in politics, getting an education, having an income, and living in societies free from violence and discrimination."*

Purple, green and white are the colours of International Women's Day. Purple signifies justice and dignity. Green symbolises hope. White represent purity.



SEE (WITH THE EYES OF CHRIST)

What you see –OUR REALITY

45
MINS

- 1- What do you see are the needs of the woman around you, your family and in society?
- 2- What are the kind of Work or CFSM duties you do daily, in which you are personally involved?
- 3- Is there any women's work or happenings close to you, in your family, workplace, CFSM or Society that raises your curiosity or made you happy, sad or angry? Or just simply do not care?
- 4- What caused these resultant impacts on you as a woman or on other women? Why? **CAUSES**
- 5- The events that made you curious, happy, sad, or angry, will you be able to say who are the most affected and why? It would be good if you can also explain the reasons? **CONSEQUENCES**
- 6- What can be the consequences of these impacts on you, the CFSM and the other sectors in Singapore? How?

SUMMARISE THE REALITIES OF YOUR BASE GROUP SHARINGS BEFORE YOU GO TO THE NEXT STAGE ON JUDGE

JUDGE (WITH THE HEART OF CHRIST)

PERSONAL REFLECTION

1. In your own heart, please share what you really think and feel of the above reality arising from SEE. Is your heart moved to make an effort to help yourself or other women, or in CFSM, or you feel that keeping yourself to yourself is a basic living condition that can last till we are at old age?

CHRISTIAN REFLECTION

2. Read Gospel of Luke Chapter 18:1-6, close your eyes and meditate on God's words.
3. As Jesus is present in you, and when you reflect with the heart of Christ, what would Jesus say in the SEE situation of you and family, you and CFSM, you and Work, you and Society, and what would you think He will ask of you?

CONTRAST

4. Contrast your Personal Reflection with the Christian Reflection on what Christ wants you to do. Is there any difference? If yes, from the prompting of Christ, what can you change?

WOMEN LEADERS IN CFSM

5. Why is being WOMEN or having WOMEN LEADERS very important in the CFSM? Please share the promptings of Christ from your heart.

GOSPEL OF LUKE CHAPTER 18: 1-6

LUKE CHAPTER
18: 1-6

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

18 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ²He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. ³And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

⁴"For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she

won't eventually come and attack me!"

⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

ACT (ACT AS CHRIST WOULD ACT)



1. From the above Christian reflection, what can you do as an individual to bring the WOMEN living for Christ into your life?
2. From the above Christian reflection, what can you do with your base group to bring IN the plight of the women to more awareness and action?
3. From the above Christian reflection, what can you do as an EXCOS to enable women to be an equal as the men?
4. From the above Christian reflection, what can WMCW do to enable women to be an equal as the men into the WMCW?

CFSM ROL PROCEDURES AFTER ROL MEETING

On completion of the ROL meeting with a closing prayer, the sustaining roles of the members is vital for group formation. These are the minimal steps needed.

- 1- Secretary to write the minutes of the ROL sharing, and share with members on completion.
- 2- Arising from the ROL Reflection & Actions, all members go home with a firm commitment to take small actions to bring Christ to others.
- 3- The Chairperson will call each member to help and advice when members take actions to help others.
- 4- CFSM (a core group of 3) will come together to evaluate the whole process of formation and actions taken by members and themselves. Support is provided if needed.
- 5- Leader prepares another ROL meeting. The ROL must focus on the members' life. Observers' status in ROL is not encouraged. ROL is on the real life of ourselves and members and their roles in the Lay Apostolate of Christ.

CFSM CHRISTIAN CHARACTER IN THE REVIEW OF LIFE METHOD

- a. The Christian Character during the reflection is the central Character that allows us to have a searching spirit, to learn and to discover the deeper meaning on values, based on the bible, the Gospel, the doctrine of the Church, the Catechism of the Church, the encyclicals and the Social Teachings of the Church.
 - b. The Christian Character is our Faith Character and is our common ground to come together as a community to share and to learn from the reality of our life and how we live our faith as a lay person wherever we are, including on our base groups.
 - c. The Christian principles and values provide a direction in our daily life from birth till the end. The Alpha and Omega Sign – Birth till Death – with the 7 sacraments until the final rite, means to live with Christ values at every moment of our journey on earth. To experience the horizontal Cross as a human person who lives and express his joy and concerns for others development on earth too. We, as Christian must live that Christ focus each day till the end as a lay apostolate. It is the basic role of the lay person from the time of Baptism and after the reaffirmation of the Sacrament of Confirmation to be a witness of God for Justice, Peace and Love.
 - d. It also means how we are immersed in faith from time to time in the different phrases of life. As a Child, Youth, been employed, in our marriage, family, in the parish, the diocese, in the region or at International levels. As we become witness to our testimony of experience that brings new hope, inspiration as we continue our Christian faith with love, even in the moment of crises and challenges of life.
 - e. Our faith in Christ is the centre of life each day. His values and the Christian principles challenge us in all aspect of our lives to be a Christian together with our family, CFSM members, and in the society we live in.
 - f. Within the Movement the Chaplain is the representative of the diocese who accompanies the CFSM Executive Committee Members (the EXCO) and all the Base Groups for the faith development with the Christian character and dimension.
 - g. Our Chaplain has the role of Spiritual Director, to review and to evaluate with the facilitators of the base Group and the leaders of EXCO at all times. He has the responsibility to exemplify the Road to Emmaus by Jesus to all CFSM EXCO and members.
 - h. Our daily Gospel Reflection in the Review of Life Method provides a clear direction by living with faith and with deeds and be transform faithfully. While with our faith and love approach, care and concern for others and with others, we can and shall be the catalyst for Christ within the community by our Christ exemplary way of life.
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