

## STATEMENT OF AMOR XV

### *Jesus Encounters the Syro-Phoenician Woman: Women Religious of Asia-Oceania Called to Move Beyond (Mark 7:24-30)*

We, 110 women religious from 18 countries representing the Conferences of Major Superiors of Asia/Oceania came together at Baan Phu Waan Pastoral Training Center of Bangkok Archdiocese, Sampran, Nakhon Pathom, Thailand for AMOR XV (Asia-Oceania Meeting of Religious) from 13-21 October 2009. This meeting focused on the theme *Jesus Encounters the Syro-Phoenician Woman: Women Religious of Asia-Oceania Called to Move Beyond (Mark 7:24-30)*. The journey took us along a common reflective search of gospel discernment to continue to listen, see and understand the call of the God of history who moves us beyond as experienced by the Syro-Phoenician woman and by Jesus himself.

We listened to the insightful social analysis of Thai society and the theological reflection that followed. They called us to recognise the silent presence of God in our realities and identify the boundaries that block us to reach the marginalised of modern society. These orientations were re-echoed in the presentation of the country reports. In convincing and credible ways each representative outlined both the challenges and the fruits of moving beyond in a globalised world naming the continuing struggles and the prophetic voices inherent in crossing religious, social, cultural, political, ecological and economic boundaries that inhibit life in all its dimensions.

Through a very well prepared exposure program we were given an opportunity to touch and feel the reality of the people in Thai society and learn how they are responding to the challenges of moving beyond any form of oppression that deprive the human person to live life fully. Theological reflections led us to read our exposure experiences as well as the inspiring input of the resource persons as followers of Jesus, so that like him, we too, are challenged to move beyond religious, social, cultural and gender stereotypes.

All these experiences and presentations reiterate in us the call to move beyond. We recognized that this will be possible only when we prayerfully reflect on who we are and what we are called to be. We acknowledged that moving beyond invites us to go back to the depth of our own being where we encounter the Source of Life. Therefore, each step of our AMOR XV journey has been accompanied by profound moments of prayer, the celebration of the Eucharist, personal and group discernment and reflection to know where and how our God is calling us within the ecclesial community to move beyond: beyond where we are, beyond what we are and beyond how we are.

Our journey together enabled us to realise that it is imperative for us to continue to make radical paradigm shifts in our way of thinking, perceiving and living in order to move beyond as Jesus and the Syro-Phoenician woman did together. Together as AMOR XV participants we choose to focus on the following aspects of our lives: spirituality, mission, formation and leadership.

## **We believe**

in a **life-giving spirituality** which is rooted in the paschal mystery of Jesus Christ and our spiritual and cultural traditions: in a profound openness to God, a radical movement to be committed stewards of creation and a liberating love for all humanity;

in a creative and committed **prophetic mission** which calls us to keep deepening the essence of our religious life in Christ in order to fulfill God's dream for humanity and the cosmos; announcing God's love and denouncing unjust oppressive practices, systems and structures;

in an **innovative, integral formation** which enables us as individuals and communities to be engaged in a dynamic life-long renewal; to re-discover our unique identity and mission in the history of salvation today;

in a **collaborative, responsible and creative leadership** inspired by individual and collective gospel discernment and incarnated in an authentic loving service based on the dignity and equality of every human person.

## **Therefore, we commit ourselves to**

**be prophetic religious women who are deeply spiritual** and work for the integrity of all creation and build up a more humane world;

**announce God's dream in the light of Scripture** through an attentive reading of the signs of the times in order to be witnesses of the incarnation of Jesus; creating a culture of life and hope at all levels as we work to transform the culture and the structures of death;

**review formation programs** in the light of the prophetic mission as true disciples of Christ enabling all to be and become mature persons in self-realisation and self-transcendence; **share life-giving experiences and resources** within and among congregations;

**enable and empower leadership through collaborating, networking, promoting mutuality and inclusivity** in and among congregations, the Church and society.

**Believing in the power of Jesus Christ we go forth with the persuasive and daring spirit of the Syro-Phoenician woman moving boundaries whenever and wherever humanity and all of creation stand in need of healing and wholeness.**

**AMOR XV participants**

Baan Phu Waan Pastoral Training Center of Bangkok Archdiocese  
Sampran, Nakhon Pathom, Thailand

21 October, 2009