

ICR Conference Day 5, September 29, 2020
SUMMARY OF SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Taking in all that we have learned about researching and using research to better understand and enrich the life and ministry of Catholic Sisters, especially in Africa, Small Group Discussion Facilitator: Please provide up to eight items from your discussion to share with everyone.

The following pages are the written summary reports from each of the six small groups. The summaries do not fit easily into the three questions that were presented.

Group #1. Facilitator Sr. Joan Chisala, CSJB

- We need more research with the religious women partnering with the lay people.
- Research on Family ministry and sustainability within the administration of sisters.
- Research on empowerment of women religious in the area of education.
- Conduct more research on leadership so as to help our leaders understand their role.
- Expand on research on international women religious (culture training for international sisters to be reinforced).
- Research to help the local church is by training more sisters in courses that will help them administer to the people, e.g. counselling.
- Research on data Collection on various ministries of the sisters.
- The use of social media to tell the world on what the sisters can do.

Group #2. Facilitator Sr. Margaret Ajebe-Sone, SST

- The need for research on the clergy's understanding of religious life.
- Global Sisters Network (in line of ministries and type of order).
- Generation differences.
- Charism.
- Community Life.
- Formation of Leaders / methods for vocation promotion.
- Social Media (emphasis on proper usage).
- Contribution of Sisters to the local Church.

Group #3. Facilitator Sr. Florence Emurayevaya, EHJ

- The need to collect data from each individual African country on their ministries and these compared, need to encourage ministries to collaborate with government and other private sectors, Collaboration/Collaborative ministry.

- Research on the Spirituality of Sisters and the encouragement of Sisters, funding and workshop and empowerment of Sisters can help to nourish and replenish the sister.
- Effect of COVID 19 on the education ministry of Sisters in Africa.
- The need to collaborate more with religious Sisters and priest on research.
- The need to have workshops for priests and women religious to work together and have collaborative ministries on religious life and on the fruitful life of the church.
- Researching into the Charisms of religious institutes will tell our stories.
- Research of the Cultural effect on Religious/institutes as well as research into the life and ministries of Sisters will help to tell our own stories.
- The Effect of the Research on the life and ministries of Sisters, making it known to the sisters as well as education research centers in Africa will help to tell their stories.

Group #4. Facilitator Sr. Hellen Bandiho, STH

- Data about congregations is an urgent need.
- Research priority: How to sustain congregations and their ministries.
- Research use: Enable congregations to develop their congregations, keep their stories, their history and could be a means through which formation curriculum could be reviewed from time to time.
- Comparison of congregation's ministries as a way of collaboration among congregations could be studied.
- Research on congregational strengths, weaknesses, available opportunities and threats to the congregation and the Church... could help them to begin to see what they need to do now to save them from future "pandemics."
- Education is crucial to all leaders. It will enable them to think strategically, be creative and innovative.
- To get good results, stories about Catholic sisters should be conducted by the sisters themselves.
- To study the commonalities of charisms will enable more collaboration for the purpose of serving the church as Catholic sisters rather than as individual congregations.

Group #5. Facilitator Sr. Bibiana Ngundo, LSOSF

Question 1: Research that will help to nurture and sustain the life and ministries of religious sisters

- Research seeking to evaluate the level of fulfillment of various needs of the sisters: personal, apostolic, and community, generation gap...
- Research on modern technology: knowledge, application and impact...
- Educational research: Identification and assessment of community, academic needs, and sponsorship.
- Research on financial gaps covering donor funding, sponsorship, projects...

Question 2: What research will help the leadership of Catholic Sisters, help the local Church?

- Leadership knowledge and skills: Research that help to identify gaps in leadership knowledge and skills, challenges and best practices.
- Research on partnerships/collaboration between congregations, congregations and parishes/dioceses.
- Research on challenges of leadership and intervention strategies.
- Research areas that supports the identification of gaps and provide strategies of bridging such gaps- educational, financial gaps etc.
- Research areas that Helps the religious to remain relevant in the Church and society i.e. support religious institutions to remain within their charisma because they are able to get feedback, outcome and impact of their work.

Question 3: What Research that will help Catholic Sisters to tell their own story?

- Research that will display the labor force provided by sisters and therefore form bases to engage the government and other development practitioners.
- Research that inform on formation needs to prepare candidates suitable for the changing world.
- Studies that will help improve quality of life of sisters and therefore be effective in their ministries. The results of their work will display their life and their ministry.
- Research on diversified ministries is needed to respond to the changing world.
- Congregational based research: Studies that seek to assess and evaluate the lives of sisters. in terms of personal experiences, community experience, apostolates and other values lived and experienced with others in the community and others.

Group #6. Facilitator Sr. Aloysia Makoe, SNJM

- Technology competency and use, both within the congregation and as a means of evangelization.
- Convincing major superiors and sisters of the need for and usefulness of research.
- Sisters would trust researchers more and be more cooperative if the researcher was a religious sister rather than a lay person.
- How to share the findings and to ensure that the findings are acted upon/implemented.
- India needs a study showing the impact of its more than 100,000 religious sisters on the country, especially in the areas of healthcare and education.