



"God created man in His image."
(Genesis 1:27)
Item No. 860

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Inculturation at it's Peak !!!!!!!!!!!!!

By Carol Gentile, SFO-National Minister

Inculturation – the interaction between the Gospel and culture or, in the words of the Jesuit sociologist, John A. Coleman: “Inculturation is the existential dialogue between the living people and the living Gospel.”

“You must know that it is not proper for a Jew to associate with a Gentile or to have dealings with him, but God has made it clear to me that no one should call any man unclean or impure.”
(Acts 10: 28)

A recent letter from our General Minister, Encarnación del Pozo says this: “The tragedy of South East Asia affects us all, no matter where we live, and we cannot remain passive or indifferent before the pain of so many of our brothers and sisters. I know it is not so and that all of us are making our own the pain which directly affects so many people, probably even some of our own SFO Fraternity with whom we have not been able make contact. In the face of this tragedy, which affects the whole of humanity, I ask all the Order, all brothers and sisters, to mobilize with passion – their civil organizations that are providing

humanitarian aid to those affected. If it is possible for us, we should do so through our own initiatives or that of the Franciscan Family, but if not, by uniting as Franciscans – sent and supported by our Fraternity – in projects begun by other people or entities of ‘good will’ (R.14).”

Our General Minister continues to share with us that, at the last General Chapter, we assured the Holy Father that we will commit ourselves to his request that we “continue and develop, with all the imagination of charity, our service in favor of the most unfortunate... and to deepen the true foundations of the universal fraternity and to create a spirit of acceptance and a climate of brotherhood everywhere. Let you commit yourselves firmly... to struggle against all attitudes of indifference towards other.”

According to G.K. Chesterton in *Personalism: Francis's Own Revolution*, “What gave him his extraordinary personal power was this: that from the pope to the beggar, from the Sultan of Syria in his pavilion to the ragged robber crawling out of the wood, there was never a man who looked into those brown burning eyes without being certain that Francis Bernardone was really interested in him...”

In a recent monthly publication that focuses on international affairs, *The Economist*, an article entitled *Helping the Survivors* says, “The world’s response to the horrors wrought by the Indian Ocean tsunami has been extraordinary. As well as offering up their sympathy and prayers, people everywhere have dug deeper than ever into their pockets.”

We have been challenged by the tsunami crisis to awaken that sleeping giant within each of us that is called to wash the feet of our brothers and sisters in whatever way possible, regardless of race, religion or culture.

We have witnessed that, truly, God’s people have surfaced in every aspect of our civilization to respond to the needs of others.

Do we have much more to learn from this experience?

“Is there a real, practical experience being learned by us Franciscans as we involve ourselves in the living of, or interaction with, the Gospel and culture in the United States of America?”

(Fr. Steve Gross OFM, Conv.)

Let us begin to explore our relationship with our brothers and sisters around the world. Can we move from our world to God’s world without a tsunami crisis?