



<b>WORKSHOPS – B3.1 &amp; C3.1</b>	<b>SPEAKER : BROTHER JAMES SHIN</b>
<b>TITLE : CCR CLOSE TO THE POOR AND NEEDY</b>	
<b>LANGUAGE : ENGLISH – Video (En / It / Sp)</b>	<b>COUNTRY : KOREA</b>

## Introduction

Sarang Ham Nida!~ (which means 'I offer my love to you' in Korean)

I am very happy being here to share my testimony with the title of 'CCR close to the poor and needy. The theme seems to correspond well with Pope's exhortation to CCR. The Holy Father exhorted us "Be close to the poor and touch in their flesh, the wounded flesh of Jesus" during his address for the Renewal on June 2014.

Special guests are here now to make this session more practical and our testimonies more tangible to reveal God's love for the poor. 40 family members staying at Vatican have been invited according to the Pope's exhortation (Fr. Oh, the founder of Kkottongnae community calls the poor and needy 'our family'). The number '40' is shown several times in biblical context; 40 days' rain at the days of Noah, 40 days' walk of Elijah to get to Mt. Horeb, 40 days' spending of Jesus in wilderness before public ministry, 40 years' roaming of Israelite in the desert to reach the promised land and 40days' Lenten season.

The number 40 symbolizes the period of purification and preparation with a trial, penance, repentance and atonement in order to meet God and to proclaim Gospel.

So, I am sure the presence of 40 VIPs here may lead us to our repentance and purification. We will also have great moments of reminding God's special love for the poor, getting opportunity to love one another, opening our hearts to the Holy Spirit, feeling God's presence in them here and giving them a healing ministry.

The 2009 ICCRS event was held in Kkottongnae community in South Korea on June. It was the first time that the ICCRS had organized an international leader's conference outside of Europe. When the chairman of the Korean NSC and I had a preparatory meeting with the president and director of ICCRS in Rome, Michelle Moran, president, proposed the theme of the event as 'Love in Action' and said that Kkottongnae had been selected especially for the international conference because it is a wonderful role model in which the poor and abandoned are being taken care of and the fruit of Holy Spirit is being revealed in abundance.

The theme was exactly compatible with the original intention of the former president of ICCRS, Allan Panozza, who wanted to reveal love, the first fruit of Holy Spirit through this event. Because ICCRS had shown the charisms of praising, preaching and healing but relatively the practice of love had been weak so far.

Scriptures tells us **"Faith without action is dead"(James2,26)**

**"Our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action"(1John3,18)** Let's just say, **Love in Action!**



I suggested that we give participants the opportunity to engage in volunteer services for the 2,000 elderly, handicapped, homeless and sick prior to the conference.

It was a special moment of conversion. Through the experience of helping the poor and abandoned, the participants were able to meet the Lord during their voluntary service. And this encounter has made them more open to the Holy Spirit and led them to the Lord closer.

Pope Benedict XVI said, "There is an "unbreakable bond between the love of God and the love of a neighbor. The commandment of love should be interpreted to mean that **love of a neighbor is a path that leads to the encounter with God, and that closing our eyes to our neighbor also blinds us to God.**"(Pope Benedict XVI, God is love, No16)

Pope Francis visited Kkottongnae on August 2014 to meet the poor whom he loves most and especially the handicapped children who were abandoned.

Kkottongnae is a social welfare complex founded in Korea. We are taking care of about 5,000 helpless sick people currently in Korea and overseas 13 countries such as Philippines, Uganda, Bangladesh, Haiti... and so on.

Let me show you an introduction video clip of Kkottongnae for you to see what we are doing for the poor and needy in all over the world.

**VIDEO PRESENTATION** 5 minutes.

### **Who are the poor?**

Late Cardinal Stephano Kim Su-Hwan, the first cardinal of Korea, said: "The poor are not just objects of our impulse charity or help. **They are never useless people, but the most valuable ones who lead us to happiness by making us love one another.**"

Pope Francis said, "They have much to teach us. Not only do they share in the *sensus fidei*, but in their difficulties they know the suffering Christ." "**They are anointed by the suffering of Christ.**" Theologically Anointing is a special moment of blessing to be chosen and to be sanctified.

People are being abandoned **not because of lack of bread but because of lack of love** from their family members.

The poor have a special place in the church. Jesus regards the poor as Himself; **Mt 25,40 : "Whatever you did for the least brothers of mine, you did it for me"** I was hungry and you gave me food to eat, and he taught that mercy towards all of these is the key to heaven.

### **2016, The Jubilee Year of Mercy**

We celebrated the Year of Mercy in 2016 with the motto, "Be merciful like the Father".

There are 2 categories of mercy; corporal and spiritual.

These are 7 corporal works of mercy; to feed the hungry, to give drink to the thirsty, to clothe the naked, to shelter the homeless, to comfort the sick, to visit the prisoner and to bury the dead. And



Here are 7 spiritual works of mercy; to instruct the ignorant, to counsel the doubtful, to admonish sinners, to bear wrongs patiently, to forgive offences willingly, to comfort the afflicted and to pray for the living and the dead.

### **Charity and Sins**

- Almsgiving delivers from death, and it will purge away every sin(Tob12,9)
- Water extinguishes blazing fire: so almsgiving atones for sin(Sir3,30)

### **The founder's special spiritual experience - Fr. Oh's message(1):**

On August 16,1978, Fr. Oh found an old beggar who was dying on a bridge, and he was carrying him to the hospital by a car to save his life. At that moment Fr. Oh heard the loud voice from the Heaven, **"I will take care of everything else if you receive the least of my brothers in my name."**

### **Suicide attempt**

Some patients tried to commit a suicide because of their inner wounds; rejection, betrayal and being abandoned. You know Jesus was rejected, betrayed and abandoned by his people. Their wounds need to be healed by forgiving those who hurt them.

I could cure their physical illness as a medical doctor, but I couldn't touch their inner wounds. So I had been praying to the Lord that He may endow me the gift of healing.

### **Baptism in the Spirit**

After 1 year of prayer, I have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1989. It was an unforgettable spiritual experience of meeting God by Holy Spirit. That was very deep, personal and dynamic. My life has been totally changed since then. God answered my prayer and gave me the gift of spiritual healing. After the baptism in the Spirit, whenever I pray for dying patients, they forgive others who abandoned them and accept God to reconcile with Him and other people. Moreover many of them willingly agreed to donate their eyes and bodies after death.

A HIV/AIDS patient who had been abandoned by his family came to Kkottongnae hospital. He was in a terrible condition just about to die with hatred, despair and anger. He did not know Jesus and had no faith at all. We treated him like a abandoned Jesus. We had served him with a deep compassion and true love; fed him, bathed him and cared for his huge sore wound on his back etc... He had been hospitalized for 40 days. The day before he died, he confessed to me with a weak and faint voice, "Brother... I am ...very...happy. Now...I ...can forgive... my family...who didn't... help me. (They escaped from him because he is an AIDS patient) At that night, I was overwhelmed with joy as if I owned whole universe and became the richest person in the world.

The scripture passage became real to me as in II Co 8,9, "Though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich"

**The poor made me rich through their poverty** I had given him all I had; my medical knowledge and skills, my time and my heart. But I didn't think it was enough for me to serve him like this. Instead, feeling of deficiency in my heart and sorrow to him came over because I couldn't save his life.

**"Happy are those who are poor in spirit, the Kingdom of heaven belong to them (Mt5,3)**



Fr. Oh gave us a homily about the Beatitude that **Spiritual poverty is the state of mind that nothing is left after giving out everything that he has, but still want to give more and more, even his life** - Fr. Oh's message(2)

### **Work of Salvation**

We could save a HIV/AIDS patient's soul.

Kkottongnae is not a mere place of social welfare or charity work, but the salvation of human beings. Transforming one's life requires the unconditional true love.

**Fr. Oh's message(3) - " I love only you whether you are sinful or not"**

### **Fr. Oh's message(4) - Love :**

I asked homeless people, "What do you need most? Is that money? house? good health? fame? or power?" Surprisingly most of them replied to me, "No, we don't need them. Only one thing, that is love. Please give us love, love, love" So I asked them again, "Do you know how to get love? Nobody answered my question and all remained silent. I told them Fr. Oh's message about love; **Love belongs to the one who loves. When you love, you become love. If you live with a loving heart, you will meet the one who loves.**

### **Devastated earthquake, Haiti on 11<sup>th</sup> Jan 2010**

As a result of this horrific natural disaster, about 300,000 lost their lives and more than 1,000,000 became homeless. The earthquake also brought about epidemics of cholera, unstable security and increased number of HIV/ AIDS. Kkottongnae dispatched 6 brothers and sisters to help the victims of earthquake.

One day we found a man who had been living in a cemetery. He was helpless and hopeless because he was suffering from HIV/AIDS in terminal stage. We took him to Kkottongnae Haiti and treated him. Now he is a new man.

### **Fr. Oh's message(5) Kkottongnae's dream :**

**A world where no one is forsaken.**

**A world where everyone is respected just as God is.**

**A world where everyone loves his neighbor as he loves himself.**

### **Fr. Oh's message(6):**

**Even if you have only the strength to beg for food, it is the blessing of the Lord.**

1<sup>st</sup> June, 2017

CCR Golden Jubilee 2017 at Vatican

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