



INSTITUTO DE ASUNTOS CULTURALES

THE INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

APARTADO 5642 CARACAS 101, VENEZUELA

May 17, 1983

Dear Colleagues:

Greetings from Area Caracas. Things continue at a high speed. Instead of our Urban School, we just completed what we have called our Declaration Week. Ralph Davila was able to be with us for the whole week and he led us to a breakthrough with 2 entirely new "declaration tools" - a "Black Heritage Encounter" or foro and a "new paraliturgy" that reflects the popular culture in Barlovento. Both are enclosed. We will experiment with the Encounter - a heritage and promissory talk, a conversation, and an exercise - first in our 13 cluster villages. Our paraliturgy will first be used as our Daily Office. The creation of the para liturgy was most exciting because it is a blend of the archaic religious tradition of Christianity, the secular world view we have, and the the popular religiosity of our particular region. For example, the confession statement is a series of popular sayings in Barlovento that our people identified as sayings of life escapes. Finally it is a "worship" where we name the name and have time for prayers.

We also wanted to float a baloon or two, regarding November. As you know, our Global Research Assembly is scheduled for Oct. 30-Nov. 8. As we have so little chance to gather, and the cost of travel is so prohibitive in Latin America (with our recent economic problems our cost of travel is more than twice what it was six months ago), we were wondering about capitalizing on the occassion. Therefore i. we could do our continental council here 2. if our Latin American Order members could attend, we could hold another Priorship Training School like we had in March. This suggestion came from the students in the PTS. Ideally if all Latin American Order members or "intended order" or real "extended order" attended we could journey our order a million miles.

We know that time and money will be real issues. On time, the 3 weeks of the PTS has made our internal life and external mission 10 times more effective. It is worth the time for the Latin Americans in the order to learn key tools and of the order. On money, Ralph D. has already set up a special account and we hope to raise enough to offer at least one if not two scholarships per area for Latin Americans.

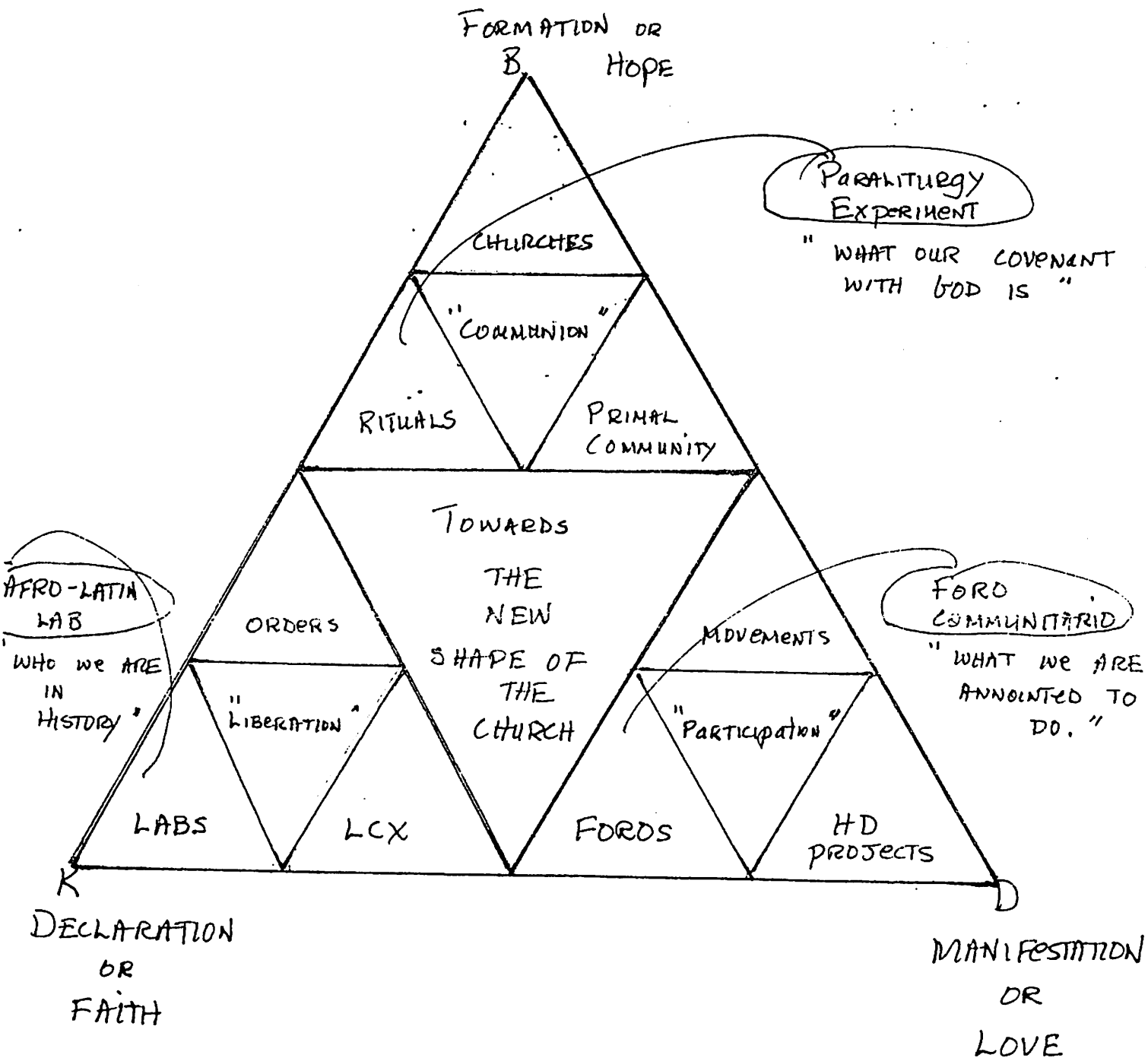
A projected schedule is enclosed. Please let us know your thoughts because we want to reserve a facility in June. If time is particularly pressing we could look to compressing the 4 weeks into 3, although from our experience in March, it takes 3 weeks to do the PTS.

Please let us hear your reactions and see you in July.

Grace & peace,

Neil Vance *Rafael A. Davila*

TOWARDS THE MODES OF DECLARATION



CA: CARACAS
MAY 1983



INSTITUTO DE ASUNTOS CULTURALES

APARTADO 5842 CARACAS 101, VENEZUELA

September 12, 1983

Dear Panchayat/Pre-continuum:

Things are underway in Area Caracas with a Human Development Methods Lab starting in Caño Negro at the end of this week. A new first for us - the first Venezuelan to permeate. Juan José Osilio is working at an auto repair shop in Las Minas in order to learn the trade with an idea that we might open a repair shop in Barlovento as a S/S venture. It ties in nicely with our plans for the trade technical school in Caño Negro.

Enclosed is a brochure of November (although we will re-design the second week to include more research time and then the Latin Americans in the order will transist to Caño Negro for a three week priorship training school. We are working on a construct of how the social and myth factor would be researched but would appreciate any thinking that has been done on the Continental Research Assemblies.

At our area council we decided our Resurgence Research Project would be the "Resurgent Church in Latin America" The progressive church is the main, if not the only, catalyst of social change in the continent, and considering their history, it is quite an act of repentance.

As we ground ourselves in the practical realities of an area, one of our Achilles Heels for July is becoming more obvious - money. Many areas will find themselves near bankrupt after February and July will be more important for a serious order member than the Exposition. One of the tasks therefore of the continuum will have to be to find a significant amount of \$ for the council in July-August. That led us to wonder what one would give donations to in the council/gra construct. We've established with the IERD that people don't easily give, therefore what? In order to creatively involve 3rd world order members in the July GRA, & have a program to sell to potential donors such as historic religious orders, we could experiment with a Tertian Program, Priorship Training School, call it what you will, that would be an integral part of the GRA.

For a conference

The issue of how you rapidly context a 3rd world order member is an issue confronting a number of religious orders and our program could be viewed as a pilot project for them.

We are going to talk to Ralph Davila about ~~the~~ Maryknoll support to such a construct, as a balloon. We feel that the SVD fathers in particular would support this idea and Fr. Bob Rank could

rue Berckmans 71
1080 Brussels, Belgium
tel. 322/538 - 5892

P.O. Box 360
Bombay, India 400001
tel. 37-3741

7, Lorong 5/19B, Petaling Jaya
Selangor, Malaysia
tel. 568-038

31 Whitfield Rd., 1/F. No. 1
Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
tel. 5/786-566

4750 N. Sheridan Road
Chicago, Illinois 60640
tel. 312/769-6363

prime financial sponsor, we believe that we can offer travel assistance to 1 Latin American order member/area. What we would like to do is buy (on credit) the tickets now and PTA or mail them now as we expect a rise in ticket prices as the Bolivar continues to devalue. We feel that it is not worth the expense or loss of time for a Latin American order member to come part time so the ticket would probably have to be a full fare one. If you have someone who is really the order and needs travel assistance please get us the names ASAP.

On visas: with our upcoming elections and economic crisis etc. we cannot guarantee assistance on this end. Enclosed is a blank letter of our stationary if you need to write a formal letter of invitation. I'm sure Rafael would not mind his name being the signatory for it to be more Venezuelan.

We wish you well and anticiapte a pivotal event for the movement in Latin America in November.

Grace & peace,

Dear Carol - We're anticipating your visit very much. Please make ~~sure~~ ^{sure} ~~one~~ ^{one} phone with your exact arrival time.

Relative to a conversation yesterday between BOB Rank and Linda Barnes, apparently one Bo of A \$ 5,000 has been lost in the "float". We desperately need this order to get Latin Americans to November. Linda and Bob agreed you would bring the money. Could you either bring cash (not travellers checks) or else preferably a certified check. A regular check would have to be cashed at a much lower rate than cash. You could carry it like Dela Mosley used to do - in his undergarments! See you in October
BTP Neil



INSTITUTO DE ASUNTOS CULTURALES

APARTADO 5842 CARACAS 101, VENEZUELA

September 14, 1983

Dear Colleagues in Latin America:

Greetings from Area Caracas. Please find enclosed a copy in English of our latest newsletter. Upon translation we are considering sending out the newsletter with the Ben Kingsly letter as an "annual appeal" request.

Program is well underway in Barlovento. Next Sunday we begin our 4th Human Development Methods Lab in Caño Negro. We are recruiting 50 participants and hope to produce the school manual in Spanish. We as well are making progress in the authorization and design of our projected secondary/trade skills school. With such a trades school we feel we will be able to put a dent in our economic situation in Barlovento.

In the arena of self-support we achieved a new first in indigenizing our financial base by assigning Juan José Osillio to prmiation. He has a job at an auto repair shop 5 minutes from the Las Minas House. We hope that his training is such that we will consider opening our own repair shop in Barlovento as a possible s/s venture. Another part of our multifaceted solution to self support is we intend on having a Vocational Journey Retreat for executives December 9-11. We plan on charging "LENS type" fees and will use the VJL construct with adaptations for a "retreat".

In the urban, we are facilitating a symposium of all the groups in the city that have community centres. It will be somewhat like a Rural Development Symposium, though very urban. (UDS)

High interest continues in the IERD. We are, however, concerned that in the present economic crisis that delegates will not be able to afford going.

On November: we expect Ralph Davila here this weekend so we will wait on including our brooding on construct. We would like to confirm our conversations on dates-- that the Continental Research Assembly be held October 30-Nov. 10, followed by the Continental Council Nov. 11, 12, 13. all at the INAGRO facility in Maracay about 2 hours west of Caracas. Then on Nov. 16-Dec. 3 the Priorship Training School for the Latin American order members, to be held in Caño Negro.

On financing: we will handle all in country costs, of course, Although we have not received definate word from our intended

MISIONEROS DE MARYKNOLL

Apartado Postal 47048 - Los Chaguaramos
Caracas 1041 - Venezuela

September 11, 1980

INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
4750 North Sheridan Road
Chicago, Illinois 60640
Estados Unidos

Gentlemen,

Greetings and every best wish from Venezuela. Hope that all is going well at all the project sites around the world...and of course for all of you in Chicago.

Ralph Dávila has asked that I send along the enclosed check (918 for \$ 300 issued against the Bank of New York), for Mission Transportation.

In the event that you haven't heard from Ralph recently, it is due to his very busy schedule as Area Coordinator for Maryknoll in Latin America. Since July, Ralph has been based in Cochabamba , Bolivia working out an Orientation Program for our language students as well as all newly arrived personnel for the Latin America Area. Likewise he has moved around a bit with a visit to Guatemala among others. I expect him back in Venezuela towards the end of the year.

The Caño Negro Project moves ahead smoothly, and the attempt to reach out to neighboring communities seems to be having its effect. It has been some time since I last had the opportunity to dialogo with the Directors of this effort.

I am sure you will wish to acknowledge the enclosed check. So here is the direction for Ralph Davila :-
Padres de Maryknoll
Instituto de Idiomas
Casilla # 550
Cochabamba, Bolivia

Take care...God bless and keep up the very fine work.

Thomas DeFew, S.M.
Fraternally in Christ,

Enc. Check # 918 for \$ 300

MISIONES EN: KOREA JAPON FORMOSA HONGKONG FILIPINAS PERU BOLIVIA CHILE MEXICO BRASIL