

November, 1983

THE MARACAY LETTER

Dear Colleagues of the Order,

Greetings from the Continent of Latin America. The Eighth Latin American Continental Council has ended and we want to share with you our deliberations in this Year of Order Council.

The eight houses of the six areas of the continent gathered on October 30th in Maracay, Venezuela to participate in a five week continental event consisting of our ten day Continental Research Assembly on the Myth Factor, a four day Continental Council and then moving to Caño Negro for an 18 day Advanced Priorship Training School. There were 48 people present representing the three dimensions of the Order: Symbolic, Extended and Movemental. Thirty-four of those present were Latin Americans.

The Research Assembly dealt in-depth with the current local social trends across Latin America and with the emerging mythology that is empowering local people to give form to these trends. The research product will be pulled together and distributed shortly although attached you will find a copy of the local trends. In reviewing the Cochabamba Declaration (also attached) of a year ago of our intents for the continent for 1982-84, we saw that we are dealing directly with these local trends. We experienced the corporateness of our missional directions and renewed our decision to enact the Declaration.

In the Council there were short talks on various aspects of compassion given by the emerging priorship of our Order. The conversations following the short talks created a new consciousness about the deep motivity within each one of us and gave us the courage to deal honestly with the real challenges facing the Order in Latin America. A memorial service for Aracelli Mathews added to this consciousness of the reality of compassion.

The journey of the group was enabled by the decision to make the events bilingual with translators. This broke loose a dialogue between the local participants and the extra-nationals, between the continental mainland and the Caribbean Islands, between Order members with 15 years experience and the sojourners from Caño Negro, between the symbolic order and the movement. The dialogue was also highlighted by doing Cosmos conversations in which we experienced that within the immensity of the universe we are one planet, one people, one movement. The underlying mood of the events was that of the confidence and unity of a young movement that is strong, healthy and growing. Within this framework, we struggled to answer the question of how we release the gifts of this continent to the globe. Following are the six resolves we made for our continent in the Year of Order Council. They directly relate to the triangle of the one priority.

A. Shaping Disciplined Life

1. Strengthening the Self-Support of the Houses: On the continent, self-support has been primarily handled out of developed funds. This has not allowed all house members to participate in the deep symbol of every family being responsible for the financial base that will enable us to be vibrant thirty years from now. In the past, we have also operated out of immediacy in our self-support, and have

not taken seriously the question of Order Trust/Task Funds for the continent. Our resolves in this arena are:

- a. Each area will create short, medium and long-range strategies for self-support.
- b. Each area will put aside funds on the continent that will total US\$20.000 by the end of July, 1984.

By implementing these resolves, we will be taking advantage of all the resources we have in our houses, give identity and motivity to house members, and increase internship possibilities.

B. Articulating Historical Task

2. Accessibility to Basic Common Memory in Light of the Different Languages: We, as an Order, operate out of a communication system heavily weighted to the ability to read and write the English language. This limits the local staff's participation in the decision-making process. Our challenge is to overcome the inequities created by this situation. Our resolves in this arena are:

- a. Each area will ensure that a common context and the historical documents of the Order and ICA are available in their basic written language.
- b. Each area will ensure that all vital and relevant information with regards to House and Movement activities be accessible to local staff in their language.
- c. Each area will hold regular language classes, including English, to facilitate communication across the areas and globe.

By implementing these resolves, we will be enabling the depth participation of people for whom English is only an oral second language.

C. Embodying Future Presence

3. Clarifying Covenants in Relation to the Order and Extended Family: On a continent where family relationships are still extremely meaningful and vital, Latin Americans experience the tension between the covenant with their family and the vocational calling to be the global Order. Our resolves in this arena are:

- a. Each area will involve families in the symbolizing of the person's covenant with the Order.
- b. Each area will create flexible models for the particular needs of each individual in the House to allow each person to hold this tension.
- c. Each area will create the structures that allow people to be responsibly related to their extended family.
- d. Each area will begin to build models to financially undergird the full participation of all members of the Order in order to enable missional flexibility.
- e. Each area will begin to identify the various forms of covenant with the Order and experiment with ways of symbolizing those covenants.

By implementing these resolves, we will be moving toward releasing people to act out the vocational decisions they have made.

4. Stating the Common Pillars in the Midst of our Local Diversity: For the past few years our work has been focussed on the village and the members of the Order have come primarily from that work. In order to do our whole task, we need a balance of rural and urban staff. We have been created so much in the local, that we need the global dialogue that people from the urban can provide. Since

we are one planet, one people, we need to be able to function in any situation, in the rural and in the urban. In this context, we now feel the need to articulate some of the common pillars that we hold globally. Our resolves in this arena are:

- a. Each area will use the same morning form with local diversity in content - a daily ritual, breakfast ritual, conversation, and collegium, - and a weekly high symbolic occasion.
- b. Each area will utilize the blue especially on high symbolic occasions.
- c. Each area will hold to the global fasting schedule and daily announce the fasting schedule.

By implementing these resolves we will begin to focus and build our common global pillars in the midst of our diversity.

5. Formation of Latin American Global Priors to Lead the Movements Across Latin America: We are beginning to build movements but the majority of our trained personnel are young and from the rural. Our programs, for the most part, are not geographically extended and therefore we do not get beyond our immediate territory. Our resolves in this arena are:

- a. Each area will involve more people from the urban 15% as well as more older people.
- b. Each area will create geographic plans that will involve more people and call forth the formation of the local movement.
- c. Each area will create a sojourn/intern model as well as a program to teach basic skills.
- d. Each area will continue to experiment with Order Days and Order Retreats as a journeying tool.
- e. Each area will use the results of the Continental Research Assembly to inform their strategies for the future.

By implementing these resolves, we will strengthen the emerging Order and movements across the continent.

6. Participating in the Year of Order Council Throughout Latin America: The instability of our continent that is reported daily in the world news has not been an obstacle to the young movements of Latin America winning in their situations. A very real sign of this is the establishment of a National Steering Committee in El Salvador. Yet we can only continue in strength while we operate out of a global context. Our resolves in this arena are:

- a. Each area will participate in IERD and at this time we project 48 delegates from the continent.
- b. Each area will participate in raising the US\$235,000 needed to do our programs across the continent.
- c. Each area will participate in paying for our global expenses by using 25% of our developed monies to cover the cost of our participation in the Year of Order Council -- Continental Council, the Delhi Plenary and the month of July -- as well as resettlement.
- d. Each area will participate in a global travel pool, as suggested by Dharmalingham, in order to ensure a broad participation in the July Event.
- e. Each area will send at least ten people per area to the July plenary, including symbolic, movemental and extended Order.
- f. Each area will have the names, language skill data and travel costs for the area delegations for the month of July at the February check signals meeting.
- g. Each area will begin training the selected July participants in English as well as in skills and contexts that will enable them to fully participate in the month of July.

h. Each area will furnish names of people available for translation in order that the month of July will be an event with adequate translation.

By implementing these resolves we will release the Order in Latin America to participate fully in the Year of Order Council as well as enabling our colleagues around the globe to do so also.

We feel we have barely touched the surface of these issues. We recommend to other continents and areas that they wrestle with the practical issues that come out of the culture of their geographical location and to wrestle them down to the common pillars out of which we are creating our global Order.

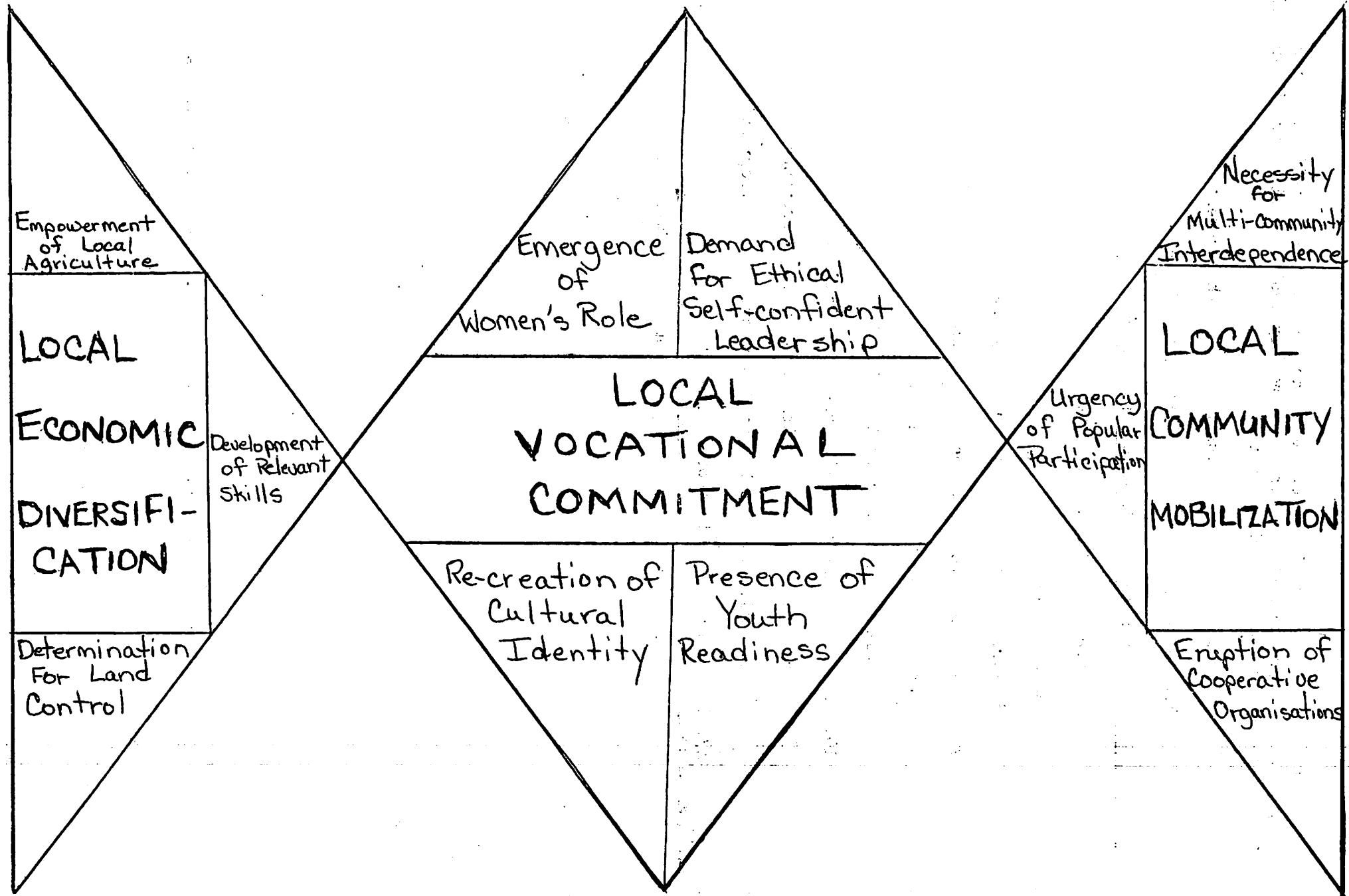
This Year of Order Council coincides with the bicentennial of Simon Bolivar who first stated the vision of a united Latin America. In this context, in our final reflections on the Council, we stated that: 1. This Council was a time of profound reflection on our roots that brought us this far and using this to project ourselves creatively into the future. 2. This Council was a time of giving true value to local people who form part of the Order and to their spirit. 3. This Council was a time of the gathering of the Latin American Order, not just to talk about the challenges, but to create models that move us into the future.

We look forward to your participation in the Year of Order Council and especially to your responses to this letter.

Yours faithfully,

Jesús Aburto
James Addington
Barbará Alérding
Tony Beltran
Maritza Blanco
Luis Caycho
Thomas Caycho
Eliza Chumpitáz
Lorenzo Cousins
Maria de Cuya
Rafael Davila
Horace Davis
Juan José Delgado
Juanita García
Judy Hamje
Raul Jorquera
John Lawton
Alfredo Martinez
Juan Martinez
Luis Mata
Douglas Matos
Janice May
Kip May
Hyman Mowatt

Juana Neriquita
Bill Newkirk
Juan José Osio
Jacobó Pacheco
Ramona Pacheco
Leonel Palacios
Hugo Panacval
Jones Panacval
Diann Porter
Robert Rank
Freddy Rivas
Angelica Rodriguez
Joaquina Rodriguez
Lucy Rodriguez
Maria Sanchez
Margarita Schilling
Icylene Seaton
Samuel Shepherd
Bill Slicker
Sharon Turner
Tina Valdes
Faith Vance
Neil Vance
Mary Work



Cochabamba, Bolivia

COCHABAMBA DECLARATION

We the participants of the 7th Latin American Continental Council in taking responsibility for the globe declare that by July 1984 the following pillars will be manifest on the Latin American Continent:

1. 1000 flash flood of community forums with documents
2. 100 Latin Americans journeying in the Order
3. 36 Training Schools - 10 done and 26 to go
4. 6 area rural/urban operations
5. Jamaica: The Nation
6. Sr./Sra. movement contact in 36 regions
7. Engaged 4-sector linkages through IERD
8. Operative 4 year areal strategies
9. 6 viable village clusters toward HDZ
10. Globally mobile staff with bi-lingual skills
11. 6 strong areal faculties with continental interchange
12. The 4 continental sub-heritages articulated for programming
13. 6 sustaining areal donor bases
14. Paying full monthly stipends and depositing full funds