



SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE WORKING GROUPS
22ND SEPTEMBER 2005

The First question submitted to the work groups dealt with the ways in which monks and oblates can co-operate for the promotion of justice and peace in their local church.

Monks, nuns and oblates can contribute to peace and justice through an informed conscience based on Biblical values, communicated to others, fortified by prayer, and acted upon with communal discernment and sensitivity to diversity of thought, experience and life circumstances. They should strive to maintain a consistent life ethic that is considerate to all people. One group summarised their suggestion with the words “information-reflection-action”, that is action taken on the basis of informed discernment. Some oblates also suggested that monks and oblates should promote local conferences on current issues. Other important aspects brought forward were the need to avoid mixing politics and religion and that of being aware of possible inappropriate use of the Christian message.

The second question regarded the possibility of setting up Christian groups which oppose war, violence and injustice by using non-violent means. In this case, the working groups had divergent views. Some suggested the setting up of action groups which strive to promote Christian ideals in a Benedictine way, through dialogue and acceptance of diversity. A second opinion was that oblates should not undertake new initiatives which merely overlap with those by other organizations. However oblates may put into practice the Benedictine formation they receive in the monastery also by participating in existing pressure groups. Another group emphasised the importance of contributing to non-violence, justice and peace through prayer among oblates and together with monks and nuns in the monastery.