PILGRIMS OF HOPE PROGRAMME (POH)

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About the Coordinator and the Brothers CMM

The Pilgrims of Hope Programme (POH) is coordinated by Brother Andrea Sifuna, a member of the Brothers CMM, a Catholic religious institute founded in 1844 in the Netherlands by Bishop Joannes Zwijsen. The institute was established to care for vulnerable youth and promote their holistic development through formal education and religious instruction.

Over the years, the Brothers have expanded their mission to Asia (Indonesia and Timor Leste), South America (Brazil), and Africa (Kenya, Namibia, Tanzania, and Zambia). Today, they continue to actively participate in parish ministry, working closely with priests/ pastors to advance evangelisation.

Their mission is deeply rooted in the message of **mercy**, inspired by the words of Jesus:

"Truly, I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40).

Vision and Foundation

The Pilgrims of Hope Programme is born from a deep awareness that Christians are on a purposeful journey. As St. Paul reminds us:

"Run to win the prize…" (cf. 1 Cor 9:24-27).

This race is not a competition against each other but a spiritual race against the flesh, the world, and the devil. It calls for vigilance and deep-rooted spiritual awareness.

Purpose and Scope

While deeply spiritual, the POH programme also addresses the Christian's responsibility to engage with the world, promoting:

- Spiritual Renewal
- Human dignity
- Environmental stewardship
- Integral human development

The programme complements parish efforts in the faithful's holistic evangelization.

Programme Structure

The POH Programme is divided into **three thematic parts**, each covering key aspects of Christian formation and social engagement:

PART I: Awakening Spiritual Awareness

1. Christian Leadership – Rooted in Jesus the Good Shepherd
2. Duties of Parishioners – At Family, SCC, and Parish levels
3. Spiritual Renewal – Deepened prayer and sacramental life
4. Mary – Model and Servant of Christ's Mystery
5. Christian Logic of the Cross – In contrast to secular logic
6. The Eucharist – *"Source and Summit of the Christian Life"* (CCC 1324–1327)

PART II: Promoting Integral Human Development

(Rooted in the Church's Social Doctrine)
7. Stewardship – Supporting the Church through tithes and offerings
8. Sustainable Parish-Based Development – Institutions/SACCOs/Agriculture
9. Youth Ministry – Drug abuse, healthy relationships
10. Parish Needs Assessment – Using research-based methods
11. Strategic Planning & Management – Rooted in parish research
12. Environmental Stewardship

PART III: Emerging Issues in the Light of Faith

13. Church perspectives on:

- Gender identity
- Tattoos & piercings
- Dress code

- Pets & cosmetic surgery
- Social media use
- Alternative forms of marriage
- Surrogacy & contraceptives
- Human trafficking

Note: Content may be adapted to suit **pastoral priorities** and specific **parish needs**, in consultation with the **Parish Priest/Moderator**.

Impact and Outreach

Since its inception in 2022, the POH Programme has reached over 3,000 participants, including students, teachers, and parishioners. It has been well-received as a timely and relevant initiative. Parish priests and lay participants strongly recommend it.

Target Groups for Engagement

1. Parish Pastoral Councils
2. Outstation Leaders
3. Small Christian Communities (SCCs)
4. Catholic Women's Associations
5. Catholic Men's Associations
6. Youth Groups
7. Catholic Teachers' Associations
8. Family Life Groups
9. Devotional Groups
10. Other Parish-Based Groups
11. Justice and Peace Groups
12. Student Clubs
13. School Parents' Associations
14. Boards of Management
15. School Staff Communities (Teachers & Subordinate Staff)

Parting Word

May this programme **inspire all participants** to:

- **Journey in hope**
- **Grow in faith**
- **Bear lasting fruit** in service to the Church and the world.