

Asian Liturgy Forum
South-East Asian Region

S T A T E M E N T

Peace! From October 11-14, 2010, we, the delegates to the 14th Asian Liturgy Forum met in Penang, Malaysia, to share together about our respective local experiences of the baptismal ordo and the possibilities of inculturating it. The discussion was both enriching and refreshing. Hereunder are the conclusions of our discussion.

1. The inculturation of the baptismal ordo requires an adequate knowledge of the typical edition of the rite and familiarity with the culture of the people. Hence, we strongly encourage further in-depth study of the liturgy of baptism and the employment of technical expertise of cultural anthropologists.
2. From the reports coming from different local Churches of our region namely Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, and Thailand, we marvel at the richness of cultural traditions that can dialogue with the typical edition in order to produce an inculturated ordo of baptism.
3. Obviously, such cultural elements need to be processed in the light of Catholic doctrine on faith and morals and tested for their suitability to express corresponding values, patterns, and institutions of the liturgy.
4. To allay fears about liturgical disunity that might be caused by inculturation, we urge that the norms of SC 37-40 and the 1994 Instruction "Roman Liturgy and Inculturation" be adhered to in order to avoid the creation of a new baptismal ordo that is independent of the Roman rite.

5. In every work of inculturation it is necessary that the pastoral and spiritual benefit as well as the active participation of the faithful be accorded paramount importance.
6. We recommend that the process of inculturation should include catechesis that takes into account the socio-cultural, religious, and environmental situation of the community.

We express our gratitude to almighty God for the gift of the liturgical reform of Vatican II that roots us in liturgical tradition and our respective culture. We also wish to thank His Excellency Bishop Antony Selvanayagam, D.D., Fr. Francis Xavier Selvarajoo, and the clergy and laity of the Diocese of Penang for generously hosting our meeting.

That in all things God may be glorified.