



AMOR XVI

SRI LANKA





SRI LANKA – Country Report



Dioceses in Sri Lanka-12

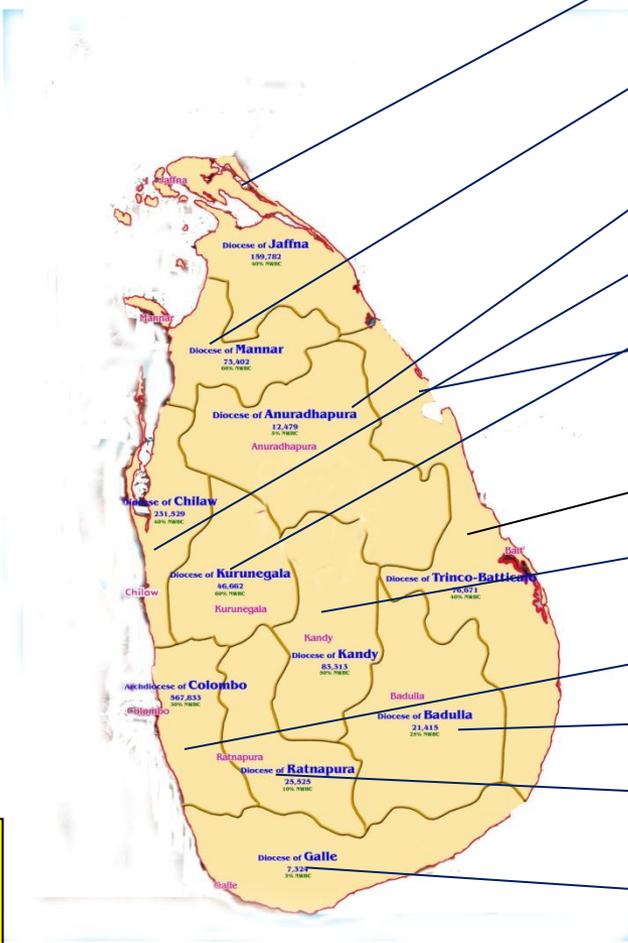
POPULATION - 20.2 MILLION (2012)

Christians - 7.5 %

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Jaffna

Mannar

Anuradhapura

Chilaw

Kurunagala

Trincomalee

Batticaloa

Kandy

Colombo

Badulla

Ratnapura

Galle



- The situation of the country: No war, No peace
- The increase of Human Rights abuses, Fear
Psychosis, etc.
- Silencing of Human Rights Crusaders, peace
advocates, Journalists media men and organization
- This led to the realization that all have to establish
net work and join hands with others in establishing
new civilization.
- The stand of the Bishops and National JP
commission on the situation of the country;
continue silent, engage in relief work.
- The Vision of the Conference is for the change.





RE VISIONING FOR THE 2025

- **HOW TO BE A RELIGIOUS IN THIS SITUATION**
- **“All the analysis and soul-searching is necessary, but do not lose sight of the fundamental reason behind our very own existence.**
- **It is not what “we” want, but what God wants from us at this point of history. It is this question which shed light on all the answers to the other questions which was posed on the Major Superiors when they met for RE VISIONING in 2011**





An outline of the process

We were left with the question:

WHAT DOES IT MEAN, A NEW WAY OF BEING RELIGIOUS IN SRI LANKA TOWARDS 2025?

Are we ready to move out of our comfort zones, re-committing ourselves as radical disciples of the human Jesus responding to the present day realities of the Country and the Church.

The process continued, and after much interaction, discussions, sharing in small groups, and in general assemblies, we arrived at the following Vision and Mission Statements:





CMRS VISION 2025

***Rooted in Gospel Values
A Transforming Collective Force
To Effect A***

***Healed
Reconciled
Humanized
Integrated***

Sri Lanka





CMRS VISION 2025

ROOTED IN GOSPEL VALUES:

- Gospel values include all the values as lived by Jesus, and which we as his disciples are called to live.
- Unless we are rooted in Gospel values, we cannot achieve our Vision and Mission.

A TRANSFORMING COLLECTIVE FORCE:

- Our one desire as Religious of all Congregations led by the CMRS
- is to be a Collective Force which Has Transforming Power,
- Transforming Ourselves And Others





CMRS VISION 2025

- **TO EFFECT** - To lead *to action*, to be effective in what we want to do, to bring to a reality our dream... (A vision is always a dream)
- **A HEALED Sri Lanka** When we looked at our recent history (1995 – 2011) the war and the post-war situations, has polarised our country... there is an urgent and important need for *healing of all* the peoples of Sri Lanka.
- People of every race and religion need to be healed after all that we have experienced as a nation.
- **A RECONCILED SRI LANKA**
- Being reconciled is the need of the hour.
- The priority no. 1 in the country today is *Reconciliation At National Level*.
- Where there is no reconciliation, economic and human development cannot be a success.





A HUMANIZED SRI LANKA: Today, we experience a lot of dehumanization in the country, at all levels, due to the present political, economic, social, cultural, religious factors.

The poor and marginalized, minority groups, women and children, the sick and elderly are the most affected.

Together, we are called to build a humane society. This includes Justice for all – especially for the affected.

AN INTEGRATED SR LANKA

In the present context of the country, the CMRS dream is to build an integrated Sri Lanka, where all peoples of all the races, can become integrated as ONE PEOPLE.

We also used the word “integrated” keeping in mind the INTEGRITY OF CREATION. The people of Sri Lanka, like in the rest of the world, are suffering from the consequences of environmental degradation.





OUR MISSION

We have two parts in our Mission statement: one for ourselves as a CMRS body and all Religious and the other, our mission towards the country.

Transforming Ourselves
Challenged by the divisive forces at work within us and in society, we engage in a process of healing, reconciling and trust- building among us and thus become a sign of communion

To be Catalysts of Transformation

Aware of trends, challenges and contexts in the country, we mobilize our resources at community, neighborhood, institutional, parish and inter-congregational levels for bridge-building activities and effect positive attitudinal changes, building trust and communion. We uphold the dignity of every human person and take courageous actions against injustice





THE VISION MISSION STATEMENT

***is for all Religious Men and Women
Living in Sri Lanka.***

***Although it was spelt out by the
CMRS members present at this Visioning Session.***

***In view of this, we need to mobilize all the people
with whom we live and work, in our parishes,
institutions, ministries and the in different groups.
It is important that we work at INTER-
CONGREGATIONAL LEVEL for greater credibility,
and as a SIGN OF COMMUNION. As mentioned in
our Vision, we need to be bridge-builders in our
fragmented society. All that has been said above
cannot be achieved without positive attitudinal
changes.***





FORMING OF RRU

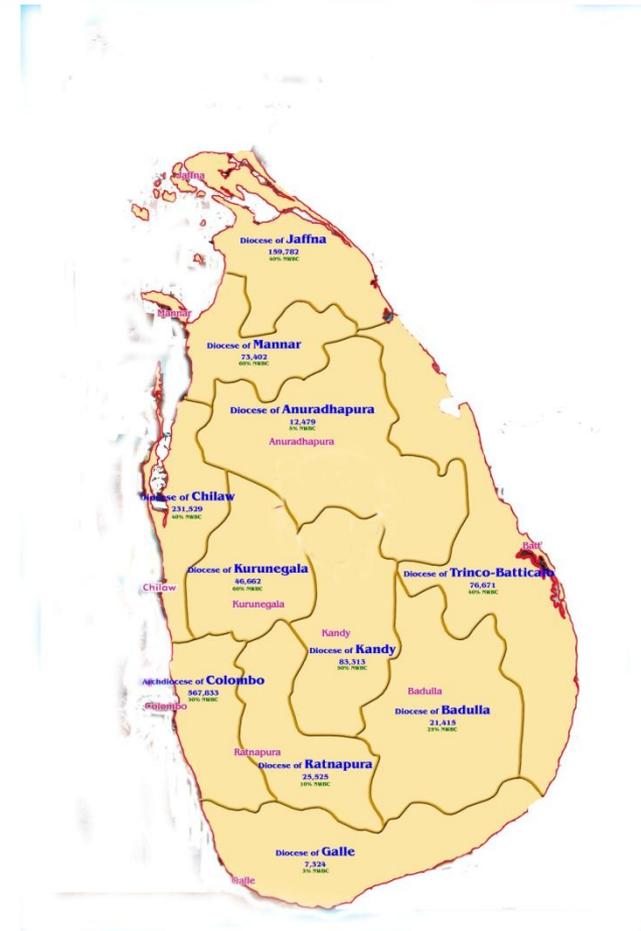
**IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THIS VISION –
MISSION
CMRS HAS CREATED
REGIONAL RELIGIOUS UNIT – RRU**

***Creating regional units, in the country to
be more specific and in our action as
collective body.***

To be voices of voiceless.

***To bring more awareness of the country
situation***

***To work in inter congregational when in
need***



Our Prophetic Action

■ Being and Becoming Voice of the Voiceless

- When situations demand, we join with other like minded church groups and NGO's to raise our voices in defense of justice, equality, peace and reconciliation
- Many of our female religious congregations are working with women and girls employed in the free-trade zones where their basic needs are neglected and fundamental rights are denied.
- Many of our women Congregations have convents in rural areas with minimum facilities to be in solidarity with those affected people and raise their issues in National forums.



Our Prophetic Action

- The present situation of the country and the Church prompted the conference to go through a re-visioning process to discern the vision of the conference (CMRS). The new vision of the conference is a challenging one.
- The establishment of Regional Religious Unit (RRU) to respond to the needs and signs of the times and places of the particular region was a bold step.
- The creation of a strong JPIC – CMRS to respond to the justice and peace situation and move towards reconciliation.



Our Prophetic Action

- The ministry of reconciliation of the nation had begun with establishing harmony and reconciliation among the religious starting among the members of the conference
- In support of the affected sectors, participation of religious in many protest marches and programmes against the government and military was commendable (Problems of Free Trade union labourers, fishermen, residence against the factory owners, Against the impeachment of the Chief Justice (CJ) and appointment of the new CJ, against the arrest of Missionaries of Charity (Mother Theresa sisters)



Our Prophetic Action

- At the time of emergency after the war, there was inter-congregational cooperation in helping the refugees.
- Inter-congregational work on behalf of JPIC-CMRS in a village, which is occupied by the Sri Lankan Navy, to make the Navy vacate the village and resettle the villagers. Still a big struggle.
- Building and forming a team of youngsters to be future leaders who promote of Peace and Reconciliation. JPIC-CMRS is accompanying 50 young people (25 from North and 25 from South) for a period of one year.



Our Prophetic Action

■ To bring more awareness of the country situation:

- In order to equip ourselves with the awareness of the socio-political and religious situation of the country we invite prominent personalities; both academics and activities to address us and in a soul-searching manner to challenge us as to our role in the country.
- The Committee for Religious Formation (CRF) of the CMRS organizes about ten programs every year for various target groups of religious in order not only to update themselves but also get to know each other and to build up relationship so as to be able to work together inter congregationally.
- An inter Congregational sister formation program for ten months is conducted for young women religious every year



Thank You

