

# Padre Pio Capuchin Formation Fraternity

*(Institute of Religious And Professional Training)  
Public Benefit Organisation 18/11/13/1327 Act 58 of 1962  
Non-Profit Organisation 027-649 NPO Act 71 of 1997*

## A RECOMMENDATION

From May 26<sup>th</sup> to June 8<sup>th</sup> 2003 an AVP team flew from South Africa to give a series of workshops for the Capuchin Franciscan community in the Province of Ethiopia. The goal of the workshops was to help create inner change in participants because of ethnic divisions – which often led to serious tensions.

An unsolicited letter from the President of the East African Capuchin Conference (covering 13 countries in sub-sahara Africa) and Provincial of South Africa province, Fr. Sean Cahill, ofm Cap subsequently stated:

‘ Congratulations on the marvellous work in Ethiopia. I hope a copy of the Report will be sent to the Minister General, John Corriveau, in Rome. This kind of workshop could be adapted and used for religious communities and diocesan priests groups. Many of the tensions experienced in both these groups seem to originate in unconscious, hidden violence (violence = word, action, silence, exclusion as was explained in your report’.

The four workshops which took place in Addis Ababa included two ‘basic’ workshops (40 religious priests, sisters, brothers) one ‘advanced’ workshop (20 participants) and one ‘trainers training’ workshop.(15 participants).

The process used in the workshops was to connect into the life experience of the participants as a key learning resource, and then drawing on that experience to deal constructively with the hidden violence in themselves, and the violence they may be unwittingly exercising towards others.

Positive comments by participants like the following could be multiplied: ‘It became very easy for us to learn that we could apologize to others and ask others for apologies also. This could not have happened before the workshops began’.

I firmly recommend the AVP approach to churches and parishes of whatever denomination.

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