

2015 REFLECTION ABOUT S.E.E.D. MINISTRY

Contents

<i>Reflection from SEED National Coordinating Team and SEED Source Formation Team.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Reflection from Dong Hanh ExCo.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Reflection from Arizona Leader Team</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Reflection from Dallas and Denver Leader Teams</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Reflection from Northeast Leader Team</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Reflection from Northern California Leader Team.....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Reflection from Southern California Leader Team.....</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Reflection from Arizona Organizer Team</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Reflection from Dallas Organizer Team</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Reflection from Northeast Organizer Team</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Reflection from Northern California Organizer Team.....</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Reflection from Southern California Organizer Team.....</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Reflection from Gia Đình Lữ Hành (Southern California Organizers)</i>	<i>31</i>

2015 REFLECTION ABOUT S.E.E.D. MINISTRY

Reflection from SEED National Coordinating Team and SEED Source Formation Team

Present: Alex Phan, Peter Nguyen, Vincent Cao, Frank Vuong

1. What fruits and graces have I/my family/my local community received from SEED Ministry?

We feel that S.E.E.D. Ministry has helped all of us grow closer in community. It has given us more purpose and meaning when we serve and go forth from our local communities. SEED has helped the young adults and youth connect deeper and has kept the youth and young adults more active in the larger Dong Hanh CLC. Serving in SEED has given more purpose for young adults to be involved in the Church. It has helped young adults to look beyond themselves. The fruits are seen in the local community and at large and have ultimately changed our lives.

2. What needs do I see for the future of SEED Ministry and Dong Hanh CLC?

It is clear for us to see that SEED Ministry is still itching to grow. In order to have a healthy ministry that can provide and support our programs and activity, we must look to having a stronger foundation. We need to look at and solidify our current processes and protocols so that we have the same solutions and answers across the board. There is also the need to continue formation and have a clearer big picture plan with our formation of leaders and organizers. It is crucial to our ministry to have well-formed and trained leaders and organizer in order to maintain our very high standards and expectations. All of these needs will feed into the sustaining of SEED retreats at the regional level. We need to identify and clarify what needs to happen in order to start new SEED retreats as well as keep them sustainable for as long there is a need and desire for SEED Retreat in that area. Lastly, we hope to keep our identity and to have stronger formation in our Ignatian Spirituality as a ministry.

3. What aspirations/dreams do I hold for myself, my family and local community regarding SEED Ministry?

We desire to continue to grow as ministry as well as individual leaders in serving through retreats and/or formation of young adult leaders. We hope to still be involved with the ministry and to serve in any capacity that God calls on us. We hope to continue bringing in young adults into formation and to invite them to serve in our ministry. We dream that perhaps one day, we will no longer need to turn down anyone due to limitations and/or logistics and, instead, be able to open our arms to

everyone that is searching to embark on the journey and experience God through developing their faith.

4. What or how can I contribute to fulfill these hopes and visions?

We need to keep God as the center. All of us are hoping to still be involved in SEED Ministry, mostly in the same ways we have already been but continue to go deeper in developing the foundations and ongoing formation. Alex – wants to continue working with the young adult formation aspect of SEED; Peter – desires to help in SEED, but more deeply in the larger Dong Hanh community; Vincent – hopes to become a better leader and continue serving the SEEDlings in his region; Frank – hopes and strongly desires to always be a part of SEED Ministry and has the openness and interior freedom to continue serving SEED in any capacity needed.

Reflection from Dong Hanh ExCo

1 & 2. What fruits and graces has my community/region received from SEED Ministry?
What needs do I see for the future of SEED Ministry and Dong Hanh CLC?

Canada: Since most of members in Montreal involve with Catechist teaching and Vietnamese language classes, there is not a strong need for SEED Retreat in the Montreal area.

Midwest: There is a very high demand (strong need) for SEED retreat in Mid-west due to its long distance between each cluster. Currently, there are SEED retreats in Denver and Dallas but other places in Mid-West also want SEED retreat.

The first challenge for Mid-West is to build a solid SEED leaders Team in order to bring SEED retreats (meet the need) into other areas like Houston, New Orleans, Tulsa, etc...

The second challenge is to groom SEED leaders in Ignatian Spirituality and CLC Way of Life so that they can share their experiences with young ones.

Southwest: SEED Ministry has brought Southwest so much life, energy, graces and strong bond between members and communities via team work and collaboration.

Northeast: Northeast is blessed with having a SEED Leaders team where some young parents function as SEED leaders. Due to long distance between groups there is a practical need to have SEED in various locations in NE region (for cost, travel time, different expectations).

3. What aspirations/dreams do I hold for my community/region regarding SEED Ministry?

Promote and support a strong and meaningful connection (bridges) between Family, Young Adult and SEED Ministries in order to function as one community, one family to support each other and to give each other life.

4. What or how can I contribute to fulfill these hopes and visions?

Contribution: Adult members in Family Ministry can take care of the Christian formation aspect for Parents in SEED retreat so that Young Adults can focus their time and energy in helping young children.

Help: Suggest Ban Phục Vụ Dong Hanh to organize more Ignatian (silent) retreats in English for SEED Leaders and Young Adults to develop their Ignatian Spirituality experiences and deepen their relationship with God.

Reflection from Arizona Leader Team

Present: Paulina Vu, JP Vu, Chau Tran, Thien Son Pham, Theresa Duong, and Claudia Nguyen

1st round sharing:

1. What fruits and graces have I/my family/my local community received from SEED Ministry?
 - Thien Son: major grace - finding a community that we didn't know existed in NorCal. Before, we didn't know that there was a place to gather in faith. At SEED we found a community to share faith with all levels.
 - Theresa: helped people in Hat Cai go beyond their comfort levels and helped us integrate into Dong Hanh more fully. With the help of Hat Cai alumni we were able to push ourselves and get ourselves out there. For myself, it's definitely a growing experience for me. I learn a lot about planning and the process and when I share about SEED to my family, they ask me about how we can get outside Dong Hanh people in on it.
 - Chau: I feel like it's so great to find a community in SEED, I'm always so grateful for that. I feel like I've really been able to truly grow as a servant leader and on a personal level too. I'm able to use my skills I learn from SEED. It bleeds into my other service projects too, SEED has helped me grow as a leader overall

- Claudia: SEED has helped me realize how proud I am to be a Vietnamese Catholic. It was nice to know more Vietnamese Catholic people, and seeing how strong the community is.
- JP: A main grace I got from SEED was the fact that I got to see a tangible version of my faith. I got a real product and I got to see all that I've learned in practice. It was also really nice giving back to my community, since the people I served this time around are people I've grown up with. It was one of my proudest moments,
- Paulina: A main grace was the fact that I've been a seedling for 7 years and now have a desire to give back because leaders were role models. As a leader, I grew a lot in terms of planning and the process. Lack of miscommunication has helped me learn about the reality of the retreat, and to be more patient. Also never to underestimate others' growth.

2. What needs do I see for the future of SEED Ministry and Dong Hanh CLC?

- Thien Son: We need to make SEED more accessible. To do this, we should do more outside community service events with the SEED community. This can keep the community together and will make the last talk on service more meaningful.
- Chau: Dallas- I think they have a huge need for leaders. Not like South West where there is Hat Cai. There isn't a group of young adults that can keep up the supply for leaders. There's also a lack of well-trained leaders. When they are able to invite people to SEED source, this is their first ever exposure to Ignatian Spirituality. It's not the same in other regions - that one weekend is not enough for these leaders to lead a retreat based on Ignatian Spirituality.
- JP: A big need especially in Arizona is that we need to reach out to other nhóm and groups in the area. We are starting to bleed out in terms of retreatants since Nazareth kids are growing up. I think this would be a good idea for SEED AZ and other SEEDs too. I know that it's hard because SEED is Dong Hanh exclusive but I think that we should serve the entire community.
- Theresa: I think it would be good if we could branch out, even to people that aren't in Dong Hanh yet. This could be a good way to draw them into the community. If we could have more events during the year with the SEED kids to keep the spirit up. It doesn't have to be a big service event, but it could be a small hang out. Maybe a small day retreat or something. It would help with bonding and integration. Another thing is to have leaders really understand what Ignatian Spirituality is because you have to understand it in order to teach it to the kids. This is the core of the teachings; we really need a stronger foundation of Ignatian Spirituality.
- Paulina: maybe a some types of SEED leader retreat to help with bonding, communication
- Claudia: More communication with the parents. We need to inform the parents more and they need to give us info too. Leaders want to be liked by the kids, as a leader that wasn't super popular with the kids; it was a source of stress at first. But it was important to have a mix of leaders - some that are very popular and some that will really connect with a few kids.

- Thien Son: NorCal has a similar problem with a lack of leaders. We can mooch off of Hat Cai but it would be nice to have more trained leaders, especially since we have such a large community up here. We want to take as many kids as possible, but we need the leaders to support this.
3. What aspirations/dreams do I hold for myself, my family and local community regarding SEED Ministry?
- Claudia: I'm the only one in my family involved with SEED. I had to explain them what it was, and what I was doing. I would love for my family to be more involved, my little sister and a younger brother who can be seedlings or SEED leaders. I really want my family to be a part of this.
 - JP: my main dream is to serve a different community. I want to see a different change. I've known the Arizona kids for so long, I'm not sure if I can really give that much more to the kids here.
 - Theresa: I really want to continue with SEED but I just have some concerns. I'm not sure if I will have time if I start grad school. I'm also struggling with my spirituality since I don't have a nhóm right now. Maybe we could have a SEED leader support group, once a month to talk about our spirituality.
 - Paulina: For SEED ministry to grow in a realistic way. It would be great to expand, but logistically we can't afford this change. I hope to find a way to expand but not take away from its spirit or depth.
 - Thien Son: Growth as a leader: SEED really challenged me. I interacted with people that I wasn't really familiar with, and it helped me build friendships and bonds. As for the community, I hope that we can keep this SEED community strong. After SEED I saw such good bonds - FB group with seedlings, SEED meetups, seeing seedlings at Church. We need to do more in between SEEDs.
 - Chau: a dream I have for SEED (Dallas), I hope that we get a better understanding of the real spirit of SEED. For a while, I was a bit burnt out with retreats in general. I had an encounter recently, but it made me feel that there is a lot of room for myself and SEED ministry to grow. I hope that we aren't too stuck and static in the ways that we do things. I also hope for pre-teen track. It needs to keep growing- It needs more.
4. What or how can I contribute to fulfill these hopes and visions?
- Thien Son: Personally, I could practice more Ignatian Spirituality. I try to do Examen every day, but it doesn't always follow through. If I just made small changes, it would change the way I carry myself and lead. As a whole, we have life going on, and I feel that we sometimes push SEED prep on the side and procrastinate. I think we could put more effort into SEED planning. Group dynamics are really important: it would help us work together better - I think that having a SEED leader meeting outside of SEED would be nice; it would help with group dynamics and procrastination issues and bonding.
 - Theresa: Procrastination - it's more of a group dynamic. If you have a high strung group, then things might get done faster. In groups, we need someone that that

will push the direction that the group is going in. Drivers LOL. We need a leader of leaders.

- JP: I agree with that, people need to take initiative. We need to change the way we look at drivers. There's a really negative tone to drivers, and it shouldn't be that way. We need to give more respect and props to those leaders. I should take more action/initiative myself.
- Claudia: Group dynamics: in SEED, I was in kids track and teen track. In kids track there was more harmony but when we met altogether, it was at time really hostile. In the smaller setting, we wanted to get work done, but it wasn't as hostile. We weren't as close as a bigger group - more integration with high school and kid tracks. Maybe not a driver, but everyone needs to do their own work/pull their own weight. Time management is really key, especially at the beginning.
- We need to have the SEED leaders take prep time seriously. Since I was new, prep was not really a priority. The returning leaders as an example - it was really important that they helped us learn to operate on their own. Also saw the spirit and drive of leaders and they helped us care and grow as a group.
- Paulina: Group dynamics really is important!
- Chau: as for my role, I still want to be involved with SEED but I'm just not sure which role since I'm getting busier in my life.

2nd round sharing:

- Theresa: I feel that this meeting was pretty productive. People's ideas really helped me form my own ideas. In a group setting, we are able to really reach a good consensus on things
- Claudia: In small group settings it's easier for me to share more. I'm pretty shy so that really helped.
- JP: I also feel that this meeting was productive. Something that Claudia said really vibed with me. Being humble is really good and not letting popularity get to your head. The SEED leader retreat was a really good idea too.
- Paulina: Parent track – it's nice to have a parent track so that the family can grow as a whole, but the main focus is for kids to encounter God. Parents should have growth, but they need to realize the spirit of SEED.

Reflection from Dallas and Denver Leader Teams

1st leader:

1. What fruits and graces have I/my family/my local community received from SEED Ministry?
 - SEED Ministry helps me to grow in my personal and spiritual life.
 - Our children like to talk about God and love God more after each retreat.

- I learned and experienced ways to share faith with my children at their levels.
 - I'm grateful for God's love brought to us by SEED leaders.
2. What needs do I see for the future of SEED Ministry and Dong Hanh CLC?
 - A good guideline to prevent all forms of abuse among young adults, leaders.
 - A supportive post-SEED retreat program for retreatants and their parents.
 - Reaching out to children whose parents are not able to be with them during the retreat (guardian role...)
 - Ways to gain support from local community church.
 3. What aspirations/dreams do I hold for myself, my family and local community regarding SEED Ministry?
 - Continue to grow spiritually on SEED Ministry's path we are having.
 4. What or how can I contribute to fulfill these hopes and visions?
 - Listen and answer to God's call for whatever role he has for me.
 - Continue to be a parent organizer and promote to gain support from local church.

2nd leader:

1. What fruits and graces have I/my family/my local community received from SEED Ministry?

Before joining S.E.E.D. Ministry, I was not really grounded to my religious faith. On my way to the first S.E.E.D. Source in Dallas, I didn't know what to expect, because I really didn't want to go. But bác An was on the phone with me throughout most of the ride telling me everything that I should prepare myself for, such as: having an open heart, being open, being connected spiritually, and everything you usually hear from your parents before you go on a retreat. When I arrived I was surprised to see a lot of people I knew like Vincent, Jonathon, cô Thuy, and later on Bethany! I was like wow! I know them! After S.E.E.D. Source was complete, years went on and I became more grounded in Christ. My church is really blessed to have a member from our church becoming part of the S.E.E.D. Ministry. They always talk about me, and sometimes I feel guilty for some reason. S.E.E.D. had a huge impact in my life so far. I'm really grateful for it.

2. What needs do I see for the future of SEED Ministry and Dong Hanh CLC?

I'm pretty sure everyone knows that one nun that read a reading for the Pope's mass in the United States. My church was fortunate to have her come and share with us. Bác Hương introduced me as a S.E.E.D. leader as always. "Yes sister, this is Ngọc Anh and she is a S.E.E.D. leader!" (translated to English) Hahaha. Sister was really

surprised that I was part of the S.E.E.D. Ministry. She told me that she really wanted to take S.E.E.D. to Vietnam. I was in no position to say anything LOL! I told her I'll make sure I'll tell someone about her request when I have a chance. Her request got me thinking about how S.E.E.D. is growing and if we did go international. That will be a big step for us.

3. What aspirations/dreams do I hold for myself, my family and local community regarding SEED Ministry?

As of right now I'm trying to revive my youth group, I want the youth at my church to experience retreats like I did when I was a youth, especially S.E.E.D. I want to help them grow spiritually in their faith.

4. What or how can I contribute to fulfill these hopes and visions?

Every night before I go to sleep, I always pray for the S.E.E.D. Ministry journey. Wherever God takes us, I'm hoping I'll be there to take those steps to get there.

Reflection from Northeast Leader Team

1st round sharing:

1. What fruits and graces have I/my family/my local community received from SEED Ministry?

- My relationship with God has grown, my trust, my sense of purpose and vocation. It's the thing that makes me feel alive. It's everything to me. Truly it is God at work, a personal journey for me from the beginning.
- SEED has given me a spiritual community, not just on the local level, but regional too. I feel that being a SEED Leader has helped me grow, and it is the culmination of my experience from being a SEED retreatant. It has helped me grow in awareness, in Ignatian Spirituality and most importantly in my relationship with God and helped me see God in the ordinary.
- SEED has helped me get a sense of connection through the community with everybody. The bond between everyone and the sense of community is a grace from SEED.
- SEED is a true calling for me. SEED has affirmed my journey in life and my call to make a positive contribution on the world.
- SEED is not just a way for me to grow, but also for my daughter. It is a way for the whole community to come together and serve.
- Awareness – is something that I definitely needed to improve on and working on the SEED leadership team has helped me to expand the way I see God and interact with other people. For example, everyone on our leadership team has siblings and I am an only child. Since I did not have a lot of experience dealing

with the younger children and teens, I had to learn a lot about the do's and don'ts from the evaluations every evening. In my spiritual life as well, I try to be more aware of the ways God is trying to communicate to me in my daily life. As 1 Kings 19:11-13 notes, God often speaks to us through whispers so I'm trying to be better at hearing Him.

- Knowledge – was the gift of the Holy Spirit that I asked for last year. However, I have realized that SEED Ministry in a way is like CCD 2.0 except that the kids have a chance to learn through activities. In all seriousness, one of the main issues that the Catholic Church has to face nowadays and the main complaint I hear from people is the problem of bad Catechesis. In preparing for the talks, I began to really understand why it's so important to make sure that the knowledge we are offering to the children is based on a solid Catholic foundation. It was also during that time, that I was forced to dig a bit deeper into what I assumed I already knew. As one of my co-workers said once that to really know a subject, you have to be able to teach it. Plus, most of the time I feel embarrassed because it seems like the kids are the ones teaching me when it should be the other way around. So it by going through the SEED planning process that I discovered I needed more knowledge on knowledge.
- Community – is the grace I always receive from every Dong Hanh gathering. SEED is a time when the kids and adults can come together as a spiritual family and grow in God's love. I am still amazed at the way kids can so easily grasp a concept and how observant they really are. They are without a doubt a constant source of energy for the leaders on those days when you just want to take a siesta. I haven't had a chance to spend a lot of time with the teens, but from what I've noticed they seem to be getting along with each other and with the kids when it comes time to mix the two tracks. It's a blessing and privilege to help set the table for their encounter with Christ. The parents always are so helpful to the leaders even when they're doing their own work shops or tending to their own duties. In terms of the leaders, it's a miracle that we are able to work together so well each year, it's always an honor and joy to work alongside such great people! The way in which all three groups fit together in this SEED Ministry is a testament to our common faith and love in God. We often use in the group the quote by Dr. Martin Luther King that Church is a place we go from. SEED has shown me that it is much, much, much easier to go into the world when I have a group to support me and hold me accountable.

2. What needs do I see for the future of SEED Ministry and Dong Hanh CLC?

- Funding and financial support.
- Support for leaders in developing their spiritual formation.
- Bringing people from outside of Dong Hanh into SEED, be open to invite more people to come and bring their gifts.
- Need formation in Catechism. It's so rich, if we can pass that along it would be so beneficial for SEED.
- Encourage and support people to step up and be leaders.

- See SEED become a more connected network. After the retreat the connectedness is lost. We need to follow up with retreatants after retreats.
 - Unity for all regions.
 - On-going formation, learning to use the “tools” God has given us.
 - More training and funding for new leaders. You can’t give what you don’t have. More support for leaders to help with their continued spiritual formation.
3. What aspirations/dreams do I hold for myself, my family and local community regarding SEED Ministry?
- Hope that as I grow in life, I can always keep SEED and Dong Hanh a part of my life.
 - Bring joy to the community, in my life.
 - For myself to continue to become more involved in SEED.
 - I see a bright future as one apostolic community to do God’s will.
 - So many are yearning for something like this. Open up to others, such as American parishes.
 - For leaders and helpers to continue to grow and be nourished.
 - I hope that we can continue to work well together as a team and find new ways to set up the environment for the kids and teens to encounter God and the beauty of His Church.
4. What or how can I contribute to fulfill these hopes and visions?
- Help to bring up the next generation of leaders. Continue to work with new youth groups. Help to form them and build them into leaders.
 - Help the Leader team stay focused and deepen their knowledge and understanding when working on particular themes. Continue to deepen my faith and relationship with Christ.
 - Give as much as I possibly can.
 - Try to talk to people and recruit.
 - Continue to do what we do, to be open up to others, regardless of logistics and funding.
 - Be open to God’s will for SEED. To be open to God’s will for me and be flexible.
 - I can contribute to this vision by continuing to cultivate a relationship with God and my community through prayer and good works. I can also take the time to study more about my faith and learn why the Church has a stance on certain issues which means reading and more reading. In addition, since my major is political science, I will continue to take part in the political process to help elect candidates that are committed to transforming our “throw away” culture to one that affirms the dignity of human life.

2nd round sharing:

- God is really calling the whole community to serve through this. He is using us all to bring His children and each of us closer to Him. A way for Him to invite us to evangelize. To reach out to everyone.
- Funding, financial support and support for leaders in developing their spiritual formation is also something that is important. There is a desire from each of us to continue growing in spirituality and knowledge of our faith.
- God has a plan and has used SEED to bring this about. SEED has permeated all aspects of my life. God has truly put everything into place in my life through SEED.
- We all love SEED, we have a special desire for it, and we want to share this. There is a desire to open this to everyone. Maybe the Holy Spirit is saying something to us through this.
- SEED is one of the pieces of the puzzle in my life. Not sure where it will fit yet. But I am grateful for all the things it has brought into my life and want to channel it back.
- What stays with me is the sense of community and the desire to evangelize and touch others hearts.
- To do everything for the Glory of God.
- We have been touched by SEED and in turn want to spread this to others. It impacts us in so many different ways, but pushes us to the same goal: that we want to share this with everyone

Reflection from Northern California Leader Team

Present: Anna, Diane, Kevin, Danny, Thien Son

1. What fruits and graces have I/my family/my local community received from SEED Ministry?

- First time faith sharing
- Place to share faith
- Shows that there are others or a community that wants to grow in their faith
- Really feel the need for NorCal to build the community
- Created a space to really talk about faith
- Getting to know families that live in the area, seeing them at church and talk to the kids who are really excited to see you
- Excitement for something that surrounds faith
- Knowing each other and become closer through this experience
- Actively living out your faith
- The process of planning for it helped me reflect on how my faith journey was going.

- Awareness of my own faith and more appreciative about my relationship with God
- Learned a lot by just giving the talk
- Giao ly just go through the motions
- It doesn't stick
- Confirmation retreat first year of high school
- Would have loved to have as a kid
- Love how welcoming all the regions are, always open and willing
- Different dynamics at the retreat, how they interact with one another
- Seeing the other communities out there besides the giao ly community. That the DH CLC way of life made it up to NorCal
- Spiritual environment
- Made my own relationship stronger with the adults in my life seeing how anh chi treated us
- Being appreciated by adults is something that was new to our culture
- Seeing the transformation in the kids

2. What needs do I see for the future of SEED Ministry and Dong Hanh CLC?

- The need for a middle school track
- Not seeing who is going to uphold the ministry
- Need to allow more “new” families to join
- Who else would be willingly to help with SEED NorCal
- How many leaders = how many retreatants
- Opening it up to more than just Vietnamese people?
- “anh chi” dynamic
- Rooted in St. Ignatius spirituality
- Open it up to a larger audience then you have more leaders
- For my own kids to attend (one day)
- Having the need for pre- teen track
- “re-discover” SEED
- winter break “meet up”
- “SEED’s” Giving”
- make service talk tangible
- ex SEED leaders become organizers

3. What aspirations/dreams do I hold for myself, my family and local community regarding SEED Ministry?

- That we could expand on the ministry
- Have more or bigger retreat
- Unable to accommodate more families
- More accessible SEED source

4. What or how can I contribute to fulfill these hopes and visions?

- Doing future NorCal SEED discerning
- Junior high track

Overall:

- Having a community to share our faith with
- Connected by faith community that transcends geographic locations
- That the mission or purpose is to plant a SEED

Detailed Report:

1. What fruits and graces have I/my family/my local community received from SEED Ministry?

We felt that SEED gave us many opportunities to both grow and share our faith with a new community and felt very blessed to be a part of growing this community via SEED retreat.

It was invigorating to see so many people in the NorCal community being active in their faith by bringing their children to SEED. For many of us, it was refreshing to see a community that we did not know existed and to share our faith in such a warm and inviting community. SEED is a place that makes it easy to share our faith because all the individuals that are a part of SEED are so loving and kind. The retreatants did not make us feel like strangers, even though it was the first time that many of us were meeting them. The organizers too are extremely welcoming, with one person remarking that “at first, it felt weird referring to [them] as ‘anh-chi’ because it felt like we were demoting them, but over time I’ve gotten used to it and began to understand that there is a reason behind it.” The anh-chi dynamic made us appreciate and value our relations to the adults in our community and helped some of us understand our parents better.

This sense of community extended even after the retreat ended. Some of us are fortunate to live in NorCal, and as a result we see some of our SEEDlings at Mass. “It’s really nice to see them and have them come up to you and say ‘hi,’” remarked one leader, “and I think it’s really nice for them to see that their leaders aren’t just people who pretend to be holy for a couple of days but are people that are a part of their community too.

Some of us found that the talks were helpful and compared the talks and the experience of SEED as a whole to Giao Ly; many of us found that the talks were more engaging and as a result, more interesting and insightful for the retreatants. “I feel that in Giao Ly many of the kids are bored because their parents make them go ... even though it was the same for SEED, because it was so different and engaging the kids got a lot out of it”. Many of us remarked that SEED brings a new flavor to their faith and wished that they had something like SEED growing up.

The process of planning and serving on the retreat helped many of us deepen our own personal faith as we prepared, reflected, and actively carried out our faith through our service. Many of us found ourselves finding a new level of our faith in sharing and

participating in such a community. “I recently got more involved in my faith and found myself wanting to share this with others but not knowing who or where to do so. When I was asked to become a SEED leader, I decided ‘why not’ and found a lot of grace in having a community to share my faith with.” SEED also helped us grow in ourselves. To paraphrase, the retreat experience helped some of us grow in our awareness of our own faith and our relationship with God.

2. What needs do I see for the future of SEED Ministry and Dong Hanh CLC?

A need that we agreed on at our communal discernment was the need for a preteen track geared towards the middle school age. The first leader to bring it up commented on this issue, saying “I saw that kid’s track was geared more towards the younger kids. This leaves the needs of the older kids unaddressed and I recognize that they are their own particular age group that needs their own thing.” As we discussed the issue further, an experienced leader commented on their experiences working kid’s track, saying “It’s fun for a couple of years, but after a while they just go through the motions because it gets old and they are all just waiting to go to teen track.”

One leader that served in a SEED SoCal that had a preteen track shared their observations on how preteen track ran. “We would do activities and some talks with kid’s track like the service talk, but for more personal talks like the talk about identity, we would have our own talk for it ... it seemed to work pretty well, but it was our first year so things were still being worked out.” We then talked about the issue a little more and had some musings on how a preteen track will work, but for now we all agreed that the need for a preteen track is something that needs to be addressed.

A concern that some of us brought up is focused on the next batch of leaders. “Think about it... Chi Bethany basically holds everyone together. Who will come after her? I don’t see anyone in the next generation that is capable of it yet.” This concern branches to leaders serving at retreat as well. “I noticed that besides a few leaders, many of the leaders for SEED NorCal were from SoCal or from Arizona. I know this is fine for starting out, but I worry that we may not have enough leaders, and the amount of kids that we can serve depends on how many leaders we have.” As one leader aptly put it, “We need more blood!” Though everyone shared worry concerning the future of the leaders of SEED, we remain optimistic that things can change.

This previous concern is also closely tied with another concern: opening up SEED so that it is more accessible. This concern addresses things on both the leader side and the retreatant side. One of the ideas presented was the possibility of opening up SEED to non-Vietnamese people. “I feel like SEED is a great thing, and I feel like it should be shared” remarked a leader. “I also feel that if we open up SEED to non-Vietnamese people, we can open up the pool to more leaders, and that affects how many kids we can serve during retreat. For example, I know some people in Caritas that are good and might be interested, but might not be willing if I approached them for example and said ‘Hey, would you like to help out at a retreat? By the way, all of the retreatants will be Vietnamese.’”

Another facet of opening up SEED was the idea of having meetings outside of the actual SEED retreat. We believe that having opportunities to meet outside of the retreat will help maintain and foster the community spirit that was created with SEED NorCal I. Two ideas that were brought up were service events and community get-togethers. We believe that having occasional volunteering events throughout the year will foster bonds with the SEED leaders of their community as well as one another while encouraging us to be active participants of our faith. “Plus,” one person added, “wouldn’t it fit perfectly with our service talk? We talk about going out and doing service in the community. Wouldn’t it be much better to give them opportunities to do so with each other?”

We also feel that a community get-together would also be nice and help nourish the community spirit. An idea proposed was the idea of a “SEEDs-giving,” a picnic or dinner (or both) hosted during the Thanksgiving or Christmas season. We felt that both seasons embody the idea of Thanksgiving as well as allows for more people to be available due to school vacations.

One more need that has to do with accessibility: one leader brought up the need of a more accessible SEED Source for people who cannot travel to SEED Source for training. “It would be nice to have SEED Source more available for more leaders to come.”

3. What aspirations/dreams do I hold for myself, my family and local community regarding SEED Ministry?

Upon reflecting on our communal discernment, many of our aspirations and dreams are reflected in our needs, especially making SEED more accessible.

4. What or how can I contribute to fulfill these hopes and visions?

Many of us agree that putting out time in our schedule to devote to SEED is our main way of contributing. Some of our leaders are putting in effort even as their limits are being reached, remarking “as long as there is a need and I can and am invited, I will.” It is inevitable that as the years go by, many of us will have to leave SEED in order to pursue other life goals. Some of us are actively discerning our involvement in SEED. “I’m not sure if I’m going to be a part of SEED next year, but I am still discerning” says a leader.

However, we remain optimistic that as long as we are actively involved in SEED, we are willing to give as much of our time and effort as we can by participating in as many activities such as this communal discernment and playing bigger roles for SEED if called upon.

Reflection from Southern California Leader Team

Present: Phuong Tran, Andrew Dinh, Minh Vo, Christine Pham, Angela Hoang, Joanne Do, Timothy Nguyen, Bethany Vu

1st round sharing:

1. What fruits and graces have I/my family/my local community received from SEED Ministry?

- My sister has grown so much over the years particularly this past year. She became more confident and even though she's not crazy about her faith, she is making an effort to go to group meetings and is self-motivated about invested in her faith. The seed has been planted. She is excited to come back to seed so it has done something for her for sure.
- SEED changed my uncle and aunt's lives. She started to journey with Suối Thiêng nhóm and is so committed their family is so on fire.
- As a leader, SEED prepped me to be flexible and brought out the leadership qualities in me that I didn't even know I had. I started SEED the same time I started with Carus. SEED taught me how to be humble and allowed me to confront my fears and overcome the temptation to please others. Focus more on finding God in others and seeing God in the fellow leaders. I can't drive all the way I need to meet God halfway. Spiritual growth - having community is something that is greatest gift. I have so many friendships that last a lifetime. I can see the fire in other young adults and I don't know where I can find a community where we can cry, laugh, stress, lose sleep, and serve together.
- Leaders coming together/ bonding through service/ family realizing that we are more human
- I been with SEED ministry for the past 10 years, as retreatant, helper and leader. But looking at the past 3 years, the graces that stand out is to see how young adults grow and participate in SEED ministry. It's really cool how when we all come together, no matter how we get to know about SEED, we work together nicely, moved by God and the Holy Spirit to work with all our heart and energy to put up this retreat for the kids. To see that the young adult has a place in DH community.
- Very new to SEED but it was the first thing that was different from giáo lý and Thiếu Nhi that had God and made me think of the world as our ministry. There isn't just one place where we can serve God, we can serve everywhere. I remember my back was giving out but I felt that I didn't have to worry because if I do my best God will take care of the rest. I see my work as an opportunity to be God's instrument everywhere. I can have a place where I can see God at all times.
- I've been with SEED for three years and some graces I gained were spiritual growth, I used to think my capability was really limited and that I was only good at one thing -- background work, and analytical thinking. But being part of SEED helped me realize that I am good at one thing but I can also learn to be good at other things. I also had to learn to be amiable and talk to people and I was

surprised to find that I could do it. It's very rewarding to see that I am growing more than I thought I would when I set out on this journey. The friendships I made, having the chance to go out of state and see how leaders in other regions work and adapting myself to work with them outside my comfort zone. Learning to be flexible and adaptable to them instead of making them conform to my way.

- SEED helped me to build community. something that I struggled with was feeling isolated in my faith in this society, but being with such a large group of passionate young adults helps to affirm my faith. Seeing how we impact the kids, it also helps me to affirm my faith and helps me to push myself outside the box and share my faith with the kids.
- SEED leader for 2 years so far, one of the graces I received was spirituality. Working with like-minded people with the same goal of building the relationship with God helped me. Another grace that I value is that helping the kids is really rewarding: the way we act around the kids and serve them really embodies God's teaching and love. It's something that I wish I had as a kid so I'm glad we can provide that for them. It's cool to see the extended community of parents, kids and young adults all with the same goal of reaching out to each other and building our faith together.
- SEED has done a lot for my own personal growth it taught me to be generous and I have a real passion for giving. I'm grateful to work with like-minded people and it pushes me to grow as a person. I realized how much it benefitted me when I did my applications and it pushes me to be more active and pursue my faith.
- SEED gave me a lot of insight about myself. I gained a lot more confidence in myself and in my ability to follow and lead others. It was my first time leading any retreat. I learned what it took to work as a team and was able to put my complete trust and faith in others which I have never had an opportunity to do before. What I got the most out of SEED was confidence in myself and a sense of empowerment in that I am able to accomplish what I set out to do. As for my family, I think SEED has really opened a lot of doors for my family. It was a stepping stone for my brothers and my mom to be introduced into Dong Hanh. My mom joined Suối Thiêng and now my dad is also an official member too, and they are really happy.

2. What needs do I see for the future of SEED Ministry and Dong Hanh CLC?

- Checks and balances are very important, chain of command to avoid unnecessary drama, professionalism, stress the humility of the position.
- Make sure to start and end with a prayer in all meetings to make sure that we are anchored on the reason for meeting. That structure gives us life and energy. If we don't have it we burn out sooner esp. for younger leaders.
- Stress the annual retreats
- Continue structuring funding for SEED leader retreats
- Safety and professionalism protocols
- Facelift for kids track

- High school Track something different every year for their activity. Nature Walk for kids track were some good changes that lead them into deeper reflections. It's a nice change to kids track that we need to keep improve and work on for the future.
- It seems like every year the program is very similar and sometimes we try to be more creative but we also try to stick to tradition but our program doesn't match the old tradition. Don't be afraid of doing something new just because it's not something the kids are used to. Even if some of the kids aren't at that level of comprehension, we can start now and plant the seed.
- Address organizer formation
 - Need better organizer formation so the leaders get better support from the organizers. Better communications so we can get a better retreat for the kids.
 - More clear pass off of authority from organizers to leaders so that we can avoid discipline issues, set clear expectations. Maybe during SEED Source, it may be helpful to have something to prep us on how to handle kids behavior
- Pre-teen track??
 - Solid convo with leaders who have participated in pre-teen track to go over how things are going/what's necessary.
 - Most important thing is connection. They have the track structure but they don't know each other well enough yet to share and journey together and they're going in just for themselves and that's not a good way to prepare them for high school track. Create talks and activities to bond them and connect them spiritually
- National coordinating team structure to support the communication between regions to increase unity and friendship
 - Need to meet as a group to work on registration, branding, safety and professionalism protocol.
- Team dynamic
 - To remind ourselves that we are servant leaders, and that we come to these retreats to not only help foster spiritual and communal growth among the youth of the Dong Hanh ministry, but among ourselves also. I think it's just as important that we can keep ourselves in check during the retreat as we do the youth, and to not lose sight of the overall goal of these retreats. We can't truly practice compassion and love to others unless we are kind to ourselves also.
 - Better connection between tracks, and atmosphere where there is a division or hierarchy between high school and kids track leaders. Makes kids track leaders feel like they aren't as good as high school track and makes them afraid to ask about what's going on in his track. Gets in the way of us supporting each other and working as a team.
 - When working in teams outside our region we need to understand and respect the other region's way of working and try to compromise to bring

our spirit while bringing in their spirit as well so that we can learn from each other and put the best of both into the retreat.

- We had a lot of new leaders and people who aren't used to Dong Hanh yet, we didn't focus too much on building the connection in our team. We need to remember to make everyone feel comfortable and if necessary to hang out as a team in the process of planning that way we can be more supportive of each other. Be mindful of your team and if we're trying too hard and it's draining us, it's important to be able to see what's too much and take care of each other's well-being.
- Try to make it to other Dong Hanh events too so that we can keep building those bonds between each other and the families in the community.

3. What aspirations/dreams do I hold for myself, my family and local community regarding SEED Ministry?

- To see the seedlings grow up and become seed leaders and become life giving members of the community (have one of my seedling be a leader for my kids.)
- SEED expand into CLC USA
- To be more open to more challenges, I recognize that I still have a lot of ways to grow, and I need to be more humble about it.
- Hope that SEED can be a gateway for young adults to be involved in the CLC community and Dong Hanh and that it can be a way for them to find a place for them to belong and find their identity. Hopefully more young adults can be involved and grow that way.
- I would really like to see it get more public attention. Not a lot of people know very much about SEED. Even within Dong Hanh and CLC. It makes me sad to see people who would really benefit from going to even one retreat. I wish more people knew about it and some people are really lucky to have the connection. For those who are new or from the outside it's hard to be a part of it. There are so many people who don't get the opportunity just because they don't know about it.
- For myself, I hope that I continue to grow in God and being around this community will teach me to be humble and put me on a path that I can be proud of and inspire me to be a better servant for others and for God.
- I want to continue to be a SEED leader, but I want to grow to be a better leader: more humble, more compassionate, more hard-working. I want to grow closer to God and help kids while they're younger to do the same. I also hope for SEED to expand too because when I first heard of it, it wasn't as big as it was now and it would be cool to see it reaches other people.
- I hope God leads me to where I'm meant to be and that I am led to do His works even if it's not in SEED or Dong Hanh in particular.

4. What or how can I contribute to fulfill these hopes and visions?

- Continue to be myself and be honest
- Continue to be there to support new and current leaders even if I can't be right at the frontier with the others who are there.
- Ask questions: What do you need? How can I help? How can we improve? Are we doing too much?
- Stay grounded so I can help people in the ministry to stay grounded as well
- Being honest can help identify needs and communicate them to leaders in the ministry
- Discern all contributions not just jump in
- Stay open and trusting to God's plan
- Be humble and see the gifts in all members in the ministry
- Stay loving and supportive of the team
- Recognize your capabilities, acknowledge when you need help/allow others to help
- Putting ourselves in the mindset that we're all saints. We need more love - people can be everyday saints. We're here to support each other to get to heaven.
- Try to involve more young adults that I know have potential to at least try being in SEED

2nd round sharing: What remains?

- Humility!! Humility is so important to how we work, how we care for each other and the kids, and how the ministry keeps its spirit and identity.
- Desire to serve which leads to self-motivation and seeking for spiritual growth.
- Learned from the past and ready to be aware but continue to move forward.
- Being free and open as long as the identity of SEED stays the same.
- A valuable part of the experience of SEED is building and enjoying the bonds in our relationships.
- I think that in order to establish strong relationships with one another we should be comfortable with being vulnerable with another and how to cope with vulnerability. Usually it's seen as something like scary, but I think it's necessary to be able to open yourself with others to create strong foundations in a relationship which can lead to better communication with everyone overall.
- Trust and affirmation. Trust is a big factor in SEED, because people put trust in me I was able to do the things I did. It would help unify the team if we are fully active in placing our trust in each other. If we all try to do everything because we don't feel like others will be able to do their part, the team can't grow and become closer.
- Humility
- Openness, love, God - important that we stay rooted in God and remember why we're doing SEED and not to overwork ourselves. We do it because we love God, and the kids and we're trying to grow together.

- Hope: hope for the team, myself that we can all grow to be something bigger than we can even know. Hope that SEED can be more reachable for young adults and kids. hope that I can put myself out there to help the ministry grow.
- We learned a lot this past SEED and it was really helpful for us to reflect on it together. Excited already for next year's SEED and SEED Source.

Reflection from Arizona Organizer Team

1. What fruits and graces have I/my family/my local community received from SEED Ministry?

- *For Seedlings*: have balance (faith, service and fun), spiritual formations, community life, sense of belonging, different ways to pray (with scripture, adoration, 5-step Examen, etc.), see the values of sacraments (Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation).
- *For Parents*: Parents serve in community as example for children, parent track with variety of talks (listening skills, parenting, etc.), all of these enable parents to transform/grow in many aspects too.
- *For Families*: families who attend SEED as a whole family journey together and get the most out of it, in compare with families that have only one parent attend, or sometimes a relative chaperone.

2. What needs do I see for the future of SEED Ministry and Dong Hanh CLC?

- *SEED Ministry*: more retreats, formation for leaders and organizers.
- *Dong Hanh CLC*: continue supports for SEED ministry, especially the spiritual aspects of it.

3. What aspirations/dreams do I hold for myself, my family and local community regarding SEED Ministry?

- SEED retreat as Christian Formation for the whole family.
- Post-SEED: Strategies to keep the fruits and graces of the retreat alive and growing.

4. What or how can I contribute to fulfill these hopes and visions?

- Willingness to take on new challenges, pilot programs, assistive roles to form new organizers.

Reflection from Dallas Organizer Team

1st organizer:

1. What fruits and graces have I/my family/my local community received from SEED Ministry?

Tuy đã hơn 3 năm không còn có con trong lứa tuổi SEED, nhưng mỗi năm đi giúp trong mục vụ SEED tôi đều cảm thấy được thêm sức trong hành trình đức tin. Trong lòng cảm thấy vui sướng, hạnh phúc khi thấy được các em nhỏ vui vẻ hăng say với bạn bè cùng lứa tuổi ca hát, nhảy múa cùng học hỏi ca tụng Chúa.

2. What needs do I see for the future of SEED Ministry and Dong Hanh CLC?

Tiếp tục có những training cho các Leaders để mỗi vùng có đủ leaders mà không phải fly nhiều leaders ở xa về.

3. What aspirations/dreams do I hold for myself, my family and local community regarding SEED Ministry?

Ước mong các em tham dự SEED về có thể tiếp tục "hậu SEED" với local group theo hình thức họp nhóm. Nếu National SEED có thể provide tài liệu cho họp nhóm các em thì trên cả tuyệt vời.

4. What or how can I contribute to fulfill these hopes and visions?

Mục vụ SEED đối với tôi rất quý vì thế tôi có thể làm gì để Support trong mục vụ này tôi sẵn sàng.

2nd organizer:

1. What fruits and graces have I/my family/my local community received from SEED Ministry?

Anh Hoàng & Ngọc tham gia mục vụ SEED trong 6 năm qua. Những ơn lành và hoa trái từ mục vụ này Chúa ban cho rất nhiều, nhưng đáng kể hơn cả là niềm vui khi được phục vụ, và những bài học về sự hy sinh, can đảm, nhiệt thành và rất sống động từ các em young adults being trong leader team. Một trong những ân sủng rất lớn nữa mà tụi Ngọc nhận được đó là sự gắn bó thân tình giữa các anh chị em Đồng Hành khi làm việc chung với nhau, và với phụ huynh ở local. Qua những dịp này, tụi Ngọc cũng cảm thấy đời sống hôn nhân, tình cảm của gia đình cũng sâu đậm hơn và bản thân thì gần gũi Chúa hơn.

2. What needs do I see for the future of SEED Ministry and Dong Hanh CLC?

3. What aspirations/dreams do I hold for myself, my family and local community regarding SEED Ministry?

Ngọc luôn thầm cảm ơn và rất ngưỡng mộ các em trong leader team. Để có thể đến giúp trong SEED retreat, các em đã phải hy sinh nhiều thứ với những công việc và bài vở trải đầy thời gian. Phải nói là nếu không có ơn gọi và lòng khao khát phục vụ cách đặc biệt thì các em chẳng thể làm nổi. Vì thế, Ngọc cầu xin Thiên Chúa một ngày nào đó sẽ ban cho Trung Tây và mỗi địa phương có một Leader team vững vàng với đầy đủ nhân số để các em trong National Team bớt phải travel.

4. What or how can I contribute to fulfill these hopes and visions?

Ngọc luôn tin tưởng SEED ministry là một ân sủng Thiên Chúa ban cho Đồng Hành, vì thế được phục vụ cho SEED là mình đang nhận cái món quà mà Thiên Chúa ban tặng. SEED cần luôn đổi mới nên Ngọc rất cảm ơn các anh chị em mới, đã step up để đảm nhận vai trò coordinators. Ngọc cũng sẵn sàng giúp & journey với các bạn trong các khóa SEED training for Leader team & SEED retreat cho những năm sắp tới.

3rd organizer:

1. What fruits and graces have I/my family/my local community received from SEED Ministry?

Personally, my family has been receiving so much Grace from SEED ministry. From my two teenagers to us, husband and wife, starting from the first SEED that we attended, we were exposed to a way of life that brings us closer to God. One of my daughters is now helping out SEED as a helper and youth leader. She found a way to serve God and assist the young children to feel God's love. The first encounter through SEED retreat has created in me the desire for deeper reflections and discernment during my daily routine.

2. What needs do I see for the future of SEED Ministry and Dong Hanh CLC?

The future growth of SEED ministry in Dong Hanh CLC depends on the support and resources of Dong Hanh CLC. The essential elements would be the formation for the Youth Leaders to foster their spiritual maturity. It would be necessary to have annual retreat(s) and convening for them. The guidance and support must have high quality in order to attract and maintain the leaders. Finance support and resources need to be in place to help the leaders with the expenses for traveling and possibly registration fee for the retreats. There would be a need for an organized and collaborative effort to coordinate the communication and the logistics.

3. What aspirations/dreams do I hold for myself, my family and local community regarding SEED Ministry?

The Youth Leaders and the SEED retreatants are the future of the Church. The young generations need to be the focus of all Catholic organizational levels. They have great needs for guidance and support. My dream is for us to empower each other to establish a network of support and system for their journey of faith. My dream would be that we have well organized SEED retreats in all regions, that we can provide resources for the formation of the Youth Leaders, which would include annual retreats and gathering.

4. What or how can I contribute to fulfill these hopes and visions?

I can contribute time, prayers and efforts in order to strengthen the SEED ministry. I can also provide limited financial support.

4th organizer:

1. What fruits and graces have I/my family/my local community received from SEED Ministry?

Gia đình em đã nhận được rất nhiều ân sủng trong lần đầu tiên khi cho hai con đi tham dự khoá SEED cách đây 3 năm. Sau lần đó hình ảnh của các anh chị trong Ban Tổ Chức cũng như các em leaders còn ở trong em rất rõ ràng. Sau lần đi đó gia đình em đã tìm được một hướng đi mới cho gia đình, biết cầu nguyện và biết sống gần Chúa hơn.

Một Ân sủng lớn nhất trong năm nay mà vợ chồng em đã nhận được là niềm vui khi được đi phục vụ và nhận được tình thương, sự hỗ trợ từ các anh chị đi trước và các cha mẹ của các em trong khoá.

2. What needs do I see for the future of SEED Ministry and Dong Hanh CLC?

Tiếp tục cầu xin có thêm những khóa huấn luyện Leaders để có nhiều leaders cho mỗi vùng.

3. What aspirations/dreams do I hold for myself, my family and local community regarding SEED Ministry?

Khi nhìn thấy các em leaders từ xa bay về để giúp cho các con em tại vùng của mình. Thấy các em đã hy sinh thời gian, làm việc hăng say mà quên đi mệt mỏi. Em tạ ơn Chúa và cảm ơn các em đã biết dùng tài năng của các em để triển nở, để phục vụ. Em tiếp tục cầu xin Chúa ban cho thêm nhiều leaders vững mạnh ở khắp mọi nơi.

4. What or how can I contribute to fulfill these hopes and visions?

Điều quan trọng nhất đó là lời cầu nguyện và chúng em sẵn sàng làm tất cả những gì mà chúng em có thể làm được để giúp cho mục vụ SEED trong những năm sắp tới.

Reflection from Northeast Organizer Team

North East Region sharing format:

Divide into three separate clusters (MA, VA, and NJ). Each cluster has an appointed facilitator for their cluster sharing. The sharing of the three clusters are combined into one report.

1. What fruits and graces have I/my family/my local community received from S.E.E.D Ministry?

- Children's faith grows in the community. They become more socialized in term of sharing their faiths, graces to other S.E.E.Ding, friends at school, and friends at local parish. Reconnect with other Christians.
- We see the fruits of children grow out of S.E.E.D and become S.E.E.D leaders today. Not only do they give back to the community, their faith also continues to grow.
- S.E.E.D retreat is a family retreat. It is a beautiful environment where children encounter God through leaders, peers, parents. Parents also encounter God through their own children, through learning, sharing, and reflections. Parents also commit to continue to strive to be better role model for their children and their community.
- Both parents and children learn to encounter God at a deeper level through prayers, contemplations, and Examen of consciousness.

2. What needs do I see for the future of S.E.E.D Ministry and Dong Hanh CLC?

- S.E.E.D needs to survive and continue to grow.
- Need more man power and more financial support.
- Continue to focus on the formation of Leaders.
- Training leaders to become specialized in certain tracks instead of general skills.
- Leaders need to understand that they must be good role models because children are looking up to them.
- Parents also need to strive to become good role models and serve with humility.
- Formation for core organizers/parents.
- Parents and Children tracks need to be in sync.
- Using S.E.E.D by Night as an opportunity to reinforce the theme of S.E.E.D.

- Reinforce/focus on the “Take Away” after all sessions/talks/sharing. For example, when parents ask their children to retell their activities. The most common answer parents received was “good, fun,...”, but they don’t seem to pick up the main “Take Away” of the talk or the theme of S.E.E.D.
 - Need to remind that parents are still a main teachers, main source of love to nurture children’s faith into adult life. S.E.E.D is just an environment that provides the tool and support for children faith.
3. What aspirations/dreams do I hold for myself, my family and local community regarding S.E.E.D Ministry?
- Children come home from S.E.E.D to be able to reflect at a deeper level about the theme of S.E.E.D or the purpose/meaning of each talk.
 - The entire S.E.E.D family (Leaders, Organizers, Parents, Children) to encounter God at a very deep level. Have a deeper prayer life. See God in all things. Answer to God call and serve with humility.
 - Children to grow into their adult life feel empowered. Recognize their talents and respond to God call.
 - More parents to respond to God call to serve in S.E.E.D ministry.
 - S.E.E.D to grow based on cluster instead of region. For example S.E.E.D for MA, VA, PA, NJ instead of combining 4 clusters.
 - More training and formation for Core Organizers in other to serve parents track.
 - Have After S.E.E.D (follow up) program.
4. What or how can I contribute to fulfill these hopes and visions?
- Make commitment to go to S.E.E.D every year.
 - Helping organizer teams via logistic.
 - Always keep S.E.E.D ministry in prayers.
 - Strive to be a good parents/role model for children and nurture children’s faith.

2nd round sharing: What remains?

- God is working in S.E.E.D ministry. He is forming parents, children, and leaders.
- Empower to be parents.
- S.E.E.D is a special gift to community.
- Deeper awareness of who we are.
- A call to focus of the gift Giver.
- The Holy Spirit is asking to give what we have.
- S.E.E.D is alive.

Reflection from Northern California Organizer Team

1. What fruits and graces have I or my family received from SEED Ministry?
 - The grace that I encountered with SEED Ministry is that I am not alone and I don't have to travel this family life journey by myself. I had the opportunity to share my dream, my blessing and my challenges with others. At the same time, I also witnessed the similar blessings and struggles with others around me. I was amazed by the participation and the joy I saw in the children at the retreat. These images touch my heart deeply, I can't explain it well but I guess I can say that I have encountered the living Christ in the children and the people. This faith sharing had opened my heart to compassion and to realize that there is hope. SEED ministry has been the source of faith and family support in my life and in the community through the family retreat that I attended.
 - We're so grateful to be a part of a SEED ministry team, we received tremendous graces and spirits in our last summer retreat. We feel we're so blessed to have a great support team that always willing to go the extra miles to support us in this ministry to bring SEED to our community.
 - As parents, we plant the seeds and watered as we hold onto the hope of future promises. SEED has provided a very small opportunity for grace to enter along a great journey ahead.

2. What needs do I see for the future of SEED Ministry and Dong Hanh CLC?
 - I would like to see a strong formation and unified SEED leadership for teen leaders. I would like to see core organizers to be supportive, be open-minded for the leaders' idea. I would like to see collaboration among the core organizers. I also would like SEED ministry to include activities to promote interaction for the parents and the children during the retreat experience. I see the need for more SEED retreat per year. The number of register attendee is superseded the maximum number of people allow for the retreat. I would like SEED ministry to incorporate on-going formation during the year to cultivate family life spiritually.
 - We would love to see more people involve to keep SEED alive in our community.
 - We like to create a good environment for the Youth group and we like to see more Youth get involve in SEED ministry.
 - In the past, SEED is focusing on the children more than the parents. I think it's time SEED may need to refocus more on the parents. SEED could provide an opportunity for parents to "re-learn" or "re-generalization" some of the tools that is currently available in the Church to help them such as the Examen. Parents and children should have some opportunities to practice praying together as family. It seems easy but can be very challenging and everyday struggle to many families.

3. What aspirations/dreams do I hold for myself, my family and local community regarding SEED Ministry?

- My hope is to know myself better and to know Christ better. I hope to be more active in my faith journey. I would like to share God's gift with SEED ministry. I would like to grow in my relationship with God and cultivate this relationship with a deeper prayer life. I hope to share this faith experience, the blessing and the challenges, so that God's grace and Christ can be known to others.
- This is a dream that I longed for years and I would personally hope that I could journey with the SEED ministry to help bring Christ to children and family in our community.
- I hope the children recognize that God is always present.
- I feel that God is at work within SEED Ministry. Sometimes it's hard to have the passion in the church's mission or what we're doing would produce any positive results. It is liberating to know this because we are stewardship and only God can make things grow.

4. What or how can I contribute to fulfill these hopes and visions?

- I hope to contribute by having further understanding about SEED and the ministry organization; participate in the program formation and training; provide input, and vision to better serve the ministry; work collaboratively with the core team to help further the Church mission of God's love for family life.
- My hope for NorCal to have more "nhom" for people to join to share their Faith.
- SEED Organizers to unite with contribute more into SEED formation and training.
- We need to create a place, a "home" for SEED leaders to meet to share their faith, more important that we be there with them to give them love and support when they face challenges.
- To engage with the Parish to plant more SEEDs.
- For growth to continue, SEED should be able to express more on the parents so that they will continue to pass on their mature faith to guide their children.

Reflection from Southern California Organizer Team

1. What fruits and graces have I or my family received from SEED Ministry?

- SEED opened and led many of us organizers in SoCal to take bigger steps in responding to God's call. From there, a few of us decided to make the 19th Annotation and got further involved in Dong-Hanh as well as in our parishes.
- SEED brought many graces to us, organizers, as well as to our children, and our families. It's a joy and grace to see children talking about SEED at school, to their friends and teachers.
- As parents, we've learned a lot from each other as we shared with one another our struggles as well as our aspirations when it comes to parenting, especially in the faith formation of our children.

- SEED is a means for the entire family to experience Dong-Hanh community, as well as to grow (as a family) in Ignatian Spirituality.
 - SEED also gives the opportunity for us, “families”, to get to know the young adults in Dong-Hanh better, to witness their growth in faith and in wisdom.
 - SEED responds well to the needs of Vietnamese Catholic community in SoCal. The desire to expand it to the larger Vietnamese Catholic community is also in constant tension with the reality of our limitations (in terms of leaders, organizers). This tension is reflected at registration time at least for SoCal. The demand is far greater than the availability. Should we give priority to Dong-Hanh members? How many slots do we have open for the first-timers vs. past retreatants, etc. It’s difficult to say turn people down.
 - Appreciated the team work we’ve had.
 - SEED can become life-draining at times if we’re not careful.
2. What aspirations/dreams do I hold for myself, my family and local community regarding SEED Ministry?
- Would like to extend more support to leaders, especially during the retreat weekend (sometimes, we get carried away with the parents’ track and not able to be there for leaders when they need something).
 - Many parents would like to know more about what’s being covered in the kids’ track and teens’ track so they can accompany the kids after retreat (when parent ask, most kids can’t articulate very well what they got from the retreat).
 - Would like to see more collaboration between the “adults” and “young adults” in designing retreat program for SEED.
 - Would like CLC to provide more financial support to train more SEED leaders.
 - Would like to see more “new” families in SEED.
 - Would like to see more seedlings become SEED leaders.
 - Would like to see more parents in the organizers’ team.
 - Would like to have more SEED retreats in SoCal.
 - Would like to see kids grow in Dong-Hanh community.
3. What or how can I contribute to fulfill these hopes and visions?
- Will continue to support the team as much as I can.
 - Want to stay “involved”; I like what I’m doing now in the ministry
 - Would like to stay open and ask God to show me what I can do next, as I listen to the invitation from the team.
 - Stay open and “committed” with Dong-Hanh & SEED ministry but not knowing exactly my involvement because of other ministries that I’m currently committed to.

Reflection from Gia Đình Lữ Hành (Southern California Organizers)

1. What fruits and graces have I or my family received from SEED Ministry?
 - Receive love
 - Children get to know God better
 - Children interest in Christian songs & dances
 - Labor & growth in faith
 - Desire to contribute & build the Church
 - It's a vacation for the whole family

2. What needs do I see for the future of SEED Ministry and Dong Hanh CLC?
 - Need more SEEDs retreats & leaders
 - Need more SEEDs organizers & support parents
 - Concern about how to lower the costs
 - Have a program designs for small children 6-8 years old
 - Look for the outcomes what the children brings home from the retreat

3. What aspirations/dreams do I hold for myself, my family and local community regarding SEED Ministry?
 - Desire for pre-teens/teens to help out & become the SEEDs leader
 - Skip one year retreat to let new comers have a chance to go to SEED.
 - More formations for parents to become SEEDs organizers
 - Wish to be more opened to receive the graces from SEEDs
 - Have abilities but wish to more willing to contribute to the SEEDs programs & train SEEDs leaders

4. What or how can I contribute to fulfill these hopes and visions?
 - participate the SEEDs retreat every year
 - open to whatever I'm called to do