

ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE DIOCESAN VOCATION COMMISSION

September 2000- August 2001

Chairperson

Rev. Joseph Yim.

Committee members:

Sr. Louise Lam, F.D.C.C. – Executive Secretary
Ms. Joan Wu – Treasurer
Rev. Domingos Leong, S.D.B.
Rev. Giles Chong, O.C.S.O.
Rev. Benedict Lam
Rev. James Areechira, S.V.D.
Rev. Bro. John Chong, F.M.S.
Sr. Terresita Agpasa, F.S.P.
Sr. Regina But, F.D.C.C.
Sr. Romana Chow, S.P.B.
Sr. Lucia Mak, F.M.M.
Sr. Martha Tso, F.M.A.
Sr. Agnes Yam, S.P.C.
Mr. Michael Tang – Serra Club

Staff: Miss Bertille Mok

No. of Meetings Held: Six meetings were held during this year.

Matters Arising:

1. **Prayers for Vocations** – On the First Thursday of each month at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel (Catholic Centre).
 - 1.1 Adoration & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: From 10:30 a.m. to 5: 10 p.m.
 - 1.2 Benediction: At 5:00 p.m.
 - 1.3 Eucharistic Celebration: At 5:15 p.m., celebrated by a Member of the Commission or by another Priest, by invitation.

2. **Project on Vocation Promotion**
 - 2.1 Musical Drama

Organizer: Joint effort with North-West New Territories Deanery
Theme: Calling, Searching and Action
Date: November 11th, 2000, Saturday.
Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Venue: St. Thomas's Church, N.T.
Content: A Musical Drama on Vocations performed by a group of Youth.
Participants: Of the 100 parishioners, 50 were the organizers, performers and members of the Faith Paradise (Choir).

Evaluation: Feedback obtained from the questionnaire indicated that the majority enjoyed the songs, especially “the foot print” sung by Br. Dominic Lui. 20 out of 100 appreciated this type of activity and 20 found that the timing of prayer session was appropriate.

2.2 Prayer Movement for Vocations

Purpose: The Pilgrimage

Date: December 2nd, 2000, Sunday.

Time: 1:30 p.m. – 5:00p.m.

Target: St. Benedict’s Church and Mother of Christ (Sheung Shui).

Attendant: 100 members of the Prayer Movement for Vocations with Fr. J. Yim, Sr. L. Lam, Sr. Regina But and few other Religious Sisters.

Evaluation: The atmosphere was prayerful and joyful. Sr. But recruited ten new members and assigned a person from each Deanery to keep in contact with the members.

2.3 Jubilee Spiritual Exercises at the Youth Spirituality Centre in Lantau Island

2.3.1 Theme: Love God

Date: December 9th -10th, 2000.

Participants: Three boys and five girls.

Director: Sr. Lucia Mak.

Evaluation: One young man who is interested in the Monastic life was referred to Fr. G. Chong for personal contact.

This was the final session of the Jubilee Program. Due to lack of Spiritual Directors, this kind of regular spiritual direction will be suspended for the time being.

2.4 The Website of the Diocesan Vocation Commission – dvc.catholic.org.hk

Aim: To provide information concerning vocations and vocational activities

Date of Establishment: March 1st, 2001.

Content: The phase one contains four areas:

1. A brief introduction of the Diocesan Vocation Commission
2. Frequently asked questions concerning Vocations.
3. Past, present and future vocational activities.
4. Connections with the other Diocesan Department and Institutions.

Evaluation: Most of the visitors found that the content of phase one was interesting and appropriate. However there is still room for improvement as far as presentation and publicity are concerned.

3. Vocations Gathering

3.1 The Discipleship Retreat

Theme: “Put Out into the Deep” (Luke 5:1-11).

Date: December 30th, 2000 to January 1st, 2001

Venue: Lantau Island Youth Spirituality Centre.

Spiritual Director: Fr. Bruno Lepeu, Fr. G. Chong, Fr. D. Leong and Sr. Louise Lam.

Participants: 7 boys and 5 girls.

Evaluation: The participants experienced harmony and peace. Their sharing was sincere and in depth. Two girls have experienced “Come and See” after this retreat; and four boys have started the monthly prayer meeting with Fr. Pierre Lam and Sr. Louise Lam for vocation discernment.

3.2 The Camp for Personal Growth

Theme: Accompaniment.

Date: March 31st, to April 1st, 2001.

Time: 4:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Venue: Retreat House of St. Paul Convent, Causeway Bay.

Spiritual Director: Sr. Catherine Woo, S.P.C. & Sr. Louise Lam, F.D.C.C.

Participants: 10 young people registered, though only six showed up (3 boys and 3 girls).

Evaluation: Through group dynamic, all participants were motivated to share with sincerity and trust. Three girls and two boys have revealed their desire to search for their vocations. They were invited to take part in the vocation activities organised by our Vocation Team.

3.3 Summer Vocation Camp

Organizer: Joint effort with the Canossian Youth Centre.

Theme: Every Human Life is a Vocation.

Date: July 13th to 15th, 2001.

Venue: Salesian Retreat House, Cheung Chow.

Participants: 33 Students together with 6 Organizers, Sr. L. Lam, Bro. J. Cheung and Fr. A. Kong

Evaluation: Responses were positive. Through games, sharing, prayers and the Eucharistic Celebration, the participants learned to appreciate the gratuitous love of God and the gift of life and vocation.

A Follow-up Prayer Meeting was held on August 22nd, 01 at 3:00p.m. –5:00pm. in the Canossian Youth Centre. 18 participants with Sr. L. Lam were present. They all agreed to meet regularly every 2nd Saturday in the same place and at same time.

3.4 Voluntary Work - Youth Out Reach Service

Participant: 10 university students from three universities have joined this activity.

Evaluation: They found this service very meaningful and self-enriching. It helps them to show concern to the needs of the society and to be grateful to their parents for their care and concern, hence to improve their relationship with them.

4. 38th World Day of Prayer for Vocations on May 6th, 2001.

4.1 The theme of this year is “Every Human Life is a Vocation”.

4.2 Posters and Stickers with Sticker Albums were distributed to all Parishes and Secondary Schools.

4.3 Gospel Caricature Campaign was proposed to some secondary schools. The poster was designed by Sr. M.Tso. The prizes provided were stickers with Albums and mobile-phone cords. Only 13 Schools were interested in this activity.

4.4 Proposed intercessory prayers for this occasion were forwarded to all Parishes

4.5 Activity for this Occasion – Vocation Night

Theme: Someone Loves You

Date: May 5th, 2001, Saturday.

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Venue: St. Margaret's Church, Happy Valley.

Content: Warm-up Activity; Musical Drama; Sharing by Fr. Philip Chan, Fr. Andrew Fung and Fr. Simon Li, followed by Group Sharing and ending with Prayer and blessing from the Rev. Dominic Chan, Vicar General.

Participant: Altogether about 300 people including Priests, Religious Sisters and Brothers and young people.

Evaluation; Young people enjoyed the musical drama, and the sharing of three Priests, through which they learned the meaning of vocation. Some were touched by the sharing of these Priests and started to think seriously of their own vocations. Three girls have contacted Sr. L. Lam after this activity and they have joined the monthly prayer meeting for vocation discernment since June.

5. Follow-up Vocation Prayer Meeting

5.1 The Monthly Prayer Meeting for boys led by Fr. F. Montano, M.G was discontinued. Their last meeting was on 21st June 2001, and all of the participants have found their destination. One boy entered the Holy Spirit Seminary in August; the other three will join various Religious Institutions of their own choice soon.

5.2 The Monthly Prayer Meeting for boys led by Fr. Pierre Lam and Sr. Louise Lam After the Discipleship Retreat in January, five boys meet regularly with Fr. Pierre Lam and Sr. Louise Lam on a monthly basis for vocation discernment.

5.3 The Monthly Prayer Meeting for girls was led by Sr. Louise Lam. Two out of seven girls have asked to enter the same religious order in September, while the other five will continue their discernment with Sr. Louise Lam during their monthly prayer meeting.

6. Meeting of the Vocation Promoters

Five meetings were held throughout the year. The attendance has dropped from 80% to 50%. The reasons given were various, namely: study leave, new assignments outside H.K., personal affairs etc. Most of the Promoters were very supportive of the activities organized by the Commission.

Vision

Having heard that some Deaneries have been setting up their own Vocation Promotion Teams, we do hope that joint efforts can be established between the Deaneries and the Diocesan Vocation Commission, in a spirit of mutual support and with high co-operative spirit, so that the problem of the shortage of vocation may be resolved in the near future.

Closing Remarks

“I chose you before I gave you life”(Jer1: 5). This passage of The Bible implies that God has planted the seed of vocation in our hearts before we were born. The growth of this seed is determined by God’s grace and our response to His grace.

Praise the Lord, for He has made the seed of vocation grow in some of the young people who have joined our prayer for vocation discernment for the last two years. Lately they have decided to experience the Priestly life in the Diocesan Seminary and the Religious Life in various Religious Institutes, respectively. Let us rejoice and pray for them, that the Lord be their strength and courage, so that they will persevere to follow Christ till the end of their life.

Let us thank God for these great gifts to the Church. May He continue to bless our humble effort and be our wisdom and guide, so that whatever we do may be according to His will and give glory to our heavenly Father.

Rev. Joseph Yim
Chairperson
Date: September 13th, 2001.

Sr. Louise Lam (F.D.C.C.)
Executive Secretary