

**ANNUAL REPORT OF**  
**THE DIOCESAN VOCATION COMMISSION**

**September 2001 - September 2002**

**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. (till June, 01)/Rev. Paul Leung, S.D.B. (since October, 01)

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 (till May 14,02), Ms. Ng (since May 15,02 to present).

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: 15 p.m.

1.2 Benediction: At 5:15 p.m.

1.3 Eucharistic Celebration: At 5:30 p.m., celebrated by a Member of the Commission or by another Priest, by invitation.

2. **Project on Vocation Promotion**

2.1 City University Katso Corner

Organizer: Catholic Society of City University

Date: November 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2001.

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Venue: City University

Evaluation: Sr. L .Lam stayed with the Students for two days. Some boys and girls approached her and expressed their interest on 'Vocation Discernment'. A boy and a girl have committed themselves to help organizing for the 'Vocation Night' which took place on April 20, 2002. They were invited by Sr. Lam to join the monthly prayer meeting for vocation discernment.

## 2.2 Prayer Movement for Vocations

Activity 1: Eucharistic Celebration, sharing by the Guests Speakers followed by refreshment.

Date: 1.12.2001 – Saturday

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00p.m.

Venue: St. Vincent's Chapel (Wong Tai Sin).

Guests: Five Postulants and two Seminarians.

Attendants: 100 members of the Prayer Movement for Vocations with Fr. J. Yim, Fr. B. Lam, Sr. L. Lam, Sr. A. Yam.

Evaluation: This meeting with the Postulants and the Seminarians motivated the members to pray harder for Vocations. The older members suggested to meet at least twice a year, a proposal which was adopted with effect on May 16, 02.

Activity 2: Holy Mass (presided by Fr. Ngai), sharing by the guests followed by games and refreshment.

Date: 16.5.2002. Sunday

Time: 2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Venue: St. Patrick's Church.

Guests: Mr. Fung (Father of Sr. Catherine), and Mrs. Kam (Mother of Fr. P. Kam).

Attendants: 80 members with Sr. L. Lam, Sr. R But and Sr. J. Suen

Evaluation: The members of Prayer Movement enjoyed very much the sharing by the guests and the games conducted by three young ladies. Some members requested to meet monthly!

## 2.3 Christmas Carol

Organizer: Joint effort of Diocesan Pastoral Centre for Workers (Chai Wan) and Catholic Societies of Baptist University and Institute of Education.

Date: December 24, 2000.

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Venue: Chai Wan District

Participant: 50 Students with the social workers and Sr. Louise Lam

Evaluation: It was a good opportunity for the Students to witness the Love of God in action.

## 2.4 The Website of the Diocesan Vocation Commission – [dvc.catholic.org.hk](http://dvc.catholic.org.hk)

Aim: To provide information concerning vocations and vocational activities

Date of Extension: March 1<sup>st</sup> 2002.

Content: The phase II contains two areas:

1. Notice Board for the young people to share their experiences on the given topics bi-monthly.
2. Games to attract more visitors to our website.

Evaluation: Most of the visitors found that the content of phase II interesting and appropriate. Some commented that it is difficult to find our website, so improvement is needed to make it more popular.

2.5 God goes on Buses

A Catholic Promotion on Road-Show Media organized by the DAVC, through which Catholic messages and images made up 3-min spots, running 16 times daily on 700 buses for 7 consecutive days every month. This broadcast lasted for 6 months. Our commission was offered a 5-second display of our website from 15.10 to 21.10, 02.

2.6 Vocation Storybook 2:

After the first vocation storybook was published, positive feedbacks were received from the readers. Few readers have taken from this, initiative to discern their vocations. Therefore, our Commission decided to publish the second book containing 20 articles provided by Kung Kao Po and 5 stories contributed by the Hong Kong Priests.

3. Vocations Gathering

3.1 The Discipleship Retreat

Theme: Meeting Jesus Christ

Date: December 28 – 30, 2001.

Venue: Lantau Island Youth Spirituality Centre.

Spiritual Director: Fr. Benedict Lam.

Participants: 3 boys.

Evaluation: Though five boys enrolled only three turned up. Fr. Lam reported that the three boys were not yet ready to enter into a deeper level of prayer. They just enjoyed the prayerful atmosphere of the Trappist Monastery.

3.2 Vocation Musical

Theme: Touch – The Inspiring Spirit

Date: September 14, 2002 – Saturday

Time: 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. and 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

Venue: Caritas Community Hall, Caine Road

Content: Action Songs, Tough Anthem, Standing Comedy, Musical Drama, sharing by Rev. G. Yeung S.J., Peace and Blessing.

Participants: About 300 at afternoon session, 350 at evening session including Priests, Religious Brothers, Sisters, Teachers, Parents and young people.

Evaluation: This Musical approach was very creative and very much welcomed by the young people. Some teachers have asked our permission to use the songs for teaching purpose and evangelization; they commented that this Touch show was excellent.

4. 39th World Day of Prayer for Vocations on April 20th, 2002.

4.1 The theme of this year is “The Vocation to Holiness”.

4.2 Posters and Greeting Cards were distributed to all Parishes and Secondary Schools

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

#### 4.4 Activity for this Occasion – Vocation Night

Theme: A Meeting with God

Date: April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2002, 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. Paul Kam,

Fr. Antonio Leung and Sr. Magdalen Shiu, followed by Group Sharing and ending with Prayer and Blessing from Rev. J. Yim, Rev. B. Lam and Rev. P. Kam, Rev. A. Leung and Rev. Irudayasamy.

Participants: About 200 people including Priests, Religious Sisters and Brothers and young people.

Evaluation: Young people enjoyed the musical drama, and the sharing of the Guests, through which they learned the meaning of vocation. Some were touched by the sharing of the Guests and have started to discern their own vocations. Three girls and two boys have contacted Sr. L. Lam after this activity and they have joined the monthly prayer meeting for vocation discernment since then.

### 5. **Follow-up Vocation Prayer Meeting**

#### 5.1 The Monthly Prayer Meeting for boys

Four boys meet regularly with Fr. Pierre Lam and Sr. Louise Lam on a monthly basis for vocation discernment. Four new ones will join after September, 02. Fr. Joseph Chan has supported this meeting since December, 01.

#### 5.2 The Monthly Prayer Meeting for girls

Four girls meet regularly with Sr. Louise Lam on a monthly basis for vocation discernment. One young lady has decided to enter religious life in August, 02. Three new ones have joined this meeting since August, 02. Sr. M. Tso has helped with the sharing for few times this year.

Evaluation: Vocation Accompaniment is of great importance in Vocation Discernment, an appeal for help to accompany these young men and women was made by Sr. L. Lam

### 6. **Meeting of the Vocation Promoters**

Five meetings were held for the exchange of experience on ‘Vocation Promotion’, of which two meetings were conducted in the following manner:

- A four-hour session on ‘Basic Guidelines on Discernment of the Charism’ was conducted by Sr. Tso in Our Lady’s Primary School on December 2, 02. Six out of 12 participants were our members.
- A two-hour talk on ‘Spiritual Direction and Vocation Discernment’ was delivered by Sr. Patricia Byrne, S.S.C. on March 20, 02 at St. Margaret’s Church. Eight out of 25 participants were our Commission Members.

Evaluation: Though attempts and efforts have been made to improve the quality of the Promoters’ Meeting, there was no improvement of the attendance. The members of the Commission suggested reducing the frequency of this meeting from bi-monthly to twice yearly.

## Closing Remarks

Recently, we hear from the news one tragedy after the other regarding suicide, it seems that life is a burden for most of the people in H.K.! Victor Frankl in Nazi Germany Concentration Camp discovered that the only way to motivate his fellow prisoners to live was to help them to find meaning in their lives. According to Frankl, the quality of our lives is determined by the meaning we find in them. His fellow psychiatrist Carl Jung believed that the true meaning of life can only be found in God through faith, hope and love for Christ Jesus.

Jesus reassured us that –

“The Spirit of truth, whom the world can never receive, since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you.”(Jn.14:17)

Let us help our youth to be open to receive the Spirit of truth and allow this Spirit of Love, Peace and Joy to touch them. Through it they will be empowered to face all difficulties in life with serenity. I believe that with this Spirit of truth, they will be enabled to identify the ‘Mission’ entrusted to them by God, because Jesus said: –

“You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last.....”(Jn. 15:16)

To identify one’s mission is to discover the real God-given meaning in life and with God our life will be fruitful and beautiful, for Jesus said: –

“I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing... I have told you this, so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete.” (Jn. 15:5, 11)

Shared by: Sr. Louise Lam

Rev. Joseph Yim  
Chairperson  
Date: October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2002.

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