

ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE DIOCESAN VOCATION COMMISSION

October 2006- September 2007

2006 – 2008 Committee Members

Rev. Joseph Yim, Diocesan Priest – Chairperson
Sr. Louise Lam, F.D.C.C. – Executive Secretary
Rev. Bro. John Chong, F.M.S. – Treasurer
Rev. Albert Irudayasamy, S.V.D.
Rev. Benedict Lam, Diocesan Priest
Rev. Giles Chong, O.C.S.O.
Rev. Antonio Leung, S.D.B.
Rev. Bro. Stephen Law, SJ
Sr. Miriam Lui, SPB
Sr. Bernadette Lau, F.D.C.C.
Sr. Lucia Mak, F.M.M.
Sr. Luigia Mindassi, PIME
Mr. Howard S. P. Sou , Serra Club
Miss Clare Lai, Auxiliaries of the Apostolate

1. Project on Vocation Promotion

1.1 Annual Gathering for Members of Prayer Movement for Vocations

A visit to St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery and Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery

Date: 25 November 2006 - Saturday

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00p.m

Content: Rosary and prayer for the deceased and souls of the purgatory at St. Michael's Cemetery followed by requiem Mass at Holy Cross Cemetery with an intention for vocations.

Participants: 100 members of the Prayer Movement for Vocations with Fr. Joseph Yim and Sr. Louise Lam.

Evaluation: Prayer for the deceased and souls of the purgatory was found meaningful and appreciated by all members.

1.2 DVC Website

All the vocation activities organized by the Commission were recently updated, so as to share our joyful and happy events with the visitors.

A blog was set up in May 2007, and is updated weekly.

Evaluation: The updated contents together with the creative presentation of the blog can sustain the interests of some visitors.

1.3 Catholic Hotline Service

Our commission has joined this service since 1998, in spite of a decline in numbers of audiences; however, it is considered good and appropriate to keep it.

1.4 A Joint Venture with Kung Kao Po

A joint venture with Kung Kao Po has been carried out since January 2006 and was completed on 5 July 2007. In accordance with the Diocese's theme of this year: "Family as the cradle for Vocations" was chosen as the theme of the subsequent interviews. Three Priests and three Sisters and their families have consented for the interviews commenced in August 2007.

Evaluation: These inspiring reports have captured readers' interest and encouraged the parents to take initiative in cultivating vocations among their children.

1.5 An Inter-Catholic Secondary School Day organized by Serra Club

Date: 25 November 2006.

Venue: St. Paul's Convent School, Causeway Bay, and H.K.

Speakers: His Eminence Cardinal Joseph Zen (SDB) and Rev. Paul Kam.

2. Vocation Gathering

2.1 A Spiritual Camp

Date: 30 December 2006 to 1 January 2007

Venue: Holy Spirit Seminary

Theme: Life Journey

Spiritual Directors: Fr. Benedict Lam and Sr. Lucia Mak, Sr. Luigia Mindassi

Participants: Five boys and seven girls.

Content: Personal prayer, meditation, group sharing and spiritual direction.

Evaluation: This camp was planned for personal reflection, prayer and personal encounter with the spiritual directors. Some participants were found lacking interests in this kind of arrangement and lacking initiative. On the whole everything was smooth and satisfactory.

3. 44th World Day of Prayer for Vocations on 29 April 2007

3.1 The theme of this year is "Hope-coming"

3.2 Posters were distributed to all Parishes and Secondary Schools

3.3 Vocation Activity

3.3.1 Prayer for vocations

Theme: "Hope-coming"

Date: 28 April 2007 Saturday

Time: 8:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Venue: Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Guests: His eminence Cardinal J. Zen, Bro John Chong (FMS) and Sr. Josephine Suen (FMM).

Participants: Approximately 200 people with Fr. Joseph Yim, Bro S. Law, Mr. Howard Sou, Ms. Clare Lai, Sr. B. Lau, Sr. L. Mindassi and Sr. Louise Lam.

Content: Sharing by Sr. Josephine Suen and Bro. John Chong, followed by the Homely by Cardinal Zen and ending with the renewal of the promise for vocation promotion in the Diocese by the Youth group.

Evaluation: The prayerful atmosphere and the lively sharing of Sr. Suen and Bro John were very much appreciated by the youths that composed of the majority of the participants.

3.3.2 Vocation Music Night

Theme: "Hope-coming"

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Venue: Caritas Community Hall

Guests: Most Rev. John Tong, Auxiliary Bishop, Rev. Dominic Chan, V.G.;
Rev. G. Chong (OCSO), Fr. Chalton & members of SVD,
Salesian Youth, Deacon Dominic Lui and family.

Content: Opening Prayer and violin played by Bishop Tong; Action song by Salesian Youth; Flute by Fr. Chong; Rock Music and action songs by Fr. Chalton & members of SVD; Drama by Touch Members, Sharing by Deacon Lui and family, closing prayer by Rev. D. Chan, V.G.

Souvenirs: Metal Necklace with a letter "Hope" graved on the metal plate.

Participants: Approximately 400 with Religious Sister, Brothers and Priests

Evaluation: The bad weather notwithstanding, the hall was full of young peoples and the event was a great success. Bishop Tong's violin performance elicited a great applause from the audience. Fr. Charlton with the Community of SVD have witnessed to the true joy of consecrated life. The drama has explicitly conveyed the theme of the day. The sharing of Deacon Dominic and family completed the joy of that night.

4. Itinerant Activity on Prayer for Vocations

4.1 Theme: "Truly Loving You"

Date: 20 January 2007 - Saturday

Time: 7: 30 p.m. – 9: 00 p.m.

Venue: St. Andrew's Parish, Tseung Kwan O, Kowloon.

Guest: Rev. Paul Kam.

Content: Sharing by Rev. Paul Kam followed by Prayer for vocations.

Participants: Approximately 120 with Sr. Louise Lam, Br. John Chong. Sr. Luigia Mindassi, Mr. Howard Sou and Ms. Clare Lai.

Evaluation: The majority was of young people; they were touched by Fr. Kam's passion for the mission in Africa and appreciated very much the prayerful atmosphere created by his shared prayer.

5. Prayer Meeting for Vocation Discernment

5.1 The Monthly Prayer Meeting for boys

During this year, one boy had joined the Jesuit's Candidate Programme while another joined the Franciscan's. The remaining four with two new comers will continue their vocation discernment with Fr. Pierre Lam and Sr. Louise Lam.

Fr. Benedict Lam guides another group of five.

5.2 Monthly Prayer Meeting for girls

One girl of this group has entered the Missionary Sisters of St. Columban as postulant in July 2007 while another one started the "Come & See" with the Canossian Sisters. Two girls have quitted this group; the remaining three with three new comers will continue their discernment with Sr. L. Lam.

Evaluation: The regular prayer meeting for vocation discernment provides spiritual direction as well as Vocation Accompaniment to the seekers. They value the joy of togetherness and benefit from the sharing of faith and adventures on their vocation journey. This Community is indeed a privileged place for their personal and spiritual growth.

6. Diocesan Vocation Commission Social Function

6.1 Orientation Camp for New Members

Date: 26 October 2006 – Thursday

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Venue: St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Tsing Yi, N.T.

Participants: Rev. J. Yim, Sr. L. Lam, Rev. B. Lam, Bro. J. Chong, Rev. G. Chong, Rev. A. Irudayasamy, Bro. S. Law, Rev. A. Leung, Sr. M. Lui, Sr. B. Lau, Sr. L. Mak, Sr. L. Mindassi, Ms. C. Lai and Mr. H. Sou.

Evaluation: This was the first time with full attendance. It was a good attempt and successful gathering for team building, commencing with vespers, followed by planning for the New Year and closing with fraternal Agape.

6.2 30th Anniversary Thanksgiving Mass of the Inauguration of the Diocesan Commission

Date: 21 July 2007 – Saturday

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Venue: St. Thomas The Apostle Church, Tsing Yi, N.T.

Content: Eucharistic celebration followed by refreshment.

Participants: Rev. J. Yim, Sr. L. Lam, Bro. J. Chong, Rev. G. Chong, Rev. A. Irudaysamy, Sr. B.Lau, Sr. L. Mak, Sr. M. Lui, Mr. H. Sou, Ms. C. Lai, 10 Serra Club Members and the Youth Group.

Evaluation: A family-like gathering filled with peace and joy.

7. The Youth Group Gathering

7.1 Youth Formation

Date: 17 December 2006

Time: 4:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Venue: Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Content: Bible sharing, sharing of dreams followed by supper.

Participants: 12 Young people with Sr. Louise Lam.

Evaluation: A creative attempt through informal sharing of visions and dreams helped to enhance the young peoples' self awareness and their sense of mission in the Vocation Commission.

7.2 Lunar New Year Social Gathering

Date: 25 February 2007

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Venue: St. Thomas The Apostle Church

Content: Hotpot, Barbecue and prayer.

Participants: Rev. J. Yim, Sr. L. Lam, Rev. P. Kam, Sr. L. Mindassi,
Sr. Chow and the Youth Group.

Evaluation: It was a happy occasion with sharing of the young people's purpose in joining the Youth Group in vocation promotion.

Closing Remarks

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.”(Phil 4:4) St. Paul experienced true joy after he had truly encountered Jesus Christ. It is the privilege of all Christians, through baptism that we died with Christ so to enter into His glorious resurrection, that is the source of our new life and new hope!

When reading the newspaper it is sad to learn that many people, both young and old end up in despair, loneliness, depression and suicide; because they place their happiness not in Christ but in the possession of more worldly things that bring us short-lived pleasure and false hope. Apparently, Jesus is not known, that is why he is not loved, not only by the pagans but even by some Christians! This is believed as one of the main reasons of vocational crisis.

To deal with the problems mentioned above, every effort should be made by each Christian to promote the quality Christian life thus witnessing the living Christ in our pagan society, as well as to deepen the Christian faith in the Catholic Family. If all Christian parents would strive to educate their children with sound Christian faith, and nurture the seed of vocation in their children, vocations would ultimately flourish.

Rev. Joseph Yim (Diocesan Priest)
Chairperson
1 October 2007

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