

Diocesan Vocation Commission

October 2011 – September 2012

Annual Report

2010 – 2012 Committee Members

Rev. Benedict Lam, Diocesan Priest – Chairperson
Sr Louise Lam, F.D.C.C. – Executive Secretary
Rev. Bro. John Chong, F.M.S. – Treasurer
Rev. Giles Chong, O.C.S.O.
Rev. Antonio Leung, S.D.B.
Rev. Joseph Liu, Diocesan Priest
Rev. Charlton Plateros, SVD
Rev. Deacon Bernad Tang, Diocesan
Sr Catherine Fung, FDCC
Sr Miriam Lui, SPB
Sr Lucia Mak, FMM.
Sr Luigia Mindassi, PIME
Sr Care Sin, RGS
Mr. Patrick Chan, Serra Club

1. Project on Vocation Promotion

1.1 Annual Gathering for Members of Prayer Movement for Vocations

Date: 3 December 2011 (Saturday)

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 5:00p.m

Venue: Carmelite Sisters, and Maryknoll House in Stanley.

Participants: 80 Members of the Prayer Movement for Vocations with
Sr Louise Lam and Fr Dominic Lui.

Content: Rosary recitation for vocations, the sharing of the monastic life
by Sr Li and the meaning of Christmas by Fr Lui in the convent
chapel, followed by visiting the cribs in Maryknoll House,
ending with refreshments.

Evaluation: The members were happy to learn more about the Carmelite
Sisters' life and their mission in the Church; especially the
elderly members who are unable to go out by
themselves, eagerly longed for this annual gathering.

1.2 DVC Website

The DVC blog is usually updated twice weekly, and even more frequently
especially when interesting issues arise. The average number of visitors
per day is about 60 till present.

Evaluation: The visitors appreciated the reflections for each article of
DVC blog, they look forward to read the weekly update.

2. 49th World Day of Prayer for Vocations on 28 April

2.1 Theme: "The Gift of the Love of God"

2.2 Promotion: Posters were distributed to all Parishes and Secondary Schools

2.3 Vocation Night

Date: 28 April 2012 (Saturday)

Time: 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Venue: Caritas Community Hall

Guests: Rev. Pierrie Lam, VG.

Participants: Approximately 120 young people with Fr Benedict Lam, Sr Louise Lam, Bro John Chong; Fr. G. Chong, Fr A. Leung; Fr. C. Plateros, Sr. M. Lui, Sr. T. Chan, and Sr Clare Sin,

Content: Ice-breaking games, Drama, Witnessing, small group sharing and Taize Prayer.

Souvenir: Key holders.

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Evaluation: In general everything was conducted smoothly. The two MCs were able to master the situation and elicited active responses from the audiences. The message of Vocation was precisely delivered to the participants through drama, and Rev. Pierre Lam's witnessing affirmed that vocation is the gift of the love of God! This celebration was concluded with a devoted Taize Prayer. The over-all comment was good, even though the time for group sharing was insufficient and the attendance was unsatisfactory.

3. Quarterly Vocation Gathering

3.1 Say Brother, Not Prada

Date: 14 January 2012 (Saturday)

Time: 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Venue: St. Francis Parish, no.11, Hang Kwong Street, Ma On Shan, N.T.

Guest: Rev. Bro. William Ng (OFM)

Content: Witnessing during Mass followed by informal small group sharing in the hall.

Participants: 20 young people with Fr Benedict Lam and Sr Catherine Fung

Evaluation: The participants appreciated this new approach of witnessing by Rev. Bro. William, they learned more about the difference between the call to be a priest with that of a Religious brother in the Franciscan family, their interaction was friendly and joyful. It was a pity that very few youth could come after the anticipated Mass.

3.2 A Listening Heart

Date: 25 August 2012 (Saturday)

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Venue: St Teresa's Church, Kowloon.

Guest: Rev. Bro Tim Wan

Participants: 60 participants with Fr. J. Liu, Sr L. Lam, Br J. Chong, Sr M. Lui, Sr C. Fung and Sr T. Chan.

Content: Witnessing by Br T. Wan ending with the Taize prayer.

Evaluation: Br T. Wan's witnessing was lively, appropriate and practical to those who are searching and discerning for their vocation. The youth of St Teresa' Church were very helpful and participated actively, hopefully we can establish a good partnership in the future.

4. Prayer Meeting for Vocation Discernment

4.1 Monthly Prayer Meeting for boys

During this year, one young man had quitted this group due to a personal reason, while one had joined in to make up five boys for vocation discernment with Fr Pierre Lam, VG and Sr Louise Lam.

4.2 Monthly Prayer Meeting for girls

Three girls have entered the various religious Congregations in April, August and September respectively, three new ones together with the remaining three will continue their discernment with Sr Louise Lam.

Evaluation: The girls appreciated the companionship and spiritual accompaniment from both their peers and the spiritual director, while the boys were a bit indifferent and progressing slowly.

5. Vocation Seminar in the Philippines

Fr Charlton and Sr Clare Sin were sponsored by the Diocesan Vocation Commission to attend a six- day Vocation Seminar in the Philippines in April. The theme was about “How to create a culture that witnesses and awakens vocation in the local Church”. They found that the seminar was very enriching, especially Fr Charlton felt urged to revitalize his mission as Vocation Director and to create a culture that witnesses and awakens vocation in the local church of Hong Kong.

6. Outreach Activities

6.1 Vocation Sharing on the Vocation Sunday

In response to the invitation from the Vocation Promotion Team of Rosary Church, Sr Anne Yau SPB, Sr Teresa Chan FMM and Sr Catherine Fung FDCC, had shared their vocation stories at the Vocation Sunday masses with much appreciation from the parishioners and their stories were published on the Parish Newsletter.

6.2 Vocation Promotion Talk

A talk on “Creating a culture that witnesses and awakens vocation in the local Church” was organized in joint effort between the Diocesan Vocation Commission and the Association of Major Religious of Women in Hong Kong on 21 July (Saturday) in St Paul Convent. The two speakers were Fr. Charlton Plateros and Sr. Clare Sin. 40 Religious Sisters with Fr B. Lam and Sister Louise Lam, Sr M. Liu, Sr L. Mindassi, Sr C. Fung were present in this talk. The feedback was positive and encouraging.

Closing Remark

In our contemporary society, young people are very much influenced by a culture based on instant gratification and response. Therefore they find it hard to remain still in solitude and prayer; unfortunately, in our spiritual life there is no such a thing as neither “Instant Prayer” just as there can be no “Instant deep Relationship with God.”

On the Spiritual Journey for Vocation Discernment, many of our youth are lacking “Patience” in waiting at prayer, before the Holy Spirit would have come upon them they have already made a move. Consequently, without the guidance of the Holy Spirit, they can hardly see the will of God and take courage to step forward in following Jesus!

May the Lord transform the life of our youth and make them know their deeper desire, as well as their limitations, so that they may graciously ask for God’s grace to lead them on their right direction