

2012 – 2014 Committee Members

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Sr Teresa Chan, FMM.

Sr Sandra Covini, PIME

Sr Care Sin, RGS

Mr. Patrick Chan, Serra Club

Mr. Paul Chan

Ms. Ho Tak Fan

Annual Report

1. Project on Vocation Promotion

1.1 Annual Gathering for Members of Prayer Movement for Vocations

A Visit to St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery

Date: 4 November 2012 (Sunday)

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:30p.m

Venue: St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery, Happy Valley

Participants: 60 Members of the Prayer Movement for Vocations with Fr Benedict Lam, Sr Louise Lam, three Canossian Sisters and 16 Canossian Youth as volunteers.

Content: Prayer for the souls in purgatory and Introduction of the brief history of this cemetery by the Docent team followed by tour around the cemetery.

Evaluation: All participants have benefited from what was a very meaningful and spiritual visit to the Cemetery. During the visit, the participants had the pleasure of partaking in prayer for all souls and to walk the historical trail guided by the docent team. It was also a good opportunity for the young volunteers to adopt a pro-life attitude and to show their care for the elderly.

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 around 85 till present.

Evaluation: The visitors appreciated the reflections inserted into each article of DVC blog. They expressed eagerness towards receiving further weekly updates

1.3 Vocation Promotion Seminar Them: Awakening Vocations

Date: 13-15 February 2013

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Venue: G/F, Conference Rm., Sacred Heart Canossian College of Commerce,

36 Caine Road
Medium: English (simultaneous translation provided)
Speaker: Rev. Rochester Charles A. Resuello (National Vocation Co-ordinator in the Philippines)
Participants: 70 (5 Priests, 5 Brothers 50 Religious Sisters and 7 Laities with 11 Vocation Commission Members : Fr B. Lam, Sr L.Lam, Bro. J. Chong, Fr C. Chong, Fr J. Liu, Fr Charlton, Sr M. Mou, Sr T. Chan, Sr, C. Sin, Sr C. Fung, Sr S. Covini.)

Evaluation: 45 out of 70 participants have returned the questionnaires with positive feedback summarized as follows:

- The speaker's presentation was good and lively.
- The contents were factual and enlightening.
- It would be great to have follow-up talks on local youth culture, skills on vocation accompaniment and discernment.
- The participants indicated a willingness to attend a yearly or quarterly meeting for spiritual talk or retreat.

Overall the aim of awakening vocations was achieved, the attendance of the three days was good and the atmosphere was joyous and harmonious.

1.4 Vocation Video Clip Competition

Theme: Come and See

Date: 15/09/2012 –20/04/2013

Target: Secondary Division and Open Division

Duration: 3-5 Minutes

Content: The Call of the Prophets or Real Vocation Story

Adjudicators: Rev. D Chan VG, Dr D. Yung, Sr T Yuen and Mr James Mak

Consolation Prizes:

1. Best Feature Article Award to Sacred Heart Canossian College for " God's Calling "
2. The Creative Presentation to Sacred Heart Canossian College for " Paul's Vocation "
3. Good Effort Award to Wah Yan College (Kowloon) for " Fr Leung's Vocation "
4. Good Effort Award to Sacred Heart Canossian College on " No Belayed Gift "

Certificate of Appreciation: Given to nine teams from Sacred Heart Canossian College.

Evaluation: None of the competitor's video productions was up to the standard for the first, second and third prize. However, four consolation prizes and nine certificates of appreciations were given to them at the Vocation Night.

1.5 Follow-up Programme for Vocation Promoters

1.5.1 Talk on Youth Culture

Date: 2013/05/18 – Saturday

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Venue: Top floor, Grand building 15-18 Connaught Road Central, H K

Guests: Ms Mabel Wong, Mr Adino Chung and Mr Nelson Dai

Attendance: 10 Religious Sisters with Fr Benedict Lam, Sr Louise Lam, Fr Charlton, Sr Sandra Covini and Sr Care Sin.

Evaluation: The speakers did a presentation on youth culture based on their own personal experiences with the youth that was both practical and valuable. The attendance was unsatisfactory.

1.5.2 Vocation Accompaniment

Date: 2013/09/07

Time: 10:00a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Venue: Top floor, Grand building 15-18 Connaught Road Central, HK

Facilitators: Sr Louise Lam

Content: Film appreciation and sharing of the Word of God.

Attendance: 1 Priest, 1 Brother, 7 Religious Sisters with Fr B.Lam, Sr L.Lam, Sr T.Chan, Sr C.Fung and Sr C.Sin

Evaluation: The participants found the film "Seabiscuit" enriching, they have gained some insights applicable for vocation accompaniment. The atmosphere was warm and cozy, but the attendance was unsatisfactory.

1.6 Teaching materials for Vocation Promotion

The Vocation Commission has commenced a two-year joint project with the Centre for Religious and Spirituality Education at the Hong Kong Institute of Education.

The aim of this project is to create a culture whereby Catholic students are encouraged and empowered to realize and live according to their vocation. A ready made teaching kit suitable for students of lower form will be provided for teachers and pastoral workers in the schools as well as Sunday Schools in the Parishes.

1.7 Spiritual Camp

Theme: Listening to the word of God

Date: 5 August 2013 to 6 August 2013

Venue: Our Lady of Joy Abbey, Lantau Island.

Contents: Encountering God in the nature, at work and in prayer.

Participants: Four Boys and Seven Girls aged 15 to 40

Spiritual Directors: Rev Giles Chong, Rev. Joseph Liu and Sr Margaret Mou

Evaluation: The overall running of the camp was smooth. Out of a survey conducted on the participants, 80% said they enjoyed the camp and have learned to experience God in the nature, at work and in prayer. They like the Taize prayer the most.

2. 50th World Day of Prayer for Vocations on 20 April

2.1 Theme: "Vocation as a Sign of Hope Founded in Faith"

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

2.3 Vocation Night

Date: 20 April 2013 (Saturday)

Time: 7:00 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Venue: Caritas Community Hall

Guests: His Eminence John Tong Hon and Rev. D. Chan VG., (for Prize Presentation)

Speakers: Rev. Joseph Tan, SVD and Sr Agnes Hau, FDCC.

Participants: Approximately 130 young people with Fr Benedict Lam,

Sr Louise Lam, Bro John Chong; Fr J. Liu; Fr. Charlton,

Sr. M. Mou, Sr. T. Chan, Sr C. Fung; Sr Clare Sin,

Sr S. Covini and Mr. Paul Chan

Contents: Ice-breaking games, Standup Comedy, Witnessing, Prize Presentation and Taize Prayer.

Souvenirs: Angel telephone strings and T-shirts

Evaluation: In general, everything was conducted smoothly. The two MCs were able to create a festive atmosphere and elicited lively interactions from the audiences. The standup comedy conducted by Br Lo produced good laughter. The message of Vocation was precisely delivered to the participants through the witnessing from Rev. J.Tan and Sr A. Hau. The vocation night ended with a devoted Taize Prayer. Overall, the event went well despite the sound system and attendance being unsatisfactory.

3. Quarterly Vocation Gathering

3.1 "A new Adventure" organized in joint effort with the Liturgical group of Holy Cross Church

Date: 1 December 2012 (Saturday)

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

Venue: Holy Cross Church, 1, Holy Cuss Path, Shaukiwan, H.K.

Guest: Rev. Sr. Margaret Mou, SPB

Content: Witnessing followed by Taize Prayer

Participants: 60 adults with Sr Louise Lam, Sr Teresa Chan and Sr Sandra Covini.

Evaluation: It was a pleasant and prayerful evening. The participants appreciated Sr Mou's sincere sharing on how her parents fostered her vocation, due in large part to her mother's support and prayers, motivating her to respond to God's call with perseverance. The Parish Priest – Fr Lau concluded Sr Mou's

sharing with an appeal to the parents to cultivate vocations in their families.

3.2 God Beside Me

Date: 23 February 2013 (Saturday)

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

Venue: St. Jude's Church, 30, Kin Wah street, North Point, H.K.

Guest: Rev. Aloysius Mak

Participants: 60 young people with Sr Louise Lam.

Content: Witnessing and Taize prayer.

Evaluation: Fr Mak's sharing was lively, and appropriate to the young people of St Jude's Church. It was very touching that his parents were there to witness the joy of offering their son to God.

4. Prayer Meeting for Vocation Discernment

4.1 Monthly Prayer Meeting for Boys

During this year, two young men quitted the group due to personal reasons, while one boy joined in after the Vocation Night resulting in a total of four boys regularly attending the meeting for vocation discernment with Fr Joseph Liu and Sr Louise Lam.

4.2 Monthly Prayer Meeting for Girls

Two girls left the group for a break while the remaining four is continuing to seek discernment with Sr. Louise Lam.

Evaluation: Both boys and girls are too busy with their work; assignments or/and further studies, spending little time in their prayer life. As a result, their spiritual growth is progressing slowly! That is the reason; they don't feel the urge to respond to God's invitation at present.

5. New Approach on Vocation Promotion

The lack of vocations is alarming. We feel the urge to create a culture that awakens vocations in our diocese. Since unity is strength, three working groups were formed with Fr B Lam and Sr L. Lam as Ex-officio members. The mission of these groups is to establish a good bonding relationship with all other vocation promoters of the religious Institutes, the Parishes and the Schools respectively. Subsequently strategies may be made for the implementation of Vocation Promotions in these areas of concerns. These groups are:

5.1 Education Group

Team members : Sr Teresa Chan, Bro John Chong and Fr Martin Yip

Task: - Taking part in the production of the teaching kit

- Exploring ways to meet the pastoral workers in the schools

5.2 Pastoral Group

Team members : Sr Margaret Mou, Fr Joseph Liu, Deacon Tang,
Mr Paul Chan and Ms Ho

Tasks: - Contacting youth in the Parishes through activities: i.e. Spiritual
Camp on 5-6 August 2013

- Meeting Family Group in the Parishes to educate the parents

5.3 Religious Group

Team Members : Sr Catherine Fung, Fr Charlton, Sr Clare Sin and
Sr Sandra Covini

Tasks: - Visiting the Religious Institutes to establish good relationship with
them

- Planning the follow-up programme for Vocation Promoters

6. Outreaching Activities

6.1 Vocation Sharing on the Vocation Sunday

In response to the invitation from the Vocation Promotion Team of Rosary Church, Br. John Chong and Br. Leung Po Tak SDB shared their vocation stories during the Vocation Sunday masses, received with appreciation from the parishioners. Br. Chong distributed 40 vocation books (光孩兒之旅) to the families at mass.

6.2 Talk on Vocation

Sr Louise Lam was invited by Sacred Heart Canossian College to deliver a talk on May 13 to 100 Students of Lower Form. She introduced the meaning of vocation with a role-play named “ Love bears no burden” with explanations through power points. Students demonstrated an increased understanding of vocation at the end of the talk.

6.3 Talk to the Serra Club

Fr Charlton was invited by the Serra Club to share with them how to Awaken Vocations in their society on June 18.

Closing Remarks

A recent survey revealed that 60% of H.K. youngsters are not happy. At a glance, this may sound strange considering how much more materially blessed our young people are in this day and age compared to previous generations. However, as Christians, this should not sound strange to us as the Gospel teaches us that the fulfillment of self-centered desires based on materialism rarely ever brings about any real or lasting happiness. As Jesus teaches us: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matt 5:3).

The result of this survey reminds us that there is currently a profound opportunity for evangelization among our youth! We need to set this as our first priority to bring back these lost sheep, and make them convinced that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life (Jn14:6). With Jesus, they may learn to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and the rest will be given to them, as Jesus promised (Mtt 6:33).

For us consecrated persons, it takes us a life-time of soul searching to realize that nothing in the whole world can ever satisfy us but God. Since it is God who has given us this basic drive to possess Him and to be possessed by Him, so only God can do something within us.

In this year of faith, let us pray hard for ourselves first, that we may be able to be the prophetic and joyful witnesses to the youngsters. Furthermore, with the grace of God, may we guide the young people entering into a deeper relationship with God through prayer, so that they may grow stronger in faith. Subsequently, let us pray that they would be convinced that God is the ultimate answer to true happiness and what it means to live a meaningful existence. Let us henceforth pray that they may be motivated to respond to God’s call courageously and generously.

Rev. Benedict Lam (Diocesan Priest)
Chairperson
1 October 2013

Sr Louise Lam (FDCC)
Executive Secretary