

Annual Report

1. **Project on Vocation Promotion**

1.1 **Annual Gathering for Members of Prayer Movement for Vocations**

To Attend The Prayer for Vocations - Superhero

Date: 30 November 2014 (Sunday)

Time: 2:30 p.m. – 4:00p.m

Venue: Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish(Tai Po)

Guest: Deacon Cyril Cheung Lok Tin

Participants: 80 participants including members of the Prayer Movement for Vocations with Sr Louise Lam

Content: Life witnessing, Rosary, Adoration, Meditation and Benediction

Evaluation: The atmosphere was cheerful, and the content of Deacon Cheung's sharing was good for adults and especially for the elderly. The Members of the Prayer Movement who have never met such a young deacon before, felt very much reassured that their prayer for vocations was heard. Sr L. Lam's idea of integrating the prayer for vocations with the annual gathering for members of the prayer movement for vocations helped kill two birds with one stone. On one hand, the presence of the members made this meeting more prayerfully enriching. On the other hand, the meeting with the deacon motivated them to pray more fervently for vocations.

1.2 **DVC Website**

The DVC blog and Facebook page are normally updated twice a week, and may be updated even more frequently especially when interesting or important issues arise. The average number of visitors to the DVC blog per day is around 91 till present. There are 583 Likes to our Facebook page which is becoming more popular and welcomed by our young people.

Evaluation: The average number of visitors to our blog remains constant and our Facebook page is getting more popular than before.

1.3 **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.

A pilot study was planned to be carried out in October 2015, nine Secondary Schools have enrolled to take part in the first trial of our teaching plan.

2. Vocation Month Celebration - A joint venture with the Serra Club

2.1 A Youth Mass for Vocations at Kowloon Side

Date: 26 April 2015 (52nd World Day of Prayer for Vocations)

Time: 3.00p.m. - Adoration

4.00p.m. – Youth Mass

Venue: St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Celebrants: His Eminence John Tong Hon, Deacon Francis Fung,
Rev. John B Tsang, Rev. Favata Fabio, Rev. Joseph Liu and
Rev. Martin Yip

Participants: Approximately 160 people with Sr Louise Lam, Bro John Chong;
Sr. Margaret Mou, Sr. Teresa Chan, Sr C. Fung and Sr S. Covini.

Souvenir: “The Joy of Being Called” Data Disk (Produced by Serra Club and was
showed prior to the Eucharist)

Evaluation: On the whole, everything went well. The prayerful adoration prior
to the mass supported by a great number of the faithful of which quite
a few of them participated in the prayer movement for vocations.
The atmosphere of the mass was joyous and harmonious,
attributed in part to the presence of 60 Salesian youth and their
lively action songs. All of the above made the joy of that day
complete. However the group sharing prior to the homily seemed
out of place, and it would have been better to leave that part out.

2.2. A Vocation Mass at New Territories

Date: 10 May 2015 (Sunday)

Time: 4.00p.m. – Video appreciation, Vocation Mass

Venue: St. Benedict Church

Celebrants: Bishop Michael Yeung, Deacon Carlos Cheung, Rev Simon Li,
Rev Jay. F. Flandez and Rev Gregoire Vignola

Participants: Approximately 100 people with Sr Louise Lam, , Bro John Chong
and Mr. Peter Lee

Souvenir: “The Joy of Being Called” Data Disk (Produced by Serra Club and was
showed prior to the Eucharist)

Evaluation: The liturgical team of St. Benedict’s Church was very helpful, and
with their support, the liturgy was conducted smoothly. Also the
active participation of the members of Serra Club created a
prayerful atmosphere. If more young people were there, it would
have been more ideal. In the future the selection of the venue and
date for this activity should be more carefully considered.

2.3. A Vocation Mass at Hong Kong Island

Date: 17 May 2015 (Sunday)

Time: 4.00p.m. – Video appreciation, Vocation Mass

Venue: St. Jude’s Church

Celebrants: Bishop Stephen Lee, Deacon Louis Wong, Rev Joseph Liu,
Rev Paul Kim, Rev Aloysius Mak

Participants: Approximately 170 people with Sr Louise Lam,
Bro John Chong, Sr Catherine Fung and Mr. Peter Lee

Souvenirs: “The Joy of Being Called” Data Disk (Produced by Serra Club and was showed prior to the Eucharist)

Evaluation: It is indeed a blessing to have the youth group of St. Jude’s Church who coordinated all the youth groups of the H.K. East Deanery to organize this mass. Everything was so well prepared and carried out so harmoniously that all the youth were able to participate in the Holy Eucharist with one mind and heart.

2.4. March for Vocations in Holy Spirit Seminary

Date: 25 May 2015 (Monday)

Time: 3.00p.m. - Adoration

4.00p.m - Vocation Mass

Venue: Holy Spirit Seminary

Celebrants: Bishop Joseph Ha, Deacon William Li, Rev Benedict Lam, Rev Joseph Liu and 16 Priests from various parishes.

Participants: Approximately 850 people with, Sr Louise Lam, Bro John Chong, Sr Catherine Fung, Sr Margaret Mou, Sr Teresa Chan, Sr Sandra Covini, Mr Peter Lee, Mrs Lo Ho Tak Fan and Mr Paul Chan

Souvenirs: “The Joy of Being Called” Data Disk (Produced by Serra Club and was showed prior to the Eucharist)

Evaluation: It was amazing to see 850 participants of different walks of life marching to the Holy Spirit Seminary, in spite of hot and humid weather! The support of the parishes and parishioners can lead to miracles. This great scene opens a new page in history of vocation ministry. There was a suggestion to organize this kind of outdoor activity in cooler season.

3. Vocation Gathering

3.1 Prayer for Vocations

Theme: Superhero

Date: 30 November 2014 (Sunday)

Time: 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Venue: Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

Guest: Deacon Cyril Cheung

Participants: 80 adults with Sr Louise Lam

Content: Life witnessing, Rosary, Adoration, Meditation and Benediction

Evaluation: The atmosphere was cheerful, and the content of Deacon Cheung’s sharing was good for adults and especially for the elderly. The Members of the Prayer Movement who have never met such a young Deacon before, felt very much reassured that their prayer for vocations was heard. Sr L. Lam’s idea of integrating the prayer for vocations with the annual gathering for members of the prayer movement for vocations helped kill two birds with one stone. On one hand, the presence of the members made this meeting more prayerfully enriching. On the other hand, the meeting with Deacon Cheung motivated the members of the prayer movement to pray more fervently for vocations.

4. Prayer Meeting for Vocation Discernment

4.1 Monthly Prayer Meeting for boys

Six boys continue to persevere in vocation discernment with Fr. Liu and Sr L. Lam. One of them has started the “Come and See” experience for a month in Holy Spirit Seminary. He is considering to enter the Holy Spirit Seminary after summer holidays.

4.2 Monthly Prayer Meeting for girls

One girl stopped the searching for her vocation, while another has joined a Religious Order as an aspirant. Only four remained with this group. Since they have been in this group over two years and were still so un-decisive, also did not demonstrate any great desire to consecrated life, so this group was dissolved in September 2015.

Evaluation: The boys have demonstrated improvement in their spiritual advancement, and their faith sharing was more in depth than before. They have expressed a strong desire to join the priesthood. In contrast, the girls were very un-decisive and full of fear of moving forward toward the uncertainty of religious life.

5. New Approach on Vocation Promotion

In the past two years, the Education Group, Pastoral Group and Religious Group have been striving hard to create a culture that awakens vocation in our diocese.

In reality many Religious Congregations do not appoint members as Vocation Promoters. Therefore there was a very poor response to our formation programme for vocation promoters. In view of this reason, the Religious Group was renamed as Vocation Promotion Group with the specific mission to carry out Activities for Vocation Promotion and formation of youth. The Education Group is needed to supervise the project on Teaching Kit production. The Pastoral group has encountered resistance in the Parishes, so this group will join in the Vocation Promotion Group to strengthen the manpower for vocation promotion and formation of the youth.

Closing remarks

St. Paul said that we hold this treasure in pots of earthenware, so the immensity of the power is God's and not our own (2Cor 4:7). May the young people with low self-esteem be inspired by St. Paul's words, with the light of the Holy Spirit. May they be convinced that God's grace would be enough for them (2Cor12:9). Only when we accept our limitations, we would be able to turn to God as our help and support. Then we will have no fear of all the uncertainty and challenges in life.

In the Gospel of John (Jn12:3), Mary of Bethany who anointed Jesus' feet with a costly ointment, was not afraid of the disciples' criticism. Apparently, this was the grace of God sustaining her to do so, since Mary liked to keep close to Jesus, who had praised her for having chosen the better part by staying at Jesus' feet and listening to Him (Lk10:42)

May the young people who are discerning their vocation be like Mary, staying close to Jesus through prayer and contemplation, that they may be empowered by the Grace of God to follow Jesus' call courageously.

Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Ha Chi-shing, OFM
Chairperson
1 October 2015

Sr Louise Lam (FDCC)
Executive Secretary

2014 – 2016 Committee Members

Bishop Joseph HA Chi-shing, OFM, VG, Chairperson
Rev. Benedict Lam, Diocesan Priest – Vice-Chairperson
Sr. Louise Lam, FDCC – Executive Secretary
Rev. Bro. John Chong, FMS – Treasurer
Rev. Giles Chong, OCSO
Rev. Martin Yip, SDB.
Rev. Joseph Liu, Diocesan Priest
Rev. Flandez Jay Francis, SVD
Rev. Deacon Bernard Tang, Diocesan
Sr. Catherine Fung, FDCC
Sr. Margaret Mou, SPB
Sr. Teresa Chan, FMM.
Sr. Sandra Covini, PIME
Sr. Susanna Lim, LSP
Mr. Peter Lee , Serra Club
Mr. Paul Chan
Ms. Ho Tak Fan