

ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE DIOCESAN VOCATION COMMISSION

September 1997 - August 1998

Chairperson

Rev. Joseph Yim.

Committee Members:

Sr. Louise Lam, F.D.C.C. - Executive Secretary

Sr. Ophelia Lui, S.P.C. - Treasurer

Sr. Lucia Mak, F.M.M.

Rev. Domingos Leong S.D.B.

Rev. Giles Chong O.C.S.O.

Rev. Peter Choy

Sr. Lucy Choy, F.D.C.C.

Sr. Agnes Ko, S.P.B.

Miss Cecilia Yu - Focolare Movement

Miss Rosa Chung

Mr. Peter So - Serra Club

Staff: Miss Bertille Mok

Regular meetings: Six meetings were held during this year.

General Affairs:

1. **Prayers for Vocations** - On every First Thursday at Immaculate heart of Mary Chapel (Catholic Centre).

1.1 *Adoration & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*: From 10:30 am- 5:10 p.m.

1.2 *Benediction*: At 5:00 p.m.

1.3 *Eucharistic Celebration*: At 5:15 p.m. celebrated by the priests of the Commission or by invitation.

2. **Projects on Vocations Promotion**

2.1 *Music Vocation Night as a preliminary programme of the Vocation Exhibition*

organised by the Commission in joint venture with St. Bonaventure Parish took place on the 13th September, 1997, at 8:10 p.m. Guests and performers altogether were five hundreds

Performers were: St. Bonaventure's Parish Choir, St. Paul's Choir, St. Cecilia's Choir, Friends of Serra Club, Catechumens of St. Bonaventure, Parish, Young Evangelist Dance Group, Notre Dame College, St. Bonaventure Youth Centre, Focolare Movement, Rosary Dance Group, Salesian sisters, Trappist Monastery, Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, Canossian Sisters.

2.2 *Vocation Exhibition* was held at the Caritas Community Hall on the 4th to 8th of October, 1997.

4,600 visitors registered.

2.3 *Touring Vocation Exhibition* was carried out as the continuation of the Vocation Exhibition in

the following Schools and Parishes respectively: -

Schools: Precious blood Secondary School, St. Mary's Canossian College, Sacred Heart Canossian Commercial School, Canossian College, St. Francis' Canossian college, Hong Kong Tang King Po College, St. Patrick's School, Wah Yan College (H.K.), Yaumati Catholic Primary School, Wah Yan College (Kowloon).

Parishes: St. Margaret Mary's Parish, St. Bonaventure Parish, Our Lady Of China Parish, Mary Help Of Christians Parish, St. Patrick's parish.

2.4 *Christmas Cards* were designed for vocations promotion.

3. Vocations Promoters' Meeting

Aims: To share experience in youth ministry.

To animate one another in the hard work for vocation promotion.

To share resources for vocation promotion.

To explore our vision for vocations promotion in this diocese.

Three meetings were held at the Conference room of Catholic Centre at 5:00 -7:00 p.m. of the following dates: 16. 1. 98, 24.3.98 and 2.6.98. Numbers of Participants were ranging from 19 to 21,

4. Vocation Gathering For The Youth

The details of these meetings are as follows:

Date of First meeting: 15th February, 1998 (Sunday)

Second meeting: 10th May, 1998 (Sunday)

Time : 2:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Venue for the First meeting: St. Paul Primary School.

Second meeting: St. Stephen Parish.

Theme of the First meeting: 'Consecrated Life' presented by Fr. Yim, members of Focolare Movement, Catholic Lay Missionary and Lay Apostles.

Second meeting: Talk and sharing on 'Vocations' presented by Fr. Bruno, Sr. M. Tso and Br. John.

Numbers of Participants: Over 40 young peoples plus 20 priests and Religious Sisters at the first meeting. Over 45 young peoples plus 18 priests and Religious sisters at the second meeting.

Programme: Talks followed by small group discussion ending with prayer.

Feedback : Questionnaires indicated positive comments from the youth and strong desire to meet bi-monthly. 15 participants (including one priest and a lady) have volunteered to help in organising subsequent meetings. Thus a working group was formed in March 98.

5. 35th World Day Of Prayer For Vocation on 3rd May 1998

5.1 The theme of this year is "The Spirit and the Bride say: 'Come'." (Rev..22:17)

Posters and Greeting cards were distributed to all Parishes and Schools.

5.2 Proposed intercessory prayers for this occasion were forwarded to all Parishes.

5.3 A meeting was held on 19th April, 98 for all those who have consented to share during mass in 11 Parishes. 22 Religious Sisters, three Brothers and three members of the Focolare Movement took part in this activity.

5.4 A Gathering for the newly baptised on the Vocation Sunday at St. Stephen Parish was organised in joint effort with the Diocesan Liturgy Commission.

6. **Vocation Camp for Secondary School Students** was held on 17th to 19th of July 98 at Diocesan Retreat House in Stanley. The theme was “What do you want me to be”. 45 participants together with one Priest, one Brother and two Religious Sisters attended, four other Priests and one Brother have visited this camp. Activities included various games, creative activities, prayers and Eucharistic Celebration. Questionnaires revealed that over 95% of the participants have benefited from this programme and would like to attend regular prayer meeting or camp for ‘Vocations’.

A follow-up prayer meeting was held on 23rd August from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Canossian Commercial School. This meeting was organised by eight helpers. 25 young peoples attended. Fr. Bruno, Br. John Cheung and Fr. Moses Ngai were present. Sharing was done by Fr. Ngai and members of the Focolare Movement.

Closing Remarks

The experience of ‘Vocation Ministry’ in Hong Kong has been replete with challenges. The present situation of vocation has become problematic, because the socio-cultural attributes have a great impact on the life style of the young people and on their sense of value. Therefore the Promotion of Vocation among the youth is a difficult task.

To overcome these difficulties, the Commission has strived very hard in the past year to foster ‘Vocations’ and to make young people aware of their Christian and Specific Vocations through well-planned programmes for different age groups. The feedback from the youth is positive and encouraging. I do hope that in the coming year with new spirit and new ideas of the new members, our work for ‘Vocation Promotion’ will be more successful.

I take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to all members for your hard work. I believe that your good efforts are not in vain. With the help of the grace of God it will bear abundant fruit.

Fr. Joseph Yim,
Chairperson.
August 1998