

ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE DIOCESAN VOCATION COMMISSION

September 1998 - August 1999

Chairperson

Rev. Joseph Yim.

Committee Members:

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

Sr. Selina Ma, S.P.C. - Treasurer

Rev. Domingos Leong S.D.B.

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

Rev. Benedict Lam

Rev. Stephen Chow, S.J.

Rev. Thomas A. Peyton, M.M.

Sr. Agnes Ko, S. P. B.

Sr. Lucia Mak, F.M.M.

Sr. Michelle Reynolds, M.M.

Sr. Martha Tso, F.M. A.

Sr. Claudia Elisabetta of Jesus

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

Miss Cecilia Yu - Focolare Movement

Miss Rosa Chung

Mr. Michael Tang - Serra Club

Staff: Miss Bertille Mok

No. of meetings held: Five meetings were held during this year.

Matters Arising:

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 a.m. - 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. **Project on Vocation Promotion**

Prayer Movement For Vocation

Date: 31st October 1998, Saturday.

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

Venue: St. Margaret 's church, Happy Valley.

Content: Drama, Sharing, Prayer and Refreshment.

Participants: 70 members

Evaluation: The participants were less numerous than usual. However they all enjoyed the Drama, which has conveyed a clear message on 'Vocations' to them regardless of their age differences.

2.2 Youth spirituality Centre in Lantau Island was inaugurated on the 30th January, 1999.

Responsible by: The Diocesan Vocation Commission, The Diocesan Youth Commission and The Trappist Monastery

Goal: Let young people experience the "Wisdom of St. Benedict" on how to reach The integration of body, spirit and soul through the balanced life of prayer, work and reading.

Aim: To provide a quiet and relaxing environment conducive to personal contact with God; hence the will of God may be discovered.

Method: -Offer Individual Spiritual guidance.

-Provide opportunity to get in touch with nature through working in the Fields, thus enabling the participant to be an integral person of spirit, body and soul.

Spiritual directors: Members of the Diocesan Vocation commission.

Facilities: Ten single bedrooms, one Conference room and Prayer Room.

Briefing for The Members: A Seminar on 'Centring Prayer' was held by Fr. G. Chong on 17th December 1998 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Lantau Island. 15 Religious Sister and one diocesan Priest attended.

Blessing of the Centre: On 30th January 1999. 30-40 people were present at the ceremony.

Evaluation: The usage of this spirituality centre is low. It is necessary to increase the publicity, and work out a programme for spiritual direction.

2.3 Vocation Gatherings were held four times this year. The first two were the Continuations of the last series of activities. The latter ones are the new Series of this year.

2.3.1 Theme: Discernment of Vocations named as 'Removing the Veil That Obscures ... '

Date: 13th September 1998, Sunday.

Time: 2:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Venue: St. Margaret Mary's Church, Happy Valley.

Content: Opening Prayer, Drama on Vocations, Group Sharing, Open Forum.

Participant: 74 Young peoples, 19 Priests, Religious Sisters and Brothers.

Feedback: The Drama has provoked positive responses from the audiences and elicited some productive discussions in the group sharing.

2.3.2 Theme: My Response named as "I have Discovered the Rainbow in My Heart"

Date: 21st November 1998 Sunday.

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

Venue: St. Margaret Mary's Church, Happy Valley.

Content: Dance and Drama On Vocations, Group sharing and Prayer.

Participant: 40 -50 young peoples.

Feedback: The story was touching and the Dance demonstrated the feelings and struggles of those who were called to respond to God's calling.

2.3.3 Theme: On Vocations named as 'Walk With The Lord In Serenity ... '

Date: 30th May, 1999 Sunday

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

Venue: Rosary Church, Kowloon.

Content: Role-play; Sharing on vocation by Sr. Louise Lam; Prayer; and Conclusion by Fr. Stephen Chow.

Participant: 30-40.

Feedback: 98% of the participants enjoyed this programme. They found the sharing was helpful, and the prayerful atmosphere was conducive to personal reflections.

2.3.4 Theme: On Discernment of Vocations named as 'Searching For The Will Of God In The Mist'

Date: 15th July - 17th July 1999

Venue: Jockey Club Cheung Chau Don Bosco Youth Centre (Youth Camp)

Participant: 43 Boys and Girls and 12 Leaders

Feedback: 99% of them enjoyed the atmosphere of the camp. Some of them enjoyed the prayer sessions which enabled them to experience the presence of God .In the Open Forum they learned to explore the meaning of Vocations. But the leaders found that it is very difficult to lead a group of 9-10 persons, and they could not cope with the variation of age and educational level

Post camp Meeting held on 29th August, from 2:00p.m. -4:00p.m. at Sacred Heart Commercial School. Sr. Louise Lam with seven leaders and 15 students attended this meeting.

Content: Opening Prayer, Games, Sharing by Dominic Lui, Group Discussion, and Refreshment.

Follow-up Meeting: By-monthly meeting to be scheduled.

Comment: The 'Vocation Gathering' is of great help to increase young peoples' awareness of their vocations. Through praying and sharing together, they may deepen their understanding of their vocation and find support as well as encouragement from one another. These activities are of great importance in vocation promotion.

2.4 The Follow-up Vocation Prayer Meeting

2.4.1 Regular Prayer Meeting for Boys

Date: Every Second Friday of the Odd Month from January till May then every second Friday Monthly from June onwards.

Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Venue: Ground floor of the Nurses' Quarters of St. Paul Hospital from January till May From June onwards moved to Sacred Heart Commercial School.

Participant: 7- 8 Boys together with Fr. B. Lam, Fr. S. Chow, Fr. J. Ha and Sr. Louise Lam.

2.4.2 Regular Prayer Meeting for Girls

Date: Every Second Friday of the even Month.

Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Venue: Ground floor of the Nurses' Quarters of St. Paul Hospital from January till May 1999. From August moved to Sacred Heart Commercial School.

Participant: 6 girls with Sr. Selina Ma and Sr. Louise Lam.

Evaluation: These regular prayer meetings are very much valued by the young men and women, who are seriously discerning their vocations. One young man has already entered the Holy Spirit Seminary in August 1999.

3. Vocations Promoters' Meeting

Aims: To share experiences 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.

Four meetings were held in the Conference room of Catholic Centre at 4:30 -6:00 p.m. of the following dates: 15.9.98,24.11.98, 3.3.99 and 5.5.99. Numbers of Participants were ranging from 19 to 21,

4. 36th World Day Of Prayer For Vocation on 25th April 1999

4.1 The theme of this year is 'The Father calls to Eternal Life'.

Posters and Key-rings (in the shape of monks and nuns) were distributed to all the Parishes and Schools.

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

4.3 A meeting was held on 17th April, 99 for all those who have consented to share during mass in 23 Parishes. 20 out of 40 (32 Religious Sisters, two Brothers, two members of the Serra Club and four members of the Focolare Movement) took part in this activity.

This meeting was conducted by Fr. B. Lam.

4.4 A Vocation Gathering was organized in joint effort with the West, South, Central and East Kowloon Deanery. This gathering took place in Kowloon Wah Yan College at 2:00p.m. to 5:00 p.m. This meeting commenced with the Drama, followed by the group sharing and concluded with the prayer. Approximately 100 participants including some Priests, Seminarians, Religious Brothers and Sisters: also the most Reverent John Tong was with us till the end of the meeting.

Evaluation: April was the month of examinations; many students were unable to come.

Therefore the majority of the participants were working people. If students are also included in our target, in the future when planning for the activity for the Vocation Sunday, this factor must not be overlooked.

Closing Remarks

Some young people have suggested that the Vocation Commission may need to clarify its role in the diocese. It seems more appropriate that this Commission should propose programme on 'Vocation Promotion' for the Parishes to carry out. In so doing, young people may experience the sense of belonging to their own parishes; hence the parishes will become the good soil for the cultivation of vocations. I totally agree with them, in fact this is our goal too. However in reality it does not work owing to many constraints.

In order not to deprive those who are interested in, or searching for 'Vocations' of their opportunity, the Commission has tried hard to introduce various programmes for young people of different ages groups and levels of searching. We also have recruited a group of volunteers among the participants to help in organising the activities. Through working together, youth and promoters alike learn to deepen our relationship with God and to discover and rediscover our vocation.

We have sowed the seed. As St. Paul tells us, God will multiply the seed for us and also increase the fruit of our good works (2Cor 9: 6-15). Truly 'Vocation' is a gift from God. We are only His instruments. God is the one who loves, gives and serves through us.

Sr. Louise Lam, Executive Secretary. September 1999