

ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE DIOCESAN VOCATION COMMISSION

September 1999- August 2000

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. Claudia Elisabetta of Jesus
Sr. Martha Tso, F.M.A.
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: Six meetings were held during this year.

Matters Arising:

1. **Prayers for Vocations** – On the First Thursday of each month 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 member of the Commission or by other Priest, by invitation.

2. **Project on Vocation Promotion**

2.1 Mass for the Youth

Theme: The Rainbow

Date: 9th October 1999, Saturday.

Time: 8:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Venue: St. Patrick's Church, Kowloon.

Content: A Drama on Vocations performed during Mass.

Participants: Of the 100 parishioners, the majority were young families; young people were few. .

Evaluation: It was a good attempt to convey message on 'Vocations' to the parishioners of different age groups

- 2.2 Prayer Movement for Vocations
 Theme: The Family, Cradle for Vocations
 Date: 14th November 1999, Sunday.
 Time: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00p.m.
 Venue: St. Patrick’s Church, Kowloon.
 Content: Games; Sharing by the mothers of Br. Joseph Chan and Sr. Salome Lau (A novice of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary); Dance by Fr. J.A.Castellanos; Group Discussion; Prayers and refreshment.
 Attendant: 80 members of the Prayer movement for Vocations with Fr. J. Yim and Sr. L. Lam
 Evaluation: A good opportunity to promotion friendship among the members and to increase their devotion in praying for vocations.
- 2.3 Jubilee Spiritual Exercise at Youth Spirituality Centre in Lantau Island
 Main Theme: Communion (For The Four Sessions)
- 2.3.1 Date: 11th –12th March 2000
 Theme: Cherishing Oneself.
 Participants: Four boys and eight girls.
 Director: Sr. Lucia Mak.
- 2.3.2 Date: 10th –11th June 2000
 Theme: Respecting Others
 Participants: Two Ladies.
 Director: Rev. Giles Chong.
 Evaluation: The response to the Spiritual Exercise was poor.
- 2.4 The VCD Show organized by the Vocation Commission & the Audio-visual Centre
 Date: 30th June 2000, Friday.
 Time: 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
 Venue: St. Margaret’s Church, Happy Valley.
 Content: VCD Show, followed by sharing by Fr. Dominic Chan, Fr. John Kwan, Fr. Thomas Law, Fr. John Tsang, Fr. Joseph Yim and Fr. Lawrence Lee (honorable guest), concluded with a prayer session and cutting of cake.
 Participant: 200 people
 Evaluation: The atmosphere was pleasant and prayerful; the time for sharing was insufficient.

3.Vocations Gathering

- 3.1 **The final Activity of Last Year’s Program**
 Theme: Walk in Love.
 Date: 3rd October 1999, Saturday.
 Time: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 Venue: Sacred Heart Canossian Commercial School, 34 Canine Road.
 Content: Games; Sharing by a Catholic Couple, a Pastoral Worker, and a Religious Sister; Advertisement between sharing presented by the Male & Female Religious Orders; Followed by Group Discussion and Prayer.
 Participants: Twenty Young People, Seven Helpers, Four speakers and Nine Priests & Religious.
 Evaluation: The sharing was enlightening and stimulating. The advertisements were entertaining and informative.
- 3.2 **The First Activity of this Year’s Program**
 Theme: “Whatever you do to the least of my brother, you do it unto Me”.
 Date: 27th December 1999, Monday.
 Time: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 Venue: St. Mary’s Home for the Aged, Aberdeen.
 Content: Service to the Aged; Carol Singing; Adoration and Prayer with the Aged.
 Participants: 20 Youngsters, Six Helpers, Two Mothers with Sr. Louise Lam and Fr. J. A. Castellanos.
 Evaluation: It was a good opportunity for youngsters to learn how to care for the old people.

3.3 **The Second Activity of this Year's Program**

Theme: Meeting God in the Nature.

Date: 19th February 2000, Saturday.

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Venue: Shatin

Content: Out-door games; Shared Prayers and BBQ.

Participants: 17 Young People, one volunteer with Sr. Louise Lam.

Evaluation: Through this out-door activity, the young learned to experience God in nature and get to know one another better.

4. **Seminar for Vocation Promoters**

Theme: Youth Ministry and Vocation Promotion.

Speaker: Fr. Mario Villegas Baclig, SDB, from the Philippines and Fr. Jacob Kwok and Sr. Monica Liu, FMA.

Date: 17th – 18th March 2000.

Venue: Salesian House of Studies, Chai Wan.

Participants: 80 Priests, Religious Brothers and Sisters, and few lay people.

Evaluation: It was a good refresher course for vocation promotions. A live-in experience might prove more beneficial.

No. of Meetings Held: Six meetings were held for the promoters during this year.

5. **37th World Day of Prayer for Vocations** on 14th May 2000.

5.1 The theme of this year is “The Eucharist is the source of Vocations”. Posters and a book on “Real Vocation Stories” were distributed to all Parishes and Secondary Schools.

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

5.3 Activity for this Occasion – Musical Night
Theme: God Knows How to Come Back Home.
Date: 13th May 2000, Saturday.
Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Venue: St. Margaret's Church, Happy Valley.

Content: Warm-up Activity; Musical Drama; Group Sharing and Prayer.

Participant: Priests, Religious Sisters and Brothers and young people all together were 300.

Evaluation: Young people enjoy the musical drama, through which they learned the meaning of Vocations. Some were touched by the story and started to think of their own vocations. 98% of the participants said that this activity was very creative and they would like to meet again bi-monthly. One third of them have signed up to join our working group!

5.4 Summer Camp on Person Growth
Theme: Companion on the journey.
Facilitator: Sr. Catherine Woo, SPC and Sr. Louise Lam, FDCC.
Celebrant: Fr. S. Chow, S.J.
Content: Games; small Group sharing; Eucharist and Prayers.
Date 15th – 16th July 2000.
Venue: Diocesan Retreat House, Stanley.

Participant: 30 boys and girls.

Evaluation: 99% of the participants enjoyed this camp and found that it was a good opportunity to consolidate their self-knowledge and to meet friends.

6. **Follow-up Vocation Prayer Meeting**

6.1 The Monthly Prayer Meeting for boys was led by Fr. S. Chow, Fr. B. Lam, Fr. J. Ha, Fr. L. F. Montano, M.G. and Sr. L. Lam. The attendance was constant, and all of the participants are still discerning their vocations with eagerness.

6.2 The Monthly Prayer Meeting for Girls was led by Sr. Louise Lam. Two out of five girls still attend this meeting with perseverance.

Closing Remarks

The third Millennium is a time of grace, a time of hope and a time to build a better world for all to look forward to!

Our Commission has never given up this hope for a better world in terms of more labourers to work for the Kingdom of God.

In the 'Vocation Seminar' Fr. Mario Baclig pointed out that Vocation is actually a journey of a lifetime. It is not a task or job to be done but it is rather our path to fullness of life in Christ. Journeying together we need human mediation for discernment and development. In fact what this Commission has been doing is in line with this notion; the purpose of the above mentioned activities is to create opportunities for personal contact and spiritual journeying together with the young. On the other hand, activities in the form of gatherings, retreats, camps, get-togethers and parties for vocation promotion are means to build up and sustain personal relationship. When young people get to know themselves better, they ultimately grow and develop under the personal guidance and spiritual direction. Especially with peer support they may be encouraged to make their decision of life faster.

Vocation Ministry is a challenging ministry, its success depending on team effort. Fr. Mario suggested that the team members should work together to draw up a 'Common Vision', to identify individual gifts and to clarify and determine roles. Collaborative ministry does not come about overnight, but is the fruit of much effort on team building and enhancement of spirituality, through which we may be able to be genuine consecrated persons and spiritual companions of the young people.

Let us pray for the working group of Diocesan Synod on Vocation and Continuous Formation for the Diocesan Priests, that they may recommend some new approach and feasible directives to guide the whole Diocese toward the 'Common Vision and Mission' for vocation promotion. And may the Holy Trinity empower us to work in one mind and heart for a better world in the near future.

Sr. Louise Lam,
Executive Secretary.