

**ANNUAL REPORT OF  
THE DIOCESAN VOCATION COMMISSION**

**October 2003- September 2004**

**Chairperson**

Rev. Benedict Lam.

**Committee members:**

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

Sr. Agnes Yam, S.P.C. – Treasurer

Rev. James Areechira, S.V.D.

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

Rev. Bro. John Chong, F.M.S.

Rev. Antonio Leung, S.D.B.

Sr. Romana Chow, S.P.B

Sr. Bernadett Lau, F.D.C.C.

Sr. Michelle Reynolds, M.M.

Sr. Josephine Suen, F.M.M.

Mr. Howard S.P. So – Serra Club

Miss Clare Lai, Auxiliaries of the Apostolate

**Staff:** Ms. Teresa Ng .

No. of Meetings held: Six meetings were held during this year.

**Matters Arising:**

**1. Project on Vocation Promotion**

1.1 Prayer Movement for Vocations

1.1.1 Activity: Sharing of vocation stories by the guests followed by Rosary  
Recitation and group sharing.

Date: November 8th, 2003 - Saturday

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00p.m

Venue: St. Patrick's Church.

Guests: Rev. Deacon Ip and two Postulants of Precious Blood Congregation.

Attendants: 70 members of the Prayer Movement for Vocations with  
Sr. L. Lam and Fr. B. Lam.

Evaluation: In spite of poor weather, 70 members participated with great  
interest, some suggested meeting monthly!

1.1.2 Re-grouping of the 332 members according to the Deanery into 20 groups:  
An informal gathering was held on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2004 for all the newly  
appointed groups' leaders with Fr. B. Lam and Sr. L. Lam to facilitate team  
building.

1.2 DVC Website

Aim: To increase the publicity of our website by means of the E-cards

Date of Publishing: December 2003.

Content: Christmas greeting cards.

Evaluation: Some visitors found that the E-cards lovely and creative. The  
competition is great; we can hardly catch up with the commercial  
market due to limited manpower.

The two visitors of our website from Toronto and U.S.A. have  
joined respectively in March and July, one the Active and the  
other the Contemplative Dominican Community in Tai Wan.

- 1.3 Catholic Hotline Service  
Our commission has joined this service since 1998; we notice a decline in numbers of audiences. After having received feedback from the public, the music was shortened while the content remained unchanged, because it is considered good and appropriate.
- 1.4 Auto-rotating Board outside the Sacred Heart Canossian College of Commerce  
In July 2003 the advertisement was set up for a trial, its effect is not measurable. However it is worth of continuation, so the poster was updated in July 2004.
- 1.5 Vocation Story Book  
The vocation storybook II published by our Commission was distributed at the Book Exhibition in July 2004.
- Evaluation: Book II was not so popular as Book I. Readers found Book I more interesting than Book II.
- 1.6 An Inter-Catholic Secondary School Day organized by Serra Club  
Theme: Consecrated Life.  
Facilitator: Sr. Bernadette Lau , SPB  
Date: November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2003 – Saturday  
Time: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Venue: 9/F., Caine Road, Auditorium  
Participant: 100  
Feedback: From the questionnaires, 30 students showed interest with this activity, follow-up activity to be considered by Serra Club.
- 1.7 Mass Liturgy for Vocations prepared by the Serra Club was distributed to all Parishes.

## **2. Vocations Gathering**

### **The Summer Spiritual Camp**

Theme: Alone with God.  
Date: August 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004  
Venue: Honeyville Canossian Retreat House  
Spiritual Advisor: Sr. Louise Lam  
Guest Speaker: Rev. D. Chan, V.G.  
Participants: Four boys and eight girls.

Evaluation: Personal prayer and Personal encounter were encouraged.  
Some participants were unable to enter into solitude and prayer; only few managed to do so. They found the period of time allocated to them too short for this purpose!

## **3. 41<sup>st</sup> World Day of Prayer for Vocations on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004**

- 3.1 The theme of this year is “Cenacles of Prayer for Vocations”.
- 3.2 Posters were distributed to all Parishes and Secondary Schools
- 3.3 Activity for this Occasion
- 3.3.1 Prayer for Vocations  
Theme: “Forever Loving You My Lord”  
Date: May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004, Saturday.  
Time: 7:45 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.  
Venue: St. Margaret’s Church, Happy Valley, Hong Kong.  
Content: Taize’ prayer with Sharing by Rev. Joseph Ng.  
Participants: 200

Evaluation: young people appreciate creative presentation & prayerful atmosphere. Members of the Commission commented that the venue was not suitable for Taize' prayer.

### 3.3.2 Vocation Night

Theme: "Life Is Melodious In God"

Date: May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2004 – Saturday

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Venue: Holy Family Parish, Choi Hung Estate, Kowloon.

Content: Drama, Sharing by Rev. Montano R.L. Fernando, and Group Sharing concluded with Prayer.

Participants: About 400 people including Priests, Religious Sisters, Brothers and Young people.

Evaluation: Feedbacks from the questionnaire were encouraging. The majority enjoyed this kind of gathering. Some commented that the time for sharing and prayer was insufficient. Many were impressed by the good team spirit of the working group. Three helpers were invited by Sr. L. Lam to join the monthly prayer meeting for vocation discernment with Fr. Bruno and Fr. B. Lam.

### 3.4 Follow-up Activity of vocation Night

Theme: "Witness the Truth Bravely"

Date: September 10th, 2004 - Friday

Time: 7: 00 p.m. – 8: 30 p.m.

Venue: Rosary Church - Kowloon.

Guests: Rev. D.Chan,V.G., John Kwan, Thomas Law, John Tsang.

Content: Taize' Prayer with Sharing by the Guests

Participants: approximately 100

Evaluation: The prayerful atmosphere was appreciated, and the sharing elicited laughter and touched the hearts of some participants. Friday is actually not a suitable time as it clashes with many other evening refresher courses.

## **4 Follow-up Vocation Prayer Meeting**

### 4.1 The Monthly Prayer Meeting for boys

During the past year, two boys had quitted the prayer group for further study. One returned in May. One boy has joined the Holy Spirit Seminary in August 2004. One quitted for the "come and See" experience in a Religious Congregation. The remaining four will continue with Fr. P. Lam and Sr. Lam.

A new group of five (of which three boys are the organizers of the Vocation Activities) has started their vocation discernment since April 2004 with Fr. Bruno and Fr. B. Lam.

### 4.2 Monthly Prayer Meeting for girls

One Girl entered the Carmelite Order in August 2004. Two Girls have started "Come And See" experience in a Religious Congregation. Three quitted the group for other consideration. Nine new ones have joined after the Vocation Night. At present 11 Girls are with Sr. Lam for vocation discernment.

Evaluation: The girls are faithful to the monthly prayer meeting for vocation discernment. Their Sharing is sincere and in-depth. It seems that some of the boys are concerned with their own personal affairs, do not commit themselves to this prayer meeting, consequently the quality of sharing has been affected!

## **5. Meeting of the Vocation Promoters-**

### First Meeting

Date: February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2004 – Saturday

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Venue: 18/F., Grand Building, 15-18 Connaught Road.

Facilitator: Rev. Bruno and Sr. Louise Lam.

Participants: 11 Priests and Religious Sisters.

Content: Sharing based on St. John chapter four – Jesus meets the Samaritan Woman. Jesus' Technique of searching for vocations was discussed.

Evaluation: The promoters suggested that Saturday morning is the good time for the promoters' meeting twice yearly. Their suggestion has been adopted with no sensible improvement of the attendance!

### **Closing Remarks**

*“Be still and know that I am God”*(Ps. 46:10). If we could appreciate and share the sentiment of this psalmist, we would find the answer to the following questions:

- “How do I know the will of God?”
- “What does God want from me?”
- “Who am I?”

Very often young peoples search for a clear signal or an immediate answer to their future direction. No one is qualified to give them a model answer except God! As St. Augustine prayed ” May I know myself that I may know you”!

In fact God is knocking at our doors and begging for some space for Him. Unfortunately, the inner room is full of turmoil and crowded with fears, worries, pains, sorrows, and preoccupations. The signal from God is thus not heard or seen, and there is no room for Him to stay with us for personal encounters!

“Vocation Accompaniment” is a long journey. It takes time to lead the young people and to pray with them and for them. It is a matter of time, with the grace of God, one day they will learn to enter into solitude and prayer, there they will meet God and discover their desire and their real self.

Rev. Benedict Lam  
Chairperson  
October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004

Sr. Louise Lam (F.D.C.C.)  
Executive Secretary