

ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE DIOCESAN VOCATION COMMISSION

October 2004- September 2005

2004 – 2006 Committee Members

Rev. Benedict Lam, Diocesan Priest – Chairperson
Sr. Louise Lam, F.D.C.C. – Executive Secretary
Rev. Bro. John Chong, F.M.S. – Treasurer
Rev. Albert Irudayasamy, S.V.D.
Rev. Joseph Chan, Diocesan Priest
Rev. Giles Chong, O.C.S.O.
Rev. Antonio Leung, S.D.B.
Rev. Luis F. Montano Rodriguez, M.G.
Sr. Agnes Ko, S.P.B
Sr. Bernadette Lau, F.D.C.C.
Sr. Lucia Mak, F.M.M.
Sr. Michelle Reynolds, M.M.
Mr. Howard S. P. Sou – Serra Club
Miss Clare S.S. Lai – Auxiliaries of the Apostolate

1. Projects on Vocation Promotion

1.1 Prayer Movement for Vocations

1.1.1 Pilgrimage: A Pilgrimage to the Cathedral conducted by the Catholic Cathedral Heritage Tour Committee

Date: January 15th, 2005 - Saturday

Time: 1:30 p.m. – 5:30p.m

Content: Opening Prayer said by Rev. D. Chan, then touring of the Cathedral conducted by the Cathedral Heritage Committee, followed by sharing of vocation promotion activity with the Cathedral Vocation Promotion Team at Caritas Restaurant.

Attendants: 80 members of the Prayer Movement for Vocations with Fr. B. Lam, Sr. L. Lam, Sr. L. Mak and Fr. T. Wei.

Evaluation: The participants Showed great interest in the design and history of the Cathedral, and the sharing with the Vocation Promotion Team has animated us to pray more fervently for vocations.

1.1.2 Meeting the Group Leaders of the Prayer Movement for Vocations

Date: June 14th 2005 - Tuesday

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Venue: 16/F., Catholic Centre

Attendants: 10 Group Leaders with Fr. B. Lam,
Br. J. Chong and Sr. L. Lam

Evaluation: All Group leaders contributed constructive suggestions on Vocation Promotion.

1.2 **DVC Website**

The updated contents of our website are: Information of the Religious Congregations, uploading the vocation stories from the Vocation Book (百力支) and the vocation stories published on the Kung Kao Po this year.

Evaluation: The visitors were interested in the real vocation stories which have given them great insight and encouragement in searching for their own vocations.

1.3 **Catholic Hotline Service**

Our commission has joined this service since 1998; we notice a decline in numbers of audiences. Notwithstanding, it is considered good and appropriate to keep it.

1.4 **Auto-rotating Board outside the Sacred Heart Canossian College of Commerce**

This advertisement was updated in July 2004, the effect is not measurable, and however it is worth of continuation.

1.5 **Vocation Booklet**

The vocation booklet published by our Commission was distributed at the Book Exhibition in July 2005.

Evaluation: The presentation and the art work of this Booklet suits the young people's taste.

1.6 **An Inter-Catholic Secondary School Day organized by Serra Club**

Facilitator: Fr. Michael Yeung

Date: November 13th 2004

Venue: St. Mary's Canossian College

2. **42nd World Day of Prayer for Vocations on April 17th 2005**

2.1 The theme of this year is "Come! Let us put out into the deep"

2.2 Posters were distributed to all Parishes and Secondary Schools

2.3 Vocation Gathering

Theme: "Today I have received a SMS"

Date: April 16th, 2005, Saturday.

Time: 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

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

Content: Drama, Sharing by Rev. Moses Ngai, and Group Sharing concluded with Prayer.

Souvenirs: Vocation Booklets and bookmarks

Participants: 100

Evaluation: The decline of participants is attributed to the anticipated time of the vocation activity from 7:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., because some peoples were still at work or in schools. The drama was creative and appealing to the young.

3. Itinerant Activity on Prayer for Vocations

3.1 “Live in Love”

Date: January 15th, 2005 - Saturday

Time: 7: 30 p.m. – 9: 00 p.m.

Venue: St. Thomas The Apostle Parish – Tsing Yi, N.T.

Content: Taize Prayer with Sharing by Br. Aloysius Mak

Participants: Approximately 70 with Fr. B. Lam, Sr. L. Lam, Sr. L. Mak and Br. J. Chong.

Evaluation: The prayerful atmosphere was appreciated and the sharing of Br. Mak was sincere and touching.

3.2 “ Source of Joy”

Date: July 16th, 2005 – Saturday

Time: 7:00 p.m. –9:00 p.m.

Venue: St. Andrew’s Parish – Tseung Kwan O, N.T.

Participants: 80 with Fr. B. Lam, Sr. L. Lam, Fr. L. Cantoni, and Br. J. Chong.

Content: Installation of the Diocesan Vocation Youth Group, Taize Prayer, and Sharing of Br. Peter Lo.

Evaluation: It is a good sign that the majority of the participants were the young people, and their feedback was positive.

4. Prayer Meeting for Vocation Discernment

4.1 The Monthly Prayer Meeting for boys

During the past year, one boy had joined the Jesuit Seminary in May and one entered the Franciscan Order in September 2005. The remaining two with four new comers will continue with Fr. P. Lam and Sr. Lam.

The other group of six is guided by Fr. B. Lam.

4.2 Monthly Prayer Meeting for girls

During summer holiday, Sr. L. Lam has accompanied the girls to visit six Religious Congregations of their own choices. Since then four girls have started the “Come and See” experience with a Religious Congregation, and few have been followed by the Vocation Promoters of various Religious Congregations. Four new ones have joined after the Vocation Night. At present 12 Girls are with Sr. Lam for vocation discernment.

Evaluation: The regular prayer meeting for vocation discernment provides spiritual direction as well as Vocation Accompaniment to the seekers. They value the joy of togetherness and benefit from the sharing of faith and adventure on their vocation journey. This community is indeed a privileged place for their personal and spiritual growth.

5. Meeting of the Vocation Promoters

First Meeting

Date: October 9th, 2004 – Saturday

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

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

Facilitator: Rev. B. Lam.

Theme: The Purpose Driven Life

Participants: 9 Priests and Religious Sisters.

Evaluation: The attendance was unsatisfactory! From the telephone survey done by Sr. L. Lam and Sr. M. Reynolds, the respondents revealed their preference on occasional workshops rather than regular meetings. Therefore the twice-yearly meeting was discontinued.

6. Youth Group of Diocesan Vocation Commission.

A group of youths has committed to organizing all vocation activities since July 2004. The official installation took place on July 16th 2005 in St. Andrew's Parish.

Closing Remarks

Thanks be to God, for the gifts of a group of generous and lively young people, who are happy to work hand-in-hand with the Vocation Commission to promote vocations in the H.K. Diocese. They are not only willing to pray for vocations, even at the expense of their pastime on Karaoke, and computer games, they make themselves available on a regular basis to organize "Prayer for Vocations". They fully utilize their talents and giftedness in composing music and songs, praising God with their beautiful voices in the prayer meetings, and in so doing; they animate other youths to join our prayer for vocations as well.

In this community of the youth group, we truly experience the spirit of unity, communion and liveliness. "For there Yahweh bestows his blessing, everlasting life." (Ps.133: 3) In Christ, we share the same body and blood, that enable us to be one in spite of our individual differences, in communion we witness the Peace, Joy and Love of Christ. "How good, how delightful it is to live as brothers all together!"(Ps.133: 1)

Rev. Benedict Lam
Chairperson
October 1st, 2005

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