

ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE DIOCESAN VOCATION COMMISSION

October 2005- September 2006

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. (Till February 2006)
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 Lai – Auxiliaries of the Apostolate

1 Project on Vocation Promotion

1.1 Prayer Movement for Vocations

A Pilgrimage to St. Margaret Mary's Parish

Date: November 5th, 2005 - Saturday

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 4:30p.m

Content: Rosary and prayer for vocations were prayed in the Church, a welcome speech by Fr. Jacob Kwok in the Hall followed by sharing in the brief history of the Church and the activities from the Vocation Promotion Team of St. Margaret's Church.

Participants: 60 members of the Prayer Movement for Vocations with Fr. Benedict Lam, Sr. Louise Lam and Fr. Jacob Kwok.

Evaluation: Since the attendance was unsatisfactory, this kind of activity will be reduced from twice to once yearly.

1.2 DVC Website

All the vocation activities organized by the Commission were recently updated, so as to share our sweet memories with the visitors. The reports after the interviews of Priests and Religious Sisters/Brothers published on the Kung Kao Po were uploaded to our website.

Evaluation: The updated contents together with the creative presentation can sustain the interests of some visitors.

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 A One-year Project on the interviews of Priests and Religious Sisters/Brothers carried out by the Youth Group

A joint venture with Kung Kao Po has been carried out since January 2006; the reports of the interviews written by the youth were published on the Kung Kao Po.

Evaluation: These reports were found inspiring, interesting and informative giving the Readers a clear picture of the meaning of vocation and different types of Ministries in H.K.

1.5 An Inter-Catholic Secondary School Day organized by Serra Club

Facilitator: Fr. Matthew Chan (SDB)

Date: November 12th, 2005.

Venue: St. Mary's Canossian College

2. Vocation Gathering

2.1 A Spiritual Camp

Date: December 30th 2005 to January 1st 2006

Venue: Holy Spirit Seminary

Theme: A Pass-over Vocation Journey

Spiritual Directors: Fr. Benedict Lam and Sr. Louise Lam.

Participants: Four boys, six girls and one Deacon

Evaluation: Mostly, the participants appreciated the recitation of the Divine Office and over- night adoration. The sharing of the participants in the big group was not in depth; because they were not reciprocally acquainted. The Venue was found a suitable place for this kind of activity.

3. 43rd World Day of Prayer for Vocations on May 7th, 2006

3.1 The theme of this year is "Love, a little more..."

3.2 Posters were distributed to all Parishes and Secondary Schools

3.3 Vocation Activity

3.3.1 Prayer for vocations

Theme: "Love, a little more..."

Date: May 6th, 2006, Saturday.

Time: 8:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

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

Content: Prayer for vocations with sharing by Michelle Cheung
(a postulant of Sisters Announcers of the Lord)

Participants: Approximately 150 with Fr. Benedict Lam,
Bro. John Chong, Sr. Lucia Mak, Sr. Louise Lam,
Mr. Howard Sou, Ms. Clare Lai.

Evaluation: The prayerful atmosphere was appreciated, and the sharing of Michelle was lively and interesting to the youths.

3.3.2 Vocation Exhibition and Vocation Night

3.3.2.1 Vocation Exhibition

Theme: "Love, a little more..."

Date: May 27th, 2006 – Saturday

Time: 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Venue: Caritas Community Hall

Guests: Rev. Dominic Chan, V.G.; Rev. Sr. Anna Maria Kwan (FDCC),
Chairperson of The Association of Major Religious Superior of
Women in H.K.; Mr. Peter Kam, President of Serra Club.

Content: Display prepared by 24 Institutes, entertainments performed by Salesian Youth, Franciscan youth and Fr. Giles Chong (OCSO) and the half- hourly adoration and prayer for vocations at the Cathedral.

Visitors: 500-600 person-time

3.3.2.2 Vocation Night

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Guests: Rev. Francis Lau, Deacon Thomas Hsueh (SDB)

Sr. Lilly Mary Duggimpudi (FMM) and Sr. Paula Lau (SPB).

Souvenirs: Wooden Crucifix

Content: Cardinal's speech showed on the short video clip, drama, sharing by the four guests concluded with the prayer and blessing of the priests present.

Participants: Approximately 400

Evaluation: The displays were adequately prepared and well set up by all exhibitors, the contents were interesting and informative. The presence of Priests, Religious Sisters / Brothers, Members of the Serra Club and the Auxiliaries of the Apostolate created a family-like and festive atmosphere, witnessing the joy and unity of the Universal Church. The variety show was amusing. The drama delivered a clear message on: "The family is the cradle for cultivating vocations". The guests shared their joy of answering to God's call with the participants through their lively sharing of their personal experiences.

4. Itinerant Activity on Prayer for Vocations

4.1 Theme: "A Life of Praise"

Date: November 5th, 2005 - Saturday

Time: 7: 30 p.m. – 9: 00 p.m.

Venue: St. Ignatius' Chapel – Wah Yan College, Kowloon.

Content: Taize Prayer with Sharing by Deacon Martin Yip (SDB)

Participants: Approximately 50 with Fr. Benedict Lam, Sr. Louise Lam and Bro. John Chong.

Evaluation: The chapel was undergoing renovation, so the prayer meeting was relocated to the activity room; the small room was found warm, cosy and conducive to prayer.

4.2 Theme: "A Faith Passover Journey"

Date: January 21st, 2006 – Saturday

Time: 8:00 p.m. –9:30 p.m.

Venue: Cathedral

Guest: Rev. Peter Choy

Participants: 120 with Rev. Dominic Chan V.G., Sr. Louise Lam, Mr. Howard Sou, Mrs.& Rev. Leung, Pastor of St. Paul's Anglican Church and their Church Members.

Content: Prayer for vocations and Christian Unity with Sharing by Rev. Peter Choy.

Evaluation: This joint venture with the working youths of the Cathedral was a good attempt to rouse up their awareness to pray for vocations.

4.3 Theme: “Live the Present Moment”

Date: September 9th, 2006 – Saturday

Time: 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Venue: St. Thomas The Apostle Parish

Guest: Rev. Joseph Yim

Content: Sharing from Rev. Joseph Yim followed by Taize prayer

Participants: 120 with Fr. Benedict Lam, Bro. John Chong, Bro. Michael Tham,
Sr. Mindassi and Sr. Louise Lam.

Evaluation: To the youths, Fr. Yim’s sharing was lively and interesting. The beautiful music and songs created a prayerful atmosphere.

5. Prayer Meeting for Vocation Discernment

5.1 The Monthly Prayer Meeting for boys

During this year, one boy had joined the Holy Spirit Seminary in January. The remaining four with two new comers will continue their vocation discernment with Fr. Pierre Lam and Sr. Louise Lam.

Fr. Benedict Lam guides another group of five.

5.2 The Monthly Prayer Meeting for girls

Two girls of this group have entered the Canossian Institute as postulants in October 2005, and one has joined the Sisters Announcers of the Lord in February 2006. The remaining six with one new comer will continue their discernment with Sr. Louise Lam; in the meantime they are in contact with the vocation promoters of various religious institutes of their own choices

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.

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

“Love it was that made us, and it was love that saved us. Love was God's plan, when He made men...”
This song implies that we are all made to love and true love is a pure gift from God!

This gift of love is visible in a group of energetic and generous young people, who have dedicated their life to serve in the Vocation Ministry since last year. They were indeed witnessing the theme of this year: “Love, a little more...” by giving not only their time but also their talents to make the Vocation Exhibition and Vocation Night so successful. Of course this merit was shared with the 21 Religious Institutions, Diocesan Priests and the Members of Serra Club and Auxiliaries of the Apostolate, their active participation and support were attributed to an effective outcome of this unforgettable event.

It was so touching to see so many priests, religious sisters and brothers together with lay people of different walks of life and different races, creating a family-like and festive atmosphere. Together, we have truly witnessed the universal love through give and take in our universal Church!

Rev. Benedict Lam
Chairperson
1 October 2006

Sr. Louise Lam
Executive Secretary