

ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE DIOCESAN VOCATION COMMISSION

October 2007- September 2008

2006 – 2008 Committee Members

Rev. Joseph Yim, 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. Benedict Lam, Diocesan Priest
Rev. Giles Chong, O.C.S.O.
Rev. Antonio Leung, S.D.B.
Rev. Bro. Stephen Law, SJ
Sr. Miriam Lui, SPB
Sr. Bernadette Lau, F.D.C.C.
Sr. Lucia Mak, F.M.M.
Sr. Luigia Mindassi, PIME
Mr. Howard S. P. Sou , Serra Club
Miss Clare Lai, Auxiliaries of the Apostolate

1. Project on Vocation Promotion

1.1 Annual Gathering for Members of Prayer Movement for Vocations

Date: 1 December 2007 - Saturday

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 4:30p.m

Venue: Holy Family Parish

Guests: Bro. Timothy Wan, Bro. Anthony Pun (SDB), Ms. Annie Yau (SPB)

Participants: 50 Members of the Prayer Movement for Vocations with Fr. Joseph Yim and Sr. Louise Lam.

Content: Sharing of vocation stories by the guests followed by Mass and refreshment.

Evaluation: The lack of transportation may be the cause of decreased attendance.

The Members were delighted because their prayers for vocations have been heard.

The sharing of vocation stories was lively and entertaining.

1.2 DVC Website

To attract visitors, the dvc blog is updated twice weekly, and all vocation activities organized by our commission are updated periodically, so as to share our joyful and regular events with the visitors.

The timetable of the vocation activities organized by the parishes was updated recently. This is to encourage more young people to attend mass and prayer for vocations in their own parishes.

Evaluation: The updated contents together with the creative presentation of the blog can sustain the interests of some visitors. Young people find that the rich content of the dvc blog is enlightening and interesting.

1.3 Catholic Hotline Service

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

1.4 A Joint Venture with Kung Kao Po

A joint venture with Kung Kao Po has been extended from August 2007 to September 2008. Four Priests and three Sisters and their families have been interviewed, the reports were posted on the Kung Kao Po and our website with the theme as such: "Family as the cradle for Vocations".

Evaluation: These inspiring reports have captured readers' interest and encouraged the parents to take initiative in cultivating vocations among their children.

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

Date: 25 November 2007.

Venue: St. Mary's Canossian College.

Theme: Dreams come true

Speakers: His Eminence Cardinal Joseph Zen (SDB) and Rev. Joseph Chan.

2. Vocation Gathering

2.1 Vocation Promotion Camp

Date: 5 - 6 April 2008

Venue: St. Paul's House of Prayer

Theme: An adventurous journey

Guests: Bro. Timothy Wan, Bro. Anthony Pun and Sr. Michelle Cheung (SAL).

Spiritual Directors: Fr. J. Yim, Fr. A. Leung, Fr. A. Irudayasamy, Bro. J. Chong Sr. Lucia Mak and Sr. M. Lui

Participants: Eight boys and six girls.

Content: Role-play, film appreciation, group sharing and spiritual direction.

Evaluation: The overall running of the Camp was very good. The most Welcoming items were: film appreciation, the sharing by the three Guests, and the personal encounter with the spiritual directors. A few of them have appreciated the importance of praying regularly, and trusting in God, They also have recognized some visible signs of vocations in this camp.

3. 45th World Day of Prayer for Vocations on 13 April 2008

3.1 The theme of this year is "Choosing the Better Part"

3.2 Posters were distributed to all Parishes and Secondary Schools

3.3 Vocation Night

A joint venture of celebrating the World of Prayer for Vocations and the 120th Anniversary of the Inauguration of the Cathedral

Theme: "Choosing the Better Part"

Date: 12 April 2008 - Saturday

Time: 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Venue: Caritas Community Hall

Guests: His eminence Cardinal J. Zen, Deacon Michael Tham, Sr. Noel Ting (FDCC).

Souvenir: A mobile phone string with dvc logo

Participants: Approximately 300 people with Fr. Joseph Yim, Fr. A. Leung, Bro J. Chong, Bro. S. Law, Sr. Louise Lam, Sr. B. Lau, Sr. L. Mindassi, Sr. M. Lui, Ms. C. Lai and Mr. H. Sou.

4.2 Theme: “A Graced-filled Life”

Date: 26 January 2008 – Saturday

Time: 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Venue: St. Andrew’s Parish

Guest: Ms. Clare Lai (Auxiliaries of the Apostolate)

Content: Sharing by Ms. C. Lai followed by Taize Prayer and small group discussion.

Participants: 50 with Sr. Louise Lam, Bro. J. Chong and Mr. Howard Sou.

Evaluation: The unsatisfactory attendance was attributed to cold weather. The prayerful atmosphere and the excellent singing were appreciated. Ms. Lai was delighted to share with the youths in a friendly atmosphere.

4.3 Theme: “Fullness of Life”

Date: 30 August 2008 – Saturday

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Venue: Rosary Church – Tsimshatsui

Guest: Sr. Nancy Margaret Cheung (SPC)

Content: Sharing by Sr. Nancy Cheung followed by Taize Prayer

Participant: 50 with Fr. J. Yim, Fr. B. Lam Bro. J. Chong and Sr. L. Lam.

Evaluation: Sr. Cheung’s sharing was very touching, and the lovely music created a unity in prayer.

5. **Prayer Meeting for Vocation Discernment**

5.1 The Monthly Prayer Meeting for boys

During this year, one boy has quitted this group; the remaining five with one new comer will continue their monthly prayer meeting with Fr. Pierre Lam and Sr. Louise Lam.

One boy from Fr. B. Lam’s group has joined the Holy Spirit Seminary in August 2008, and the remaining five will continue their discernment with Fr. B. Lam.

5.2 Monthly Prayer Meeting for girls

As requested by the girls, a visit to two Missionary Institutes was arranged on two separate days during summer holidays.

Three girls have quitted this group; the remaining four together with one new comer will continue their discernment with Sr. L. Lam.

Evaluation: The regular prayer meeting for vocation discernment provides spiritual direction as well as Vocation Accompaniment to the seekers. The girls seem to value the companionship and benefit from the faith sharing and the adventures on their vocation journey: while the boys do not have a strong sense of belonging, however they do benefit from the faith sharing.

Content: (1) An opening address by Rev. J. Yim and Rev. D. Chan, V.G.

(2) Blessing of the souvenirs by Cardinal Zen.

(3) Renewal of promise by DVC Youth Group at the presence of Cardinal Zen.

(4) The Prayer session named “The Music of Life” was divided into five movements:

1st movement: Beginning of life expressed in liturgical dance by Nor Chinese Dance Studio.

2nd and 3rd movements about God’s Calling and Our Response respectively presented by Deacon Tham and Sr. Noel accompanied with mime drama performed by the children.

- 4th movement on listening to the Word of God in our hearts was
a guided meditation & Prayer by Rev. D. Chan, V.G.
5th movement on our desire to give our life to God expressed in liturgical
dance as the Closing.

Evaluation: The prayerful atmosphere and the lively sharing of Deacon Tham and Sr. Ting were very much appreciated by the youths that composed of the majority of the participants. Some were amazed with the creative way of praying with the liturgical dance and the mime drama, while other found it distracting!

4. **Prayer for Vocations**

4.1 Theme: "Amazing Masterpiece"

Date: 10 November 2007 - Saturday

Time: 7: 30 p.m. – 9: 00 p.m.

Venue: St. Benedict's Parish.

Guest: Rev. Deacon Joseph Liu

Content: Sharing by Rev. Deacon Lui followed by Prayer for vocations and small group discussion.

Participants: Approximately 110 with Fr. J. Yim, Fr. A. Irudayasamy, and Br. John Chong, Sr. Louise Lam, Sr. L. Mak, Sr. Luigia Mindassi, and Mr. Howard Sou.

Evaluation: The majority was of young people from various Parishes; they enjoyed the Prayerful atmosphere and have learned more about Vocations at this meeting. The effect of the group sharing was satisfactory.

6. **Outreaching Activities**

6.1 Vocation Promotion Gathering for The Pioneers of Christ

Date: 1 December 2007 – Saturday and 12 April 2008- Saturday

Time: 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

Venue: St. Frances Canossian School

Participants: Primary three Students and Primary six Students

Evaluation: This was the experiment done by Ms. Catherine Lui at a voluntary basis. It is a good attempt for awakening the awareness of vocations in both teachers and Students, if opportunity is granted with no other constraints, it might be worth continuing.

6.2 South-west Kowloon Deanery Bi-monthly Meeting -19.03.08, Wednesday

Sr. Louise Lam was invited by Rev. J. Tsang to share with all the parish Priests of the aforesaid Deanery about the vocation promotion activities. They showed eagerness to support and cooperate with the DVC projects.

6.3 Talk at Francis Hsu Catholic College

Sr. Louise Lam was invited to deliver a "Religious Talk" to the first year students of the aforesaid college. Only a few catholic students out of 100 students were present. The response was good.

7. The Youth Group Gathering

7.1 Youth Formation

Date: 16 December 2007

Time: 4:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Venue: Covered Playground of Sacred Heart Canossian College of Commerce

Content: Bible sharing, sharing of dreams followed by supper.

Participants: 20 Young people with Fr. Yim, Sr. Luigia and Sr. Louise Lam.

Evaluation: The small group sharing was in depth; it was a good opportunity to improve interpersonal relationship.

7.2 Thanksgiving Celebration

Date: 24 May 2008

Time: 8:00 p.m.-10:00p.m

Venue: Sacred Heart Canossian College of Commerce

Content: Bible sharing followed by sharing of personal vocation, dreams and mission.

Participants: 20 with Sr. L. Lam.

Evaluation: It was a happy occasion for team building through sharing of the young people's achievement in promoting vocations.

Closing Remarks

Jesus affirmed that Mary had chosen the better part (Lk 10:42), which is to live in the presence of Jesus and to listen to His word, then live it. Jesus often speaks to us in the silence of our hearts and through the daily events or people we come in contact with.

Life in H.K. is so fascinating and hectic, people are easily distracted by this turmoil, and unable to meet Jesus or hear His calling/invitation! A teen athlete attributed her success at breaking the record among the H.K. athletes to a good training environment in Shenzhen, where she encountered fewer temptations, and could concentrate in the training better than when she was in H.K. This teen athlete was so delighted and willing to leave behind her beloved parents, her study and the comfortable and luxurious life in H.K., went to Shenzhen, for a strict disciplined training, just for a wreath that will wither; while St. Paul was striving for a wreath that will last (1Cor 9:25).

Following the example of St. Paul, may we move out of our comfort zone and make a step forward to follow Jesus Christ. As Paul said we have not yet attained the goal, or become perfect. Let us forget what is behind and so do our best to reach what is ahead. May we keep running straight toward the goal in order to win the prize, which is God's call through Christ Jesus to the life above (Phil 3:12-14).

Rev. Joseph Yim (Diocesan Priest)
Chairperson
1 October 2008

Sr. Louise Lam (FDCC)
Executive Secretary

