

Annual Report

1. Project on Vocation Promotion

1.1 Annual Gathering for Members of Prayer Movement for Vocations

A Visit to St. Joseph's Home for the Aged

Date: 30 November 2013 (Saturday)

Time: 3:00 p.m. to 5:00p.m

Venue: St. Joseph's Home for the Aged, Sheung Shui

Participants: 50 Members of the Prayer Movement for Vocations with
Sr Louise Lam and Sr Catherine Fung.

Content: Adoration, Rosary, Tour of the Home for the Aged followed by refreshments.

Evaluation: All participants expressed that they found the visit both interesting and meaningful. During the visit, the participants had the pleasure of partaking in prayer for vocations as well as obtaining relevant information for their elderly family members.

1.2 DVC Website

The DVC blog is normally updated twice a week, and may be updated even more frequently especially when interesting issues arise. The average number of visitors per day is around 104 till present. We have uploaded the vocation talk given by Sr Maria Ko and a recording of interviews of 14 Diocesan Priests regarding their vocation onto our Facebook as well.

Evaluation: The increased number of visitors to our blog has been very encouraging. And lately more young people have visited our updated Facebook, expressing a growing interest in our webpage

1.3 Follow-up Programme for Vocation Promoters

1.3.1 Spiritual Direction

Date: 7 December 2013 (Saturday)

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Venue: Top floor, Grand building, 15-18 Connaught Road Central

Facilitator: Rev. Benedict Lam

Attendance: One Religious Brother, four Religious Sisters, one Lay Missionary and seven Vocation Commission Members: Fr B. Lam, Sr L.Lam, Fr Charlton, Sr T. Chan, Sr. C. Sin, Sr C. Fung, and Mrs Lo Ho Tak Fan

Evaluation: Fr. Lam had invited Sherman Luk (Leader of Touch Youth Grp.) and Dominic Cheng (Leader of S.W.ING) to share their faith and spiritual work with the youth. In general the youth were impressed by the non-traditional and lively manner of the talks and of performance of the Eucharistic celebration and adoration. However the camp did not seem to leave a lasting increase in devotion as the youth were not able to persevere to pray on their own when they return to their normal life.

1.3.2 Compassionate Communication

Date: 22 February 2014 (Saturday)

Time: 10am to 12:30 pm

Venue: Top floor, Grand Building 15-18 Connaught Road, Central, H.K.

Facilitator: Rev. Bro William Ng. OFM

Attendance: One Brother, Eight Religious Sisters with Sr L. Lam, Sr. C. Sin and Sr S. Covini.

Evaluation: The participants found that the input (content) was factual and interesting and the exchange of experience was enriching. They all have benefited from this learning session.

1.3.3 Spiritual Day camp

Date: 1 March 2014 (Saturday)

Time: 9:00 am ó 4:00 pm
Venue: Canossian Centre, 36 Caine Road, H.K.
Facilitator: Sr Susanna Yeung (FDCC)
Attendance: Three Religious Sisters with Sr Louise Lam, Sr Catherine Fung ,
Sr C.Sin and Sr M. Mou.
Evaluation: All participants appreciated the contemplative method suggested and
found the small group sharing enriching and enlightening.

1.4 Teaching Materials for Vocation Promotion

The Vocation commission has commenced a two-year joint project with the Centre for Religious and spirituality Education at the Hong Kong Institute of Education. The aim of this project is to create a culture whereby Catholic students are encouraged and empowered to realize and live according to their vocation. A ready-made teaching kit suitable for students of lower form will be provided for teachers and pastoral workers in the schools as well as Sunday Schools in the parishes.

A pilot study was planned to be carried out in October 2014, nine secondary schools have enrolled to take part in this first trial of our teaching plan.

2. 51st World Day of Prayer for Vocations on 10 May

- 2.1 Theme: ðExtraordinary in Ordinaryö
- 2.2 Promotion: Posters were uploaded to DVC website, Facebook and blog; also by mail to all Parishes, Religious Institutes and Secondary Schools.
- 2.3 Vocation Night
Date: 10 May 2014 (Saturday)
Time: 7:00 a.m. ó 9:00 p.m.
Venue: Caritas Community Hall
Guests: His Eminence John Tong Hon and Rev. P. Lam VG.,
Speakers: Bro Carlos Cheung (SBD), Miss Janet Ng (Pastoral Worker)
Participants: Approximately 200 young people with Fr Benedict Lam, Sr Louise Lam, Bro John Chong; Fr. G.Chong, Fr. Charlton, Sr. T. Chan, Sr C. Fung; Sr Clare Sin and Sr S. Covini. Mrs Lo Ho Tak Fan.
Contents: Ice-breaking games, Action songs, Witnessing, and Taize Prayer.
Souvenirs: Earphone Winder
Evaluation: The two MCs were able to create a festive atmosphere and elicited lively interactions from the audiences. The games were simple with the participation of the two speakers making it more meaningful. The message of Vocation was precisely delivered to the participants through the witnessing of Bro Carlos Cheung and Miss Janet Ng. The vocation night ended with a short Taize Prayer. Overall, the presentation of the vocation night was very lively and entertaining, even though it went 45 minutes overtime.
- 2.4 **“Vocation in Print”**- Publication by the clergy: organized in joint effort with Catholic Diocesan Archives
Date: 8-10 May (Thursday ó Saturday)
Time: Grand opening at 2 p.m. on 8 May
10:00 am ó 5:00 pm on 9 May
10:00 am ó 4:00 pm on 10 May
Venue: 1/F., Block C, Caritas House, 2-8 Caine Road, H.K.
Evaluation: Though this was only a mini exhibition open for only a short period of time; it helped increase awareness to the public the writings published by 150 various Religious persons, hopefully more people may be inspired to think about their vocation after reading these articles.

3. Quarterly Vocation Gathering

3.1 “Love without Delay”

Date: 1 December 2013 (Sunday)
Time: 2:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Venue: Rosary Church,125, Chatham Road south, T.S.T., Kowloon.
Guest: Rev. Christopher Joannes Chor,OP
Content: Witnessing followed by Taize Prayer
Participants: 50 adults with Sr Louise Lam, and Sr Margaret Mou.

Evaluation: It was a pleasant and prayerful evening. The participants appreciated Fr Chor's lively sharing of his vocation and religious life. He recommended young people to listen to the invitation of God through personal prayer.

3.2 Prayer for Deacon Wan Prior to his Ordination

Date: 12 April 2014 (Saturday)
Time: 7:15 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Venue: St. Teresa's Church, Kowloon.
Guest: Deacon Timothy Wan and Rev. D. Chan, VG
Participants: 100 young people with Sr Louise Lam.
Content: Film appreciation, Heart-to-heart Dialogue, Rosary, Adoration and Benediction (Presided over by Rev. D. Chan VG).
Evaluation: Deacon Timothy's sharing was sincere and lively and was an inspiration to the young people. At the Eucharistic adoration, young people were given a silent moment for personal reflection, which turned out to be a really good ideal!

3.3 Vocation Month Activity

Theme: The wonder of Vocation: God's Call and Man's Response in the Bible
Date: 25 May 2014 (Sunday)
Time: 2:30 pm to 4:00pm
Venue: Holy family Parish Rm113
Guest: Rev. Maria Ko, FMA. S.T.D.
Participants: 100 adults with Fr. B. Lam, Sr Louise Lam, Sr M. Mou, Sr C. Sin. and Bro John Chong
Evaluation: Sr Maria Ko's presentation on the calling of the prophets was lively and enriching. The participants were inspired to think of their vocation and motivated to give a generous response to God's invitation.

3.4 A Cheerful Giver

Date: 16 August 2014 (Saturday)
Time: 7:00pm to 9:00 pm
Venue: Rosary Church, Tsimshatsui, Kowloon.
Guest: Rev. Stephen Lee Bun Sang
Content: Witnessing followed by Taize Prayer
Participants: 50 audiences with Sr Louise Lam and Sr Catherine Fung.
Evaluation: It was a pleasant and prayerful evening. Fr Lee depicted the call of Moses to illustrate the essence (meaning) of vocation, and emphasized how the importance of meditation on the Word of God and the exercise of the virtues are feasible ways to find the will of God and responding to His invitation respectively. The youth were very much inspired by Fr Lee's senses of humour and liveliness.

4 Prayer Meeting for Vocation Discernment

4.1 Monthly Prayer Meeting for boys

During this year, one young man quit while three newcomers have joined the group resulting in a total of six boys regularly attending the meeting for vocation discernment with Fr Joseph Liu and Sr Louise Lam.

4.2 Monthly Prayer Meeting for girls

Throughout this year, six girls have joined this group with three existing ones seeking discernment with Sr. Louise Lam.

Evaluation: The young people have been too busy with their work and studies, and therefore feel like they can spend little time in their prayer life. Therefore, their spiritual growth is progressing slowly! They are encouraged to strengthen their spiritual life by putting prayer on the top priority.

5 New Approach on Vocation Promotion

The lack of vocations is alarming. We feel the urge to create a culture that awakens vocations in our diocese. Since unity is strength, three working groups were formed with Fr B Lam and Sr L. Lam as Ex-officio members. The mission of these groups is to establish a good bonding relationship with all other vocation promoters of the religious Institutes, the Parishes and the Schools respectively. Subsequently strategies may be made for the implementation of Vocation Promotions in these areas of concerns. These groups are:

5.1 Education Group

Team members are: Sr Teresa Chan, Bro John Chong and Fr Martin Yip

Task: - Taking part in the production of the teaching kit
- Exploring ways to meet the pastoral workers in the schools

5.2 Pastoral Group

Team members are: Sr Margaret Mou, Fr Joseph Liu, Deacon Tang, Mr Paul Chan and Ms Ho

Tasks: - Contacting youth in the Parishes through activities
- Meeting Family Group in the Parishes to educate the parents

5.3 Religious Group

Team Members are: Sr Catherine Fung, Fr Charlton, Sr Clare sin and Sr Sandra Covini

Tasks: - Visiting the Religious Institutes to establish good relationship with them
- Planning the follow-up programme for Vocation Promoters

Evaluation: We believe that the above project has been a good attempt as it takes time to create a culture of vocation in our diocese and is therefore worthwhile to continue for another year. Every effort should be made to explore the needs and new direction for building up vocations, whereby a feasible plan can be made for the coming year.

Closing remarks

Life in H.K. is competitive, hectic, fast changing and full of tension. In general, people are obsessively time-conscious. Time is often seen as equivalent to money and efficiency is often seen as synonymous with achievement or success.

In H.K., a common response to a normal greeting is to say that one is "very busy". This is often followed by a number of complaints which could range from having no spare time for one's family, children, and friends, to having no time for performing religious activities, personal prayer, and sometimes even for meals and rest!

There is a creative interpretation on the word busy as "being under Satan's yoke". Who is Satan to us? Isn't Satan within ourselves other than outside us? The only way to keep Satan out of our mind and heart is through prayer! Jesus reminds us to stay awake and pray not to be put to temptation for the spirit is willing enough, but human nature is weak. (Mt 26:41)

Let us pray for our society. In particular, let us pray for our youths that they may be able to set their prayer life as a top priority and let God take control of their life and that they may find the will of God and be ready to respond to His call with love.

Rev. Benedict Lam (Diocesan Priest)
Chairperson
1 October 2014

Sr Louise Lam (FDCC)
Executive Secretary

2012 – 2014 Committee Members

Rev. Benedict Lam, Diocesan Priest ó Chairperson

Sr Louise Lam, FDCC ó Executive Secretary

Rev. Bro. John Chong, FMS ó Treasurer

Rev. Giles Chong, OCSO

Rev. Martin Yip, SDB.

Rev. Joseph Liu, Diocesan Priest

Rev. Charlton Plateros, SVD

Rev. Deacon Bernard Tang, Diocesan

Sr Catherine Fung, FDCC

Sr Margaret Mou, SPB

Sr Teresa Chan, FMM.

Sr Sandra Covini, PIME

Sr Clare Sin, RGS

Mr. Patrick Chan, Serra Club

Mr. Paul Chan

Ms. Ho Tak Fan