

Revised Proposal for the Celebration of “The Year of Priestly Vocations 2009-2010”
to the Diocese of Hong Kong

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few, pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”(Lk 10:2) **Jesus’ appeal for “Prayer for Vocations”** is a crucial way in resolving vocations crisis in this present time. Vocation is a gift from God; it is Jesus who has chosen us not that we have chosen him (Jn 15:16). The Diocesan Vocation Commission (DVC) therefore would recommend all Parishes in H.K. to emphasize **“Prayer for Vocations”** as a **“Top Priority”** above all other activities to be scheduled **for “The Year of Priestly Vocations 2009-2010”**.

To sensitize all Catholics of H.K. in the celebration of the year of priestly vocations, the following suggestions are for your reference:

1. Prerequisite - Individual study of the following reports: “The Vocation and Continuous Formation of the Diocesan Priests”, “Marriage and Family Pastoral Care” and ”Youth and Young Teenage Pastoral Care”.

2. Renewing Parish Groups – To implement the proposals of the Diocesan Synod, all Parishes are recommended to set up a Vocation Promotion Team (2002 Diocesan Synod Document pg. 74 & 76 CIX; pg.259, 3.1.9) and a Parochial Pastoral Committee for the Family (abbr. PPCF, 2002 Diocesan Synod Document pg.203):
 - 2.1 To form a Vocation Promotion Team with 6-8 members: their role is to invite all Catholics to pray for vocations at regular meetings and to join the Diocesan Vocation Commission’s “Prayer Movement for Vocations”. This Team should try to recommend at least one young person yearly for vocation discernment with the Parish Priest concerned.

 - 2.2 To form regular Youth Gathering on every first Thursday praying for vocations, with the aim to empower the youth with the sense of mission to pray for vocations. The target groups are the Altar Boys and the Legion of Mary guided by a Spiritual Director.

 - 2.3 To encouraged the PPCF or appoint 2-3 Families to pray for vocations in the home, aiming at increasing their children’s knowledge of vocations and their awareness of their vocations in an informal setting.

3. Vocation Activities – The aim is to bring to the awareness of all Catholics- Young and Old alike that “ Promoting Vocations is Everybody’s Concern”
 - 3.1 Pilgrimages for Vocations at Deanery Level - Visits to Holy Spirit Seminary or Men’s & Women’s Religious Institutes with an intention to pray for vocations.

- 3.2 Interviewing Priest, Religious Brothers and Sisters regarding their vocation journey and publish their vocation stories on the parish newsletters (named as “Star of the Month”, please refer to 4. 2).
- 3.3 Vocation Exhibitions at Deanery Level – Invite Religious Institutes within the Deanery to coordinate Exhibitions with the aim to increase the awareness of the urgent needs for vocation promotion and make known the essence of Consecrated life and Priesthood to the faithful.
- 3.4 Open day organized by Men’s & Women Religious Institutes during their Anniversary Celebrations.
- 3.5 Joint Venture between DVC and Diocesan Youth Commission in organizing “Youth Formation Activities”.
- 3.6 Each Deanery should try to organize a “Vocation Promotion Camp” at least once within 2009-2010.
4. Vocation Formation – Helping parents and children alike to appreciate the beauty and meaning of Married Life, Consecrated Life and Single Life.
 - 4.1 Formation programs for parents
 - 4.2 Formation programs for youths
 - 4.3 Vocation magazines, books, CDs and VCDs
5. Vocation Promotion – “Promoting Vocations is Everybody’s Concern”
 - 5.1 Every effort should be made by Parish Priests to encourage all parishioners especially the young to support all kinds of vocation promotion activities organized by the DVC.
 - 5.2 “Star of the Month” - Publishing the Vocation Stories shared by Priests, Religious Brothers and Sisters on the Kung Kao Po.
 - 5.3 Sharing the jubilarians’ Charisms when Celebrating Jubilees.
 - 5.4 Each Priest engaged in “Pastoral Ministry” should try to encourage at least one young person for vocation discernment within 2009-2010 (2002 Diocesan Synod Document pg.259).