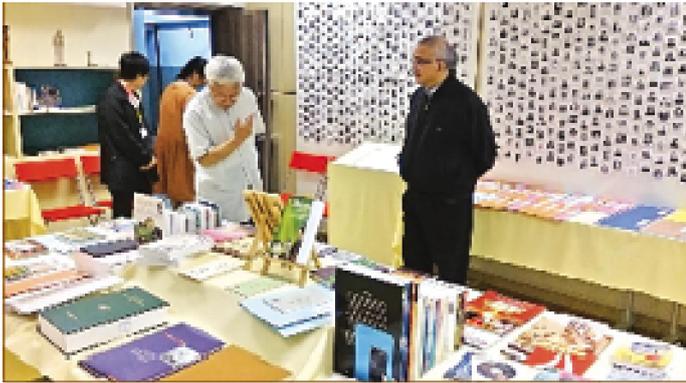


Writings of local religious go on display

CATHOLIC NEWS OF THE WEEK . Saturday, 14 June 2014



HONG KONG (SE): The Diocesan Vocations Commission and the Archives Office organised an exhibition on the publications of around 150 religious who have worked in Hong Kong at the Archives Office, Caine Road, from May 8 to May 10.

The exhibition was conducted in response to the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, which fell on May 11.

The preparation started one year beforehand as the Archives Office gathered the exhibits from priests and sisters, while some are provided by the office itself.

Several hundred publications written by priests, sisters, seminarians and permanent deacons were on display.

These publications, most being Chinese, covered homilies, pilgrimages, missionary experiences and the commemorations of priestly ordinations.

There are also books about life stories of priests, such as Lawrence Bianchi of Hong Kong written by Piero Gheddo and, and one about Father Lido Mencarini, from the Pontifical Foreign Missions Institute (PIME), written by Father Giorgio Bernardelli.

The two books, published by the Catholic Truth Society, give a glimpse of the wisdom of the Church leaders in the development of the diocese in 1950s and 1960s, as well as the contribution made by the Italian missionary society.

Photographs of the over 900 deceased priests who have served in Hong Kong since the late 1900s formed a memorial wall at the entrance to the exhibition, showing that the Church in Hong Kong of today is the fruit of their response to the call to vocation and hard work.

Besides written material, video interviews with around 14 priests were put together and were available for viewing.

Father John Kwan Kit-tong, a columnist for the Chinese-language Catholic newspaper, the Kung Kao Po, for 20 years has just celebrated his 35th anniversary of ordination. A sentimental person, he revealed that he could not stop the tears running on some occasions while presiding at funerals.

Father Kwan said that such strong feelings inspired him to write his reflections about his ministry. The Archives Office also made compilations of other columnists who have written for the Kung Kao Po over the past 50 years.

Diocesan archivist, Father Louis Ha Ke-loon, said priests choose to spread the message of faith through having their writing published, because it can reach more people.

He described them as meaningful, as they form records of their spiritual experiences and lives, as well as what was happening in the Church at different times.

He said that he hopes the exhibition will inspire more people to think about their vocation.

Father Peter Leung Tak-choi, parish priest of Annunciation Church in Tsuen Wan, said that writing is a good way to promote the faith, as it is a detailed record of personal views and journeys of vocation.

His messages in parish newsletters and talks have been compiled into book form and can be accessed with smartphone applications.

Sister Margarita Chan Mei-yung, from the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, said, "Vocations are the fruit of a mature Church, which prompt people to dedicate their lives to Jesus Christ. The sharing of the priests in writing can help lay people understand how they serve God in different ways, which helps people to respond to their own vocation."

(This article is quoted from SUNDAY EXAMINER)