



# **Annual Report 2017**

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## ❖ FOREWORD ❖

**Rev Francis Lau**

Year 2017 has just passed, and in the course of welcoming year 2018, the Central Council is prepared to start up its celebration program for migrating to its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This serves a great opportunity for us to review our past and plan for our future.

When I prepared for the Diamond Jubilee Preparatory Committee Meeting, the question of “What is Central Council’s role in the Church?” came into my mind. I referred to the Aims of the Constitution, where clearly states: “to promote, centralize and coordinate the work of evangelization of the laity; “to promote the sharing of orientations and methods of work and experiences among member organizations”. Over the years, we may achieve the former with less difficulty since quite a number of people had recognized their apostolic mission and enhanced their faith through the evangelization and formation activities organized by the Central Council, however, we still need to work harder on the latter.

Parish councilors are all laity leaders with abundant experiences, who devoted themselves to the planning of all sorts of formation and spiritual activities in relation to faith development and community communion for their parishioners. The leaders of the Associations of the Faithful do the same by guiding their members to carry out the missions of their respective associations. If the Central Council can group all these leaders together, and offer them opportunities to share experiences and insights, exchange leadership know-how and techniques, a mutual learning environment would then be established, and the Central Council’s role would be more fully manifested as well. which would ultimately result in excellence. To accomplish this objective, apart from Executive Committee’s promotion, Secretariat’s cooperation, the collaboration of the parish leaders and association leaders are of vital importance.

Moreover, the Central Council should closely follow the pace of the Diocese, comprehend Diocese’s pastoral direction, and encourage the faithful to positively respond. For the Central Council, Diocese’s support and encouragement are equally essential. I hope that the communication between the Diocese and the Central Council can be further strengthened for better efficiency.

While the Central Council is progressing to its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I wish, through the Central Council’s efforts, the Diocese together with all parishes, associations, and laity could walk towards Jesus Christ with solidarity, communion, love and harmony.

# ☞ ANNUAL REPORT ☞

## I. Central Committee

The Central Committee of the Hong Kong Central Council of Catholic Laity (Central Council) comprises the Executive Committee of Central Council and 79 Member Organizations, including 51 Parish Councils/Parish Pastoral Councils\* and 28 Associations of the Faithful\*\*.

*Note:*

*\* Both St Joseph's Parish (Central District & Mid-levels) and Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel (Lamma Island) have not yet set up a Parish Council.*

*\*\*In January this year, Association of the Children of Mary withdrew from the Central Committee.*

The 58th Annual General Meeting was held on March 9, 2017 at the Central Council's Activity Room ("Activity Room"), 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Holy Cross Centre. His Eminence Cardinal John Tong Hon officiated at the meeting. Attendees included Rev Dominic Chan, Rev Lawrence Lee, Rev Peter Leung, Rev Ambrose Mong, religious and laity, former Executive Committee Officers and Central Committee Councillors making up a total of 116 persons.

Five Central Committee Meetings were held during the year. Apart from reporting on the Central Council's activities, representatives of Member Organizations shared their latest news, activities and experiences during the "Members' Sharing Session". Guest speakers and representatives were invited to share their insights and responses respectively to the following topics:

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| April    | Exploring Ways to Promote the Caring of Parochial Families |
| June     | Pastoral Care for Parochial Family                         |
| August   | From Mission Sunday to Evangelization                      |
| December | The Year of Youth 2018, Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong      |

The overall average attendance rate in 2017 was 60.3% (last year

61.1%). The attendance rate of parish councils was 71.2% (last year 66.4%) and the attendance rate of lay associations was 49.4% (last year 51.7%). Please refer to Appendix 1 for details.

## **II. Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee consists of 13 Officers (please refer to Appendix 2), who meet with the Spiritual Director and the Executive Secretary on a monthly basis. A core team comprising the Spiritual Director, President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Ex-Officio Councilor and the Executive Secretary also meet monthly to discuss and monitor the development of various projects.

A 1-day retreat was held on July 1 at the St Paul's House of Prayer, Sheung Shui, NT. Executive Committee Officers, members of Lay Formation Committee, and members of 101 Gathering Organizing Committee attended. The theme of the retreat was "Simplicity is Spirituality".

On September 16, the Executive Committee Officers and all Secretariat staff gathered together to conduct the annual review and planning.

## **III. Financial Report**

### **1. Income**

The Central Council received total income of \$3,541,135.00 for the year, which was \$308,035.00 (8%) lower than the total income of \$3,849,170.00 in 2016. The reduction was mainly due to the following:

- a. Personal donation of \$1,010,053.00 was \$150,647.00 (13%) less compare with \$1,160,700.00 in 2016.
- b. Income from Laity Formation Program of \$132,494.00 was \$73,311.00 (36%) less compared with \$205,805.00 in 2016 since both the elementary level and intermediate level of the Laity Formation Program ceased to operate in this year (please refer to paragraphs 4 and 5 of Section V).
- c. Income from Evangelization Program of \$403,630.00 was

\$163,802.00 (29%) less than the income of \$567,432.00 in 2016 due to the total income contributed by the Chinese New Year Evangelization Stall and the Evangelization Media Production declined by \$164,268.00.

## **2. Expenditure**

The total expenditure of the Central Council amounted to \$3,971,350.00. A saving of \$470,746.00 (11%) compared with the total expenditure of \$4,442,096.00 in 2016, which was due to:

- a. The expenditure for Laity Formation Program of \$337,749.00 was \$146,450.00 (30%) less compared with \$484,199.00 in 2016 as both the elementary level and intermediate level of the Laity Formation Program ceased to operate in this year (please refer to paragraphs 4 and 5 of Section V), and the introduction of a lower-cost paper pack edition of the Spiritual Journal.
- b. The expenditure for Evangelization Program of \$862,724.00 was \$114,266.00 (12%) less than the expenditure of \$976,990.00 in 2016 due to lower operating cost for the Chinese New Year Evangelization Stall and lower production cost for the Evangelization Media.
- c. The Evangelization Fund granted \$341,172.00 in this year, which was \$152,064 (31%) less than the grant of \$493,236.00 given out in 2016.

## **3. Financial Performance and Accumulated Fund**

The year-end deficit amounted to \$430,215.00 (last year \$592,926.00), of which \$447,315.00 was the Central Council's deficit and was transferred to the Accumulated Fund; and \$17,010.00 was the Evangelization Fund profit and was transferred to the Evangelization Fund account.

As of 31 December 2017, the Accumulated Fund of the Central Council amounted to \$7,954,375.00 (last year \$8,401,690.00), and the Evangelization Fund maintained a balance of \$107,609.00 (last year \$90,509.00). Please refer to Appendices 4 and 5 for details.

The Central Council would like to thank all parishes, religious

institutes, associations of the faithful, and laity for their generous donations, and look forward to their continuous support in the years ahead.

## **IV. Evangelization**

### **1. Evangelization Committee**

This committee is led by the President, and its membership includes Vice Presidents, Secretary (Chinese), Secretary (English) and Executive Secretary. Two meetings were held during the year for monitoring the progress of all evangelization projects; designing and producing evangelization media; and developing new evangelization horizons. The committee also paid close attention to all the evangelization needs of the parishes, associations of the faithful and schools thereby cultivating a closer co-operation among them.

### **2. 101 Gathering**

The objective of 101 Gathering is to let the non-Catholic get to know the Catholic faith and explore deeply queries in their life in a casual environment. The laity could make use of this opportunity to carry out the mission of evangelization by accompanying at least one non-Catholic friend to attend this gathering. It is a simple but effective way of evangelization.

Currently there are 19 organizing committee members of whom 6 are core members. In their monthly meetings, members discuss the content of the gathering and train up their junior members as well. The core team also meets every two months to evaluate and plan for the operation.

This Gathering was held every even month, mainly on the 3rd Wednesday night. During the year, 6 gatherings were organized with different themes. Program included dinner, movie show, sharing, short talk from the Spiritual Director, questions and answers, hymns and prayers, etc.

Number of attendees (excluding helpers) for each gathering was: 21 in February, 22 in April, 90 in June , 30 in August, 18 in October and 13

in December. On average, 55% of the attendees are non-Catholics. The gathering in June was co-organized with the Holy Cross Parish. Newly baptized Catholics were invited to share their experience in conversion progress, and changes in their life and perspective of values after conversion.

Calendar cards showing scheduled dates of 101 Gatherings were printed and distributed to parishes for the promotion of the Gathering. They are intended to be used for facilitating laity to invite their friends and relatives to join the gathering.

The program summary of 101 Gatherings has been uploaded to the Central Council's website for easy reference. Parishes and Catholic schools are welcome to borrow the resources for organizing similar evangelization gatherings.

URL: [http://www.hkcccl.org.hk/page/101/101\\_program\\_summary.pdf](http://www.hkcccl.org.hk/page/101/101_program_summary.pdf)

### **3. Street Missionary**

The Central Council organized 6 street missionary activities - to reach out pedestrians in the Chinese New Year Fair at Victoria Park, Fu Tung Estate at Tung Chung, the neighbourhood of Holy Cross Church and Quarry Bay Park, Hong Kong Book Fair, Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park and Caritas Bazaar at Victoria Park. For the two major events at Chinese New Year Fair and Hong Kong Book Fair, pledging and sending ceremonies were held beforehand to help volunteers to know each other, comprehend the work scope and skills, and share experience so as to better equip themselves for street missionary. Before starting street missionary at respective venue, Rev Francis Lau, the Spiritual Director, presided at the rite of sending so as to elevate the morale of participants. The Central Council provided all evangelization media.

In 2017, 208 volunteers from legionaries and parishioners (last year 341) took part in street missionary, and approached 3,878 persons (last year 6,292) of whom 75.7% were non-Catholics (last year 76.5%). The above figures excluded that of the Chinese New Year Fair, the Hong Kong Book Fair and the Caritas Bazaar at Victoria Park.



#### **4. Chinese New Year Fair Evangelization Stall at Victoria Park**

During the Chinese New Year Fair at Victoria Park (from January 21 to 28 dawn), the Central Council set up a stall at Stall No 7 which served as the base for street missionary at Victoria Park. The theme of the stall was "God is Love". Three pledging ceremonies were held beforehand.

On 21 January, Rev Francis Lau officiated the opening ceremony to bless the stall and helpers. Equipped with red-packets, fai-chuns, contact cards and pamphlets as media of evangelization, volunteers introduced catholicism on site. Before the event, a team of volunteers prepared over 30,000 pieces of "evangelization fish" for free distribution to pedestrians and a few hundreds of hand-made display items were made for sale. These items attracted many people to the stall, including locals and tourists.

199 volunteers from legionaries and parishioners worked at the stall and 30 took part in the street missionary. They made contact with 466 persons, of whom 63% were non-Catholics.

#### **5. Street Missionary Variety Show**

The Central Council and Visitation Parish co-organized an evangelization event on Saturday, February 18 at the open area outside Fu Tung Estate, Tung Chung from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm with the theme "Peace and Joy at Tung Chung". Through the performances by various groups on stage, pedestrians were attracted to join the function. Teachers and students of Tung Chung Catholic Kindergarten and Tung Chung Catholic School gave their full support to the activity. Program included facial painting, balloon twisting, clown performance, lion dance, hymns, magic, Cantonese opera "The Parable of Seeds", short play "Catching Saints of Mercy", priest's blessing, chorus, etc.

Before the show, volunteers were sent out to the vicinity to carry out street missionary. 29 volunteers from legionaries took part and approached 613 persons of whom 90% were non-Catholics.

## **6. Hong Kong Book Fair**

The Central Council joined the Hong Kong Book Fair held at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre from July 19 to 25. The booth was located within the Catholic Zone, and “House is made up of Brick and Stones while Family is built with Love” was the main theme of the booth. Three pledging ceremonies were held before the event. On the first day of the book fair, the Most Rev Michael Yeung officiated at the blessing ceremony of the Catholic Zone to bless the workers and the Catholics present in the sending ceremony.

In accordance with the theme, the Central Council designed an Octopus card case for free distribution to fair-goers. Street missionaries made use of this item to start a conversation with fair-goers and spread the gospel message. They also invited fair-goers to write prayers on a heart-shaped wish card and posted it on the huge stall backdrop. This action symbolized their united spirit to build up a universal family. Two big photo frames were specially designed for the fair-goers to take photos with.

The newly published children prayer book “Dear God” was promoted at the stall. Other publications on sale included “Spiritual Journal”, Children Bible, Light and Salt Kindergarten Story Series, books published by Sign Editorial Board, other spiritual publications and evangelization items.

Over 1,000 wish cards were collected. During the Sunday Mass on July 30 at the Holy Cross Church, these items were presented as offering and parishioners were invited to pray for these intentions.

176 volunteers from legionaries and parishioners took part in helping in the stall, and 110 volunteers joined the street missionaries. The latter made contact with 2,263 persons of whom 73% were non-Catholics.

## **7. Evangelization Media Production**

### **a. Chinese New Year’s Fai-Chun, Red-Packet and Blessing Card**

The Central Council printed 150,000 sets of fai-chun and 160,000 blessing cards, distributed to the laity before Chinese

New Year for season's greetings. Words displayed on the fai-chun were "The call echos around the world; Jesus' Gospel passes on forever". Based on the quantities as requested by parishes, Catholic schools and lay associations, the Central Council printed 6 million red-packets . The red-packets are printed with the couplets of "Grace passing on to families, Homes brimming with God's Love". The small blessing card is specially designed as an insert for the red-packets to pass on God's Blessing to friends and relatives through the packets. All above items were distributed to parishioners through parishes, Catholic schools and lay associations for evangelization during Chinese New Year.

b. Chinese New Year Display Items

The Central Council invited tens of volunteers to make over 30,000 "evangelization fish" with printed evangelization verse, a variety of lanterns and display items with red-packets of past years, and 3D decorations with the words "Peace, Luck, Love God, Love Mankind". These items were given out or sold to visitors at the Chinese New Year Evangelization stall.

c. Evangelization Materials

Octopus card case was specially made for the evangelization in Book Fair. 40,000 pieces with an artwork theme of "House is made up of Bricks and Stones, Family is built with Love" were made and given away to the fair-goers. Parishes, Catholic schools and lay communities may place request for the provision of this item for their evangelization activities.

d. Other Evangelization Items Available for Collection on Request

- evangelization ball pen
- evangelization card
- eco-bag
- "What Do You Lack?" contact card
- Catholics' Perspective on Life and Faith" Evangelization booklet
- "To Know the Catholic Faith" booklet
- Thank-you envelopes for use at funerals

- English versions of “The History of Evangelization in Hong Kong”, etc

## **8. Production of Evangelization Visual Media**

### **a. Evangelization Website ([www.evanlife.org.hk](http://www.evanlife.org.hk))**

The Central Council posted various kinds of evangelization materials in the website such as introduction of evangelization, evangelization resources, garden of faith, evangelization sharings, etc. Some of them such as photos of evangelization materials, Gospel songs and "The History of Evangelization in Hong Kong" booklets can be downloaded for use. Moreover, the recent church documents and news of the Hong Kong Catholic Diocese were also being posted on the website.

### **b. Central Council’s Website ([www.hkcccl.org.hk](http://www.hkcccl.org.hk))**

Through the website, the latest news of evangelization and lay formation was released. Moreover, the resource materials of past lay formation events such as PowerPoint, notes and audio recordings could be reviewed. Church documents related to evangelization could also be downloaded.

### **c. Evangelization Digital Resources**

Currently there is a total of 97 short videos in the YouTube Channel of Central Council. New productions of this year included: 6 episodes of Evangelization Series. Rev Francis Lau, Spiritual Director of the Central Council and Rev Paul Kim of Korean Missionary Society shared their insight on evangelization.

### **d. Facebook of Central Council**

Through setting up a Facebook page, the Central Council released latest news of lay formation programs and activities, and broadcast public lectures.

## **9. Evangelization VISA Card (“EVC”)**

The EVC was jointly launched by the Central Council and Wing Lung Bank in March 1999, which included classic, gold and platinum cards. Currently only platinum cards are issued by the Bank. For each spending through purchase made through EVC, Wing Lung Bank contributes to the Evangelization Fund a rebate equivalent to 0.45% of the spending amount in support of evangelization activities. When using EVC, laity can introduce the Catholic faith to their non-Catholic friends and relatives. This card is considered to be an effective medium with broader spectrum and diversity.

Through their EVC accounts or any VISA card accounts, the laity may make donations to designated parishes, diocesan organizations, and lay communities. Wing Lung Bank charges the beneficiary parishes/organizations 2% of the donation amount as handling fee.

As at end-December 2017, there were 5759 EVC cardholders (last year 6,039). During the year, EVC promotion was arranged at the Orientation Day for the newly baptized. A thank you letter was sent to every cardholder in May to express gratitude to them for their support to the evangelization work through Wing Lung Bank's EVC statement circulation.

## **10. Evangelization Fund**

Funding comes from the rebate (0.45%) of each purchase spending made through the EVC, from which to sponsor the evangelization activities of various catholic communities. The Evangelization Fund Ad Hoc Committee is responsible for the governance and approval of all grant applications.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Evangelization Fund Ad Hoc Committee (2017-2019) consists of 17 members. Apart from 2 independent advisors and 4 representatives from the Executive Committee of the Central Council, namely the Spiritual Director, the President, the Treasurer, and the Executive Secretary, the other 11 members are representatives from 8 deaneries and 3 associations of lay faithful.

Rebate received during the year amounted to \$358,272.00 (last year

\$384,248.00). 24 entities (last year 22) including 1 deanery, 8 parishes, 5 schools and 8 church communities which received total grant of \$460,315.00 (last year \$539,184.00). Please see Appendix 6 for detailed information.

Applications for Evangelization Fund are assessed quarterly. Deadlines for application submissions are end of October, January, April and July.

During EVC promotion, the Central Council also gave a brief account of the current profile of the Evangelization Fund to let the laity understand the operation and the scope of subsidised activities so as to motivate them to apply for and keep on using EVC.

## **11. Catechetical Course (Correspondence & Online)**

This course is designed for non-Catholics who are searching for faith, and conducted via correspondence or online. Students are required to study the course materials and then submit their homework which would be reviewed by the tutors and returned to them afterwards, and may send queries and/or sharing to their tutors. The Secretariat is responsible for the co-ordination. During the year, three meetings were held with the voluntary tutors to review their problems encountered and seek solutions.

Currently there were 9 tutors and 41 students enrolled in the correspondence course, and 3 of them were new recruits.

The online course was manned by 8 tutors and the total number of active students was 16. The URL of the online course is <http://course.hkcccl.org.hk>.

Individual tutor of catechumenate classes distributed course materials to catechumen for reference. Course content is available for browsing and download from the website of the Council.

## **V. Laity Formation**

### **1. Formation Committee**

The Formation Committee is responsible to plan formation activities

and programs, and offer support to parishes. In addition, there are two ad hoc committees catering for the lay formation programs (elementary and intermediate levels), and the production of formation materials. The Formation Committee has 10 members, including 3 Executive Committee Officers, the Formation Officer, 1 religious sister and 5 lay persons. Meeting was held on a monthly basis with the Executive Secretary in attendance. In every meeting, a 30-minute session was designated for in-house formation. The Apostolic Exhortation "Amoris Laetitia" was studied during the year. In the meeting of August, members discussed and defined the direction for the coming year.

## 2. Formation Programs for the Parish

At the request of the parishes listed below, the Central Council conducted the following formation activities:

	Parish	Theme	Date	No. of attendees
1	St Patrick's Parish	Parish Pastoral Council Planning Day	January 7	16
2	St James' Parish	Reflection on the outcome brought about from the "Diocesan Pastoral Handbook (Revised Edition - Promulgated in 2017)" on the laity's life, ministry and evangelization	August 20	39

## 3. The Retreat for the Laity

The Central Council organized 6 retreats at the Diocesan Retreat House:

Date	Theme	Spiritual director	No of attendees
February 18-19	Faith among You, Myself and He	Rev William Yip	45
April 8-9 (Lent)	The Fire that ignites the Zeal of Life	Rev Beda Liu	46
May 27-28 (For catechumenate tutors)	"If only Yahweh's people were prophets." (Num 11:29) - Spirituality for Catechumenate	Most Rev Joseph Ha	40
August 26-27 (For catechumenate)			42

Date	Theme	Spiritual director	No of attendees
tutors)	tutors		
October 7-8 (Co-organized with DPCMF*)	Spiritual Retreat for Married Couples	Most Rev Joseph Ha	18 married couples
November 18-19 (Co-organized with DPCMF)	Spiritual Retreat for Families	Rev Andrew Fung	Cancelled due to insufficient enrolment
November 19 (For newly baptized)	Lift Up Your Hearts - Praying	Most Rev Joseph Ha	59
		Total	268

\* DPCMF stands for Diocesan Pastoral Commission for Marriage and the Family

#### 4. Orientation Day for the Newly Baptized

The event was held on Monday May 1 (public holiday), from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Southorn Stadium in Wan Chai. The theme was “Our Church is my family, Let us jointly build the Church - Concern for Marriage, Family and Life, Live up the Joy of Amoris Laetitia”. A total of 742 newly baptized and 130 catechumenate tutors attended.

His Eminence Cardinal John Tong, Coadjutor Bishop the Most Rev Michael Yeung, Auxiliary Bishop the Most Rev Joseph Ha, and Chancellor, Rev Lawrence Lee attended the event to welcome all newly baptized and delivered encouragement messages and greetings. Rev Dominic Chan, Vicar General, was not available but greeting the audience through a short video.

Program included multiple interactive sessions to deepen participants' knowledge of the universal church and that of the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong in a casual and joyful ambience. During the session to give thanks to tutors of catechumenate classes, Cardinal John Tong presented each tutor a souvenir (8G USB flash drive) as a token of thanks and the newly baptized sang the song “You Raise Me Up” to express their most sincere gratitude to their instructors.

Before and after the orientation gathering, exhibition of church history and sale of religious books were arranged. Six suppliers took part to promote books on biblical reading, spirituality, lay formation and



religious items.

## **5. "Love God More Day by Day" Lay Formation Program (Elementary Level)**

The Central Council organized this course in collaboration with the Diocesan Catechetical Centre, targets being the laity baptized within three years or those who have not received any formation after baby-baptism or the Sacraments of Initiation. The course provided a systematic post-baptismal formation on Christian's spirituality, Sacred Scriptures, Liturgy, Christian Values, Social Ethics, The Church Being a Religious Community, Christian Ministry and Mission to deepen their understanding of the above topics. In addition to classroom lectures, there were a retreat, and three life camps respectively for orientation, sodality and conclusion. Formation Committee members and experienced catechists formed the teaching team, and priests, religious sisters and lay persons were invited as guest speakers.

The seventh class was held every Wednesday night from September 17, 2016 to April 30, 2017 at the 17th floor of Catholic Centre—with 22 students completed the course.

The eighth class scheduled to be commenced on September 23, 2017 at the same venue every Wednesday evening was postponed to September 2018 due to insufficient enrolment.

## **6. "Rabbi, where do you live?" Lay Formation Program (Intermediate Level)**

The course targeted at lay persons baptized for at least 3 years or those who had finished the Lay Formation Program (Elementary Level). Participants might choose to attend full course or selective units. The full course consisted of 5 units, which were: Christian Spirituality and Mission, Sacred Scriptures, Liturgy, Doctrine, and Moral Studies. In addition to classroom lectures, participants were required to take part in three camps respectively for orientation, spirituality and conclusion. The teaching team was formed by experienced lay tutors who had acquired the Bachelor Degree in Religious Sciences Program awarded by the Holy Spirit Seminary College of Theology and Philosophy.

The fifth class commenced on September 24, 2016 and finished on April 23, 2017. Lectures were held every Tuesday at Activity Room or Talentum Bookshop, with 20 students finished the course.

The teaching team had reviewed the enrolment and manpower resources. It was resolved to run the course every alternate year. The sixth class will commence in September 2018.

## **7. Local Study Pilgrimage**

The Central Council organized two pilgrimages on January 7 and October 14, which were led by Rev Bruno Lepeu of Paris Foreign Missions (MEP) to visit the Bethanie and the Nazareth Press. Before the visit, Rev Bruno gave an introduction to the charisma, mission and works of MEP. Participants were greatly moved and touched by the sacrifice for God made by the missionaries who went to faraway lands to evangelize. Number of participants of the two pilgrimages was 99 and 97 respectively.

## **8. Course for New Missionaries - Lay Apostolate**

The course was organized by the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong to provide orientation to the new missionaries of the Hong Kong Diocese on the essential aspects of the local Church and the society, thus provided opportunity for them to learn about local culture, political and religious real situations and prepared themselves to participate more effectively in the pastoral work of the local church. The major target participants were the second-year missionaries and the lectures were conducted at the Holy Spirit Seminary College.

The Central Council was invited to teach the module on 'Lay Apostolate'. 16 missionaries attended the session on March 18, including 10 priests/seminarians, 5 religious sisters and 1 lay missionary. The contents covered: the change of the identity, role and mission of the laity before and after the Second Vatican Council; the ministry work of the laity in the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong, parishes and other sectors; and the evangelization and lay formation work of the Central Council.

During the class, the missionaries actively responded and were willing

to share the situation of their native countries and their experiences in contact with the laity here in Hong Kong. At the end of the session, tutors invited participants to reflect on how to move forward and enhance lay participation in the parish and community.

## **9. Post-baptismal Catechetical Course (Correspondence & Online)**

This course offers the laity a chance to renew their faith. There are 17 units for selection. Students are required to study the course materials and then submit their homework which would be reviewed by the tutors and returned to them afterwards. They may also send queries and/or sharing to their tutors.

During the year, there were 167 students and 9 tutors.

For the online course, there were 58 active online learners and 9 tutors.

URL: <http://course.hkcccl.org.hk>

## **10. Light and Salt Kindergarten Story Series**

This series provides a set of lively and dynamic supplementary teaching materials for Catholic kindergarten teachers to use in Religious Studies lessons. It is a joint publication of the Central Council and the Diocesan Catechetical Commission (Editorial Group for Kindergarten Material). The series has been well received and adopted by the Catholic kindergarten teachers and principals. The series consists of 42 volumes, 15 each for senior and junior classes, and 12 for nursery. In this year, 42,105 copies were subscribed and 225 complimentary copies of Teachers Books were provided to schools.

## **11. Refresher Lectures on Catechism**

The lecture series entitled “Bishop Teaches You Catechism” was co-organized by the Central Council and the Diocesan Commission for On-going Formation of the Laity. Four lectures were scheduled between December 2017 and September 2018. In each lecture, the Most Rev Joseph Ha would refresh the Catechism of the Catholic Church with the attendees. The dates and topics of the 4 lectures were as follows:

December 2, 2017	Christology: I believe Christ is True Man and True God
March 3, 2018	Christology: I believe Christ has risen from the Death
June 2, 2018	Mariology: I believe Holy Mary is the Mother of Christ and the Mother of the Church
September 1, 2018	Eschatology: I believe in Everlasting Life

The first lecture had already been held as scheduled at the 9th floor of the Catholic Diocese Centre. There were around 140 participants. The Central Council arranged live video streaming with Facebook and video recording so that those who could not be present at the venue and people overseas might watch simultaneously or review the lecture later. Every participant was given a souvenir card for stamping attendance record on the front page and writing reflections at the back page.

## **12. Art and Prayer Workshops**

To complement with the Refresher Lectures on Catechism in paragraph 11, the Central Council organized a series of art and prayer workshops.

The first workshop entitled ‘Gypsum Icon-making - I believe Christ is True Man and True God’ was held on December 16, 2017 at Activity Room. The facilitator taught the participants how to make gypsum icons and how to pray with the icon as a medium. The same workshop would be held on January 13, 2018.

## **13. Laity Resources Centre**

To further nurture the faith and spirituality of laity, the Central Council established this Centre in 2013 with an aim of enhancing their knowledge of spirituality, Sacred Scriptures, catechism, lay ministry, and learning their respective parishes through the provision of books, publications, information pamphlets and DVD, etc. Parishes may also provide the Centre with their published bulletins and publications for display, to facilitate the Centre as a platform for information sharing among parishes.

The Centre was located at the ground floor of Bishop Lei Pastoral Centre at 1 Tai Shek Street (next to the Central Council's office). The operating hours were as follows: Monday-Saturday 10am-12 noon and 2-5pm; Sunday 10am-1pm. A total of 10 regular volunteers were on duty as library assistants. There was a collection of 3,945 books including 21 new books bought for the year. Within the year, the Centre received 346 visitors, and loaned out 167 books. Since its establishment, a total of 103 library cards have been issued.

#### **14. Spiritual and Formation Materials**

##### **a. Spiritual Journal**

The Central Council published a spiritual diary for laity entitled "Spiritual Journal – Lord, Abide with us!" (paper pack edition), with an objective of nourishing the newly baptized a daily spiritual habit of reading the Sacred Scriptures, praying, reflection and integrating faith and life. Copies were given to those who received the Sacraments of Initiation and Confirmation in Easter 2017. The Spiritual Journal consisted of diary pages with biblical verses or saints' quotes for reflection, spiritual practice and praying, liturgical calendar, lay ministry and mission, life of faithful and formation resources, etc.

##### **b. Souvenir Card for the Sacraments of Initiation**

The Central Council provided the elects who would receive Sacraments of Initiation at Easter 2017 with souvenir cards for posting their baptism photos. Biblical verses were printed on the card to encourage the newly baptized always to remember God's promise: "I am with you always, to the very end of the age." The design at the back of the card aimed to remind them to be grateful to God always and they should have the passion to carry on evangelization.

##### **c. The Evangelical Beginner Teaching Kit (Beginner Level)**

The teaching kit aimed at encouraging the catechumenate tutors to include the topic of "Ministry of Evangelization" into the contents of studies for the newly baptized during the Mystagogy.

It would thus help the newly baptized to be aware of their mission to evangelize, to equip with the skill of evangelization and have a deeper experience of Sacraments. The kit provided three teaching modes: classroom teaching and activity mode (90 minutes); classroom teaching and activity mode (60 minutes); bible sharing mode of Basic Christian Community. Catechumenate tutors could use it flexibly. The teaching kit included tutors' version, learner's version with notes, and PowerPoint files. The e-edition has been uploaded to the Central Council's website in early March for catechumenate tutors' download and reference.

d. "Dear God" Children Prayer Book (New Edition)

This book was re-edited and published in July to help the parents nourish their children a good praying habit. The target groups were the students of Catholic kindergartens and junior primary schools. Through a series of scenarios illustrated by cartoons, the book depicted the praying life of the main characters in a day. 'Praying tips' were provided to teach children how they could pray continuously in their daily life. The book was also written in simple language to help parents explain to their children what praying is and how to pray. Commonly-used prayers were provided in Chinese and English to encourage children to use for praying. Beautiful stickers were attached to attract them to use this book. When they use the stickers, they might think of God and pray to God.

e. Materials given out free of charge

Items included "Living Faith", "Nature of Catholics", "Lay Ministry" cards; "I am a Catholic" bookmarks and display items; "The Road of Mysteries" rosary pamphlets; and "Evangelize and I will be blessed", etc.

f. Various Spiritual and Formation Books

Items included "Rosary: My Favorite Prayer", "Seize the Day", "Dare to Journey", "Questions & Answers on Catholic Faith", "Children Bible", etc.

g. Formation Workshop Catalogue

This promotion pamphlet provided information of the recent formation workshops, including lay spirituality, leadership potential and skill training, evangelization, etc. Member organizations are welcome to co-organize training with the Central Council.

h. Digital Formation Resources

The Central Council had produced different series of short videos and uploaded to the YouTube platform for laity's browsing. They included: Orientation Day for the Newly Baptized 2017 (2 episodes); Spiritual Retreat for Catechists 2017 (14 segments); Spiritual Retreat for the Married Couples 2017 (8 segments); and Introduction to Spiritual Journal (2 episodes) and the Church is our Family 2017.

## **VI. Social Concern Activities**

### **1. Supporting Team for Parish Social Concern Groups**

The Central Council continued to participate in meetings of the Supporting Team. Four meetings were held in the year.

### **2. The Caritas Bazaar**

On November 12, the Central Council jointly with Advent Catholic Service Centre took part in the Caritas Bazaar held on Hong Kong Island. To bring up the theme of the bazaar, "Give them a Ray of Hope", the Central Council designed two games, namely "Love God, Love Mankind and Love the Earth" and "Co-create a New Heaven and a New World". Moreover, there were sales of goods. The Advent Catholic Service Centre mainly sold religious articles and evangelization items.

Due to bad weather, it was not practical to carry out street missionary, and all volunteers were assigned to work at the stalls instead.

## **VII. Liaison Work**

### **1. Liaison with Member Organizations**

Currently the Central Council has 79 member organizations, including 51 Parish Councils/Parish Pastoral Councils and 28 Associations of the Faithful. To keep in close contact with member organizations, the Executive Committee Officers, prior to each Central Committee Meeting and the Annual General Meeting, contacted the representatives by phone and/or email, inviting them to attend these meetings.

The Executive Committee Officers also attended the Deanery Leaders' meetings and participated in their activities. In the meetings, the former highlighted the latest news of the Central Council and exchanged views with the parish leaders. This served the purpose to strengthen the communication between the Central Council and deaneries/parishes.

During the year, the Executive Committee Officers attended the annual meetings, gatherings, feasts/activities held by the following communities:

#### **Parishes**

Mother of Christ Parish, St Joseph's Parish (Fanling), Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, St Peter's Parish, St Alfred's Parish, St Benedict's Parish, Holy Cross Parish, Mary Help of Christians Parish, St Teresa's Parish, St Francis of Assisi Parish, St Francis Parish (Ma On Shan), St Lawrence's Parish, St Mary's Parish and Sacred Heart Parish (Sai Kung).

#### **Associations of the Faithful**

Association of the Children of Mary, Focolare Movement, Hong Kong Diocese Altar Servers' Association, Society of St Vincent De Paul, Hong Kong Federation of Basic Christian Communities and Hong Kong Catholic Nurses' Guild

#### **Others**

Hong Kong Catholic Marriage Advisory Council, Hong Kong Christian Apostolate Association, Hong Kong Catholic Biblical



Institute, Justice and Peace Commission of the Hong Kong Catholic Diocese, Catholic Development Centre for Small Communities of Faith and the Carnival organized by the South-West Kowloon Deanery.

## 2. **Other Liaison Work**

Upon invitation, the Executive Committee Officers attended the following events:

February 16	Chinese New Year gathering hosted by the Colloquium of Six Religious Leaders of Hong Kong
May 25, 26 & 29	Open Lectures on the ‘Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong Pastoral Handbook (Revised Edition - Promulgated in 2017)’
August 5 & 7	Eucharistic Celebration for the Most Rev Michael Yeung on the Commencement of his Episcopal Ministry as Bishop of Hong Kong and cocktail reception
September 21	Cocktail reception organized by the religious subsector in Hong Kong for celebrating the 68th National Day
December 9	Events organized by the Colloquium Religious Leaders of Hong Kong for celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Reunification of the HKSAR cum the 40th anniversary of its establishment.
December 16	Seminar on ‘How to care for the Transgenders’ organized by the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong

## **VIII. Participation in Diocesan Events**

### **1. Diocesan Ad Hoc Committees**

The Central Council was invited by the Diocese to assign representative(s) to participate in each of the following ad hoc committees, assisting in the planning and execution of related activities. The Executive Committee, Formation Committee and the

Secretariat gave their full support to these events.

a. Diocesan Organizing Committee for the Mission Sunday Celebration 2017

Mr. Chan Sing Siu, Vice-President and Ms Au Ping Sum, Executive Secretary were both appointed as members for the period from August 1, 2016 to December 31, 2017. Celebrations included 'Together Opening Paths of Hope' Common Prayer with Songs from Taize on October 1 and 'Could it be You?' Evangelical Assembly on October 2. The Central Council was responsible for the general affairs and the public order of the two days' programs.

b. Diocesan Vocation Commission

Mr Vitus Tai King Kong, Ex-officio Councilor, was appointed as member for the period from October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2018. He attended the meetings and assisted organizing various vocation activities. During the year, the Executive Committee Officers rendered support in the following events:

May 6	Walk for Vocations 2.0
May 7	Vocation Mass and Sharing Session at Hong Kong Island
December 31	Walk for Vocations/Rosary Countdown Camp

## 2. Others

- a. On behalf of the Central Council, the Spiritual Director attended the meetings of Selection Committee on the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong Laity Formation Fund.
- b. Ms Lai Yuk-fai, the President, participated in the general meetings of the Diocesan Pastoral Council.
- c. Ms Leung Wing Ha, the Formation Officer, was appointed as member of the Diocesan Commission for On-going Formation of the Laity and attended the regular meetings.

## **IX. Concern for the Church in China**

The Secretariat received lay visitors from the Mainland and introduced the evangelization and lay formation work undertaken by the Central Council.

The Central Council also produced some contact cards and pamphlets in simplified Chinese containing information on churches in Mainland for giving out to visitors from Mainland in the course of street missionary.

## **X. Activity Room of the Central Council**

The Diocese provides the Central Council with an activity room situated at the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Holy Cross Centre, 72 Yiu Hing Road, Shau Kei Wan, Hong Kong. The venue can accommodate about 150 persons, equipped with sound system, projector, drinking machine, Bibles, hymn books, and a basic supply of stationery.

During the year, 6 communities regularly rented the room for a total of 104 sessions for conducting lectures, formation programs and activities.

## **XI. Work of the Secretariat**

The Secretariat, under the direct supervision of Rev Francis Lau, the Spiritual Director, is the Central Council's administrative department responsible for carrying out the daily office work. 5 full-time and 1 part-time staff are employed. Their duties are as follows:

- Executive Secretary: attending all Executive Committee Meetings and Central Committee Meetings, executing all resolutions as approved in the Executive Committee Meetings and following up various programs, coordinating works for the Secretariat.
- Formation Officer: jointly working with the Formation Committee to coordinate, plan and execute all lay formation projects.

- Executive Assistant: editing and promoting the “Light and Salt Kindergarten Story Series”; coordinating 101 Gathering, the correspondence/online courses and daily office duties.
- Two clerks: (a) managing the Laity Resources Centre, helping in evangelization activities, distributing various evangelization materials, and handling all daily office duties; (ii) discharging all clerical and accounting duties, managing the Activity Room and the Diocesan Retreat House and their rental, and handling all daily office duties.
- Office cleaner (part-time): cleaning the office, Laity Resources Centre and the Activity Room.

To cope with the heavy workload, in addition to the above paid staff members, the Central Council has to rely on the support of the Executive Committee Officers and volunteers to accomplish all projects.

On behalf of the Diocese, the Secretariat manages the Diocesan Retreat House at Chung Hom Kok, and regularly submits relevant financial reports to the Diocesan Procurement Office.

## ☞ Word of Thanks ☞

On behalf of the Executive Committee of Hong Kong Central Council of Catholic Laity, I welcome all of you to attend the Central Council's 59<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting. Firstly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Rev. Benedict Lam, VG for his kindness to spare his precious time to preside at the meeting. Thanks also to Rev. Lawrence Lee, the Chancellor; and all Priests and Religious Sisters for their kind support and guidance. I also thank the representatives from parish councils/parish pastoral councils and associations of the faithful, and all guests for their presence tonight.

In last year, under the leadership of Rev Francis Lau, the Spiritual Director of the Central Council, together with the efforts of all Executive Committee Officers, the collaboration of Secretariat colleagues and the support and encouragement of all member organizations, the Central Council had smoothly accomplished all tasks.

Today, a few Executive Committee Officers will retire, namely Ms. Jo Jo Ma, Ms. Lee Ching Kam, and Ms. Au-Yeung Mei Yee. I am most grateful to their valuable contribution to the Central Council, and wish them good health to continue serving God in other capacities. To fill these vacancies, the Central Committee at its last October meeting elected Ms Alice Chan and Mr. Freddy Wong as new Executive Committee Officers. They would be inaugurated by Rev. Benedict Lam, VG shortly, and I thank them for joining the team of the Executive Committee.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our honorary auditor, the Walter Ma and Company, for their free-of-charge service over the years.

Last but not least, I give my heartfelt gratitude to several hundreds of volunteers who came from different parishes and associations of the faithful, played different roles at various occasions, spared no effort to assist the Central Council in carrying out missionary work and lay formation.

Thank you! May God's peace be always with you all!

Lai Yuk Fai  
President of Hong Kong Central Council of Catholic Laity  
8 March 2018

**Attendance Record  
of  
AGM & Central Committee Meeting 2017**

**Parish Councils/**

**Parish Pastoral Council                      AGM   Apr   Jun   Aug   Oct   Dec**

***Hong Kong East Deanery***

St Anne's Parish	✓			✓		
Star of the Sea Parish	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Holy Cross Parish	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
St Jude's Parish	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
St Margaret Mary Parish	✓	✓		✓		
Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

***Hong Kong South-West Deanery***

St Anthony's Parish	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Our Lady of the Rosary Parish						
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
St Peter's Parish	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Our Lady of Fatima Parish	✓			✓	✓	✓
Epiphany Parish	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

**Parish Councils/**

**Parish Pastoral Council**

**AGM Apr Jun Aug Oct Dec**

***South-West Kowloon Deanery***

St Lawrence's Parish	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
St Francis of Assisi Parish			✓	✓	✓	✓
Our Lady of China Parish	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
St Teresa's Parish	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
St Paul's Parish	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mary Help of Christians Parish	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
St Mary's Parish	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rosary Parish	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

***Central Kowloon Deanery***

Notre Dame Parish						
Mother of Good Counsel Parish					✓	
St Patrick's Parish	✓					
St Bonaventure Parish						
Holy Family Parish						
St Joseph's Parish (Kowloon Bay)		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Christ the Worker's Parish						

**Parish Councils/**

**Parish Pastoral Council**

**AGM Apr Jun Aug Oct Dec**

***East Kowloon Deanery***

St John the Baptist Parish	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish	✓					
Resurrection Parish	✓					
St Edward's Parish	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
St James' Parish	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
St Andrew's Parish		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

***North-East New Territories Deanery***

St Alfred's Parish	✓	✓		✓		✓
St Benedict's Parish	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
St Francis Parish	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sacred Heart Parish	✓	✓			✓	
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
St Joseph's Parish (Fanling)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mother of Christ Parish			✓	✓	✓	✓

***North-West New Territories Deanery***

Ss Peter & Paul Parish	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
St Jerome's Parish		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Holy Redemption Parish	✓	✓		✓		
St Matthew the Apostle Parish	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	



**Parish Councils/**

**Parish Pastoral Council                      AGM   Apr   Jun   Aug   Oct   Dec**

***South-West New Territories Deanery***

St Thomas the Apostle Parish	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
St Stephen's Parish	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
St John the Apostle Parish	✓	✓	✓			✓
Ss Cosmas & Damian Parish	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Annunciation Parish	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Visitation Parish	✓	✓	✓			✓

**Associations of the Faithful                      AGM   Apr   Jun   Aug   Oct   Dec**

1.Hong Kong Catholic Nurses' Guild	✓					
2.Apostleship of Prayer						
3.Hong Kong Diocese Altar Servers' Association	✓					
4.Guild of St Luke, Ss Cosmas & Damian, Hong Kong						
5.Association of the Children of Mary						
					<b><i>Withdrawal application was approved in the Central Committee Meeting in April.</i></b>	
6. Dominican Laity-Chinese Speaking Chapter	✓	✓			✓	
7.Dominican Laity-English Speaking Chapter	✓		✓		✓	✓
8.Guard of Honour of the Immaculate Heart of Mary	✓			✓	✓	✓

<b><u>Associations of the Faithful</u></b>	<b><u>AGM</u></b>	<b><u>Apr</u></b>	<b><u>Jun</u></b>	<b><u>Aug</u></b>	<b><u>Oct</u></b>	<b><u>Dec</u></b>
9.Hong Kong Catholic Biblical Association	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
10.Legion of Mary	✓					
11.Secular Franciscan Order	✓			✓	✓	✓
12.Society of St Vincent de Paul						
13.Serra Club of Hong Kong	✓			✓		
14.The Catholic Scout Guild	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
15.Salesians Co-operators	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16.Volunteers of Suffering					✓	✓
17.Hong Kong Catholic Pastoral Association for the Deaf						
18.Focolare Movement	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
19.Hong Kong Catholic Federation of Basic Christian Communities	✓	✓	✓			✓
20.Sodality of Mary Help of Christians						
21.Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong Lay Prison Evangelical Organization	✓	✓		✓	✓	
22.Catholic Rosary Evangelical Dance Group			✓	✓	✓	✓
23.Life Ascending International Hong Kong	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24.Hong Kong Federation of Catholic Students					✓	✓
25.Apostolate of Divine Mercy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

<b><u>Associations of the Faithful</u></b>	<b><u>AGM</u></b>	<b><u>Apr</u></b>	<b><u>Jun</u></b>	<b><u>Aug</u></b>	<b><u>Oct</u></b>	<b><u>Dec</u></b>
26.The World Community for Christian Meditation (Hong Kong)		✓	✓	✓		
27.Joy of Life Limited	✓	✓	✓			
28.Family Values Concern Group		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
29.Hong Kong Federation of Catholic CU of the Laity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

**MEMBERSHIP LIST OF  
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2017**

Spiritual Director:	Rev Lau Tak Kwong Francis
President:	Ms Lai Yuk Fai
Vice-Presidents:	Ms Siu Yi Ting Betty Mr Chan Sing Siu
Secretary (Chinese):	Mr Ng Ka Sing Francis
Secretary (English):	Ms Yiu Shau Hing Teresa
Treasurer:	Ms Pang Chi Ting Agnes
Councilors:	Mr So Kwok Wai Ms Wei Poon Tip Yee Jennifer Mary Ms Ma Yuk Chu Ms Au Yeung Mei Yee Mr Choi Chin Ki Jimmy Ms Lee Ching Kam
Ex-Officio Councilor:	Mr Tai King Kong Vitus
Executive Secretary:	Ms Au Ping Sum

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF  
HONG KONG CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC LAITY**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Hong Kong Central Council of Catholic Laity (the “Council”) set out on pages 38 to 43, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2017, and the income and expenditure account for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the financial statements of the Council are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with Hong Kong Central Council of Catholic Laity’s constitution and by-laws.

**Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing (“HKSAAs”) issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (“HKICPA”). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the “Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements” section of our report. We are independent of the Council in accordance with the HKICPA’s Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (“the Code”), and we have fulfilled our other responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Responsibilities of Governing Council and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements**

The governing Council are responsible for the preparation of the financial in accordance with the Hong Kong Central Council of Catholic Laity’s constitution and by-laws, and for such internal control as the governing Council determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the governing Council are responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the governing Council either intend to liquidate the Council or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Council's financial report process.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit for the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. This report is made solely to you, as a body, in accordance with Hong Kong Central Council of Catholic Laity's constitution and by-laws, and for no other purpose. We do not assume responsibility towards or accept liability to any other person for the contents of this report. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with HKSAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

**(Signed) Walter Ma & Company**  
Certified Public Accountants (Practising)  
Honorary Auditor  
HONG KONG

March 3, 2018

## Appendix 4

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

<b>Income</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>2017 (HK\$)</b>	<b>2016 (HK\$)</b>
Donation Received		1,010,053.00	1,160,700.00
Parish Collection		1,135,650.00	1,110,396.00
Laitty Formation Program	(2)	132,494.00	205,805.00
Evangelization Program	(3)	403,630.00	567,432.00
Sales of Books		366,250.00	331,808.00
Activity Room at Holy Cross Centre		60,440.00	44,660.00
Bank Interest Received		74,346.00	44,121.00
Evangelization Fund		<u>358,272.00</u>	<u>384,248.00</u>
<b><u>Total Income</u></b>		<b><u>3,541,135.00</u></b>	<b><u>3,849,170.00</u></b>
<b>Less : Expenditure</b>			
Salaries and Wages		1,826,689.00	1,923,696.00
Allowance for Spiritual Director		87,600.00	87,600.00
Staff Provident Fund		79,817.00	82,692.00
Employees Compensation Insurance Premium		9,352.00	12,482.00
Staff Medical Fee		1,165.00	1,970.00
Electricity and Water		29,732.00	33,489.00
Rent and Rates		26,363.00	26,388.00
Telephone		7,879.00	7,036.00
Furniture, Fixture and Equipment		23,728.00	5,956.00
Repairs and Maintenance		28,258.00	13,687.00
Printing and Stationery		36,751.00	38,560.00
Postage		6,081.00	9,566.00
Cleaning Fee and Material		3,937.00	7,838.00
Celebration and Entertainment		22,242.00	28,547.00
Bank Charges		14,928.00	16,223.00
Sundry Expenses		10,309.00	9,445.00
Laitty Formation Program	(4)	337,749.00	484,199.00
Evangelization Program	(5)	862,724.00	976,990.00
Sales of Books		107,972.00	113,241.00

Social Concern Activities		1,885.00	1,736.00
Diocesan Activities		---	2,066.00
Management fee for Holy Cross Centre		105,017.00	65,453.00
Evangelization Fund		<u>341,172.00</u>	<u>493,236.00</u>
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>		<b><u>3,971,350.00</u></b>	<b><u>4,442,096.00</u></b>
<b>Operating Deficit</b>		<b><u>(430,215.00)</u></b>	<b><u>(592,926.00)</u></b>
Deficit for the year transferred to Accumulated Fund	(6)	(447,315.00)	(483,938.00)
Deficit for the year transferred to Evangelization Fund	(7)	<u>17,100.00</u>	<u>(108,988.00)</u>
		<b><u>(430,215.00)</u></b>	<b><u>(592,926.00)</u></b>

The notes on pages 41-43 form part of these financial statements.



## Appendix 5

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017**

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>		HK \$	HK \$
Stock		29,047.00	65,708.00
Prepayment		14,644.00	34,025.00
Accounts Receivable – Other		1,589.00	2,516.00
Bank Fixed Deposits		7,644,945.00	8,581,628.00
Cash at Bank		819,442.00	228,452.00
Cash in Hand		2,500.00	2,500.00
		<b>8,512,167.00</b>	<b>8,914,829.00</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Children Bible		200,683.00	222,145.00
Fund held for Diocesan Retreat House		197,377.00	149,684.00
Fund held for Catholic Institute for Religion and Society		2,783.00	2,768.00
Refundable Library Card Deposit for Laity Resources Centre		9,100.00	8,300.00
Concord Grange Pty Ltd		2,456.00	1,949.00
VISA International Acceptance Program		37,784.00	37,784.00
		450,183.00	442,630.00
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>8,061,984.00</b>	<b>8,492,199.00</b>
Represented by			
<b>Accumulated Fund</b>	(6)	7,954,375.00	8,401,690.00
<b>Evangelization Fund</b>	(7)	107,609.00	90,509.00
		<b>8,061,984.00</b>	<b>8,492,199.00</b>

Through circulation, the Executive Committee on March 3, 2018 approved the financial statements as shown in pages 38-43, and authorized the President and the Treasurer to sign these financial statements on behalf of the Central Council. Such approval will be ratified at the next Executive Committee Meeting.

Signed by Ms Lai Yuk Fai  
President

Signed by Ms Pang Chi Ting Agnes  
Treasurer

The notes on pages 41-43 form part of these financial statements.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

**1. Significant Accounting Policies**

**a. Basis of preparation**

These financial statements comply with the Hong Kong Central Council of Catholic Laity's constitution and by-laws and have been prepared under the accrual basis of accounting and on the basis that the Council is a going concern.

The measurement base adopted is the historical cost convention. The financial statements are presented in Hong Kong dollars.

**b. Foreign currencies**

Foreign currency transactions are converted at the exchange rate applicable at the transaction date. Foreign currency monetary items are translated into Hong Kong dollars using exchange rates applicable at the end of the reporting date. Gains and losses on foreign exchange are recognized in the income and expenditure account.

**2. Income from Laity Formation Program**

	<u>2017</u> HK\$	<u>2016</u> HK\$
Laity Formation Courses	3,900.00	72,330.00
Local Study Pilgrimage	6,180.00	7,050.00
Retreat	106,832.00	104,650.00
Formation Programs for the Parish Council/Pastoral Council	---	2,000.00
New Missionary Course	2,100.00	---
Spiritual Journal	5,291.00	1,319.00
Provision of Formation Materials	---	100.00
Post-baptismal Catechetical Course (Correspondence & Online)	8,191.00	18,356.00
	<b>132,494.00</b>	<b>205,805.00</b>

### 3. Income from Evangelization Program

	<u>2017</u> HK\$	<u>2016</u> HK\$
101 Gathering	2,654.00	---
Catechetical Course (Correspondence & Online)	3,270.00	5,458.00
Chinese New Year Evangelization Stall	70,559.00	108,758.00
Evangelization Media Production	327,147.00	453,216.00
	<u>403,630.00</u>	<u>567,432.00</u>

### 4. Expenditure on Laity Formation Program

	<u>2017</u> HK\$	<u>2016</u> HK\$
Laity Formation Courses	51,648.00	78,570.00
Retreat	86,604.00	103,014.00
New Missionary Course	10.00	---
Spiritual Journal	47,850.00	125,050.00
Books for Laity Resources Centre	6,790.00	20,454.00
Provision of Formation Materials	3,101.00	1,124.00
Post-baptismal Catechetical Course (Correspondence & Online)	10,225.00	9,736.00
Orientation Day for the Newly Baptized	131,521.00	146,251.00
	<u>337,749.00</u>	<u>484,199.00</u>

### 5. Expenditure on Evangelization Program

	<u>2017</u> HK\$	<u>2016</u> HK\$
101 Gathering	19,217.00	24,943.00
Catechetical Course (Correspondence & Online)	2,225.00	9,732.00
Hong Kong Book Fair Evangelization Stall	37,850.00	25,662.00
Street Missionary	70.00	42.00
Street Missionary Variety Show	38,938.00	15,472.00
Evangelization Media Production	708,465.00	813,224.00
Chinese New Year Evangelization Stall	54,463.00	86,791.00
Evangelization Website (Evanlife)	1,496.00	1,124.00
	<u>862,724.00</u>	<u>976,990.00</u>

## 6. Accumulated Fund

	<u>2017</u> HK\$	<u>2016</u> HK\$
Balance at the beginning of the year	8,401,690.00	8,885,628.00
Deficit transferred from Income and Expenditure Account	(447,315.00)	(483,938.00)
Balance at the end of the year	<u>7,954,375.00</u>	<u>8,401,690.00</u>

## 7. Evangelization Fund

	<u>2017</u> HK\$	<u>2016</u> HK\$
Balance at the beginning of the year	90,509.00	199,497.00
Surplus/(Deficit) transferred from Income and Expenditure Account	17,100.00	(108,988.00)
Balance at the end of the year	<u>107,609.00</u>	<u>90,509.00</u>

## 8. Financial Risk Management

### a. Financial instruments risk

Financial instruments consist of accounts receivables, payables and cash at bank and in hand. Being a central council of catholic laity, the Council carries as little risk from financial instruments as practicable.

### b. Foreign exchange risk

The Council has no significant exposure to foreign currency risk as substantially all of the Council's transactions are denominated in Hong Kong dollars.

### c. Cash flow interest rate risk

The Council has no significant interest-bearing assets and liabilities. Bank fixed deposits and cash at bank earn interest at bank deposits rates. The Council does not use any derivative instruments to reduce its economic exposure to changes in interest rates.

## LIST OF EVANGELIZATION FUND GRANTS 2017

Quarter	Name of Applicants	Amount Granted
First	Diocesan Pastoral Centre for Workers (HK Island)	\$9,600.00
	HK Central Council of Catholic Laity	\$243,840.00
	Caritas Wu Cheng-chung Secondary School	\$2,855.00
	Central Kowloon Deanery	\$18,220.00
Second	Bonaventure Integrated Children and Youth Centre, St Bonaventure Parish	\$1,812.00
	Ng Wah Catholic Primary School	\$6,500.00
	Evangelization Group, Star of the Sea Parish	\$6,070.00
Third	Caritas Wu Cheng-chung Secondary School	\$2,925.00
	Young Pioneers of Christ (Kowloon District II)	\$5,300.00
	Family Movement	\$13,700.00
	HK Book Fair Catholic Zone Coordinating Group	\$39,200.00
	Yan Tak Catholic Primary School	\$1,805.00
Fourth	Our Lady of Fatima Parish	\$27,000.00
	Caritas Wu Cheng-chung Secondary School	\$2,275.00
	Mother of Christ Parish	\$19,100.00
	Precious Blood Primary School (South Horizons)	\$2,960.00
	St Joseph's Parish (Kowloon Bay) & Christ the Worker Parish	\$26,220.00
	St Matthew the Apostle Parish	\$4,020.00
	Ma On Shan St Joseph 's Primary School	\$3,100.00
	St Joseph's Parish (Kowloon Bay)	\$4,615.00
	St Mary's Parish	\$3,760.00
	Notre Dame Parish	\$6,640.00
	Diocesan Pastoral Centre for Workers (NT)	\$5,968.00
	Hong Kong Federation of Catholic Students	\$2,830.00
		\$460,315.00

Totally sponsored 24 applications from 22 communities including 1 deanery, 5 schools, 8 parishes and 8 communities

## **Hong Kong Central Council of Catholic Laity Operating Plan 2018**

### **Aims:**

1. In the spirit of the Gospel, to encourage the laity to live their Christian life in the present world and to commit themselves to the apostolic mission in their proper environment.
2. To promote, centralize and coordinate the work of evangelization of the laity.
3. To promote the sharing of orientations and methods of work and experiences among member organizations.
4. To act as a medium of dialogue between the hierarchy and the laity, and among the laity themselves.

**Slogan:** To put both evangelization and formation into practice, and to stride forward in communion and unity.

### **Key Areas of Work:**

#### **I. EVANGELIZATION**

1. 101 Gathering
2. Street missionary
3. Variety show for street missionary
4. Catechetical course (correspondence and online)
5. Evangelization VISA card and evangelization fund
6. Hong Kong Book Fair evangelization stall
7. Chinese New Year Fair evangelization stall at
8. Victoria Park
9. Production of evangelization visual-media
10. Production of evangelization media

#### **II. LAITY FORMATION**

1. Retreats for the laity
2. Formation programs/workshops
3. Orientation day for the newly baptized

4. Local study pilgrimage
5. Post-baptismal catechetical course (correspondence and online)
6. Refresher lectures on catechism
7. Publication of religious books for children
8. Production of formation materials

### **III. LIAISON WITH MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS**

### **IV. DIOCESAN EVENTS**

1. Member of Diocesan Commission for Ongoing Formation of the Laity
2. Member of Diocesan Pastoral Council
3. Member of Selection Committee on the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong Laity Formation Fund
4. Member of Diocesan Vocation Commission

### **V. SOCIAL CONCERN ACTIVITIES**

1. Caritas Bazaar (Hong Kong Island)
2. Diocesan Committee in support of Parochial Social Concern

### **VI. OTHERS**

1. Management of Laity Resources Centre
2. Management of the Activity Room at Holy Cross Centre
3. Management of the Diocesan Retreat House on behalf of the Diocese

## Appendix 8

**THE 2018 BUDGET**

<b>Income</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>HK\$</b>
Donation		1,150,000.00
Parish Collection		1,110,000.00
Laity Formation Program	(1)	544,430.00
Evangelization Program	(2)	472,000.00
Activity Room at Holy Cross Centre		70,000.00
Bank Interest		56,000.00
<b><u>Total Income</u></b>		<b><u>3,392,430.00</u></b>
<b>Less : Expenditure</b>		
Salaries and Wages		1,930,000.00
Allowance for Spiritual Director		90,000.00
Staff Provident Fund		83,800.00
Employees Compensation Insurance Premium		11,500.00
Staff Medical Fee		2,000.00
Electricity and Water		36,000.00
Rent and Rates		30,000.00
Telephone		10,000.00
Furniture, Fixture and Equipment		23,000.00
Repairs and Maintenance		25,000.00
Printing and Stationery		40,000.00
Postage		7,500.00
Cleaning Fee and Material		8,500.00
Celebration and Entertainment		13,500.00
Website of Central Council		30,000.00
Celebration of Diamond Jubilee		20,000.00
Bank Charges		16,500.00
Annual General Meeting		15,000.00
Sundry Expenses		11,000.00
Laity Formation Program	(1)	466,720.00
Evangelization Program	(2)	1,088,620.00
Social Concern Activities		1,500.00
Diocesan Activities		2,000.00
Management fee for Holy Cross Centre		114,600.00
<b><u>Total Operating Expenditure</u></b>		<b><u>4,076,740.00</u></b>
<b>Operating Deficit</b>		<b><u>(684,310.00)</u></b>



## Note

### 1. Laity Formation Program

	<u>Income</u> HK\$	<u>Expenditure</u> HK\$
Laity Formation Courses	55,000.00	87,830.00
Retreat	102,900.00	105,540.00
Spiritual Journal	2,000.00	---
Laity Resources Centre	---	8,130.00
Provision of Formation Materials	---	6,500.00
Post-baptismal Catechetical Course (Correspondence & Online)	8,000.00	11,800.00
Light and Salt Kindergarten Story Series	322,130.00	76,120.00
Amazing Series	3,400.00	---
“Dear God” Children Prayer Book	51,000.00	23,800.00
Orientation Day for the Newly Baptized	---	147,000.00
	<u>544,430.00</u>	<u>466,720.00</u>

### 2. Expenditure on Evangelization Program

	<u>Income</u> HK\$	<u>Expenditure</u> HK\$
Chinese New Year Evangelization Stall	86,000.00	89,300.00
Evangelization Media Production	380,000.00	875,500.00
Hong Kong Book Fair Evangelization Stall	---	41,500.00
101 Gathering	2,800.00	20,600.00
Street Missionary	---	100.00
Catechetical Course (Correspondence & Online)	3,200.00	2,620.00
Street Missionary Variety Show	---	57,000.00
Evangelization Website (Evanlife)	---	2,000.00
	<u>472,000.00</u>	<u>1,088,620.00</u>