

Diocesan Commission for Permanent Diaconate of Hong Kong
Annual Report 2013

The Commission

Cardinal John Baptist Wu appointed on 1 February 1996 a Diocesan Ad hoc Committee to promote and establish the ministry of Permanent Diaconate in Hong Kong (now renamed as Diocesan Commission for Permanent Diaconate of Hong Kong).

Mission

2. - to be responsible for the planning, promotion, publicity, selection of candidates, formation and ordination
- to strengthen the acceptance of permanent diaconate in the Diocese and formation

Appointments

3. Bishop John Tong appointed/reappointed on 14 November 2011 the following persons to be members of the Commission for the period from 1 February 2012 to 31 January 2014:

Chairman: Fr. Dominic Chan, Vicar General

Members : Fr. Paul Kim Dong Ju, KMS, Fr. Benedict Lam, Fr. Francis Tam, Deacon Joseph Sung, Mr. Bernard Chan, Ms Jennie Chor, Mr. Peter Chan, Ms Susanna Cheung , Mr. Simon Li, Ms. Cecilia Ng, Ms. Louise Wong.

Meetings

4. During the year, 4 meetings were held on 14 January, 20 May, 31 August and 10 December respectively; and an Insight Day was held concurrently on 31 August 2013.

Highlights

5. The highlights were focused on the strengthening of the spiritual formation, expanding the learning and service spectra, organizing an Insight Day to review the progress and to map the future directions of the Commission, updating the Handbook for Deacons and Candidates, and to activate organizing The International Chinese Permanent Deacons Conference 2013. Details are elaborated in Paragraphs 17 to 36.

Report of the Formation Director

6. The Chairman of the Commission, Rev. Dominic Chan, VG is also appointed to be the Formation Director. The Formation Director is responsible for the execution of the directives of the Commission regarding the planning, publicity, promotion, selection and ordination arrangements. At present, there are 20 Permanent Deacons in the Hong Kong Diocese. 10 Candidates are under training on theology studies, pastoral and community services. For the better understanding and familiarization of the diocesan mechanism, Permanent Deacons and the Candidates as well, are appointed to the appropriate Diocesan Committees or organizations as members as detailed in Appendix I.

7. Admission – **Mr. Lam Chi Man John, Mr. Tang Chi Ho Francis, Mr. Tam Wing Keung Simon and Mr. Chan Yuk Keung Simon** were admitted as Candidates at the St. Mary's Church, Hung Hom on 3 August 2013.
8. Ministry of Lectors and Ministry of Acolyte – On 7 September, 2013 at St. Joseph Church, Kowloon Bay, the ministry of Lectors was conferred to **Candidates Sin Yiu Fat Anthony and Kwok Chi Keung Alexander** ; the ministry of Acolyte was conferred to **Candidates Kwong Kwok Chuen Cosmas and Wong King Sing Peter**.
- 9 Ordination – Candidates Au Gar Wai Andrew, Wong Chin To Louis and Ip Wai Wing Julian were ordained on 16 November 2013 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, officiated by Cardinal John Tong.
10. The Formation Director meets with the Permanent Deacons, Candidates and Aspirants regularly to understand their performances and aspirations, for the planning of their training needs, to give guidance and support.
 - 10.1 Clinical psychologists are invited to give assessments to the aspirants and the admission of Candidates.
 - 10.2 Home visits are held to Candidates, Aspirants and Applicants to have a better understanding from them and their family members on their responses to the diaconate ministry.
 - 10.3 For the Permanent Deacons, to pay attention to their growth in spirituality, and their family harmony.
 - 10.4 The Formation Director arranges Spiritual Directors and mentors to accompany and support the Deacons, Candidates and Aspirants to grow in their spiritual lives.
 - 10.5 For the strengthening of a community life and sharing of life experience, the Formation Director assigns Permanent Deacons to play the role as mentors for the Candidates and Aspirants.
 - 10.6 The Formation Director meets with the wives of the Deacons and Candidates regularly to establish a “Walk in Company Programme” in the form of companionship for mutual support to help them share their life experience of their ministerial role as wives of Deacons through prayers and to walk in company. Ms Louise Wong had on 21 October 2013 presented a formation sharing to the wives of Deacons, Candidates and Aspirants to strengthen and affirm their commitment and support in the ministry with a joyful and a prudent spirit.
 - 10.7 Rev. Benedict Lam held a FIVE day retreat for the three Candidates and their wives during 23 to 27 September 2013 to strengthen their faith, in preparing their diaconate ministries prior to their ordination in November; and to develop a close solidarity among themselves.
11. The Commission has prepared guidelines for the Deacons and Candidates to follow in their training and attachment sessions, as well as helping the Parish Priests to assess their performance.

12. The Commission has published a prayer sheet for the intention to pray for the Permanent Diaconate ministry in gatherings and promotional activities. A copy is shown at Appendix II.

13. The Commission established a "Spirituality Development Committee" (Membership : Rev. Benedict Lam, Rev. Francis Tam, Rev. Deacon Joseph Sung and Ms Jennie Chor) to help Deacons and Candidates in the spiritual guidance and growth.

14. In line with the "Guidelines", the Commission established an "Appraisal Committee" to assess the growth and readiness of the candidates. The Committee conducted an appraisal exercise on 31 October 2013 for the 3 Candidates who were going to receive ordination in November.

15. Members of the Commission visited the Deacon's monthly gathering for better understanding and support. For details, please refer to Para. 38.

16. The Formation Director has included in the Vicar General's Office website (<http://vgoffice.catholic.org.hk>) a link to Permanent Deacons to establish information and the promotion of the ministry.

Highlights of the year

The Insight Day

17. The Commission held an Insight Day on 31 August 2013 at the Retreat House, Shek O to review and to plan the future directions. With prayers and deliberations, the Commission reaffirmed these directives:

- In the formation module – to enhance the deacons in raising awareness of social issues according to the spirit laid down in Lumen Gentium, to familiarize the characteristics of the parish where he is serving and to sanctify, to lead the faithful to build a social concern in the prophetic role.
- In the witness module – to enhance the spiritual formation for deacons stressing on prayer, the Scriptures and Holy Communion to reflect the solidarity of sacraments in building the strength in the areas of evangelization, pastoral and witness life.
- In the management module – to establish a resource centre housing the dossiers, records, collection of information on deacons for formation, training, research purposes.
- In the information module – to develop electronic platforms in the communication, dialogue and promotional media.
- In the organization module – to assign Deacons to coordinate at the Deanery level the community support to care for the underprivileged such as "Dinner for the grass root"; to attend the Deanery meetings with a view to strengthening collaborations, and to assign Deacons to coordinate in regional clusters the prison pastoral services.

Revision of the Handbook for Permanent Deacons

18. The Handbook was introduced in October 2004 to list out the mechanism in the performance of the diaconate ministries and the related arrangements. A review was taken on the Insight Day held

on 8 September 2012 taking into consideration of the experience gained over these years, and to incorporate the requirements according to the “Directory for the Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons”, the present and future developments. The revised Handbook will give the Deacons and Candidates the guidelines to follow. The main subjects in the revision are related to the selection and formation arrangements, the implementation of continued learning in a structured module. The revised Handbook took effect on 8 September 2012. The Commission in preparing the English translation found that there were certain clauses required to be fine tuned. Opportunity was taken to bring it updated. The updatings were approved at the Insight Day on 31 August 2013. There are electronic copies in both English and Chinese versions available for general reference.

The International Chinese Permanent Deacons Conference

19. The year 2013 marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Permanent Diaconate of the Hong Kong Diocese. The Hong Kong Diocese has decided that opportunity is taken to review the progress of development and to seek the solidarity of our Chinese brother deacons serving in other parts of the world to share their witness lives and the organization of the Deacons communities. The Formation Director, Rev. Dominic Chan, Vicar General had in May invited religious communities and the faithful to pray for this intention.

20. The Conference was held from 18 to 21 November 2013 at St. Paul’s House of Prayer, Sheung Shui. Four working groups were set up, viz Reception, Liturgy, Support and Academic. Liaison work has been carried out for the invitations. To mark this occasion, the Commission had planned to

- ✓ Ordain new permanent deacons on 16 November with all Chinese Permanent Deacons participating in the ceremony,
- ✓ Assign participating Chinese Permanent Deacons to the parishes to serve the Sunday Mass on 17 November as a sign of solidarity.

21. The main theme of the Conference is **“the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve”**. (Mark 10:45). The sub themes are: “To preach what you believe, to teach what you believe and to live in the way you teach”. Details are elaborated in Para. 29.

22. The Formation Director, Rev. Dominic Chan, VG had last year invited overseas Chinese Permanent Deacons to participate in the conference. In response, 13 Chinese Permanent Deacons from dioceses of Canada, USA, Australia and Belgium have confirmed their participation. 9 will be accompanied by their wives.

23. The Commission invited Deacon Gerald DuPont, Chairman of the Federation of Permanent Deacon of United States, Director of Diaconate Formation, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, USA, as Guest Speaker on these topics : “Overview of Global Development History of Diaconal Service since Vatican II”, “Personal Experience and Review, discussion on Merits, Limitations, Success, Challenges and Characteristics of Diaconal Service”, and “How can a Deacon respond positively to the changing needs of society” to explore the future development of the diaconate ministries.

24. The Commission also invited Deacon Michael Nieder, Formation Director of Essen Diocese, Germany, our sister diocese as Guest of Honour for experience sharing. Deacon Nieder had in March 2012 accompanied His Excellency Bishop Franz-Josef Overbeck, Bishop of Essen Diocese to visit the Diocese of Hong Kong. Deacon Nieder was accompanied by his wife to join the Conference.

25. The Archdiocese of Taipei has assigned Rev. Stephen Huang Szu-sheng, Mr. Chen Chien-Jen, Deputy President of the Central Research Academy and his wife to join the Conference for experience study.

26. 13 Permanent Deacons from the Diocese of Hong Kong joined the Conference. 4 were accompanied by their wives.

27. In the opening ceremony, the Chairman and Formation Director, Rev. Dominic Chan, VG, indicated that a complete hierarchy must include the Bishop, the Priest and the Deacon for their related ministries. Deacons are to serve those who are in need in practical way according to the teachings of the Bible. The Conference commenced with a Thanksgiving Mass including a solemn Bible Enthronement to encourage Deacons to understand their mission was to work for the *WORD* and live with the *WORD*.

28. Deacon Nieder presented to Rev. Dominic Chan, VG, Chairman of the Conference, a personal letter from Bishop Overbeck of Essen Diocese congratulating the success of the Conference.

29. The Conference had a hectic agenda :

17 November	Registration
	Evening Prayer
	Getting to know All and Friendly Reminders
	Briefing on Overall Programme
18 November	Morning Prayer, Bible Enthronement, Mass
	Plenary Session (1) Guest Speaker : Deacon Gerald DuPont Chairman of the Federation of Permanent Deacons of United States
	Keynote Address ; (1) Overview of Global Development History since Vatican II (2) Personal Experience and Review, discussion on Merits, Limitations, Success, challenges and Characteristics of Diaconal Service
	Response to Plenary Session : Deacon Raymond Chan (Alberta Diocese, Canada) and Mr. Bernard Chan (Committee Member of Diocesan Commission for the Permanent Diaconate, Hong Kong)
	Sharing of Issues and Group Discussion Session
	Evening Prayer
19 November	Morning Prayer, Mass
	Plenary Session (2) Sharing Guests : Deacon Tom Kung (Toronto Archdiocese, Canada) and

	Deacon John Wu (Calgary Diocese, Canada) <i>Responding to Calling, Process of Formation and Nurturing of Faith</i>
	Plenary Session (3) Sharing Guests : Deacon Ambrose Man (New York Archdiocese, United States) and Deacon Robin Cheung (Montreal Archdiocese, Canada) <i>Spiritual Life of Permanent Deacon</i>
	Sharing of Issues and Group Discussion Session
	Evening Prayer
20 November	Morning Prayer, Mass
	Plenary Session (4) Sharing Guests : Deacon Edwin Ng (Hong Kong Diocese,) and Deacon Michael Ho (Toronto Archdiocese, Canada) <i>Delivering Ministries : Pastoral Area and Charity services</i>
	Plenary Session (5) Keynote Speaker : Mrs. Peggy DuPont (Wife of Deacon Gerald DuPont, Chairman of the Federation of Permanent Deacon of United States) <i>Wife and family member(s) of a Permanent Deacon, how to participate in the Permanent Deacon's ministry so as to enrich and nurture family life</i>
	Sharing Guests : Mrs. Philomena Chan (Alberta Diocese, Canada) and Mrs. Berta Lam (Hong Kong Diocese)
	Sharing of Issues and Group Discussion Session
	Evening Prayer
21 November	Morning Prayer
	Plenary Session (6) Keynote Speaker : Deacon Gerald DuPont Chairman of the Federation of Permanent Deacons of United States Keynote Address :How can a Deacon respond positively to the changing needs of Society. Respondents : Deacon Peter Fan (Ottawa Archdiocese, Canada) , Deacon Paul Kiang (Galveston-Houston Archdiocese, USA) and Deacon Stephen Kwok (Hong Kong Diocese)
	Conclusion by Rev. Dominic Chan, VG, Chairman of Diocesan Commission for the Permanent Diaconate and Director of Formation for Permanent Deacon

30. Every evening, the Conference had a briefing session introducing respectively : the new strategy of pastoral ministry in the era of information technology, a heritage crossover, and from the development of the two bodies in one soul to the relationship of the deacon couple and their commitment –

Date	Topic	Sharing guest
18 November	Presentation on website about Hong Kong Catholic Historic and Heritage Buildings	Mrs. Amy Chow (Principal Director of WestcomZivo Ltd.)
	Presentation on Diocesan Computerized Records Systems	Ms Margaret Tong (Secretary to Vicar General Dominic Chan and Coordinator for the Diocesan Computerized Records

		Centre)
19 November	Liturgical Art and Design Aesthetics	Sr. Paola Yue, CND (Member of Diocesan Liturgical Commission, Hong Kong)
20 November	The Chinese version of the book "Theology of the Body" a masterpiece of the Blessed John Paul II	Ms Louise Wong (Chairperson of Hong Kong Catholic Marriage Council Advisory Council)

31. The Information Technology team set up an electronic information platform to upload all the events of the day on line to allow those who could not attend the Conference to share concurrently.

32. His Eminence Cardinal John Tong, Bishop of the Diocese of Hong Kong visited the Conference in the afternoon of 21 November to celebrate the Concluding Thanksgiving Mass together with all the Deacons. Prior to the liturgy, Cardinal Tong had a sincere dialogue with the participants elaborating the development of the Diocese. Speaking on the diaconate ministries, he wished that each parish would have the service of a Deacon. He envisaged that there would be more Deacons to serve all parishes and the diocesan organizations.

33. Talking about the recent development of the Church in the Mainland, Cardinal Tong said that there was yet a lack of complete freedom in religion. However, there were good signs of progress in evangelization. He wishes that there will be Permanent Deacons in Mainland China in the long term. He invites all to pray for this intention.

34. The Conference noted that the International Diaconate Centre would hold in Rome their Golden Jubilee celebration in October 2015. The Federation of Permanent Deacon of United States will also hold their Golden Jubilee celebration in July 2018 at New Orleans.

35. The Conference was successfully concluded after the celebration of the Thanksgiving Mass. The conclusions of the Conference are :

- Achieving an inflow of sharing of formation and service experience
- Building up a communal support among the Permanent Deacons
- Confirming that the Order of the Diaconate is the joint vocation of both the husband and wife
- Helping strengthen contacts among Deacons
- The need to strengthen formation

36. The Commission examined from the discussions, the sharing of the diaconate services and the experience of formation programmes in other Dioceses as raised in the Conference, has decided to implement these action plans :

- (A) The formation of the wives

Throughout the entire journey of the formation process of the Deacons, the participation of the wife should not be missed at any stage. It is therefore necessary

- ✧ To strengthen the formation of the wives of Deacons, Candidates and Aspirants to the effect of thorough understanding that the Order of the Diaconate is the joint vocation of both the husband and wife
- ✧ To enhance the spiritual life, the understanding of catechism and the teachings of the Church in par with the level of the husband
- ✧ To strengthen the community life among the wives of the Deacons, Candidates and Aspirants

(B) Continual formation

Continual formation is basically required, to understand the sign of the Time, in the spirit of *aggiornamento*, and to serve the community the needs required

(C) The professional requirements

To enhance the professional knowledge and skills of the diaconate ministries and to quantify the effectiveness in response to the expectations of the society

(D) The spiritual formation

To build up a close contact with the Team of Spiritual Directors, devising a standard spiritual guidance spectrum and directions

(E) To widen promotion of the diaconate ministries

To organize regularly “*Come and you will see*” promotion gatherings (John 1:39) by inviting potential couples to understand more about the diaconate ministries, to be hosted by Permanent Deacons to share their experience

(F) The International inflow and contacts

- ✧ To participate in the Conference of the International Diaconate Centre to be held in February 2014 in South Africa
- ✧ To plan the Second International Conference of Chinese Permanent Deacons in 2018 to be held in Canada.

Appointment of the Assistant Formation Director

37. In view of the increase in the size of the deacons community, the complexities in the workload, the Commission had last year approved to appoint Deacon Edwin Ng to be the Assistant Formation Director to help, support and share the duties of the Formation Director. Deacon Edwin Ng is also appointed as the Executive Secretary of the Office of the Permanent Diaconate to carry out the administration of the Office. The workload of the Assistant Formation Director has increased arising from the coordination, liaison, classification of documents, formation of Aspirants duties, especially during the period in the preparation of the International Conference of Chinese Permanent Deacons. Support was tendered by Deacons, Candidates and their wives.

Focus learning.

38. The Commission arranges in the Permanent Deacons’ monthly gathering held in the afternoon of the 4th Sunday every month a session for specific topic learning, visits to Religious

Congregations, pastoral experience sharing, practicing homily and vesper, with a view to expanding their knowledge and vision:

Date	Speaker/visit/particulars
27 January	Deacon Peter Leung sharing on bereavement service
24 February	Deacon Francis Fung sharing on pastoral services
24 March	Deacon William Li sharing on pastoral services
28 April	Visit to Seamen's Mission Deacon Kwan Chung Wah introduced the pastoral services to the seafarers Pastoral sharings on Prison, Family, Labour and Hospital services
26 May	Pastoral sharings on Bereavement, Elderly, School and Liturgy services
23 June	Deacon Bernard Tang sharing on pastoral services Sharings on Homily, Retreat, Spiritual Director of Religious Associations, Wives Group
28 July	Deacon Stephen Kwok pastoral service sharing Sharings on Social Concern, "Grass-root Dinner" Marriage, and Funeral pastoral services
22 September	Candidate Simon Chan introduced the operation of the Deacons' website
27 October	Deacon Kwan Chung Wah sharing on pastoral services to the seamen Sharings on Prison, Family and School pastoral services Sharings of the wives of Deacons The 3 candidates to be ordained and their wives to share their responses to the vocation, the formation journey and the changes in their spiritual lives
22 December	Visit of Fr. Shaju Vadakumpadan Migayel, Director of Prison Ministry of Asian Region of the Holy See A sharing of the <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Joy and Anxieties of wives of the Deacons - To promote love and care for the grass root underprivileged to meet their needs - Individual reflections of spiritual life - To practice in the pastoral service the spirit of "Caritas Dei"

Continual Learning

39. As required under Chapter 4 of the *Directory for the Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons*, a continuing formation system is introduced, encouraging deacons to undertake in a two year cycle professional development studies of an accumulated 25 hours. The subjects cover :

- (i) Enhancement of Leadership abilities: to require Permanent Deacons to participate in practical pastoral courses, theology and philosophy courses, personal growth and development course, enhancement of parish and resources management abilities, deepen their personal spirituality and encourage them to strengthen their commitment to the Church.
- (ii) Enhancement of Pastoral Effectiveness: to encourage Permanent Deacons to participate in spiritual formation to enrich their spirituality, to maintain solidarity with deacon communities in other places and affiliated church organizations through contacts and

dialogue with a view to expanding their exposure and vision to serve for the formation of the faithful, the community and the Church more effectively.

40. The Permanent Deacons have to maintain these records for submission to the Formation Director for endorsement.

Annual Retreats

41. Retreats were held to deepen the spiritual formation of Deacons, Candidates and Aspirants:

Date	Target group	Venue	Spiritual Director	Topic
26-27 January	Deacons, Candidates and wives	St. Paul's House of Prayer, Sheung Shui	Candidate Peter Ho	The Holy Order of Permanent Deacons and Marriage life "This is a great mystery" (Ephesians 5:32)
1 July	Deacons and the 3 candidates to be ordained	Hermine Convent, Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (FMM), Boundary Street, Kowloon	Rev. Benedict Lam, Rev. Francis Tam, Ms Jennie Chor, Deacon Joseph Sung	Continual formation and spiritual reflection
21-23 July	Deacons and Candidates	St. Paul's House of Prayer, Sheung Shui	Rev. Dominic Chan, VG	Study of LG, DV, SC, and GS of Vatican II
1 October	Candidates and Aspirants	Hermine Convent, Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (FMM), Boundary Street, Kowloon	Rev. Benedict Lam, Rev. Francis Tam, Ms Jennie Chor, Deacon Joseph Sung	Continual formation and spiritual reflection

Formation Learning

42. The Commission designates every Monday evening as "Learning Hours" and arranges short term courses for Deacons, Candidates and Aspirants to strengthen their understanding on Church teachings, Church ministry, pastoral liturgies, family pastoral ministry with a view to

helping them in performing their ministries. In view of the increasing family problems, the focal pastoral learning this year is on “*family*” to strengthen the solid foundation of the family:

Subject	Date
How to explain effectively the meaning of Catholic Marriage Rev. Joseph Yim (Deacons are invited to help in the pre-marriage formation course run by Caritas-Hong Kong on the “Faith” subject)	18 February
Christian Social Concern – to know about the sign of “Time” Rev. Stephen Chan OFM	25 February 4 March
The Challenges and Care in the journey of Catholic married couples Catholic Marriage Advisory Council	15,22 April
To demonstrate conducting parish pre-marriage enquiries Rev. Deacon Joseph Sung	29 April
Family Pastoral service Rev. Deacon Li Fook Sung	6,13 May
Counselling Catholic Marriage Advisory Council	8,15 July
Key points to note in conducting parish pre-marriage enquiries Rev. Stephen Ip	16,23 September
Rev. Ephraim Lam conducted an introduction course on “Marriage Enquiries, administration and Liturgy” on 15,22,29 November 2013 at St. Andrew Church. Deacons were invited to attend.	

Familiarization Visits

43. The Commission arranged for the Deacons and Candidates familiarization visits to diocesan organizations for a better understanding of their work. No visit was organized in view of the tight learning schedule in the year.

Promotion

44. All Deacons and Candidates will personally approach potential Catholics to encourage them to respond to the vocation of the Permanent Diaconate ministry. Arrangements have been made with the Holy Spirit Seminary for the promotion activity to the students of religious studies regularly. Promotion is also carried out in parishes where admissions, lectors and acolyte are administered. For the promotion of the International Conference of Chinese Permanent Deacons, a special column in Kung Kao Po was set up in mid-2013 on the sharing and aspirations of Deacons, introducing the diaconate ministries. Planning is in the pipeline to implement the “***Come and you will see***” promotion strategy as mentioned in Para. 36.

Office of the Permanent Diaconate

45. For the development of the solidarity of the Deacons, the Diocese has previously allocated two classrooms at the former St. Jude's Primary School at North Point for use by Deacons in organizing gatherings and training purposes. The accommodation was called "The Deacons' Corner". Deacons, Candidates and their families will meet in the afternoon of the 4th Sunday of each month to practice Lectio Divina, pastoral experience sharing, Vesper practices and homilies. Approval has been given to allocate Room 697 at the Catholic Diocese Centre at Caine Road as the office accommodation of the Permanent Deacons. The North Point premises was returned in end June 2012 for parish use which is under heavy demand. The new venue was spacious with state of art facilities. The new premises is used for office, meeting, training and resource centre purposes. The premises will also be made available to other institutions which have services related to the diaconate ministries for conducting meetings, training and gathering. All the renovation expenses are gratefully contributed by the Deacons community and benefactors. The Formation Director, Rev. Dominic Chan, VG, blessed the new premises on 28 July 2013.

46. Schools are the nursing ground for evangelization. The Deacons and Candidates are the most suitable resource persons to promote the evangelization because of their formation knowledge and experience in theology and catechism training to support the parish and school. The following programmes have commenced:

- regional catechism classes for teachers and staff. The first class of 16 teachers together with 5 babies received the Sacrament of Baptism in Easter 2013.
- to conduct religious liturgies and spiritual activities in schools.

47. Permanent Deacons take part in the diocesan activities organized for the religious in the study days, Diocesan celebrations and to conduct Benediction during the monthly gathering of the clergy. Deacons also conduct the prayer services at the Catholic cemeteries on the Chinese festivals remembering the departed relatives with the help of the parish bereavement groups.

48. The Hong Kong Deacons community maintains close contacts with other overseas Chinese Permanent Deacons through the electronic network for experience and information sharing. The activities and information of the Deacons are contained in the website <http://deacon.catholic.org.hk>, and the related facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/world.pd.exchange.2013/>). When any Chinese Permanent Deacon happens visiting Hong Kong, if opportunity allows, he is invited to join the gathering in communion with solidarity.

Review and Forward

49. The work of the Commission has been in progress as planned. The ministry of the diaconate has been developed fruitfully in the Hong Kong Diocese for the past two decades gaining the support from the Catholic and the public community. It is an encouraging sign that there is an increase in the number of applicants. The Commission will follow up the directives as laid down in the Insight Day, the sharing and experience gained in the International Conference of Chinese Permanent Deacons, to

develop action plans and to implement according to priorities; to plan the learning spectrum to actualize the Diocesan Pastoral directive of 2014 : ***“to deepen our understanding of our Faith and to revitalize the spirit of Vatican II”***.

Acknowledgement

50. We thank all clergy, religious, Spiritual Directors, members of the Commission, the organizations in the Diocese for their support, guidance and encouragement in the formation training, planning and guidance of the diaconate ministry. We thank the religious communities and faithful for their prayers to support the organization of the 2013 International Conference of Chinese Permanent Deacons. We also thank all Deacons, Candidates, Aspirants and their families for their dedication to promote Love and to witness Faith, to participate in the work of the Commission. May the Lord reward them abundantly.

The Diocesan Commission of Permanent Diaconate of Hong Kong

31 December 2013

Hong Kong

Appendix I – List of appointments, parish pastoral work and community services

Appendix II – Prayer for the Permanent Deacons

Appendix I

List of Appointments, Parish pastoral work and Community services 2013

Permanent Deacons	Parish	Community service	Diocesan Organisations
Lo Woo Lui, Peter	retired		
Tsang Fan Hing, Karl	Holy Redeemer Church	Hospital pastoral care	
Yeow Yu Hong, Paul	retired		
Yung Wai Chung, Joseph	retired		
Sung Wan Lung, Joseph	Annunciation Church	Labour, school pastoral service	Diocesan Commission for the Permanent Diaconate, Hong Kong Catholic Commission for Labour Affairs, Commission for the ongoing formation of the clergy
Chow Yu Hong, Joseph	St. John the Baptist Church	Prison pastoral service	
Ng Wing Hung, Edwin	Epiphany Church	Prison pastoral service	Diocesan Commission for the Permanent Diaconate
Cheung Ka Wai, Francis	retired		
Leung Shing Kwok, Peter	St. Teresa's Church	Hospital Pastoral Care, Reception of visiting religious from Mainland	Diocesan Commission for Hospital Pastoral Care, Diocesan Ecumenical Commission, Hong Kong Catholic Commission for Labour Affairs, Spiritual Director of Catholic Scouts
Fung Sze Chung, Francis	Rosary Church, Kowloon	Interreligious Dialogue	Diocesan Board of Catholic Cemeteries, Diocesan Commission for Interreligious Dialogue
Li Fook Sung, William	Our Lady of Lourdes Church	Marriage Pastoral Care	Diocesan Pastoral Commission for Marriage and the Family(Chairman)
Tang Bun, Bernard	St. Margaret's Church	Airport pastoral services	Assistant to the Airport Chaplain
Wong Shing Yee, Bosco	Overseas study		
Kwok Ping Fai, Stephen	Mother of Christ Church	Youth pastoral service	Diocesan Youth Commission
Kwan Chung Wah, Nestor	Star of the Sea Church	Prison pastoral service, Seamen pastoral service	Diocesan Commission for Pastoral Services to the Disabled, Diocesan Commission for Hospital Pastoral care, Diocesan Liturgical Commission, Diocesan Pastoral Council

Shiu Wai Leung, Paul	St. Andrew's Church	Bereavement and marriage pastoral services	Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission
Lam Sair Ling, Fraustus	Holy Cross Church	School pastoral care , building and development	Diocesan Building and Development Commission
Au Kar Wai, Andrew	Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church	Prison pastoral service	Diocesan Lenten Organizing Committee(Chairman), Hong Kong Catholic Education Development Committee, Assistant Diocesan Procurator
Wong Chi To, Louis	St. Jude's Church	Marriage and family	Diocesan Pastoral commission for Marriage and the Family
Ip Wai Wing, Julian	St. Mary's Church	Hospital pastoral care	Diocesan Building and Development Committee

Candidates

Ho Man Hong, Peter	Our Lady of the Rosary Church		Diocesan Ecumenical Commission,
Chu Nim Cho , Charles	St. Teresa Church	Prison pastoral services	
Kwong Kwok Chuen , Cosmas	St. Thomas the Apostle Church	Labour pastoral care	Hong Kong Catholic Commission for Labour Affairs (Chairman)
Wong King Shing, Peter	Cosmas and Damain Church	Labour pastoral care	
Kwok Chi Keung , Alexander	Holy Redeemer Church	Hospital and rehabilitation pastoral care	
Sinn Yiu Fat , Anthony	St. Joseph Church, Kowloon Bay	Prison pastoral care	
Lam Chi Man, John	Annunciation Church		
Tang Chi Ho, Francis	Mother of Good Counsel Church		
Tam Wing Keung, Simon	St. Andrew 's Church		Hong Kong Catholic Board of Communications
Chan Yuk Keung ,Simon	Holy Cross Church		

Appendix II

Prayer for Permanent Deacons

Almighty and Eternal God,

You have chosen our Permanent Deacons to assist the Bishops and their community of priests to evangelize, to participate in Christ's sacrifice and to foster love and care through their ministries.

May You send the Holy Spirit upon them so they can fulfill their mission loyally, particularly in preaching what they believe, to teach what they believe, and to live in the way they teach.

O Lord, may they possess all the virtues as in the Gospels,

to love without fear, to care for the deprived, to live with honour, to preserve with simplicity and to cooperate with obedience.

May they be totally loyal to the Church, to witness their faith with a pure heart, to be a fervent follower of the Son of God in this temporal life, and to live and reign with you in the day to come.