

# 1

## General

### God gathered the water together into the “Seas”

God also said : “Let the waters that are under the heaven, be gathered together into one place: and let the dry land appear.” And it was so done. And God called the dry land, Earth; and the gathering together of the waters, he called Seas. And God saw that it was good (Gn 1 : 9 - 10).

In the process of creation, God divided water and earth, delimited them and created an orderly world. The purpose of God’s creation is to reveal His glory through the creatures, and to share His love and goodness with them. Therefore, in our lives, we should learn to appreciate and make good use of what God has bestowed, and accept God’s command to become the administrator of the world, and manage all things in the world properly.

Caritas is also an administrator. She herself has nothing. Through the support from the community in manpower, material and financial resources, etc., Caritas serves the people in need and strives to build a harmonious and inclusive society.

## 1.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REMARKS



### Water - The highest level of good deeds

Genesis, the first book of the Bible, described how God created heaven and earth in the first chapter. The spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. Water, thus, has a pivotal position in the process of creation. Water is one of the most important substances on earth. It is also a vital element for the survival of all living creatures, including human being. Water plays an indispensable role in the evolution of lives and nourishment of land.

"Water" is the theme of this year's annual report. The characteristics of water readily provide inspiration. Water is also one of the core elements of spiritual formation. Ocean registers profound respect, waterfall bestows delight; river brings joy; and streams flow with serenity. Water can leave a cheerful sentiment which is incomparable with materialistic enjoyment.

Today, people in modern city simply turn on the tap and water comes out continuously. Have you ever thought of the impoverished people living at the other end of the earth where enjoyment of water is out of reach? Have you ever reckoned that water is a precious gift from God and not a result of the hard work of man? Therefore, we must treasure water with great gratitude. Regrettably, we have not tried our best to protect the earth, leading to adverse weather changes in two opposing extremes, droughts and floods raged in different corners of the earth. This is a good reflection for the Caritas team

that we should examine the allocation of resources carefully to ensure the best use of the government grants and donations from warmhearted supporters.

The form of water varies; it condenses into ice when encountering a cold front and becomes magnificent glaciers; it transforms into steam as it meets the heat and floats into the air, then it takes the form of clouds and flutters over the mountains; and it can turn into rain and nourish the land. Water adapts to the seasonal changes which is a good reminder for the Agency. Being a social welfare organization, we cannot stick to the old way of doing things in today's rapidly changing environment. We must pay close attention to the prevailing situation of the society and the associated problems in order to provide timely and appropriate services.

Water has a high degree of inclusiveness. For example, pain can be relieved by soaking the burnt part in water; numerous delicious drinks are made by adding different kinds of ingredients in water; among others. This awakes the Caritas team to uphold the love of Christ, to play their respective roles; to promote love and mutual understanding among each other in order to experience the spirit of solidarity and develop a harmonious society together.

Caritas is the social service agency of the Catholic Church in Hong Kong, with particular attention to the last, the least and the lost within the community. These people are often ignored and neglected by the society. They are hiding in the dark corners. Let us resemble water to penetrate into different parts and different levels of the society, to extend our services to the needed areas.

"The highest level of good deeds is like water which favors all without caring about vanity" (*from Lao Tzu: The Eternal Tao Te Ching*). I wish that the Caritas team is united together and imitate the features of "water" by extending the spirit of sharing; gathering the support and donations from the enthusiastic community; thus bringing care, love and services to the brothers and sisters in need!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Yim', with a horizontal line above it.

Rev Joseph T.L. Yim

## 1.2 CARITAS FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN 2016/2017

### Theme of the 2016/2017 Campaign: “Give Them a Ray of Hope”

Appeals for support and running bazaar stalls made to the parishes, schools and associations were met by encouraging responses. About 470 units, including parishes, mass centres, schools, organizations and Caritas service units participated in this year's Campaign. The six bazaars held in Hong Kong, Tuen Mun, Kowloon, Cheung Chau, Sha Tin and Tsuen Wan were operated with the assistance of about 15,000 enthusiastic volunteers. The official opening of the Hong Kong Bazaar was officiated by the Hon Paul Chan Mo-po, GBS MH JP, the then Secretary for Development while that of the Kowloon Bazaar was officiated by the Hon Lai Tung-kwok, GBS IDSM JP, Secretary for Security. The other four bazaars were opened by local dignitaries.



- Mr Paul Chan participated in the stall games together with Most Rev Michael M.C. Yeung at the Hong Kong Bazaar



- Smiling faces at the Kowloon Bazaar – Cardinal Tong and Mr Lai Tung-kwok together with other guests pictured with the students

The Industrial & Commercial Bank of China (Asia) has taken up the chairmanship of the Campaign for 18 consecutive years. This year, the total amount raised from the Campaign came to a record high of \$31.22 million, which included \$7.2 million from the six bazaars, \$12.99 million from the sale of raffle tickets and \$11.03 million from the Friends of Caritas (through fundraising activities like Charity TV Show, Charity Cantonese Opera, Charity Musical and Charity Golf Day), patrons of the Campaign, corporate donors and individual benefactors.



- Charity Musical “The Field of Dreams” – Members of “Friends of Caritas” gave a great applause to the impressive performance taking the acclaimed musical to a whole new level of visual and musical enjoyment



- The six Caritas Bazaars attracted hundred thousands of visitors who returned home from a fruitful journey





- Around 100 golfers participated in the Golf Day which had raised a record high of \$1.35 million



- To Love is to Share – The guests posed for a “like” group photo after the Charity TV Show

### 1.3 CATHOLIC CHURCH LENTEN CAMPAIGN 2016 AND GRANT FROM LENTEN ALLOCATION

The Catholic Church Lenten Campaign Organizing Committee (“the Committee”) chose “Merciful Like The Father” for its theme. Caritas, serving as the Committee’s Secretariat, helped in the campaign by organizing promotion seminar, preparing press release, designing posters, managing the webpage, coordinating the printing and distribution of Lenten messages, printing “Way of the Cross” booklets, producing banners, Lenten Boxes and Paschal Lamb savings boxes for collection of donations.

With the support of parishes, Catholic schools and organizations, a total of \$7.08 million was raised in response to the appeal in 2016, a marginal increase of 1.87% as compared with \$6.95 million raised in 2015.

An amount of \$5.95 million was allocated to Caritas to fund the services for the needy through its social, medical care and education programmes.

In the spirit of solidarity, a sum of \$0.8 million was allocated for overseas and local emergency relief activities with Caritas providing the administrative and secretarial support.

Caritas supported the Committee in the Lenten Charitable School Award Scheme which received positive response from 113 Catholic schools and kindergartens with a total of 143,693 entries. Prizes were presented by Mr Lau Chiu Yin Peter to winners of the drawing, colouring and blog writing competitions in May 2016.



- Lenten promotion seminar 2016 by Rev Simon Li



# 1.4 STAFF POSITION

The total number of full-time staff was 5,421 on 31 March 2017 which was close to that of last year. The number of full-time staff for Social Work Services Division and Education Services Division accounted for 57.6% and 26% respectively while those for central and supporting services, local services and janitorial service were only 3%.

The turnover rate of full-time staff for the period April 2016 to March 2017 was 18.8%, which was 0.4% less as compared to the year 2015/2016.

The total number of part-time staff was 1,680 on 31 March 2017 which was reduced by 3.6% as compared to the same date in 2016.

Diagram 1 shows the distribution of full-time and part-time staff as well as the manpower loss of full-time staff in various services.

Diagram 2 delineates the position of staff having served for 10 years or more by gender and by services. The number of female staff constituted 75% of the long-serving staff members which was similar to last year.

Succession planning is in place to cope with the retirement wave.

Diagram 1

Staff Strength as at 31 March 2017 and Staff Turnover in 2016/2017

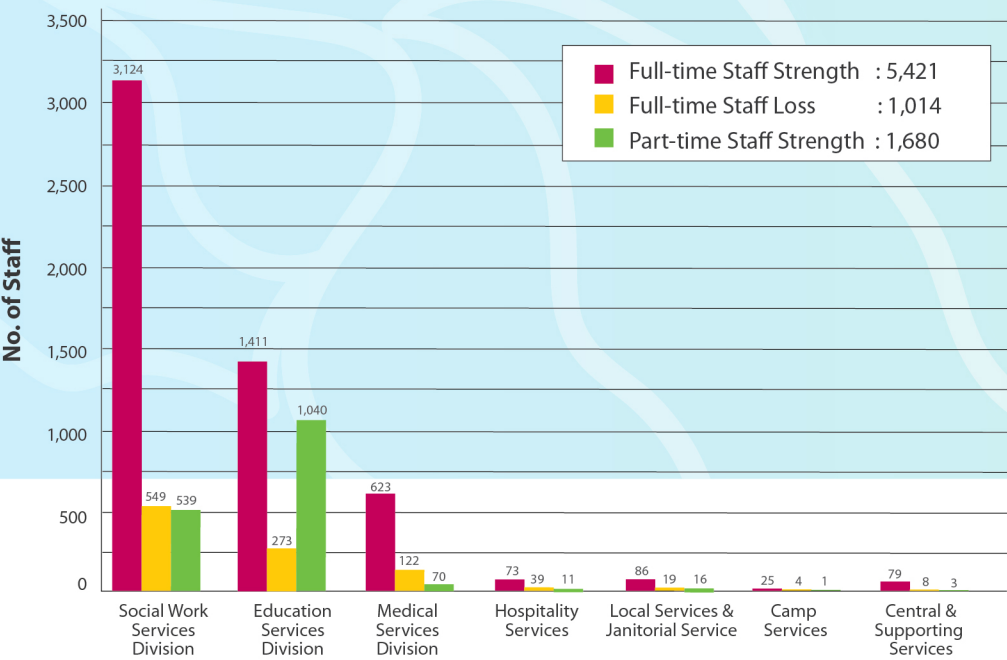


Diagram 2

Position of Long-serving Staff as at 31 March 2017

