

1 General



“Gratitude is a flower that blooms in noble souls.” – Pope Francis

According to legend, the four-leaf clover brings faith, hope, love and happiness that are long wished by people. Pope Francis reminds us to treat our brothers with four actions, i.e., accept each other, protect human dignity, develop correct values and unite people together. We should strive to build the heaven on earth.

Thanks to the friendly assistance of everyone! Caritas is grateful that it has served for more than 60 years smoothly and steadily. Caritas witnesses the love of Christ through its various services and implements its mission in accordance with the teachings of the Pope by applying the principles of acceptance, protection, development and integration.



1.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REMARKS



The Annual Report this year adopts Pope Francis's teachings as its theme and supplemented by nature scene --- four-leaf clover, ocean, sky, cliff and seedlings. The theme highlights Caritas' loving services and bringing hope to those in need in the society so that they can still stand firm even when encountering difficult situations. Caritas spreads the seeds of love in the society with the goal to achieve harmony regardless of gender, race or religion.

2017/2018 is a meaningful year for Caritas - Hong Kong. It signifies that we have served Hong Kong for 64 years and are heading towards the 65th anniversary. This is a good time to look back and plan for the future. Over the past 60 years, Hong Kong society has undergone radical changes and the economy has developed rapidly. The rise of the internet in the 21st century has brought us into a different world, impacting the traditional culture of helping each other and swallowing up the loving relationship between people. Gradually, it affects how we treat people and everything, such as with alienation and indifference and becoming less caring. This is just as the Pope pointed out that we must maintain a high degree of communion to experience the love of Christ!

The Book of Changes makes reference to the unity of the opposing elements --- yin and yang, to symbolize the principles of all changes on earth, the operation and development of the universe. These give a good revelation for the management team. The management should respond to changes in time, space, and context. Facing the rapidly changing times and responding to the needs of the community, the services of Caritas - Hong Kong should also keep pace with the times, be flexible and up-to-date. Since its inception 64 years ago,

Caritas - Hong Kong has changed its focus from providing relief and rehabilitation services to a wider range of services, such as social work, education, medical care etc. Each service is closely interconnected and inseparable, taking care of the needs of service recipients at different stages.

Caritas - Hong Kong acquired an abundant harvest during the year 2017/2018. A number of major projects were completed, including the redevelopment of Caritas Tsuen Wan Social Centre, the opening of the new campus of Caritas Institute of Higher Education at Tseung Kwan O; the establishment of a new school for social development / residential home (Caritas Mother Teresa School and Caritas Mother Teresa Hall) etc. All these laid the foundation for the development of Caritas - Hong Kong towards its 65th anniversary.

Looking forward to the future, Caritas - Hong Kong should be taking a broad and long-term view, exploring the future needs of the society, and formulating relevant development directions. We are vigorously working on several major projects. We are convinced that education can change our lives. We are therefore actively preparing for the establishment of the first Catholic University in Hong Kong. With the aging of the population, we expect that there would be a strong demand for elderly services and the pressure to take care of the elderly is a fact of life. A Resource and Support Centre for Carers is put into operation to cater to these needs.

While seeking constant changes, we should not neglect the unification of the opposing yin and yang as mentioned in the Book of Changes, to remain unchanged in the transformation process. What is unchanged is that Caritas' service are rooted in the Christian faith, inheriting love and hope, just as the earth revolves around both the sun and on its own axis. If we act in accordance with the Pope's teaching and be supported by the love of Christ, the services of Caritas - Hong Kong will not be a formality, empty and inferior in quality.

I hope that everyone continues supporting Caritas - Hong Kong so that it can grow strong and sturdy as it enters the new milestone of the 65th anniversary. Let us work with one heart and one mind, spreading the love of Christ throughout every corner of Hong Kong.

Rev Joseph T.L. Yim

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Yim', written over a horizontal line.

1.2 CARITAS FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN 2017/2018

Theme of the 2017/2018 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 480 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 Dr the Hon Law Chi-kwong, GBS, JP, Secretary for Labour and Welfare while that of the Kowloon Bazaar was officiated by the Hon Kevin Yeung Yun-hung, JP, Secretary for Education. The other four bazaars were opened by local dignitaries.



• The lion dance team greeted the officiating guests at the opening ceremony of the Hong Kong Bazaar



• A snapshot of Mr Kevin Yeung's tour of the Kowloon Bazaar

The Industrial & Commercial Bank of China (Asia) has taken up the chairmanship of the Campaign for 19 consecutive years. This year, the total amount raised from the Campaign came to a record high of \$31.96 million, which included \$8.02 million from the six bazaars and the first ever 2018 Caritas Charity Fun Fair, \$13.14 million from the sale of raffle tickets and \$10.80 million from the Friends of Caritas (through fundraising activities like Charity TV Show, Charity Musical and Charity Golf Day), patrons of the Campaign, corporate donors and individual benefactors.



• Searching for dreams and hopes, Enjoying warmth and good cheer - Members of "Friends of Caritas" and guests joined the Charity Musical "SCROOGR!" to celebrate with love and laughter around Christmas time



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



- *Stepping into the Golf Day's 10th anniversary, over 100 golfers participated in the event which had raised a record high of \$1.42 million*



- *To Love is to Share – The guests showed support to the Charity TV Show*

1.3 CATHOLIC CHURCH LENTEN CAMPAIGN 2017 AND GRANT FROM LENTEN ALLOCATION

The Catholic Church Lenten Campaign Organizing Committee ("the Committee") chose "Upholding Marriage and Family values with the Love of God" for its theme. Caritas, serving as the Committee's Secretariat, helped in the campaign by organizing promotion seminar, preparing press release, 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. This year, the Committee has invited students from Caritas Institute of Higher Education to design the Lenten posters and prizes were presented to the awarded students in the closing ceremony.

With the support of parishes, Catholic schools and organizations, a total of \$7.44 million was raised in response to the appeal in 2017, a marginal increase of 5.2% as compared with \$7.08 million raised in 2016.

An amount of \$6.24 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 \$0.5 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 127 Catholic schools and kindergartens with a total of 140,970 entries. Prizes were presented by Dr Paul Lau to winners of the poster design, drawing, colouring and blog writing competitions in May 2017.



- *Lenten promotion seminar 2017 officiating guest Rev Dominic Lui (left), Rev Deacon Andrew Au Chairman of the Committee (right)*

1.4 STAFF POSITION

The total number of full-time staff was 5,531 on 31 March 2018 which was 2% higher than that of last year. The number of full-time staff for Social Work Services Division and Education Services Division accounted for 58.2% and 25.9% respectively while those for central and supporting services, local services and janitorial service were only 2.9%.

The turnover rate of full-time staff for the period April 2017 to March 2018 was 18.8%, which was same as the year 2016/2017.

The total number of part-time staff was 1,751 on 31 March 2018 which has increased by 4.2% as compared to the same date in 2017. The increase was mainly from Social Work Services.

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 73% of the long-serving staff members which was 2% less than last year.

Diagram 1
Staff Strength as at 31 March 2018 and Staff Turnover in 2017/2018

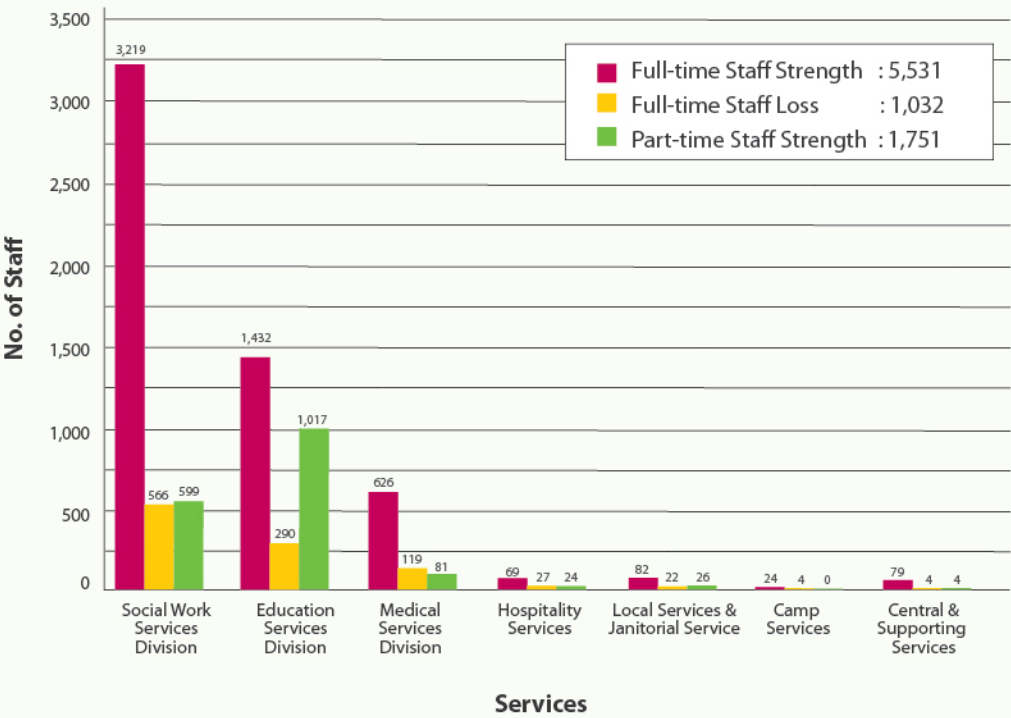


Diagram 2

Position of Long-serving Staff as at 31 March 2018

