

1

General

Vibrance
Longevity
Faithfulness



Catharanthus roseus

1.1 Chief Executive's Remarks



“Think of the flowers growing in the fields; they never have to work or spin; yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his royal robes was clothed like one of these. Now if that is how God clothes the wild flowers growing in the field which are there today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, will he not much more look after you, you who have so little faith?” (Mt 6 : 28-30)

Caritas has been providing services for 68 years! Indeed, if it was not for God’s favor, how could it work to this day? Up to now, Caritas has more than 6,300 full-time employees. These 6,000+ employees work in social services, education, medical care, catering, hostels, camps, and local services. Everyone is dedicated to doing their best, just like blooming flowers, revealing the glory of God!

Last year, the COVID-19 raged, devastating globally. During the pandemic, everything seemed to have come to a halt. However, Caritas still strives to provide various services, continuing to blossom like flowers, and showing love and care. For example, in days when there were shortages of masks, these were distributed freely to the grassroots with other anti-pandemic materials. When restaurants were prohibited from providing dining in services, service centres were opened immediately to people in need for meals, prompting the government to change relevant measures so that the public can at least enjoy their meals in the hot summer and even in heavy rain! In areas where the pandemic was widespread, proactive contacts with the elderly and needy families were arranged to provide

care and love to them. When the pandemic in Italy and other regions was getting critical, cash and materials received from donors were sent to Italy, Spain and other Southeast Asia countries, via Caritas Internationalis, to support their rescue and relief work. As for education services, Caritas always takes care of the under-privileged. Caritas Institute of Higher Education opened nursing and social sciences programmes which became the ladder for some non-mainstream school students, enabling them to acquire professional skills for contribution to the society.

We hope that we can become God’s handy tool so that His love can be manifested and extended through the services of Caritas, and our services can flourish like flowers. As quoted in the above gospel, see how do the lilies grow in the field. Even the clothings worn by Solomon in his heyday were not as good as these flowers. But good flowers still need to be irrigated by kind-hearted people, just like generous benevolent persons would fertilize Caritas by in-kind or monetary donations, so that Caritas can thrive and benefit those in need. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your kindness, and I hope you will continue to provide your unwavering support to fertilize and irrigate the services of Caritas.

Affected by the pandemic and the unstable environment this year, some Hong Kong citizens have experienced anxiety regarding the future with uncertainties. However, as stated in the above gospel, the wild flowers in the field are still there, and though they would be thrown into the furnace tomorrow, yet God still decorates them. The Lord assured us clearly that He will take care of the flowers and plants even though they would be withered in a moment, let alone us? Of course, everyone should be united, especially during the difficult years, and we need to collaborate, complement, communicate and integrate with each other, so that our services can be as brilliant as the blooming flowers and exhibit the glory of God more and more!

Rev Joseph T.L. Yim

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Yim'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

1.2 Caritas Fundraising Campaign 2020/2021

Theme of the 2020/2021 Campaign: “Give Them a Ray of Hope”

Notwithstanding the adverse impact of the COVID-19, about 450 units, including parishes, mass centres, schools, organizations and Caritas service units had participated in this year’s Fundraising Campaign. The Raffle Ticket Sale had reached a record-breaking result of \$14.62 million and the order for Charity Christmas Cookies had also been increased.



▲ Raffle Ticket Draw



▲ Charity Christmas Cookies Sale

In face of the Prohibition on Group Gathering, Caritas was not able to organize large-scale public bazaars in different districts. However, it was thankful that there were over 100 parishes, schools, organizations and Caritas service units joined the mini-bazaars as well as the newly added activities “One Person One Red Packet” and “Door Donation at Churches” which had raised a total of \$1.96 million.



▲ Mini-bazaars held by Caritas service units

Our staunch supporter, the Industrial & Commercial Bank of China (Asia) has continued the Campaign chairmanship for 22 years in a row and gave great support to the organization of different activities. Attributed to concerted efforts, the total amount raised from the Campaign had reached a record high of \$38.78 million, which included \$22.19 million from general donations and fundraising events like Charity TV Show.



▲ Caritas Charity TV Show

1.3 Catholic Church Lenten Campaign 2020 and Grant From Lenten Allocation

The Lenten Campaign Organizing Committee (“the Committee”) helps to promote the Catholic Church Lenten Campaign every year. The Campaign appeals to the faithful for voluntary work and sacrifices and to contribute financially to help the needy.

In 2020, the Committee chose the theme “The blind man went and washed and came back able to see” for the campaign. Caritas, serving as the Committee 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.

The Lenten Campaign 2020 raised a total of \$3.25 million with which represents 40% received last year. The significant decrease was that during the entire Lenten period, the community was under the threat of the COVID-19 leading to the suspension of church services and school classes where the main sources of collections came from. Despite the unfavourable situation, there was an encouraging response to the appeal of the Campaign with the support of parishes, Catholic schools and organizations. The Committee had allocated all the collections of \$3.25 million together with a top up grant of \$1.65 million from the reserve funds to make a total allocation of \$4.9 million for 2020.

An amount of \$4.22 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 \$0.2 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 57 Catholic schools and kindergartens with a total of 652 entries. The Lenten Charitable School Award and Prize Presentation Ceremony scheduled in February 2020 and May 2020 had been cancelled due to the pandemic.



▲ Catholic Church Lenten Campaign 2020

1.4 Staff Position

The total number of full-time staff was 6,394 on 31 March 2021 which was 5.8% higher than that of last year. The number of full-time staff for Social Work Services Division and Education Services Division accounted for 59.8% and 26.3% respectively while those for central and supporting services, local services and janitorial service were only 2.7%.

The turnover rate of full-time staff for the period April 2020 to March 2021 was 17.7% which was 0.8% less as compared to the year 2019/2020.

The total number of part-time staff was 1,860 on 31 March 2021 which has increased by 30.7% as compared to the same date in 2020. The increase was mainly from Caritas Youth and Community Service.

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 similar to last year.

Diagram 1

Staff Strength as at 31 March 2021 and Full-time Staff Turnover in 2020 / 2021

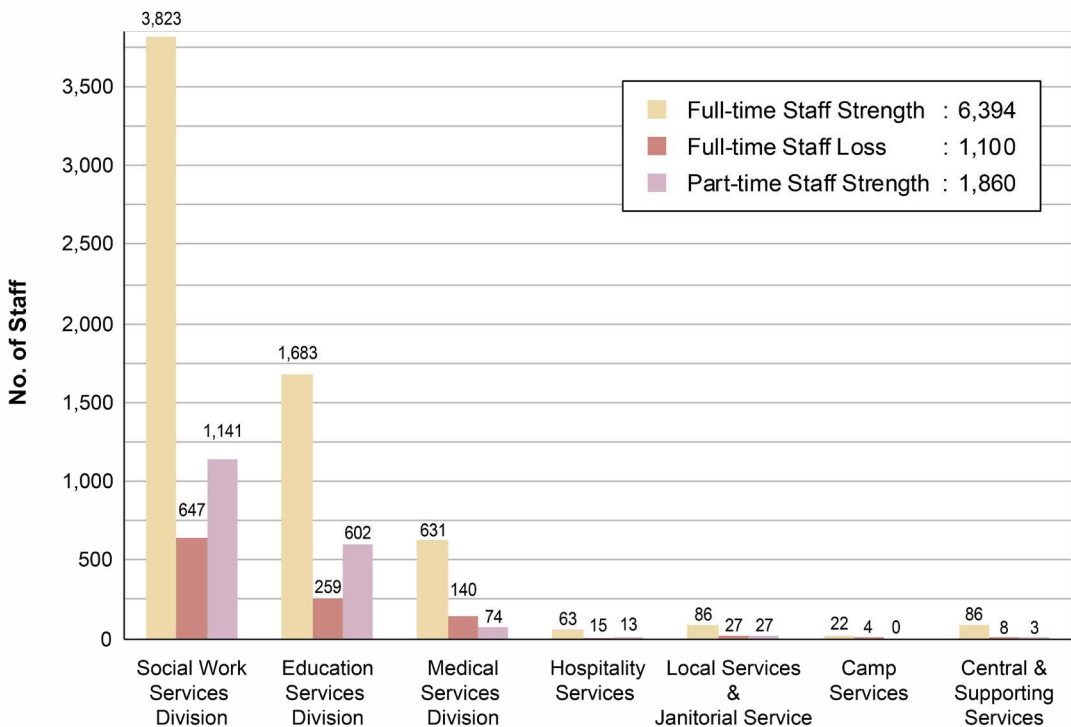


Diagram 2

Position of Long-serving Full-time Staff as at 31 March 2021

