

## 2023年天主教四旬期運動捐獻和撥款 Catholic Church Lenten Campaign 2023 and Grant from Lenten Allocation

天主教香港教區四旬期運動委員會(「委員會」)每年均協助推廣天主教四旬期運動(「運動」)，呼籲教友施捨和克己，並透過奉獻金錢、時間和才能幫助社會上有需要人士，從而分享天主給予我們的恩賜。

2023年四旬期運動的主題為「願你們平安」(若20:21)。明愛作為委員會秘書處，與委員會一同合作舉辦推介會、預備新聞稿、管理網頁、協調印製和發放四旬期的訊息、印製《苦路善功》小冊子、製作海報、四旬期捐獻盒和「巴斯卦羊」錢箱收集捐款。

由於社會和經濟活動全面復常，我們得以於本年度復辦大規模宣傳和籌募活動。在堂區神長、學校校長和其他單位的支持下，合共籌得善款691萬元，整體數字較去年上升一倍，成績令人鼓舞。在此，我們衷心感謝教區、學校以及各界人士給予的支持，讓我們得以繼續和社會上有需要人士同行。

與此同時，四旬期撥款委員會了解到社會環境仍然嚴峻，求助的人數會繼續上升，所需求的服務範圍更為廣泛。有見及此，四旬期撥款委員會議決將本年度所籌得之款項連同儲備合共700萬元，作為本年度的撥款總額以回應社會上的迫切需要。

在籌得的總款項中，明愛獲委員會撥款515萬元，用作資助其社會服務、醫療和教育等項目，為有需要人士提供服務。此外，委員會更秉承團結共融的精神，撥出40萬元用作海外和本地緊急賑災活動之用，並由明愛提供一切行政及文書的支援工作。

「四旬期愛心學校獎勵計劃」為天主教四旬期運動的其中一項重點活動，本年度得到全港199間公教學校和幼稚園的踴躍參與，合共提交了1,850份參選作品，而頒獎典禮已於2023年5月完滿舉行。

The Lenten Campaign Organizing Committee of the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong (the “Campaign Committee”) helps to promote the Catholic Church Lenten Campaign (the “Campaign”) every year. The Campaign calls on the faithful to give alms and share the gifts that God has given us by donating money and sharing our time and talents to help those in need.

The theme of the Campaign for 2023 was “Peace be with you” (Jn 20:21). Caritas, as the Campaign Committee’s Secretariat, worked with the Campaign Committee in performing her duties. These included organizing promotional seminars, preparing press releases, managing the webpages, coordinating the printing and distribution of the Lenten messages, printing the “Way of the Cross” booklets, as well as producing posters, Lenten Boxes and Paschal Lamb for the collection of donations.

As the social and economic activities resumed to full normalcy, we were able to organize large-scale promotions and fundraising activities in this year. With the support from parish priests, school principals and other units, a total of \$6.91 million was raised, which doubled the figure of last year. We sincerely thank those parishes, schools and parties from different sectors for their support, allowing us to continue to help those in need in our society.

The Diocesan Lenten Collection Allocation Committee (the “Allocation Committee”) understood that under the continuous severe social environment, the number of people who sort help would continue to increase and the scope of services they need would be more extensive. Given this, the Allocation Committee resolved to apply the raised this year together with the reserve, i.e. a total of \$7 million, to respond to the urgent needs in our community.

Out of the entire collection, \$5.15 million was allocated to Caritas to fund her social service, medical and education programmes to assist those in need. To uphold the spirit of solidarity and inclusivity, a sum of \$400,000 was allocated for overseas and local emergency relief activities while Caritas provided all necessary administrative and secretarial support.

“The Lenten Charitable School Award Scheme”, as a key part of the Campaign activities, received positive responses from 199 Catholic schools and kindergartens with 1,850 entries this year. The prize presentation ceremony was held in May 2023.

