

NEWSLETTER

Guild of St. Luke, SS. Cosmas & Damian, Hong Kong

Autumn 90

香港天主教醫生協會

c/o 10/F, Diocese Centre, 16 Caine Road, H.K.

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EDITORIAL

This is the first issue of Newsletter since this year's AGM. The members of the Editorial Board change a bit but our desire for your support never changes.

The Newsletter has published a total of 18 issues from 1984-90. In this issue we have done a survey of the different topics included in these various issues. Perhaps you may find some of your contributions or lost memories there. We hope that this not only provides us with an overview of the past but also gives us insight into the future direction which we can explore.

Also included in this issue is a speech by Dr. Thilemon Choi at the Annual Dinner. In his speech, Dr. Choi inspired us with an optimistic insight into the future and I hope you find it enlightening.

We received several pieces of personal contributions lately. While enjoying their sharings as you read along, we very much hope that you could also share your precious ideas and experience with us.

THE MASTER'S WORDS

Dear members,

I thank you whole heartedly for continuing support to the Guild. After serving the Guild as council member, Hon. Treasurer, and Hon. Secretary, I was entrusted with an important task of moving a step further at the recent AGM, to become the Master. With your support and advice, the help of the council, and above all, God's blessings, I am sure that the Guild will continue to be productive.

Dr. Thilemon Choi's fanastic speech at the AGM published in this issue of Newsletter does provide us with an optimistic view in this great era. In this rapidly changing world, our future is full of uncertainties. The best and the worst occured together. By human nature pessimistic views prevail. Without faith from Christ one can easily get lost in the turmoil.

On 27-7-90 the Guild celebrated the 50th anniversary of priesthood of our beloved Fr. Cronin. The function was well organised by Dr. Emmanuel Chang, one of our past masters. Due to hurry the notice was not sent by mail but through direct telephone contact, and I must apologise for those whom we have missed in the call list. The night was well attended, enjoyable and memorable.

The Medical Sunday is coming. Seperate notice will be sent to individual members but may I request you to reserve this day on your diary and make an effort to come.

Last of all I wish to take this opportunity to thank all council members for the effort and to wish those who will take their professional examination in the coming months to pass with flying colours.

May God bless us all.

Yours in Christ,

Stephen Law

TOPICS OF NEWSLETTER 1984-90

YEAR AND TITLE	AUTHOR	YEAR AND TITLE	AUTHOR
Dec 84		April 86	
St. Luke, St. Cosmas and Damian	Fr. J. Russel, S.J.	Theme: Natural Family Planning	
The beginnings of the HK Guild of St. Luke, Sts. Cosmas & Damian	Fr. F. Cronin, S.J.	1. Ethics and Natural Family Planning	Fr. P Brady, S.J.
On reading the "Third Dimension of Medicine"	Anthony Tam	2. A way of life	Dr. I Osmund Ruiz
		3. Why I began to teach Natural Family Planning and why I continue	Sr. T Howard, M.M.
		4. What people say about NEP	
Mar 85		July 86	
Theme: The Dying Patients		St. Paul's and St. Teresa's Hospitals	Sr. Jacqueline Ho
1. The Dying Patients' Bill of Rights	Workshop of "The Terminally ill Patient and the Helping Person"	From a nurse	Anonymous
2. Hospice Care of the dying Patient	Dr. J.F. Hanratty	Reflection of a member	Diana Siu
3. The Heart of the Care of the terminally ill patients and the care taker	Anthony Tam	The Catholic Nurses' Guild	
4. What has been done? What can we do?	Vincent Tse & Stephen Law		
The HK Catholic Marriage Advisory Council	Vincent Tse		
Confidentiality and parental responsibility	Fr. J Russel, S.J.		
		Oct. 86	
		Theme: FIAMC (International Federation of Catholic Medical Association)	
		1. Message from the President of FIAMC	
		2. Origin, Structure and Activities of FIAMC	Dr. C.J. Vas, President, FIAMC
		3. The Federation	Dr. T.P. Lineman, Sec. Gen., FIAMC
		What is a hospital for?	Dr. E.H. Paterson
		Jan 87	
		The Bishop's sermon to the Guild on Medical Sunday	
		My encounter with cancer (I)	Dr. J Low
		The Catholic community in Caritas and PWH	Francis
		The Canossian presence in health in HK	Sr. Bertilla
		Apr 87	
		My encounter with cancer (II)	Dr. J Low
		First steps of a palliative care team	Dr. M Cullem
		今日心聲——牙醫的苦悶	Sammy Sou
		July 87	
		試管受孕及借胎……教廷的立場	夏其龍神父
		Begotten not made — Made not begotten: IVF and Embryo Transfer in HK	Sr. T Howard, M.M.
		信與聚——信仰醫療講座	FMok

Oct 87

Message from the Pope: The presence of Evil and Suffering in the world	L' Observatore Romano
醫療主日講道	曾慶文副主教
醫療主日讀經及禱文	
Hippocratic Oath	
皈依——一個病者的自述	摘自公教報

Jan 88

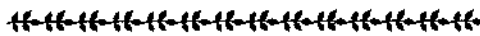
Theme: Abortion	
About Abortion	Birth Right Society
Laws about Abortion	Prolife Action Association
The Prolife Action Association Ltd. Columban Sisters serve the sick in HK 1948-1987	Patrick Chan Sr. Mary Damien
Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital	Ms Margaret Hong

Sept 88

Annual report of the Guild 87-88	
Some personal thoughts	George Chan
Medical Ethics—a paper read at the FIAMC Congress	
Teaching Medical Ethics	Fr. P Brady, S.J.

88-89

The 35th Anniversary Special Issue
Theme: The Catholic Medical Service in HK: Past, Present, and Future



SPIRITUAL REFRESHMENT

SIN

“How can God be closer to sinners than to saints?”

“God in heaven holds each person by a string. When you sin you cut the string. Then God ties it up again, making a knot — and thereby bringing you a little closer to him. Again and again your sin cuts the string — and with each further knot God keeps you closer and closer.”

Autumn 89

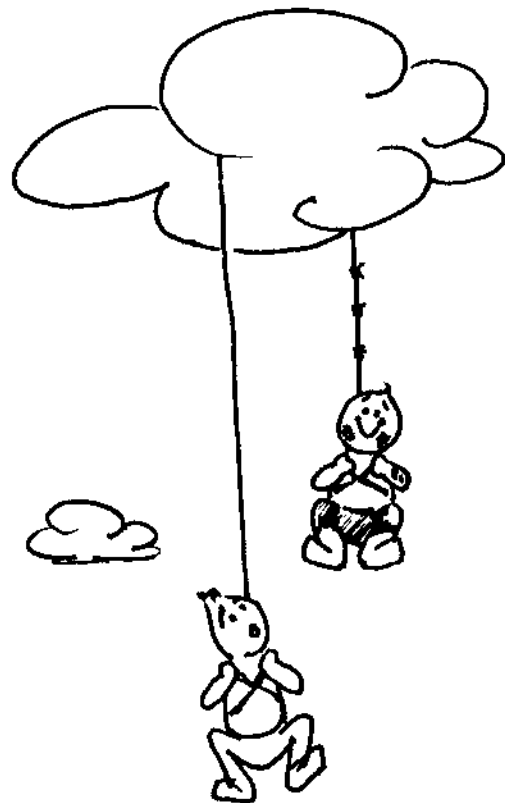
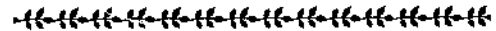
Theme: Face the change of HK	
1. Report on a seminar: “Catholic doctors in a changing era”	F Mok
2. Leave or Stay — an interview	Linda Lam
3. 去與留	凡腦
4. 「留」與「溜」座談會印象記	楊美雲

Winter 89

Theme: Vietnamese Boat People — Our least brothers?!	
1. 香港越南難民問題 —專訪范徐麗泰議員	沈宗新、莫俊強
2. The first line medical workers' view	
3. The Vietnamese boat people and the parish	Fr. J.F. Ahearn, M.M.
4. Vietnamese boat people and our Church	Fr. Pierre Le van Thang

Spring 90

Theme: The Guild of St. Luke	
1. Evaluation of a study on the Guild	Linda Lam
2. Views about the Guild	



MEGATRENDS 2000 — OUR RESPONSE

Dr. Thilemon Choi was our guest of honour at our Annual Dinner on 15-6-90. Besides being a medical doctor, he was also the director of the "Breakthrough Ltd." He addressed the Guild with the topic "Megatrends 2000" — our response. We publish this summerised version of his enlightening speech for those who could not attend the AGM.

He began by making the comment that 1989 was a very strange year. There was an abrupt change in the human history. The June 4th Event turned the hope of many Chinese into despair. On the other hand, the change in Eastern Europe was a fresh start for 1990's. We were now in a "Great Era" of history. However many people were lost in this "Great Era". Many people focussed on the dark side of the time. One was flooded with pessimistic prediction and discouragement especially after the June 4th last year. Many recent reports revealed that the major worries of HK people were related to the 1997 issue. On the other hand, the world was facing with problems which were at a much larger scale. Some of those would definitely change the fate of human being. Environmental pollution was the no.1 issue. Other worries such as global economic breakdown, political instability, nuclear war, natural disasters etc. were the nightmares of many around the world. Actually these should be our worries also if we were conscious enough because our technological and socioeconomic achievement had closely linked up all the nations on the earth. We were in a state of either "win together or lose together".

A book published recently impressed Dr. Choi very much by its optimistic predictions about the future. It was "Megatrends 2000" by John Naisbitt. In the book the author predicted ten new trends about the future.

The ten new trends were: 1. The global economic bloom of the 1990's; 2. Renaissance in Arts; 3. The emergence of Free-Market Socialicism; 4. Global lifestyles and cultural nationalism; 5. The privatisation of the welfare state; 6. The rise of the Pacific Rim; 7. Decade of women leadership; 8. The age of Biology; 9. Religious revival of the third millenium; 10. Triumph of the individual.

One was very glad to see such optimistic predictions which were well supported with data. When everyone was glooming in darkness, the wise saw the light in distance. The question was: How to get such wisdom?

On reflection of his faith, Dr. Choi discovered two sources of power which could help us to face darkness and see the light. We were created in the image of God and our fellow men were our brothers and sisters. If we were cut off from God and our brothers, we had to fight the battle alone. Certainly, this led to helplessness and despair.

So the first way was to go back to God. Dr. Choi learnt this from Mother Teresa of Calcutta. He quoted her famous meditaion passage, "God is the friend of silence. See the sun, moon and stars; how they move in silence. Look at the flowers, trees and grasses; how they grow in silence. The more we receive in silence prayers in solitude, the more we are empowered by God to face the world." It was especially in this great time of change and turmoil that human strength was not enough to face the world. We need the strength from God and prayer in silence to lead us back to God.

The second way was to overcome alienation of human nature and relationship. We fellow Catholics were ordered by our master to love one another as ourselves. However in this era of alienation, one has to bear the unbearable sorrow alone. Thus, forming a community and shared our lives with one another was the solution. Dr. Choi said jokingly that if the members of our Guild just met once a year, our Guild wouldn't last long. There should be more religious activities such as retreats and the attendance should be better.

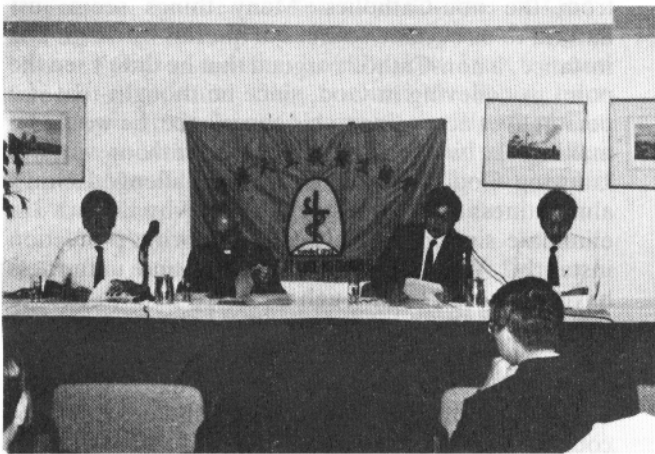
At the end, Dr. Choi asked us to march happily towards 2000 A.D. With the power from God and our fellow men, the challenge ahead would not evoke fear and despair but rather our enthusiasm to open a new page of human history.

(Reported and summarised by F. Mok and R. Yeung.)

COUNCIL SECTION

AGM

The Annual General Meeting 89-90 was held on 15th June 90 at the Hong Kong Club. The Secretary and the Treasurer's reports were adopted and the new council members elected. This year we had Dr. Thilemon Choi of the "Breakthrough" Magazine to be our guest speaker. He delivered an enlightening speech which impressed us all.



CONGRATULATIONS!

The Guild would like to express our sincere congratulations to the following newly graduated Catholics. Best wishes to their present year of Internship.

HKU: Au Tak Shun, Thomas
 Au Yeung Kai Ming, Paul
 Cheng Ho Yin, Michael
 Chow Ka Yuen, Leo
 Ip Shu Kwan
 Pang Lai Man, Amy
 Tsui Sik Hon, Matthew
 Wong Po Ngok, Caesar
 Wong Sze Man
 Yeung Shing

CU: Wu Wing Keung
 Choi Cheung He

THE NEW COUNCIL:

Spiritual Director : Rev. Fr. J. Russel

Master : Dr. Stephen Law
 RTC, QEH

Hon. Secretary : Dr. Francis Mok
 Geriatrics, PMH

Hon. Treasurer : Dr. Bosco Chung
 Dental, KCH

Council Members :

Dr. Severinus Chan
 Med, KWH

Dr. Philip Lee
 Dental, CPH

Dr. Cecilia Cheng
 O&G, Caritas

Dr. Matthew Tsui
 Intern

Dr. Paul Chin
 A&E, QEH

Dr. Rebecca Yeung
 RTC, QEH

Dr. Paul Ho
 Surg A, QEH

Dr. Anthony Ying
 RTC, QEH

Dr. Simon Ku
 Psy, PWH

Dr. Robert Yuen
 Paed, KWH

THE MEDICAL SUNDAY

The Medical Sunday Mass this year will be held on 21st Oct., 90 at the Cathedral, Caine Road at 11:00 am. The Vicar General Rev. John B. Tsang will be our principal celebrant and the mass will be celebrated in Cantonese.

The Catholic Nurses' Guild and other paramedical staff like the St. John's Ambulance will join us in the mass. We are looking forward to having your companion during our prayer.

FROM OUR NURSES

The 37th Annual General Meeting of the Hong Kong Catholic Nurses' Guild was held on 6th June, 1990. List of the newly elected Committee members (90-92) is as follows:

Spiritual Director: Rev. Fr. William Lo, S.J.
Chairman: Janet Li
Vice-Chairman (Internal): Teresa Chan
Vice-Chairman (External): Cana Yim
Secretary: Teresa Tam
Treasurer: Cynthia Wu
Advisors: Miranda Mak, Agnes Cheng and Leung Chung Shing

The theme of this year is "Sharing the responsibility" (共負一軛). As a Christian care-giver, we have the duty to be at the service of life. We are experiencing the indispensable role we have to play for "Christian Witnessing in Health Care", a theme we have chosen for the 5th Asian Regional Conference of C.I.C.I.A.M.S. last year. Through our organising of this Conference, we saw the hand of God directing our history. The blessings He loads us with through this dimension of care-giving allows us to become a partnership with the source of all our healing — Christ. Let us not only share such responsibility, but also take up this "yoke" and learn from Christ. May we also find rest in Him, "... for the yoke I give you is easy, the load I will put on you is light." (Matthew 11:30)

from Janet Li (Chairman, H.K.C.N.G.)

LOCAL NEWS

The China Evangelistic Mission is now organising a Medical Evangelistic trip to Northern Thailand.

The trip will last from 24-9-90 to 6-10-90 and about 50 brothers and sisters will be joining. Among us, there are doctors, nurses, dentists, secretaries, accountants etc. In co-working with the missionaries there, we would provide medical service to the people there which include Chinese, LaHu and Thai. If possible, we would be keen to share the gospel with them.

We are now preparing for the trip and we need your prayer for support. Hope that we may share more after the trip.

[supplied by Dr. Lau Yuk Fung]

FROM OUR STUDENTS

唔信得唔得？

Irene Kam

Why do you believe in God?

Simple as this may seem, this question is often an ultimate challenge to many of us. As a born Catholic, I rarely have opportunities to be exposed to these kinds of challenges. The lack of questioning and reflections on one's faith is undoubtedly a great obstacle to perfection. Fortunately, through participating in a camp organised by a group of medical students, I've got the chance to pause and think about the topic, "Can we not believe?" (唔信得唔得?)

In the camp, the greatest inspiration I've got came from the non-Catholics. Many things seem just natural to us became sources of queries by them. For instance, a non-Catholic argued that he didn't see the point in believing in God, since he thought that if a person lives according to his conscience, he would be making the world a better place, with or without knowing God. Another question challenged God's almightiness — if God is almighty, why doesn't He eliminate sins from this world and bring perfection instantly? Why all these sufferings and unfairness have to prevail? Although we were able to answer some of their questions, many of the times, we answered with a complete silence. Obviously there are a lot for us to learn and the camp left us with tonnes of questions and truths not yet disclosed. On encountering these challenges, I am not at all desperate. Rather, for the first time in my life, I understand that I am so inadequate in faith and I feel the urge to strength it.

An unquestioning kind of faith may not necessarily mean that it is strong and powerful. At many times, we don't ask questions because we are afraid to face the answer or we don't bother to learn. As students, we are familiar with learning through questioning and thinking. It's all the same with faith.

There is still a long way to go.

ONE YEAR ABROAD

Sammy Sou

Back to Hong Kong! Although one year away from it, I missed it from the very beginning. I wished that with the help of the study programme I could start a new career in the health care system.

One year away, just to confirm to myself that I can't leave Hong Kong. This is the place. So I determined to do two things: to start my career and to serve Christ's Church in a regular and long term way. Man lives not on work and money and status and career satisfaction alone, but the Words of God. Then I went to a very familiar Father to have a very detailed confession, for me, not for rules nor fear of God's punishment. After the membrane-thin blockage between God and me has been broken, I felt free and free. Free to start. Then I joined the Biblical Association with the hope to promote the Words of God to Chinese over the world. The Pope said in 1982 that Chinese should preach to Chinese. Why not use His words and supports? There will be no failure!

I really hope that I could do something of value to me, something worth to commit myself to. Maybe I will start in a few months. Maybe not. This is a period of frustration and long wait. It was my initial purpose to learn Health Care Management in a good school. And I come back with the conviction that a customer/patient oriented service is the ultimate goal of management. Recently a medical consultant in Q.E. was rewarded by appointment as a top officer in the Hospital Authority. Part of the reason is his proof of efforts to coordinate resources to eliminate camp beds in Q.E. To eliminate hospital camp beds is an immediate problem but it should not be overstated. It is just like passively treating one symptom of disease of our patient-our public hospital system. We should think and act actively and positively. As a medical profession we should always put the improvement of the total health status of our patient (hospital system) as our ultimate goal, not only treating diseases. We should aim at putting the customer/patient as a major character in the service process.

Why are our hospitals not encouraging such a patient-oriented service? "No time to explain to them", "Not enough staff" but the major reason behind other than the irritating working conditions and understaffing is that the system provides no reward for performance that satisfies patient needs and complaints. On the contrary, the private for profit hospital would be rewarded by good customer-centred and relation building behaviour.

Lots of thinking and learning in the past year. I'm eager to apply them step by step. Uncertainty about job will last for at least a few months after a year's hard preparation and planning and longing and investment. But it seems that God asks me to wait.

I have a Filipino schoolmate in Harvard. He likes to make contract with God and God likes this game. After he had graduated as MD in the Philippines, he needed to decide whether to go to specialised clinical training or field work in a village. He told God that if he got below 80 marks in a public examination he would go to the field. And you know what? He got 79! After a year of working in the village, he got a good opportunity to work as a clinician in a city hospital, and he didn't know if he should devote himself to public health or not. So he told God again that if he could get admitted to a top Public Health School he would commit his life to the health of the public. Finally we became schoolmates.

"It seems that you never need to rest, God."

"No, don't you know that I took a whole day's rest after creating the world? I take rest often."

"That's very good for you. But my friends can't find time to rest. We work hard six days and play hard on Sundays."

"Oh, it is a pity. It's difficult to find me when you are so busy."

"Right. I know we could meet you only in wilderness, peace, silence"

"Every man has his own wilderness in his heart. If you wonder over there, you could find me."

Maybe that is God's will. A few month's rest and wait. A wilderness for encounter.

CORRESPONDENCE

BEYOND THE BODY

Being a doctor working in a mental hospital is both a fascinating and frustrating experience, but it is also a chance to look at human beings in a special perspective.

As our bodies will get diseases, so will our minds. We will break down mentally in case of adversities. We bereave when we suffer loss and separation from our beloved ones. Pschiatric pain is no less than any physical sufferings. As mother Teresa of Calcutta once said, "the greatest suffering is not cancer, tuberculosis, it is loneliness and isolation, a feeling of being deserted from the world."

Archimedes onces said, "Give me a point and I can move the earth." Similarly, the point to set a person emotionally free is the point of his suffering.

Facing various pschiatric conditions and sufferings, I gradually discovered more about myself. We shared the same human sufferings and problems. At times we get our own hurts and wounds. But only with this recognition one can attain empathy and understanding towards the others. We are only "wounded healers".

I feel very frustrated at times. Patients may be discharged and then readmitted soonly afterwards with an even worse condition than before. Patience and perserverence hence become important in sustaining morale in their treatment. These attributes all root in God who is the source of such unfailing love, faith and hope.

Retrospectively, I learn to have a thanksgiving heart. I treasure my gift from God — a healthy body and mind. These are not "a must". Furthermore, through the realization of our basic human needs, we would turn to God and ask for mercy for His fellow beings, and from Him born new hopes and life.

May

EDITORIAL BOARD

EDITOR: Rebecca MW Yeung

BOARD MEMBERS: Bosco TO Chung

Stephen CK Law

Francis CK Mok

Robert KN Yuen

Note: If you or your friends wish to receive the Newsletter regularly, please inform us:
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