



# NEWSLETTER

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

Spring 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

“What is the value of the existence of our Guild?” is probably a question that most of those who serve in the council will ask at one time of his/her service. The question is especially challenging when one put great effort in organizing activities which turned out to be attended by only a few. Thus “The Guild”, being the special theme of the present issue, is certainly worthy of discussion. An evaluation study of the Guild, a simple questionnaire mailed to our listed members, was performed. 35 members (i.e. 21%) replied – too few? too many? or just enough? Anyway, the results were analyzed and published in the present issue. People who were related to our association but of different background also shared with us their opinion.

If you are interested in medical ethics, you may find some of the foreign news in the present issue stimulating.

Easter is a good time for reflection and reactivation of our faith in God. May the peace and strength of Easter be with us! By the way, please do reflect the following: from our survey, only 5 members agreed to join our council next year. However we probably need 10!

### COUNCIL SECTION

The 4th council meeting was held on 19/1/90. It was well attended by our council members including past ones. After the meeting, we shared a big banquet in a nearby restaurant to celebrate for the coming New Year Eve.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEES:

##### A. Current Affairs Subcommittee

A seminar was organized by the current affairs subcommittee in the afternoon of 24/2/90 at Wah Yan College. The topic was “The future of Hong Kong and us”. Different professionals were invited as guest speakers including lawyer, computer analyst, private surgeon, school headmaster, Mr. K.H. Cheung (Executive Director, Catholic Institute for Religion & Society), Mr. Ronald Chow (LEGCO member) and Dr. Robert Yuen (our Master). The seminar was entertained by approximately twenty participants. Each guest speaker shared his experience and supplied information about his own profession especially the current “Brain-drain” problems in H.K. This was followed by a discussion among all participants. The whole seminar lasted about two and a half hours.



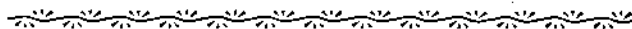
Participants of the seminar

## B. Spiritual Subcommittee

The Annual Retreat of our Guild is scheduled on the Palm Sunday 8/4/90. This is one of the most important spiritual exercise organized by the Guild for our members. Please reserve the day for this event.

## C. Student Subcommittee

By the time you receive this issue of the Newsletter, the final year medical students are probably having their last MBBS examination. Let us pray sincerely for God's guidance on them and their success in the examination.



# SPECIAL THEME: THE GUILD OF ST. LUKE

## EVALUATION STUDY OF THE GUILD – A REPORT Linda Lam

### INTRODUCTION:

In the past 3 decades, the Guild has been undergoing different phases of development before hatching into the present stage. Being inexperienced members of the association, we are puzzled by what direction to go. Collecting opinions from our members would seem to be the most valuable and realistic way to throw light on our future planning.

### METHOD:

Every registered member was mailed a questionnaire which composed of 10 stem questions. Members were invited to respond within 2 weeks. The questions were mainly of descriptive type. We aimed at gathering opinions on different aspects of the operation of our Guild. The questions were designed to reveal the past participation, current opinion and future expectation of our members. Fig.1 was a reproduction of the stem questions.

### RESULT:

Out of the 163 registered members, 35 responded – i.e. 21% of our members had replied to our questionnaire. 14 (40%) were within 5 year of membership. 5 (14%) were between 5 to 10 years of membership while 13 (37%) were being members for over 10 years.

33 (97%) of the responders agreed that the Guild had a value to exist. 2 responded 'don't know'.

26 (77%) considered the current operation of the Guild satisfactory. 5 (12%) responded "very satisfactory" and 4 (11%) "not satisfactory".

1. Do you think the Guild has a value to exist?
2. Are you satisfied with the current operation of our Guild?
3. Which of the following aspects you will consider as the most important objectives of the Guild?
4. From which source you first know about the existence of our Guild?
5. Do you know who is our present master?
6. In the past 2 years, have you ever participated in the following activities?
7. Do you know how frequent we publish our Newsletter?
8. When you receive our newsletter, you usually ....
9. Will you continue to be our member in the coming year?
10. Are you interested in joining our council or committee next year?

### Fig. 1 QUESTIONNAIRE

23 (72%) reported that they first knew about the Guild from members of the Guild while 9% received information from activities organized by the Guild.

30 (83%) admitted that they knew the present master while around 17% didn't know.

31 (67%) were aware of the Newsletter being published at three month intervals. 25 (71%) selected only interesting topics to read and 10 (29%) read every article when they received the Newsletter.

Concerning the participation for activities of the Guild, the result was tabulated in Fig.2.

The members' opinion concerning the important functions of the Guild was presented in Fig.3.

Our future prospects: 32 (91%) planned to continue to be members in the future but only 5 (14%) had indicated their interest in joining the council or committee next year.

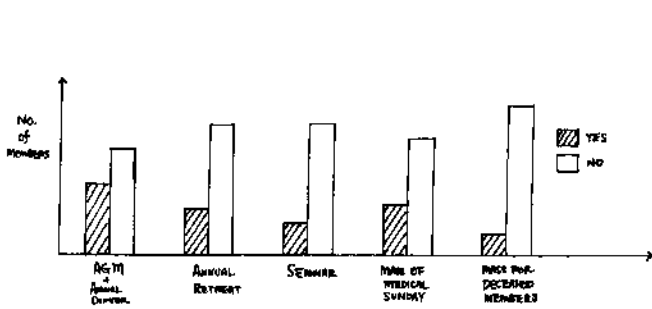


Fig. 2 PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS IN ACTIVITIES ORGANISED IN RECENT 2 YEARS

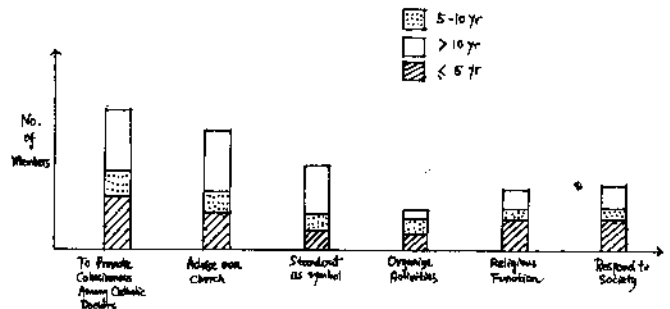


Fig. 3 OPINION ON IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS OF THE GUILD

## DISCUSSION

As a very preliminary and simple survey, it was encouraging to have one fifth of the total listed members responded. It was also peculiar in that most response came from new members (< 5 years) and old members of over 10 year membership. It might be that new members were more energetic and had more expectations while the more experienced members were more familiar with the association and had contributed much to the Guild in the past.

An overwhelming percentage of the responders thought that there was a value for the Guild to exist and over 77% were satisfied with the current operation. However, as from Fig.2, we noticed that all activities organized were not actively participated by our members. AGM and Annual Dinner seemed to be the most welcomed activity in the past 2 years. In helping to guide the direction for development, most

responders considered the following functions as the most important: 1. to promote cohesiveness among Catholic doctors; 2. to advise our Church on ethical issues in the medical field; 3. to stand out as a symbol for Catholic doctors in the society. As expected, person to person contact appeared to be an effective way to spread the news of our association to others as over 70% of the responders got to know the Guild from their friends who were members of the Guild.

Although the participation in activities seemed to be relatively low, we noticed that over 90% of responders would continue to be members in the coming year and 14% showed an interest in joining the working committees. Hopefully this evaluation provides a chance for the current committee to introspect and improve, as well as to invite more energetic members to join in our work and service in the future.

*Carry on till tomorrow ... Will you offer a hand?*

*Francis*



## DR. ROBERT YUEN (Present master of the Guild)

The Guild of St. Luke stands out as a symbol in the Church. Its thirty-five year of history declares its value of existence. The Guild promotes fraternity and co-ordination among Catholic doctors. It is hoped that the fellowship among members provides the necessary spiritual support to us. From time to time, the Guild made effort in the study and discussion of medical ethics. The other functions were entertained by members from various sectors of the Guild. Our Newsletter is an attempt to spread our ideas and provide a channel of communication among our members as well as with the outside world. Problems always exist when we try to implement the role of the Guild, especially in this era of change. The Guild has yet many challenge to face, but I am sure that it can stand all these difficulties.

## JANET LEE (Catholic Nurses' Guild)

There is definitely a value of existence for the Guild of St. Luke. Being a religious group for the Catholic doctors, it is especially important when these doctors are not actively involved in the other religious groups of the Church. Inside the Guild, there can be sharing of religious and professional experience among each other and this provides a source of mutual support. Also, the unity among Catholic doctors can be influential to the Church or society. Indeed the Guild has much to do and what to do depends on the need of the society. For e.g. medical ethics is a wide area that the Guild can explore.

In the past, there was a close connection between the Guild and the Catholic Nurses' Guild. However, the bonding weakened as time went by. A mutual correspondence between these two parties is beneficial for all of us since it enriches our understanding of various issues we face everyday. By pooling our resources together, we can have better achievement with our joint effort. I am looking forward to more interflow between the two groups in the future.

## 曾守衡

我加入「天主教醫生協會」已有好幾年，當初成爲會員時，「協會」在我心目中的印象是一個屬於「大人」的團體，身爲醫學生的我，實在不覺得有什麼親切感。

它是個「大人」的團體，是因爲當時我所認識的協會，舉辦的活動不外是家庭彌撒和聚會、高桌晚宴、倫理講座和非常嚴肅的退省。一眼看去，第一個感覺是——我成爲醫生後才會參加！老實說，幾年的會員生涯裏，我就只是參加過倫理講座一項活動。

我覺得醫學生對「協會」缺乏親切感的一個主要原因，並非完全因爲活動性質不大適合學生的喜好，而是「協會」與學生之間欠缺直接溝通，雖然很多時候，協會所舉辦的活動都很有意義和趣味，但是單憑一份郵遞的「通告」，實在很難叫人提起很大的興趣參與。

在我的期望中，「天主教醫生協會」應該在醫療倫理問題上有特別的關注，同時亦在靈修方面爲會員提供一些活動，務求達到將信仰生活化這個目標。另外，亦希望幹事能加強與醫學生的聯繫，好使上述的目標都能在我們身上得到實現。

## LIST OF DECEASED MEMBERS:

The following was the list that we had for the Mass for Deceased Members this year. If you know of deceased members that we have missed, please inform us.

Carlos da Roza  
George Yeung  
C. C. Poon  
William Ho-As-Joe  
James Szeto  
Sr. Aquinas  
Woo Pak Foo  
Li Kwok Bui  
Y. Y. Tang  
H.T. Bee

# FOREIGN NEWS

## FROM INDIA:

A seminar on "Genetics & Genetic Counseling" was held at the biennial conference of the Indian Federation of Medical Guilds, hosted by the St. Luke's Medical Guild, Pune. Many papers of the conference are available in the Jan. 90 issue of the Bulletin of the Indian Federation. Interested members can contact the council for a copy.

Another seminar on "Brain-Death & Organs Transplantation" was held at the B.Y.L. Nair Hospital, Bombay, India on 4/2/90 which was co-sponsored by the St. Luke Medical Guild, Bombay. The presentation will probably form the main content of the next issue of the Bulletin of the Indian Federation.

## FROM FIAMC:

Announcement- 17th World Congress of FIAMC  
Venue: New Maritim Hotel & Congress Centre – Bonn (W. Germany)  
Date: 14th to 18th September 1990  
Theme: "BIOLOGICAL NATURE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON"  
For details: Contact  
Prof. Walfer Osswald M.D.  
Rua do Passeio Alegre 822. 2. T  
4100 Porto Portugal  
Telef 684 001

## FROM UK:

**PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (PHR)**  
A new association – "Physicians for Human Rights" was set up in UK at the end of last year, as reported in the Nov. 89 issue of the British Journal of Hospital Medicine. The American counterpart of the same name has been in existence since 1986.

PHR is non partisan and is composed of members of the medical profession who use their skills & influence in the defense of human rights. Three of the major aims of PHR are:

1. Bringing the special skills of the medical profession to the aid of victims of human rights abuses. This is to include the health needs of political prisoners.
2. Defending the rights of health professionals and support for medical colleagues who are persecuted because of their adherence to medical ethics. Documenting and publishing cases of 'disappeared', imprisoned, exiled, tortured and seriously abused doctors.
3. Monitoring the ethics and responsibilities of doctors concerning human rights:
  - a. Monitoring medical associations throughout the world in the development, use or neglect of codes of medical ethics.
  - b. Documentation of investigations of cases of medical participation as well as the use of medical skills in torture and human rights abuses.
  - c. Investigation and exposure of falsification of medical evidence, such as reports, death certificates, autopsies and medical certificates produced at the time of release of any detainee.
  - d. Sending observers to trials involving doctors accused of disobeying the state in the course of their work.

Dr. Ian Munro, the Chairman of the UK Society's steering committee, asked the readers for financial support or even personal involvement in the program.

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## CORRESPONDENCE

Now, should we offer him gastrectomy? I couldn't make the decision and neither could my seniors. Finally, his remote nephew came (after much persuasion) and signed a refusal form for the patient. My seniors were satisfied but I puzzled ....

Did this nephew of the patient harbored the authority to decide for the patient?

Was it a fair solution for the patient? or just a solution for the Doctors?

Should major operation be offered to such physically handicapped patient?

What is the doctor's role? To make judgment on purely medical grounds or should also consider the effectiveness of resources distribution?

Who should be the final judge anyway?

### A hard Case: Who should be the judge?

This is a real case. One of my patients was 70+ years of age and found to have adenocarcinoma of the stomach. Before this, he has right hemiplegia and global aphasia i.e. no possible verbal communication with others. He was an inmate of an aged home and was totally dependent on others for his activities of daily living. His "closest" relative was a remote nephew who rarely visited him. Although having the malignant disease and physical disability, he was conscious and in satisfactory general health. Despite the aphasia, he is emotionally in "good" contact with the surrounding.

From a Member

## MY ENCOUNTER WITH THE VIETNAMESE

Soon after the interview with Mrs. Fan concerning the Vietnamese boat people, I received an offer from the United Nations to be a dentist posted inside the Whitehead Detention Center. I accepted the offer immediately because I thought that this was a meaningful and challenging opportunity to be the only dentist in the center facing 20,000 to 30,000 Vietnamese boat people.

One should not have a bad impression on the Vietnamese inside in the center. I could assure you that only a limited number of people were causing that much trouble. The rest were just ordinary people. If a group of Hong Kong people was to be detained in the center, the same might happen although might be to a lesser extent. One had to admit that their educational level was not that high and social awareness not that much. Therefore what we considered

wrong might not be so to them. The problem of the public was that most had never met a Vietnamese but just believed in what others said. Have you ever visited a detention center or you just create one out of your imagination? They are a group of people who need our appropriate help badly. Whether you like them or not, they are out there and are your neighbors. So, are you a Samaritan or a Jew?

At present, the major problems are the misunderstanding between the United Nations High Commission of Refugees and Hong Kong Government, overcrowdedness of the camp and the Americans' false generosity. I'll tell you more about these people as I experience more. As a Catholic, we are not in a position to judge but to help as much as we can. After all, Jesus was nailed to the cross for us who are by no means judged to be worthy of it.

**Frank Sun**

### EDITORIAL BOARD

EDITOR – Francis CK Mok

BOARD MEMBERS – Bosco TO Chung

Linda CW Lam

Frank CS Sun

Rebecca MW Yeung

### NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS

When notifying change of address, please fill in the new address in the space provided below and return.

(BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)

This address effective from

Month

/Date

Note: If you or your friends wish to receive the Newsletter regularly, please inform us:  
The Editor, Newsletter of the Guild of St. Luke,  
c/o 10/F., Diocese Centre, 16 Caine Road, H.K.