



NEWSLETTER

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

Spring 1993

香港天主教醫生協會

1 Tai Shek Street, Sai Wan Ho, Hong Kong.

CONTENTS

1. Message from the master 1
2. Theme of the issue: AIDS 1992
Aids Concern..... 1
Report by Dr. I Osmund 2
AIDS, Ethics and Catholic morality 3
Views from Singapore Catholic doctors..... 3
3. Council News
Report on second council meeting 4
Acknowledgements..... 4
Activities 5
A meeting with Prof. Walley 5
An open letter to the Governor..... 6
Reply from the Governor..... 6
Appeal for donations 7
4. Spiritual Refreshment..... 7
5. From our Students..... 7
6. From the Nurses..... 8

MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER

May the joy and peace of our Saviour be with us always, especially in such time of political turmoil and instability. Our Guild was founded in the summer of 1953. Hence we should be celebrating the 40th anniversary of our Guild this year (92 - 93). A task force including senior and young members of the Guild is formed to look into the various possibilities of celebrating the event. Your suggestion and opinion is much needed. Dr. Osmund has represented the Guild to attend the 10th Congress of the Asian Federation of Catholic Medical Association on the topic of AIDS in Thailand. Now, there is another chance especially for the O&G colleagues by the end of 1993. Please note the details of Professor R. L. Walley's invitation. New Year is a symbol of new hope. Let's pray for our Guild and all the Hong Kong people a prosperous 1993.

THEME OF THE ISSUE : AIDS 1992

AIDS CONCERN

AIDS CONCERN is a member of A/P International Council of AIDS Service Organisation. It is a voluntary organisation in Hong Kong to help those suffering from the disease. Below is some information concerning the operations of this service which you may be interested to know.

The membership of AIDS CONCERN consists of people from all walks of life, including medical professionals, business people and educational specialists, who contribute their time on a voluntary basis. Some have previous experience working with AIDS-related organisations, others choose AIDS CONCERN as a way to begin their involvement in this important area. All volunteers receive basic training. The general objectives of AIDS CONCERN are to provide education and services which (1) prevent the further spread of AIDS, and (2) support those who are HIV-positive. AIDS CONCERN is a private voluntary organisation and registered charity. It is not government funded. The identity of those seeking help remains entirely confidential at all times.

How can we help AIDS CONCERN ?

Telephone counselling is available via the AIDS CONCERN HELPLINE on Thursdays and Saturdays from 7-10pm. You can call to receive information about HIV and AIDS, discuss situations that you think may have put you at risk, receive referrals for HIV-testing, or just talk to a caring person about AIDS-related issues. The HELPLINE telephone number is 5253433.

The education group can provide speakers to present information about a variety of AIDS-related topics, including such things as basic transmission and prevention lectures and the current situation in Hong Kong.

AIDS CONCERN has established a "buddy system" which provides practical and emotional support on a one-to-one basis. Accompanying persons when they go for HIV-testing, individual peer counselling, and household help are some examples of the services available.

In addition to these services, AIDS CONCERN also has fund raising and public relations groups.

For more information on signing up as an AIDS CONCERN volunteer please ring 5253433 (answering machine available), or write GPO Box 3350, Hong Kong.

(The above has been reproduced with the kind permission of AIDS CONCERN.)



**REPORT BY DR. I. OSMUND
"AIDS -- HONG KONG 1992"**

Dr. Irene F. Osmund has represented our Guild to attend the 10th Congress of Asian Federation of Catholic Medical Associations. The following is her presentation at the congress concerning the current scene of AIDS in Hong Kong.

AIDS-Hong Kong 1992:

Background:

Hong Kong is a small densely populated territory of a little over 1000 sq. km. situated south east of China.

Population:

The population is nearly 6 million, over 95% Chinese. In addition, there is a passenger traffic of more than 6 million annually.

AIDS. The first case was diagnosed in 1985. Up to 30 June 1992, a total of 297 HIV-positive individuals have been identified with 63 cases of AIDS of whom 40 have died.

Trend:	1985	53 persons HIV-positive
	1986-90	20-40 new cases/year
	1991	60 persons
	1992	31 persons in first half of the year

Transmission:

1. Sexual contact remains the most important mode of transmission. Of 60 new cases in 1991, 55 were acquired sexually. Early reported cases among homosexual/bisexual persons. In 1990 and 1991, 50% of HIV-positive individuals were heterosexuals.

2. Intravenous drug users account for 2% of HIV-positive cases in Hong Kong:

6835 blood samples	1 positive
self-referred possible contact	5 positive

3. Blood transfusion and blood products:
Contaminated Clotting Factor concentrates -- haemophilia transmission has now become unlikely with the introduction of heat or solvent treatment for virus inactivation. All donated blood has since been screened and there have been no new cases.

4. Perinatal transmission:
None reported as far.

Control of Infection:

1. Surveillance

- (a) AIDS is not statutorily notifiable but voluntarily notification is encouraged.
- (b) Blood tests of at-risk groups, personal requests, confirmatory tests on referral by doctors.
- (c) Surveillance Programme of the Department of Medicines, CUHK.

2. Screening and safeguarding of blood and blood products.

3. Health Education through mass media including television, posters, pamphlets, lectures and seminars, workshops, exhibitions, etc.

4. Counselling and treatment of patients. This included training of health care personnel.

The AIDS counselling and Health Education Service located at Queen Elizabeth Hospital offers consultation, counselling and follow-up services, as well as blood screening free.

Confidentiality is strictly maintained by clients being identified by a code number; pseudonyms may be used if hospitalisation is required; information is only released collectively without identification.

5. Education to reduce impact on the HIV-infected individuals through information manuals, lectures and seminars, and workshops.

Hong Kong Government Efforts:

An AIDS Expert Committee was set up in November 1984 to advise on overall strategy to cope with the threat of AIDS. The Committee was upgraded to an Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA) under the chairmanship of the Director of Health. Representation is multi-sectorial with increased commitment from the government, community leaders, non-governmental organisations and the private sector.

The ACA is responsible for policy, implementation and operation, prevention and control in fight against AIDS.

There are two committees, namely the: Scientific Working Group; Committee on Education and Publicity (established 1987) which (a) formulates strategies in education and publicity, (b) plans, implements, monitors and evaluates education programmes.

Community Efforts:

Community participation is very important. The Hong Kong AIDS Foundation was established in November 1991. It is a non-governmental organisation which aims to mobilise public support, open avenues for community participation and complement as well as supplement the HK Government's effort.

The Guild of St. Luke, SS. Cosmas and Damian:

Plans for the coming year:

1. Medical ethics: the Medical Ethics Subcommittee will discuss various aspects of AIDS with emphasis on medical ethics.
2. Medical Students: the Students Affairs Subcommittee will explore channels to arouse interest of fellow medical students.
3. Newsletter: AIDS will be discussed in this issue.
4. Cooperation with other organisations
5. Advisory- The Guild will be alert for opportunity to advise the Catholic Church and/or the Government especially on ethical and social issues connected with AIDS.

AIDS is still an incurable disease despite considerable progress made in the management of HIV-infected individuals leading to slower disease progression, improved quality of life and longer survival. Prevention remains the best possible line of action.

"To love others is to reveal to them their value and help them discover they are precious."

References:

Public Health and Epidemiology Bulletin, vol.1 No.3 August 1992.

S.S. Lee, The Hong Kong Practitioner, vol.14 No.4, April 1992.

S.S. Lee, AIDS in Asia-report of an International Symposium, Bangkok , 8 March 1992 .

AIDS 1992 Update- Scientific Symposium, Hong Kong 21 June 1992.

Li P.C.K., Yeoh E.K., Lee S.S., et al Clinical manifestations of AIDS in Hong Kong. VII International Conference on AIDS 1991. Abstract no. MB 2453.

MMWR 1986, vol.35,334-338 Clinical system for Human T-lymphotrophic virus Type III/Lymphadenopathy-associated Virus infection.

AIDS CONCERN

(The section on discussion of Aids Concern has been omitted as similar introduction of this organisation has been reported in this issue of newsletter).

AIDS, ETHICS AND CATHOLIC MORALITY -- A NEW REVIEW

The Portuguese Catholic Doctors Association met in Fatima in 1991 to discuss about the above. A summary of the discussions were as below:

1. Special relevance was discussed as to how prevention could be established on morally acceptable grounds and to give assistance at spiritual level to patients and their families.
2. The Archbishop of New York, Cardinal O'Connor, had addressed that while AIDS was not pharmacologically curable, there are many who are cured of anxiety, fear of death, sense of absurdity and loneliness by the fact that someone cares for them.
3. President of the Pontifical Council for Health Care underlined in his final lecture, the new challenge represented by AIDS for Catholic health professionals is to change the "battle of fear" into a "battle of Love".

(Information from Decisions, Winter 1991)

.....

VIEWS FROM SINGAPORE CATHOLIC DOCTORS

Ian Snodgrass, a member of the Catholic Medical Guilds of Singapore has presented his report about the situations in Singapore at the 10th Congress of the Asian Federation of Catholic Medical Associations On "AIDS: Life and Love." Some of viewpoints are summarised as follows:

1. The moral and behavioural implications for Singapore needs concern, eg. the issue of premarital sex, fidelity in marriage, homosexuality and promotion of "condom culture".
2. In response to donors using screening procedures in Singapore's Blood Transfusion Service as a free HIV test, the State limits donors to those free of risk activity. The law bypasses confidentiality and requires those infected to inform their spouse or partners and undergo counselling.
3. AIDS education is aimed at high risk groups such as drug addicts.
4. A volunteer group has been formed to counsel terminal AIDS patients.
5. Snodgrass also mentioned an inclination to differentiate between "guilty" victims and the "innocent" victims as there is a tendency to view AIDS as a punishment form God.
6. He also emphasized the decline in moral standards and promiscuity leading to pervasive and persistent problems. He has stressed the only safe way to avoid AIDS is by sexual abstinence or fidelity to one uninfected partner.

.....

COUNCIL NEWS

REPORT ON SECOND COUNCIL MEETING OF THE GUILD 92/93

The second council meeting was held in the evening of 29.10.92 at the Radiotherapy Department KGd QEH. Most of the council members, including two student representatives from both universities, had attended. The meeting started with an opening prayer.

Matters arising:

1. 40th anniversary of the Guild

The Guild was founded in 1953. Next year was our 40th anniversary. A task force will be set up for the occasion. Proposed task force members included: Drs. F. Mok, R. Yuen, P. Ho, A. Ying, E. Chang, S. Lo, C. Tsang.

2. Report on Medical Sunday Mass 1992

The mass was celebrated on 18.10.92 at Christ the King Chapel, Causeway bay, HK. Vicar General Fr. John B. Tsang together with our Spiritual Director, Fr. Russell, Fr. William Lo, Spiritual director of Catholic Nurses' Guild and Fr. Emile Louis. Tisserand, Hospital Chaplain of QMH co-celebrated the mass with us. The mass was well attended by our members as well as CNG's members. St John Ambulance Association had sent about 20 members and Auxillary Medical Services had about 10 members attending the occasion.

3. Report on Organ Donation Promotion Programme

A half year organ donation promotion programme was launched by our Guild and Catholic Nurses' Guild. The program mainly consisted of exhibitions and talks in various parishes during Sundays. The first exhibition of such sort was held on 18.10.92 at Christ the King Chapel, just after the Medical Sunday Mass. Apart from exhibition boards and talks, pamphlets on ethical and medical aspects of the issue were distributed as well as organ donation cards. The second exhibition was in preparation.

4. Report by subcommittees

4.1 Student Liaison Subcommittee

Visits had been paid to medical schools of the two universities in August and September. Freshmen to the schools were met, and the objectives of our Guild had been introduced. New student members were recruited. A joint function between both medical schools would be organised around Christmas.

4.2 Publication Subcommittee

The first issue of Newsletter of this council year was published in September. We hoped you enjoy reading it. This was the first time we made use of personal computer in the printing process. It did save a lot of time as well as a few hundred dollars per issue. The preparation of the Winter issue was in process and hopefully could be published at the end of this year.

4.3 Medical Ethics Subcommittee

The topic of last discussion was about "Your feeling as a Hospital Authority staff". Besides Fr. Russell and Dr. Francis Mok, Dr. Francis Lee and Dr. David Fang also attended. The next discussion would be held around December 92 or January 93. The theme would be something about AIDS. All Guild's members were welcomed. For details, please contact our master, Dr. Francis Mok or Fr. Russell.

4.4 The Birthright Society Representatives

Dr. W.S.Law had represented the Guild to attend their meeting in September 92. The annual Prolife Walk would be held on 21.2.93. For details, members could contact any council members or Dr. Patrick Chan -- Guild's member as well as chairman of Birthright Society.

5. Christmas Activity and Chinese New Year mass and gathering

Joint activity between medical schools would be arranged at Christmas. The Chinese New Year mass and gathering would again be held at HK Wah Yan College. The tentative date would be 14.2.93.

6. Anti-smoking proposal consultative paper

The proposal mentioned in the consultative paper was considered appropriate by the council. Letter was sent to the Secretary of Health and Welfare to express our agreement.

7. The Governor's report on rehabilitation

The emphasis of the Governor's report on rehabilitation was appreciated. Sr. Howard has kindly drafted a letter for the council. The letter would be (and was subsequently) sent to the Governor to express our concern over the health and welfare aspects. We would also seek chance to publish the letter in the Sunday Examiner and South China Morning Post.

8. Annual Retreat

Fr. Robert Ng has kindly agreed to act as our retreat master in the coming retreat. The tentative date would be 28.3.93. Honeyville Canossian Retreat House at Mount Davis Road HK was suggested but needed confirmation.

9. 10th Congress of AFCMA

The council would be very delighted to endorse Dr. Irene Osmund to represent the Guild to attend the 10th Congress of AFCMA at Thailand. The topic of this year was about "AIDS -- Life and Love". Donations from the Guild's members were gratified.

10. Health Talk

Our master, Dr. Francis Mok, had given a health talk for the elderly on 6.9.92 at the St. Matthew Mass Centre at Tuen Mun.

.....

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the following members for their generous donation to:

1. The organ donation promotion program (\$ 3,600 total)

Dr. Chan W.K.
 Dr. Chan Hung Wai
 Dr. Choa George
 Dr. Leung Fung Ha
 Dr. Raymond Ruiz
 Dr. Siu Diana
 Dr. Tsoi Peter
 Dr. Young Rosie
 Dr. Yuen Robert

2. Sponsorship for delegate to attend the 10th Congress of the Asian Federation of Catholic Medical Association (\$ 2,100 total)

Dr. Chan Hung Wai
 Dr. Chan Wing Kin
 Dr. Chow Chun Kwan
 Dr. Yuen Robert

.....

ACTIVITIES

1. Organ Donation Exhibition
 Date: Sundays (December 92-May 93)
 Place: various parishes
 Details: contact Hon. Secretary, Paul Ho (1128398-7426)
2. Chinese New Year Mass and Gathering
 Date: 14-2-93
 Place: HK Wah Yan College
3. Annual Retreat 93
 Date: 28-3-93
 Place: Honeyville Canossian Retreat House
 Retreat Master: Fr. Robert Ng, S.J.

.....

A MEETING WITH PROF. ROBERT L. WALLEY

Prof. Walley, K.M., FRCOG, FRCSC, MPH (Harvard), is the professor of Maternal and Child Health, Division of O & G, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada. He is also in the Consultor Pontifical Commission for The Apostolate of Health Care Workers, Vatican. He passed by Hong Kong in early Nov. Our Council and some members hosted a dinner for him on the 12th, Nov. The following is a copy of his proposal to the Vatican to convene an international meeting for Catholic O & G doctors. He also invited members of our Guild to take note of the progress and participate if possible.

Draft Proposal of an international meeting of Catholic Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

1. Proposal:
 To convene an international meeting of Catholic obstetricians and gynaecologists in the fall of 1993 whose overall theme should be to consider what should be done

about the serious decline in the contribution of Catholic Church to the practice of these specialties.

2. Rationale:
 2.1 Throughout the world, families in general and MOTHERS AND CHILDREN in particular are facing an enormous tragedy as illustrated by maternal and infant mortality in the developing world, and the incidence of abortion and child neglect in the developed world. This situation arises not only because of poverty, hunger, ignorance and disease, but from inappropriate, inadequate and destructive medical technologies, arising from utilitarian principles presently dominating the professions and national and international health policy.

2.2 Catholic health professionals in general are under particular threat when they practice according to their beliefs. Consequently, Catholic obstetricians and gynaecologists in particular, because of the present ethical and moral climate in the practice of reproductive health care, is in danger of disappearing. It is of paramount importance to the lives and health of MOTHERS AND CHILDREN worldwide that Catholic health professionals be encouraged and supported and that future generations be assured of the opportunity of receiving adequate training and proper formation. These times call for NEW INITIATIVES to educate all types of health workers in order to provide the caring service especially for the poorest of the poor. Such training should provide the means to integrate new advances in the health services, including the primary health care concepts, with theological reflections on the Church's healing ministry.

3. General Objective:
 To consider the REASONS and CONSEQUENCES of the serious decline in the number of Catholic obstetricians worldwide but most importantly to discuss SOLUTIONS to the situations.

4. Specific Objectives:
 4.1 To discuss the present situation of maternal and child health and the practice of obstetrics and gynaecology worldwide with selected national examples reflecting the state of affairs in e.g. the developed and developing world.

4.2 To discuss specific solutions e.g. the possibility of establishing an International Organisation of Catholic Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and an International Institute of Maternal and Child Health which reflect the ethical and moral position of the Catholic Church. This new organisation and centre of professional excellence could develop new ways and means of putting into clinical practice the teaching of the Church.

4.3 To discuss the needs of Catholics wishing to specialise in obstetrics and gynaecology.

5. Participants:
 Approximately, fifty participants mostly obstetricians and gynaecologists from all around the world, including both lay and religious, also representatives from FIAMC, CICIAMS and the World Federation of Doctors Who Respect Human Life and including medical students and specialists in training (Residents), representation from the

prolife movement worldwide, Catholic women's organisations and selected prolife politicians.

6. Format:

6.1 Position Papers, with discussions, circulated to participants for consideration prior to the Conference which would cover the specific objectives.

6.2 Small group discussions are of extreme importance to give all participants a chance to present their views. Reports with solutions with a timetable for implementation should be available at the end of the meeting. The proceedings of the meeting should be published for wider international consideration.

7. Place:

Rome, preferably at a retreat centre where the participants may meet both at formal sessions and also informally. There should be simultaneous translation available.

8. Timing:

October 1993 for three days.

9. Financing:

The expenses of all participants attending the meeting should be paid. This would indicate the importance attached to the meeting. It would allow for representation from the developing world. It is important to remember that private practice physicians would be making a financial sacrifice when attending such a meeting. Lack of finances would also be a particular difficulty for younger physicians with young families.

Therefore, financial support should be sought from all Church sources, including bishops conferences, catholic organisation, foundations and service agencies.

(This proposal has been reproduced with the kind permission of Prof. R.L.Walley.)



.....

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR

The following is the open letter of our Guild to Governor Chris Patten in response to his policy speech to the

Legislative Council on the health and welfare aspects. This was also published in Sunday Examiner on 13.11.92.

The Right Honorable Mr. Christopher Patten,
Governor of Hong Kong,

2.11.92

Your Excellency,

We, the members of the Guild of St. Luke, SS. Cosmas and Damian Hong Kong (HK Catholic Doctors' Association) wish to express our appreciation for the energetic way in which you sought to learn about Hong Kong, its special characteristics and its needs. The depth of this study is reflected in your policy speech delivered to the Legislative Council on 7.10.92.

As Catholic doctors and dentists serving the community of Hong Kong, there are a number of points concerning the **Health and Welfare** aspects that we would like to highlight and support in this open letter.

In introducing the four key principles on which you will base your government policy, we applaud the emphasis you place on individual and family freedom and on the need to provide the support services characteristic of a caring community.

In discussing our social responsibilities you rightly point out that "Hong Kong is not a welfare state, but we are a society that cares deeply about the state of welfare." In our own struggles to serve the needs of the community we are aware of the immensity of the problems you as our governor and we as a community face. We know that whatever program is proposed there will be some who will find areas of need that are not fully addressed. However, the scope of your proposals encourages us to join you in taking that essential first step with which a journey of a thousand miles begins.

We find the proposals to inject more capital in the Lotteries Fund, and to increase the rate of spending in the Health and Welfare areas commendable. Equally, we find the direction of openness and accountability in the Civil Services where the public is addressed as "clients not suppliants" a reminder of our need to consider the human rights and dignity of all in our society.

While some of us may well be in a position to argue firmly with you in the future about the specifics of what needs to be done, at this point in time we would like to express publicly our appreciation for the directions you have set out in your policy speech.

Dr. Francis Mok
Master

.....

REPLY FROM THE GOVERNOR

10.11.92

Dear Dr. Mok,

The Governor has asked me to thank you for your support letter of 2.11. and for you expression of support. He is pleased to know that you and your colleagues support the proposals that he put forward for improvement of social services in Hong Kong.

(R.J.F. Hoare)
Private Secretary

.....

APPEAL FOR DONATIONS

1. The Birthright Society has organised a fund raising Pro-life Walk:

Date: 21-2-1993, 10 am

Route: Starting from HK Wah Yan College, along Keenedy Road, up Wanchai Gap Road and reach Wanchai Gap Park. Then Down to Aberdeen Reservoir Road and end in Aberdeen Country Park.

Duration: 2 hours walk of about 3 miles

Address: "The Birthright Society, 130, Waterloo Road, Kowloon.

2. The Principal of Hong Kong Wah Yan College, Fr. John C. Coghlan, has called for donations for a new Geography Room at school in the memory of the late Fr. Fergus Cronin, S.J.

Budget: \$ 175,000

Purpose: a new Geography Room in HK Wah Yan College.

Donations should be made with cheque in favour of "Father F. Cronin Memorial Educational Fund", and addressed to Wah Yan College (Attn. : Rev. John C. Coghlan, S.J.)

SPIRITUAL REFRESHMENT

The Difference

I got up early one morning
and rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish
that I didn't have time to pray.
Problems just tumbled around me
and heavier came each task.
"Why doesn't God help me?"
I wondered,
He answered, "You didn't ask",
I wanted to see joy and beauty,
but the day toiled on grey and bleak,
I wondered why God didn't show me,
He said, "But you didn't seek".
I tried to come into God's presence;
I used all my keys at the lock,
God gently and lovingly chided,
"My child, you didn't knock."
I woke up early this morning,
and paused before entering the day;
I had so much to accomplish
that I had to take time to pray.

Author unknown



FROM THE NURSES

香港天主教護士會的簡介 陳淑慎 (現任會長)

香港天主教護士協會早在1953年已成立，並在1958年加入國際天主教護士會(CICIAMS)成為會員。1974年完成了新會章及正式易名為香港天主教護士會。在香港教區的架構下，屬於香港天主教教友總會的成員。本會共有六個分會，分別為

- (一) 伊利沙伯醫院分會
- (二) 瑪麗醫院分會
- (三) 養和醫院分會
- (四) 廣華醫院分會
- (五) 九龍醫院分會
- (六) 律敦治醫院分會

近年來，由於工作人員缺乏及各分會成員的調職及移民，九龍醫院分會的活動已暫停，而養和醫院分會及律敦治醫院分會的聚會需要合併進行。

總括來說，本會每年有五項定期性的活動舉行，包括：週年大會、將臨期退省、新年團拜、四旬期退省、及與香港天主教醫生協會合辦的醫療主日。此外也有社會服務性的活動，例如老人健康檢查及健康講座等等。

分會的活動，則以牧民及靈修兩方面為主。牧民活動如伊利沙伯醫院分會的每月一次為兒童病房的小朋友安排遊戲節目。靈修聚會以聖經分享及生活分享為主。每年的聖誕節期間，各分會也在醫院內把基督誕生的喜訊以歌唱報佳音的形式，與病人分享，為病患者帶來歡慰！

我們這個信仰小團體現今面對的最大困難是成員的流失及工作人手短缺；加上九七的衝擊，信仰基礎未能穩固一致。因此我們仍會繼續努力，以求紮根於基督，跨越時代的考驗。

FROM OUR STUDENTS

由臨床期第一年說起.....

草裙

升上Clin.1後，面對著新的書、新的人、新的教學方法，實在有束手無策之感。但心裡總是有說不出的興奮，因為我們終於跳出書本的框框，走進病房，接觸有血有肉的病人，從而對自己將來的職業有更深的了解。

Clin.1對一個醫學生而言，無疑是帶來重大的衝擊，因為它標誌著另一階段的開始，而最重要的是它給我們體會人情冷暖的機會。不是嗎？以前在書堆中，大家各自讀書，不太需要理會別人。但在病房的生涯可不同了，同學間的交流和合作構成學習的基本元素，而正因人和人的接觸多了，我們注意到一些以往被忽略的人生百態，甚至醜態：好像有些同學會設法在醫生面前爭取表現、或霸著每一個學習機會；有些護士對醫生禮貌周周、對學生則呼呀喝呀；有些醫生對女同學好些等事情，可謂屢見不鮮.....

但是，有一種情形是我從前沒想過的——在別的醫院裡，通常是在本校畢業的見習醫生會對我們好些，較願意指導我們，所以同學間流傳著一個秘訣：『記住死跟著師兄呀！』。而和一些在港大就讀的同學閒談間，他們也說通常是靠自己的師兄多些。那麼，豈不是有分黨立派之嫌？大家不同是醫學生嗎？畢業後，大家不是要服務同一個社會嗎？雖說彼此皆來自不同的院校，但其實可是乘著同一條船啊！

除此，若有注意的話，可不難發覺兩大的醫生均分別努力研究，為各自的醫學院爭取榮譽。而兩間醫學院也經常要求政府增加撥款至自己的教學醫院.....

其實，如此種種的衝突、鬥爭在各行各業裡、日常生活裡，都絕不稀奇。回顧我們的教會，不就是因意見的分歧，引致天主教和基督教的分離。就算在天主教的團體裡，也常有意見不合、利益衝突....

歸根究底，諸如此類的衝突都是出於人性的自私自大，一切以自我為中心，沒有為別人切想，換來了物質和榮耀，但卻失去了內心的富足和平安。

那麼，我們可以做甚麼？

別以為停止敵對的行為就行了。不！這只是消極的取向。我們應該要積極地踏出第一步，設法與人建立良好的關係，別忘了主永遠和我們並肩作戰，也別忘了祂『合一』的心願！

若我們真的能做到的話，那麼兩大醫學生合一、兩教合一的日子可不遠了！

後記：兩間醫學院的天主教同學會，可有想過聯合舉辦一些活動，增進大家的友誼，踏出改善關係的第一步？



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