

香港天主教醫生協會

NEWSLETTER

GUILD OF ST. LUKE, SS. COSMAS & DAMIAN
SUMMER 1993

1 Tai Shek Street, Sai Wan Ho, Hong Kong

Contents:

1. Report on the AIDS seminar 1
2. A message from Dr. K.S. Lam 3
3. Council News:
Report on organ donation
promotion campaign 4
- Report on our thanksgiving mass 5
- Report on our annual retreat 5
- AGM 5
4. Story of a new saint 6
5. Spiritual refreshment 8

Editorial

It would already be early summer when you receive this newsletter. It is the third issue of the council year. In the past, we had talked a lot about ethical issues of medical practice as a Christian doctor. Topics like euthanasia, human tissue research, AIDS have come up repeatedly in our newsletter. We read about it, thought about it and pretended that we are living the Christian life. Have we really sat down and asked, "How should I live to be a real Christian? What should I do to be a real doctor? Can I be a Christian doctor?" To deliver a speech of these "How"s is easy, to practice it in our daily lives will never be the same. In this issue, we introduced the story of a new saint, a saint of our time who had presented the solutions to being a Christian doctor, who acted through his life to

demonstrate how his profession has helped to fulfill his work so desired by the Lord.

HALF-DAY SEMINAR ON AIDS

Our Guild and the Diocesan Commission for Hospital Pastoral Care has co-organised a half-day seminar on 2/5/93 addressing the problems of AIDS in Hong Kong. Despite the heavy rain, more than forty people attended the seminar including a number of newspaper reporters and the ATV news team.

Sr. Wong Siu Lin of the Diocesan Commission for Hospital Pastoral Care addressed the audience the aims of the seminar and led the opening prayer. Dr. Wong KH of the Department of Health presented a clear picture of the basic epidemiology, virology, clinical presentation and preventive aspects of AIDS. Rev. Thomas Kwan CT reflected on the ethical problems hidden behind the AIDS issue. He pointed out that this was the golden chance to review the current unhealthy sex culture which took root from the undesirable elements of traditional Chinese marital and sex thinking and the Western "Playboy" culture. The modern man and woman should be redirected back to the healthy and holy attitude of sex and marriage.

A pair of parents, whose child suffered from AIDS, shared their distress with the participants especially the feeling of being isolated and prejudiced. Mr. Tao, a school teacher, expressed his concern on the lack of knowledge and the passive attitude of many colleagues in

school. Ms. Chow, a nurse working in the AIDS clinic, shared with us her personal viewpoints on the AIDS patients and told us 2 case histories. Representatives from AIDS Concern stressed the importance of treating AIDS patients as a human being, just like other patients. Dr. Conard Lam KS, member of Legislative Council, expressed his concern on the fact that some private hospitals refused the admission of AIDS patients. Besides being unfair to these patients, this opened a gateway to the undesirable medical practice of not treating all patients equally. He urged the public and the government to look into the issue. The seminar was ended with a prayer for AIDS patients led by Rev. Thomas Kwan. Many participants found the seminar very useful and meaningful and urged to the organisers to follow up the issue.

Organising committee of the Guild for the Seminar:

Dr. Francis CK Mok
Dr. WS Law

Dr. Antony CH Ying
Dr. Simon Lo



愛滋病帶來的「隱喻」

林鉅成

愛滋病現在已成為一種全球性的疾病，據專家估計，九二年全球感染愛滋病毒者已超過一千萬人。而據世界衛生組織估計，在擁有三十億人口的亞洲地區，隨著工業產量的增加，非法靜脈注射毒品的泛濫，色情行業的猖獗，在亞洲地區患愛滋病的危機將會大增，而未來亞洲會成為新愛滋病中心。香港自八五年發現首宗愛滋病以來，平均每年以百分之二十至二十九的速度增長，估計到本世紀末將有超過二千宗，而實際數字更可能達二萬。雖然目前愛滋病在香港並未如美國、泰國等地那麼嚴重，但愛滋病作為一種疾病，其帶來的社會意義、「隱喻」卻是巨大的。一種愛滋病恐懼症正比愛滋病毒以更快的速度在社會蔓延。這種愛滋病恐懼症背後隱含的無知、歧視，比愛滋病毒本身更令人害怕。

我們看到教育工作者、宗教人士拒絕愛滋病帶菌者回學校上課，殯儀館不為愛滋病死者提供服務，健康中心開除愛滋病帶菌者的會籍。我們更看到匯豐銀行要求求職者驗血，以檢查是否愛滋病帶菌者（這種檢查不會加速人們對愛滋病的預防和提早發現）。

歐洲中古時代對癩瘋病人的態度，居然會在九十年代的香港出現。這種疾病的出現，揭發了我們社會背後的那種漠不關心、無知和歧視，如何在一個現代社會內繼續存在。

面對這種情況，我們應該怎樣做呢？現時港府的政策重點是通過教育、宣傳來加深市民對此疾病的認識。無疑，改變社會對某一種疾病的偏見，並非一朝一夕會見效。在繼續教育大眾的同時，政府還可以有其他方法去維護愛滋病人的權益，以確保病人不會因被歧視而導致個人權利受損。

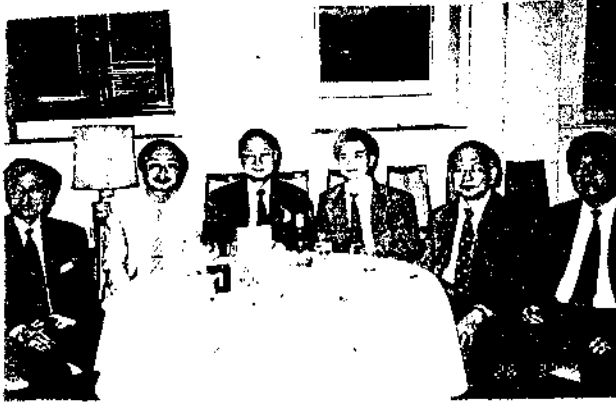
現時政府完全是被動、消極地回應愛滋病患者的權益問題。當有學童被校方拒絕回校上課時，教署才出來說一兩句話；當血友病患者因輸血而患上愛滋病毒，引起社會關注時，政府當局才開始考慮賠償；當中國在中港海關執行強制性驗血檢查愛滋病時，政府未有任何回應這種違反世界衛生組織對愛滋病指引的行為。在社會的偏見、歧視下，政府又採用消極、被動的方法回應，我們實在看不到世界衛生組織八八年五月通過嚴厲對付歧視愛滋病毒者和帶菌者的行為，保護他們權利和尊嚴的議決，如何會在香港落實。在愛滋病患在權益與保障方面，政府應該切實地做點工夫，而其中最迫切的有三：

- (一) 盡速因輸血等因素染上愛滋病毒的血友病患者提供恩恤賠償。
- (二) 執行世界衛生組織八八年決議，嚴厲對付歧視愛滋病和帶菌者的行為，保護他們的權利和尊嚴。
- (三) 引進世界衛生組織及國際勞工組織就有關愛滋病與就業政策的指引，以保障愛滋病患者或帶菌者不受歧視或解僱。

同時港府也應與中國當局磋商，要求取消在廣州邊境海關的強制性驗血措施，並查詢有關措施在中國大陸其他地區實施的計劃及情況。

**Guest Day Lunch with .
DR. Conrad Lam**

Dr. the Hon. Conrad KS Lam, member of the Legislative Council, has invited some members of the Guild to a Guest Day Luncheon meeting on 26/3/93. Dr. Francis CK Mok, our Master, Dr. Francis WT Lee, Dr. Sammy SC Sou, Dr. Severinus YW Chan and Dr. Emmanuel LP Chang have attended the luncheon meeting in the Legislative Council Building (see photo).



Dr. Conrad Lam is actually a senior member of our Guild. Besides sharing good food, opinions on many issues like the running of Hospital Authority, career difficulties of our fellow medical students, current ethical problems of the medical field and hot political issues were also discussed. After the lunch, Dr. Lam led the guests to sightseeing inside the Legislative Council Building before he headed for the afternoon council meeting.

COUNCIL NEWS

**ORGAN DONATION
PROMOTION PROGRAM**

Organ transplantation is now a reliable treatment for many previously incurable diseases

in Hong Kong. However, many patients are still suffering or dying because of the lack of donors, especially cadaveric organ donors. Being inspired by our faith and Christianity love, we believed that our fellow Catholic brothers & sisters are more likely to accept the concept of organ donation if they are properly explained about the issue.

Thus, our Guild has joined with the Catholic Nurses' Guild (CNG) to launch an "ORGAN-DONATION" PROMOTION PROGRAM in our Diocese, starting from the Medical Sunday (18/10/92) to mid-93. We had, to date, visited 12 parishes in Hong Kong, Kowloon and New Territories. 3 more parishes will be visited in May, thus making a total number of 15.

The visits were arranged on Sundays when most of our fellow Catholics gathered at the parish churches to attend masses. Exhibition boards were displaced. Members of our Guild and CNG were present to answer questions and queries from the audience. Organ donation cards and a pamphlet concerning Church's view on the issue (prepared by us) were distributed. In some parishes, we also delivered talks and displaced video shows.

Although we can never know the actual outcome of this promotion program, I would consider it a success if one looks at the number of participating parishes and the encouraging response of fellow Catholics during visits. To date, more than 3,000 copies of organ donation cards were distributed. We do hope that the program will improve the awareness of our fellow Catholics to this meaningful love act.

Apart from the precious chance of organ donation promotion, parish visits allowed us to get acquaintance with many priests, fellow brothers and sisters of the church. The Guild's name and her objectives were proclaimed. Future cooperation is thus anticipated and facilitated. Lastly I would like to thank those who have contributed to the success of this program.

**Hon. Secretary
Dr. Paul Ho
15-5-93**

THANKS GIVING MASS FOR CHINESE NEW YEAR

The Thanksgiving mass for the Chinese New Year was held on 14/2/93 at Hong Kong Wah Yan College. Fr. Russell celebrated the mass with us. About 20 members with their kids have attended. After the mass, we shared a good feast of Western Buffet. It was certainly a joyful morning full of family warmth.



ANNUAL RETREAT

The Annual Retreat of our Guild this year took place at the Honeyville Retreat House on 28/3/93. It was a beautiful sunny day. The attendance was the best for the recent few years - 16 members attended. Our retreat master was Rev. Robert Ng S.J. and the whole retreat was held in Cantonese. Fr. Ng did an excellent job in leading us to reflect on some of the important passages of St. John's Gospel. At the end, we celebrated a mass with other groups in the Retreat House, including a good Choir. Every participant agreed that it was a wonderful spiritual exercise that one shouldn't miss.

A brief summary of the reflection on some passages of St. John's Gospel is as follows:

John 1:35-39

The story represents the typical religious experience of Catholics. Usually somebody (John the Baptist) led you to Jesus. By then, you would find that Jesus has already turned to you. "What do you seek?" is the universal question about Life that everyone should answer. To stay with Jesus is the changing point of life for many people. Have you led your brothers & sisters to Jesus as what Andrew did?

Have you come to your "tenth hour" yet?

John 2:1-11

Most of the time, our life of faith is joyful like attending a wedding feast. The 1st saying by Mary, our Lady, in the Gospel was about the concern for others' problems. "Do whatever he (Jesus) tells you" even if you can't understand by then; you would be rewarded with much more than what you can imagine.

John 3:1-15 (7:50-53, 19:39-41)

We could see the slow conversion of Nicodemus - an intellectual with high social status: visiting Jesus in secret (at night) → defending Jesus against unfair accusation → expressing his faith by spending a fortune and assisted the burial of Jesus openly.

John 11:1-44

Those who love Jesus and beloved by him cannot escape from suffering and pain. It is in such great pain and suffering that salvation

came. In God's plan of redemption, we have a role to unbind our brothers and sisters.

John 20:11-18

The 1st saying by Jesus after his resurrection - "Whom do you seek?" corresponded to his 1st saying in the Gospel - "What do you seek?" It implies that he himself is the answer for the question of Life. Mary Magdalene recognized Jesus when he called her name (see the parable of the sheep & good shepherd, Jn 10: 1-5). Such an encounter of Jesus would make one hold onto him but it is always our duty to "leave" and go to bring others back to our Lord.

C. K.

Story of a New Saint

The church of Christ is a "Holy " Church, without the boundary of ethnicity, position, time and place. Although it is not without human weakness, the teaching of Christ have always help some to reach the peak of virtue. St. Joseph Moscati is one of them: He is not an ancient saint, rather, he is a new saint of our time(1880-1927). He is also not the Pope, a cardinal, a priest. He is just an ordinary Christian living an ordinary life.

Pope Paul the VI described this new saint with the following words: He was a Christian in the ordinary life, he tactfully used his gifts from God, so as to make a full life according to what the Gospels have said; he was a doctor, he utilized his profession as the stage to spread the Gospels, as the chance to love, as the tool for Jesus to save the souls of the sufferers; he was a university professor. Not only because of his high professional reputation, but also owing to his moral attainments, he had deeply impressed his fellow students both spiritually and academically; he was also an academic with international reputation. With the sharp and confident judgement as reflected in his publications and academic career, he had been a very well known person of our life.

We wish to introduce the life of this new saint to you. To say that he is new is nothing wrong, as he was only regarded as a saint on 25.10.1987 by Pope John Paul II.

1. A short life

St. Joseph Moscati was an Italian. He was born in Benevento on 25.7.1880 in the south of Italy. He came from a rich Catholic family where he received Baptism seven days after birth. Both parents came from noble class and were devoted Catholics. His mother, one of the most influential female figures to him, talked to him before she died, " Let me die in peace and happiness. You must always get away from sin. It is the misfortune of mankind." Moscati had altogether nine siblings. He was active with aspirations. Although impulsive with hot temper, he was very frank and courageous to admit that he was wrong so that he could correct himself. His second elder brother, Alberto, fell from the horse when he was studying in a military school in 1892. He was severely injured and needed to take rest at home. Joseph started to take care of him since teenage. For the ten years of care and concern, he had learnt how to face pain and help the one who suffered.

He entered the university to study medicine in 1897 and graduated with flying colours six years later. Thereafter, he started his career as a doctor. He had worked in the hospital, in the medical school. He had also been the editor of "Reforma Meidca" for many years. He was also elected the Dean of medical school in 1917. However, he declined the offer as he wanted to devote more time in teaching the young doctors.

He died suddenly on 17.4.1927 at the age of 47.

2. An expert in diagnosis.

Looking at the 47 years in Moscati's life, he had devoted thirty years in serving the sick. His talent in making sharp diagnosis had always been appreciated.

Dr. Piazza said, "In a number of diagnostic problems, Dr. Moscati's ability to judge has made us wonder whether he was assisted by the God at the time. "Dr. Landolfi said," His

miraculous diagnosis seems to be assisted by the angels."

Here are some of the examples:

D. Gabriele Esposito of Catellammare suffered from an incurable illness, but doctors could not make out the cause. His health deteriorated day after day, almost to the verge of the grave. He consulted Dr. Moscati one day. He said, "It was interesting, Dr. Moscati had seen me once only, but he could correctly pointed out the duration of my symptoms and how it deteriorated. It was exactly what happened...."

Once Dr. Michele Parlato's two son had gone to Foggia to visit their relatives. They contracted severe febrile illness. The local doctors all diagnosed typhoid fever, but Dr. Moscati felt that it was Malaria and asked Dr. Parlato to give his children quinine. Dr. Parlato was puzzled. Dr. Moscati had never seen the patient but yet he could be so determined about the diagnosis. Dr. Moscati reassured the father to act as what he instructed. Two days later, the fever had gone!

3. A spiritual healer

Dr. Moscati being respected as a miraculous healer did not rely solely on his sharp diagnosis, but mainly because of his ability to treat one's soul through his body. For him, to treat the sick was to give him a chance to help one's soul.

He had written a very moving passage on 17.1.1922:" The sick was actually the image of Jesus. Many unfortunate, wicked, betrayers had turned to us through the arrangements of the God. It was because God want to save them. We, doctors, nurses, sisters, were to help them through forgiveness, sacrifice and services. We had to cooperate with God in this great work. In many occasions, doctors could not practically help . We could not save them physically, we should do more on their spiritual life. We always face problems which we are helpless, however, we should always remind ourselves that besides the sick bodies, we have to love the souls of our patients. Our satisfaction should not count on our abiltiy to treat, but how we could help to cure the spirits of one's own mind.

4. A disciple of love

Dr. Moscati chose to be a bachelor throughout. He did not, however, looked down on marriage life. Once he mentioned," I also asked youngsters to get marry, because I considered being single is the privilege for some only." He has given up marriage and his family life because he loved Jesus Christ, Holy Mary, the Church. This love demanded him to devote all his life to God, so that he could use this love to love the others.

In April 1906, Mount. Vesuvio erupted. Dr. Moscati left everything immediately for the hospital near the volcano. The ash was getter more and more heavy. Dr Mocati shouted for the patients to leave. He even dragged and carried the old and the sick out himself. When the last patient was saved, the hospital collapsed as a result of those volcano ash. Then, the doctor left home cheerfully.

5. The beloved son of Holy Mary

Although Dr. Moscati had sacrificed his marriage for his love of the others, there were three ladies who had been very close and supportive to him. He loved his mother very much. When she died, his elder sister became his support, and she had accompanied him through his life, as his counsellor and listener. However, the one who had attracted most of his love had been Holy Mary. He had mentioned once to a patient," To Holy Mary, I had always been in love." Beacuse of his respectful love towards Holy Mary, he had a pure soul. He could also carried out his work without being distracted. Once there was a very beautiful lady coming for his treatment, whom Dr. Moscati had been attracted to when young. He described later," I was very calm, I had not been affected by her beauty....Because my soul had already been purified."

6. A good teacher

Dr. Moscati was not only a doctor, he was also a professor in the medical school. However, what he gave to the students was not only medical knowledge, but also the way to live the life as a Christian. He believed one have to be a good Christian in order to be a good doctor. Whenever he got a chance, he would teach the student the philosophy of being a Christian.

One day, he supervised a group of interns on a case when the lady suffered from spondylitis with deformity of spine. Dr. Moscatti told his students, "Look! Appreciate this defomed lady without a sin; she is much prettier than those with beautiful bodies but rotten souls.'

At another time, before the morbid anatomy session, Dr. Moscatti respectfully stopped in front of the dead body. He meditated for a short while and said, "The arrogance of human beings ended in this way. Hatre, fortune, play... also ended in this. The reality of death is so real."

7. Returning to Father's home

Dr. Moscatti had been helping the sick and the dying everyday. He had cured many physical and spiritual sufferers. He had also helped many to face death peacefully and happily. Because of firm conviction on his religion, he knew, "Death is not an end, it is the beginning of a new life totally devoted to God."

Actually, he also prepared himself to God. He said, "I had no fear of death now. With the help of God, I hoped that I would not be afraid in the future." Not only that, he also prayed for sudden death, he said, "To a person already prepared, sudden death is the best mode to die." Really, on 12.4.27, he died suddenly. One of his friends mentioned, "He used his disciple's fire to help the sinners. He had suffered a lot, he wanted to sacrifice even more to help more."

8. Leaving with a memory

In his short life, Dr. Moscatti had lived the life of a Christian in the society. He had demonstrated the fulfillment of the Gospel. He had brought his religious life into his profession. He also made the ordinary life into a forever graceful manufacturing tools: to build up himself, then to build up the others. Dr. Moscatti, to his patients and followers, was a lamp and a fire. It pushed them to live a full Christian life in face of the materialistic and rationalisitic challenge. Such life to fulfill oneself and others is what Jesus asked us to do. It is what the Church demanded every Catholic to follow.

Spiritual Refreshment:

A girl came from outside India to join the Missionaries of Charity. We have a rule that new arrivals must go to the House for the Dying. So I told this girl: "You saw Father during thr Holy Mass, with what love and care he touched Jesus in the Host. Do the same when you go to the Home for the Dying, because it is the same Jesus you will find there in the broken bodies of the poor." And they went. After three hours the newcomer came back and said to me with a great smile. I have never seen a smile quite like that: "Mother, I have been touching the body of Christ for three hours." And I said to her: "How?" She replied: "When we arrived there, they brought a man who had fallen into a drain and been there for some time. He was covered with wounds, and dirt and maggots, and I cleaned him and I knew I was touching the body of Christ."

That was very beautiful.

(From *Meditations by Mother Teresa of Calcutta and her coworkers*)

*Let us remind ourselves the daily prayer by
Mother Teresa's helpers in Shishu Bhavan,
Calcutta:*

Jesus my patient

Dearest Lord
May I see you today
and everyday
in the person of your sick
and whilst nursing them,
minister unto you.

Though you hide yourself
behind the unattractive disguise
of the irritable,
the exacting,
the unreasonable,
may I still recognize you and say:
"Jesus, my patient, how sweet it is to serve you."

Lord,
give me this seeing faith,
then my work will never be monotonous,
I will ever find new joy
in humouring the fancies
and gratifying the wishes
of all poor sufferers.

O Beloved Sick,
How doubly dear you are to me
when you personify Christ;
and what a privilege is mine
to be allowed to tend you.

Sweetest Lord
Make me appreciative of the dignity of my high
vocation
And its many responsibilities,
Never permit me to disgrace it
by giving way to coldness, unkindness,
or impatience.

And Oh God,
While you are Jesus,
my patient,
deign also to be to me a patient Jesus,
bearing with my faults,
looking only to my intention
which is to love and serve you
in the person of each of your sick.

Lord,
Increase my faith,
bless my efforts and work,
now and for evermore,
AMEN

NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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