PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT
會長周年會務報告

在服務中，宣傳福音！

加入聖雲先會十多年以來，我經常反問自己：聖雲先會與其他社福機構有甚麼分別？

相信所有聖雲先會會員都知道，我們最重要的服務在於親身探訪。我們與主耶穌基督一同前往探訪患病者、獨居長者、貧窮家庭、單親家庭及難民家庭等等，關顧他們心靈上和經濟上的需要。因為我們是在這些兄弟姊妹身上，服務主耶穌基督。透過服務，亦希望他們在我們身上看到那派遣我們的一位。

耶穌叫我們往普天下去，向一切受造物宣傳福音。在過去多年的服務中，我們宣傳福音的方式是以言以行去活出天主是愛。每當我看到受助人因著我們的服務而認識及信靠天主，欣然接受這信仰時，我心內總是萬分感動，同時讚嘆天主的救恩工程！就讓我們繼續以堂區為中心，走到社區各處去關顧貧窮人士及弱勢社群，在天主的愛內奉獻生活，並向一切受造物宣傳福音。

我感謝天主召叫了我成為聖雲先會會員，並帶領我為有需要的人服務。時間過得很快，我兩屆中央分會會長共六年的任期已經屆滿。

我藉此機會，特別感謝香港教區宗座署理及中央分會贊助人湯漢樞機，感謝他在中央分會面對不同挑戰時給予的指導和忠告 ；感謝中央分會神師陳志明神父的支持和指導，也感謝各協會的神師給我們的靈修培育；感謝各位親愛的會員永不言倦地在不同領域與有需要的人同行，特別在疫情下仍堅持愛德服務；更感謝中央分會理事及各小組召集人無私的貢獻和支持。我亦感謝家人對我的支持和包容，讓我可以全身投入服務。此外，我特別感謝恩人們對本會的支持，靠著他們的捐助，我們的愛德服務才得以延續。

在過去 6 年的會長任期中，我曾遇上不少困難的時刻，但在服務上有過更多美好回憶。我非常感恩，這些經歷增強了我的信德，更讓我體會到天主在我身上和在聖雲先會內的計劃。

中央分會會議
中央分會每月第三個星期三舉行例會。

堂區協會與會員
聖雲先會香港中央分會共有三十一個堂區協會及一個青年協會，正式及附屬會員六百多人。

我們的愛德工作與活動
在新型冠狀病毒肆虐下，2020 至 2021 年度對全球多處，包括香港來說，都是困難的一年。各種抗疫措施和社交距離限制不僅影響經濟，更深深影響了各人的生活。上班族改為在家工作、學生不能回學校上課、感恩聖祭改以網上進行、人與人之間的互動減至最少、失業和就業不足的人口大幅增加，加劇了人們對慈善服務和精神支持的需求。在這時候，聖雲先會亦迎難而上，致力維持服務。因應社交距離限制，中央分會會議改為網上進行，協會的探訪亦改以小組型式進行。雖人在門外，會員仍堅持親身送上問候、食物和防疫用品，有關的服務數字詳情請參閱第 30 頁。然而，不少大型活動如周年退省、難民同樂日等也因疫情而被迫取消。

如去年所報告，中央分會在 2020 年 3 月得到恩人們和賽馬會「新冠肺炎緊急援助基金」的捐助，開展了「在希望中侍奉 2020」項目，支援基層和受疫情影響生計的人士，獲多個協會支持和參與。賽馬會的基金雖已於 2020 年 8 月結束，因需求持續，中央分會通過自行撥款 $500,000，把項目由 2020 年 10 月延續至 2021 年 3 月底，期後亦由 2021 年 3 月再度延續至 2021 年 9 月。在 8 月的中央分會會議上，再通過撥款及延期至 2022 年 3 月。在 2020-21 年度，「在希望中侍奉 2020」共進行了 821 次探訪和 163 次愛德服務。

為讓更多教友認識本會的宗旨和服務，亦感謝公教報的支持，年內，我們在公教報刊登了共 13 篇文章，由多位會員分享本會的歷史和不同協會的愛德服務。期望這些文章能吸引教友對我們的服務感興趣並加入成為我們的一分子。

以下為中央分會各小組在過去一年內的簡單工作報告，僅供查閱：

愛心小組（中國） - 年內，因受疫情影響，本港與內地還未恢復正常通關，所以小組未能到內地探訪，但仍會以電子通訊與有關人士保持聯繫，為有需要的人服務。

資訊及通訊管理小組 - 網站保安是時下重要的一環，因此小組於本年七月要求網絡承辦商增加定期檢查網站保安漏洞之服務，並盡快實行補救措施。

年內，四期季度通訊如期出版。今年，我們又以「愛．無窮」為題舉辦攝影比賽，鼓勵會員在進行愛德服務時拍下感動的瞬間，收到不少「疫中有愛」的照片。

文件管理小組 - 文件管理小組五位成員來自不同協會，一般來說，我們在奧撒南中心舉行會議，把會內值得收藏的資料整理及保存。除搜羅過往聖雲先會在慈善工作方面的資料外，其他與政府部門如社會福利署、稅務局及公益金等機構的往來信件及約章，都會一一保存下來。去年，小組不但收集國際總會及各協會的通訊消息，亦保存刊登在公教報十多期的會員分享及心聲。除難民活動外，亦收集了幼兒學校建校的資料及相片，以及最新幼兒學校校董會的功能及職務也妥為存檔。

拓展小組 - 年內，小組繼續與各協會會長和副會長以 WhatsApp「與你同行」群組緊密聯繫，讓協會在遇到問題時，可第一時間向小組查詢，小組會在 24 小時內回覆，並按中央分會會規和指引解答疑難和提供支援。同時，群組亦用於發放中央分會的訊息和活動消息。小組的主要工作是向教友或慕道者介紹本會，讓更多人認識我們的團體和服務，加入我們的大家庭，以愛德活出信仰，為更多有需要的人服務。過去一年，我們為協會招募了 8 位新會員，更為協會舉辦迎新會，讓新會員了解本會的精神。我們雖因疫情的社交距離限制，而未能舉行大型聚會或工作坊，但為加強個別協會和中央分會的連繫，小組亦安排了個別協會會長和中央分會會長小聚，讓彼此更認識並討論服務中遇到的困難。

財務管理小組 - 年內，小組不時聚會，討論協會常見的財務疑難，以提供建議讓協會參考。小組的其中一項重要工作，就是根據準則，協助審閱由協會所提交，超過港幣八千元的申請個案，並向中央分會會長作出建議。

特別活動及支援小組 - 小組今年分別於 2020 年 12 月 14 日及 19 日探望了安貧小姊妹會位於黃竹坑的聖瑪利安老院和上水的聖若瑟安老院。今年由於疫情關係，我們採取了嚴謹的防疫措施，參與兩次探訪服務的會員人數由往常的數十位，大幅降至三位並須已取得病毒檢測陰性證明。探訪期間，會員與長者亦保持適當的社交距離、佩戴口罩及勤洗手。有限度的接觸並沒有降低會員發揮敬老愛老的精神，小小禮物、小許茶點和無限的關懷都讓老人家享受了一個愉快的下午，他們的開懷笑臉和感謝片語，令我們深感主的偉大慈愛，更加鞭策會員日後倍加關愛長者，為基督的愛作見證。

奧撒南綜合服務中心（簡稱為「中心」） - 奧撒南綜合服務中心由中心管理委員會管理及營運，委員會定期舉行例會，以檢討、審核和制訂中心之工作方向。中心亦協助中央分會聯絡及協調各協會的愛德服務。本年度，中心繼續本著耶穌基督愛與關懷的精神服務社區。但去年的疫情令中心無奈地暫停了大部分直接為公眾提供的服務，包括免費中醫與針灸義診等，課餘照顧和功課輔導服務亦暫停了一段長時間，本年度僅服務了 379 人次。然而，疫情期間，中心仍維持開放並成為臨時倉庫，以存放由恩人捐贈或由中央分會購入的珍貴抗疫物資、食物和日用品，配合「在希望中侍奉」項目服務。

隨著中心兼職員工潘麗芳姊妹在 2020 年 9 月榮休，中心分別在 2020 年 6 月和 2021 年 1 月聘請了陳蕎雯姊妹和陳婉明姊妹成為中心的全職僱員。此外，自中心 2003 年啟用以來便出任義務中心主任的聖方濟各堂協會的周龍兄弟已於 2021 年 6 月呈辭，但他仍願意繼續為中心的運作提供支援至本屆會長任期完結。中央分會在此衷心感謝周龍兄弟過去 18 年為中心無償的奉獻，致使中心的運作能如此順暢。我們謹此給他送上祝福，並期待他日後繼續支持中央分會。中央分會很高興委任了耶穌復活堂協會的區耀德兄弟接任為義務中心主任，我們相信中心在他的看守下將繼續運作順暢。

PANASCO 9 籌委會 - 我們已於去年的周年大會中宣佈，因應 2019 冠狀病毒疫情，第九屆泛亞洲會議 (PANASCO 9) 需要繼續延期舉行。在徵詢過亞洲及大洋洲的 32 個國家分會及其他相關人士的意見後，籌委會建議，並獲中央分會同意，把會議暫定延至 2021 年 11 月 14-17 日或 2022 年 5 月 15-18 日舉行，同時會於相應日期的 6 個月前再檢討其可行性。因此，籌委會已於本年 5 月審視了當時全球的疫情，考慮到國際航班仍未完全恢復，來港人士仍須強制隔離檢疫，籌委會認為於 2021 年 11 月舉辦 P9 會議並不可行。籌委會將密切留意疫情的發展並於本年年底再探討 P9 會議是否適合於 2022 年 5 月舉行。上述建議已在 2021 年 5 月 26 日的中央分會月會中通過。

難民及保護聲請人士服務小組 - 自 2014 年 12 月成立以來，小組負責協調各協會服務難民的工作，支援協會的服務，以便更妥善地按需要管理和分配資源。

年內，共 16 個協會以「領養家庭」的方式進行每月探訪，服務超過 70 個難民和保護聲請人士的家庭。家訪不僅讓會員更了解這些家庭的處境和需要，更是藉服務見證主愛的機會。此外，小組成員經常聚會，交流

經驗，分享資訊並建立一致的服務方針和形式；成員更藉機會檢討現有服務和討論如何在有限資源下，提供更合適的援助。

年內，小組的探訪和多項活動均受到 2019 冠狀病毒疫情影響。但我們明白，我們服務的家庭在這疫情中是最需要支援的一群，故此，大部分協會都把家訪改為在門外短暫會見問好，並把如口罩、潔手液、漂白水、大米、意大利粉等物資送到受助家庭手上。活動方面，服務小組亦趁著疫情稍為緩和，於 2021 年 8 月 8 日假元朗大棠保良局賽馬會度假村舉行了日營，超過 120 名難民及保護聲請人士家庭成員享用了營內的各項康樂設施，參加者非常滿意活動。另外，我們和明愛於七、八月一同主辦網上補習班，讓一些將升讀小學一年級的 K3 學生學習書寫閱讀中文，協助他們順利融入學習。

靈修小組 – 因疫情反覆及政府不斷延續的限聚措施，原定的 2020 年週年退省被迫順延一年。雖則如此，基督徒在這疫情下的新常態反而多了機會靜思、閱讀聖言或靈修書籍，也多了祈禱，不少會員更積極參與網上聖言誦讀課程，保持愛主愛人的心火。更可喜的是，大家期待已久的週年退省現已定於 2021 年 10 月 23-24 日假上水聖保祿樂靜院舉行，我們感謝夏志誠輔理主教應允繼續擔任退省神師。小組又在 2020 年 11 月 21 日，與雲先會員關愛互助組，為已亡的聖雲先會神師、恩人、受助人和會員等奉獻逾越聖祭。

雲先會員關愛互助組 – 在深信上主與我們同在的信念下，悶熱天氣和對疫情再度爆發的擔憂無阻小組和十多個協會的 30 多位兄弟姊妹在 2020 年 7 月 12 日，到跑馬地天主教墳場拜祭曾給本會施恩的神長和前輩，當中包括：胡振中樞機（前香港樞機主教，本會前讚助人）、楊鳴章主教（前香港教區主教，本會前贊助人）、劉蘊遜神父（本會中央分會前神師）、力理神父 PIME（香港明愛前總裁），以及張啟文先生（本會資深會員，中央分會前義務司庫）。我們為他們清潔墓碑及清除雜草，奉獻花束及頌念玫瑰經。當日亦有很多資深會員熱情及慷慨地分享對恩人及張大哥的懷念之情。他們的見證教導我們如何將愛化為實際行動，令「集體回憶點滴」的環節非常豐富。最後，我們在讚美上主的歌聲中慢慢離開。

在本地疫情稍為緩和下，團隊恢復探訪我們的資深會員，年內，我們拜訪了王蔡筱齡姊妹、胡惠民兄弟、李漢英兄弟伉儷、潘麗芳姊妹、王靜姊妹、陳錦英姊妹、何恵芳姊妹、徐碧芳姊妹及李瑞琼姊妹。

在希望中侍奉專責小組 – 自 2020 年 1 月下旬，大量基層市民和低收入人士受 2019 冠狀病毒疫情和環球經濟下滑影響生計。在這背景下，中央分會在 2020 年 3 月，藉香港賽馬會「新冠肺炎緊急援助基金」撥款及恩人們的特別捐助，開展了向弱勢社群派發防疫和食品等物資的「在希望中侍奉 2020」項目，並集中處理有關防疫物資的採購和派發事宜。轉眼間一年過去了，疫情依然繼續在各國擴散，在香港的低收入家庭依然在承受疫情給他們的生活帶來的影響。有鑒於此，雖然賽馬會的基金項目已於 2020 年 8 月結束，因需求持續，中央分會通過自行撥款 $500,000，把項目由 2020 年 10 月延續至 2021 年 3 月底，期後亦由 2021 年 4 月再度延續至 2021 年 9 月。在 8 月的中央分會會議上，再通過延期至 2022 年 3 月。

感謝天主的帶領，在 2020-21 年度，「在希望中侍奉 2020」成功進行了 821 次探訪和 163 次愛德服務，除了繼續派發口罩和搓手液等防疫物資外，我們更優化了派發食品的類別和引入派發食物券和超級市場禮券等給有需要的家庭，令我們所派發的物資能更到位地幫助到我們的受助家庭。

在未來的一年，我們會繼續緊貼疫情的發展，定時檢討這個項目，並會按情況繼續把物資送給有需要的家庭手上。願聖神帶領我們，繼續讓我們各位會員懷著信德、望德和愛德，並秉承我們會祖真福奧撒南的精神，繼續在希望中侍奉。

我們在國際聖雲先大家庭的角色 – 年內，香港聖雲先會會員繼續以不同形式支持國際總會。楊國良兄弟繼續出任其中一位國際總會副會長，專責國際架構事務。他帶領 12 位國際地區副會長，處理總會在全球之事宜。他亦是國際總會董事會成員之一，並任國際總會會規檢視專責委員會成員及「中國策略委員會」的召集人。另外，陳永文兄弟繼續出任東亞洲太平洋區第三區聯絡員，負責聯繫香港、韓國、日本、台灣和蒙古。李漢英兄弟則為「國際救援與發展委員會」的成員之一。此外，中央分會繼續為 CONCORDAT 契約的其中一員，與其他 20 個契約成員國一起分擔國際總會的運作經費。

由於疫情肆虐，全球處於封城，出行近乎不可能。一些區域性會議如「全非洲大會會議」、「第九屆泛亞太平洋會議」、「第三屆南美洲區域會議」等均延期舉行。

疫情下，我們雖未能出國參與實體會議，但透過互聯網，我們仍能保持聯絡。今年 9 月初，遣使會的若瑟神父（Rev. Joseph Agostino）為

了解疫情對亞洲區的影響和探討應變方案，舉行了一個雲先大家庭的亞洲及大洋洲網上會議（Vincentian Family Asia-Oceania Virtual Catch Up）。出席的家庭成員有遣使會、國際婦女會、仁愛女修會及聖雲先會等，代表來自 18 個地區，包括泰國、印尼、菲律賓、澳洲、紐西蘭、斐濟和香港。會上大家分享了疫情下所提供的服務，並一同為疫情早日結束祈禱。

公益金與社會服務聯會

聖雲先會乃香港公益金創會會員，亦是香港社會服務聯會成員之一。

通功代禱

聖伯多祿堂協會陳梅瑟兄弟、聖瑪加利大堂協會羅錫鴻兄弟、聖葉理諾堂協會何鵬飛兄弟、聖猶達堂協會高文芝姊妹、聖十字架堂協會張錦標兄弟、聖文德堂協會唐漢強兄弟和聖愛德華堂協會黃桂英姊妹及鄧繼騰兄弟在年內安息主懷，願永光照之。

前瞻

目前，聖雲先會在全球超過 150 個國家設有協會，近八十萬會員每天以不同方式，支援三千多萬貧窮人士每日的所需。在香港，協會會員每日在各自的堂區親身探訪和關顧貧窮和弱小者的需要，與他們同行；使他們感受到天主的愛和美善。我們既把天主的愛帶到他們之中，也在他們身上服務我們的主耶穌基督。

今天，我看到聖雲先會上下一心，團結一致地為有需要的人服務。這得來不易的團結，實在有賴天主的恩賜及大家同心同德的努力。願我們繼續懷著信、望、愛三德，為有需要的人服務，把天主的愛傳揚開去。

最後，我祝願新任會長孫漢華兄弟與各理事繼續帶領本會，讓我們的服務在天主的愛內更上一層樓。

感謝天主！多謝大家！

聖雲先會香港中央分會會長
黃靜韻

PREACH THE GOSPEL IN YOUR SERVICE

"He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." (Mark 16:15)

Since joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul over a decade ago, I have always asked myself this question: How does the Society differ from other welfare organizations?

I believe all members of the Society would know that our most important service is to conduct visitation in person. We walk with our Lord Jesus Christ in visiting the sick, the poor, elders living alone, single parent families, refugee families, etc., to take care of their spiritual and financial needs. We are in fact serving our Lord Jesus Christ in these brothers and sisters. Through our service, we also hope that they will see in us the one who sends us.

Jesus asks us to go to the world and preach the Gospel to all creatures. Over the past years we have been doing that by living out the love of our Lord through our words and deeds. My heart will be deeply moved whenever I see our beneficiaries understand our Lord, have trust in Him and gratefully accept the faith because of our service. At the same time, I admire the salvation plan of God! Let us continue to reach out from our parish and go into the community to take care of the poor and disadvantaged, devote our lives in the love of God and preach the Gospel to everyone.

I am grateful to God for calling me to become a member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul as well as leading me in my service to those in need. Time flies! My two terms of office for a total of six years as the president of the Central Council is coming to an end.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my special thanks to Cardinal John Tong, Apostolic Administrator of Hong Kong and our Patron for his guidance and advice especially at times when the Central Council was facing different challenges. I thank Rev. Dominic Chan, Spiritual Advisor of the Central Council for his continued support and guidance in the past year. I am also grateful for all spiritual advisors of our conferences for their spiritual formation rendered to our members. I also sincerely thank all my members for their unfailing support in walking together with the people in need through different means especially for their persistence in carrying out charitable services during the pandemic. My gratefulness also goes to all Central Council Officers and Group Conveners for their dedicated support and contribution in the work of the Central Council. I also thank my family for their support and understanding so that I can devote myself wholeheartedly to our service. In addition, I also wish to express my gratitude to all our benefactors for their support to the Society because without which we could not continue our charitable service.

During my tenure as president in the past six years, I encountered many difficult moments but I have earned more fond memories from my service. It is indeed a blessing to me as these experiences have strengthened my faith and made me realize more the plan of God on me and on the Society.

The Central Council Meeting

The Central Council holds monthly meetings every Wednesday of the third week of the month.

Conferences and Membership

We have a total of thirty-one parish conferences and one youth conference, with over six hundred formal and auxiliary members.

Our charitable services and activities

The year 2020-2021 was a difficult year for most places in the world including Hong Kong because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The anti-epidemic and social distancing measures enforced in many countries had not only affected the economies but also the daily lives of every people. People had to work from home, students could not go to school, holy Mass could only be conducted on line, people's physical interaction reduced, unemployment and underemployment increased significantly, thus causing greater demand for charitable services as well as moral support. Instead of backing down, SSVP HK tried our best to remain business as usual. As there were restrictions in group gatherings, the Central Council conducted our monthly meetings through the Internet and conferences continued to carry out visitations in smaller groups to the people in need. Although it might not be possible to enter into their homes, we could still express our concern at their doorstep and give them the anti-epidemic and other supplies to them. The complete information on the number of visitations conducted and person/times served by our conferences can be found on page 30 of the report. However, some large scale activities like annual retreat, fun day for refugee families, etc. were suspended because of the pandemic.

As reported last year, we launched the Serve in Hope Project in March 2020 with donations from the COVID-19 Emergency Fund of the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC) and other benefactors for providing support to those affected by the pandemic. Many conferences took part in this Project. The funding from HKJC was exhausted in August 2020. However, noting that the demand for our services persisted, we decided to continue this Project with our own funds. The Central Council approved a budget of $500,000 for the Project to run from October 2020 to March 2021. Another extension and funding was approved in March 2021 for the Project to be further extended to September 2021. And, in the Central Council meeting in August, we agreed to further extend the Project to March 2022. In 2020-21, a total of 821 visitations and 163 charitable activities were conducted under this Project.

To let more parishioners know about the aims and services of the Society and thanks to Kung Kao Po, we published 13 articles in the Kung Kao Po in the year. These articles were contributed by many members covering the history of the Society and services delivered by various conferences over the years. We hope these articles could arouse the interest of the faithful in our work and be part of us one day.

A brief summary of the work of various Groups of the Central Council during the year is given below for your information.

Charity Community (China) – As cross border traffic between Hong Kong and the Mainland had not resumed normal because of the pandemic, the Group had not visited the Mainland during the year. However, it maintained contacts with relevant parties through electronic means for providing support to those in need.

Communication Management Group – Noting the growing concerns about web security nowadays, starting from July 2021, the Group requested the web service contractor to conduct regular scans for web vulnerabilities of our website and apply remedial actions as soon as practically feasible when irregularities were found.

During the year, four quarterly Newsletters were issued as scheduled. As an annual event, the Group organized the "Love conquers poverty" Photo Contest, inviting

conferences to submit photos of loving moments during their services. The Group received many photos telling touching stories during the pandemic.

Documentation Management Group – The five members of the Group came from different conferences. Usually, meetings were held at the Ozanam Comprehensive Services Centre in handling the archival of valuable information of the Society especially those materials of the past. In addition to the historical records relating to the charitable work performed by the Society, the Group also retrieved and kept correspondences and articles between the Central Council and various Government departments and other major organizations, such as the Social Welfare Department, Inland Revenue Department and Community Chest, etc. Members' recent sharing on our charitable works on Kung Kao Po, materials and photos of the former rooftop kindergarten as well as an updated memorandum of the composition and terms of reference of the Nursery School Board had also been archived for future reference.

Extension and Development Group – In the year, the Group continued to run the "Walk with Conferences" WhatsApp groups with the presidents and vice-presidents of conferences. Conferences were welcomed to report problems they encountered to the Group at any time with the Group responding within 24 hours. Timely advice and support would be provided according to the guidelines and rules of the Central Council.

The Group also assisted conferences in recruiting new members by introducing the Society to other parishioners and catechumen at their parishes. In the year, we have recruited 8 new members joining the St. Vincent de Paul family. Briefing sessions to welcome the newcomers were also arranged for conferences as needed.

Owing to the social distancing restrictions, workshops and gathering with conferences were cancelled. However, the Group had organized some small scale get-together sessions with conference Board members and the Central Council President to enhance communication and discuss problems and areas of concerns they were facing.

Financial Management Group – The Group held meetings during the year to discuss financial problems encountered by conferences and provide recommendations for their consideration. One of the main tasks of the Group was to appraise and recommend to the President, funding applications of charitable works exceeding HK$ 8,000 per case from conferences based on the Funding Approval Guidelines.

Incident Support and Special Event Group – The Group organized visits to the St. Mary's Home for the Aged in Wong Chuk Hang and to the St. Joseph's Home for the Aged in Sheung Shui run by the Little Sisters of the Poor on 14th and on 19th December 2020 respectively, bringing to the elderly a very happy afternoon through games, gifts and refreshments. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, instead of a large number of members participated as in the past, only 3 members with negative results of virus test were allowed to join. Anti-epidemic measures including wearing masks, cleaning hands and maintaining social distancing were practiced throughout the visits. Members were grateful for having the opportunity to serve the elderly, bringing peace, love, happiness and blessings to the people in need so as to glorify Christ our Lord.

Ozanam Comprehensive Services Centre (the Centre) – The Ozanam Management Committee managed and oversaw the operation of the Centre through regular meetings convened to assess, audit and align the directions for the operation of

the Centre. The Centre also assisted the Central Council in communicating and coordinating charitable work and activities of parish conferences. The Centre provided a variety of services to the community adhering to the teaching of love and care that Christ gave us. However, in the past year because of the pandemic, the Centre had no choice but to suspend most of its services which were previously provided to the public like the free Chinese medication and acupuncture service. The after-school homework tutorial classes for primary students were also suspended for some time. Hence, the number of headcounts of this service was only 379 in 2020-21. However, the Centre remained open and served as the temporary storage and distribution centre for the most needed anti-epidemic supplies as well as food and daily necessity items both donated by benefactors and purchased by the Central Council under the Serve in Hope Project.

In September 2020, Sr. Susanna Poon, our part-time staff of the Centre had proceeded on her retirement. We welcomed Miss Chan Oi Man and Ms Olga Chan joining the Centre as full-time staff in June 2020 and January 2021 respectively.

Br. Chau Lung, Simon of St. Francis of Assisi Parish Conference had been serving as the Officer-in Charge (OiC) of the Centre on a voluntary basis since its operation in 2003. He tendered his resignation from the position in June 2021 but would continue to assist in the operation of the Centre until the end of the present term of the President. The Central Council is most grateful for his unfailing service and dedication to the work of the Centre for the past 18 years. Without that, the Centre could not be operating so successfully. We wish him well and look forward to his continuing support in the future. The Central Council is also pleased and grateful to have appointed Br. Au Yiu Tak, Peter of Resurrection Parish Conference as the new OiC of the Centre. We are sure that the Centre would continue to operate smoothly under his good hands.

PANASCO 9 Organizing Committee – As reported in the last AGM, because of the pandemic, the PANASCO 9 (P9) was further postponed. After consulting the National Councils of the 32 countries in the Asia and Oceania Regions and other related parties, the PANASCO 9 Organizing Committee (P9OC) recommended, and the Central Council agreed that the event would be postponed to 14-17 November 2021 or 15-18 May 2022 subject to a feasibility review to be taken six months before those dates. Accordingly, P9OC had conducted the review in May 2021 and arrived at the conclusion that it was not possible to organize P9 in November 2021 in the light of the current global pandemic situation, mandatory quarantine requirements for visitors to Hong Kong and the fact that inter-country flight travel was not fully resumed. P9OC would continue to monitor the situation and conduct another review towards the end of 2021 to see whether P9 could he held in May 2022. The decision was agreed by the Central Council at its monthly meeting on 26 May 2021.

Refugee and Protection Claimant Services Group – Since its establishment in December 2014, the Group had been responsible for coordinating the services rendering to refugees and protection claimants by various conferences. Through this, the Society could better manage resources to provide services as needed. We conducted home visitation to families of refugees and protection claimants through the "adopting a family" approach.

During the year, 16 conferences took part in conducting monthly home visitations

to some 70 families. Through home visitations, members had better opportunities to understand the situation and the needs of families, and bear witness to the love of God. Apart from visitations, the Group also met once every month to exchange experiences, to share information and to align practices among conferences. Through discussions and exchange of views in the monthly meeting, the Group took opportunities to update and review our practice and services, if necessary.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, many activities including home visitations to families and other events were affected. We fully understood that the families were most vulnerable and needed supports during the pandemic, and hence, majority of our teams continued our home visitations bringing families face masks, hand sanitizers, bleach, rice, spaghetti etc. We were fully aware of the need to be safe for both the families and us, and hence, we only met the families briefly outside their homes passing them the above items. On activities, once the pandemic situations improved, we continued to host a Day Camp at the Po Leung Kuk Jockey Club Tai Tong Holiday Camp for the families on 8 August 2021. Besides, we also organized e-tutorial classes in July and August 2021 in conjunction with Caritas Hong Kong for K3 students to learn writing and speaking Chinese to facilitate their studies in P1 in the new school term. We also resumed our monthly meeting since May 2021.

Spirituality Group – As the pandemic lingered and with the extension of the social distancing measures by the government, the annual retreat originally scheduled for 2020 was postponed to 2021. Nevertheless, under this "new normal" brought by the pandemic, Christians found more opportunities to meditate, to read Bible or other spirituality books as well as to pray. Many members had also actively participated in some on-line Bible reading courses to maintain their love of God and other people. Even more grateful was the long awaited annual retreat could now take place from 23 to 24 October 2021 in the St. Paul's House of Prayer in Sheung Shui. We would like to thank Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Ha for his agreement to continue to be the spiritual advisor of the retreat. In collaboration with the Vincentians Caring Group, we organized a thanksgiving Mass to commemorate our departed spiritual advisors, members, benefactors and beneficiaries on 21 November 2020.

Vincentians Caring Group – Despite the sweltering weather and the fear of another outbreak of the epidemic but fortified by our conviction that the Lord is with us, there was no hindrance to the Vincentians Caring Group and more than 30 conference members visiting St. Michael Catholic Cemetery on 12 July 2020 to pay respect to the priests and predecessors who had given grace to us. They included His Eminence John Wu (Former Cardinal of Hong Kong, our Patron), most Reverend Michael Yeung (Former Bishop of Hong Kong, our Patron), Rev. Vincent Lau (Former Central Council Spiritual Advisor), Rev. Francesco Lerda PIME (Former President of Caritas - Hong Kong), Br. Dominic Cheung (Senior Member, Former Hon. Treasurer).

We cleaned up their tombstones and weeds, offered bouquets and rosary. Many senior members enthusiastically and generously shared their nostalgia of benefactors and our Brother Dominic Cheung. Through their testimonies, they taught us to turn love into practical actions. The bits and pieces of collective memory were very rich. We gradually left the cemetery in the mist of our hymns.

The Group resumed visiting our veteran members once the local pandemic situation had slightly improved. In the past year, we had paid visits to Sr. Celina Wong,

Br. Richard Woo, Br. John Lee and his wife, Sr. Susanna Poon, Sr. Helen Wong, Sr. Teresa Chan, Sr. Susanna Ho, Sr. Rosa Chui and Sr. Teresa Lee.

Serve in Hope (SIH) Project – Since late January 2020, a large number of grassroots citizens and low income people had been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the global economic downturn. In this context, the Central Council launched the "Serve in Hope (SIH) 2020 Project" and with the grant by the COVID-19 Emergency Fund of the Hong Kong Jockey Club we started to distribute anti-epidemic and food supplies to the disadvantaged community. The Project Team had also taken up the procurement work of the anti-epidemic materials and worked out the policies of distribution. One year had passed but the pandemic had no sign to stop and continued to spread over many countries. Many low income families in Hong Kong continued to bear the impact of the pandemic on their livelihood. Although the grant from the Hong Kong Jockey Club had exhausted in August 2020, the Central Council decided to extend the SIH Project from October 2020 to March 2021 and approved a budget of $500,000 from our own fund for this purpose. After that, another extension from April to September 2021was also approved. At its monthly meeting in August 2021, the Central Council further extended the Project to March 2022.

Thanks to the guidance of God, we had successfully carried out 821 visitations and 163 charitable activities under this Project in 2020-21. In addition to continuing the distribution of anti-epidemic supplies such as face-masks and hand-sanitizers, we had increased the items of food products and introduced the distribution of meal coupons and supermarket coupons so that our service could better meet the needs of our beneficiaries.

In the coming year, we would continue to review the implementation of the Project in line with the development of the pandemic and provide the necessary supplies to the people in need. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide us in carrying out our service with Faith, Hope and Love and to uphold the spirit of "Serve in Hope" of our founder Blessed Ozanam.

Our Support to the International Confederation of the Society of St Vincent de Paul (CGI) and others in overseas

During the year, members of SSVP HK continued to provide support to CGI in various roles. Br. Maurice Yeung took up the post of International Vice-President for Structure and is a member of CGI Board. He led a team of 12 International Territorial Vice-Presidents looking after SSVP matters around the world. Besides, he also looked after the "China Commission" and was appointed a member of Special Commission to Review the International Statutes. Br. Arthur Chan continued to be the Asia Group 3 Coordinator responsible for the liaison works for SSVP in HK, Korea, Japan, Taiwan and Mongolia while Br. John Lee was a member in the Committee of International Aid and Development (CIAD). Also, the Society continuously supported CGI as a member of the Concordat in which twenty member countries provide funding support to the operation of CGI.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the entire world was basically locked down and travelling around was not possible. Some regional conferences and meetings including "All Africa Assembly", "Pan Asia Conference 9" and "3rd SSVP South America Territorial Meeting" were postponed.

Although we were unable to travel abroad to take part in meetings physically during the pandemic, we still managed to keep in touch through the Internet. In early

September this year, Rev. Joseph Agostino of the Congregation of the Mission conducted a web meeting, the "Vincentian Family Asia-Oceania Virtual Catch-up", to better understand the impact of the pandemic in Asia and associated contingency plans. Members of the Vincentian family like the Congregation of the Mission, International Association of Charities, Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, etc. from 18 regions including Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, Fuji and Hong Kong had taken part. At the meeting, everyone shared their experiences on service delivery during the pandemic and prayed together for its early end.

The Community Chest and Hong Kong Council of Social Service

SSVP HK is the founding member of The Community Chest and is also a member of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service.

Obituary

Br. Moses Chan, member of the St. Peter's Parish Conference, Br. Joseph Law, member of St. Margaret's Parish Conference, Br. Ho Peng Fei, member of the St. Jerome's Parish Conference, Sr. Ko Man Che, member of St. Jude's Parish Conference, Br. Peter Cheung, member of Holy Cross Parish Conference, Br. Tong Hon Keung, member of St. Bonaventure's Parish Conference and Sr. Wong Kwai Ying and Br. John Tang, members of St. Edward's Parish Conference passed away in the year. May their souls rest in peace and may perpetual light shine upon them.

Looking Forward

The Society is now present in over 150 countries with some 800,000 members assisting over 30 million poor people in the world in various ways. In Hong Kong, conference members carry out visitations and charitable services every day to look after the needs of the poor and weak; to walk along with them; so that we all could feel the love and kindness of God. We are not only bringing God's love to them, but at the same time we are serving Jesus Christ through them.

I am glad to note that members of the Central Council at all levels are working in unity for serving those in need. This hard-won unity is really a gift of God and the result of the concerted efforts of every one of us. May we continue to spread the love of God and to serve those in need with Hope, Faith and Love.

Finally, my best wishes go to Br. Ellis Suen, the newly elected President of the Central Council and all the new Council Officers and I am sure that, under their leadership, the work of the Central Council will be taken to another level in the love of God.

May the peace and joy of Christ be with every one of you always!

SR. GARLEY WONG
PRESIDENT
SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
CENTRAL COUNCIL OF HONG KONG