

October 2019 – REPORT ON THE VISIT TO THE CONCILIUM

The Spiritual Director of the Hong Kong Comitium, Legion of Mary, Father Francis Tam, together with the President, Maria Tam, and Secretary, Blossom Lee, visited the Concilium on 15th October 2019 (Tuesday) meeting their President, Sr. Mary Murphy, Vice-President, Sr. Sile Ni Chochlain, 3 Assistant Secretaries (Br. Michael, Sr. Rose and another officer), Correspondent Br. Paddy, and Sister Greaney.

Matters discussed are as follows:

1. The President reported on the **extension work** in the New Territories and in particular, the positive response from the Yuen Long Ss. Peter and Paul Church's parish priest, Rev. Gervais Baudry. An introduction session was held on 15th September and 11 parishioners attended. 8 indicated that they have interest in joining the Legion of Mary and 3 are in consideration. As the parish priest is presently on leave, a new praesidium will likely be set up when he returns. Some English speaking parishioners also indicated their interest and the English Curia is assisting in maintaining their enthusiasm by forming a prayer group and introducing the Legion of Mary awaiting further arrangement by the parish priest. The Concilium is also informed that the new Praesidium will be directly under the Comitium for the time being until a new Curia is established in future to take care of praesidia in the New Territories. By then, praesidia in current Curia in Kowloon may be subdivided from their existing Curia to support the new Curia in the New Territories. This is for the further development of the Legion of Mary especially in parts of New Territories where there is, at present, no praesidium or Curia.
2. The Concilium advised that the maximum number of praesidia under a Curia should be 12 to 15 only. The Comitium has a responsibility of sub-dividing praesidia in existing Curia for the development of new Curia when necessary.
3. The starting date of a praesidium is the first day of its meeting and not the date of taking the Legionary Promise or any other date. Curia has no authority to forbid a new praesidium from taking the Legionary Promise once the probation period is fulfilled according to the Handbook.
4. The **Korean Curia** under the Comitium was set up under the Bishop of Hong Kong so it should remain as a Curia of the Hong Kong Comitium. They should give their report to the Comitium and if there is a problem in communication or

language, translation should be arranged but they should still submit their report or minutes of meetings so that the Comitium, which has a duty of supervision, knows what they are doing.

5. (a) The relationship of the Legion of Mary in **Macau** and the Hong Kong Comitium has never been formalized. They should have brought it up at a meeting with the Bishop in Macau of their intention to set up more praesidia, and if they want to affiliate with the Hong Kong Comitium, their intention to do so. As Macau and Hong Kong are under different dioceses, the Hong Kong Comitium will have to get their bishop's approval as well. If the Hong Kong bishop accepts the suggestion, then they should inform the Concilium.
 - (b) Macau now only has one Chinese Curia and the new English praesidium should be attached to this Chinese Curia for the time being as there is no English Curia in Macau.

6. **Suggestions** from the Concilium after reading our reports:
 - (a) For each monthly meeting, there should be only one praesidium giving their annual report. Since we have 12 praesidia, each can give their report in a month. Reports should be more sharing than numbers.
 - (b) Curia should be giving quarterly reports. Reports do not have to give numbers. Emphasis is more on the number of members attending, extension work done, plans for extension, sharing, etc.. Reports can even be handwritten.
 - (c) Monthly meetings should not be too long so if there is only one praesidium giving report or one Curia giving quarterly report, it will shorten the time of the meeting.
 - (d) The Legion of Mary should only organize regular annual events such as the Acies, Annual Reunion, etc. Other events such as the Cheung Chau procession, should not be under the Comitium's duty to organize. Members can participate in these events but not taking the organization role.
 - (e) Officers do not need to do the visitation. We should train members of the Legion to do it. Members of one Curia can visit another Curia and report to the Comitium.
 - (f) The Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei & Taiwan Chinese Legion of Mary Exchange Conference is not an official Legion of Mary event (The Concilium was not informed of the event) so participation is on an individual basis only, it is not encouraged. Each country has its own Congress, this sort of conference is not a Congress. Congress in own country is encouraged which expands faith in the territory. But if other countries are invited, the

Concilium's permission should be sought. It is the Concilium's duty to develop in different countries, not another country's officers.

7. Other discussions:
 - (a) With regard to our application for an addition of an Assistant secretary to the Comitium, a list of duties of the proposed position should be submitted to the Concilium.
 - (b) Correspondents can be appointed in areas where it is distant e.g. between Hong Kong and Macau. He/she can be an officer or member of a praesidium. Correspondents can be recruited who can help officers to visit other curiae, so that the Comitium can have a link with other curiae. They can also help in translation and periodicals editing and publication.
 - (c) There is no minimum age for junior member but it is advisable that he/she has received the first Holy Communion.
 - (d) Development of junior praesidium in schools should be encouraged. Teacher Assistant may not be ideal as a spiritual director unless he/she is familiar with the Legion of Mary. Setting up a praesidium at universities in Hong Kong is encouraged so as to train young people to lead and guide juniors in future.
 - (e) For appointment of spiritual directors, preferably priest or Deacon who knows the Legion of Mary well should be selected. Ordinary parishioner cannot be a spiritual director.
 - (f) The Legion picture has copyright all over the world. The use of it needs the approval of the Concilium. Use of the Legion picture for printing, souvenirs, stationery, etc. are not encouraged as the "Legion quietly works among people".
 - (g) The Draft Statute 2015 of the Legion of Mary has been submitted to the Vatican which usually takes 5 to 6 years for further review. Still awaiting their approval and finalization.
 - (h) The beautification of Frank Duff is underway. 33,000 letters are being read and should be completed by December 2019. The Historical Commission will then make a report and select 10 from each year for submission to the Archbishop of Dublin and subsequently to Rome. This may take some time.
8. The Concilium expressed their recognition of the spirit of the Legionaries in Hong Kong and sent their warmest greetings to all in Hong Kong.