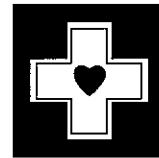


天主教四旬期運動

CATHOLIC CHURCH LENTEN CAMPAIGN



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CATHOLIC CHURCH LENTEN CAMPAIGN 2016

To: Parish Priests
Superiors of Religious and Missionary Institutes
School Principals and Supervisors
Chairpersons of Parish Councils
Heads of Diocesan Commissions & Organizations
Heads of Lay Associations

2 February 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Pope Francis chose *“I desire mercy, and not sacrifice”* (cf. Mt 9:13) as the main theme for His Lenten’s Message of this year. In the Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis asked that “the season of Lent in this Jubilee Year be lived more intensely as a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God’s mercy” (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 17). For all of us, then, the season of Lent in this Jubilee Year is a favourable time to overcome our existential alienation by listening to God’s word and by practising the works of mercy. In the corporal works of mercy we touch the flesh of Christ in our brothers and sisters who need to be fed, clothed, sheltered, visited; in the spiritual works of mercy – counsel, instruction, forgiveness, admonishment and prayer – we touch more directly our own sinfulness. The corporal and spiritual works of mercy must never be separated. By touching the flesh of the crucified Jesus in the suffering, sinners can receive the gift of realizing that they too are poor and in need.

In response to the Holy Father’s appeal, the Hong Kong Catholic Church Lenten Campaign Organizing Committee (hereafter called Organizing Committee) uses “Merciful Like The Father” as the theme of the Lenten Campaign in the Diocese of Hong Kong. As people of God who have received abundant graces, let us rekindle our faith to Jesus Christ, so as to enter with him into the dynamic of love for the Father and for every brother and sister that we encounter in our lives. Let’s care about each other, to stir a response in love and give generously to help the poor and needy.

This year Lent will start from 10 February and end on 23 March 2016. Beginning on 18 January 2016, we have distributed to you 2016 Lenten Campaign materials such as The Holy Father’s Lenten Message, Cardinal Tong’s Lenten Pastoral Letter, posters, collection boxes, envelopes etc. A Lenten Promotion Seminar was organized on 23 January 2016 for teachers of Sunday Schools, Kindergartens, Primary Schools, Secondary Schools and Pastoral Assistants.

A finale entitled: "Catholic Church Lenten Campaign 2016 – Prize Presentation Ceremony" will be held on Saturday, 21 May 2016 at 2:30 p.m. at the Hall of Newman Catholic College. Prizes and souvenirs will be presented to the winners of the Lenten Charitable School Award competitions. Schools are invited to join the competitions which include: drawing competition, colouring competition and blog writing. Prize winners will be informed by mail individually. Participants are requested to forward their submissions by 08 April 2016 (please submit a total of **not more than 10** submissions by each school).

All contributions for the Lenten Campaign, including the donations collected from the Paschal Lambs should be counted and recorded before 13 May 2016, and credit to the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (Asia) Limited (a/c: 701-010-034849) or to the Catholic Church Lenten Campaign, Rm 407, Caritas House, 2 Caine Road, Hong Kong.

For further enquiry, please contact Mr. Stephen Chan at Tel: 2339 3722, facsimile: 2798 9896, email: lenten@catholic.org.hk, website: <http://lenten.catholic.org.hk>. We look forward to your support and cooperation for the success of the Diocesan Lenten Campaign. May our good Lord bless you and reward each one of you abundantly.

Yours sincerely in Christ,



Rev. Deacon Andrew Au
Chairman, Catholic Church Lenten Campaign Organizing Committee