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### **CATHOLIC CHURCH LENTEN CAMPAIGN 2017**

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

14 February 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Pope Francis chose "*The Word is a gift. Other persons are a gift*" as the main theme for His Lenten's Message of this year. Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's victory over death. Pope Francis asks us to consider the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (cf. Lk 16:19-31) to find inspiration in this meaningful story, for it provides a key to understanding what we need to do in order to attain true happiness and eternal life. He reminds us Lent is the favorable season for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in his Word, in the sacraments and in our neighbors. May the Holy Spirit lead us on a true journey of conversion, so that we can rediscover the gift of God's Word, be purified of the sin that blinds us, and serve Christ present in our brothers and sisters in need. Let us pray for one another so that, by sharing in the victory of Christ, we may open our doors to the weak and poor. Then we will be able to experience and share to the full the joy of Easter.

In response to the Holy Father's appeal, the Hong Kong Catholic Church Lenten Campaign Organizing Committee (hereafter called Organizing Committee) uses "Upholding Marriage and Family values with the Love of God" as the theme of the Lenten Campaign in the Diocese of Hong Kong. Let us follow the example of the Holy Family, and embrace Jesus Christ as the focal point of our life. We can then establish a family in the light of the Word, full of love and in harmony, and live out the joy of love.

This year Lent will start from 1 March and end on 12 April 2017. Beginning on 10 February 2017, we have distributed to you 2017 Lenten Campaign materials such as posters, collection boxes, envelopes etc. A Lenten Promotion Seminar was organized on 18 February 2017 for teachers of Sunday Schools, Kindergartens, Primary Schools and Secondary Schools as well as for school Pastoral Assistants.

For The Holy Father's Lenten Message, Cardinal Tong's Lenten Pastoral Letter and Chairman Letter, please visit and download from Lenten website <http://lenten.catholic.org.hk>

天主教四旬期運動  
CATHOLIC CHURCH LENTEN CAMPAIGN



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A finale entitled: "Catholic Church Lenten Campaign 2017 – Prize Presentation Ceremony" will be held on Saturday, 20 May 2017 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, coloring competition and blog writing. Prize winners will be informed by mail individually. Participants are requested to forward their submissions by 7 April 2017 (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 20 May 2017, 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 Ms. Annie Yan at Tel: 2691 7171, facsimile: 2798 9896, email: [lenten@catholic.org.hk](mailto: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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Deacon Andrew Au".

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