



DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTRE FOR FILIPINOS
18/F, Grand Building, 15-18 Connaught Road
Central Hong Kong

DPCF ANNUAL REPORT, 2021



“To Your Mission Lord,

We Give Our YES!”

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND



On 1st November 1986, Cardinal Baptist Wu, then Bishop of Hong Kong, formed a Committee to minister to Filipino migrant workers. The Committee was soon raised to the level of a Diocesan Commission for Pastoral Services to Filipino Migrants.

On 4th January 1987, the Diocesan Pastoral Centre for Filipinos (DPCF) was formally opened. The Centre serves as the executive arm of the Commission and a resource centre for the ministry of Filipino migrants. It occupies the 18th Floor of Grand Building, Connaught Road Central.

The Centre is the concrete expression of love and care of the Diocese towards the migrants. Initially, it catered mainly to Filipinos when there were only 25,000 in Hong Kong. Over the years the population of migrant workers has changed with the coming of the Indonesians, the Sri Lankans, the Thais, and other Asians. Thus the Centre extended its services to other Asian domestic workers in Hong Kong, particularly to other Asian domestic workers. Presently, the Centre has extended assistance to any ethnic minority groups. Some Consulates have referred their nationals for shelter care as victims of human trafficking, abuses, including referrals from the Hong Kong Police, other agencies and organizations.



Diocesan Pastoral Centre for Filipinos

18/F, Grand Building,
15-18 Connaught Road Central, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2526-4249
Fax: (852) 2845-7098

DPCF VISION-MISSION-CORE VALUES-GOAL

VISION

We envision DPCF as a life-giving Centre where migrant workers and trafficked women experience the faith lived in a community that empowers them to be effective witnesses in their own homes, workplace, community or Church.

MISSION

DPCF is committed to provide a conducive place and shelter, caring community, with integrated programmes and services enabling migrants to become caring, committed, service-oriented and Christ-centered persons.

CORE VALUES

- Caring - One who is aware of and can sympathize with the suffering and needs of others, and responds with compassion.

- Committed - One who is dedicated and responsible for carrying out her/his tasks.

- Christ-centered - One who focuses on and is motivated by Christ in her/his decisions, choices and whatever she/he does in daily life.

- Service-oriented - One who is sensitive to the needs of others, and serves others freely and joyfully.



Diocesan Pastoral Centre for Filipinos (Migrants)

18/F, Grand Building,
15-18 Connaught Road Central, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2526-4249
Fax: (852) 2845-7098

DPCF ANNUAL REPORT

Period Covered: January-December 2021

The year 2021 started with a ray of hope as Hong Kong started to welcome foreign domestic workers (FDWs) in February but it lasted only for 2 months due to new Delta variant. From April – December, there was a constant decrease in the number of arriving FDWs due to lockdown in high risks countries, including Indonesia, Philippines, India and Sri Lanka (see: Table A)

Table A. Foreign Domestic Workers Statistics 2021

Month	Phiip-pines	Indo-nesia	India	Sri Lanka	Others	Total	+ / -
Jan.	204 781	155 704	4 393	1 141	3 096	369 115	-4 769
Feb.	206 481	155 477	4 372	1 143	3 083	370 556	+1 441
March	207 353	155 334	4 424	1 141	3 083	371 334	+ 778
April	207 055	155 128	4 432	1 145	3 077	370 837	- 497
May	204 152	152 810	4 329	1 129	3 038	365 458	-5 379
June	203 280	152 708	4 273	1 114	3 025	364 400	-1 058
July	201 425	150 068	4 216	1 115	3 010	359 834	-4 566
Aug.	198 625	147 971	4 113	1 096	2 971	354 776	-5 058
Sept.	197 817	146 958	4 095	1 070	2 948	352 888	-1 888
Oct.	197 412	145 957	4 028	1 090	2 921	351 408	-1 480
Nov.	197 071	145 000	3 997	1082	2 900	350 050	-1 358
Dec.	191 783	140 057	3 836	1 019	2 726	339 451	-10 599

I. The DPCF Life and Mission

For migrants the present reality means double/triple workload, less rest-food-day offs, more stress in the workplace, more problems in their respective families in home countries, no vacation- no chance to visit their families, less group gathering with friends, and less Church visits and services.

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;... on them a light has shone”. (Isaiah 9:2)

The series of reflections on the 500 Years of Christianity in the Philippines with the theme: *Gifted to Give*, brought sunshine to many migrant workers. Months were spent looking back at God’s gift of faith, acknowledging and counting the blessings they received in their lives, as persons, families, communities and as a nation.

They realized, they will never be who, what and where they are now without God journeying with and caring for them. They had been strong and resilient in moments of sufferings, trials and struggles believing that God and the Blessed Mother will never abandon them.

They recognized God’s caring presence in the support of their co-migrants in their respective groups/communities; in the care of and spiritual nourishment from the Priests and Sisters; guidance from the Staff and group leaders in times of need; and in their understanding and considerate employers, and loving children and elderly entrusted to them. The theme song: *“We Give Our Yes!”* continued to echo in their hearts. It was their deep realization of being blessed by God with talents, families, friends, job, community, good employers, people to lean on in times of need, and the Church as their sanctuary on their free days that empowered them to proclaim with grateful hearts: *“We Are Gifted To Give!”*

The peak of the celebration of the 500 Years of Christianity was the Thanksgiving Mass presided by Card. John Tong Hon with 23 concelebrating Priests on 14th October 2021 at St. Jude Church, Northpoint, HK. The overwhelming joy, unity as God’s family, and gratitude filled the Church as the Filipino migrants, from different parishes, sung and danced expressing their gratitude and commitment: “To Your mission Lord, we give our ‘YES!’”

Doing God's Mission...

Throughout this year, the migrant workers were inspired and challenged to participate actively in doing God's mission in their work place (employer's family), own family in home country, co-migrants in the group/community they belong to, Parish or Mass Centre, society and/or environment.

Reflections of Migrant Workers on Mission Experiences

A. Individual, Community Mission

"In this time of the pandemic, gathering the members of the group was a big challenge. Listening, being attentive to their needs, creating de-stressing activities, sharing-crying-laughing-eating together made our Sunday gathering outside DPCF enjoyable and enriching. With God's grace the mission of uniting, revitalizing and uplifting the spirit of the group was made easier. We also thank God for protecting us throughout the year."

"We really missed the Eucharistic Celebrations at DPCM! The suspension of Masses at the Centre did not stop us from engaging in church ministries. Some of us continue to serve as lectors, choir, altar servers in some Parishes and chapels."

"This was my first time to be in HK. I deeply missed my family! The members of my group encouraged and made me feel I belong to a bigger family. Then, the typhoon Rai devastated our hometown: houses were torn down, roofs were blown off, farms were destroyed, fish cages, pigs, goats and other sources of income were all gone. Thank God no one died in my family! I suffered from depression for almost two weeks. Good, my employer empathized with me!

The pain, fear, anxiety turned into blessings upon realizing that I was not alone. DPCM and my groupmates were with me. They not only comforted and motivated me but also shared what they have to help my family and our neighborhood. With God's generosity and love through the people around me, brought relief to those affected by the typhoon. Money cannot buy the joy of helping others in need."

"I was experiencing depression at the start of the year 2021 because I can not visit my family. When we reflected on the 500 Years of Christianity in the Philippines, the theme: 'Gifted to Give' transformed my depression into blessings! I started to desire to be part of God's mission. So as a Catholic Christian, I celebrated my birthday by sharing packages of food to poor families in our neighborhood and gave Christmas gifts to the poor children in the Church at my hometown. I was very happy to share the blessings I received."

B. Mission in the Workplace

"Once a week, the kids from our neighbours are gathered for an hour playtime. This is a good opportunity for my employer's son to inter-act with other kids, instead of being alone at home. They engaged in some activities and enjoyed my stories, including the child Jesus and other Bible characters. I tried to impart to them some Christian values. Thank God for the trust of other employers!"

"I considered and treated my employer's family as my family in HK. I do my responsibilities in the home with the best I can and care for everyone as I care for my own family. It is my joy to see them happy and healthy. I am very grateful that they also treated me as part of the family."

"Taking care of children from birth is a bit of hard work, especially when both parents are working. Loving them as my own makes it a lot easier. I have taught them a lot of stuff, but most of all teaching them to be kind, polite and honest. They enjoy listening to Christian stories. They love Jesus.

Before the pandemic, they like coming to Church with me on Sundays. They joined the singing and were proud to be the youngest members of the community. I am lucky to have the support and trust of my employers.

I wish they practice the values I taught them when they grow up. It is then that I can claim "I have done my mission well!"

"You are a part of our family and an asset, too. You care for and guided the children and We appreciate that. Your dedication to the Church is admirable. You have gone through tough times and changes in our family and take it like a duck to the water. It is much appreciated your intended response that has made our children's lives easier. It's a teamwork!" Thank you for being there! (from the parent)

C. Care for Mother Earth

"To spend our time meaningfully during day offs, a group of us called 'Plantitas' volunteered to take care of the garden at Choi Wan. Once a month on Saturdays and Sundays, we cleared the empty space, cultivated the ground, planted vegetables, fruit trees and ornamental plants, made organic compost and used recycled plastics and styrofoam boxes. It was fun and energizing experience! We feel jubilant and grateful to our Creator and to Mother Earth whenever it was time for harvest. It was a life-giving mission!"

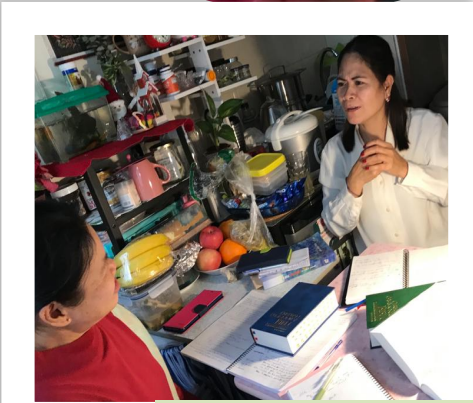
Mission-in-Action



Engaging in Church Ministries



Sharing blessings to others in need



Bible study, Pilgrimages



Mission-in-Action



Formation of the Kids



Care for the Elderly



Care for Mother Earth



As Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in Hong Kong,
we are forever GRATEFUL for the GIFT of Faith handed on to us for
the past 500 years.

Despite the struggles in life, with God's abundant blessings received ,
we, who are cared for by the Diocesan Pastoral Centre for Migrants,
acknowledge that we are "Gifted to Give" to others in need.

(Watch the DPCF Video: Gifted to Give)

See link: https://youtu.be/3_p0szRVIn0



United as one Church, we make this commitment :

“To Your mission Lord,
we give our YES!”

II. RESIDENTIAL SERVICES:

Mary's Home and St. Martha Shelter

Although the spread of the Covid-19 and its variants was controlled with the effective management of the government, health measures were still strictly enforced, especially in shelters.

Mary's Home and St. Martha Shelter faithfully followed the social distancing, wearing mask, vaccination and the required swab tests. Usually the 2 shelters can accommodate 35 residents. With the Covid-19 restrictions, admission was limited to 50% capacity only for the safety of the residents and Staff.

Table B: Number of Distressed Migrant Workers Served: 2021

Month	Philip-pines	Indo-nesia	Others (Sri Lanka & Pakistan)	Total
Jan.	14	1	0	15
Feb.	12	1	0	13
March	24	2	0	26
April	17	3	0	20
May	23	2	0	25
June	17	4	0	21
July	19	8	0	27
August	20	9	0	29
Sept.	19	9	0	28
Oct.	18	4	1	23
Nov.	22	5	0	27
Dec.	23	5	1	29

In 2021, 81% of migrants served were Filipinos while 19% were Indonesians, with 1 Sri Lankan and another 1 Pakistani.

With the lockdown, the residents benefitted more from the Residential Programme: integrated human development (human, spiritual, educational, socio-cultural-economic), skills training for employment and small entrepreneurship training in preparation for those going back to their families for good.

Table C: Problems Presented Upon Admission

Problem/Case	Filipino	Indonesian	Others	Total
1. Terminated	87	5	1	93 / 63%
2. Special Cases:	23	11	1	35 / 23%
a. Sickness	9	5	0	
b. Immigration	4	2	1	
c. Police	7	2	0	
d. Labour	3	2	0	
c. Waiting visa	15	5	0	20 / 14%
TOTAL	114	20	2	148/100%

Despite the lack of labour supply for domestic work, 64 out of 93 clients were terminated by employers, mostly with no clear reason. Others gave reasons as migration, financial difficulty, unsatisfied performance, unpaid loan from the bank, or no longer fit for work due to sickness.

Twenty-nine (29) workers pre-terminated their contract because of inhumane treatment, illegal work, verbal, physical, sexual abuse, etc. Most of them were not granted another working visa on suspicion of job-hopping.

It was disheartening to find out that many workers during this period suffered from various illnesses like cancer, aneurysm and severe depression. (*See Attachment: Outstanding Cases, 2021*)

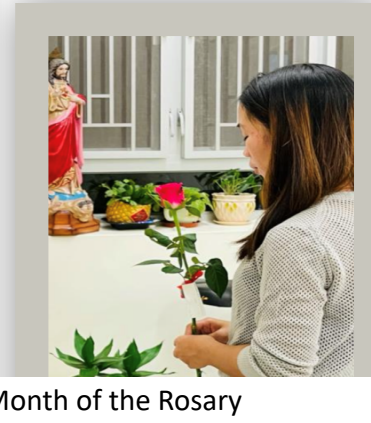
Their stay at Mary’s Home and St. Martha shelters, with the full implementation of an integrated residential programme had been a special blessing for them. They were very grateful for their renewed faith in God and devotion to the Blessed Mother. They appreciated being cared for; enjoyed a well-balanced life with enough food, rest, exercise, recreation and prayer; learned the value of daily prayers and the Sunday Eucharistic celebration (online), reflection and sharing; experienced healing and reconciliation with oneself, family and God; gained new friends; and energized being connected with plants, fishes, soil, Mother Earth and with one another as a family/community.

They claimed Mary’s Home and St. Martha as their “sanctuary” in the midst of the storm.

SPIRITUALITY



Being prayerful, no matter what belief one has, becomes a source of strength and hope. One realizes the importance of “conversing” with the Lord and the Blessed Mother.



October – Month of the Rosary



Advent Recollection

SELF IMPROVEMENT



Motivating everyone to eat healthy, to exercise plus increase their proficiency in the English language not only keeps them fit and able but enhances confidence.



ENJOYING HONG KONG



A night at Tsim Sha Tsui enjoying the Light Show.

**IMMERSSING ONE'S
SELF TO THE
ENVIRONMENT AND
ACTIVELY
PARTICIPATING IN
CULTURAL EVENTS
TO BETTER
UNDERSTAND THE
NEW PLACE OF
WORK , CULTURE
AND ITS PEOPLE.**



Chinese Lunar Festival or commonly know as Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival.

SUMMER ESCAPADES

We hit the beach and climbed mountains. Not only were residents able to de-stress & enjoy each other's company, but they also were able to see the other side of Hong Kong.



CHINESE COOKING

Residents get to help one another by sharing their Chinese recipes for others to enhance their skill in cooking and increase their chances of getting hired.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Due to uncertain times, the residents were encouraged to learn entrepreneurial skills to financially equip themselves upon arrival to their homeland.



INTEGRAL ECOLOGY ADVOCACY

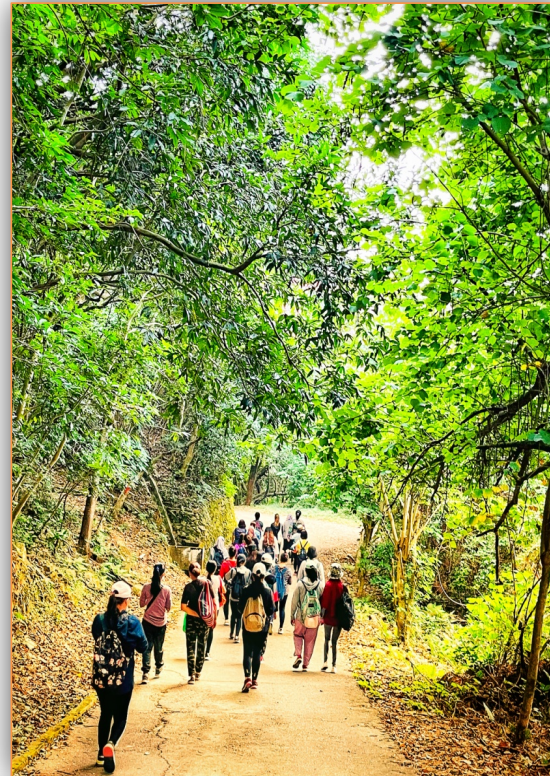
“Advocating for a holistic approach of some political, social, economic and environmental problems that plague the world today.”

Residents are made aware of the advocacy in the hope that it becomes a habit and part of their lifestyle.



TIE-UP ACTIVITY

Getting involved
with Caritas'
Social Service
Projects this
November not only
get our hands dirty
but got to
appreciate God's
creation.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

**It was a memorable
Christmas for
MARY'S HOME & ST.
MARTHA residents
with the Eucharistic
Celebration and the
loads of gifts, food
and fun games!**



Distribution of gift bags from Feeding Hong Kong ...



... and from the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) office of the Consulate General of the Philippines.



Jesus lives and reigns in our hearts!

Christmas Videos: Evangelization through the Media

Advent and Christmas seasons had been graced-moments for the different groups and shelters. Each group was motivated to reflect on the present realities affecting them, who and how is Jesus to be born today. Then, they produced a 5-8 minutes video : The Birth of Christ in Today's Realities! These videos were posted in the social media as a form of evangelization.

(See all videos: <https://youtu.be/SV6eWsfZAGU>)

It is with joy that Mary's Home wish to share with you their prize-winning video :

'The Birth of Christ Today'.

(see link: https://youtu.be/8Wf0V_FCGUU)



Let us share Christ in our hearts to everyone!

Attachment A: OUTSTANDING CASES, 2021

NO.	Ref. No.	Nationality	Reason	Case	Case Status
1.	20210204	Filipino	Theft at Fussion Supermarket	Police	Settled – No imprisonment; Fine: \$2,329. Returned to Phils 11 Jul 21
2.	20210313	Filipino	Sexual Harassment; Experienced anxiety and depression	Sickness. Did not file a case	Back to Phils 19/04/21
3.	20210606	Indonesian	Overstayed	Police/ Immigration	Detained for 1/2 month; Back Indonesia 9 Jul 21
4.	20210607	Filipino	ATM scam	Police	Case still on going
5.	20210702	Indonesian (mother)	Overstayed	Immigration	Given Recognizance paper
6.	20210702	Indonesian (son)	Applied for Residency	Immigration	Given Recognizance paper
7.	20210802	Indonesian	With stage 3 breast cancer	No case-needed temp. shelter while on treatment	Back to Indonesia 15/8/2021
8.	20210807	Filipino	With stage 4 breast cancer/monetary claims	Sickness. Did not file case (mutually agreed)	Back to Phils 8 Sep 2021
9.	20210809	Filipino	With stage 3 breast cancer/ Monetary claims	Sickness. Did not file case (mutually agreed)	Back to Phils. 9 Sep 2021
10.	20210904	Indonesian	Health problem (Fracture right tibia)	Accident	Worked with new employer 9 Nov 2021

Cont. Outstanding Cases, 2021

NO.	Ref. No.	Nationality	Reason	Case	Case Status
11.	20211001	Filipino	Health problem (Ruptured aneurysm)/ Monetary claims	Sickness. Did not file case (mutually agreed)	Settled Back to Phils 14 Oct 2021
12.	20211004	Filipino	With stage 4 lung cancer/ monetary claims	Sickness. Did not file case (mutually agreed)	Settled Back to Phils 26 Oct 2021
13.	20211011	Indonesian	Life in danger; bitten by dog many times / monetary dispute	Labour and police case against employer	Case still on-going
14.	20211109	Indonesian	Health Problem (the client was accidentally hit by cellphone of the employer's daughter	Sickness – needs another eye surgery	Still recuperating in shelter
15.	20211114	Filipino	ATM Scam- money laundering	Police case	Case still on going/handled by MMW
16.	20211201	Indonesian	Had secret relationship with employer; 5 months pregnant.	Illicit relationship; 5 months pregnant Police case	Decided to go back to Indonesia 1 Jan 2022
17.	20211202	Filipino	Threatened by male employer with a chopper knife	Police case	Case still on going. Handled by MMW
18.	20211206	Filipino	The client served 6 months imprisonment in Lo Wu. Overstayed – 19 years to care for and protect her daughter	Immigration case	Client now has a recognizance paper holder; waiting for the custody of 17 year old daughter;
19.	20211210	Pakistani	Daughter of a Filipina with a Pakistani asylum-seeker. Mother applied for legal custody.	Immigration – legal custody	Case still on-going;

“Gratitude

is the memory of the heart!”

(French saying)

A heartfelt gratitude to :

Card. John Tong Hon,

The Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong,

The Catholic Centre,

St. Joseph Church

OWWA-ATN- SW Phil. Consulate,

Indonesian Consulate,

Feeding Hong Kong, Food-link

Caritas, ENRICH, HELP, S.T.O.P.,

Mission for Migrant Workers (MMW),

International Social Services (ISS),

St. Joseph's Ladies Guild,

Missionary Families of Christ-HK

Mission Partners: CFM, Priests,

Sisters,

Volunteers, other donors, and friends

for your untiring support to Migrant Workers.

God Be Glorified!



“

500 years ago,
you received the
joy of the Gospel.
And this joy is
evident in your
people.

We see it in your eyes. In your faces.
In your songs and in your prayers.
I want to thank you for the joy you
bring to the whole world and to
our Christian communities.

—Pope Francis