

Deacon Nestor Kwan was the Guest Speaker at our 12th General Meeting on January 7, 2020. He spoke to us on “Vocation of a Deacon and the Seafarers’ Ministry.”

[Download here for a summary of the talk]

The guest speaker Deacon Nestor Kwan was briefly introduced by Serran Derek Ku, who spoke on “Vocation of a Deacon and the Seafarers’ Ministry”.

(A) Vocation of a Deacon

The office of the Diaconate was present in the Catholic Church from of old. It was re-activated after Vatican Council II. This became very popular in North America. Cardinal John Baptist Wu reactivated the office of married deacon following the Diocesan Convention in Hong Kong. Deacon Nestor Kwan was a nurse at the Queen Mary Emergency Department and learned about the office of a married deacon after reading the “Deacon Manuel”. In 1998, he was accepted as a candidate for the office of a deacon and started to attend Theology classes at the Holy Spirit Seminary. He was working as a full-time nurse at the QMH Casualty Department and had to study the nursing professional “Continuing Medical Education” courses as well as attending Theology classes at the Holy Spirit Seminary. He had to discontinue this in 2004. In 2009 he re-entered the diaconate programme after his retirement as a nurse.

(B) Seafarers’ Ministry

The Seafarers’ Ministry was started by the Anglican Church in Hong Kong more than 100 years ago. The Catholic Church participated in this ministry about 50 years ago in 1969. This service provides visits to sea farers visiting Hong Kong and living accommodation when they are spending time on land. Deacon Nestor Kwan read a passage from Psalms 135: 6-7, as an inspiration for his work.

Deacon Kwan shared his experience with the Seafarers Ministry by describing the difficulties in boarding big ships from his small 25-foot boat in Hong Kong harbours, describing the three types of gangways, piloted ladders and monkey ladders. The Catholic St. Peter’s Chapel is now located in a Jordan Road flat while the Seafarers Home in the Middle Road is being rebuilt.

(C) Prison Ministry

Deacon Kwan also shared his experience with the prison ministry where he converted two convicts into the Catholic faith.

This interesting talk was followed by sharing by Serrans Leslie Hung, Joyce Chang, Denis Chang, Michael Lau, Francisca Lo, Peter Lee and Elizabeth Cheng.