

## The Birthright Society Ltd.



### Report of the Executive Committee for the 36th Annual General Meeting

#### Chairman's Words

Your Eminence, Joseph Cardinal Zen,  
Members and friends,

I wish to extend my sincerest welcome to all members and friends to attend the 36th Annual General Meeting of the Birthright Society .

#### *The Choi Wan House*

2.. The Caritas Choi Wan Hostel service is a service programme for women who need temporary accommodation. After the closure of the Pui Man House in September 1999, residential services are provided for birthright cases at the Choi Wan Hostel. The Choi Wan Hostel offers a capacity of 3 beds for birthright cases. During the year, a total of 6 mothers took residence at the Choi Wan Hostel. This shows that there is a continual need of this type of service in the community. I am glad to report that during the year under review, 6 baby were born and 5 were kept by their mothers.. There is an encouraging indication that the mothers wish to keep their babies after delivery as indicated in our service statistics :

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
Babies kept	12	6	4	6	5
Babies for adoption	0	0	1	1	1

This trend is a clear reflection that support from the family and the community is vital.

3. Skills training and sharing courses were arranged for the young mothers in residence. These courses include educational group for childcare, mutual help group for unwed mothers, cooking class and handicraft making class.

4. We trust that these young mothers will enjoy a comfortable life during their stay to prepare for their future. The Birthright Society contributes funding support to those cases who have financial difficulties. I have to stress that without the generous donations from our members and friends, we are not able to tender our support to these mothers who otherwise have no way to turn to.

### ***The Pui Man House***

5. For the utilization of the premises, Caritas Hong Kong are running youth development programmes at the Pui Man House taking into consideration about the proximity of the premises with their service centres in this district.

### ***Prolife Programmes***

6. The Birthright Society joined the Prolife Alliance to offer masses for the born and unborn, families, respect for life at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel at Catholic Centre on the second Thursday of every old months. A large group of prolife supporters attended and prayed.

7. The Birthright Society works with Caritas Hong Kong for the promotion of the Project Hyacinth to provide service to prevent repeat abortion among these vulnerable young females aged under 24. The service also aims at to assist young female to develop their life goal, providing close and intensive psychosocial postpartum follow up, and developing a supportive system among them and their families. The young female service center will

(i) provide a place for regular counseling service and group therapy for young female who had unintended pregnancy / suffering from post abortion trauma in the past year;

(ii) set up a resources center for the young female and their parents to gather and acquire information and resources;

(iii) make the center to be an educational center for the public and at-risk young female to know more about post-abortion trauma.

8. The outreach programme extended to hospitals and night clubs to contact the target clients. 85 young girls were contacted and they showed their willingness to seek the services. Among them, 25 were unwed mothers and 60 suffered from post abortion trauma. 10 therapeutic groups for this vulnerable group were held. The group content for the unwed mothers was mainly for increasing their ability in taking care of their own babies and to reassure their pro-life decision and rebuild their connection with their families. The group content for the post abortion trauma was mainly to deal with their emotional disturbance, to equip their assertiveness and to enhance their ability in gender negotiation.

9. In the community education, 5 workshops were organised for 177 young girls.

### ***Fund Raising***

10. The Birthright Society took part in the Caritas Kowloon Bazaar at the Fa Hui Park on 4 November 2007. A net proceeds of \$15,736.00 was raised. The activity offered the public the opportunity to know about the services of the Birthright Society in addition to raising funds to support the various activities. Again, I wish to thank all members and friends for their faithful support and participation in our fund raising activities. The annual Pro-life Walk has to be deferred to 12 October 2008 due to the availability of the venue..

### ***Finance***

11. The total income received during the year is \$93,183.71. The total expenditure is \$100,583.60. The balance carried forward is \$1,826,640.05.

### ***Publicity***

12. The Birthright Society has developed a website <http://birthright.catholic.org.hk> for the promotion, publicity and education of pro-life programmes.

### *Acknowledgement*

13           We wish to thank all members and friends for their support. We extend our appreciation to Caritas-Hong Kong for the professional services offered in the care for the young mothers at the Choi Wan Hostel and all other supporting services, to Messrs. Walter Ma & Co. for their complimentary services to audit our accounts. Our sincere gratitude also goes to all donors, benefactors and volunteers for the generosity which have helped join hands to relieve the mothers in distress and to promote the treasure and respect for life.

Dr. Peter Au Yeung Kar Kit

Chairman

The Birthright Society Ltd.

13 February 2009.