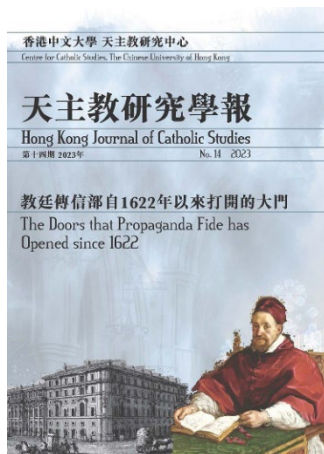


Dear friends,

The past six months have been a busy and fulfilling period for our Centre. We have published three books and held public lectures on different topics. We will give you a brief review below. As for the coming June, we will hold a conference on “Integral Ecology and Sustainable Development.” This conference is hosted by the Centre and supported by other Jesuit academic institutions in Beijing, Macau, and Taipei. It is also the first attempt to cooperate among these institutions from across the Straits. Meanwhile, we are also implementing new plans. First of all, to integrate Catholic research resources, our existing *Hong Kong Journal of Catholic Studies* will be merged with the *Catholic Theological Review* published by Manna Culture Press into a new bilingual Chinese and English half-yearly journal—*International Journal of Catholic Studies*.

Journal Issue No. 14: “The Doors that Propaganda Fide has Opened since 1622”



To commemorate the 400th anniversary of the founding of the Congregation for Propaganda, our Centre organized an online international seminar entitled “The Doors Opened by the Congregation for Propaganda since 1622” in 2022. Eleven essays collected in Issue No. 14 of the *Hong Kong Journal of Catholic Studies* published online in December 2023 were papers presented at the conference. These essays were divided into three major themes: Propaganda Fide in History and Missionary Work in Asia, Christianity and Communication in the Modern World, and East and West in Cultural Exchange.

Father Patrick Taveirne, CICM, is the chief editor for this issue. The authors come from mainland China, South Korea, Indonesia, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, etc. They explored the influence of this 400-year-old Holy See’s congregation through different perspectives and culturally diverse angles. [Read](#) the journal.

New Book – *Communicating in Ministry and Mission (Chinese edition)*

Communicating in Ministry and Mission is a work written by the late German Divinity Word Society media scholar Fr. Franz-Josef Eilers (1932-2021) and translated into Chinese by his protégé Fr. John Mi. Father Eilers was a consultant to the Congregation for Communication of the Holy See during his lifetime and as the Secretary-General of the Federation of Asian Bishops’ Conferences’ Office of Social Communication from 1995 to 2010. He founded a Master’s Program on Mass Communication and Pastoral Communication for the University of Santo Tomas in the Philippines. He was the Director of the Institute of Asian Religions and Communication at Thailand’s St John’s University. With his rich experience and profound insight, his book discusses the close relationship of media theology with pastoral ministry



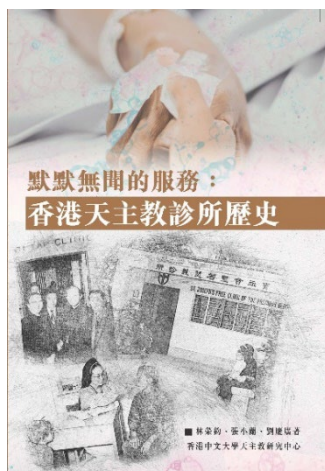
and missiology. It summarizes various issues and experiences in pastoral communication work. His work aims to reveal how the Church can communicate effectively in modern society. This is a subject rarely touched on in Chinese book titles.

The translator, Father Mi, comes from the Zhaoxian Diocese of Hebei Province. He has been the Director of the Chinese Language Service of Radio Veritas Asia since 2012. He teaches pastoral communication courses at the University of Santo Tomas in the Philippines and recently obtained his doctorate in theology. Father Eilers' original work was first published in 2003. The translator completed the translation based on the third edition (2008) and the fourth updated edition (2018).

As for the book cover designed by Wu Ruiliang, the image of the dispersing dandelion seeds depicts the true meaning of the Church's communication ministry: every Christian, driven by the breeze of the Holy Spirit, goes to the whole world to spread the Gospel. Whether you are a media practitioner, a clergy, or a layperson, this book will open the door to a deep understanding of communication and its practical application. It encourages us to look at the true meaning of communication with a new sight and inspires us to utilize the power of communication better, live in the Word, and spread the Gospel to more people.

Where to buy: Centre for Catholic Studies, CUHK; Catholic Centre, Logo Book House; and The Commercial Press—University Bookstore

New Book – *Serving Humbly in Silence: History of Hong Kong Catholic Clinics*



Serving Humbly in Silence: History of Hong Kong Catholic Clinics is the fruit of our history research project on Catholic clinics. Co-authored by Anselm Lam, Lucia Cheung, and Hing Kwong Lau, this book is a comprehensive record of local Catholic clinics that have filled the vacuum in the past. Funded by the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust, this 18-month research project, started in August 2022, divided the clinic operators into three major categories in three periods: 1890-1945, 1946-1969, and 1970-1990. It rediscovered about 50 clinics through archives, documentation, and oral histories along with precious historical pictures and other materials.

Since the mid-19th century, Catholic clinics benefitted the poor by supplementing the inadequate public medical services. They were initially established solely by religious women responding to the outbreak of epidemics and public healthcare needs. In the 1950s, the number of Catholic clinics burst due to external political turmoil that brought an influx of refugees. During the second period, a few religious men's congregations and faithful associations joined the ranks, along with the emergence of Caritas—Hong Kong (formerly the Catholic Welfare Services), the social welfare pillar of the local diocese. They operated independently while also collaborating to make good use of resources. Besides introducing the community environment in which each clinic is located, the book also points out the impacts of socio-political situations and government policies that affected the survival of Catholic clinics. As public medical services improved in the 1970s, the number of Catholic clinics gradually declined. The free printed copy of this book has been distributed to all parishes; readers may download [the e-book](#) here.

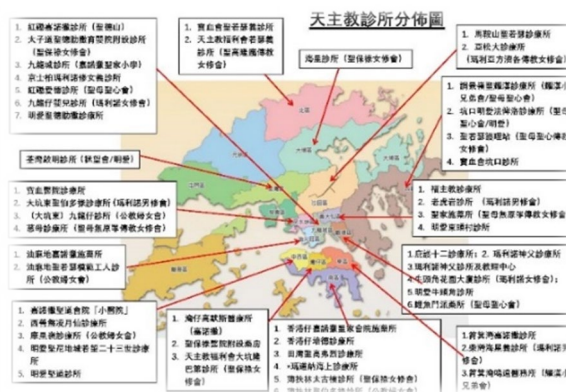
Public Lecture: A Historical Review on Life and Death Education in Hong Kong's Healthcare Services

“If you don't know life, how can you know death?” Facing life and death every day, medical staff especially needs to understand the nature of life and death to maintain a positive attitude and to take care of the patient's spiritual needs. The Catholic view on life and death is distinct from the secular. After Hong Kong's intense medical needs in the 1950s and 1960s were alleviated, some pioneers in the Church began to promote life and death education and hospital chaplaincy in the early 1980s, a concept that had not received widespread attention at that time. Besides medical staff and patients, the educational work expands gradually to the public.



This public lecture organized by our Centre was held on November 25, 2023, at St. Mary's Church, Hung Hom. It was part of the Catholic clinic research project funded by the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust mentioned above. Three pioneers were invited as speakers to review this service history. They included Sr. Agnes Ho, FMM, who began to engage in clinical pastoral education in the 1980s; Fr. Thomas Kwan Tsun-tong of the Hong Kong Diocese, a theologian who also began caring medical staff in the 1980s and engages in spiritual education in recent decades; and Dr. Vincent Tse, an oncologist who is one of the founders of the Society for Life and Death Education. Watch the [video](#) or read the [Chinese transcript](#).

Public Lecture: Decline? Continuation? Exploring the History of HK Catholic Clinics



Our Centre held another public lecture “Decline? Continuation? Exploring the History of HK Catholic Clinics” at St. Mary's Church, Hung Hom again on January 24, 2024. Besides introducing some findings of the Catholic Clinics' history research, the event also released the Centre's new book *Serving Humbly in Silence: History of Hong Kong Catholic Clinics* published

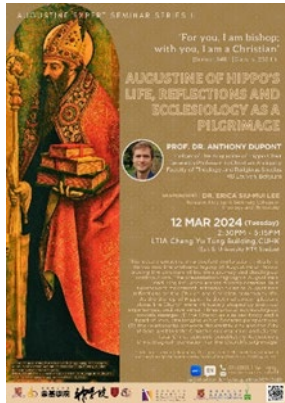
in the same month, marking the official completion of the research project funded by the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust.

During the lecture, the research team led by the Centre's director, Anselm Lam, introduced the research findings to about 80 audiences, evaluating whether Catholic-run clinic services are declining or continuing. During the Q&A session, a former clinic worker (pictured) who had shared her oral history for the book told the audience about her work experience back then. Watch the [video](#) or the [PowerPoint presentation](#).



Augustine Expert Seminar Series:

The Augustine Expert Seminar Series was organized jointly by our Centre, the Centre for Christian Studies, and the Divinity School of Chung Chi College of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, with sponsorship from the Research Grants Council of Hong Kong. The first lecture, titled "Humanity and Divine Grace in the Thought of Augustine of Hippo," was held on



September 25, 2023, at the Lecture Hall of Cheng Yu Tung Building, CUHK. Professor Volkel Henning Drecoll of the University of Tübingen, Germany, was invited as the speaker, and Professor Lai Pin Chiu of Chung Chi Divinity School was the respondent. More than a hundred audience participated in person and online.

The second lecture on March 12, 2024, titled "Augustine of Hippo's Life, Reflections and Ecclesiology as a Pilgrimage," was also held at the Cheng Yu Tung Building. Professor Anthony Dupont, Holder of the Augustine of Hippo Chair at the KU Leuven Belgium, delivered the speech with the response from Dr. Erica Lee of the Holy Spirit Seminary College of Theology & Philosophy in Hong Kong. This lecture was also a community day for the Seminary College students. About 80 students attended the event and took the opportunity to exchange with the teachers and students of the Divinity School.

Although the Centre has been busy with research, publishing, and academic lectures in the past few months, we can feel the distress of the Hong Kong people who are affected by the economic downturn while having in mind the brothers and sisters who are under the ravage of wars in distant places. On Good Friday, we look upon the crucified Jesus on the Cross. He deeply understands and engages in everyone's suffering. However, suffering and death are not the end; resurrection is our hope. Risen from the dead, Jesus Christ walks with us on our life path, which heads towards the eternal kingdom of the Father. Reading through the history of the local Catholic clinics, we see that the Catholic Church has always been a companion to suffering people, working with Christ to accompany them to experience love. May we also become witnesses of the Risen Lord in our lives and for the Greater Glory of God.

Director of Centre for Catholic Studies

Dr. Anselm Wing Kwan Lam

April 15, 2024