



PIHDM Annual Report

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, SETAPAK

Bernadette Chin | PIHDM Coordinator | July 2017

PIHDM – CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

PIHDM is an acronym for Parish Integral Human Development Ministry. It is an umbrella body for all the ministries that deals with human concerns which are at the very heart of our Catholic Social Teachings.

In the Church of the Good Shepherd, the PIHDM comprises of the following ministries:-

	Target Group
(a) Ministry of the Poor (MOP)	Urban Poor
(b) Orang Asli Ministry (OA)	Indigenous People
(c) Migrant Ministry (MM)	Migrants & Refugees
(d) Street Shepherd Outreach (SSO)	Urban Homeless
(e) Medical Mission (MED)	Marginalised
(f) Prison Ministry (PM)	Prisoners
(g) Women's Desk (WD)	Marginalised Women

These ministries have been functioning in the parish for many years. Every two years, elections are held. Each ministry has its own team of core leaders and volunteers. The numbers of core members and key volunteers usually number just a handful. The leaders of these ministries are driven by their love for social concerns in their individual area of interests.

The leaders of the PIHDM ministries are:-

	Leaders
(h) Ministry of the Poor (MOP)	Irene Benedict
(i) Orang Asli Ministry (OA)	Carrol Lawrence
(j) Migrant Ministry (MM)	Bernadette Chin
(k) Street Shepherd Outreach (SSO)	Catherine Thong
(l) Medical Mission (MED)	Dr Anthonysamy
(m) Prison Ministry (PM)	Peter Ling
(n) Women's Desk (WD)	Andrea Fernandez

The activities of the ministries varies in accordance to the number of in the target group that they reach out to.

In the most recent 2016 APA (Archdiocesan Pastoral Assembly), Integral Human Development (IHD) continues to be one of the key thrusts identified by the church members and delegates. The 3 major areas of concern identified were:-

- (i) Insufficient people to assist in IHD
- (ii) Too insular – forget the needs of the larger society
- (iii) Lack outreach to the marginalized

The major concerns identified by the APA delegates are similar to the challenges faced by the PIHDM ministries of our parish. We, as leaders of the PIHDM ministries, continue to draw inspiration from Pope Francis, who has called young people to go out to the streets and go out of the confines of the church, to encounter people, bear witness and bring hope and joy to everyone who is in need of the love of Christ. Members of PIHDM see Christ in every single marginalized person they meet. Many of our PIHDM members and leaders started off with the idea of “giving” of themselves to the poor and marginalized. In almost all situations, we have found that the poor and marginalized have taught us, have given us, have inspired us and have enriched the lives of our leaders, members & volunteers.

To continue ministering to the poor and marginalized has its own set of challenges. Everyone who has ever been involved in PIHDM work will testify that they have been hurt, disappointed, shouted at, cheated and lied to by the very people whose face is “Jesus” that we see. Despite these obstacles and roadblocks, the works continue. PIHDM leaders, members and volunteers are a very special group of people in our catholic community. The strength comes from the very presence of God the Father, Jesus, the Son and the Holy Spirit in the lives of these individuals.

Jesus is the vine and we, in PIHDM, are the branches. We go forth to bear fruits whilst the Father continue to prune us by dusting away from our lives, the obstacles and barriers that prevents us from becoming a better version of ourselves to serve everyone in need of Christ’s love and tenderness in their lives.

One of the major challenge in PIHDM of Good Shepherd, is the ability to draw more parishioners into the “ACTION” part of our Catholic faith. Faith and Action goes hand in hand. Despite many invitations to participate in serving under the various ministries, the PIHDM ministries function with a handful of dedicated volunteers. We, as leaders of PIHDM, will continue to find ways to draw people into the social works of the church. The Youths, the Senior Citizens, the Young Families, the Working Adults, the Single Adults are all invited to give of themselves to the least of our brothers and sisters living in the fringes of our urban society.

Currently, the PIHDM communicates and publicise through a dedicated Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/PIHDGoodShepherd/>), the parish website (www.goodshepherdkl.org), the parish bulletin and through the use of dedicated Whatsapp groups set up at GSC PIHDM level as well as individual ministry level. For some events or activities, these have also been publicized through HERALD. Many of our leaders and key volunteers have their own Facebook and Instagram accounts and continue to use these social media tools to publicise the works and draw attention to the plight of the marginalized in our society. We, as a group, have not mastered the use of capturing videos to be uploaded onto the Youtube platform which is another very effective means of reaching out to hundreds and thousands of eyeballs in this age and time.

As leaders of PIHDM ministries, we have found Whatsapp to be the most efficient means of communicating with volunteers, members and even among parish leaders and our parish priests. It also provides a more efficient means of communicating with AOHD or other parishes ministry leaders. In the current urbanized situation where many of us live a hectic family & working life, the various social media & communication tools are a boon to us. Despite having these tools, we hold quarterly meetings with our parish priests to report, plan and deliberate all matters of concerns. Each ministry is left to device their own face to face meeting frequency according to the way the ministry leader manages.

In the Year of Mercy, the Fr Christopher W.S held a formation program which benefitted the leaders and members of PIHDM as well as the other parishioners. In the current year, the 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima provides us with an opportunity to dedicate our PIHDM works to our Blessed Mother and invoke her aid to bless all the ministries with dedicated leaders, supportive members and inspired volunteers.

The PIHDM ministries is grateful for his unstinting support, guidance and advice given by our parish priest, Fr Christopher W.S. As a church called to serve in the peripheries and outside of our walls and gates, move out of our comfort zones, we, as leaders, members and volunteers of the PIHDM ministries, will reach out even greater to collaborate with other faith based organisations (FBO), other parishes and NGOs to serve the needs of the poor & the marginalized, draw them closer to God & empower them in their daily lives.

A short summary report of each ministry is attached to give readers an idea of the type of activities and works carried out during the last 12 months.