

□ Reading time: 2 min.

Don Domingos Leong is the Superior of the “Mary Help of Christians” Province (CIN) for the six-year term 2024-2030. He succeeds Don Joseph Ng Chi Yuen, who has served the China Province as Superior since 2018. We interviewed him.

Can you introduce yourself?

My name is Domingos Leong, born into a Catholic family living in Macau, then Portuguese colony in China. I have two sisters, and I am the only boy in the family. Both of my parents were teachers in schools run by the Salesians and the FMA. All my education was carried out in Salesian schools, both in Macau and Hong Kong. I joined the Salesian after my graduation from high school and received my formation in Hong Kong. I was sent to study philosophy in the U.S. (Newton, New Jersey) where opened up my global view of the Congregation. After my ordination, I went to Rome to pursue my further study on Liturgy in San Anselmo, Rome.

What did you dream of as a child?

Since my parents were teachers, and some of my relatives were in the field of education, I was dreaming of becoming a teacher in the future.

Do you remember any educators in particular?

During my years in junior high school, I used to attend the Oratory on Sundays. I remember when I was only 12 years old, out of my surprise, I was asked to take charge of a group of youngsters, organized games for them, and teaching them catechisms. I believed that’s the seed of Salesian vocation has been planted into my heart.

What is your best experience?

After my ordination, we have chances to organize ‘volunteers group’ serving in Mainland China during summer holidays. Young people coming from our schools, both in Hong Kong and Macau, went to serve in rural areas. Together with local young people, all shared the beautiful experiences, not only by serving, but also by witnessing our faith in a total different environment. I believed that is the best way to promote religious vocation.

What are the most urgent local needs and those of young people?

The local young people, may not be lacking of any materials, but, they would feel

lonely and need accompaniment, both from their peers and adults. Young people are victims of dysfunctional families, they are not being listened to.

What would you say to young people at this moment?

Be courageous! We, the Salesians, are always available and willing to give our help whenever you need, especially in this year of Hope. Together with the members of Salesian Family, we are your BIG support and don't hesitate to ask.

fr. Domingos LEONG