香港人道年獎 2019 得獎人

Hong Kong Humanity Award 2019 Awardee

專訪 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RjM5sEsfSRc

關懷傷困
Care for the health of the vulnerable

香港人道年獎2019得獎者
AWARDEE OF THE HONG KONG HUMANITY AWARD 2019

陳志明神父
Rev. Dominic Chan Chi-ming

提名人 Nominators:

* 李家文博士
  Dr Kaman Lee Ka-man
* 小 BB 安息關注組
  Little Baby Concern Group

尊重每一個生命

在死亡面前人的力量顯得非常渺小，每個人都希望離世的至親能夠得到妥善安葬，為他們辦好最後一件事。2017 年，一對夫婦向陳志明神父求助，他們的胎兒於懷孕 15 週時流產，唯一的心願是領取未出生孩子的遺體安葬。然而根據香港法例，不足 24 週的流產胎會被當作醫療廢物處理，這個安排不但沒有尊重及視流產胎為生命，亦為剛經歷喪子之痛的父母帶來二次創傷。

建議修改法例的工作非常繁複及需時，陳神父本著對流產胎父母的關懷和對小生命的尊重，不斷走訪不同政府部門，期望盡快找出可行的方案，助他們脫離傷痛。最終在短短一個月內，成功與政府部門達成共識，讓流產胎父母領取胎兒遺體後，合法地安葬在柴灣哥連臣角天主教聖十字架墳場。這個地方被命名為「天使花園」，代表流產胎兒成為天使，聽著「歡樂頌」的旋律回到天國。

> "人道精神就是要珍惜生命、熱愛生命、以及發展生命。"

為逝者親人雪中送炭

生命的意義不應只在乎長短，很多流產胎的父母往往來不及與孩子道別便已失去至愛，流產胎兒能夠得到妥善安葬，除了是對小生命的尊重，亦是撫平父母心靈創傷的靈丹妙藥。在送別的過程中，父母慢慢開始接受孩子已經離開的事實，學習從悲傷中從新出發。

近年，社會上相繼有團體為不同或沒有宗教背景的家庭提供流產胎兒安葬服務，陳神父期望「天使花園」能夠喚起更多社會人士對生命的尊重，以及對逝者家人的關懷，他亦會繼續積極推動教育、宣傳及倡議的工作，希望令更多人支持相關服務。

Respect each individual life

Human beings' capabilities are dwarfed in the face of death. Everyone would want a dignified burial for their deceased loved ones and conclude the final affair in the best possible way. In 2017, a couple who had a miscarriage after the 15th week of pregnancy sought Rev. Dominic Chan Chi-ming's assistance to fulfill their only wish - to claim the remains of their baby for burial. However, under Hong Kong's law, the remains of a miscarried fetus under 24 weeks will be disposed as medical waste. Not only did this arrangement fail to respect miscarried babies and did not treat them as a human life. Worse still, parents who had only just lost their baby would also suffer from this secondary trauma. Amendment to the legislation is lengthy and time consuming, but with his care for the parents and respect for the little one at heart, Rev Chan continuously liaised with various government departments in hopes of finding a plausible solution as soon as possible to alleviate the parents' suffering.

At the end, consensus amongst various government departments was reached in merely one month, parents could claim the remains of miscarried fetuses and legally bury them in Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery Cape Collinson Chai Wan. The place was named as "Angel Garden", signifying that miscarried fetuses would become angels and enter the kingdom of heaven under the melody of "Song of Joy".

Timely assistance to family of the deceased

The meaning of life does not depend on its length. Many of the parents with miscarried babies had lost their loved ones before they could bid farewell. Burying the miscarried fetuses decently is not only out of respect, but it is also a kind of cure for parents with psychological trauma. During the course of bidding farewell, parents would gradually begin to accept the fact that their baby had passed away, and learn to start afresh.

In recent years, more and more organizations are offering burial services of miscarried fetuses for families of various religious backgrounds or even for those without a religious background. Rev Chan envisaged that Angel Garden could raise the awareness of the public concerning the respect of life, and caring for the family of the deceased. He would also continue with his work to educate, promote and publicize the issue proactively to gain more support for related services.

> " The spirit of humanity is to cherish life, love life and progress in life."

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