

HISTORY OF FORMATION AND CONTRIBUTION OF CARITAS PHU CUONG IN THE FIELD OF CHARITY TO BINH DUONG PROVINCE

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Abstract

This paper presents the history of Caritas Phu Cuong as a charity and social organization that plays an important role in helping the poor and disabled people of Binh Duong province. In addition, the study also analyze the role and contributions of Caritas Phu Cuong in the field of charity for Binh Duong province in the following aspects: medical examination and medicine distribution for the poor people; life protection program; taking care of lonely elderly people; support people with disabilities to integrate into the community; build a library of books and toys for children; organize compassion classes for children of workers in difficult circumstances; bright path scholarship (Slovakia); environmental protection and human trafficking prevention programs. Finally, the article will discuss the role, functions and scope of activities of Caritas Phu Cuong in different historical periods to adapt to the changes in the socio-political context of Vietnam.

Keywords: Caritas, Binh Duong, charity, social organization

1. Introduction

In today's Binh Duong land, Catholicism was present very early. Catholicism appeared in Binh Duong around 1727 with the establishment of the Lai Thieu religion (Giáo xứ Lái Thiêu, 2012). Since its appearance, Catholicism has made positive contributions to spiritual life as well as participating in social activities to help the poor and disadvantaged in Binh Duong through social organizations such as: Lai Thieu school for the Deaf-Mute (trường Âm điếc Lái Thiêu) was established in 1886, Ben San leprosy settlement (trại phong Bến Sắn) was established in 1959 and Caritas Phu Cuong organization was established in 1966.

Unlike Lai Thieu school of the Deaf -Mute (trường Âm điếc Lái Thiêu) and Ben San leprosy settlement (trại phong Bến Sắn), Caritas Phu Cuong is one of many local branches of Caritas Vietnam established in the context of the fierce war in southern Vietnam. With the aim of supporting the people who are affected by the Vietnam War, Caritas Phu Cuong has conducted activities to support its target groups. After the Vietnam war ended, Caritas Phu Cuong carried out humanitarian support activities quietly with a narrowing in scope and field of activities. By 2009, Caritas Phu Cuong was officially allowed to operate publicly again. From now, Caritas Phu Cuong has entered a new phase of operations with the expansion of the organization's scope, objects of support and ways of carrying out charitable activities compared to the previous period.

Based on the presentation of the history of formation and development of Caritas Phu Cuong, the article will analyze the contributions of Caritas Phu Cuong in the field of social charity to Binh Duong province in the following aspects: medical examination and medicine distribution for the poor people; life protection program; taking care of lonely elderly people; support people with disabilities to integrate into the community; build a library of books and toys for children; organize compassion classes for children of workers in difficult circumstances; bright path scholarship (Slovakia); environmental protection and human trafficking prevention programs. In addition, the article will also discuss the role, functions and scope of activities of Caritas Phu Cuong in different historical periods to adapt to the changes in the socio-political context of Vietnam.

2. Literature review

Catholic contributions in the field of social charity have been presented in many scientific articles. Specifically, Pham Thanh Hang's article *Contributions of Vietnamese Catholics in the field of culture and society*. The article outlines some contributions of Catholics in the socio-cultural field such as social charity activities (including contributions in the fields of health, education and some contributions in other humanitarian charity fields); activities to build cultural life and activities to prevent and combat social evils in Vietnam. The above results are clear evidence of the role and responsibility of Catholics in implementing the movement "Respect God, love the country" and implement the 1980 Thru chung of the Vietnam Bishops' Conference: "Attach sticking to the nation and country... living the gospel in the heart of the nation" along with the spirit of "Living the gospel in the heart of the nation with a spirit of readiness to serve", the patriotic emulation movement of Catholics is growing. firmly follow the country's path of innovation, together with the people of the country to build Vietnam to become increasingly rich, beautiful, and civilized.

Discussing the social responsibility of Caritas in Vietnam in the context of a market economy, author Nguyen Ngoc Son, through the article *Social responsibility of the Social Charity Committee - Vietnam Caritas in the context of the market economy* raised the context of the transformation of the market economy model in Vietnam and its consequences social attachment. In that context, Caritas' responsibility is to build a comprehensive humanism and solidarity for Vietnamese believers. Because people are the basic factor that determines, directs and implements the economy. Therefore, all social activities in the context of a market economy need to aim at a spirit of humanity and solidarity.

In addition to the above studies, the contributions of Catholic organizations to society are also presented through annual summary reports, such as: *Ten years of Catholic development in Ho Chi Minh City*, Vietnam Catholic Solidarity; *Summary of 5 years (2005 - 2010) of implementing the emulation movement of all people uniting to build cultural life in residential areas, living a good and moral life*, Vietnam Catholic Solidarity Committee; *Report Catholic activities in Ho Chi Minh City in 2009*, Vietnam Catholic Solidarity Committee; *The 6th Congress of Representatives of Ho Chi Minh City Catholics to Build and Protect the Fatherland*; Vietnam Catholic Solidarity Committee; *Report on the 5-year work situation (2003 - 2007) of Ho Chi Minh City Catholics participating in building and protecting the Fatherland*, Ho Chi Minh City Catholic Solidarity Committee; *Summary of 2010 and action plan for 2011*, Caritas Vietnam Social Charity Committee.

Regarding the contributions of Catholicism to the social development of Binh Duong, there is a gap that not many people are interested in researching. This issue is only mentioned in passing *Lai Thieu parish yearbook*. These are volunteer organizations such as: Lai Thieu School for the Deaf - Mute (Trường Chăm sóc Lái Thiêu) is an educational facility for deaf -mute children; Lai Thieu Orphanage (Cô nhi viện Lái Thiêu) is a place to nurture children who are orphans or abandoned by their parents. In addition, the yearbook also introduces the establishment and operation of Catholic religious orders that are doing volunteer activities such as: the Union of nuns of the St. Paul Thuan An order (Công đoàn nữ tu dòng Thánh Phaolo Thuận An), who is in charge of teaching at : Lai Thieu School for the Deaf - Mute; The Catholic Pauline Sisters' Union (Công đoàn nữ tu Phaolo

Công giáo) is currently in charge of raising orphans and deaf-mute children, educating children in the faith in the parish, and providing cultural education; The Daughters of Our Lady of Binh Nhan Trade Union (Công đoàn Con Đức Mẹ Bình Nhân) is in charge of kindergartens and boarding classes for children in remote areas who can afford to go to school; The Oblates of Mary Immaculate (Đòng Hiến sĩ Đức Mẹ Vô Nhiễm) mainly help the poor in the community. In addition, the yearbook also introduces associations currently active in the parish such as: Eucharistic Children's Association (Hội Đoàn Thiếu nhi Thánh thể), which is in charge of teaching catechism classes and activities for young people; The Rosary Association (Hội Mai Khôi) encourages praying the rosary throughout the parish, visiting the body, praying for mass, condolences to the family,... The Franciscan Association (Hội Phan Sinh) opens retreat classes and makes vows for its members; The Legio Mariae Visitation Society (Hội Thăm viếng Legio Mariae) converts lukewarm people to the faith, legalizes many marriages, introduces new catechumens, and visits patients in hospitals and homes; The Cursillo Movement (Phong trào Cursillo) helps people discover and fulfill their vocation and promotes the formation of core Christian groups; Charity Committee (Ban Từ thiện) donates and supports the poor; Mother community (Giới Hiền mẫu) supports difficult families, shares funerals, and helps the disabled; The Patriarchal community (Giới Gia trưởng) supports the Parish Priest and the Pastoral Council with tasks such as hanging flags, maintaining order, building caves, stages...; Parish youth (Giới trẻ Giáo xứ) share charity, share the Word of God, are in charge of singing mass, praying, and adoring the Eucharist; The Ceremony Board (Ban Lễ sinh) is in charge of serving altars and serving the Altar and the Sanctuary.

In general, the above research projects have summarized Catholic contributions to society through charity and charity organizations. Since their inception, these organizations have brought the spirit of charity to people in difficult circumstances, people with disabilities, the elderly, children, women,... Over time, the contributions of Catholic social organizations have become more and more practical for society, especially in the face of new challenges of the times such as immigration, climate change,... The above achievements are also proof of the pastoral direction of "accompanying the nation and committing to serving the happiness of the people" of Vietnamese Catholics. This pastoral direction always encourages and encourages Catholics to make positive contributions in the patriotic emulation movement with many practical and effective jobs according to the motto "good life, beautiful religion".

3. Results

3.1. *Introducing Caritas Vietnam and Caritas Phu Cuong*

3.1.1. *Caritas Vietnam*

Referring to activities in the field of Catholic charity in Vietnam, it is impossible not to mention the role of the Social Charity organization Caritas. Caritas in Latin means Love - Charity. Stemming from this meaning, the Caritas organization was established by the Catholic Church with the mission of coordinating and promoting the practice of social charity. Caritas' spirit of charitable service is expressed in the message of Pope Benedict XVI: "The profound nature of the Church is expressed in the threefold responsibility of: preaching the Word of God, celebrating the Sacraments and practicing carry out a mission of charity. These responsibilities are mutually inclusive and inseparable" (Benedicto, 2006).

Furthermore, Caritas is also an organization to promote the proclamation of the Gospel of salvation of Jesus Christ in a practical way through helping the poor, sick, and marginalized. plays a greater role in the activities of the Church and believers need to be convinced that "charitable activities are the responsibility of each believer and are also the essence of the Catholic Church" as Pope Benedict has said. identified in the Encyclical Deus Caritas est (Benedicto, 2006).

Historically, the first local Caritas organization was established by Father Lorenz Werthmann (1858-1921) in Cologne, Germany on November 9, 1897 and was named "German Catholic

Charitable Association" (Charitasverband für das Katholische Deutschland). In 1916, this organization was recognized by the German bishops' conference as the Union of Diocesan Charitable Organizations. In July 1924, at the International Eucharistic Congress in Amsterdam, and to illustrate the nourishing mystery of the Eucharist, the Catholic Charities Association was founded, based on the Swiss Caritas, with offices located in Lucerne.

On an international scale, Caritas Internationalis was established in 1951. Caritas Internationalis is a global charity organization of the Catholic Church. Currently this organization includes 165 members and is active in 200 territories. Caritas Internationalis headquarters is located in the Vatican and has offices in many different places such as New York (USA), Geneva (Switzerland). Inspired by Gospel values and Catholic teachings, Caritas Internationalis works in the following main areas: emergency relief, promoting integral human development, contributing to the eradication of hunger, poverty and peace building.

In Vietnam, Caritas Vietnam is a social charity organization under the Vietnam Bishops' Conference, established in 1965. During this time, Caritas Vietnam participated in social activities such as: relief victims of war and natural disasters, provide medical examination and medicine to the poor, open schools to teach poor children, vocational training,...

By 1976, due to the impact of the socio-historical context, Caritas Vietnam and Caritas in the Dioceses temporarily stopped operating for a long period of time. However, the diocese's charitable activities continue in parishes in many different forms.

On September 19, 2001, the Committee of Social Charity (established during the VIII Congress of the Vietnamese Bishops' Conference in Hanoi, chaired by Bishop Paul Nguyen Thanh Hoan, and after the meeting on September 26, 2001) In September 2002, this Committee began operating with a number of charity and emergency relief works. The establishment of the Social Charity Committee marked a milestone in preparation for the re-establishment of Caritas Vietnam. .

In 2007, dioceses were invited to participate in training courses organized by the Social Charity Commission and prepare for the re-establishment of Caritas Vietnam. Professional training courses for Directors and Deputy Directors of dioceses, creating a network linking 26 dioceses across the country (now 27 dioceses). Currently, 100/106 parishes have established a Board of Charity and have 837 members. The Representative Board of 07 districts was established with 38 members and 06 collaborators who work regularly with diocesan Caritas

On March 5, 2008, the Social Charity Committee officially submitted an application to the Vietnam Government Committee for Religious Affairs to establish Caritas Vietnam, with an organizational structure from dioceses to parishes to suit the needs of the community. social charity activities globally. After only a short time, on July 2, 2008, the Government Committee for Religious Affairs sent Document No. 941TGCP-CP approving the Vietnam Bishops' Conference to re-establish Caritas at the national and diocesan levels. Immediately after receiving the decision to allow the re-establishment of Caritas Vietnam from the Government Committee for Religious Affairs, the Vietnam Bishops' Conference decided to re-establish Caritas Vietnam during its annual meeting at the Xuan Loc Bishop's House, from September 22 to 19. September 26, 2008.

Caritas Vietnam is headquartered at 319, Highway 13, in Fatima Binh Trieu Parish, Thu Duc city. Caritas Vietnam is governed by a Board of Directors and a Council of Delegates. The Board of Directors meets every three months, including Bishop Chairman of the Social Charity Committee as Chairman, General Secretary appointed by the Chairman Bishop, three representatives of diocesan Caritas, two representatives of religious orders , and a lay representative. The Council of Delegates meets once a year and includes the Bishop President and General Secretary, representatives of 27 Caritas Dioceses, representatives of main activities, representatives of religious orders and laity.

In March 2011, Caritas Vietnam joined Caritas Asia and became an official member of Caritas Internationalis in May 2011.

In terms of vision, Caritas is an organization in which people live lovingly and serve the poor professionally and effectively.

In terms of mission, Caritas is a Catholic organization that unites people of good will to serve the poor, the sick, the suffering, and those in need of help, through education and medical care, with model of Christ's love.

Regarding operations, Caritas Vietnam operates in three main areas: (1) emergency relief and livelihood recovery after natural disasters; (2) comprehensive human development; (3) promote peaceful life and reconciliation in society. Caritas Vietnam's main support subjects are the poor, those who lack opportunities to access social benefits, such as education, medical treatment, integration into social life,...

Thus, it can be seen from the vision, mission, and activities that Caritas Vietnam is a part of Caritas International. Caritas Vietnam is not only a charity and material sponsorship organization, but Caritas Vietnam is also an Association that promotes the spirit of charity and shares God's love with everyone.

3.1.2. Caritas Phu Cuong

In Binh Duong, Caritas was officially established in 1966 with the name Caritas Phu Cuong, under the guidance of Bishop Giuse Pham Van Thien, the first Bishop of the diocese and directed by Father Anthony Phung Thanh, Diocese manager at that time.

By 1976, Caritas Vietnam (including Caritas Phu Cuong) was ordered to stop charity and charitable activities.

After the Social Charity Committee was established back in 2002, just one year later (2003) under the guidance of Bishop Peter Tran Dinh Tu, the Phu Cuong Social Charity Committee was re-established. again.

On June 1, 2009, Caritas Phu Cuong Office began operating again under the guidance of Caritas Vietnam. Through the Bishop of Phu Cuong Diocese, Caritas Vietnam has appointed Father Micae Le Van Kham, Vicar General of the diocese, as director of Caritas Phu Cuong.

At the Diocesan Common House, on February 11, 2012, Caritas Phu Cuong officially launched in the Diocese.

By 2017, Caritas Phu Cuong completed a three-year strategic plan with a new vision, goals and mission. According to this strategic plan, Caritas Phu Cuong shares the vision of promoting the mission of charity, continuing its journey of commitment with the goal of encouraging everyone in society to be aware and responsible in implementing contest love and charity, to develop a social community that knows how to live, love and share. Thereby demonstrating the mission that God always invites from each believer in serving charity as a way to express the presence of Christ and the Church.

“Sharing in joy” is the slogan of Caritas Phu Cuong, an invitation for each Caritas member to always be the joy and hope of Christ when reaching out to those in difficulty. In Christ, the resource motivates each member of charity to carry out the mission of "promoting and developing the whole person"; "Building a community of charity and love" through practicing charity to help the poor and difficult people around us, etc. The charity work that the church invites the laity today is not just a purely humane and humane help to alleviate suffering, which above all requires returning to humans the dignity of being children of God, which is the encounter of humans with God.

As the successors of the Apostles, the Bishop is the main responsible person in the life of the local Church, national Caritas and diocesan Caritas need to operate in full communion and close connection. with the local bishop in accordance with pastoral principles, for full integration within the mission of the Church. Parish Caritas serves charity in a spirit of solidarity with the parish priest and other organizations in the parish.

The resumption of activities of Caritas Vietnam in general and Caritas Phu Cuong in particular marks an important event in the charity activities of Catholics in Vietnam and Binh Duong. From now on, Caritas Vietnam and Caritas Phu Cuong are officially confirmed by the state as legal entities to operate publicly in the field of charity. With a rich history and experience in charity activities, Caritas Phu Cuong has organized many important charity activities such as: medical

examination and medicine distribution for the poor people; life protection program; taking care of lonely elderly people; support people with disabilities to integrate into the community; build a library of books and toys for children; organize compassion classes for children of workers in difficult circumstances; bright path scholarship (Slovakia); environmental protection and human trafficking prevention programs.

In addition, Caritas Phu Cuong's charitable activities during the return period have also changed from the traditional way of doing charity (being an intermediary for charitable donations) to the way of doing charity in the modern way (combining charitable donations and capacity building for vulnerable people).

3.2. Contributions of Caritas Phu Cuong in the field of charity to Binh Duong province

3.2.1. Medical examination and medicine distribution for the poor people

Medical examination and medicine distribution activities for the poor people are traditional activities of Caritas Phu Cuong aimed to helping the poor people who cannot come for medical examination and treatment at the hospital for many different reasons. Immediately after the Caritas Office was established, in November 2010, Caritas Phu Cuong along with nearly 70 volunteers including doctors, pharmacists, nurses and volunteers from the Mother and Youth Associations, Secular Franciscan Association, member of Legio Marie, under the guidance of Father Giuse Nguyen Phat Tai, doctor - former Deputy Director of Caritas Phu Cuong organized examinations and distributed medicine at 30 points in the diocese, serving over 12,000 poor and difficult patients. In 2013, on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the establishment of Caritas Da Lat, Caritas Phu Cuong organized a volunteer group to examine patients and distribute medicine at Dinh Trang Hoa Diocese, Hoa Ninh Parish (Da Lat Diocese). Here the volunteer group has served 2,683 patients (including 90 people with disabilities) (Social Charity Committee - Caritas Phu Cuong, 2019).

3.2.2. Life protection program

Protecting life is a program coordinated by Caritas Phu Cuong with parishes with the goal of raising awareness of the values of life. The life protection program in general and specifically for Catholic youth in dioceses aims to help them say no to abortion. In the protection of life communication program, Caritas Phu Cuong conducted 42 seminars on the Mystery of life and natural birth control methods at classes on marriage, mother, patriarchy and religious communities with over 4,540 participants. According to statistics, the specialized department of the Life Protection Committee has coordinated with collaborators of the Mái ả̀m Tình mẹ to organize: burying 1,065 fetuses; consulted in 202 cases and retained 186 fetuses; support to care for orphans with special circumstances at home. In addition, regularly celebrate Mass every month or in special cases, pray for single mothers and their unborn children (Social Charity Committee - Caritas Phu Cuong, 2019).

3.2.3. Caring for lonely elderly people

Caring for the lonely elderly is managed by the Sisters of Mái ả̀m Nhân hậu of the Saint Vincent Community (Cộng đoàn Thánh Vinh Sơn). Mái ả̀m Nhân hậu was built and inaugurated on November 3, 2012. Mái ả̀m Nhân hậu is managed by the nuns of the Missionaries of Charity of Christ (Đòng Thừa Sai Bác Ái Chúa Kitô) and is currently taking care of 31 lonely, helpless elderly women. At the Mái ả̀m Nhân hậu, lonely elderly people are enthusiastically cared for by nuns in the hope that they will find joy in life, and that cheerful optimism as a family can help relieve their loneliness. Loneliness and emptiness in old age without family or relatives nearby. Every month, the sisters organize a charity program called Social Charity to donate rice from sponsors to lonely elderly people with no one to care for them, and especially difficult disabled cases from 2016 to now (Social Charity Committee - Caritas Phu Cuong, 2019).

3.2.4. Support people with disabilities to integrate into the community

Currently, the need to go to school, have fun, and be entertained like many other people is still limited for people with disabilities. Realizing the need for people with disabilities to need help from society to overcome difficulties in their lives, Caritas Vietnam has organized a project to support

people with disabilities to integrate into the community. The project donates wheelchairs to people with disabilities with the message that families and communities “give them an opportunity to share and express their own dreams”.

According to statistics, up to now, Caritas Phu Cuong has donated 473 wheelchairs, wheelchairs and one specialized vehicle for sick and disabled people. Support for prosthetic leg installation in two cases (Cu Chi and Phuoc Thanh). The program supports people with disabilities to integrate into the community, not only giving them wheelchairs, but also giving them an opportunity to integrate with the outside world (Ủy ban Bác ái Xã hội - Caritas Phú Cường, 2019).

In addition to donating wheelchairs, the Disability Department also organizes annual fun camps for orphans with disabilities and children with special circumstances with the companionship of Caritas Charities of the districts and districts. Volunteer students of universities, Missionaries of Faith and monks of religious congregations serving in the Diocese.

Besides, in order to create a playground for people with disabilities to interact, exchange and learn and share with each other, some volunteers have established a group called "Hoa Xương Rồng". The group has regular monthly activities (last Saturday of the month) for people with disabilities to inform, share and help each other in daily life. The group's cohesion not only helps members change positively but also helps their families have a different perspective on their children's disabilities and is an opportunity to approach and help their children open up. more with everyone.

3.2.5. Build a library of books and toys for children

The children's book and toy library officially came into operation on June 25, 2017 and is located at the Bung Parish Pastoral House, Phu Cuong County. The library of books and toys for children is one of the activities in Caritas Vietnam's Migrant Charity program. The purpose of the children's book and toy Library is to bring books with educational significance to children, and at the same time organize reading sessions and reading festivals for children to have access to books, create an inspiration for children to love reading, helping them know how to choose books to read and how to read them for the best results. The library has more than 5,000 books of all kinds to serve children. In addition, the library is also equipped with 10 sets of computers and smart games of all kinds. Currently, the library of books and toys for children has been moved to My Hao parish (Social Charity Committee - Caritas Phu Cuong, 2019).

3.2.6. The charity class

The charity class is organized by Caritas Phu Cuong at Bung Parish with the purpose of popularizing the educational program for poor students from grades 1 to 5 who do not have the means to go to school. Most of them are children of immigrant workers whose conditions are difficult so they cannot send their children to school. In the 2017 - 2018 school year, the charity class has 40 students enrolled. In the 2018 - 2019 school year, there are 60 students enrolled. In the 2019 - 2020 school year, there are 70 students enrolled. In the following school years, due to the Covid - 19 epidemic, classes will not be held. In addition to studying the general curriculum, students can also participate in English courses and extracurricular skills classes guided by staff and volunteers on a monthly and quarterly basis (Social Charity Committee - Caritas Phu Cuong, 2019).

3.2.7. Bright path scholarship program (Slovakia)

Starting from 2017, through Caritas Vietnam, Caritas Slovakia has supported 20 scholarships for poor children in Phuoc An Parish and Lac An County. The children are supported with the companionship of Caritas Phu Cuong and local parish and district Charity collaborators through monthly activities, extracurricular teaching sessions on skills, life values,... (Social Charity Committee - Caritas Phu Cuong, 2019).

3.2.8. Environmental protection and educational communication program

On May 24, 2015, Pope Francis issued the encyclical *Laudato Si* (Praise the Lord) calling on everyone in the world to take care of this earth, the common home of which God is Father and

Creator. has bestowed upon humanity and emphasized preserving the environment as a "new era" for humanity, while at the same time seeking to respond to one of humanity's greatest challenges, which is the state of emergency. of our common home. Protecting our common home is an "urgent challenge". Pope Francis also decided to establish September 1 every year as a world day of prayer for the care of creation (Francis, 2019).

The Vietnam Bishops's Conference in a joint letter in 2015 commented and called: "Indeed, the world today is experiencing a serious environmental crisis: global warming, increased pollution, water resources cleanliness is threatened, natural disasters are increasing, etc. Vietnam is also one of the countries heavily affected by climate change: dust pollution is at a serious level, especially in cities. big street. This is a big problem, requiring changes on many fronts: economic planning, social policy, environmental ethics,... For Catholics, the Pope calls for conversion, which means changing the way of looking, thinking and living in relation to the natural environment. God himself has given humans the responsibility to take care of the earth (x. St 1, 28), so it must not be destroyed or used for profit, but must be cared for and preserved, for the present and future generations. the future,... That awareness (Preserving and protecting the environment) motivates us to change our way of life, respect nature, take care of the living environment, starting from small things in everyday life. such as saving water and energy, maintaining general hygiene in the neighborhood,... I hope the parishes will become exemplary models in preserving and protecting the environment." (Vietnam Bishops's Conference, 2015).

Responding to the call of Pope Francis and the Vietnamese Bishops' Conference since 2019, Caritas Phu Cuong has implemented an environmental protection and educational communication program for the community, implementing a commitment to limit the use of plastic bags and single-use plastic bottles began testing in two counties, Phuoc Thanh and Tay Ninh. Currently, Caritas Phu Cuong is actively implementing training activities to raise awareness of environmental and waste protection for the lay community, especially targeting children (Social Charity Committee - Caritas Phu Cuong, 2019).

3.2.9. Prevention of human trafficking

As a key province in the Southeast economic region, Binh Duong currently has many industrial zones and clusters in operation that have attracted hundreds of thousands of workers from other provinces and cities to work in companies. factories, freelance workers, etc. have since then created many social problems in residential areas, especially boarding houses. For this reason, Caritas Phu Cuong coordinated with experts in the Alliance to Prevent Human Trafficking in Vietnam to conduct training sessions with the topic "Legal Migration - Safe Living". The content of these training sessions is part of the program "Prevention of human trafficking" conducted by Caritas Phu Cuong and a team of volunteers. The purpose of the training sessions is to provide participants with knowledge related to human trafficking and communication skills to build communication sessions in the community. Prevention of human trafficking is a new content in Caritas Phu Cuong's immigrant support activities, targeting migrants in their teenage years, of which women and children are two main target group. These are people who easily become victims of criminal groups participating in human trafficking rings. The goal of the "Human Trafficking Prevention" program of Caritas Vietnam in general and Caritas Phu Cuong in particular is to equip people with knowledge about laws and rights to protect people, gender, and prevent risks when migrating. to new lands (Social Charity Committee - Caritas Phu Cuong, 2019).

4. Discussion

Born just one year after Caritas Vietnam was founded, Caritas Phu Cuong quickly established its position as a pioneering Catholic social charity organization in southern Vietnam at that time. With the important mission of helping people who are affected by the Vietnam war, Caritas Phu Cuong has carried out its mission with specific support activities.

However, after the period when Vietnam was unified, due to the impacts of Vietnam's socio-political context after the war, Caritas Phu Cuong had to temporarily suspend operations for a long

time. During this period, Caritas Phu Cuong continues to carry out charity work with a narrower scope and activities compared to the previous period. At this time, the name Caritas Phu Cuong no longer officially appears.

In 2009, along with the return to official operations of Caritas Vietnam, the Caritas Phu Cuong office also officially reopened. This milestone marks a period of comprehensive innovation for Caritas Phu Cuong with many charitable activities to support the development of social security for the poor and migrants in Binh Duong province, including such as: medical examination and medicine distribution for the poor; life protection program; taking care of lonely elderly people; support people with disabilities to integrate; build a library of books and toys for children; organize compassion classes for children of workers in difficult circumstances; bright path scholarship (Slovakia); environmental protection and human trafficking prevention programs.

Compared to the previous period of operation, the re-establishment period of Caritas Phu Cuong has expanded the field of activities and objects of assistance, such as life protection programs and compassion classes for children, workers, scholarships for students with difficult family circumstances, environmental protection and human trafficking prevention programs. In addition, Caritas Phu Cuong's support subjects are also more diverse: the poor, the lonely elderly, people with disabilities, disadvantaged children, single mothers, migrants, etc. The expansion of the field of activities The activities and objects of support show the transformation and adaptation of Caritas Phu Cuong in the face of changes in the new context. Besides, this also shows the practicality and necessity of a professional social charity organization like Caritas Phu Cuong to participate in social activities and strengthen the social safety network in a vibrant industrial development land like Binh Duong.

Finally, Caritas Phu Cuong not only changed its field of activities and objects of support but also changed its method from the traditional way of doing charity (being an intermediary for charitable donations) to the way of doing charity in the modern way (combining charitable donations and capacity building for vulnerable people). This is also a change consistent with the actual circumstances of society and meets the increasingly professional requirements of a social organization.

5. Conclusion

Caritas Phu Cuong was born when the war was fierce in southern Vietnam. In this context, Caritas Phu Cuong has carried out charitable activities to help the poor and those affected by the war. After the liberation period, due to the impacts of the socio-political context, Caritas Phu Cuong was forced to narrow its charity and social activities for a long period of time. During this period, social charity activities are still carried out but no longer under the name of Caritas Phu Cuong. In 2009, Caritas Phu Cuong office was officially reopened to continue carrying out social charity activities in Binh Duong province. So far, after more than 10 years of operation, Caritas Phu Cuong has expanded its field of operations and aid objects, as well as changed the way it carries out social charity activities in a more professional way. On this basis, Caritas Phu Cuong has made significant contributions in the field of social charity and further strengthened the social security system of Binh Duong province.

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