

Blessings and Struggles in Ministry to Communities of Demographic Shift

-----Li Tim-Oi Center for Chinese Ministry in the
Episcopal Church





As the Bishop in charge of Multicultural ministry for the Diocese of Los Angeles, it has long been a dream of mine to open a center for Chinese ministry in the Diocese that could and would serve not only our local parishes, but The Episcopal Church as well.

Living in this section of the pacific rim, the influx of individuals and families from Asia provides us a unique opportunity to spread the gospel, and to raise up and train lay and ordained leaders in the Church.

The creation and launch of the Li Tim Oi Center has been a dream come true for me and for the congregations we serve.



While still in our infancy, every stride we take to broaden our reach and increase mission and ministry is a gift.

We have dedicated lay leaders and clergy, and are working to ordain more Chinese speaking clergy for The Episcopal Church to not only increase this ministry here in the Diocese of Los Angeles, but across the church.

We have also made contacts throughout Chinese speaking countries and areas in Asia -- seeking to build bridges back and forth in this ministry.

I am excited by this work, and can't wait to see what the Li Tim-Oi Center continues to do to the glory of God.



LI
TIM-OI
CENTER
李添嫻中心

1 How does the name come to be?

2 Who is Li Tim-Oi?

3 What does the logo mean?

The image shows a presentation slide with a white background and a blue wavy header. At the top center is the Li Tim-Oi Center logo, which is a pink diamond shape with a white circle in the center containing a wheel-like symbol. Below the logo are three colored circles: an orange circle with the number 1, a blue circle with the number 2, and a green circle with the number 3. Each circle contains a question related to the center's name and logo.

How does the name come to be?

1

The image shows a presentation slide with a blue background and a blue wavy header. The text 'How does the name come to be?' is written in yellow at the top. Below the text is a large, brown number 1.



This Chinese center was established in early 2014.

It is named in honor of the Reverend Florence Li Tim-Oi, the first woman priest ordained in the Anglican Communion.

Who is Li Tim-Oi?

LI TIM-OI



The Rev. Li Tim-Oi was born in Hong Kong in 1907.

She was made a Deacon in 1941, and was given charge of the Anglican congregation in the Portuguese colony of Macao.

A priest traveled to Macao to preside at the Eucharist for her.

It was wartime. Macao was flooded with refugees from war-torn China.

Later priests were no longer able to travel to Macao. She was licensed to preside at Holy Communion as a deacon by her bishop.

Bishop Ronald Hall did not like that arrangement and ordained her a priest on January 25, 1944 after much prayers to offer sacramental needs to the parishioners.

Rev. Li had the courage to answer this very difficult missionary call. Nobody, no women had done it before. She responded to an "*evangelistic emergency*."

"*Evangelistic emergency*" was a term coined by former Bishop Fred Borsch of Diocese of Los Angeles describing the lack of Latino

It is appropriate that we name this Center in Rev. Li's honor to address a new "*evangelistic emergency*" – the growing Chinese population in the Diocese of Los Angeles but lack of Chinese-speaking clergy.



What does the logo mean?



The booklet *It Takes One Woman* tells Li Tim-Oi's life.
http://www.ittakesonewoman.org/docs/litimoi_story.pdf

There is a story in it about the Revs. Li and Bob Browne. In 1987 Browne made a film about Li Tim-Oi back in China in early 1980's.

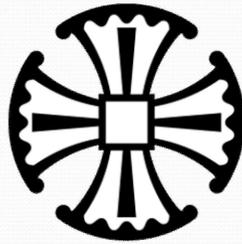
The Rev. Li said, "I know I'm not a diamond. Beautiful diamonds experience many cuttings and polishing."

The book comments, "She certainly experienced many cuts, but was polished by the grace of God into a beautiful diamond." Thus the diamond shape of the logo.

On the Centenary year of Rev. Li's birth, the listeners of BBC Radio 4 Sunday program voted to name a Dahlia for Florence Li Tim-Oi. Thus comes the inspiration of dahlia as the flower in the



The cross in the bottom is a Canterbury Cross. The root of Anglicanism is in England, and the seat of our Anglican spiritual leader, the Archbishop of Canterbury, is in Canterbury, England.



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Lay Leadership Training Class



Lay Leadership Training Class



Lay Leadership Training Class Graduation



Good evening, my name is Hansen Guan. Four years ago, I came to US to pursue my Master's Degree and I met my fiancée Eileen.

When I was in Kansas, my host family took me to a Christian Church for a couple of times. Everyone seemed very nice to each other in the Church. This gave me a good impression of Christian.

One day lots of Chinese students in my school were invited to a Chinese Baptist church for dinner. The members of that Church tried very hard to convert us. We were kept there for 3 hours after dinner. They asked us to close our eyes and raise our hands if we felt the power of the Holy Spirit.

As international students, we thought it was ridiculous because we did not know anything about the Christianity at that time. This was a very bad experience for us. So we decided not to go to this kind of church activity anymore.

After that event Eileen still went to Church whenever she was in a bad mood because she felt peaceful in church.

After we graduated in the summer of 2013, Eileen and I came to Los Angeles for more job opportunities. God led us to Lee and Angela who attended the Sunday service at Church of Our Saviour. Since then, Eileen came to Church with them every Sunday, but I only came to church occasionally.

At the beginning we attended English service because there was no Chinese service. It was hard for me to understand the English sermon. When our church started Chinese worship service, I came to Church more often than before. Father Thomas told us many good stories close to our daily life in his sermons.

Many times both Eileen and I thought God was talking to us and encouraging us through Father Thomas, because at that time we were struggling in finding companies to sponsor our work visas. It seemed that God was telling us: "Hang in there; everything is going to be Okay".

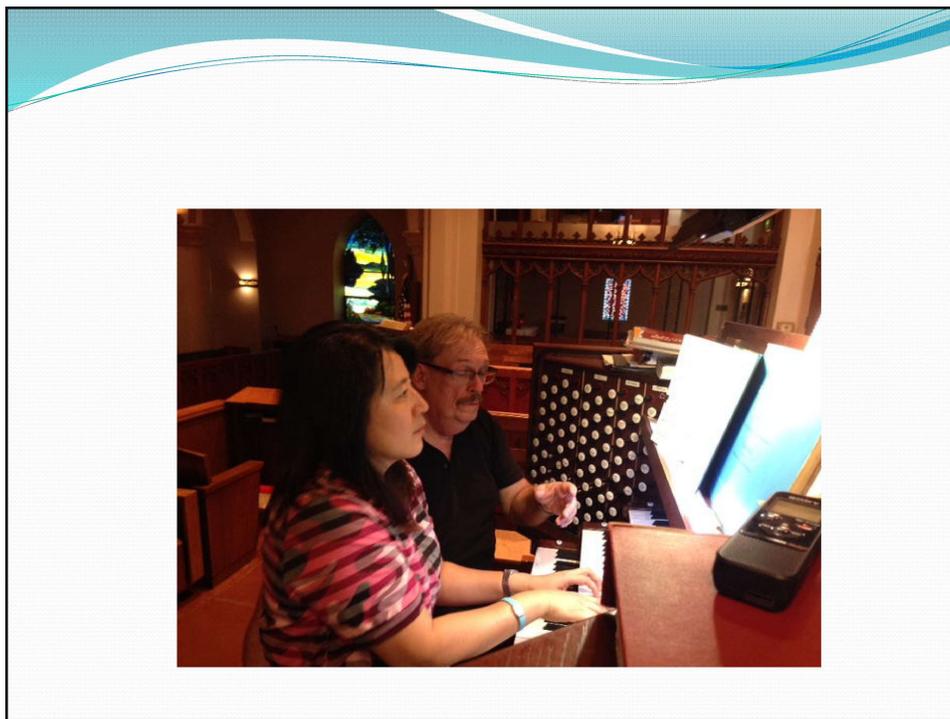
In this March, Eileen encouraged me to join the Lay Leadership Training Program with her. Father Thomas and Father Gary taught us the history of Christian church and the Episcopal Church, as well as evangelism in different cultures around the world.

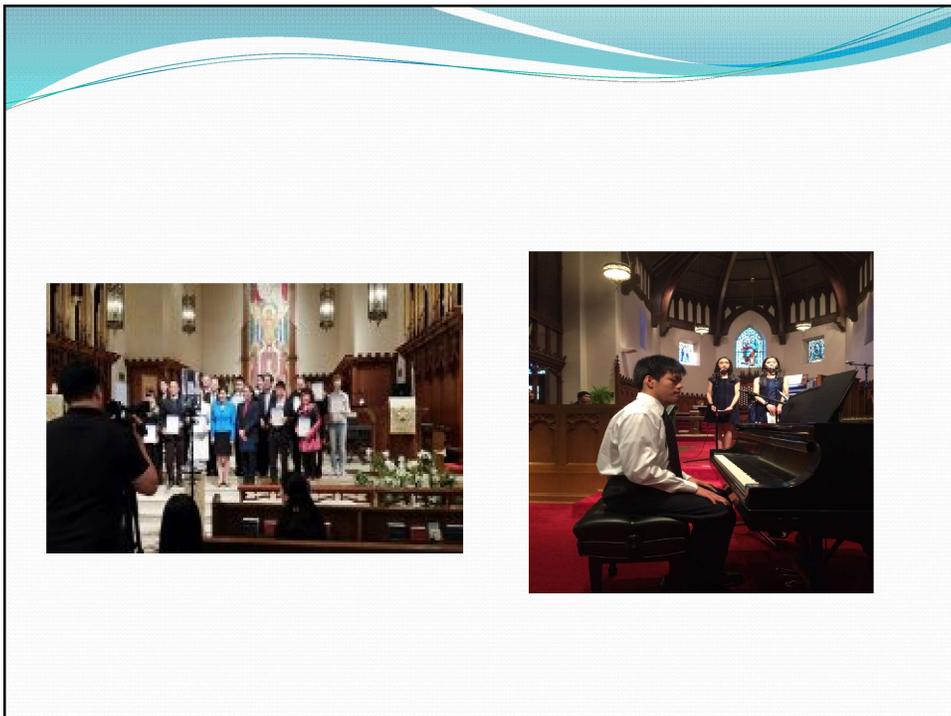
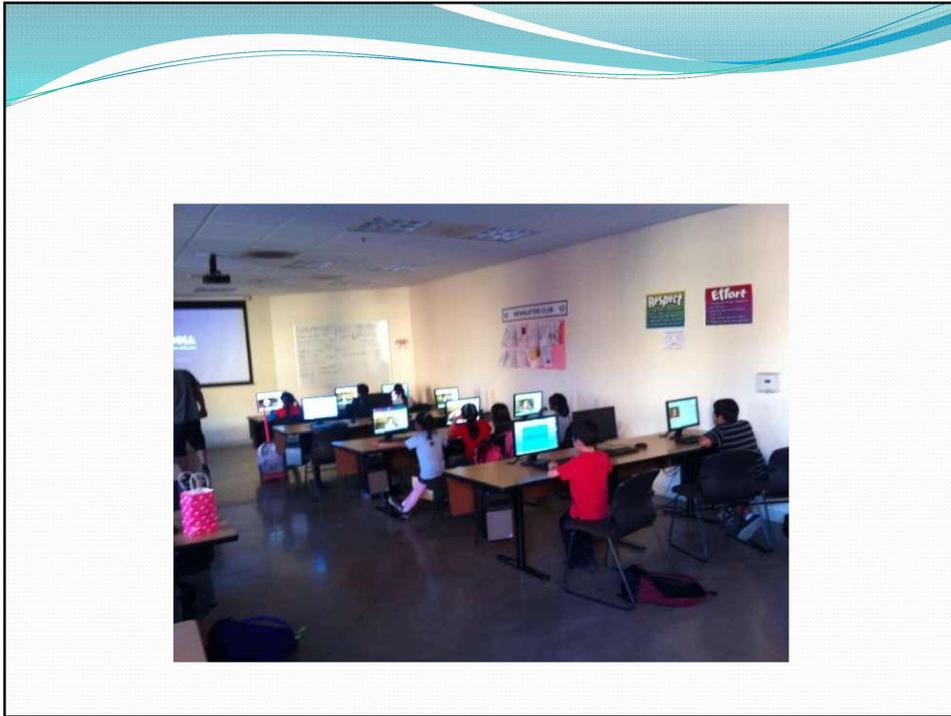
I could not tell why, I was just interested in the history of the Church. And from these historical events, I truly believe God is always with us and leading us.

Afterwards, I attended the baptism preparation class. Kathrine taught me a lot about the Bible, our Church and Christian faith in the class. It prepared me more for my baptism.

After I was baptized, I started to take the leadership of our young adult ministry. Many people told me I have changed a lot during the last two years.

I am willing to contribute my time to Chinese ministries and tell the Good News to people around me. I won't push them because of my own experience. But I will do like other people do in our Church, just care about others and ask if there is anything I can do to help. If someone is interested, I would be happy to share my story with him/her. I am glad to be here sharing my story with you tonight. Thank you!







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