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「難民守護者」莫慶恩神父 -- 澳門扶輪社榮譽社員

The Priest of Refugees -- Father Lancelot Michael Rodrigues  
Macau Rotary Club Honorary Member

By Herbert K. Lau (劉敬恒) (Rotary China Historian)

15 November 2015



The Reverend Dr. Lancelot Michael Rodrigues (Padre Lancelote Miguel Rodrigues 莫慶恩神父), AM, OIH, MBE, MMCP, ComM, *HonDHum (Macau)* (21 December 1923 - 17 June 2013), one of a reputed 13 sons of a Portuguese-Irish father and a Malay-Dutch mother, was born on 21 December 1923 in Malacca, Federated Malay States of the British Empire. He was British subject by birth but obtained the Portuguese nationality by naturalization after permanent settlement in the Portuguese Territory Macao (葡萄牙屬地澳門). The way he grew up was powerfully emblematic of the confluence of different cultures that is representative of Macao. Young Rodrigues received his primary education in English in Malacca. He then came to Macao in November 1935 to study theology and philosophy at St. Joseph's Seminary (Seminário de São José 聖若瑟修院). At the same time, he also studied Portuguese and Chinese. He was ordained priest on 6 October 1949 in Macao.

Father Rodrigues was excel in communication skills. He was fluent in Chinese, English, Malay, Portuguese and Patua (a type of Portuguese creole spoken in Malacca). Over the decades, Father Rodrigues has been a pivotal figure in the advancement of social services for Macao, the Chinese Mainland and the international community. He contributed immensely to the well-being of people in many parts of the world.

Father Rodrigues, internationally known as “Priest of Refugees”, was a household name in Macao for his dedication to extensive humanitarian work throughout his life:

- Refugee Crisis (1940s-1960s): Immediately after ordination, he was appointed Chaplain-in-Charge of roughly 1,000 Portuguese refugees from Shanghai (上海). Over the next 16 years, he facilitated the resettlement of about 2,000 people to countries like the United States, Brazil, and Australia.

- Catholic Relief Services (CRS) (天主教救濟會): He served as the Macao representative for CRS, helping “boat people” to find medical care and jobs during the Vietnamese refugee crisis.
- Fundraising: Known for his vast network of contacts, he reportedly raised approximately US\$90 million from the United States for humanitarian aid.
- Ministry: He was a long-time priest at St. Anthony’s Church (Igreja de Santo António 聖安多尼堂/花王堂) in Macao, where he was known for keeping sermons brief to encourage attendance.

The Reverend Dr. Lancelot Michael Rodrigues was elected Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of Macau (澳門扶輪社) since 21 September 1995 until 17 June 2013 the last day of his life.



### The Priest of Refugees Padre dos Refugiados

Macao has always been a safe harbour for Asian populations. From the time the territory became a commercial hub until today there have been countless communities that have arrived fleeing from wars or in search of a better life. The ones that are most mentioned in local history are the Portuguese from Shanghai and the “Boat People” from Vietnam, who found a gateway to a happier future in Father Lancelot Michael Rodrigues. The true life story of Father Rodrigues started with the arrival of the first Portuguese refugees from Shanghai to the Portuguese Territory Macao in 1948. The Communist army were about to take control of the Chinese city and people were fearful of what might happen.

That year a young Rodrigues was studying at the Macao Seminary, having arrived from his native Malacca of Federated Malay States. Since 1941 he had heard of people who were leaving Shanghai to return to Macao due to the war between nationalists and communists. As soon as they arrived in the Portuguese territory they were sent to refugee camps set up at the Canidrome (逸園賽狗場), at Rua do Gamboa (夜嘢街) and at Rua do Comércio (通商新街). Rodrigues strong personality led the Bishop of Macao to delay his ordination and sent him to the Canidrome to help with work to support the refugees. On 6 October 1949 five days after the establishment of the People’s Republic of China (中華人民共和國), he was finally ordained as a priest. He gave Mass for the first time in the chapel of the Canidrome. That same year the Bishop nominated him as chaplain of the Shanghai Portuguese refugees-- a position he held until 1965 and cooperating vicar of the Parish of Santo Antonio (聖安多尼堂區/花王堂區). Later, between 1950 and 1951, he was put in charge of the Chapel of St. Cecilia (Capela de Santa Cecília 聖則濟利亞小堂). He was the interim parish priest of St. Anthony’s Church, from October 1958 to October 1959, and deputy vicar from 7 September 1966 to 26 November 1966. However, serving the refugees was his main mission in life.

## Shanghai Portuguese

The Portuguese refugees from Shanghai were descendent of Macao families that had left the territory in search of a better life. Many preferred to set themselves up in the British Crown Colony Hong Kong (英國殖民地香港) and the foreign concessions in Tientsin (*Tianjin*) (天津). Rodrigues remembered those times: Outside Macao there were more job opportunities. In the 1920s-30s many boys from the Seminary, the Secondary School and the Commercial School managed to do well in Hong Kong. Some of them even got married and had children. But those that came from Portugal, either returned home after doing military service, or tried their luck in other places (United States, Canada and Australia), or opted to live in Macao. Many missionaries were also sent to China, to Malacca, to Timor and to Singapore, thus increasing the number of Portuguese spread throughout East Asia. When the Chinese Communist Party (中國共產黨) came to power in 1949, European descendent decided to leave China, with most Portuguese returning to the land of their parents and grandparents: Macao. They started to feel pressure to leave Shanghai. In the heat of the Cultural Revolution (無產階級文化大革命) (1966-1976) the Communist China government did not see foreigners in China as a good thing. The Portuguese left as did the English, the Americans and the French, etc., said Father Rodrigues, whose words seem as though they were narrating a movie.

The Shanghai Portuguese worked in banks and in other companies. Some were bosses, others employees, but almost all of them had good academic qualifications. At the beginning it was normal for them to be helped by American and French missionaries. Then it was a question of time and dedication until they made it in life. With nationalization of companies unemployment came along and people had to find other places to live. Once they had arrived in Macao the refugees received help from Santa Casa da Misericordia (仁慈堂), and money to pay for expenses was sent by the Portuguese Foreign Affairs Ministry.

From that time Rodrigues still remembered the feature films and musical shows that were the entertainment at the Canidrome every Saturday: “It was all organized by the refugees. They played, sang and danced. It was immense fun!” He said, adding: “People felt safe in Macao. The territory was under Portuguese administration and China respected the agreements signed by the two countries. The only problem was the loneliness of some people, but I was there every day to raise their spirits.” Abandoned boys from Macao and China lived alongside the Shanghai refugees. The police would take them off the streets and hand them over to be cared for by the nuns. From 1941 onwards there were also many refugees from Hong Kong in Macao, fleeing from the Japanese invasion of the then British colony.

## From Macao to the world

One of Father Rodrigues’ biggest challenges was re-housing around 2,000 refugees taken in by Macao during the Cultural Revolution. In 1953 and 1956 U.S. President John F.

Kennedy (美國總統甘迺迪), under the terms of the Refugee Relief Program, opened up the United States to refugees who proved they had family living in the country or who could find a sponsor. In order to do this the help of the office of the Catholic Relief Services in Hong Kong and its representative in Macao, Father Rodrigues, proved to be vital.

In many cases people were welcomed by U.S.A. dioceses, who were charged with finding them a job and somewhere to live. As well as the United States there were also refugees who travelled to Brazil, to Sweden and to Mozambique. “In the United States many went to work for banks and other companies. Some went back to studying, graduating in engineering and architecture,” Father Rodrigues said, “Lamenting the fact that this movement did not contribute to boosting political and trade relations between their new countries and China. Interestingly there are no records of any refugees going to Portugal.” The war in Africa was underway. “I actually spoke to Caritas Portugal that said it could do nothing. In logistical terms it was very difficult,” he explained.

Although they all arrived with the refugee label, there were those who did not need the help of the Macao government as they had money deposited outside Shanghai, or they quickly managed to get work in Hong Kong, or even in Macao. “It did not take long for some people to leave the refugee camp and rent a home. However, 116 people remained there until the end of the 1970s, which meant we had to put up a building to house them,” Father Rodrigues noted. When the Hong Kong Catholic Relief Services left, in 1962 Father Rodrigues took on the role of running the non-governmental organization, a role he added to that of Director of the Secretariat of Diocesan Social Assistance Services. In a diplomatic way he called on the United States Consulate-General in Hong Kong, Oxfam (United Kingdom) and Macao’s Public Assistance, with the aim of collecting funds to build a block of 70 apartments. The campaign collected US\$86,000. “In exchange Oxfam asked us to house the blind people that came from China. So we decided to put them in the same building, along with the Shanghai refugees and some poor people. The building was pulled down in the 1980s,” Father Rodrigues noted.

### Vietnamese

In March 1977 the first Vietnamese refugees, known as the “boat people” arrived in Macao. As soon as they got near the coast the police took them into detention. “We had to ask the governor for permission to take care of them. The Diocese put them on Ilha Verde and made the Children’s Home (Casa de Beneficencia) available and the military provided us with K-H,” Father Rodrigues said. Initially mainly South Vietnamese came off the boats, and those from the North came later. In total, over 30,000 passed through Macao. Many ended up in Hong Kong, where they lived until 31 May 2000. The United Nations Organization worked in partnership with the Catholic Relief Services and nominated Father Rodrigues as its representative in Macao.

“The most important thing was to provide employment and access to health care. We managed to get them jobs in public construction work.” Father Rodrigues noted, “then outlining other projects: UNESCO [a United Nations agency] paid students fees, whether or not they were refugees. And the Portuguese Red Cross helped the blind and unprotected children. We also had the precious help of the Rotary Club to raise funds.” In terms of re-housing 8,664 refugees from Vietnam, the Catholic Relief Services worked with several consulates, specifically from the United States, Australia, Canada, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, France and other countries. Between 1977 and 1991 almost all of them were sent to other countries, with the exception of two people who remained in Macao.

The K-H Refugee Camp, in Coloane Island (路環島), was closed in July 1991. The Catholic Relief Services left Macao in 1992 and Oxfam continued to be very active in Hong Kong. As well as the Shanghai Portuguese and the Vietnamese, in the last few decades several thousand refugees have passed through Macao from China, Indonesia, Burma (now Myanmar), Malaysia, Laos, Cambodia and East Timor. There were some political refugees living in the Macao SAR from Pakistan, Syria, Lebanon, Laos, Cambodia, Burma (Myanmar), Indonesia and Malaysia. It was the job of the representative, Father Rodrigues, of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Hong Kong to look after their safety and well-being.

## Other Community Service

### Catholic Social Services

In 1954, Father Rodrigues was the Macao Diocese delegate of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) – United States Catholic Bishop’s Conference of America (USCC) which was a non-government organization. He became CRS Director in 1962 until May 1994 and he was appointed concurrently Director of the Secretariat of Social Services of the Macao Diocese (Catholic Social Services 天主教福利會) until 2005. During his time with Catholic Relief Services, he obtained substantial financial aid for his cause of the advancement of social welfare for Macao. He carried out a diversity of projects including construction of residential buildings, kindergarten, clinics and the community centers. Projects implemented by Father Rodrigues with funds obtained from United States Agency for International Development (USAID 美國國際開發署) through CRS – USCC:

- (1) 1956 – Hospital Pius XII entrusted to the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary
- (2) 1956 – 200 housing units at isthmus of Green Island for the poor refugees from China
- (3) 1957 – 100 housing units in Coloane Island for labourers
- (4) 1957 – Holy Family Social Centre for Dominican Sisters (today Holy Family School)
- (5) 1957 – St. Jose Centre at Green Island (青洲) (today St. Teresa School 聖德蘭學校)
- (6) 1957 – Child Jesus Children’s Home (today Diocesan Mortuary)
- (7) 1961 – St. Magdalene School for Canossian Sisters

- (8) 1962 – 100 housing units in Toi San (台山) District, Macao, given to Macao Government Social Welfare Department for the poor
- (9) 1962—Construction of the Catholic Centre
- (10) 1966 – Children’s Home and Dispensary St. Mary’s Mazzarello (today School of Salesian Sisters)
- (11) 1972 – 1973 – Diocesan Auditorium (today Cineteatro 澳門大會堂)
- (12) 1983 – Pope John Paul XXIII Nursery entrusted to Mexican Sisters

The Catholic Social Services is housed in the Macao Cineteatro Building, located in front of the Catholic Centre facilities, two buildings funded by the U.S. government and the Catholic Relief Services. Since 1985 Catholic Social Services, of which Father Rodrigues was Director, has been invited by officials of the Chinese Government to set up programmes in Special Education for children, parents and teachers. Twenty-one (21) courses for mentally retarded children and 21 courses for hearing impaired students have been ministered in various counties, villages and cities in fourteen (14) provinces, including Guangdong (廣東), Henan (河南), Hebei (河北), Hubei (湖北), Yunnan (雲南), Sichuan (四川), Anhui (安徽), Jiangsu (江蘇), Hainan (海南), Shaanxi (陝西), Shandong (山東), Heilongjiang (黑龍江), Inner Mongolia (內蒙古), and Jilin (吉林), etc. Support in emergencies, foods, earthquakes relief were also given.

In China specifically in the provinces of Guangdong, Sichuan, Shaanxi and Inner Mongolia, Father Rodrigues also coordinated the construction of sewage networks, water collection stations, power supply facilities, several schools, clinics and hospital. These programmes continued and extended to donating medical equipment, training local doctors and nurses, construction of village bridges and roads in the remote areas of western provinces. These projects, supported by Fundação Oriente (Orient Foundation 東方基金會), were later handed over to the respective provincial governments.

### St. Pius X Music Academy

Father Rodrigues loved to sing. His most favourite hobby was music. He used to recount the story of how, on one occasion in his school days at the St. Joseph’s Seminary, he was facing expulsion due to some misdemeanor but luckily was saved by Father Guilherme Wilhelm Schmid (司馬榮神父), the choir director and music master, who insisted that young Rodrigues was too valuable a member of the choir to be dispensed with. The Seminary authorities eventually relented and he was allowed to continue his studies.

Father Rodrigues possessed a rich, resonant bass voice and a gift for mimicry. He enjoyed entertaining his friends with a multilingual impromptu song recital, often accompanying himself on the guitar. In 1950-1951, he was in-charge of the St. Cecilia’s Choir in the St. Joseph’s Seminary, and he himself became one of the founding members of the Polyphonic Choir established by Father Áureo Castro (區師達神父) in 1959. Father Rodrigues also played the double-bass in the Seminary orchestra, and composed several

musicals that have been compiled in the collection of 《Music Exultate》《聖樂滿城》 published by the Catholic Diocese of Macao.

From 1 February 1991 until the last day of his life in June 2013 overseeing expansions in facilities and programs during a period of regional political change, Father Rodrigues was Director of the St. Pius X Music Academy (Academia de Música S. Pio X 聖庇護十世音樂學院). The Academy was founded in 1962 by the Portuguese priest and composer Father Áureo Castro, and operated by the Catholic Diocese of Macao to provide systematic instrumental and theoretical musical training to children and youth. Named after Pope St. Pius X, known for his reforms in sacred music through the 1903 Motu Proprio Tra le Sollecitudini, the academy emphasizes holistic education through music to foster creativity, coordination, self-esteem, and social skills while enriching Macao's cultural life. As the first institution in Macao dedicated to such structured musical formation, it has served the community for over half a century, offering courses in piano, violin, cello, and music theory, alongside performance opportunities, masterclasses, and competitions.

Since its establishment, the academy has grown significantly, relocating to its current premises at Rua da Praia do Bom Parto (西灣街) in 1995 after expansions in 1975. Its students have achieved notable success, including top placements in international music examinations and the Macao Young Musicians Competition (Concurso para Jovens Músicos de Macau), with many graduates advancing to tertiary studies in institutions across Asia, Europe, and North America, or pursuing professional careers while remaining active in music.

### Consular Service

Father Rodrigues had been representative of the consulates-in-Macao of the United States, United Kingdom, Australia and Canada, providing them with logistical and bureaucratic support in issuing visas.

### Honours

Rotarian The Reverend Lancelot Michael Rodrigues had been honoured with:

- (1) 1985 -- Comenda da Ordem do Mérito (Commander of the Order of Merit) conferred by President António Ramalho Eanes of the Portuguese Republic
- (2) 1990 -- Medalha de Mérito da Cruz Vermelha Portuguesa (Portuguese Red Cross Medal of Merit) conferred by Government of the Portuguese Republic
- (3) June 1992 – Appointed Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) by Queen Elizabeth II, United Kingdom
- (4) 1995 -- Oficial da Ordem do Infante D. Henrique (Officer of the Order of Prince Henry the Navigator) conferred by President Mário Soares of the Portuguese Republic
- (5) 14 May 2001 -- Member of the Order of Australia (AM) conferred by the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia
- (6) 25 November 2010 – Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*, conferred by the University of Macau, People's Republic of China.



## Conferment Ceremony 2010

Father Lancelote Miguel Rodrigues  
Doctor of Humanities *honoris causa*

### CITATION

Father Lancelote Miguel Rodrigues, of Portuguese descent, was born in Malacca, Malaysia, on 21 December 1923. The way he grew up was powerfully emblematic of the confluence of different cultures that is representative of Macao. Father Rodrigues received his primary education in English in Malacca. He then came to Macao in November 1935 to study theology at St. Joseph's Seminary. At the same time, he also studies Portuguese and Chinese. He was ordained priest on 6 December 1949.

Father Rodrigues is optimistic, caring and humanistic in temperament. He also excels in communication skills. He is fluent in Chinese, English, Malay, Portuguese and Patua (a type of Portuguese creole spoken in Malacca). Over the past 6 decades, Father Rodrigues has been a pivotal figure in the advancement of social services for Macao, the Mainland China and the international community. He contributed immensely to the well-being of people in many parts of the world.

Father Rodrigues is a household name in Macao for his dedication to the pastoral care and administrative jobs in the Macao diocese over many years. From 1949, he took up a number of pastoral posts in Church: parochial vicar of Parish Santo Antonio, choir conductor of the Chapel of Santa Cecilia in St. Joseph's Seminary and pastor of the parish of Santo Antonio.

Father Rodrigues is appreciated for the tremendous work he did over the past 40 years for the hundreds of thousands of refugees that fled to Macao. From 1949 to 1965, he was responsible for the resettlement of the Portuguese refugees who fled from Shanghai to Macao by providing them pastoral and social services. He also arranged for them to be resettled overseas. Over the next thirty years from 1960 to 1980, Father Rodrigues constantly offered these services for the refugees from various countries including Burma, Indonesia, Malaysia, Laos, Cambodia and East Timor.

In 1954, Father Rodrigues was the Macao Diocese delegate of Catholic Relief Services which was a non-government organization (NGO). He became its Director in 1962 and was appointed concurrently Director of the Secretariat of Social Services of the Macao Diocese. During his time with Catholic Relief Services, he obtained substantial financial aid for his cause of the advancement of social welfare for Macao. He carried out a diversity of projects including construction of

residential buildings, kindergarten, clinics and the community centers, and provision of food via Red Cross and Mothers Work to about 95 thousand poor people and 26 thousand school children.

In 1977, Father Rodrigues was appointed representative of Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees---UNHCR in Macao. Between 1977 and 1991, he gave help to 8,644 Vietnamese boat people in Macao and he administered and monitored their resettlement to other parts of the world.

Apart from helping out the refugees, Father Rodrigues also did immense work for the disadvantaged minority. He started his social services work in China in 1985 under the assistance of the international organizations and the Chinese government. He ran workshops there to give counselling to the parents, nurses and teachers on how to take care of the physically handicapped. He was widely present in Zhuhai, the Northeastern Region, Inner Mongolia and other places in China. The many social welfare projects Father Rodrigues carried out in the Mainland China included the building of bridges, kindergarten and schools, medical centers, hospitals and the installation of sanitation facilities. He was also involved in such activities as providing education programs for the Chinese Catholic nuns and training projects of the nursing and caring for the leprosy and AIDS patients.

Today, Father Rodrigues is still contributing himself as tirelessly as ever to the social welfare of our community. At the same time, he is also serving as consular representatives of the US, Canada and Australia in Macao.

Also noted are his significant contributions to the music education of Macao. In 1993, he was named Director of the S. Pio X Academy of Music, and this is the position he is still holding today. He has spared no effort over the years in giving his support for the promotion of the music education of Macao. His accomplishments in this area are highly regarded by local and international musicians and music teachers.

Outstanding social and pastoral contributions aside, Father Rodrigues's achievements were also impressive on the diplomatic front as attested to by the honors he was conferred upon. He was awarded Order of Merit (in degree of Commander) in 1985 granted by the President of Portugal; Order of St. John of Jerusalem in 1986; Medal of Merit of Portuguese Red Cross in 1990; Order of the British Empire in 1992; Order of Infante D. Henry granted by the President of Portugal in 1995, and Order of Australia granted by the Australian Government in 2001.

The Honorary Degrees and Honorary Titles Committee of the University of Macau proposed to the Chancellor Dr. Chui Sai-On the award of the local highest academic title to Father Rodrigues---the honorary doctoral degree, *honoris causa*, of Humanities. The Chancellor approved the proposed conferment.

The University of Macau is proud to have with us someone like Father Rodrigues who stands tall in his rich repertoire of distinguished accomplishments in his social services.

Father Lancelote Miguel Rodrigues, Welcome on board!

Citation delivered by Professor Alan Norman Baxter, University of Macau


 The Rotary Club of Macau and The Catholic Social Services Bring You  
 澳門扶輪社聯同天主教服務中心為您獻上

The Blind Aid Charity Concert '97 with International Artists  
 國際群星  
 助盲行動慈善音樂會 '97  
 "Blind Aid" Concerto de Caridade com a Actuação de Cantores Internacionais

Hora: 19:30hr  
 Local: Estádio de Macau, Taipa  
 Data: 13 de Dezembro de 1997  
 時間：晚上七時半  
 地點：澳門運動場·氹仔  
 日期：12月13日1997  
 Time: 19:30pm  
 Venue: Macau Stadium, Taipa  
 Date: 13 December 1997

 JOSE FELICIANO  
 陳慧琳  
 BAGATELLE  
 許誠讓  
 李永平  
 DRY  
 MANGO GROOVE

Organised by:   Produced by: 

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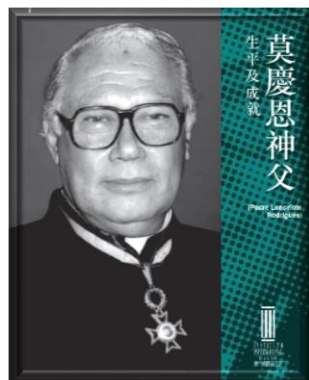


1997年11月30日—莫慶恩神父在澳門扶輪社主辦的助盲行動慈善晚宴上獻唱。

30 November 1997 -- Father Lancelot Michael Rodrigues singing at the Blind Aid Gala Charity Dinner hosted by the Rotary Club of Macau



## 「難民守護者」莫慶恩神父 -- 澳門扶輪社榮譽社員



莫慶恩神父 (The Reverend Dr. Lancelot Michael Rodrigues / Padre Lancelote Miguel Rodrigues, AM, OIH, MBE, MMCP, ComM, *HonDHum (Macau)*) (1923 年 12 月 21 日 – 2013 年 6 月 17 日)，據稱他是葡萄牙裔愛爾蘭父親和馬來裔荷蘭母親的十三名兒子之一，1923 年 12 月 21 日出生於大英帝國馬來聯邦馬六甲 (Malacca, Federated Malay States)。他出生時為英國公民，後來在葡屬澳門永久定居，入籍葡萄牙。他的成長經驗，充分體現了澳門多元文化的交融。莫慶恩在馬六甲接受了英語小學教育，1935 年 11 月來到澳門，在聖若瑟修院 (Seminário de São José) 學習神學和哲學，同時學習葡萄牙語和華語。他於 1949 年 10 月 6 日在澳門晉鐸。

莫慶恩神父溝通能力卓越，精通中文、英文、馬來語、葡萄牙語和帕圖阿語 (一種在馬六甲使用的土生葡萄牙裔語言)。數十年來，莫神父一直是推動澳門、中國內地甚至國際社會人道服務發展的關鍵人物。他為世界各地人民的福祉，做出了巨大貢獻。

莫慶恩神父，國際上恭稱為「難民守護者」，一生致力於廣泛的人道主義工作，在澳門家喻戶曉：

- 難民危機 (1940 年代至 1960 年代)：晉鐸後，立即被任命為接待來自上海約一千名的葡萄牙裔難民的負責人。在接下來的 16 年中，他協助約兩千人重新安置到美國、巴西和澳洲等國家。
- 天主教救濟會：他曾任天主教救濟會在澳門的代表，越南難民危機期間幫助「船民」尋找工作、提供醫療服務。
- 募款：他以廣泛的人脈網絡而聞名，據報道，他從美國籌集了約九千萬美元，用於人道主義援助。
- 牧會：他長期在澳門聖安多尼堂/花王堂擔任神父，以講道簡短精煉、鼓勵信眾出席而著稱。

莫慶恩神父自 1995 年 9 月 21 日起至 2013 年 6 月 17 日逝世之日，一直榮任澳門扶輪社 (Rotary Club of Macau) 榮譽社員。



在澳門曾有一位溫和卻堅毅的人物，默默為無數漂泊者帶來希望——他就是莫慶恩神父。自 1949 年晉鐸為神父，他成為澳門這小城中一位溫暖的守護者。

上世紀自四十年代起，戰火與政局動盪不斷。第二次世界大戰爆發後，因葡萄牙宣布中立，因此大批難民自中華民國及英國殖民地香港湧入由葡萄牙管理的澳門，澳門成為無數難民的避風港。

1949 年，莫神父被委任為上海葡萄牙僑民專職司鐸、聖安多尼堂助理司鐸，自此展開在澳門長達數十年的服務生涯。

自 1950 年代起，致力於援助湧入澳門的難民。1954 年擔任美國天主教福利會(Catholic Relief Services)的澳門教區代表，1962 年起擔任澳門天主教福利會(Catholic Social Services)主任，同時獲委為澳門教區社會福利服務秘書處主任。他致力推動澳門社會及國際社會災民和難民救助事業，包括逃離內戰的上海葡裔、文化大革命期間的難民，以及 1970 至 80 年代的越南船民。在莫神父推動下，澳門教區社會福利服務秘書處成為國際明愛一員。除了為難民提供牧民和社會服務、尋找棲身之所外，還幫助大約兩千名上海葡僑移居美國、巴西、澳洲和安哥拉等地。

1977 年，莫神父被任命為聯合國難民署駐澳門代表，安置及救濟越南難民。十四年間，莫神父共服務過八千六百多名越南難民，並替他們解決移居外地的問題。

面對一批又一批湧入的流離者，莫慶恩神父始終站在最前線。他奔走於國際組織、政府與社會之間，為無依無靠的家庭尋覓安身之所，更花上無數時光陪伴他們。數以萬計的人，正因他的努力與堅持，重新找到了歸屬與希望。莫神父會彈結他，也喜歡唱歌，總能在最困難的時刻營造正向與歡樂的氛圍。或許正因如此，他給難民帶來的不只是物質的幫助，更分享了耶穌基督的愛與希望。

莫神父還幫助其他弱勢群體，開展大量工作。早年籌資修建青洲一帶的石屋租予貧苦人士，並向九萬五千多窮困民眾及兩萬六千多學校兒童提供食品。1985 年起莫神父開展中國內地的服務，在偏遠地區興建學校、設立醫療所，修築橋樑和蓄水池，以及為痲瘋病和愛滋病患者的復康工作提供協助。

1993 年起，莫神父兼任天主教澳門教區轄下之聖庇護十世音樂學院(Academia de Música S. Pio X)院長，對推廣澳門的音樂教育不遺餘力，鞠躬盡瘁。學院於 1962 年創立，六十年來，學院已為數以千計的青少年提供音樂培訓。

2013 年 6 月 17 日莫慶恩神父因心肺衰竭在澳門仁伯爵綜合醫院(Hospital Conde S. Januário)逝世，安息主懷，享年 89 歲。澳門教區於 6 月 22 日在主教座堂為莫神父舉行安息大禮彌撒，隨即奉柩安葬於聖味基舊西洋墳場(Cemitério de São Miguel Arcanjo)。

莫慶恩神父懂得享受人生，他喜愛音樂和美食。他彈結他、低音提琴、鋼琴和電子琴，亦喜歡唱歌、抽煙和美酒。他天生樂觀和外向，也是一個充滿人情味和寬容的人，永遠都能夠營造出歡樂的氣氛。他曾主張教會應學習賭場的「公關態度」，主動走入群眾而非與人隔絕。他從來都不計較別人的信仰，和任何人都能成為好朋友。他屬於那一代令澳門引以為榮、令澳門和天主教會在本地區發揚光大的神父。

澳門國際研究所(Instituto Internacional de Macau, IIM)曾出版《莫慶恩神父一生平及成就》一書(Leonor Diaz de Seabra 著)，詳細紀錄其一生的傳奇故事與對社會的影響。



## 榮譽

莫神父為澳門、內地及國際社會的福利工作，作出卓越的貢獻，獲得了多項榮譽：

- (1)1985 年 -- 葡萄牙共和國總統埃亞內斯授予慈善民事功績司令級勳章 (Comenda da Ordem do Mérito, ComM)
- (2)1990 年 -- 葡萄牙共和國政府授予葡萄牙紅十字會功績勳章 (Medalha de Mérito da Cruz Vermelha Portuguesa, MMCP)
- (3)1992 年 6 月-- 英國女王伊莉莎白二世授予大英帝國最優秀員佐勳章(Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, MBE)
- (4)1995 年 -- 葡萄牙共和國總統蘇亞雷斯授予般皇子高級官佐勳章 (Oficial da Ordem do Infante D. Henrique, OIH)
- (5)2001 年 5 月 14 日 -- 澳洲聯邦政府授予澳大利亞勳章員佐勳位 (Member of the Order of Australia, AM)
- (6)2010 年 11 月 25 日 -- 中華人民共和國澳門大學授予人文學榮譽博士學位 (讚辭見下頁)



## 澳門大學 讚辭 人文學榮譽博士莫慶恩神父

莫慶恩神父，葡萄牙裔，1923年12月21日出生於馬來西亞馬六甲。他身上生動的體現了澳門不同文化交融的特點。莫慶恩神父在馬六甲接受英文小學教育，1935年11月來到澳門，就讀澳門聖若瑟修院，在修讀神學的同時，還學習葡語和漢語。1949年10月6日晉鐸。

莫慶恩神父開朗樂觀，寬厚仁愛，並十分善於交流。他通曉漢語、英語、馬來語、葡語以及馬六甲葡語方言（Patuá）。六十年來，在澳門、中國內地及全世界的社會服務事業中發揮了不可替代的作用，為世界眾多地區的人民帶來了福祉。

多年來，莫神父在澳門教區從事牧民與行政工作，他的名字已深入人心。從1949年起，擔任過聖安多尼堂區助理司鐸，聖若瑟修院聖則濟利亞複音歌詠團指揮，安多尼堂區代區長、司鐸。

四十多年間，莫神父為成千上萬流離澳門的難民做了大量工作，因而廣受讚譽。從1949年到1965年，他負責安置從上海來澳門的葡萄牙難民，為其提供牧民和社會服務，並安排移民到其他國家，為這些難民找到了棲身之所。在其後的三十年裏（1960-1980），莫神父周而復始的為來自其他國家的難民提供了同樣的協助，包括來自緬甸、印尼、馬來西亞、老撾、柬埔寨、東帝汶等地的難民。

1954年，莫神父任非政府組織“天主教救濟會”的澳門教區代表，1962年任該會會長，同時被任命為澳門教區福利服務秘書處主任。在擔任“天主教救濟會”的職務期間，為推動澳門的社會工作謀得了大量資助，開展的項目包括修建房屋、幼兒園、診所、社區中心，以及通過紅十字會及母親會向九萬五千多窮困民衆及兩萬六千多學校兒童提供食品。

1977年，莫神父被任命為聯合國難民署駐澳門代表。1977年至1991年，莫神父協助了澳門的8,664名越南難民，負責組織並監督將他們重新安置到世界各地。

除為難民提供協助外，莫神父還為幫助其他弱勢群體開展了大量工作。1985年，他在國際組織和中國政府的幫助下，開始在中國內地開展行動，組織了輔導父

母、護士、教師照顧殘疾人的工作坊。他的足跡遍及珠海、東北地區、內蒙古以及中國內地其他地方。莫神父在內地組織開展了眾多社會福利項目，包括修建橋樑、幼兒園、學校、衛生設施、醫療站和醫院，還參與了修女輔導以及照料麻風病和艾滋病病人的培訓。

如今，莫神父仍然不懈地為社會福利工作貢獻力量，同時還擔任美國、加拿大、澳大利亞駐澳門領事代表的職務。

值得一提的是，莫神父還為澳門音樂教育作出了重要貢獻。1993年，被任命為聖庇護十世音樂學院院長，至今一直擔任這一職務。多年來，他不遺餘力的支持並推動澳門的音樂教育，其成就為澳門及國際音樂家及音樂教師所認可。

莫神父為社會及牧民服務做出了傑出貢獻，同時在外交領域也取得了不凡成就，為此獲得了許多榮譽，包括1985年葡萄牙總統授予的功績勳章（司令級）、1986年耶路撒冷聖若奧勳章、1990年葡萄牙紅十字功績獎章、1992年英帝國勳章、1995年葡萄牙總統授予的“唐·恩里克王子勳章”、2001年澳大利亞政府頒發的澳大利亞勳章等。

澳門大學榮譽學位及榮譽名銜委員會，向大學校監崔世安博士提議授予莫神父本地區最高的學術榮譽——人文學榮譽博士，該建議得到了校監的批准。

能夠迎來這樣一位在社會服務領域有著不凡建樹的卓越人物，澳門大學感到十分驕傲與自豪。

莫慶恩神父

Fr. Lancelote Miguel Rodrigues

