



January 2013  
Winter Edition

# Ontario Maryknollers

Official Newsletter of Maryknoll Convent Former Students (Ont.)

## Committee Members

2012 ~ 2014

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Jacqueline Lam Fong

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## Message from the President

Jacqueline Fong

**O**n behalf of our committee,  
Wishing you the year of the **snake** brings  
**peace, happiness and good fortune**  
to you and your loved ones.



## TRAILBLAZERS IN HABITS

Please join us for an exciting fundraising event – the first Toronto screening of the *Trailblazers in Habit*, a documentary commemorating the Centenary of the Maryknoll Sisters, directed by Maryknoll alumna Nancy Tong, renowned award winner of *In the Name of the Emperor*.

The screening will be at the Centre of Creative Learning at Crescent School on Bayview Avenue, a state-of-the-art theatre that seats 350. We will begin the afternoon with a networking reception at 3 p.m. followed by the screening at 4 p.m. We are expecting both Sister Jeanne Houlihan and Nancy Tong to join us for this exciting event. After the event, those interested are invited to join us for dinner across the street at the Granite Club.

*Trailblazers in Habits* is about the American nuns who arrived in Hong Kong in 1922 by steamer to begin a mission to serve the people of Hong Kong during an era when life was very difficult for the majority of people in Hong Kong.

The Maryknoll Sisters made remarkable contributions to the development of Hong Kong in the 1950's and 1960's. With very limited resources, they established six schools and a hospital. They committed themselves to education and healthcare and basically laid the foundation of Hong Kong's social welfare system.

Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital was the only major medical facility serving refugees in Hong Kong's needy Wong Tai Sin area. Many Sisters worked as physicians and surgeons, as well as nurses, laboratory technicians and pharmacists. Quite a few mastered local dialects to better serve patients and their families. The Maryknoll Sisters oversaw the building of stone houses in place of fire-prone wooden shanties and taught women skills they could use to support their families. All these remarkable contributions of the Maryknoll Sisters have been documented in *Trailblazers in Habits*.

These Maryknoll Sisters are now retired and have returned to the Maryknoll Sisters' residential care facility in Ossining, New York. As the residential care facility is very much in need of funding, your Alumni Association is hoping to raise funds to support the facility through the showing of *Trail-*

**blazers in Habits.** The film is about 90 minutes long and was first screened in New York City in October 2012 raising \$155,000 for the Sisters. Let's make our showing just as successful!

Place: Centre of Creative Learning, Crescent School, 2365 Bayview Ave., Toronto

Date: Saturday, April 6, 2013

Time: Reception: 3 p.m.

Film: 4 p.m.

Ticket: \$80.00

Parking: Free parking available on first come first serve basis.

Dinner following the screening: Granite Club (at an additional cost). Please reserve a seat with your committee.

## Christmas Letter from Sr. Jeanne

December 2012



As Advent heralds the Christmas Season, I think of all the places of conflict throughout the world, of the sufferings of women and children, who have lost husbands and fathers, and husbands who have lost wives and children who have lost mothers and fathers to war; of the devastation that Hurricane Sandy brought to families on the east coast. New Jersey was the worse with flooding and destruction of homes. I do not see how the Governor nor the Mayor of New York will be able to house the people. We long for peace and it must begin with each of us. The song "Let there be peace" must be put into action to rid ourselves of racial hatred, religious bigotry, indifference and intolerance.

This year our annual bazaar was joined with International Festival for our Centennial Year. Our booths featured items from all of our missions. The Festival included origami, international dances, face painting, and learning about the countries that we serve in. Haiti, our newest mission, drew many happy buyers. Maryknoll Coffee Cake, Sticky Buns and all the cookies, including Russian tea cakes, oatmeal and chocolate chip were sold out by 11:30 a.m. Lemon poppy seed, carrot cake, banana bread, Italian plum cake and apple cake sold very well. Of Italian plum cake that didn't sell the Sisters had for supper two nights later. One of the big differences of this bazaar was the former students of MCS and MSS who manned the booths and cash registers. They were excellent sellers. **We could not have done it without them.**

One aspect of my ministry here is writing letters, not form letters, to our donors asking for prayers or questions or interest in a particular sister. Sometimes there are complaints or misunderstandings. I write these letters which are challenging but also a blessing.

Once a year I return to St Louis to visit my family – four sisters, from 93-79 years old. In a big family there is always something happening. Weddings are a plus as we see nephews, nieces and grand nephews-nieces, cousins and friends. This year Joan, my youngest sister, lost her beloved Bob. My nephew Terry was diagnosed with ALS. What God calls each of us in each happening are both mysterious and a blessing. Suffering unites us with our beloved God.

"There is a different light in us all. We're born with it. When we release it within us, all the lights in the world around us shine even brighter themselves." Joan Chittister OBM

Let your light be a beacon for all to see in this Christmas Season and in the New Year.

Love and prayers,  
Sister Jeanne

# Bazaar at Ossining

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There are more pictures of the Bazaar on our website [www.mcsontario.org](http://www.mcsontario.org), taken by Michelle Man (MCS, class of 91) as well as a video done by Victoria Ng, a freelance videographer/editor now based in New York City after graduated from the Media Studies Masters Program at New School in 2012. Victoria is the daughter of Alexandra Ngan (MCS, class of 72) and Sandy Ng (Wah Yan Kowloon, class of 67) of Toronto

## A MEANINGFUL, FUN AND EVENTFUL TRIP TO THE MOTHERHOUSE to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Maryknoll

*Contributor: Nora Man, Class of 1966*

On an early October morning, 13 Maryknoll alumnae in Toronto gathered at Mill St. near York Mills Station waiting eagerly for our chartered coach to arrive. The coach came half an hour late, but no one was too bothered because we were all excited to go on this trip to Maryknoll Sisters' motherhouse in Ossining in New York State. The coach still had to pick up a member in Mississauga.

When we arrived at the pick up point, the driver told us that the tires were leaking and he had to find someone to change or fix them. It was another 30 minutes delay. We waited patiently and by then we were very well acquainted as we chatted and started to knit scarves. Nancy and Nena taught us how to knit them. Nena brought lots of yarn with different colours for us to choose.

When we arrived at the bridge to cross the border, the driver suddenly exclaimed that he took his wife's passport instead of his. It was a real blow to our high spirits. We thought our trip might have to be further delayed. Fortunately, the US immigration officers were kind enough to let him pass when he could show his driver's license and his company's employee card.

The driver tried to make up time and we arrived at the hotel before it was dark. After checking in, we enjoyed a very nice seafood dinner at a nearby restaurant.

The next day we went to the motherhouse early in the morning. The sisters were very happy to meet us at the entrance. The buildings there were very beautifully built, similar to our school in Hong Kong but were in a much larger scale.

The first thing we did was to present a cheque to the sisters, which was a donation from the Maryknollers in Toronto. A representative from M.S.S. also did the same thing. We then met with Sr. Jeanne who gave each of us a specific duty for the bazaar day.

We spent the whole day preparing for the bazaar. We were assigned the Christmas Room and we displayed all the Christmas decorations, nativity scenes from different countries and figurines so that people would be attracted to buy them. After a whole day's work, we were pleased with the set up though we were pretty tired.

On the day of the bazaar, we arrived at 9 a.m. The bazaar was opened at 10 and from then on, we were all very busy with our duties. Some people were selling goods, some collected money, and some did the wrapping. Others had to work at the canteen, while some had to man the photo booth and children's activity tent. There were lots of visitors and we managed to sell about 80% of the Christmas items.

After cleaning up, we had to say good-bye to the sisters. We took some pictures before we left. This was a very meaningful visit because we were part of the celebration of Maryknoll's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Though what we did was only a small part, we felt that we really shared the Maryknoll spirit. We were happy seeing the happy faces of the sisters. Some sisters were too fragile to come down from their rooms, but we were able to visit them in their rooms. They had given us a good education and we appreciate the work they have done for us. This visit is only a small way to express our gratitude to them.

We planned to go to Manhattan the next day and to stay there overnight. However we had to make a decision whether we wanted to stay or go back to Toronto due to Hurricane Sandy. It was a really difficult decision!

After watching the news that New York City would close the airports by 5 p.m., subways by 7 p.m. and buses by 9 p.m., we unanimously decided to head back home. We managed to squeeze in a few hours of shopping time at Woodbury Commons and stayed overnight in Rochester. The wind was becoming pretty strong even in northern part of New York State.

The following morning we went to Buffalo and stopped there for lunch and shopping. After arriving in Canada, we visited the lavender farm before we went home.

All in all, though the trip had to be cut short, we were happy that we covered all aspects as planned. It was really a meaningful, fun and eventful trip. On behalf of all the participants, I wish to thank Patricia Wu who spent so much time and effort in organizing it.



## Report of Biennial General Meeting

The **Biennial General Meeting**, was held on Friday, September 28, 2012 at 8:15 pm at The Westin Prince Toronto (Prince Hotel), attended by 55 members, preceded by dinner. New Membership Directories were distributed to those present. Jacqueline Fong, President, opened the meeting and reported that our membership has grown to over 260. Since the last BGM, 12 new members were recruited; 6 fund-raising functions and 11 Committee meetings were held, and 2 Academic Achievement Awards were given out. Cheques from fundraisers and donations received have been sent to Maryknoll Motherhouse on 3 separate occasions totaling US \$8693.61, in 2012. Major forthcoming events in the next two years include our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, and the

8<sup>th</sup> MCS Worldwide Reunion in Toronto. The Treasurer's Report was presented and the members were appreciative of the healthy financial situation maintained for the Alumni over all these years, with annual surpluses. Amendments to the by-laws were passed unanimously by those present.

The newly elected Committee with their specified roles are set out on page 1 of the newsletter



**A big WELCOME** to our 3 new members:

<i>Christina Hui</i>	Class of 1971
<i>Jenny Chan Woo</i>	1971 and
<i>Mary Wong</i>	1975

**8th MCS Worldwide Reunion  
and 30th Anniversary of  
MCS Former Students (Ont.) Inc.**  
August 1 - 3, 2014

**Pamela Wai Man Lam Weber**, class of 1978, passed away peacefully on August 14, 2012 in Toronto. She emigrated to Canada in 1989 and worked at the Royal Bank from 1992. She was hard working and well liked by her colleagues and friends. She is survived by her husband James, her father David and her sister Rita Lam

The late **Mrs Dolores Tai**, mother of Cecilia Tai (1968) was in all dignity and serenity received back by our Lord on 19 December, 2012 at her tender age of 89. She will always be remembered as a very religious, well-educated, humble, gentle and totally selfless lady, who had in her life been a blessing for all fortunate enough to have crossed her paths. In her Requiem Mass held at the Epiphany of Our Lord Church, one could again witness such human values clearly transcending to her children. She was a legendary lady and an exemplification of a true Christian who had developed important spiritual bonding with God and loved her family and friends so truly.

*May They Rest in Peace*

We are happy to report that arrangements for the venues of the events for the 3-day celebrations are being made. We have booked the Hyatt Hotel on King Street, downtown Toronto, for the Gala Dinner on Sunday, August 3, 2014. Limited number of rooms have been secured for those who would like to stay there for the 3 days, on a first come first serve basis. Tentatively the schedule is as follows:

Friday, Aug 1	(optional) Niagara Falls and winery tours
Sat, Aug. 2	registration, cocktail reception at the Royal Ontario Museum
Sun. Aug. 3	morning Mass, evening Gala Dinner at Hyatt

Please mark these dates on your calendar. Detailed information will be available in the next few months. Registration will commence in summer 2013.

For further information or questions, please contact us at:

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