



December 2018

Winter Edition

Ontario Maryknollers

Official Newsletter of Maryknoll Convent Former Students (Ont.)

2018 - 2020

COMMITTEE

Christmas Message from Sr. Jeanne



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Wendy Man

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Jacqueline Fong

Lily Wong Yeung

Newsletter

Gertrude Chan

Maria-Elena Prata

Noronha

Activities

Linda da Rocha Little

Irena Legay

Website Administrator

Gertrude Chan

Website Address

www.mcsontario.org

E-mail Address

contactus@mcsontario.org

Dear Maryknollers

The Christmas crib : How many times have we stopped and prayed, "thank you, Jesus, Mary and Joseph" ? Or, perhaps you just stood and wondered of how great the moment is, was. God-man lives with us. We realize the mystery of each person is before us. It is time to stop and ask one self "who am I?" I am not the tall/short, fat/thin, the lawyer/doctor, the mother/father, child / adult, introvert/extrovert, young/old. These are the externals, which are part of our personality, but staying with this question I move deeper into the mystery. "I am the image of God, and as Thomas Merton said, Love is the reason for my existence. Love is my true identity." God is love so I am love. Rest there and be with the mystery of who God is and who I am. In the distance I hear the cry of a baby. Reality steps in and another moment/ another day/ another year is filled with other moments all crying out to LOVE the other.

The death of Joan and Pat this year and the deaths of others in past years sharpens and refocuses God's love for all of us. The reign of God is.

This year we had a record number of guests so our dining room and bedrooms were full. Somehow everyone was made welcome and comfortable. I received a card that said "don't build the wall, make a bigger table." The words resonated with our foundress, Mother Mary Joseph, who gifted each Maryknoll Sister with hospitality. There is always room in the inn.

The Holy Season beckons us to gratitude for our family, relatives and friends. You will be remembered in our Christmas Novena and I pray you remember me in your prayers.

Love and prayers,

Sister Jeanne Haulihan

Message from our President

Dear Fellow Maryknollers,

On behalf of the 2018 - 2020 committee, I wish you and your loved ones **Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.**

2018 went by like a breeze. We had a wonderful Spring Networking dinner with our alumni member, Dr. Anna Victoria Wong, presenting about the services that the Chinese Family Services of Ontario provides to new Chinese immigrants and those families in need. Later in September, a group of 19 MCS and MSS girls went to Ossining, New York, to celebrate with Sister Earnest Chung and 7 other Sisters who served in the Maryknoll Sisters for 50 years. And we wrapped up our year with our Biennial General Meeting at Shangri-La Banquet and Convention Centre in October. There are **2 new committee members** joining us this term. They are **Maria-Elena Prata Noronha** of Class 1960 and **Katy Ho Lang** of Class 1973. I am very grateful that our committee grows to 13 members with all the girls who have the heart to serve our fellow members.

I am humbled to be elected by the committee to be the President of this term again. Thank you for your support.

2019 will mark our alumni's 35th anniversary. We are planning to have a Bingo day in the Spring and a 35th anniversary dinner and dance in the Fall. Since the last Worldwide Reunion in Toronto in 2014, we did not run any fund-raising for our dear sisters at the Motherhouse. We will use our 35th anniversary dinner and dance as a fundraiser to help raise funds for our sisters' needs. Please mark your calendar for our anniversary celebration and come and join us for an unforgettable evening.

Christmas is a celebration of life, hope and the love of God. Let's share our love and joy with our loved ones and those who are in need. Wish you and your family a warm and joyous holiday.

With warmest regards,

Wendy Man

Motherhouse Trip Report

Wendy Man

On September 14, a group of 19 MCS and MSS girls hopped on a coach bus and headed south to Ossining, NY. Our group consists of Maryknollers graduated from 1953 to 1992, a span of almost 40 years. During our bus trip, our past president, Jacqueline Fong, served us breakfast like tea egg (made by Ludia Fong), egg roll, fancy cookies and water, and most importantly, with her big smile. Her service is definitely better than that of Cathay Pacific. After 12 hours of traveling, we finished our day with a scrumptious Italian dinner by the side of The Hudson River.

Next morning, we went to Woodbury Commons and started our shopping spree. Most of us got some great deals. After a half-day shopping, we headed back to the



Motherhouse to set up the celebration dinner for Sister Earnest Chung. Our dear friend at New York, Mary Ng, ordered the Chinese buffet and celebration cake from Chinatown. She picked up and delivered the food all the way to the Motherhouse. Another NY alumnae, Annette Chan Norris, prepared some fruit plates for dessert. We invited the sisters and a Maryknoll Father who worked in Hong Kong at MCS, MSS and Maryknoll Fathers School to join our celebration. Our guests included Sister Jeanne Houlihan, Sister Theresa Leung, Sister Joan Delaney, Sister Earnest Chung and Sister Marilou, to name a few. Sister Earnest Chung also invited her family members to join her for dinner and celebration. Nena was the MC of the evening. We started with a short bio on Sister Earnest, followed by a speech delivered by me. In my speech, I thanked the Maryknoll Sisters and Fathers for their generosity towards the poor and the weak around the world. They went to

Hong Kong to spread God's love by caring the sick and nurturing and educating the young. The seeds they planted in our young hearts built us to be volunteers and philanthropists among our communities.

After the speech, we presented a cheque of over USD\$5,000 to Sister Rosalie. We, the Toronto Maryknollers, sold 1,080 raffle tickets to support the Maryknoll Sister's Fundraising Gala, that was held a week before we arrived. We are the group that sold the most raffle tickets for their Gala. And our dear friend and committee member, Lily Wong Yeung, won the \$5,000 grand prize. Lily was so generous that she donated the cheque back to the Maryknoll Sisters.

After dinner, we sang our school song and Sister Earnest cut her cake. We gave the sisters and fathers a little gift bag donated by different Maryknollers in Toronto. Lots of pictures were taken with the sisters and friends. We were all filled with our Maryknoll spirits. After the heavy meal, we all went out to have a walk around the Motherhouse.



On Sunday, we went to the Jubilee celebration mass for Sister Earnest Chung and 7 other sisters who served for 50 years in other missions around the world. During the mass, the sisters renewed their vows to serve the poor and the needy according to God's teaching. They also expressed their gratitude to the Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, their families and friends and God's love. In particular, I loved the song they sang during the mass. The song's name is "We are One". Although we have different looks, beliefs, cultural backgrounds and experiences, we all live on the same Earth and we are one.

Happy Memories

Biennial General Report

This year's Biennial General Meeting was held on Sunday, 28 October 2018 at the Shangri-La Convention Centre in Markham. Twenty-eight members attended, with thirteen proxies received. The meeting took place after a nice dim sum set lunch.

The meeting was conducted following the usual format set in our By-Law. Passing of the Minutes of the previous BGM held in 2016, as well as the Financial Statements for two fiscal years ending April 2018.

The Secretary Reported on the various spring and fall activities of the association for the years 2017/2018 which details were posted previously on our website.

The President also reported on a fun-filled bus trip to New York for Jubilee celebration for Sister Earnest Chung and a few other Sisters, with the highlight of a celebration Mass, lunch at and visit to, Motherhouse.

The trip included visits and shopping sprees to Tarrytown, Woodbury Commons and New York city.

The Committee remains open for members' suggestions for upcoming events for 2019 – 2020.

Nil application for our Academic Achievement Award for the past two years has been received.

In view of only minor changes to the Membership Directory, updates this year have been done in the form of Inserts. Members were reminded to keep the Committee up-to-date with their contact information.

Motion for the re-appointment of the same Auditors was passed unanimously. The existing Executive Committee, comprising of 11 members, was re-elected, together



Proud grandparents, **Ludia Au Fong** (71) and **Jeffrey Fong** have welcomed their first grand-child on September 5, 2018, born to Jacqueline Jane Fong and Adam Zukiewicz.

Alicja
Nga
Wai

Zukiewicz weighed 7 lb. 11 oz. at birth and already enjoys being the centre of attention.



The Happy Baby Dance can be viewed by clicking on the picture.

with two additional members, Maria-Elena Prata Noronha (returning member) and Katy Lang, by acclamation.

The group posed at the end of the meeting for our annual Christmas card photo for our beloved sisters at Motherhouse, together with a cheque of US\$5,000+.



40th Class Reunion

Henna Tai

Our **1978's** 40th Class Reunion was very successful, and I had so much fun at our dinner and also the school tour.

I was one of the lucky ones to have gone to Lower Kindergarten, Upper KG, primary school, and all the way to F. 7. It was so good to see my classmates from kindergarten, and many I have not seen for over 40 years! It has been especially wonderful to see our teachers.

I am truly blessed to have been taught, guided and enlightened by the Maryknoll Sisters and teachers (including you,

Ms. Chan 😊) who have filled me with not just knowledge but also confidence, integrity, compassion and love. I always proudly tell others that the most inspirational teachers who have helped shape me are from Maryknoll, and not from university. I am so glad I got to meet many of them again at this reunion.

I did a special painting for the 1979 class reunion, and they used it as the logo on the souvenirs :) All the teachers at the dinner were gifted the souvenir bags.

Click on the link below for more photos of our reunion and also a video of the dinner. You can see in the photo with us singing the school song, our MCs were wearing our old uniforms and they still fit!

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fcWusd4cINDQ5LaucbfNOctEBI-Rbrow/view?usp=sharing>





Ms Edith Fung Lin Wong - MCS teacher
1965 - 1996

She fought cancer courageously for 4 years before succumbing to it in Hong Kong on August 26, 2018 surrounding by her family and MCS former students. She is surely missed by all who knew her. May she rest in peace.

Enology

The production of the organizing committee of

Ms. Wong's Memorial Service

*Delivered on October 6, 2018 at
Maryknoll Convent School, Kowloon*

How would we remember Miss Wong?

A sincere, kind, compassionate, fair, humble, determined, passionate, fun-loving, versatile, open-minded, humorous, generous and grateful person? Yes, actually, ALL of the above.

For Maryknollers, she will always be remembered as a respected and well-loved teacher and friend. For colleagues, she will be remembered as a mentor, a popular senior that brought a strong sense of affinity and harmony to the Group. For her family, Miss Wong will always be remembered as a kind, hardworking and selfless big sister who had countless stories to tell. Her love of life and gratitude was most admirable amongst all her virtues and could be summarized by her repeated mentions of "I count my blessings and I am thankful to God for such a great prerogative" whilst her free and humorous spirit best captured by her remark "*Mo nei gum ho hey*" would stay in our hearts forever.

How many of you remember Miss Wong saying, "Now girls...." during your years at MCS? Indeed, she considered all the girls that she taught as her daughters. In her own words, "I have borne no child of my own, but I have daughters all over the world." She dedicated almost half of her life to teaching and nurturing Maryknoll students. Miss Wong embodies all the virtues that MCS holds dear and instills in its students.

Miss Wong was born in 1946 to a humble family and grew up with 4 other siblings whom she helped support in her youthful years after her father's passing. She began her studies with a Catholic primary school and ranked first in Yuen Long District in the Secondary School Entrance Examination. She then went to Hotung Secondary School and graduated from then Northcote College of Education. She was baptized and confirmed in 1965 before joining Maryknoll. Miss Wong worked under Sister Rose Duchesne, the Principal at the time for 7 years, followed by Sister Jeanne Houlihan and Mrs. Lydia Huang until after her retirement. She further attained a B.Sc. Degree in Psychology and Professional Studies in 1998.

As Miss Wong's major was in Physical Education at the College of Education, (something she often joked about was how she knew nothing else, but a well-executed somersault was what got her into this major), she was initially tasked with teaching all P.E. classes from Forms 1 to 5 at Maryknoll. Previously, P.E. was not offered as a full subject, so the amount of exercise by students at the school could be random and inconsistent. Miss Wong's aim was to introduce students to regular exercise for good health and have some fun along the way.

From working with simple hula hoops, tug-of-war type ropes and a few softball gloves and bats, step by step, and with a tight budget, she added folding mats, net balls, benches, pommel horse etc. ... to the sports inventory. Eventually, Maryknollers didn't just exercise for health; they excelled in sports and competed in Inter-School competitions. For the sake of promoting and strengthening internal sporting events, all students were divided into 4 'houses' that we know. Our students, all gems, grew to participate in swimming gala, track and field events, life-saving and ball games. Miss Wong's hard work led to the possibility of these sporting activities.

One would be mistaken to think that Miss Wong's teaching was confined in the area of Physical Education. The reality was she also taught Geography, Mathematics, Religious Studies and Chinese History as the years went by. On top of her teaching duties, she became a homeroom teacher in her second year at MCS which gave her more opportunities for close communication with her girls. She gained an understanding of various challenges faced by students ranging from academic, motivation issues to family or other socio-economic concerns. She approached all with patience, fairness, empathy and discernment. She was an anchor, a counsellor and an inspiration to many.

Another pioneering program that Miss Wong helped develop at Maryknoll was the Girl Guides and the Rangers programs. These groups had always maintained close connections amongst themselves with Miss Wong. Her selfless contribution in time and effort in these extra-curricular activities had helped promote leadership and community involvement amongst Maryknollers and had



borne great fruits.

Miss Wong had been a strong voice in support of an approach that embraced diversity while recognizing the uniqueness in all students and enabling them to develop their best potential.

Miss Wong retired and moved to Vancouver, Canada in the late 1990's. She stayed active by exercising and socializing with friends, some of whom are parents of Maryknollers that she got to know through her students over the years. Twice a week, Miss Wong practised basketball. She also kept abreast about the latest talk of the town by watching the Hong Kong news and TV episodes. Miss Wong had remained a very devoted Catholic. Saying the rosary was her daily ritual. She attended mass every Sunday without fail whether in Hong Kong or in Canada.

The past-time that she enjoyed most was corresponding with her Maryknoll family and meeting them when she had time. Miss Wong was warmly welcomed wherever she travelled. On her trips back to Hong Kong, Miss Wong was busier than most celebrities. Her calendar was often FULLY booked by her former students and teaching colleagues. Her memory was amazing and remembering names or anecdotes was her forte. She remembered because she genuinely cared. Gathering with Miss Wong were filled with laughter, love, and fond memories of a time when life was innocent and a bit simpler.

We thank Miss Wong for her dedication to education and especially to MCS.

We are grateful to her family for sharing her with us and for their understanding when she had spent more time with us than with them.

To home, to country to the world, Miss Wong truly gave her all.

We love you and we miss you.

We would like to dedicate a poem by Carolyn Brunelle to her memory.

I Fought The Good Fight

*Life is a matter of choices
made at every fork in the road,
and none made for an easy way
to carry or lighten the load.
But I've been strong,
carried on through the fog of life;
able to say
I fought the good fight,
did my very best,
triumphed over my fears
and laid them all to rest.
I've made my share of mistakes,
but by my choices I still stand,
for in all my chosen paths,
there's always been God's hand
reaching out to guide and comfort
in each and every day,
and in all my darkest hours,
that grace has shone the way.*

Miss Edith Wong Memorial Educational and Development Fund

In memory of Miss Edith Wong's contribution and love for Maryknoll since 1965, the Maryknoll Convent School Educational Trust has announced the setup of "**Miss Edith Wong Memorial Educational and Development Fund**".

The main objective of this fund is to provide educational and development support for the students, teachers and staff at MCS with the hope that Miss Wong's spirit and passion for MCS will be remembered and passed on.

Thank you for your generous support of this fund. As of today, Maryknoll Convent Former Students (Ont) Inc. has collected Can\$1025 for this fund and this amount will be converted to HK\$ and sent to MCS. Please use the form if you wish to contribute and send it to our mail box.

Name of contributor _____ Please print

Year in F. 5 _____

Address _____

Email address _____

Telephone No. (Home/mobile) _____

Amount enclosed (C\$/US\$) _____

Date _____

Signature _____

May They Rest in Peace



On November 27, 2018 (at about 12:30 p.m.) **Sr. Doretta Leonard** peacefully and gently went home to God at the Maryknoll Sisters Center. She was 93 years old and had been a Maryknoll Sister for 73 years. Two days earlier Sr. Doretta was anointed and during the days that followed, she was accompanied by Sisters in loving vigil.



Sr. Doretta was born Anne Therese Leonard in New York City on June 26, 1925. As a child she was affectionately called Nancy.

Sr. Doretta was raised in Queens and attended Bishop McDonald Memorial High School. After graduation, she taught at St. Joseph's School in Long Island for one year. She also attended Fordham University for a year and a half before entering Maryknoll in 1945. At her first profession on March 7, 1948 she was given the name of Sr. Mary Doretta. She was assigned to Wuchow, Southern China where she studied Cantonese for one year. In 1951 the Communist government placed Sr. Doretta and her companions under house arrest for six months and then expelled them from China into Hong Kong. In September 1951 she taught Kindergar-



Wing-Cheung (Paul) Tam, husband of Pearl Chan (MCS, 1963) and father of Michael.

Paul was born and grew up in Hong Kong. He loved to study. He attended HKU, graduating with a B.Sc. in 1970. He left Hong Kong for UBC, where he earned his Ph.D. in 1974. After that he went to Yale to do post doctoral research. Three years later, he accepted a post in the National Research Council in Ottawa. Not long after that, he applied for another post doc position in Toronto, and moved here in 1979. Paul and Pearl were married in 1980. He worked for the provincial government in various departments. In April 2008 he was diagnosed with Parkinson's, and retired a few months later. Paul died suddenly but peacefully on November 30, 2018, while on vacation with his family in Port Huron, Michigan. He was 70. May he rest in peace.

Betty Lam Navratil (MCS, 1958) passed away from Lung cancer on Aug. 13, 2018. A donation was made to the Motherhouse in her memory.

ten at Maryknoll Convent School in Kowloon, Hong Kong. In 1952, Sr. Doretta returned to doing her beloved Catechetical ministry at St. Teresa's Church in Kowloon, Hong Kong. Many of the MCS former students remember fondly of Sr. Doretta, especially the Kindergarteners who graduated in Form 5 in 1963.



Vespers service was held on Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018 at the Maryknoll Sisters Center. Mass of Christian Burial and internment followed on Friday, Nov. 30, 2018.

To read the Homily given by Fr. Jack Sullivan, please click here

Looking for Something to Read?

For those of you who are looking for a good book to read during the winter months, you might consider

"Of Ox and Unicorn" by Alan Joe.



This book is more than his own autobiography. It is about the moving experience of an immigrant from afar, of how he survived the Japanese occupation of China, the communist take-over and then the struggle for a better life as a new immigrant in Toronto in the 1950's. Dr. Alan Joe has donated two copies of the book to the Maryknoll Library in Ossining. Sister Jeanne was the first to finish it and has given the book much approval.

Juliana Shee Joe ('55), the wife of Dr. Joe, has offered the Toronto Maryknollers a special price of C\$20 for each copy. Please contact any committee member if you are interested.

Coming Activities

Your committee is working to bring you the following events in 2019. Please save the dates and more details will be coming your way in the New Year.

Sunday, May 5, 2019

Bingo Night

Saturday, September 7, 2019

Gala Dinner - Celebration of the 35th Anniversary of Maryknoll Convent Former Students (Ont) Inc.

10th Worldwide Reunion Date Change Announcement



The next WWR to be hosted by **MCS/MSS New York Alumnae Association** has been moved to **August 6 to August 8, 2021**. The date change is in support of FSA's 95th Anniversary celebration and the Maryknoll Sisters' epic fundraiser in 2020. Please mark the date on your calendar and join us in 2021 to renew our amazing bond and create more unique memorable moments.