

Ontario Maryknollers

Official Newsletter of Maryknoll Convent Former Students (Ont.)



Letter from the President

Dear Fellow Maryknollers,

Happy Thanksgiving! Did you count your blessings over the weekend? My family and I celebrated Thanksgiving with our extended family. My parents spent two days preparing a scrumptious dinner for a party of 20. We had a great family time.

On the Mid-Autumn Festival weekend, Patricia Wu and I drove to the Maryknoll Motherhouse in Ossining and attended the Fall Festival on Sunday. We brought two boxes of mooncakes to share with the Sisters and they enjoyed it. You can read about our adventure in the Motherhouse Trip Report in this newsletter.

Our alumni members were generous to purchase over 1,300 raffle tickets and raised USD\$6,800 for the benefit of the Sisters' care at the Motherhouse. The raffle ticket prizes were drawn at the end of the Fall Festival. This year, our group did not win any prizes.

Our association also sponsored a Trailblazer Brick for the benefit for the Sisters' Retirement Fund. It's USD\$1,000 for each brick sponsorship. If you are interested in supporting the Sisters through the Trailblazer Brick fundraising event, please contact any one of us in the committee and we will help facilitate that.



Thank you all for your generous support to the Sisters. Hope you will consider the Trailblazer Brick fundraising with your classmates or your family.

May God's blessings be with you and your family during this Thanksgiving season!

Sincerely,

Wendy Man

President

Wendy Man

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Winnie Wong Wong

Secretaries

Judy Tong

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Patricia Wu

Lily Wong Yeung

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Motherhouse Fall Festival Report

Thursday, September 28, 2023, Toronto, Sunny

Patricia Wu (Class of 1971) and I started our road trip to the Maryknoll Motherhouse in Ossining, NY. It was a sunny day in Toronto. We headed south in the morning with a truckload of donation items from Ms. Gertrude Chan and other Toronto Alumni members. I was excited to go to the Motherhouse and visit the Sisters after the 3-year COVID lockdown. After 9 hours of driving, we arrived at the Motherhouse. We were greeted by Sr. Rosalie Lacorte and Sr. Teresa Leung. Sr. Rosalie was the coordinator for the Fall Festival. She reserved the Chapel Suite for Pat and I to stay. Sr. Teresa shared her roast pork and asparagus with us as the kitchen closed at 6 p.m. every day. We were treated as honoured guests. ❤️

Friday, September 29, 2023, Ossining, Rainy

Rain came overnight and continued through the day. New York City experienced heavy rainfall and flash flooding. Lots of streets, subway stations, and houses got flooded. Ossining was also in the flash flooding zone. Because of the heavy rain, Sr. Rosalie and her team decided to move the Fall Festival to Sunday. We stayed in our room most of the day and unwrapped the donation items and set the item price. There were lots of Chinese figurines, souvenirs from Europe, Asia and North America, and new and lightly used houseware.



After lunch, we visited Sr. Teresa's room and she showed us her album with pictures of her, her family and her friends and co-workers at different times. She shared a lot of stories about her service in Hong Kong and the United States.

At 2 p.m., Sr. Jeanne Houlihan was wheeled down to our room so we could meet her. Sr. Jeanne was happy that we visited. Pat showed her pictures and stories of our last Toronto reunion. We shared some mooncakes with her to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival. After 4 p.m., the rain slowly stopped. Pat and I went to Sleepy Hollow and walked along the boardwalk beside Hudson River. We had a delicious seafood dinner before heading back to the Motherhouse to close the day.



Saturday, September 30, 2023, Ossining, Cloudy and light rain

In the morning, we brought the raffle ticket bank draft and the brick donation to Sr. Rosalie's office. Sr. Rosalie is the major donor officer at the Motherhouse. She organized fundraising events and liaised with the major donors.

The Toronto alumni members purchased 1,323 raffle tickets and raised USD\$6,800 for the benefit of the Sisters' care. We also presented another USD\$1,000 cheque for the Trailblazer Brick, which will benefit the Sisters' Retirement Fund. Another Toronto alumni member generously donated USD\$1,000 for another brick to honour the Maryknoll Sisters, who educated 2 generations in their family. Sr. Rosalie was grateful for our generosity.

Afterwards, we went back to our room, wrapped the sales items and boxed them so that it would be easier to move to the parking lot where the Fall Festival booths would be set up.

After packing, we went out with 2 other Maryknoll Convent alumni, Dr. Vivien Ng and Moira Richards Conzelman (Class of 1967), and Sr. Joanna Chan, to enjoy a Chinese dim sum lunch. During lunch, I told them that my mother graduated from MCS in the year of 1966. Later, we found out that Moira and my mother were classmates.



In the evening, we went out to a sushi restaurant with Sr. Teresa Leung to celebrate her 92nd birthday and Pat's birthday. The two birthday girls got a special cake from Anne Kong, Chair of the New York Alumni (Class of 1971), and Mary Ng (Class of 1974). We had a joyous evening together.



Sunday, October 1, 2023, Ossining, Sunny

Today was the big day, the Fall Festival. We were greeted by the bright sunshine through the window in the morning. After breakfast, we started to set up the booth for our sales table. Pat was thoughtful. She made a banner for our booth, which showed our school emblem and our Alumni name. And it's printed on the blue background, the same blue colour as our summer school uniform. All the items were displayed, and we were ready to start selling.

Families who finished attending the Sunday Mass and those from the neighbourhood started to show up. It was sunny and hot in the afternoon. There was music, inflatable play castle for kids, food vendors and baked goods from the Motherhouse kitchen. Some sisters also helped sell the donation items they received from different parts of the world, like Africa and South America. Other vendors sold their goods, like soaps, essential oil, etc.



After lunch, the caregivers pushed the Sisters from the 4th floor care unit to the fair to enjoy some fresh air. Sister Jeanne was happy to see all the crowd in the fairground. A group of Maryknollers from Class of 1980 showed up to say hi and took pictures with her. They pushed her over to our booth and we all took some pictures.



At the end of the day, we were able to sell over 40 items and raised over USD\$400 for the Sisters. After the festival ended, we packed all the unsold items and stored them at the Motherhouse for their next bazaar. Both Pat and I were exhausted, and we stayed another night at the Motherhouse.

Monday, October 2, 2023, Ossining, Sunny

After a restful night, we packed up and started heading back to Toronto in the morning. We had breakfast with Sr. Teresa Leung and said farewell to Vivien, Moira, Sr. Rosalie and Sr. Teresa before starting our journey. It took us 9 hours to head back home.

Our Motherhouse trip was a success. Thank you, Sisters, for your hospitality. It was an unforgettable trip.



On Oct 20th, Anne Kong, Chair of the New York MCS Alumni, hosted a surprise birthday party for Sister Teresa Leung. She drove to the Motherhouse and surprised her with a virtual birthday party. We had participants from Hong Kong, U.S. west coast and Toronto. She brought some red eggs and longevity noodles for her. And we all sang “Happy Birthday” song to her.



—MARYKNOLL—SISTERS—

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Ms Wendy Man, President and Memebers
Maryknoll Convent former Students (Ont.) Inc.

October 17, 2023

Dear Maryknollers and Friends,

On behalf of the Maryknoll Sisters, I would like to express our most sincere gratitude to you once again for your tremendous generosity and support of us. We are most grateful to you for helping to raise funds for the Fall Festival held at Maryknoll New York. This event was for the support of the Retired Sisters.

You have raised \$6,800.00 by selling over 1,300 raffle tickets. You have purchased a Brick for another \$1,000.00 and Wendy Man and Patricia drove down to New York to sell the Treasures donated by the families of Gertrude Chan and Lily Tse Choi for \$422.00, making a total of US \$8,222.00. They also gave us checks from other individuals. **THANK YOU! THANK YOU!** You are amazing as always.

Moreover, Wendy and Pat were working day and night beforehand and then managed the booth in the sun that day of the Festival. By the end of the day, they were completely exhausted. Thanks a million, Wendy and Pat for your overwhelming **LABOR OF LOVE!**

Please be assured that we hold you dearly in our hearts and in our prayers!

Yours most gratefully,

Sister Teresa Leung

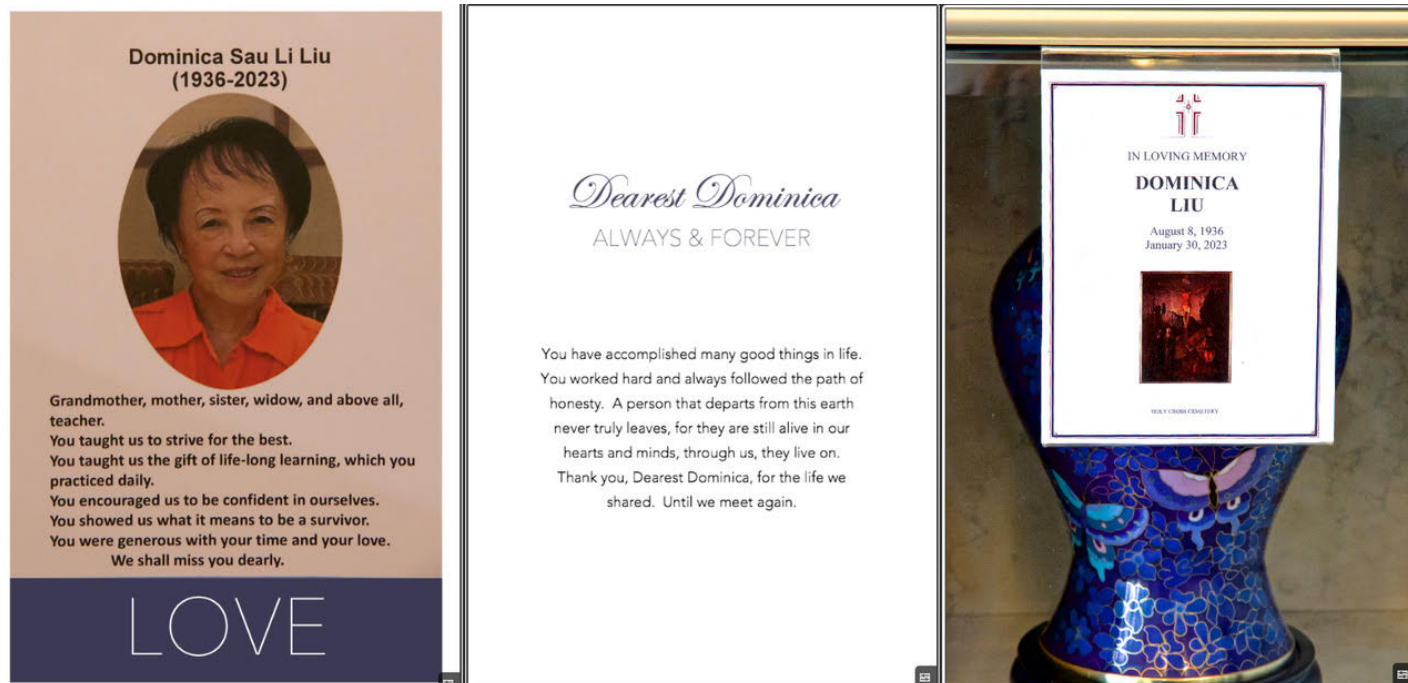
Sister Teresa Leung
Alumnae Liaison

Mini Reunion for Class of 1971



Class of 1971 held a mini reunion in Toronto at the end of September. Toronto was chosen as the meeting place because of our great selection of Chinese restaurants. Classmates and a few brave spouses flew and drove in from California, Oregon, Indiana, Illinois, New York to join the Toronto locals for 5 days of food festival ranging from congee, dim sum, Shanghaiese specialties, Hong Kong style café fare and of course, gourmet dining. Our days were spent in non-stop chatting, showing off photos of grandkids, karaoke singing, and of course eating. We remembered the classmate who left us and visited Pauline Shum in her final resting place. We celebrated the birthday of Lucy Mak, a very popular character of the Class of 1971 and we also hosted a dim sum lunch to honour our teachers: Mrs. Marie Louise Chang, Mrs. Marita Tang and also Ms. YY Luk. The reunion was fun and meaningful as we tried to accomplish everything we wanted to do and be thankful for. We vowed to meet more often while we are still able as we are all approaching our milestone age .





The Internment/Memorial Service for Mrs Dominica Liu took place on 17 June 2023 at the Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in Toronto. It was a close-group solemn ceremony organized by her son Dr Geoffrey Liu and family.

Dr. Liu's Eulogy reminded us of Mrs Liu's loving and gentle nature; a lifelong learner and survivor, with a spirit to always strive for the best!

Following are some Excerpts from Dr. Geoffrey Liu's Eulogy :

Born in Nanjing, moved to Hong Kong before the war,
with 6 siblings, and being 2nd, she took care of the younger ones.
She earned her degree in London University back in the 60's and became teacher.
Teaching was her passion. She taught kids in poor,
immigrant-rich, lower socio-economic Jane/Finch area, who scored high on MoH standardized Grade 3 tests.
She later started teaching English and Literature in MCS.

She had a renewed passion in music and learned to play the piano,
went on music vacations, took music appreciation,
music history courses. What a Lifelong learner - she was the epitome.

She travelled the world through 7 continents and captured it all in her 56 heavily-annotated photo albums.
She went on a Safari, boat tour in China, Danube, Russia, Czech Republic,
Western and Eastern Europe, Chile and South America, South Africa,
Australia and New Zealand, Egypt, the Holy Land pilgrimage, over 40 trips before and after her retirement.

Faith - Catholic first, Catholic last. Never wavered even in the face of biggest challenges.
This was part of who she was.

Thank you, Mrs Liu. Your overall teachings made a difference in our life !
You will be remembered dearly !