



St. Mary's Past Students' Association

NEWSLETTER ♦ October 2008

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Message from our Patron, Ms. Catherine Wong

Dear Alumnae,

2008 is a very special year! This is the year when we celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the Founding of the Canossian Institute as well as the 20th Anniversary of the Canonization of our Foundress, St. Magdalen of Canossa. I consider myself most privileged to have gone on a pilgrimage to Italy, with a few colleagues and friends, in an attempt to trace the footsteps of our Foundress.

If you have the chance, you must go and experience for yourself! Touch her relics, smell her scent, feel her presence and ponder upon her deeds! We were deeply moved by the stories told to us of our Foundress, and the care and services we



Ms. Wong at St. Magdalen's bedroom

received from the Canossian Sisters, who modelled to us the true Canossian spirit. We marveled at the wisdom and boldness of this little woman, the immensity and hugeness of the Mission, the diversity of the services offered, and in particular, the simplicity of life led by her and her followers. To give you an example, the very humble backpack that I had with me was even too big to fit into the tiny storage cubicle in the room once lived in by St. Magdalen!



Ms. Wong at the yard of the Mother House

We are a very blessed group of people to be living under her umbrella. St. Magdalen urged us to 'Make Jesus known and loved'. Please, get to know more of her and you'd naturally want to 'Make St. Magdalen known and loved' as well! God bless you all!

Yours sincerely,
Ms. Catherine Wong



Visit <http://www.smcc-canossian.org/200/smcppt.pdf>
to refresh your memory of the life of our Foundress St. Magdalen of Canossa.

Message from our Patron, Ms. Maria Cheung

Recently, a past student of the 90s visited me. Her first remark was, "Oh my goodness! My primary school has changed a lot!" "In what ways?" I responded. "The New Wing, the whole day school, the new subjects, the New Zealand English teacher and so forth, and so many new teachers, and you, Miss Cheung, became the headmistress!" she pointed out. "When I was a student here, we were not allowed to eat in the classrooms. Look, now students can have lunch in their classrooms!" I have to acknowledge that indeed, a lot of changes have taken place over the years.



Ms. Cheung enjoying a quiet moment on the playground

There are always changes in our lives. Since we started whole day school in 2003, our intention was to focus on the quality of learning. We believe that besides knowledge, the learning attitude and generic skills are equally important. We emphasize more on students' ownership of learning and self-learning abilities, which lead to life-long learning. Therefore group discussions, presentation, life wide learning programme, and collaborative learning are the various strategies introduced and practiced in teaching and learning.

Active participation and involvement of students is expected and encouraged. The learning process and approach adopted by students for learning are considered as important as the performance and learning outcome. Thus a learning portfolio is designed and kept by each student. Starting from primary four to primary six, project learning is compulsory in our curriculum, and assessment of each pupil's performance as well as participation is made. During these few years, co-planning of subject teachers is part of the teachers' duties after school.

With more attention paid to "through train" from primary to secondary and small class policy, more challenges and changes are expected. Changes can be innovative, resulting in improvement and development. There is no easy way, of course. Each and every one has to work hard to achieve the desired goal. We focus our changes on our school motto, "One heart and one way". This always reminds me of our Lord Jesus Christ, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life". The foundation of our changes is to follow His way so that our students will be enlightened in the truth and live a meaningful life. May Mary our Mother guide and protect us in our journey of continuous and indispensable changes.

Ms. Maria Cheung
Principal, SMCS

Upcoming PSA Events

2009 Annual General Meeting & Annual Dinner

The next Annual General Meeting is tentatively scheduled on **7 March 2009 (Sat)**, to be followed by our annual dinner. We're planning to have a BBQ gathering and are currently working out the logistics. (It will be an off-campus event though as the school playground is not available this time.) Please mark your diaries and more information will be available in the next issue of newsletter.

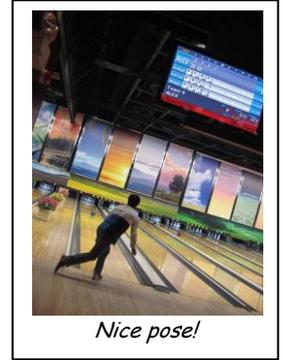
110th Anniversary Dinner in 2010

Our Alma Mater will be 110 years old in 2010! To commemorate the occasion, the PSA will be organizing a Celebration Dinner in **November 2010**. Please mark your diaries now especially for those who are overseas. We're very much looking forward to seeing you in Hong Kong.

More information will be available in the next issue of newsletter, so stay tuned!

PSA News – Bowling Party

Itchy fingers shared a noisy Saturday afternoon on 8 March 2008 when we gathered at the Hong Kong Bowling City at the Hong Kong International Convention Centre in Kowloon Bay for the 2008 Alumnae Day. We were also happily joined by our special guest Ms Katherine Hauw, chairlady of the St. Mary's Canossian College Alumni Association (Toronto), who was visiting Hong Kong during that time.



Nice pose!



Awards for various winners

Taking up all 20 lanes at the venue, over 160 past students, friends, family, teacher and students enjoyed themselves shooting numerous pins. While the seniors relived the golden days of "Chan Bo Chu" in costume, children courageously attempted various ways of rolling the ball with the help of side rails that prevent the ball from balling into the gutter. Finger snack buffet was

also served to fill empty stomachs during such an energy-filled afternoon.

Finally, prizes were presented to the best scoring individual, the best scoring team, the team with best team spirit, as well as for the player with the most turkeys hit - our winner took home 7 turkeys, which meant an amazing 9 strikes in a row!



A happy group photo after the exciting competition



In Loving Remembrance of our Teachers

Mrs. Cecilia Chan (1939-2008)

Mrs. Cecilia Chan (陳紫鈺老師), a past student in the 1950's, and teacher at our primary school from the 60's to 90's, had peacefully returned to God on 25 March 2008. Mrs. Chan has nurtured generations of young St. Marians throughout her three decades at the school. Her passion in teaching and her gentle manners have been inspiration to many, and the memory will always remain in our hearts.



Sr. Egle Bardelli (1919-2008)

Sr. Egle Bardelli, teacher of Art and Needlework at St. Mary's from the mid 50's to 70's, had peacefully returned to God in June 2008 in Italy. Sr. Egle, fondly known as Mother Egle by her students, spent two decades in Hong Kong nurturing St. Marians before returning to Italy in the late 70's. A great artist herself, Mother Egle inspired many to beauty and kindness not only through her crafts, but also through her love, warmth and gentleness. She has been, and will always be, greatly missed.



Alumnae News – Sr. Cecilia Lee & Sr. Maria Lit

This year, while the Canossian Daughters of Charity celebrates the 200th anniversary of their congregation, two of our past students also celebrated their 50th anniversary of entrance into religious life on 15 September 2008 (Mon) at the Canossian Missions Chapel on Caine Road. They are Sr. Cecilia Lee and Sr. Maria Lit.



*Sr. Maria Lit and Sr. Cecilia Lee
sharing a moment on their celebration day*

Sr. Cecilia Lee Deeply moved by the life and devotion of the Sisters she encountered during her school days, Sr. Cecilia Lee decided to enter the convent immediately after graduating in 1958. "I can feel their love of God and the joy they shared; I longed for that too," recalled Sr. Cecilia. "To be able to love God and people with humility and love, and to let people know about God, these are my wishes, and I'm so thankful that I've had the chance to do this for 50 years," Sr. Cecilia shared with us.

Sr. Cecilia had taught in a number of schools since then, and from 1995-99, she returned to St. Mary's to be the Principal of our primary school. "After having been away for almost 40 years, I saw that the buildings have changed quite a lot, but the Canossian spirit remains the same; I have confidence that this will continue to be the case," smiled Sr. Cecilia.

Now retired, Sr. Cecilia occasionally visits kindergartens and talks to children and parents. She is also involved in mentoring postulants training to be Sisters. "My wish is for the next generation to be able to experience God's love and in turn spread this love of God in their own ways. That would be great!"

Sr. Maria Lit Sr. Lit was 16 and still in her secondary studies when she first began "boarding" in the convent with the sisters. "It was a come-and-see experience for me, and I really liked it," recalled Sr. Lit. After graduation, she officially entered the convent in 1958.

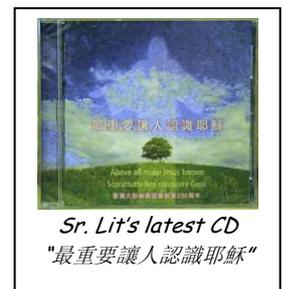


*Sr. Lit (3rd from left) studying
Italian as an aspirant in 1956*

Sr. Lit's main work was in evangelization. Throughout her religious life, she has been sent to teach in Catechism classes in Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan. In 2003, she returned to St. Mary's after more than 40 years to teach in adult Catechism classes, and to act as the spiritual

guide for our primary school St. Marians.

Being an avid singer, Sr. Lit has one more special way to spread the word of God. "Since I was a young girl I have always enjoyed singing. One day I was in the Church and suddenly an old melody came to my mind. I then tried to put in biblical verses with the melody. A few days later Mother Provincial heard me sing the song and really liked it. She encouraged me to do more, and so the project started," recalled Sr. Lit. With the help of her family and catechumen in the church, Sr. Lit has already published three CDs since 1998. The latest one "最重要讓人認識耶穌" is now available for sale at HK\$50 each. If you would like to purchase the CD, you can contact Ms Cathy Wong of the primary school office at (852) 2368 4204 for arrangement. All proceeds will be donated to help the underprivileged children in the orphanage "愛心兒樂苑" in Ningde, Fujian, China.



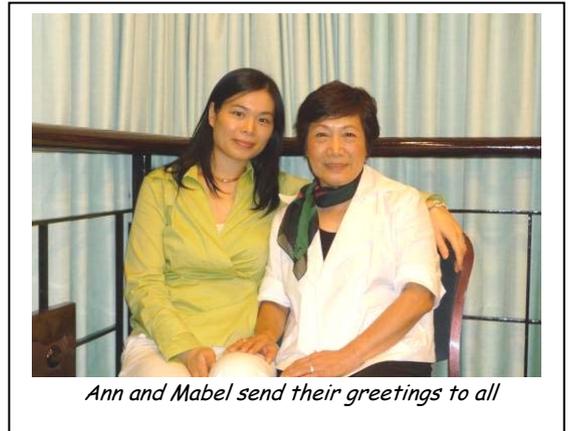
*Sr. Lit's latest CD
"最重要讓人認識耶穌"*

"It's amazing how time files. Over the years, we've seen many celebrations for other Sisters, and now people are celebrating our 50th anniversary for us! We really thank God for his love and guidance," both Sisters revealed. Sr. Cecilia, Sr. Lit, on behalf of all those who have been inspired by your work, we thank you for your efforts, and may you continue to shine in God's love and grace.

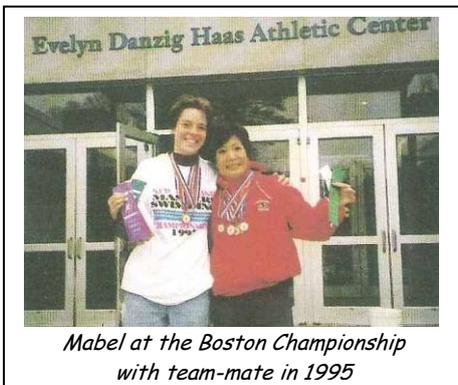
Two Generations of Swimming Champions

In this Olympic year, we are happy to talk to two mother and daughter St. Marians who are both keen athletes. They are Mabel Leung (1959) and Ann Chau (1992). Both of them are keen swimmers who have participated in numerous swimming competitions, and both share the same feeling toward their Alma Mater: "St. Mary's is the best!"

People who know Ann will know that she has been an outstanding swimmer since a very young age. "I believe I was around 6 when I first took up swimming. Somehow I was pretty good at it and the coaches began to train me up for competition," Ann recalled. One may easily think at this point that she was inspired by her mother. But Mabel revealed, "You probably won't believe it, it was in fact Ann who made me a swimmer!"



Ann and Mabel send their greetings to all



Mabel at the Boston Championship with team-mate in 1995

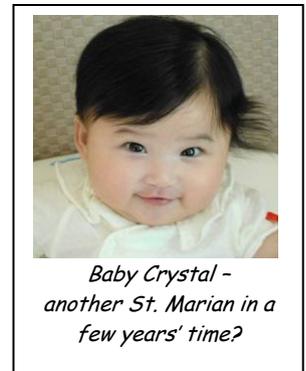
Mabel explained that when Ann was young, she got ill easily. To enhance Ann's physical fitness, Mabel sent her to swimming lessons. "I wasn't a competitive swimmer then but after a while, I took a class as well," said Mabel. When the family moved to Canada later, Mabel joined a swimming club and began to participate in competition swimming. To date, she has won many swimming awards; the most cherished being the Canadian Masters National Record in the 4x100m freestyle relay in 1996.

Naturally, mother and daughter were both competitive athletes. Ann became qualified to compete soon after she learnt swimming.

"I was in primary 5 when I first represented Hong Kong to swim in competitions," said Ann. "I was often absent from class due to these competitions," she laughed. In order to help Ann catch up with her studies, her classmates generously shared their notes, and her teachers offered assistance after school. "We sincerely thank Sr. Ida for her consideration, the teachers for their understanding, and Ann's classmates' for their unreserved support during those days," said Mabel, exchanging a smile with Ann.

Ann has proved her talent by capturing the Overall High Point Trophy in Hong Kong for every age group she competed in through the years. Internationally, she has won numerous medals among which those at the Asian Age Group Championships in Japan are the most memorable due to its high standard of competition. She continued her swimming career until the freshman year at the University of Toronto.

Ann was married in 2006 and earlier this year, she gave birth to a cute little girl Crystal, and now 4 months into her second pregnancy. Asked if Crystal will be the next generation of St. Marian in the family? "It's too early to talk about this, she's just a baby," laughed Ann. "But I do want her to share the same fond memories me and my mother had of our Alma Mater," she said. "Yes, I hope so too," Mabel added. Meanwhile, the St. Marian spirit has bonded these two generations much closer to each other, both as mother and daughter and as close friends.



Baby Crystal - another St. Marian in a few years' time?

School News – Visiting the Campus

Our Alma Mater always welcomes visits from us. However, due to school hours and the many other activities taking place on campus these days, it would be great if past students can follow these guidelines when planning a visit. These guidelines are also posted on our website for reference.



1. When is a good time to visit St. Mary's?

The School is open during school days and on Saturdays, and closed on Sundays and public holidays. Preferred visiting hours are:

<i>Day</i>	<i>Preferred Time</i>
<i>Monday - Friday</i>	<i>9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.</i>

Note: If you're visiting during class hours, please do not go near classroom areas or students having their P.E. lessons/activities on the playground to avoid disturbing the students.

2. Who should I contact in advance if I want to visit St. Mary's?

Alumnae are encouraged to contact the School in advance if they would like to come back for visit. Please contact the teacher-in-charge or the General Office directly:

<i>School</i>	<i>Contact</i>	<i>Contact</i>
<i>SMCC (Secondary)</i>	<i>Teacher-in-charge</i>	<i>(852) 2367 8263</i>
	<i>Ms Candy To</i>	<i>candyto@smcc-canossian.org</i>
	<i>General Office</i>	<i>(852) 2724 2771</i>
<i>SMCS (Primary)</i>	<i>Ms Queenie Cheng</i>	<i>queeniecheng@smcc-canossian.org</i>
	<i>General Office</i>	<i>(852) 2368 4204</i>
	<i>Ms Cathy Wong</i>	<i>mcp-smcs@hkedcity.net</i>

3. Which entrance should I use to get into St. Mary's? Do I need to register?

You can either come in through the Austin Road entrance or the Kimberley Road entrance. The janitor at the entrance will request you to write your name, year of graduation and mobile phone number on the Log Book. If you have made a prior arrangement with the school for the visit, please let the janitor know so that she can inform the School Office accordingly.

4. I happen to be in the neighborhood, can I come into the school for a visit without any prior arrangement?

While alumnae are always welcome to visit their alma mater, sometimes the occasion may be inconvenient for unannounced visits because the campus is often loaded with activities. As a result, the School encourages prior arrangements in order to avoid disappointments. If you happen to be in the neighborhood and would like to make a visit, please check with the janitor at the entrance to see if the time is convenient. If not, kindly arrange another time with the staff contacts listed above.

5. Sometimes I notice that the school is open during non-school hours. Can I come in for a visit?

Occasionally you may find the school playground open on Sundays, public holidays or evenings during non-school hours. This is because part of the campus might be borrowed by the Rosary Church or Government bodies for other purposes. While it might be possible for you to get into the school at those times, we do not recommend walking around for a visit as most part of the school is in fact closed due to security and safety reasons. We do not want to put the janitors into difficult positions as they are unable to liaise with the General Office during those times.

6. Can I take photos on campus during my visit?

Feel free to take photos on campus during your visit, but for courtesy and privacy reasons, please do not take photos of the students, unless you have their explicit consent to do so. In addition, please note that the photos taken cannot be used for any commercial purposes.

7. I'm planning a gathering. Can I book the campus as venue?

While the School welcomes alumnae for visits, the campus cannot be made available for private events or functions due to its busy schedule and other security and safety concerns.

8. If I drive, can I park my car at school?

Unless prior arrangement has been made, visitors are not allowed to park on campus as that may interfere with school and student activities. Kindly make use of the carparks nearby for your parking needs.

If you have further enquires, please contact Ms Queenie Cheng of the School Office at (852) 2724 2771 or queeniecheng@smcc-canossian.org. Thank you.

(A copy of this guideline is downloadable from the PSA website www.stmaryspsa.org)

School News - School Drama "The Disenchanted Fairy"

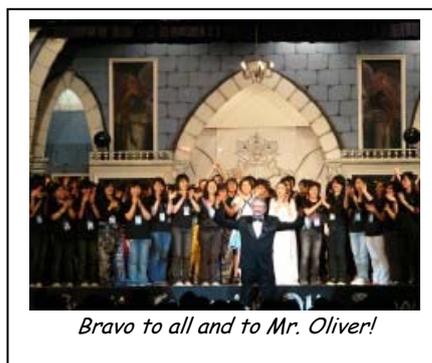


Scenes from "The Disenchanted Fairy"

The 2008 school drama "The Disenchanted Fairy" successfully took place during the week of 21-26 April. The play, written and directed by the returning "Lo Ban" Mr. Oliver, evolved around a F.1 St. Marian who accidentally entered fairyland on her first day of school. The audience travelled to fairyland with her and shared her anxiety in coping with this out-of-this-world experience. We witnessed

how she and the fairies rose above the challenges that came their way. All ended well with better understanding and acceptance of each others' merits and differences.

Unlike previous plays which were adaptations from ancient Greek mythology, Egyptian history or Shakespearean work, Mr. Oliver wrote "The Disenchanted Fairy" at home in the UK. He commented that the experience was a bit challenging. "I miss writing in Hong Kong where I can be close to the students. They often give me inspirations to shape characters and scenes according to their capabilities. Writing alone back home I found myself staring at nothing or talking to myself all the time!" he laughed. Thank you, Mr. Oliver. We eagerly look forward to your next masterpiece!



Bravo to all and to Mr. Oliver!



Opt to receive soft copies of the PSA Newsletter?



To help save paper and administrative costs, we encourage members with email access to opt for receiving electronic versions of the PSA newsletter instead. Please email the Membership Secretary at stmaryspsa@gmail.com if you'd like to help us out and opt not to receive the mailed copy. Thank you in advance.

Class Reunion News

The **Class of 1978** celebrated their 30th anniversary reunion on 2 Aug 2008 (Sat). 20 schoolmates shared a reminiscent afternoon visiting the campus, amazed by both the changed and the unchanged over all these years. In the evening, 30 of them gathered for a delightful dinner attended by Mr. Philip Lee, Ms. Kapo Lee, and retired teachers Mrs. Simmy Wong, Mr. Ma Chi Hung, Sr. Virginia Wong and Mrs. Shirley Yip. A lot of catching up took place as some friends were seeing each other again first time in 30 years! To reconnect, please contact Betty Ko at bko28@netvigator.com

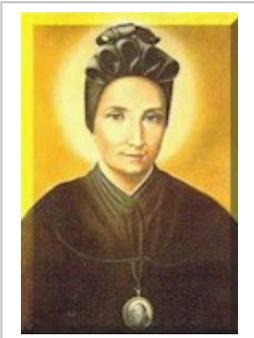


The class of 78 at their 30th anniversary reunion dinner

The **Class of 1968** is planning to have their reunion dinner on 22 Nov 2008 (Sat) in Hong Kong, with a home coming visit to the school in the morning. Those who would like to join please contact Agnes Yam agnes_ky_lee@yahoo.com.hk / Alice Tai ayytai@omb.gov.hk / Belinda Lee belindaclleung@yahoo.com.hk.

Organizing a reunion for your class? Let our Membership Secretary know and we can include your news on the newsletter and the website! Email to stmaryspsa@gmail.com.

200th Anniversary of the Canossian Daughters of Charity

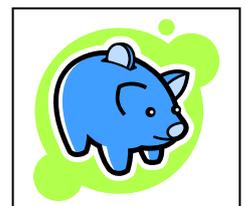


In 2008, the Canossian Daughters of Charity celebrates the 200th anniversary of their congregation. True to the Canossian spirit of humility, a large-scale celebration was called off as the Sisters decided that they would instead donate the money to the victims of the Sichuan earthquakes in May. As a result, thanksgiving masses were held throughout the year at different Canossian institutions.

Now as the year closes, we are reminded again to be thankful for the unconditional love that our Foundress, St. Magdalen of Canossa, had passed onto us through the Canossian Sisters. May God bless all our Sisters and continue to look after them in their meaningful work.

Want to make donations to our Alma Mater?

We often receive enquiries from past students about making donations to St. Mary's. On behalf of the school, we thank you in advance for your generosity. Donations can be made to the St. Mary's Canossian College Development Fund supporting continuous campus, students and teachers development.



You can prepare a cheque payable to "St. Mary's Canossian College", marking SMCC Development Fund at the back. If a receipt for tax deduction purpose is required, please also indicate the name to be put on the receipt and the address for mailing. For further enquiries, please contact Ms Queenie Cheng of the School Office at (852) 2724 2771. Thank you.