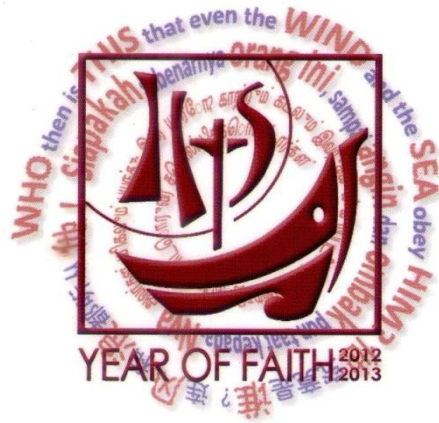


# CANORITA

## CHRISTMAS 2012



*St. Magdalene of Canossa*



**ST ANTHONY'S PROVINCE  
SINGAPORE**

Website: [www.canossians-sg.org](http://www.canossians-sg.org)



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**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

# MESSAGE FROM SR THERESA

Christmas 2012



Dear Sisters, Canossian Fathers, Members of the Association of the Lay Canossian, Partners, Friends and Benefactors,



After the Provincial Council received our mandate on 2 Feb 2012, we identified our strengths and felt that what we wanted is not to just do more but to reinforce the pastoral thrust of the previous Council, to embrace change, community and the Canossian spirit. We believe that it is important to deepen our charism and grow in our rootedness as Canossian and religious. The Sisters' request to "slow down" echoes a desire to spend more time to listen from within and without. We have been blessed by the inspiration of Sr. Margaret Peter whom we met at the

## **Meeting for Members of New Provincial Councils in Hong Kong in April.**

Her recommendation to make time to recall, to review, to renew and to re-energise is a reminder to be more aligned with our call to follow Christ - *inspice et fac*.

The past 10 months have been challenging and there were moments we struggled together in order to grow as the "first community" in the Province. Each of us tries to keep our 'work-community-prayer life' balance and it has not always been easy. We resist the temptation to put work as priority, we continue to thank God for His care and the moments of growth as a community. We rejoice in blessings, big and small.



## **Some moments to remember...**

\*After the Interfaith Seminar on "Common Ground" on 8 and 9 Jan, the schools, Kindergartens and Homes launched the "meditation sessions" with the teachers and students. Now it has become a part of a daily routine.



\***21-22 May**, we had an Offsite Retreat and Strategic Planning for the next five years with Local Leaders and other invited Sisters. It was fruitful and refreshing.

\***28-29 May**, there was a 2-day Canossian Symposium for the Staff of our Schools, Kindergartens and Homes, during which all present had the chance to and the different Canossian ministries to impart and listen to one another.



\***26 July**, Sr. Margaret Peter was in Yangon to officiate at the Official Opening of Canossa Home in Thanlyin. She saw the fruit of the Sisters' work in Myanmar.





**\*25-28 July**, Sr. Liz Chambers had a review with the Sisters of the Province on the recommendation made after the Canonical Visit in 2010. There was also a dialogue with the Provincial Team. Sisters were edified by her care and concern.

**\*7-13 Aug**, Sr Esme conducted Charismatic Sessions for Sisters according to the different age groups. The Lay Canossians were also invited to one of the sessions.

For some sisters, they brought back sweet memories.

**14-15 Aug**, Lee Soo Jin, an Anglican friend, assisted by Tony Yeo facilitated a Christian Leadership Training for the Sisters of the "pink" age-group list.



**2012 was a year of Jubilee celebrations of Religious Profession** of many of our Sisters from home and abroad. On 29 Jan, Srs. Enrica Perego (60), Janet Wang (50), Bridget Foo (50), Lily Tan (50), Marie de Roza (50) and Winnie Tan (50).

On 28 April, Sr. Christine Santhou celebrated her 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Sr Clara Tan & Sr Geraldine Lim celebrated their Silver Jubilee on different occasions.

On 8 Dec, Sr. Christine Norris (70) celebrated hers in Kluang with Srs. Agnes Norris (75) and Bertilia Lim (75).

On the 27 Dec, Sisters Calista Ponnu Dorai who is a missionary in East Africa and is presently back in

Singapore for her home leave (50), Catherine Lim (70) and Elizabeth Law (70) will have a thanksgiving Mass at the chapel of the provincial House.

## Postulants & Novices



On 19 March, the Sisters in Yangon: Sr. Angela Ng, Sr. Marion Liong (Postulant Directress) and Sr. Jacqueline Chin witnessed the entry of 2 more Postulants besides Maria Ja Awn: Antonia and Heza.

Here we await the entry of 2 Novices: Adeline Tan from Singapore and Maria

Ja Awn from Myanmar on 5 Jan 2013. The Novitiate has been officially relocated from Lor Low Koon to Jalan Merbok.



**Our Consecrated Lay Canossians** Caroline Goh and Stella Lazar made their Final Professions on 1 Dec and Judy Teo, formerly a Canossian Lay Missionary, took her first Temporary Profession on 20 Dec.

**This December we had the mandating of new Local Leaders** for 2012-2013/15. They are: Srs. Dorothy Lim (St. Joseph's Canossoan Community), Louisa Lim (St. Magdalene's Community), Marilyn Lim (Canossian Formation House) and Janet Wang (Canossa Convent Community). Sr. Jessica Teo received her mandate as the Directress of Novices 2013-16.



**China Mission:** After leaving Zhaotong, we have been collaborating with the Hong Kong Province so that our Mandarin-speaking Sisters have an opportunity to serve in China. Sr. Clara Tan offered a three-year temporary service stint at the Home of Love in Fujian. Ms Jasica Yeoh, who has volunteered at the Home thrice, decided to adopt the project on a long term basis. She is now the coordinator for the recruitment of VOICA volunteers from Singapore. Sr. Margaret Syn is still serving in Kunming.



Besides Indonesia, we also started to support the Province of Timor Leste as we welcome Sisters who are attending English classes in Singapore to stay with us at CFH.



**The Canossian Wellness Center** is doing well. After the dialogue with Morning Star Family Service Center, we will be expanding it to cater to the growing needs of those who come regularly for treatment and therapy.

As we focus on the spiritual wellbeing of Sisters in the Province, we also count the blessings that the Lord sends along the way. Together with the Sisters, we thank God for inspiring Lay partners and friends who generously share in the one charism and witness to the same spirit.

Not all the events mentioned above will appear in the following pages. We have decided that we will only produce an Annual Canorita' where the more current events are reported. As from January 2013, we encourage you to submit articles regularly and this will be uploaded on the Canossian website. Besides saving more trees and protecting the environment, you will also receive more varied and updated events regularly on our website.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Canorita' and also find the time to look at our website:  
[www.canossians-sg.org](http://www.canossians-sg.org)

May Jesus bless you and your dear ones this Christmas with His gift of Salvation, the Blessings of Peace, the Beauty of Hope, the Spirit of Love and the Comfort of Faith.

Together with my Councillors, Sr. Geraldine and Sr. Dorothy, we pray that this Year of Faith will bring you closer to the Heart of Christ and 2013 will be a very Happy New Year for you and your love ones.

*Sr. Theresa Seow*  
*Provincial Leader*



## ***Jubilee Celebrations of Canossian Religious Life 2012***



### **Diamond Jubilee: Golden Jubilee:**

Sr Enrica Perego, Sr Janet Wang, Sr. Lily Tan, Sr Marie De Roza, Sr Bridget Foo, Sr Winnie Tan



**Silver Jubilee:** Sr Christine Santhou, Sr Geraldine Lim, Sr. Elizabeth Sim and Sr. Clara Tan



***“I have loved you with an everlasting love.” Jer.31:3***

On 29 January, six of us: my novitiate companions Srs Bridget, Winnie, Lily, Marie and I were very happy to celebrate our Golden Jubilee together with Sr. Enrica our Diamond Jubilarian, at St. Stephen’s Church. We felt a deep sense of gratitude to God for having called us: to the religious life in the Canossian family. Sustained by the faithful and constant love of Jesus, the years have passed like lightning. Sr. Enrica has served as a missionary in Singapore for 48 years. Sr. Bridget is a missionary in Australia, Sr. Winnie is in Malaysia, Sr. Marie has returned from Australia to continue her mission in Singapore together with Sr. Lily and me.

We are very grateful to our family members for the wonderful support they have given us all these years, so that we can be free to answer God’s call and do his will day by day.



**Our heartfelt thanks also to our communities of Canossian Sisters in Singapore, Malaysia, Australia and Italy for having nurtured us and given us the experience of a strong sense of belonging to our world-wide Canossian family.**



# 25 years of Religious Life!

*I thank my God, each time I think of you!*



My first question is “has it really been so long?” I have spent more than half my life as a Canossian Daughter of Charity! Next comes a feeling of immense gratitude and I continue with joy to thank God for the gift of this vocation that I often feel unworthy of...

Most of my religious life has been spent in sharing the Good News of God’s awesome love for ‘God’s beloved’. I have always ‘enjoyed’ the sessions,

retreats, talks, Marian novenas and classes that I have been involved in. My thrust in all my ministries has been to bring, through the Scriptures and Church teachings, the message of God’s fidelity and unbounded love for creation especially humanity, created in God’s own image and likeness and forever unique and special in God’s eyes. I have received an abundance of gifts both material and spiritual through all my ministries, and thus for sure I am not ‘poor’. The best gifts I have received are the gift of friends, of persons who have shared their lives with me and have in turn enriched mine.



Group photo with Prison Officers from Cluster B

The ministry of bringing the Good News to prisoners via the Roman Catholic Prison Ministry [RCPM] on a weekly basis has, in many ways been a highlight of my Religious Life. It’s been only 5 years since I began this ministry, and it has not always been easy especially when I desire to do more but am limited by ‘rubrics’ and by other obstacles. Yet, in ways that are mostly intangible, prison ministry has nourished me and continues to give me the impetus to reach out even when I face the recidivism of those whom we

minister to. The visits are so regular that the inmates, local and foreign, mostly non-Christians, have truly become brothers.

Yes, 25 years have passed so quickly and I thank God for all who have been instrumental in my journey of being ‘chosen, blessed, broken and given’ [the theme of my first profession]. In my recent trip to the Holy Land, my uppermost thoughts, prayers and Mass offerings were for those who have been a part of my 25 years of Religious Life. So, for my family, Sisters, friends and all who have passed and nourished my journey. May God’s Blessings be upon each one in God’s own loving and unique way. Pax!



*Sr. Christine Santhou*

## St. Magdalene's Community's Own Golden Girls

Remember the "The Golden Girls" series in the 80s? I remember a Dorothy who was man-mad and another who had the voice of a man. My father could not stand the series. Sr Valentina would *tsk tsk* about them. Now we have a new brand: SMC's own Golden Girls: Sr Christine Norris, Sr Magdalene Tan and Sr. Catherine Lim. They are the living examples of Active Aging.

**Sr Christine Norris** is an example of slow and steady wins the race. More importantly, she epitomizes what Mother Theresa of Calcutta says: It's not success that's important but **FIDELITY**. Without fail, Sr Christine Norris who is 91 would clean up the dining room tables daily after each meal, putting all things in order. Thank you Sr Christine!



**Sr Magdalene Tan**, despite her 96 years will "shasha" her way round the convent with the aid of a walker to the refectory, recreation room and chapel. With superhuman strength, she makes her needs known by moving a big sofa to a position more to her liking. Living in an age of information with tsunamic proportions, she practises "selective hearing". Often she will say in Teochew: "Tia Boh" or "Can't hear", but her ears will prick whenever her name is mentioned.

**Sr Catherine Lim:** Sr Catherine's birthday wish for each of us just warms our hearts and souls for we know that we will go to heaven with her praying for us thus: "I wish you good health, long life and a happy death!" And we are very hopeful of a better world for without fail she would pray during Lauds and Vespers: We pray for peace in our hearts, in our homes and in the world.



Sr Catherine has the gifts of a Provincial Councillor: to support the Provincial and the Sisters. With kindness and love, she explained to Sr Magdalene Tan the reasons to go to St Joseph's Home for some respite care. Sr Theresa Seow and Sr Louisa Lim both heaved sighs of relief!

Going to the Day Care Centre has honed Sr Catherine's gifts of mind, heart and spirit, especially her social skills. She listens attentively at table conversations and asks questions when she wants more information. Her sisterly love manifests itself when she accompanied Sr Magdalene to her bed encouraging her to go to the toilet and get ready for bed. With great creativity she initiates spiritual lessons with Sr Magdalene Tan and Sr Christine Norris.

We Sisters of SMC would also like to register our deep gratitude to Sr Anne Lim who patiently, courageously and lovingly takes care of our Three Golden Girls, seeing to their meals and their prayer life, bringing them to see the doctors, and making sure of their baths in the mornings. God bless you dearly, Sr Anne for all the good you are doing!

Postscript: Sr Magdalene Tan's respite care in St Joseph's is over. Now she is officially transferred to St Joseph's Convent community. We will miss you, Sr Magdalene Tan!

Sr. Margaret Goh



# ST. JOSEPH'S CANOSSIAN COMMUNITY



**Together at prayer**



**at meals**



**at work**



## Experiencing Fraternal Communion

It is always a grateful gift which brings up happy moments in society, in family and in religious community. It costs nothing, just a 'Good Morning', 'How are you?', 'I am sorry' or a smile or a little act of love.

The whole day long has to be full of these moments so that at the end of the day we gather abundant fruits.

Let us sow with love and joy.

**Sr. Maria Casarotti**



**at play: Enjoying a community outing**



**Happy Birthday Sr. Virginia!**

## HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

With deep appreciation and gratitude to God, my Heavenly Father, as well as to Srs. Theresa, Geraldine, Dorothy and Sisters for granting me this privilege and possibility of this Holyland Pilgrimage. Since my Golden Jubilee in January this year, I had been preparing myself spiritually, physically and emotionally for this once in a lifetime experience of being in the same places, where Jesus was born, lived, preached, taught, healed, befriended, enjoyed, suffered and died. I just could not imagine or fathom that a cherished wish and dream of mine would become a reality.



Imagine my joy, excitement and happiness, when I left with 34 other pilgrims on 11 October 2012. SIA stopped at Dubai for 2 hours and proceeded to Cairo our destination. Here we visited the church of St. Sergio. It was built in the centre of the ancient Roman fort of Babylon. The church is considered as one of the sites visited by the Holy Family during their escape from King Herod to the land of Egypt.



Following the footsteps of Jesus, we visited all the different places where Jesus had been in Egypt, Israel and Jordan like Nazareth, Bethlehem, Mary's Well, Mount Tabor, Galilee, Bethany, Jerusalem, Basilica of the Agony, Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Via Dolorosa. It is not necessary for me to describe all these Holy Places as any interested reader will find all the information in any Holy Land book.

Be with me for a few moments because I would like to share with you some of my spiritual and enlightening experiences. I felt that it wasn't just a coincidence that we were in Holy Land exactly on 11<sup>th</sup>. October, the same day that the Universal Church started its "Year of Faith" It is Jesus' plan and gift for me to grow deeper in my faith and relationship with Him. The Scriptures, especially the psalms became more alive, vivid and meaningful to me, e.g. "Jerusalem, most beautiful city so strongly compact. On you converge all the tribes of the Lord, alleluia." Presently, when this psalm is being sung, I could picture very vividly to myself the beautiful city of Jerusalem.

For more than 50 years, I have been faithful to the Way of the Cross on Fridays, and perhaps more often during Lent, as well have recited the "Via Matris" daily as a novice and in present times on Holy Saturdays. Well, I reckon I must be doing them on just an intellectual level. I could not feel for Jesus on the heart level, they were just acts of piety. But when I went to the place of the Crucifixion and actually saw and felt what Jesus suffered, and our young tour guide spoke with so much conviction of his conversion, speaking of Jesus' 'Greatest Love', personally for him, in this most Holy Place, something

most profound moved within me, and when we went out, and the tour guide called our attention to the thorn bush, which the soldiers used to weave a crown of thorns for Jesus, my eyes were wet with tears, when I saw the thorns on the bush and realise that the thorns were almost a foot long, not the thorns which I had seen or imagined on rose and bougainvillea bushes. The grace I have received is that now I can empathise and relate with Jesus, personally, He is not the historical Jesus, whom I have related on an intellectual level, but a personal, intimate, loving, understanding, compassionate and forgiving Jesus.

Our Canossian spirituality, which includes the 'Via Matris' (Way of Mary) became a reality and meaningful. How much Mary must have suffered as she accompanied her son, Jesus from His birth till His death? I am called and challenged personally to contemplate and reflect on Mary's Sorrows and sufferings and ponder them in my heart, in my daily life



The barrenness and wilderness of Egypt, Israel and Jordan have impressed me and I thought that the Israelites had to wander for forty years through this sort of terrain, in order to reach the Promised Land, flowing with milk and honey. What an ordeal of hardships they had. This sobering thought reminded me that I too am a pilgrim on this earth, striving to reach the Promised Land, Heaven.

Many years later, Jesus chose to live his life in these places and ministered to His chosen people and others in Egypt, Israel and Jordan. What a hard and lonely life Jesus must have had, but Jesus was wise enough to have moved from loneliness to solitude, His ability to spend prolonged time in solitude with God, His Father, in prayer. I have to ask Jesus to teach me how to accomplish this passage from loneliness to solitude. Being here in St. Joseph's Home with our elderly Sisters and Residents, daily I can witness and sense their loneliness, their fear of being alone and their longing for human companionship. I, too long for companionship. Inside of me, I am like a parched, thirsty desert. My heart and my mind are like the hot desert sands. The desert winds are hot and restless, pushing me into activity, aimless TV gazing, or just appearing to be busy. I am afraid of spending time with my God in prolonged prayer, in silence and solitude, because this will eventually lead me into an inward journey of my being. This journey if I willingly choose and do, will eventually put me into contact with the living waters which Jesus promised, as well as of His infinite riches and love.



Therefore as a Pilgrim, with my right hand holding tightly with His, I ask Jesus to be with me, and help me to age gracefully, graciously and gratefully, as I journey towards my destination – the Heavenly Jerusalem.

Sr. Marie De Roza



# CANOSSIAN FORMATION HOUSE

## WALKING DOWN MEMORY LANE...

The invitation by the Malaysian Sisters to Cameron Highlands marked the celebration of our togetherness as Silver Jubilarians. For me, it was to catch up with them as we have not had the time to be together. Many were invited but only five of us could make it – 3 FROM Malaysia: Srs Retta S, Margarete Santa Maria, Theresa Chew, and 2 from Singapore: Geraldine Lim and myself.

We spent most of the time sharing with lots of laughter bursting forth in the midst of our meals. It began with the dinner at Kluang. Retta as usual had us laughing over the amount spent at dinner. Margaret would tease her for ordering the most



costly meal among us, the fish head bee hoon which cost about M\$14. Money became one of the topics to tease and laugh about also at Cameron Highlands. Geraldine had to ban us from talking about money each time we spent on something. We were fined on the topic of 'watching' how much each item cost etc.

Though it was about three full days spent together, the joy of coming together was something to be cherished because that was the simple joy we had somewhat lost sight of. I realised the simplicity of life I have missed. I had at least the nights to sleep soundly and snored through most of the nights while my companion, Gerry had to put up with my snores. I heard one of them commented that Gerry better let me know about it so that I could sleep alone in the future so as not to disturb the sleep of my future room-companion. I asked if that was true that I snored and told her that it was good to let me know too.

So it was that simple, nothing exceptional about our outing but the companionship and friendship we cherished and treasured enough to meet up with our Malaysian companions. Indeed, it was a unique experience. We had a few outings and a very brief visit to the Sime Darby Medical hospital where Our Lady's image was seen at one of the window panes. There were many people streaming in and out of that hospital. I felt privilege to have seen it and a sense of awe overwhelmed me. We thanked God for blessing us with that experience of being able to see it firsthand rather than hearsay.

Overall, it was a time of rest and relaxation for all of us. I enjoyed travelling a long distance because I slept throughout the journey and only awoke for short breaks.

We spent the night at our Jinjang convent and came back on the 19<sup>th</sup> Nov. morning.

Thank you so much dear Sisters of Singapore and Malaysia for giving us this time to enjoy and bond together. Religious life is worthwhile and meaningful!

## Sr. Christine Yeo shares: While on Sabbatical.....

My last Sabbatical was from February to August 1995 when I took myself off to Sydney for the New Life in Mid Life Course at Marymount Mercy Centre.

I was glad to have been granted a year off and after spending a month at home with my aging parents, I was privileged to spend sometime in Melbourne at Campion Spirituality Centre for a directed retreat.



I also spent a month in Laos with my sister at an Anglican Relief and Development Agency (ARDA) at a language school. I was inspired by the simple faith and trust of the many lay volunteers and their families working in the city and the countryside.

In the intervening months, it was good to hop in and out of SACSS, supporting the Canossian Spirituality team in their untiring efforts to animate the school with the Catholic and Canossian spirit.

It is touching to sense the Passion of our staff to strive to keep the Catholic and Canossian ethos in the whirlpool of Education Advancement. Daily Morning Prayers led by teachers and students, Weekly reflection themes, celebration of Foundress Day and Patron's Day, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week and Easter Monday as well as Retreat for Catholic Student Leaders and investiture of Catholic Student leaders, Retreat for Sec 1 Catholics, as well as Youth Missions for the graduating classes – Mid Year and End of Year reflection for the school

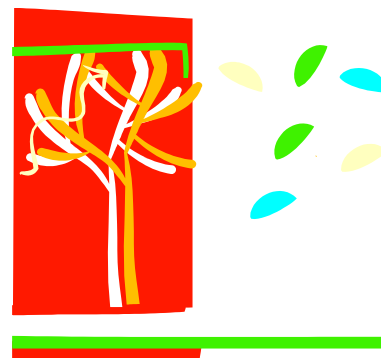


continue to be attempts to provide the Faith Formation to make Education truly wholistic and integral.

As we prepare to leave our holding school at 300 New Upper Changi Road, with its beautiful surroundings of matured trees, our End of Year reflection on October 25 revolved around the metaphor of a tree.

How have we appreciated the refreshing presence of the many trees?

The clip on the Giving Tree inspired us to reflect more deeply and the tying of coloured threads on the "tree cut outs" reminded us of the many ways blessings we had received through people, events, circumstances and our environment. The quiz on trees and in particular "heritage trees" in Singapore invites us to remember ... to be rooted and grounded in God – to grow in faith, hope and love in the footsteps of Jesus, the Way to the Truth and fullness of Life, inspired by the life of Magdalene and Bakhita and all the holy men and women of God who have walked before us.



## OUR SABBATICAL EXPERIENCES IN ITALY & LOURDES

Renew - Moving back to our “New” Schools  
Sr Florence Teo shares:

Initially, when I was told that I would be taking my sabbatical leave to the Philippines this year, I started preparing my luggage for the East only to learn later that the direction was to Rome instead. I flew to Rome and arrived in January during the season of winter. Unlike past years, Rome suffered two onslaughts of heavy snowing. I truly had a feel of a temperature below 0 degree which was icy cold. Sisters in the Community offered warm clothing to keep me from shivering.



Winter had its share of fun too when Srs Mary Yong, Veronica Sng, Clara Wong and I learn to ski through the snow in our field.

In the early months of the year, I discovered how to travel in Rome by the often crowded buses. I travelled for a few months to Angelicum University for the two Courses I signed up. I enjoyed the topics of the Courses but it was a good leg exercise to climb the 87 steps leading to the classroom.

During Spring, I saw the blooming of cherry blossom on the trees along the road which reminded me of the celebration of Chinese New Year. Before Easter, I had the joy of attending the Palm Sunday Mass at the Vatican and participating in the liturgical celebration during the Lenten period.

Visits to the various Churches, historical landmarks and our pilgrimage in the footsteps of Magdalene of Canossa gave me insights into the origin and foundation of our faith and Institute.

Together with Sr Maria Rossoni's lesson on Missionarity, Sr Sandra's lesson on our Foundress and Sr Anne's session on human integration, I began to understand the vocation of our Foundress in God's plan. With the visits to the various communities in Italy, I discovered the apostolic zeal of our missionary Sisters who shared the passion of Mother Foundress for the salvation of souls and to make Christ known and loved.



As Summer approached, the four of us moved to Lourdes and spent three months there. We lived simply beginning by taking turns to cook and giving each other space to exercise our freedom. Living together I learnt to know my Sisters more.

Lourdes has an atmosphere of quiet peace and prayer amidst the thousands of pilgrims daily. I met many pilgrims from all parts of the world. We opened our house to most Singaporeans and Asian people we met and they were happy to know us. Others too gradually came to visit us.

The activities at the Sanctuary and Grotto of Our Lady made up my daily timetable. I value the time spent there in prayer and reflection. I also felt privileged to drink from the spring water of Lourdes. Looking at Our Lady who listened to the countless petitions daily at the Grotto, one cannot help but feel her maternal care and love for us as children of God. We left Lourdes in Autumn.



I am thankful for this journey that I made. Apart from the experiences of the four seasons, I experienced the call to a largeness of heart in adjusting to climate, people and events in my life just as Our Lady embraces everyone who comes to her.

**Sr Veronica Sng shares:**

My experience in Lourdes is a focus point of my sharing.

I have always wanted to visit Lourdes since my early days. Although I have been told that the place is very commercialized now, the desire to visit this holy place for prayers still remained. However, during this sabbatical my desire was met when I realized that I would be spending 3 months there.



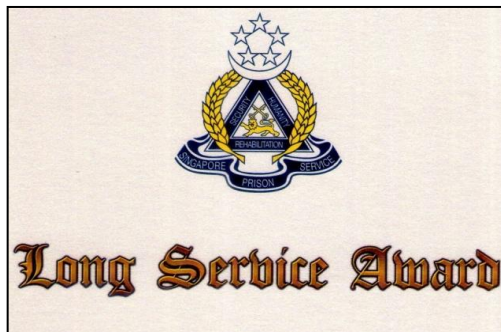
I discovered that prayer is the only way to obtain graces and blessings from our Mother Mary. Participating in the activities of the Sanctuary like the Eucharistic Adoration, recitation of the rosary and candle light procession was a privilege which helped me to renew my faith.

The large number of people coming regularly to Lourdes overwhelmed me. I was also edified by the volunteers, young and old, who came to volunteer their services. What attracts them there is a question I ask to myself. I learnt that many have been touched by our Mother Mary's healing love and favours received. It is a sight of the gospel message lived when I see the pilgrims pray.

The experience of peace, joy and love I received is what I will bring to the people I will meet back in Singapore.

## **ROMAN CATHOLIC PRISON MINISTRY**

In Sept 2012, two of our Sisters were among the recipients of long service awards for their dedicated service in the Roman Catholic Prison Ministry. Sr Enrica Perego had been tirelessly going to visit the prisoners three times a week, sharing with them the Word of God and bringing Holy Communion to the Catholics. She would often travel by



bus all the way to Changi Prison when she could not get a lift from a friend.

Sr. Enrica was given the award for 10 years of dedicated support and contribution towards the rehabilitation of Offenders. Sr. Christine Santhou was also among the awardees for 5 years of service.

Sr. Christine Santhou has been going weekly to share the Good News with the prisoners who are capable of sharing very deeply and honestly even about their past life.

**CONGRATULATIONS Sisters & Friends!**

## CANOSSAVILLE CHILDREN'S HOME

Visitors to Canossaville Children's Home during August and September would have been privy to a buzzing scene of activity. Singing rehearsals, menu planning, packing and sorting out of items, massive housekeeping were among many 'behind-the-scenes' work that was happening in preparation for two key events.

### Welcoming A Special Guest

Clearly there was an air of excitement as staff went about the various tasks in anticipation of the very distinguished guest to the Home. The identity of the guest had been kept from the children as a surprise. Several weeks before the event, they began their singing rehearsals for a welcome and farewell song performance. An ex-staff David volunteered his time to diligently practise with the children, accompanied with his guitar.

On 27 August, the Home and the Canossian Sisters welcomed ESM Goh Chok Tong and members of Marine Parade GRC to its humble abode. As MP of Marine Parade, the purpose of ESM Goh's visit was to learn more about the Home which was located within his ward. Previously MP for the Macpherson ward Ms Tin Pei Ling had also visited the Home.

Upon his arrival, the children who had been waiting eagerly albeit with some fidgeting broke into song. The children's efforts were much appreciated by the towering politician who took time to speak to the little ones in the group. Executive director Suzana Yeo and Residential Head Sr Rose Low proceeded to take the guests on a mini tour of the grounds and share more about the heritage and ongoing work to help the residents who are mostly from at-risk families.



No event would be complete without something to fill the tummies. Auntie Helen who has been a cook with the Home for more than 30 years showed off her culinary creativity by preparing an array of scrumptious bites and a healthy and refreshing lemon cooler which ESM Goh commented to be "very good!"

The visit ended on a high note as the children bade farewell to the guests by presenting a handmade card signed by all and performing a touching medley of songs including Teresa Teng's "The Moon Represents my Heart".

Even as the excitement winded down, staff already had their sights set on the large-sale event happening the following month.



### Shopping For A Cause

The Canossaville Sale was an annual fundraising event organised by the Home until it stopped a few years back.

This year, the Home decided to revive the four-day event to raise funds for its operations. Currently, it requires approximately \$700,000 to operate and provide for the children that pass through its doors.

Given the massive undertaking, volunteers generously donated their time and efforts to meticulously sort, pack and price accumulated items such as new and used clothes, toys, groceries, electrical appliances and various

bric-a-brac. Thanks to a kind donor, the sale even boasted its very own jewellery store selling an assorted range of costume jewellery. The children too lent their helping hands by printing price signage and mini posters.

On opening day, eager bargain-hunters gathered at the Home's gate even before the sale opened. There was something for everyone including the children. The toys section was undoubtedly a big draw with the children, especially students from the neighbouring Canossa Convent Primary School and Canossian School who snapped up the plush toys, games and popular titles. For many from the Magdalene's Kindergarten, the highlight was the 'fishing pond'. In exchange for \$2, they received a rod with an attached hook where they could 'catch' a goodie bag filled with snacks and stationery. Lucky ones who found a white slip of paper redeemed a surprise gift. Often batches of students were seen trotting back to classes with red goodies bags in tow. Indeed the Home is grateful for the support it received from the schools within the Canossian Eduplex.

By the last day of the sale, many of the items had flown off the shelves. Even the "mountains" of clothes on the floor were reduced to miniature heaps. It was gratifying to also see many shoppers returning for second and even third round bargains given the further discounts.

When the "closing bell" rang, staff and volunteers alike were in high spirits, encouraged by the immense turnout and support. Aching joints aside, many were already geared for the next sale. Till then, the Home would like to thank the Sisters, volunteers and supporters who came in full force. Certainly the success of the event was largely due in part to the combined efforts of many helping hands.

*Bernadette Png*

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## Canossian Alumni Association - AGM 2012

The Canossian Alumni held their 35th Annual General Meeting on 25 August 2012  
at Canossa Convent Primary School.

The following members were elected to the Executive Committee 2012/14:

**President:** Belinda Huang

**V. President:** Veronica Tan

**Hon. Secretary:** Sharon Yu

**Asst. Secretary:** Rosalind Ong

**Hon. Treasurer:** Amy Tan

**Asst. Treasurer:** Catherine Ng

**Committee Members:**

Dr Sylvia Goh, Valerie Quek

Agnes Tan, Lucy Chan, Lee Mei Yee,

Rebecca Chin, Nelly Soh.

**Spiritual Advisor:** Sr Janet Wang

Catherine Ng was absent with apology from the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting



The Executive Committee 2012/14 would like to thank the outgoing Exco 2010/12 members Agnes Hoe, Daisy Teo, Carolyn Seet, Koh Seok Hwee, Priscilla Goh and Magdalene Koh for their dedication and commitment in serving the Alumni.

The Exco 2012/14 would also like to express their gratitude to those present at the 35th Annual



General Meeting for giving them an opportunity to serve their fellow Canossians. They hope to continue being a pillar of support for our three Canossian institutions: Canossa Convent Primary, Saint Anthony's Canossian Primary and Saint Anthony's Canossian Secondary School.

**The Exco has met to plan two major events in 2013:**

Annual Alumni Dinner on 6 April 2013 and

Visit to St Joseph's Home on 1 May 2013

**For further information**, write to [info@canossialumni.com](mailto:info@canossialumni.com)

**Website:** [www.canossialumni.com](http://www.canossialumni.com)



## **CONGRATULATIONS DR. SYLVIA GOH!**

We are very grateful to Dr Sylvia Goh who served as President of the Canossian Alumni Association for 2 terms. She is a source of inspiration to all the Alumni. In her address to the Alumni at the 2010 AGM when she was re-elected President, she shared the secret of her love for St. Anthony's Canossian Secondary School.

"My ambition from young was to study medicine to become a doctor. The Second World War broke out in this region and my education was put on hold. After the war ended, I prayed hard to have my ambition fulfilled and I was determined that if I become a doctor I would work for the poor. I then came to Singapore from Sabah, East Malaysia to find a school to continue my education. The principal of the first school I approached rejected my application and scolded me for wanting to study. She told me to go and find a job as I was already 20 years old. I then went to St Anthony's Convent in Middle Rd. The principal, Rev Mother Victoria was kind and compassionate. I was accepted and have fond memories studying there. I did well and was admitted to Singapore College of Medicine. Whilst still an undergraduate, I accepted an offer to work at St. Andrew's Mission Hospital in Tanjong Pagar, a charitable children's hospital for the poor. I worked there for 43 years. This was my first and only job as a doctor.

I met my late husband Goh Sin Tub, an arts undergraduate while I was studying medicine. We were married in 1954 for almost 50 years. Together we were blessed with 3 sons and 3 grandchildren. I have also been doing volunteer work. I used to help care for the children abandoned at the doorstep of the IJ convent in Victoria Street in the 1950s. I was and still am involved with the fostering scheme for children under the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports since 1967, was chairman of the Fostering Committee for 20 years and am now serving as a resource person."

Dr Sylvia Goh was honoured on 12 Oct. 2012, with an Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer Award by MCYS for her 45 years of dedicated service.

## **CONGRATULATIONS DR. GOH! WE ARE SO VERY PROUD OF YOU.**

Referring to the SACSS PRIME fund-raising Project to set up a Performing Arts Centre, she launched a dollar for dollar donation drive, pledging to match every dollar donated by our Canossian Alumni, up to \$500,000. We are happy that this target has already been met, partly from efforts of the school to raise funds for the PAC. To date Dr Goh has donated a total of \$1 million for the PAC. This is what Dr Goh said in challenging the Alumni to donate:

"I do this in gratitude to my Alma mater for the opportunity to continue with my education and be where I am today. I am sure you are also grateful to your Alma Mater."

## **THANK YOU DR. GOH FOR YOUR LOVE FOR THE SCHOOL!**

## LAY CANOSSIAN SINGAPORE

There are currently 53 members of which 4 were enrolled in September 2012.

### National Coordinating Team (elected October 2011)

Coordinator - Eileen Seow  
Assistant Coordinator - Catherine Siew  
Secretary - Christina TC Lee  
Treasurer - Josephine Goh

### Formation Team

Leader - Louise Lee  
Assistant Leader - Cecilia Villenguez  
Formators - Bridget Williams  
Christina Lee  
Magdalene Tan

In June 2012, the Team was expanded from 5 to 9 members when the NCT came onboard.

L-R: Cecilia, Louise, Bridget, Sr Mag Ee, Christina & Magdalene→



L-R: Josephine, Catherine, Sr Elizabeth, Eileen & Christina TC



### 2012 saw the Lay Canossians coming together as one big family for the Canossian celebrations on:

- 5th February St Bahkita Feast Day
- 13th May St Magdalene Feast Day
- 15th September Our Lady of Sorrows Feast Day

From right to left in picture, Lilian Sim, Magdalene Anthony, Margaret Lee and Victoria Lim from the San Antonio group were enrolled at Our Lady of Sorrows Feast Day.



On 21st October 2012, the Lay Canossians congregated for their Annual General Meeting with fellowship at lunch followed by a wonderful afternoon of life-giving sharings on how they live out the Canossian charism within their families, church ministries and in their evangelical outreach in their daily lives.



Gathering of the Family



Opening Address by Sr Theresa, Provincial Lead



Jessica Goh from Veritas group sharing her life-enriching experience as full-time caregiver to her mother



## SNIPPETS INTO THE LIFE OF CANOSSA CONVENT COMMUNITY

Celebrating birthdays: thanking God for the gift of life



Community outing to Singapore Garden Festival .....Gardens by the Bay



**Sisters in the community** are serving the Canossian Eduplex: Sr. Rose and Sr Florence in Canossaville Children's Home, Sr Priscilla in Canossian School, Sr Enrica in Magdalene's Kindergarten. Sr Mary S, Sr Christine Santhou and Sr. Janet in CCPS as well as teaching catechism to Catholic girls in SACPS, doing parish work and Prison ministry.

**3 Sisters are serving in Myanmar**, involved in the training of educators and the formation of youth and children: Sr. Angela, Sr Jacqueline & Sr. Marion.





## CANOSSIAN MYANMAR MISSION

The building of Canossa Home was completed beginning of 2012 and it started to house the trainees of the Formation of Educators Course. In July it received the 5<sup>th</sup> batch of trainees and a group of children in the boarding house.

### Official Opening Of Canossa Home

by Sr. Margaret Peter, our Congregational Leader on 26 July 2012



A Leader giving a session to the trainees + Canossian Melodies

+

Livelihood handicrafts



Children coming back to Canossa Home after school

3 Canossian Postulants in Myanmar



## A GROTTO FOR CANOSSA HOME

13 volunteers from CHARIS made a mission trip to Canossa Home in the outskirts of Yangan (21-27 Oct 2012) in response to a request by Sr Angela for help in building a grotto of Our Lady of Grace. Prior to their departure, the team met twice to prepare for the mission activities.



Each and everyone of the team members had their own talents and were able to synergize their efforts for the benefit of the children in the home. Angeline gave English lessons on effective communication and safety measures, Susan and Angie taught health care and sexuality education to the trainees, while Joan and Stephanie were busy with repair and maintenance around the home and Angela assisted by Bessie prepared delicious meals for the community.

The challenging task was the Grotto and although the plan looks simple in drawing, the actual building was not that simple. However everything worked out well and we now have a beautiful grotto to pray at. The grotto team Alan, Dominic and Sharon assisted by Peter in the beginning, worked tirelessly in the blistering sun, and completed the grotto within the stipulated time, in spite of it being their first attempt.

Albert the group cheer leader and photographer excelled in his availability while Helen used her Professional skills in helping the children to learn with ease and fun. All the trainees and children remember the lessons learnt and are grateful for all the help they have received, and will strive to make the home a warm and safe place.

Said one of the children, "We were very happy to learn new games and to draw. Our teachers were very patient with us. We love our Teachers."

This is what the trainees said: "We will always remember you by name: Teachers Dominic, Alan, Peter, Sharon, Joan, Stephanie, Bessie, Angela, Angeline, Susan, Angie, Albert and Helen. We will also remember you in our prayers especially when we gather round the Grotto to pray our Rosary." Our heartfelt THANKS to Archbishop Nicholas Chia of Singapore who sponsored the beautiful statue of Our Lady.



***GOD BLESS YOU AND ALL YOUR DEAR ONES ABUNDANTLY !***

*Sr. Angela Ng*

### **FEEDBACK FROM THE FED LEADERS**

**Hazel:** I would like to share what I have learnt from our volunteers from Singapore. I have learnt how to buy appropriate tools and keep a proper inventory of the spare parts and tools available. You teach us tirelessly and patiently. As a result of the lessons in repair and maintenance, we no longer have to pay others to repair our appliances now that we can do it ourselves.

**Julia:** I am very happy and grateful to all the teachers for helping us. We have learnt many virtues from the teachers and their efforts make us feel like we have a place in their hearts. I have learnt a lot from Teacher Susan and Teacher Angeline, as I was working with them most of the time. I am sure that the other trainees have gained a lot as well. I have also learnt how to take better care of the home and how things should be done from Teacher Joan. I am really proud of you for the grotto you have created. In addition, I have also observed many of the teachers working tirelessly behind the scenes, packing gifts for the trainees and children. All in all, what I have learnt from the whole group is that if we are alone, we can only do very little. However, we can achieve great things as a group, especially if our hearts are big enough.



**Louisa:** I learnt to be more proactive in doing things. I am very proud of the teachers who built the grotto in the hot sun, without any complaints. The teachers who were responsible for cooking were able to whip up dishes with whatever ingredients we had. They were very humble and helpful.

## **Let us hear from our volunteers**

**Angie Dierl writes:**

### ***LOVING & FORGIVING IN MYANMAR***

**CANOSSIAN MISSION TRIP: 21-27 OCTOBER 2012**

#### ***Mingalaba!***

*Overcome by humility and some sense of helplessness* – that was how we embarked on our 1<sup>st</sup> mission trip in this Year of Faith that was declared by Pope Benedict XVI on 11 October 2012.

We could not believe our ears when the pilot announced it was 35°C as we landed in Yangon International Airport on 21 October 2012, after a nearly 3-hour flight from Singapore. Sr Angela met us and whisked away Albert & Helen with the barang<sup>2</sup> for Canossa Home (CH); the latter checked in Jasmine Hotel, while the non-air-conditioned minibus drove us to Mother Land Inn 2 (MLI2) in Yangon. That evening Sr Angela brought us to dinner (cum cultural show) in Karaweik, a floating Burmese palace restaurant.

For the next 5 days, after breakfast at MLI2 and JH, CH driver picked us in CH jeep (naturally ventilated), and an hour later we arrived in CH for our programme (following closely Sr Angela's wishlist) :

Susan, a trained nurse, worked out an adequate lineup on First Aid, Hygiene, Childhood Illnesses, Sexuality and Pregnancy programmes; and the young ladies were all ears.

Angeline, a trained teacher, conducted English lessons with Safety in mind, injecting humour and in easy-to-understand terms. The trainees were all too eager to know more.

Joan was a gem on this trip. She went beyond her call, and engaged Wendy Douglas-Khin (building interior and construction professional residing in Yangon) who gave an educated insight on the maintenance issues in CH, plus the critical suggestion of setting the foundation slab for the grotto before the working team arrived from Singapore. Joan repaired the malfunctioning plumbing gadgets; washed down the algaed walls of the Home; supervised the laying of thicker electrical cables by the newly hired electrician, etc. And she loved most - playing games with the children.



Despite being put in the spot, Angela's culinary skills were exemplary, and with help from modest Bessie who was always at hand, they oversaw the kitchen operations. All of us enjoyed the home-cooked meals.

Helen, a trained child specialist, worked happily with the children

on games and drawings as they were at Home for the holidays.

The most important Grotto team has a stoic leader Alan who persevered with veteran missionary Dominic, recruit Peter and Tinkerbelle Sharon, for 5 gruelling days under the scorching sun of 35°C. They worked religiously and gave up the shopping sprees and visits to the nearby homes.

Stephenie, besides assisting in the Maintenance team, took care of logistics and ensured that all monies matters were in order.





CH educators Julia and Hazel, with their spontaneous translations during Susan and Angeline's classes could put a professional to shame, bearing in mind there were no rehearsals.

As Peter was to fly home on 24 October 2012, Sr Angela suggested we visited Kyawtan Sacred Heart Church (SHC) orphanage (85 boys) and St Mary's Home (120 girls). CH children came along and presented goodie bags (packed by Angela-Bessie-Susan-Stephenie-Angie) to the residents. Fr Matthew of SHC had an injured

foot, and he served us fresh coconut juice. At St Mary's Home, we were in awe as our transport (this time in air-conditioned bus) drove us through acres of land of plenty (chicken farms, milk cows, dragon fruit plantations, etc). We were treated to tea by Sr Mary Bernard.

It was Thadingyat (Festival of Lights when Buddha visited his mother on earth) in Myanmar on 25 October 2012; and we put up a lantern-lit night in the CH compound – everyone was delighted, especially the children. Sr Angela led the rosary recitation amidst the swaying cheerfully-lit lanterns.

On 26 October 2012 in CH, after morning prayers, we had a mutual sharing with the residents and received personal handmade thank you cards from them, as we bid each other farewell. We were simply touched by their simplicity and graciousness.



Fr Muthu of St Francis Xavier Church came to bless the Grotto of Our Lady of Grace late morning, and we recited the rosary and sang hymns praising God. Later some of us walked over to visit the church.

We did a little shopping and had dinner in Pandaroma Restaurant.

Most of us flew back on 27 October. Canossian Sisters forge ahead with their mission in Myanmar with much vigour and passion amidst ongoing challenges; their spirit of spreading Christ's Love to others is ever so ardent just like in the days when the Italian Canossian Missionaries first arrived in Singapore. Praise the Lord! ***Chei-zu tin-bar-de (Thank you!)***

**Dominic:** *We too hope to make a positive impact, not to be remembered for what we have done, but that they are not alone, not forgotten and that GOD never abandons.*

**Stephenie:** *Sr Angela requested for assistance with repair and maintenance around the home and Joan rose to the challenge. Joan received a list of problems before the trip so that she could prepare some tools and spare parts in advance. After much hard work, we were able to fix 3 taps, rid the walls of algae with bleach and redid the electrical wiring with the help of an experienced electrician.*

## OTHER VOLUNTEERS & FRIENDS

We are grateful to other volunteers who came in Nov. & Dec to help us:

- Jane Tay and Lena Tan who paid short visits to Myanmar to assist in our Formation House and see the needs of the people in the villages.
- Shirley Tan, Mel Ng and Anne Siew who conducted short courses for kg teachers in Yangon & Taunggyi and visited our educators serving in the various boarding houses in the villages.
- Lilian & Michael who came with Sr. Margaret Goh on their way to Taunggyi.



## CHARITY

**is a fire that reaches out to embrace all**

*St. Magdalene of Canossa*



**Our M3 Volunteers**, consisting of 3 families: Theresa & Gilbert with their 2 children Ashley and Eton, niece Yvonne, Ken & Su May with their teenaged children Stefanie and Chris, Patric and Anne with their 2 little boys Louka and Tim were in Canossa Home for 5 days. Theresa shared this poem on their experience with the Educators and children on the last day of their visit.

Dec 10<sup>th</sup> ...

13 of M3 friends descended upon Yangon  
At the Canossian House, we were greeted by a strong chorus of songs.

24 FEDs from all over Myanmar,  
Learn how to care for poor children from near and far.  
The 11 adopted girls are very beautiful  
When they perform they come across really COOL.

From 8am to 8pm, we were kept busy,  
Practising Christmas pageant, Maths thrill and leadership themes.  
Not forgetting our men and boys,  
Who painted the walls with a lot of poise.

We started each day with thanksgiving,  
And ended each day with bible liturgy.  
Lunches ranged from Chinese, Thai and Wanton mee  
Dinners were done with a lot of love by Auntie Nelly.

Games time were a highlight for the Burmese  
With a lot of joyful energy they did not miss,  
Kicking balls and showing teamwork,  
The team from Singapore defended and ignored the dirt.

The visit to Kwautan was anticipatory,  
We prepared Christmas decorations and buckets of paint  
When we arrived the 85 boys were ready,  
They were very interested to join in our game.

We painted, they painted,  
We pumped our balloons, they waited.  
We gave out Christmas goodie bags,  
They were so happy and no one nagged.

All too soon, we had to leave,  
Back to Canossa Home for a paraliturgy.  
FEDs and us, we recited the rosary near the grotto,  
Children joined in too, carrying lanterns in a row.

We ended off the mission with the Christmas pageant,  
Celebrating Mass at the same time their sending off.  
Hurray to the Canossian Sisters  
Who have worked hard for all the girls.

From this trip we learn  
That God is good and he sends the poor  
To remind us how blessed we are  
And that we must help them for sure



We wish all a Merry Christmas.  
Take care when you do your practicum.  
The Canossian Sisters and Auntie Nelly,  
We like to say 'Thank You, you are so lovely'.

*Theresa Goh (M3 co-ordinator)*



## Christmas Cheer in Pekhon: 29 Nov – 6 Dec. 2012

Three of us, Ana, Margaret and I went with Sr Jacq and Sr Marion to give Christmas Cheer to the children in 4 places in Pekhon, Myanmar where the people are very poor. We reached out to about 350 children in 2 boarding houses and 2 villages as well as a good number of adults.

Many of the people there were seeing foreigners for the first time. The faces of the children lit up when they saw us.

In the boarding houses, our Christmas Cheer programme included giving the children a much better meal, a gift of a jacket to keep them warm during winter, balloon sculpturing (something they had never seen before), football, volley ball and sepak takraw games, and sweets and chocolates (donated by Cocoa Trees of Singapore). The children welcomed us with songs and traditional dances.



In the villages we gave out rice and blankets to some poor families. They were so touched by the generosity of our friends and donors of Singapore and were very grateful.

In fact some of them even teared.

The journey to the villages was tough as there were many potholes and

mud but the joy we saw in the people and children made our mission trip really worthwhile.

The Bishop of Pekhon was very hospitable. He shared with us the needs of the poor people. He has already started vegetable farming. Other livelihood projects which would help to alleviate poverty include chicken, goat and pig farming as well as fish ponds.

To sum up, the Bishop of Pekhon was really very grateful to all the donors for their generosity came all the way to their poor. Pekhon celebrated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception earlier on the 6-Dec 2012 (our last day in Myanmar) and we attended also. At this Mass, the Bishop was the Main Celebrant and he thanked and prayed for all of us during the Mass.

Joseph Tham





# Re-invigorate

## Living the Canossian Spirit

The Chaplaincy team worked very closely with the Canossian Charismatic Formation Team to keep the flame of the Canossian Spirit alive among the staff of our 9 schools, Kindergartens and Homes in Singapore. A small team even went up to Kluang, Malaysia to animate a staff seminar there.



## Induction of New Staff



## Eduplex Staff Formation ~ Masses, paraliturgies, talks & prayer sessions for staff & students



A Canossian Staff Symposium for Key Personnel & All Staff from Canossian Schools Kindergartens and Homes was conducted by Fr Michael McGuire in May on the theme: Knowing Me , Knowing You.



# CHARITY GALA DINNER

St Anthony's Canossian Primary and Secondary Schools' inaugural Charity Gala Dinner\*

at Marina Mandarin Ballroom on Saturday, 30 June 2012

was more than a fundraiser for the PRIME project, it was a grace-filled, inspiring, joyful and memorable experience.

Mr S R Nathan, 6<sup>th</sup> President of the Republic of Singapore and Mrs Nathan graced the event as the Guests of Honour. Not only did Mr Nathan make time to attend the event, he donated five copies of his book, *An Unexpected Journey: Path to the Presidency* toward our cause.



*Mr Marco Wu receiving Mr S R Nathan's book*

The top five donors for the Charity Gala Dinner were accorded the honour and privilege of receiving the autographed book – each bearing a personal message from Mr Nathan as a token of appreciation for their generous donation.

The ballroom was filled with more than four hundred and twenty happy donors and well-wishers – everyone made a special effort to support our cause by their attendance despite the partial road closure of some roads in close proximity to the hotel, due to the National Day Parade rehearsal. It was a pleasant surprise for us and our guests that the expected traffic congestion at Marina Square area did not happen. According to many, it was a breeze driving to Marina Mandarin Hotel. Our Father in heaven must be watching over us.

Indeed God's blessings were upon us throughout the event. There was laughter, chatter and the event was enjoyable all around. The guests thoroughly enjoyed the excellent performances by the Primary and Secondary School students, the teachers' band and Hossan Leong, MediaCorp and Radio personality.



*Mr & Mrs S R Nathan hosted by Sr Theresa Seow and Mr Cheong Yip Seng at the VIP table*



Donors responded enthusiastically to the auction. The auction pieces were all sold at prices way above the opening price. One of the donors who successfully bid for the Mother Teresa digitized print was disappointed that there was no competitor as she wanted to donate more. So she quietly donated more than the bid price! Alleluia!! Other guests made pledged and outright donations at the event.

The climax of the evening was the sharing on the life-changing Canossian education.

Ms Martens, Principal of the Secondary School gave flesh to the framework of the Canossian brand of education by citing specific examples of how the Canossian education transformed the lives of some students. This was corroborated by an alumna's personal sharing of how she overcame all odds and finally did well, with the help and care of her teachers. Ms Martens' speech and the alumna's sharing each received a roaring applause. This part of the programme touched and inspired everyone in the ballroom.

Although the evening had several high points, this had the greatest impact on the guests. This was made explicit at the end of the evening. Every guest had something good to say.

Many donors remarked approvingly, "Your schools are doing the right thing! Schools should not only take in the brilliant students just because of ranking, they should embrace every child".

One donor proclaimed excitedly, "Every school should be like the Secondary School and every Principal should be like the Principal (Ms Martens)".

Another donor with twin daughters said, "I am totally impressed by the two schools. I want to send my girls to your school, can or not?"

What a fantastic testimony of the good work that Canossian Daughters of Charity and the Canossian schools are doing!

*\*The inaugural Charity Gala Dinner is a joint project of the Canossian PRIME Fundraising Committee, Alumni Association, St Anthony's Canossian Primary & Secondary Schools and Parent Volunteers.*

*This event raised a gross total of \$576,860.00.*

Rose Lu

Chairperson

Gala Dinner Organizing Committee

**Dear Friends and Benefactors,**  
**We, Canossian Sisters, staff and students of St. Anthony's Canossian Primary and Secondary Schools are very grateful to all of you for your generous donations and support.**  
**We are still in need of funds to complete the project of SAC Primary & Secondary Schools and will need to help Canossa Convent Primary School which is embarking on its PRIME project in January 2013.**  
**We count on your continued support.**  
**Thank you and may God bless you everyday!**

**Canossian Schools PRIME Fund-raising Committee**



# Renew

## MOVING BACK TO OUR “NEW” SCHOOLS after PRIME



After spending two years in the holding schools, St Anthony's Canossian Primary & Secondary Schools are moving back to our campus in Bedok North Ave 4, where larger classrooms and halls and more facilities are available. SACSS will have a brand new Performing Arts Centre built with funds raised.

SACPS held a Thanksgiving Prayer service before the ceremonial move from the holding school.





# Embracing Change in the Eduplex

PRIME for Canossa Convent Primary School 2013-2014

Even at the Canossian Eduplex in Sallim Rd, there is much movement as both Canossa Convent Primary School and Canossian School move out to their holding school in Circuit Rd to make way for PRIME (Programme for Rebuilding and Improving Existing Schools).

A Thanksgiving Prayer Service was held before the ceremonial walk to the holding school.



Magdalene's Kindergarten will operate in Canossian School. The residential staff and children of Canossaville Children's Home and the Sisters of Canossa Convent will remain where they are.

## Looking towards a bright future

