



December 2014
Winter Edition

Ontario Maryknollers

Official Newsletter of Maryknoll Convent Former Students (Ont.)

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☆ Committee Members ☆
☆ 2014 ~ 2016 ☆
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Letter from Sr. Jeanne

December 2014

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Dear Maryknollers,



2014 has indeed been a challenge to all peoples and religions. ISIS, Ebola, Russian Occupation of Ukraine, Synagogue Desecration, Beheading of men has held all of us in deep concern of where the world is headed. It is at this time of turmoil that faith in the Divine Mystery, “that something on the horizon the likes of which we have never seen before” embraces each of us with renewed faith and hope and love.

In August the Toronto Maryknollers staged a reunion for all teachers and former students. Certainly, Sisters Joan, Teresa, Earnest, Sandy, Paulette and myself were spoiled with the detailed preparations and the final execution of a splendid affair. With special thanks to the organizing committee with Linda da Rocha Little as chair and Jacqueline Lam Fong, the chair of Toronto Chapter.

This year at Maryknoll we had final vows for four sisters, first vows for two, many 50th jubilarians and believe it or not a good number for 60, 65, 70 and 75. As one of our doctors said we are living beyond the norm. Sister Miriam Xavier from St. Louis with keenest mind reached 101.

The renovated bathrooms for our elderly sisters were finally completed. They are now wheelchair friendly as well as newly tiled and decorated.

Our documentary film “Trailblazers in Habits” has been well received. TV ABC “Religion and Ethics” showed our film in November at 2:30 pm. Because ABC is owned by Disney, we had to edit some of the scenes because of children viewing hours. The showing was well received. People from all over the USA wrote of seeing and approving it. The film has been to Florida (John Paul II International Film Festival), Illinois, Texas, New York, California, Hong Kong, Canada and our Ossining Library. Now we need to procure a sight for St Louis in 2015.

Love and Prayers,
Jeanne Houlihan MM



President's Report (2012 - 2014)

Jacqueline Fong

Just to go over some of our activities –

Our last BGM was held on September 28, 2012.

On Oct. 24 – 29th, 2012 a group of MCS girls went down to the Motherhouse in New York to help and support the Sisters with their Annual Bazaar and had a good time. Besides the bazaar – there was an awful lot of shopping!! And, thankfully, we managed to keep one step ahead of Hurricane Sandy and arrived home safely.

In April 2013 we held the showing of the film “Trailblazers in Habits” at the Centre of Creative Learning which is part of the Crescent School on Bayview Avenue. This was very successful. We had over 250 people attending and we raised over US\$20,000 for the Maryknoll Sisters.

We had a Golf Tournament in the Summer of 2013 enjoyed by all our golfers.

On Nov. 17, 2013 we held our Academic Achievement Award dinner and we invited Marianne Tavares, a former MCS girl and a Sister, to speak about caring for our elderly parents – what services were available to us and how to care for them, etc. It was an interesting evening.

Of course, the highlight of our term was this year’s Worldwide Reunion in Toronto and the 30th Anniversary of our own Association held on August 3rd. We worked very hard and the result spoke for itself – we had over 400 attendees. It was an over-whelming success in all aspects and we received a tremendous amount of positive feedback from the girls all over the world who attended this function. MCS girls from as far as Australia and Hong Kong to name a few places. To read more on this, please go into our website www.mcsontario.org

Our Membership Directory is in the process of being completed. I would like to thank our sponsors who covered the expenses of this publication, Eva Wong, Shirley Cheong and Wendy and Nora Man. Thank you for your generosity. We will make arrangements as to delivery and pick-up. Please bear in mind that we will not be sending the Directory through the mail. We ask for your cooperation in helping us with this.

I am very pleased to announce that we now have 275 members and counting. Interest in our Association was revived because of the Worldwide Reunion. If you know of MCS girls who might be interested, ask them to contact any committee member and we will be glad to help.

Thank you.

Biennial General Meeting



Forty members attended the BGM held at Shiso Tree Café on November 27, 2014. Prior to our meeting, we were treated to a buffet of extremely fresh sushi and sashimi and Japanese style poutine. The meeting then began with a passing of the minutes of the previous BGM, the financial statements for the two fiscal years ending April 2014 and the president’s report. As there were only eleven candidates for the upcoming committee, being the existing eleven members of the committee, we were elected by acclamation.

The Academic achievement award then was presented to Cristina Steinhauser, daughter of Andrea Steinhauser. The award is presented every year to children

of members who attained an average of 80% or higher in their six best grade 12 courses. The committee also provided information about the “Brick” Project at the Motherhouse.

Following the meeting, members dined on a delicious three-course dinner. We then took a group photo for inclusion in the Christmas card we all signed for the Sisters at the Motherhouse.

Linda da Rocha Little

Welcome New Members

Our BIG welcome to the two new members who joined us on the day of our biennial general meeting, Nov. 28, 2014. They are

Rose Cheung of year 1982 and **Irene Ho Chen** of year 1966.

We hope to have more girls join us in the coming year.



Cute twin grandsons of out-going President, Jacqueline Fong. Wesley and Graydon Taylor at 20 months old - our future "environmentally conscientious" citizens.

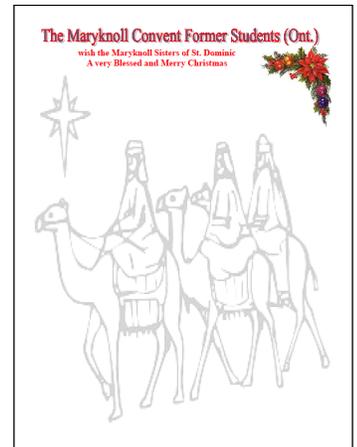
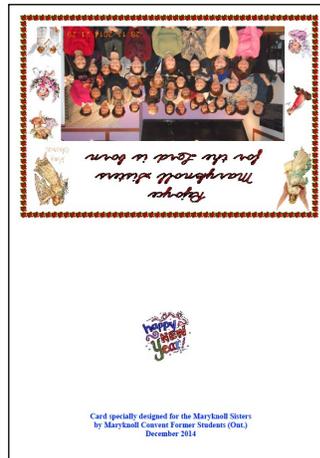
Congratulations to

Cristina Steinhauser Thank you so much for the scholarship which I plan to use towards my music education at Wilfred Laurier University. I graduated from Bishop Reding Secondary School last year as an Ontario Scholar. During my four years in high school I was a member of the school choir, concert and jazz bands and the field hockey and soccer teams. In Grade 12, I was selected to the senior leadership program. I am currently taking a year off to work, teach piano, and obtain a Royal Conservatory Associate Diploma in Piano Performance. My



Andrea accepting the award for her daughter

cousins and I volunteered at the Maryknoll Worldwide Reunion this past year, and I had a great time meeting people from the Maryknoll alumni community.



Card specially designed for the Maryknoll Sisters by Maryknoll Convent Former Students (Ont.) December 2014



Marilyn Hall Pun (class of 1971) whose first grandson Clark Pun, was born on November 7, 2014 weighing in at 7.9 lbs in Hong Kong. We wish Marilyn and baby Clark great health and happiness in the future.

Over the years, it has been the tradition for the MCS Former Students (Ont) Inc. to send a special designed Christmas card to the Sisters at the Motherhouse together with donation cheques in US funds we have collected from the girls during the year. As our BGM was held on Nov. 28 this year, we have used this timely occasion to take a group photo at the end of that evening and have incorporated the photo in the Christmas card. We have included a total of US\$1911.44 with it. It was sent to Maryknoll N.Y. in mid-December and a few days ago, Sr. Teresa Leung has already acknowledged receipt of our card and donations.

Letter from our new president, Wendy Man

Dear MCS Former Students (Ont.) Alumni Members:

I am honoured to be elected as the new President for 2014-2016. I graduated from Maryknoll Convent School in 1988 and moved to Canada in 1990. I joined the association in 2002 and became a committee member in 2010. As you may recognize, I was the secretary for the committee in the last 4 years. I was also the 8th MCS Worldwide Reunion & 30th MCS Former Students (Ont.) Alumni Anniversary Gala Chair

As the secretary, I learned a lot on how the association is run and the commitment and teamwork that every committee member brought to the table. In the last 2 years, I was deeply touched by all the dedication and hard work that we all contribute, which brings such a success for the benefit of our beloved Maryknoll sisters. The Maryknoll Spirit is surely revived.

In the upcoming 2 years, our committee will continue to organize social gatherings, e.g. games night and fundraising events for our Motherhouse. If you have any social gathering ideas, please feel free to contact any one of our committee members.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2015.

Maryknoll Sisters Founder Named National Women's Hall of Fame Inductee

Maryknoll, NY – Mother Mary Joseph Rogers, MM, founder of Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, has been named one of nine American women to be inducted in 2013 into the National Women's Hall of Fame (NWHF), it was announced yesterday by the NWHF.

The National Women's Hall of Fame, which is the oldest national membership organization dedicated to recognizing outstanding individual American women and their achievements, selects up to 12 women every other year "to honor in perpetuity whose contributions have been of the greatest value for the development of the country." They are selected by a distinguished board of judges from leading national organizations, education institutions and diverse fields of human endeavor.

Mother Mary Joseph, whose "extraordinary achievements were recognized and applauded" by all the judges, according to NWHF deputy director Amanda Bishop, will join the 247 eminent women who have been inducted into the Hall since its founding in 1969 at a special induction ceremony to be held at the NWHF headquarters in Seneca Falls, NY, on Saturday, October 12, 2013. Among others included in this year's list besides Mother Mary Joseph were Betty Ford and House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi.

"We are thrilled and honored by Mother Mary Joseph's selection," said Sister Janice McLaughlin, MM, president of Maryknoll Sisters, upon receiving the news from NWHF president Beverly P. Ryder, "and happy for the recognition it gives to our founder who achieved so much, not only for women religious, but for all American women, at a time when possibilities for them were far more limited than they are today.

"Mary Josephine Rogers, as she was called prior to joining religious life, broke through the negative stereotypes about the role of American Catholic women in church and society at the beginning of the twentieth century," Sister Janice commented. "As founder of the first American mission congregation of Catholic women, she proved that women were equal to the demands of life and ministry abroad, particularly in places where poverty, physical hardship and sometimes, even safety during wartime, were commonplace."

A graduate of Smith College, Mother Mary Joseph was a woman gifted with natural leadership ability and a charismatic bearing that quickly showed others, among them Father James A. Walsh, founder of Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers, with whom she worked, that she was the perfect person to lead the first US-based congregation of women religious dedicated to foreign mission in 1912.

Born on October 27, 1882, in Roxbury, MA, Mary Josephine "Mollie" Rogers, the fourth of eight children, was inspired by her Irish Catholic parents with a passion for the church and its works worldwide that they sought to sow in all their children.

Today, Maryknoll Sisters serve in 26 nations around the world, ministering to all people, regardless of race, creed or nationality, with a special emphasis on working with the poor, with women and with all those who struggle on the fringes of society. Their numbers include doctors and nurses; authors, artists and dancers; social workers, ecologists and peace activists; theologians and spokespersons to the United Nations.

For more information on Maryknoll Sisters, please visit our website: www.maryknollsisters.org