



July 2009  
Summer Edition

# Ontario Maryknollers

Official Newsletter of Maryknoll Convent Former Students (Ont.)

## The Icon Tree

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☆ **Committee Members** ☆  
☆ **2008~2010** ☆  
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Many Maryknollers may have received communication or have been contacted by friends and classmates regarding the pine tree seen in the picture to the left. There has been much media attention in Hong Kong and even on web sites. We have received a letter from Sr. Jean Houlihan and also copy of a letter on the response to the matter from the Hong Kong Government. These letters are available by clicking [http://mcsontario.org/mcs\\_icon\\_tree.htm](http://mcsontario.org/mcs_icon_tree.htm)

### President

Ludia Fong

### Vice-President

Jacqueline Fong

### Treasurers

Lily Wong Yeung  
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### Secretaries

Margaret Ching  
Linda da Rocha

### Newsletter Production

Gertrude Chan

### Activities

Nena Noronha  
Marie Louise Chang  
Marilyn Pun  
Margaret Wong  
Irene Legay

### Membership/Directory

Jacqueline Fong

### Web-site Administrator

Gertrude Chan

### Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 20056  
Nymark Postal Outlet  
4839 Leslie Street  
North York, ON. M2J 5E4

### Web Site:

<http://www.mcsontario.org>

Our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fundraising Gala at the Granite Club was an enjoyable night, where all guests attended had a great time. Old friendship was rekindled, and we raised US\$30,000.00 for our Motherhouse, thanks to all the supporters, donors. Without your support, we cannot make such a success at this time of economic crisis. My heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your support. These memories can now be obtained by ordering the photographs taken at the Gala. All proceeds from the sale of these photographs will be donated to the Motherhouse. Please click on [http://www.mcsontario.org/recent\\_happenings.htm](http://www.mcsontario.org/recent_happenings.htm) to view and order these photographs.

On Oct 18, 2009, we will have our AAA Award and Bingo Dinner, details of this function is on p. 3 of this newsletter. Sr. Teresa Leung will be in town, and she would love to see as many of us as possible. So please do join us for this evening. Hope to see you all on Sunday, October 18, 2009.

## excerpts from the "Thank you letter of Sr. Teresa"



Srs. Agnes McKeirnan & Teresa Leung

On behalf of the Maryknoll Sisters, I would like to express our gratitude to you, your husbands, children, brothers, sisters, parents, relatives and friends who have enthusiastically participated during these 25 years in raising funds for the Maryknoll Sisters.

Through this historic event, you have raised **US\$30,000 (which is actually over \$33,000 Canadian dollars)**. You have worked a miracle in producing this huge amount at this difficult financial period. I can just see you yourselves pouring out funds from your own pockets. Words will never be adequate enough to thank you for your unbelievable generosity. We also appreciate very much your hard work, your anxieties, stress and nightmares, wondering how it was going to work out at this difficult time. You were great in your generosity of giving your energy, time, expertise, moral and financial support to make this event possible. I have designated your donations to the account for urgently needed repairs of the Motherhouse.

**W**elcome to our newest members since the 25th anniversary, *Helen Lau*, class of 1977. Helen is the sister of *Winnie Lau*, '76 and cousin of *Berenice Tsui*, '81.

*Ellen Yu Vandelaarschot* (1971) flew in from Chicago to attend the 25th celebration gala on June 13. She had so much fun that evening that her Maryknoll spirit soared high and wanted to join one MCS association. As Chicago is closest to Toronto, Ellen is now a new member. Long distance doesn't seem to be an issue and she promises to fly in for future events whenever possible.

# 25th Anniversary Celebration Report

By Linda da Rocha Little

## ~Flashback: May 1984

Phone call from a Maryknoller I have never met who just arrived from HK. She wondered if I could get together some former Maryknollers to form a former students association. Well, Dorothy Tsang, you certainly started a whirlwind here. Next thing I knew, there were 18 of us at Noellie Minhinnett's house tossing around ideas. We even incorporated as a non profit association and drew up by-laws. It was a busy time but it was so much fun working together and getting to know each other. We grew...

## ~Flash to 25 years later - June 2009

I am standing on stage singing "O Maryknoll, O Mayknoll, Thy name most honoured be! ...." with the other committee members of the Maryknoll Convent Former Students (Ontario) Inc. We sing to the piano accompaniment of Joanna Wong (daughter of Alice Wong) who kindly recorded the piece at Maryknoll, HK and sent it to us especially for this occasion. I feel as if I am back in the auditorium at Maryknoll. Who would have thought that twenty-five years later we would have over 250 members and be hosting another fund raising gala at the elegant Granite Club. In front of me are 24 tables of former Maryknollers, former teachers, Sister Earnest (all the way from Hawaii) and many friends from the United States and Australia.



We were then addressed by our President Ludia Fong (in person) and by our founder Dorothy Tsang (by pretaped video from Hong Kong). Then seven of the nine former presidents of the Association who were in attendance cut the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake. It was a lemoncello cake (ever so yummy!), decorated with the school crest, made by a former Maryknoller commissioned by Patricia Wu and Jacqueline Fong.



Sister Earnest said Grace (meaningful but short, as promised) and we were treated to a culinary delight. During the dinner we watched and listened to words of congratulations and best wishes from both Sister Jeanne Houlihan and Sister Rose Duchesne (both by video from HK).



The ballroom was filled with activity. On one side of the hall, there was a silent auction with numerous items to be desired – all donated by our generous members. There were also luggage tags and souvenir mugs with the picture of our historic primary school building on them to commemorate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. (There are still a few of these treasures available – just contact one of our committee members). To add to the fun there were also raffles, table prizes and door prizes.

We were entertained by three performances. Christine Cheung '71 sang two of our old time favourites from "The Sound of Music", Loretta Yu Lee '63 and Dr. Sai Ping Lee performed two ballroom dances and Dr. Jeffrey Fong, Ludia's husband (and every Maryknoller's dream hubby) sang a duet with Sister Earnest. These were not just top notch entertaining performances. They were also one of the major source of fundraising from pledges made by Maryknollers present both physically and in spirit. Thanks so much to every single one of you!

The evening seemed to go by so quickly - there was hardly enough time to catch up with so many people.....and in between, enjoying the delicious sweet table and dancing! You should have seen Sister Earnest do the 'YMCA' with the class of '71!

To top off a fabulous evening, Derek son of Dr. Shirley Cheong Chan '81 (who has always been a great supporter of all our activities and fundraising) and Ada, daughter of Connie Cheong Chan '75 presented Sister Earnest with a cheque. We raised US \$30,000!!!!!!





# Urgent Appeal for Maryknoll Sisters at Motherhouse New York, U.S.A.

**The** current worldwide economic crisis has affected a great number of people. Many have lost jobs, their home, investments or have seen their retirement savings reduced or depleted. We pray that our members have been spared or not too severely affected by this crisis.

It has come to our knowledge that our beloved Maryknoll Sisters at the Motherhouse in New York has been seriously affected by the current financial 'tsunami'. During hard times, donations to charitable organizations, generally reduces or dries up. The Maryknoll Sisters rely heavily on donations for their operation. With so many Sisters now in their senior years and fewer and fewer young ladies joining the convent, donations make up a major part of their income.

In 2005, when economic times were much stronger, the Maryknoll Sisters undertook a major assessment of the buildings on the Motherhouse grounds. The Consultants found a range of needs from those urgent for the safety of the residents and staff to those required to sustain the structural integrity of the buildings for a long time. The plan was to look after the urgent needs immediately with the continued support of regular generous donors. The overall cost of 12 and half million dollars was to be spread over five years.

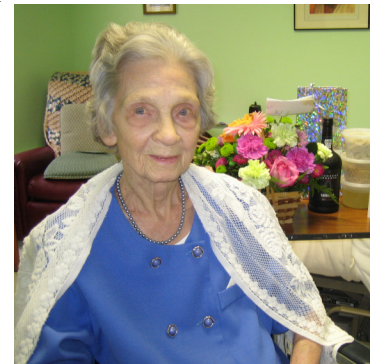


*Sr. Miriam Xavier Mug*

During the repairs, it was discovered that the building contained asbestos. Many years ago asbestos was commonly used in building methods and materials. Today it is considered a cancer and lung disease hazard. As a result special precautions are required when repairs are done. This not only added to the cost; the asbestos when exposed, must be removed or the area may not be inhabited.

Over the past winter the boiler in the cloister building broke and the Sisters had to move out of the area until spring. Investigation is currently underway to fix the heating system economically and environmentally safe

On a recent visit to the Motherhouse by a member of our association, a pipe burst and flooded an area, indicating another urgent need.



*Sr. Corinne Rost, celebrating her 92nd birthday, July 29, 09*

I have only recounted some of the major expenses that the Maryknoll Sisters at the Motherhouse currently are contracted to meet. Not only have the expenses increased substantially from the original plan, but also donations from regular generous supporters have dramatically reduced or have stopped. A double whammy so to speak!!!

We are told that the Sisters have cut many expenses, services and have done without where possible. What particularly concern me are the needs of the old and sick Sisters. I know that they will continue to receive the best and loving care they have always received. I just hope that circumstances will not alter this.

The Executives of Maryknoll Convent Former Students (Ontario) Inc. have dedicated the rest of our term to raise funds for the Motherhouse. We acknowledge that what we hope to raise may be a drop in the bucket, but a drop is better than nothing at all. We are also appealing to all our members to donate what they can, when they can to help Maryknoll who gave us so many Sisters, who left home, loved ones and country to help make us what we are today. Please use the form attached. Please also pass this message to your friends and classmates.

If members have ideas on how to raise funds, please contact any Executive member and we will consider if the plan is feasible

In anticipation of your generosity we thank you. God Bless  
Marie Louise Rocha Chang on behalf of the Executive Committee

## May They Rest in Peace



Once again it is time for the awards to be presented to the children of our members. Students with an overall average of 80% and above in six Ontario Academic Credits are eligible to

apply. The awards will be given out at the dinner on Sunday, Oct. 18. Transcripts should be sent to P.O. Box 20056, Nymark Postal Outlet, 4839 Leslie Street, North York, ON, M2J 5E4 no later than Oct. 1, 2009. For further queries, please contact Gertrude Chan at 416-496-9671.



Award recipients must be present (or one of the parents) at the dinner to receive the awards. Details for the dinner are as follows:

**Venue** Emperor Fine Chinese Cuisine  
9019 Bayview Ave., Unit 9, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 3M6  
Tel. 905-882-9388

**Cost** \$45.00 per person (bingo tickets included).  
\$20.00 children under 10 yrs. old

**Time** registration 3.30 p.m. for bingo  
bingo 4 p.m.  
dinner 7.00 p.m.

To reserve your seat for **Sunday, Oct. 18**, please fill in the form and return it with payment as soon as possible no later than **Oct. 1, 2009**

You are obliged to honour your commitment. *If you cancel your reservation less than 72 hours prior to the event, payment will be charged as we need to confirm with the restaurant.*

**Ilma Barradas de Carvalho** was one of the twelve students in the first Maryknoll class that started in 1925. She was also the first of six siblings, the others being Ionel, Marcus, Therese, Sherla and Bruno, to attend Maryknoll. After Ilma graduated she remained at Maryknoll as a teacher until the war broke out in 1941. Ilma passed away at age 88 on May 20, 2009 in Toronto. She is the aunt of Linda da Rocha and Regina Chan and sister-in-law of Nancy Barradas

**Grace Law Tang**, class of 1972, passed away from cancer in April, 2009. During the past two years, she had been very courageous and positive in her fight against the cancer cells. Before she rested in peace, she had tremendous support from her loving husband Eddie and her two sons Michael & Mathew. Her mother, sister & brother all came from Hong Kong to bid farewell. She will be remembered and missed by her family and friends.

### DONATIONS TO MARYKNOLL MOTHERHOUSE, NEW YORK

NAME : \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please include maiden name)

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT: CDN\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (please make cheque payable to **Maryknoll Convent Former Students (Ont.) Inc.\***)

AMOUNT: US\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (please use money order or a cheque drawn on a US Bank, payable to **Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic\*\***)

Receipt Required (Will be issued by Maryknoll Motherhouse): Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

- \* Your association will purchase a US\$ money order for the total cheques received.
- \*\* US\$ cheques drawn on Canadian Banks are subject to expensive collection charges

Please mail cheque and form to:  
**Maryknoll Convent School Former Students (Ont.) Inc.**  
P.O. Box 20056 Nymark Postal Outlet, 4839 Leslie Street,  
North York, Ontario M2J 5E4

**THANK YOU**

Please complete this **Reply Form** and mail it (together with your cheque) to: **Maryknoll Convent Former Students (Ont.) Inc., P.O. Box 20056, Nymark Postal Outlet, 4839 Leslie Street, North York, ON M2J 5E4**

Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print)

Year \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Guest's Name (s) 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_