



In Her Footsteps...



Message from our Spiritual Director

Dear Alumnae:

In 2008, there are many things for which we are to be thankful. This year marks the 200th year anniversary of the foundation of the Canossian Daughters of Charity, a significant milestone for all Canossians.

We celebrated this great achievement earlier in September, with a mass celebrated by Archbishop Michael Miller at the Canadian Martyrs parish, followed with a banquet in the evening. Former students, teachers, family, and friends of the Canossian family all came out to bear witness. It was a memorable day, and especially touching for the Sisters, when so many of you, our former students, have remained in contact with us throughout the years, have remembered the teachings you received while in school, and have continued to share your lives with us. Indeed, we are thankful for the opportunity to share this joyous celebration with so many students, colleagues, friends, and family.

Moreover, we are thankful to God for giving us the great examples in St. Magdalene and St. Bakhita, and for the opportunity to learn from the Saints and follow in their footsteps as God's children and servants of the poor.

200 years ago, St. Magdalene answered God's call. From a humble beginning, her Daughters and Sons of Charity now touch communities in six continents. Since then, many of us have strived to follow St. Magdalene's example.

Together with Sister Beatrice Mak, I have been with the Vancouver / Lower Mainland Community for over ten years. We have become involved in a great many assignments throughout the years. Our work has brought us in touch with different people, from the sick and weak, to the young and energetic. While the people we meet daily may be different, one thing remains unchanged: day to day, we are to **Make Jesus loved and Known by All**, as St. Magdalene had

urged.

There is great satisfaction in the work we do. There are joys of bringing people nearer to God, of helping people in times of desperation, and of meeting ex-patients who are released from their illness. There are fulfillments in seeing the younger generation answering God's call to do His work, and in seeing every-day people strengthening their faith in and love for God.



Our lives may be busy, but as Canossians, we are also called to be *contemplative apostles*. We are in the world but not of the world, as our Holy Foundress had said. Mass, meditation, reading, and prayer anchor our lives. In the ministerial work of charity, spirituality is always a top priority, for we cannot give what we do not possess.

The spirituality and the charitable work define us as God's children and followers of St. Magdalene's ministry. As Jesus told us, "You did not choose me; no I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last" (Jn. 15:16). We are chosen by God, to follow Him and to serve him. Let us be thankful for the opportunity to know God, to be in His Grace, and let us build on the work of our first 200 years and continue planting seeds that will bear fruits.

May the Lord bless all of you, your family, and your friends in this joyous Christmas Season, and May He grant you happiness and peace in the New Year.

Sr. Cecilia Cham, FdCC
Spiritual Director, CCAA
December 2008

Message from the President

Dear Fellow Alumnae,

This year is a very special year for all of us closely related to the Canossian family. On May 8, 2008, the Canossian Daughters of Charity from all over the world had celebrated the 200th Anniversary of Foundation.

Here in Vancouver, under the strong leadership of Magdalen Chiu and Linda Fung, a special celebration committee was formed to organize a day of celebration which took place on September 13, 2008. The event was divided into three parts, the Mass, the Exhibition and the Dinner. With the hard work and dedication of all committee members, the outcome was an extraordinary success. We had over 200 guests at this celebration. During the dinner reception, CCAA had presented a donation of \$4800 to the Canossian Daughters of Charity. Photo of this events, and many more, can be viewed on our website.

On June 1, 2008, we held our Annual General Meeting at Kirin Seafood Restaurant in Richmond. We were so glad that the number of attendances had double our initial expectation to 120 guests. At the AGM a new board for 2008-2009 was formed. This year most of our board members are newcomers. But with blessing, new input and great support from our members, we have full confident that we can continue to achieve another fruitful year. The AGM dinner ended with a donation cheque presentation to CMCC for emergency fund towards the victims of earthquake in China and flooding in the Szechuan province.

During the first six months of this term, CCAA board members had spent most of their time dedicated to assist the celebration committee in organizing the big event. In the coming new year, we will begin to focus on more fellowship functions for our members. Also in Jan 2009, CCAA will have a new face for our website; therefore, please stay tune for this exciting change.

Lastly, on behalf of CCAA board of directors, I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your continuous supports and may we wish you a very happy, healthy and prosperous Year of the Ox!

Vicky Wong (SMCC)

Board of Directors 2008-2009

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|-----------------------|------------------|
| Spiritual Director | Sr. Cecilia Cham |
| President | Vicky Wong |
| Vice President | Theresa Tsang |
| Secretary | Victoria Chu |
| Treasurer | Helen Wong |
| Director / Membership | Vicky Chan |
| Event Co-ordinator | Janet Mak |
| IT Web Co-ordinator | Amy Wong |
| Social Convenor | Belinda Fung |





Daughters of Charity of Canossa CRISTO REY PROVINCE



November 15, 2008

Dear Alumnae and Friends of the Canossian Sisters:

Warm greetings from Albuquerque and God's peace be with each of you!

I am truly grateful for your generous donation of US\$ 4,198.80 Bank Draft, which Sister Cecilia recently sent to me – the collection made during the unforgettable 200th Years Celebration held on September 13 at the Four Seasons, in Vancouver. I hold very precious memories of those days in Vancouver and, indeed, I was very touched by the love and devotion that so many of you hold for the Canossian Sisters, especially those who have taught you in the many schools and colleges in Hong Kong and Macau.

I thank you most sincerely also on behalf of the Sisters and of all those who benefit from our various ministries of charity in our Cristo Rey Province of North America. Close to my heart is the educational project in Chihuahua, Mexico. As you know we have been developing a small elementary school with a student population of about 350. The next step would be to develop the middle school section, and with God's help we hope to begin to operate by August 2009, using the same facility in the afternoons while we wait for a proper school building to go up. Your contribution will go toward this project so that we can begin to offer good, affordable, catholic and Canossian education to our Mexican children. Thank you so very much for supporting us.

I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all, in anticipation, a blessed Advent Season in preparation for Christmas. May this wonderful time of the year bring us all hope and peace in our families, communities and the entire world.

With gratitude and praying God's Blessings on each of you and your loved ones.

Sister Anne Bosio, FdCC
Provincial

A Memorable Day

Linda Fung, SHCC Macau
Co-Chair, Bicentennial Celebration Committee

2008 marks the milestone of the Canossian Sisters of Charity worldwide. In every continent celebrations were held and Vancouver is no exception.



At the suggestion of Sister Agnes Yu, FdCC, in 2006, and the approval of Sister Anne Bosio, a Celebration Committee was formed in 2007. Rev. Father John Horgan who had been the retreat master for the Canossian Colleges Alumni Association and is familiar with the Congregation was requested to be the Honorary Advisor to spearhead the Committee. Rev. Father Paul Chu of the Canadian Martyrs Parish, Richmond, offered his church for the Thanksgiving Mass to be held on September 13, 2008. His Excellency, Coadjutor Archbishop Michael Miller was invited to preside the Mass.

The Celebration Committee, chaired by Magdalen Chiu and Linda Fung, consisted of four sub-committees (Thanksgiving Mass, Musical Ministry, Editorial and the Gala Dinner) including alumni from Hong Kong. Research materials were provided by Sisters Cecilia Cham and Beatrice Mak. Generous support from Sister Lisa Doty of Rome, Sister Cynthia Chan of Hong Kong, Ms. Rita Tafoia, Secretary at the Provincial House in Albuquerque helped make the perpetration work. The CCAA, many parishioners of CMCC and Lay Canonossians participated with enthusiasm in the various sub-committees. Generous financial support came instantly and continuously from friends and families of Canossa.

The Celebration Committee was honoured by the attendance of Sisters Anne Bosio, Elisa Grignoli, Stella Negri and many Sisters from other local religious orders. The Mass, presided by His Excellency, Coadjutor Archbishop Michael Miller, was concelebrated by six priests. Inside the sunlit church, hymns filled the air and the pews packed. Archbishop Miller commemorated the life of Saint Magdalene who founded the Institution 200 years

ago. In his sermon, the Archbishop quoted three common words from the Bible: Joy, Love and Friendship.

At the offertory, Sister Anne led a procession and presented the Relic of Saint Magdalene to the Archbishop. After Mass, a reception and an exhibition of 10 panels depicting the history of the Congregation from its conception to the present was on display, together with a set of dolls wearing the evolution of Canossian habits. These displays were taken to the Four Seasons Hotel in downtown Vancouver for the dinner guests. They were also displayed at the Corpus Christi College on the campus of the University of British Columbia from September 15 to 26, 2008. Arrangements are being made for an exhibition in Toronto when the new St. Bakhita's Parish is opened. Then, hopefully these artistically designed panels will find their permanent home in the Provincial House in Albuquerque.

At the dinner attended by over 280 people, Sister Anne gave a brief history of the arrival of the Canossian Sisters in North America. "Best pages of history are always written by saints," she said, "Now Saint Magdalene too, has written a significant page in the history of humanity - a page that speaks on the personal journey in the spirit and above all, on the person's greatest love. She continues to be for us an inspiration, a mentor and a guide. Tonight, we pay tribute to Magdalene and the many women and men who followed her footsteps."

A beautiful performance was given by a few alumni from the Vancouver Chinese Choir Association. To show gratitude for a great education received, alumni from Singapore, the Philippines and Hong Kong offered a rose to each of the five Sisters present.

Those attending the Mass and the dinner found the day full of joy and love of God and will certainly cherish the friendship given to us by Our Lord Jesus Christ. All praised God for His glory and mercy, thanked Him for the gift of Saint Magdalene. May the serving spirit of Saint Magdalene inspire us to follow her acts and may her dream to make Jesus known so that He can be loved by all spread out all over the world.

We Honour and Praise

Magdalen Chiu, SMCC
Co-Chair, Bicentennial Celebration Committee

*Message reprinted from the 200th Anniversary Commemorative Booklet *Celebrating 200 Years of Foundation*



The concept of a bicentenary celebration for the foundation of the Canossian Daughters of Charity was conceived in the fall of 2006 when I visited Sister Agnes Yu, my elderly former headmistress in Hong Kong. Sister Agnes has been an important role model for many of her students. She possesses the virtues of patience and humility which had a significant impact not only on my spiritual growth but on how I work and share with others.

My conversation with Sister Agnes touched on the topic of the recent decline of young girls following Christ and sacrificing themselves in religious life. The pursuit of materialism dominates even though the Canossian Sisters have been established in Hong Kong for over a hundred years.

It has always been my desire to do something to honour Sister Agnes' contributions to each one of us, and in memory of the late

Sister Lucy Yau, my cousin, who also belonged to the Canossian family.

I took the liberty to talk to Sister Anne Bosio, the Provincial Superior of North America, when she came to Vancouver last year. I proposed the idea of a bicentenary celebration and she suggested that I should be in-charge of this event. It is my wish that tonight's celebration not only draw more young girls to enter this Congregation, but also help spread the charism of Saint Magdalene of Canossa throughout Canada.

Under the guidance of Father John Hogan and the support of a few outstanding alumni, a creative, enthusiastic and responsible committee was formed. In addition, we received a lot of research material from Sister Cecilia Cham, Sister Beatrice Mak, as well as Sisters from other parts of the world.

We are grateful that His Excellency, Coadjutor Archbishop of Vancouver, Most Reverend Michael Miller, friends, and benefactors can join us and share our joy and thanksgiving. May God bless each one of us. Long live the Canossians.



In Thanksgiving, We Offer this Mass...

Janet Ha
Bicentennial Celebration Committee

The 200th Anniversary Thanksgiving Mass of the Canossian Daughters of Charity was held on September 13, 2008 at the Canadian Martyrs Catholic Church. We were very honored to have Coadjutor Archbishop J. Michael Miller celebrating Mass with us along with other priests from many different churches, and our Provincial Superior Sister Anne Bosio, together with Sr. Cecilia Cham, Sr. Beatrice Mak and many members of the Canossian family.

The precious relics of Saint Magdalene of Canossa was presented by Sr. Anne at the Mass. As we remembered the charitable works that Saint Magdalene and the Canossian sisters have done throughout the years and how each one of us have benefited from them, our hearts were enlightened to keep the meaningful work going in our churches and in our communities. After the Mass, eight beautiful panels showing the history of the Canossian sisters' charitable works throughout the world were displayed in the church hall while we enjoyed delicious refreshments.



... and With Great Joy, we Celebrate

Wanna Yau, CCSS

Dinner Chair, Bicentennial Celebration Committee

Under the direction of Sr Cecilia and Ms Magdalen Chiu, by the end of 2007, we started planning the dinner party to be held on September 13 2008, Saturday at the Four Seasons Hotel in downtown Vancouver. There were totally 280 Canossian Alumnae and friends who attended this unforgettable event.

Following the song of "In Verona", Ms Magdalen Chiu, Sister Anne Bosio, Provincial Superior, Father John Horgan, and Father Paul Chu gave the speeches. After Coadjutor Archbishop J. Michael Miller's grace, dinner started with the Video Show provided by Sr Marie Remedios. It was such a good video to review Saint Magdalene's spirit and the Canossian sisters' services for the poor all over the world.

The highlight of the evening was the photo taking session. All guests had the chance to have a photo with the Canossian sisters and other Honorary guests. For those alumnae who had been taught by the sisters in Hong Kong finally got a chance to hug the sisters in Vancouver after years. The atmosphere was filled with warmth and harmony. Ms Linda Fung, on behalf of all alumnae, made the thank you speech while alumnae from different schools sending flowers to our beloved Canossian Sisters.

Finally, Sr Cecilia and Sr Beatrice made the Thank You speech. "The 200 anniversary Canossian song" made the perfect ending of the event.

We would like to thank again all volunteers, donors and committee members who contribute their valuable time and professional knowledge to make the event a success.



Looking Forward, Year 2009...

Canossian Colleges Alumnae Association
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The Canossian Daughters of Charity celebrated their 200th year of foundation in 2008. In Vancouver, an all-day celebration took place on September 13, 2008 with a Thanksgiving Mass, an Exhibition, and a Gala Dinner.

Check out our Events section for pictures and reflections on that wonderful occasion!

Membership
RECONNECTING... with fellow Canossians in BC is easy. Fill out the [APPLICATION FORM](#) and mail it to 6071 Christina Road, Richmond, BC V7C 2P7 and someone will contact you shortly.

Events
JOIN US... in the many events and celebrations throughout the year!
Check out the wonderful memories from our [PAST EVENTS](#).

Newsletter
BE IN THE KNOW... of what is happening at your alumnae association through our [NEWSLETTER](#). Read others' experiences and share your own stories!

To Make Jesus Loved and Known

CCAA's New Home Online

The CCAA website is getting a make-over! Come visit us at <http://www.canossialumnae.org> in January 2009 and re-discover CCAA's online home.

Save the Dates!

Mark your calendar for the following dates and stay tuned for more information coming in the new year!

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| CCAA Lentent Retreat | March 2009 |
| Spring Picnic Overnight cruise to Portland, Oregon | May 2009 |
| CCAA AGM | May / June 2009 |

We Want to Hear From You

Every year, the CCAA publishes a newsletter to keep members informed of events taking place at your alumnae association.

If you have something you want to share with us, or if you would like to volunteer for your talents, send us an email at canossian.alumnae@gmail.com and someone will get in touch with you shortly.