



Canossian Colleges Alumnae Association Newsletter

6071 Christina Road Richmond, B.C. V7C 2P7
Website: www.canossialumnae.org

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"I desire that God may set your heart on fire with His love."

St. Magdalene of Canossa

Spiritual Director's Address

Sr. Cecilia Cham, FdCC

"A little mercy," Pope Francis once said, "makes the world less cold and more just."

Pope Francis believes mercy forms the foundation of Church life and must be professed daily by all who call themselves Christians. Francis, often called the Pope of Mercy, has put mercy at the core of his papacy. So it is not surprising that, like a mother, he has conceived a year for the Church, to reach out to comfort its suffering children.

That is why Francis issued a papal bull (papal edict) on April 11 which officially proclaims an extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy. Thus, his call for a Holy Year of Mercy will run from December 8, 2015 until November 20, 2016. Pope Francis calls upon people to bestow acts of mercy on "every man and every woman of our age."

The tradition of Holy Years dates back 700 years in the Church. Ordinary Holy Years are held every 25 years; extraordinary ones are proclaimed by a pope to mark exceptional events. These are years of forgiveness and reconciliation, intended to foster solidarity, hope, justice, faith and peace – the touchstones of the Francis papacy and, now, his extraordinary Year of Mercy.

"I think – and I say it with humility – that 'mercy' is the Lord's most powerful message," Pope Francis said earlier this year. 'People of mercy' is what Pope Francis is helping us to become.

Mercy is joyful and it is optimistic. It heralds the future by forgiving the past. It is generous with aid and comfort without judging why they are needed. It is lavish with kindness, with no expectation of earthly reward; it is joyful and faithful as it asks us to be as merciful to others as God is to us.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU SAFE. MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!



Message from the President

Carmen Leung

SMCC Macau

Dear Alumnae,

Christmas is the time to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. It reminds us that Jesus came to bring hope and peace on earth. It is also the time of the year that friends and family gather together.

The traditions of our Association have always included bringing cheer to the less fortunate. Therefore, during the AGM Dinner and Christmas Dinner, we raised funds for the Chihuahua Project in Mexico.

Giving or sharing does not always mean giving money or material things. Sometimes taking time to help and give comfort to someone in need is worth much more. Our Visiting Team is working hard to achieve this goal.

As we reflect on the year that has passed and approach a new year, we try to think about what we can do to continue making a difference in our community. We hope you can suggest some ideas, apart from the yearly events such as Christmas Dinner, Past Board Lunch, Retreat, Annual General Meeting and Dinner as well as the Summer Outing, which was not that popular.

May I take this opportunity to thank our Spiritual Director, Sr. Cecilia Cham, our Advisors and Board Members for their continued supports to serve our Association.

Wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year!

Meet our Board of Directors

2014-2015 Board of Directors

Spiritual Director	Sr. Cecilia Cham
President	Carmen Tam-Leung
Secretary	Beatrice Yeung
Treasurer	Esther Ng
Membership	Mary Chan
Director:	Karin Poon
Director:	Elizabeth Yip
Advisor	Janet Mak
Advisor	Vicky Wong
Advisor	Helen Wong

Special Announcements

Lenten Retreat

AGM

Summer Picnic

Christmas Dinner 2016

Christmas Dinner

Karin Poon

SFCC

The spacious VIP room that was designated for our 2014 Christmas Dinner marked a great start for the event. Registration began at 6 p.m. and, after a short while, the entrance was crowded with old friends and new faces. A total of 86 people came, and a couple even travelled all the way from Victoria to join us. Non-perishable food items brought for the Food Bank filled up 3 big boxes.

There was a big table in front of us, on which were beautifully wrapped gift baskets and attractive gift vouchers donated for the raffle ticket draw. People kept looking at the prizes to determine how many tickets they were going to buy. At the 9 dining tables, people mingled and caught up with old schoolmates.

Dinner started on time, and everyone got a table prize. While the delicious food was being enjoyed, the committee started selling raffle tickets. Sister Cham advised that it was for fundraising and that the proceeds would go to the Chihuahua project to improve facilities in a Canossian school in Mexico. Nearly everyone bought tickets and some got many. The draw was conducted with eagerness, excitement, and also disappointment, but quite a few fortunate ladies got more than one prize! A total of \$1,170 was raised.

The evening went by quickly, and soon it was time for In Verona and Christmas carols. Our harmonious singing drew the event to a happy end. Thank you all for coming, and see you in 2015.

Luncheon for Past Board Members

This year, our Past Board Lunch took place on February 6, 2015 at the Fisherman's Restaurant. This was a change from what we used to do – book a meeting room; count how many would be coming; plan to get food that would be healthy, tasty and popular; set up and clean up etc. To go for Dim Sum was a very good alternative. We did not have to worry about whether there would be sufficient - or left-over - food.

Our goal is to gather together to share ideas and reminisce about old times. As long as there are supporters, we will continue to hold this kind of gathering

CCAA Lenten Retreat

Siu-Mei Tam

SHCC (Macau)

Our Lenten Retreat was held at Canadian Martyrs Church on March 14, 2015. This year, our Retreat Master was Rev Father Joseph Ly, who is the Pastor of St Francis Xavier Catholic Church. The title for this retreat was 'Faith and Attitude'.

Fr. Ly used some parables and our daily life experience to teach us about faith and attitude. We learned that we have to walk through our life journeys with faith without questions, pray and listen to God's words and act according to God's direction. Further, we can deepen our faith and keep a close relationship with God by praying regularly in any format and at any time during our daily lives.





He delivered the message in a very lively and humorous way. Throughout the three sessions, the room was filled with laughter. No one could fall asleep in that amusing atmosphere.

By the end of day, through the teaching of Fr. Ly, our faith with Christ was strengthened, and we were spiritually guided in our journey to eternal life.

Feast Day Celebration of St. Magdalena of Canossa

This year, the Feast Day of St. Magdelene of Canossa was celebrated with a Mass and reception on May 9, 2015.

Fr. Paul Chu helped us celebrate the Mass. Lucy played the In Verona lyric, Ivy and Yvette did the readings.

Canossian alumnae were very eager to sing the In Verona.

Annual General Meeting Dinner

Linda Fung SHCC (Macau)

This year's AGM was held at the Fisherman's Terrace Restaurant in Richmond on May 30. An enthusiastic attendance of over 50 people filled the room with joyful conversation and laughter.

Introduced by MC Betty Tso, President Carmen Tam Leung reported on the various activities of the past year, which included the Canossian Sister Silver Jubilee celebration. Carmen also urged Alumnae to join the Board of Directors. Due to the lack of interest of the summer outdoor event, a survey was conducted to seek new ideas from the participants.



In appreciation of Rev. Fr. Paul Chu's continuous support of CCAA, a gift was presented to him on the happy occasion of his Sabbatical to Taiwan. Fr. Chu thanked CCAA in Mandarin instead of Cantonese.



Treasurer Esther Ng delivered the financial report, while Director of Membership Mary Chan encouraged alumnae to take up Lifetime Memberships.

Sr. Cham gave us the update on the Chihuahua Project in Mexico. She also thanked Fr. Chu for all the support of and cooperation with CCAA during those years.

Raffle tickets were sold and the proceeds will be sent to support the Chihuahua School funds as in previous years. Highlight of the evening was the lucky draw with Pauline Mak being the luckiest winner of all. For those who

attend the CCAA functions regularly, it is no surprise to find Pauline taking home at least five to seven prizes every time! Those of us who did not win any prizes could only console ourselves that our donations were for a meaningful cause. Most of all, everybody enjoyed a delicious banquet and catching up with former classmates.

We missed those who could not join us and hope to see you next year!



From the Board of Directors