

## **The Chairperson's Report 2017**

### **Opening**

Thank you for joining our 13th AGM of the Maryknoll Education Foundation held on 23 September 2017. I would like to thank Ms. Melaine Lee, Principal of the Secondary Section and Ms. Doris Yuen, our new Principal of the Primary Section together with her team for the generous support extended to the Foundation.

### **Alumni Resources**

Maryknoll Sisters founded our School in 1925 with an objective to provide an all rounded quality education affordable to all. This core value of the Maryknoll Sisters is the cornerstone principle of the Foundation Mission. When many schools in Hong Kong became Direct Subsidy Schools (DSS), allowing freedom for schools to choose their students and school fees to be charged without constraint, we had decided to remain as a Government aided school because we believe that would better facilitate us in carrying out our Mission.

As an aided school, Maryknoll has relatively limited funding and resources from the Hong Kong Government. However, we are extremely blessed to have an extremely strong and resourceful Alumni group which the School can rely on for support.

Over the years, former students and different Alumni groups have contributed much to the School in their own ways. Apart from financial contributions and sponsorships offered directly to the MCS Educational Trust (Trust), many have helped to raise funds for the Trust through participating in various fund raising projects, such as, attending the annual "Pun Choi" gathering organized by the FSA, participating in the "Relay for Love" to support the Sports Fund and, also, producing beautiful Floral pattern products for sale etc.

Some Alumni have also directly sponsored the School. In 2017, the Class of 77 donated over \$1 million to the Secondary Section to set up a 21st Century Classroom. In addition, they also provided the expertise to complete the project. Further, another Alumna donated \$2 million to revamp the Cookery Room. The FSA pledged \$400K to the Primary Section for re-flooring of the Basketball Court.

Aside from providing financial resources, our Alumni also contributed in the form of offering their professional expertise. For example, a Maryknoller who is an IP lawyer assisted the Foundation in dealing with Maryknoll Trade Mark issues; another Maryknoller who is a doctor gave talks to our girls on health issue etc. A few other Alumni offered their connections in lining up visits for teachers and students visiting Cathay Pacific, Google and many other prominent organizations; such visits may not materialize if there were no Maryknoller to pull the strings. In certain instances, a number of Alumni offered job shadowing and internships for our students who may not experience such opportunities if their employers were not Maryknollers. Many more Alumni offered their services in joining and serving various Alumni led organisations, namely, the Foundation, FSA and the Trust.

Our School has not only provided us with knowledge but has also taught us the good values which helped to shape us into what we are today. We have been taught to share and care.

Having received so much from the School, many Alumni have asked how they could serve and contribute to their Alma Mater. Maryknoll Alumni is an invaluable asset to the School. There are still many Alumni who wanted to serve but do not know how to. We must tap on all available resources that come to us. As the School Sponsoring Body, the Foundation would take the lead to work with two Sections in collaboration with FSA and the Trust to maximize Alumni resources in a continuous and structured manner.

### **Succession Planning**

Succession planning is important to the continuation of any organization. A core group consisted of myself, the 2 Supervisors, Conveners of the Communication and Membership Committees and a few Councillors were formed with the mandate to (1) review the existing succession protocol for recruitment and engagement of members and for appointment of EMs, Councillors and SSB managers, including, the Supervisors (2) with 7 out of 8 SSB managers having their terms expiring in August 2018. Another objective of the core group is to consider and recommend to the Council suitable candidates to be appointed as SSB managers of the IMC of both Sections for the term commencing September 2018.

For succession purpose, simply recruiting new members is not enough, we must actively engage with our members to get them involved and contribute. There are a number of ways to do so. As a starting point, they should learn more about the Foundation and the School through our Newsletters and Foundation website, and, also, joining our AGM and other events organized by the Foundation; however, that may not be enough. As one of the first projects to engage our members, the Communication Committee and Membership Committee jointly organised the Foundation's inaugural Members' Orientation Day on 14 October 2017.

At the meeting, our members were provided the opportunity not only to get to know each other better, but more importantly, to find out more about how our School operates, the roles and functions of the Foundation, and how they, as members, can get involved and contribute to the Foundation.

### **Memberships**

Foundation has 2 levels of memberships: Members (OM) are Ordinary Members when an Alumna first joins the Foundation; Executive Members (EM) have the right to nominate and be nominated or stand for election as Councillors. EMs are seen as the grooming ground for potential Councillors. Our Foundation Constitution provides for only 50 EMs (15 of which are already Councillors). For succession planning purpose, Council has endorsed the resolution of increasing the number of EMs from 50 to 70. Amendments to our Constitution will be required; an EGM will be convened to approve them. Please stay tuned for the development on this front.

### **Roll of Honor**

In recognition of distinguished members for their exceptional contributions to the School or the Foundation, a "Roll of Honor" was set up. This year, there were 3 nominations, namely,

Ms. Lucy Lee, a 1963 graduate and a former Councillor. As a Canon Law expert, Lucy acted as an advisor to the Council on matters relating to the Church and the Diocese for years. The second nominee was Mrs. Hilda Kan, a former Principal of the Primary Section (2004-2010) and, also, one of the founding Councillors of the Foundation. The 3rd nominee was Mrs. Teresa Chow, a former Principal of the Primary Section (1995-1997). Teresa is an active Foundation member who always attends our events offering her generous support. My heartiest congratulations and thanks to the 3 of them!

### **Outgoing Councillors**

I would like extend my heartfelt thanks to two retiring Council members, Mrs. Dorothy Chan and Dr. Belinda Leung, for their unfailing support to the School and Foundation during their term.

### **Our Vision and Mission and Strategic Focuses**

Since the Foundation adopted the 4 Strategic Focuses last year, the Foundation has spent much of its efforts in ensuring that they are promulgated on all possible fronts. Very encouraging results can be seen in the initiatives set out in our regular Supervisors' reports of our Primary and Secondary Sections.

We hope all of you will continue to live up to our Vision and Mission and constantly adhere to our 4 Strategic Focuses everyday of your life!