

# 19th Annual General Meeting – Chairperson’s Report (Integrated)

## Message from Chairperson – Ms Cordelia Chung



Sr Marilu, Principals and Vice Principals, Maryknollers, old friends and new friends, thank you for coming. The Foundation had had a very fruitful year in the last 12 months, and the team and I will be sharing the highlights. As we reflected on the past year, we felt very blessed that there were four themes that seemed to have run through our activities, and had tied everything together for us.



- **Gratitude.** First, we're grateful that **God has watched over Maryknoll** – the Schools have continued to do well - we feel very humbled and blessed. When we needed help and support, God was always there to guide us.
- **One Voice - the Unity of Spirit.** In the past 12 months, there had been an increasingly strong chorus of one voice. The workings amongst the Maryknoll stakeholders, the two sections Primary and Secondary, the IMCs, the Trust, the PTAs, FSA and Foundation had been wonderful. We are all unique as individuals, but the Unity of Spirit for Maryknoll, and the bringing of our Diversity of Gifts as individuals, that is, our unique talents and resources, for the Schools, had been wonderful.

- **Sisters' Spirit of Service** – Service as a value and virtue has always been part of our DNA. But with the discovery of the attic and the story behind it, Maryknoll Sisters' Spirit of Service and their Nobility of Soul had deeply inspired us. It was this inspiration that had given new purpose and new meaning for our Convent Project. With God's blessing and One Voice, we achieved a MAJOR breakthrough in finding funding for the Convent Project.
- **The Maryknoll Spirit in MCS education** – Preserving something you can't touch is never easy. But inspired by our founder, Mother Mary Joseph and her spirituality, the Council in November 2022 resolved to make her spirituality as the anchor at source for preserving the Maryknoll Spirit. We had made steady progress on it and will continue to do so. The Foundation also made an "official" visit to the Motherhouse in NY, and it's been an inspiring, sometimes emotional, experience.



As you know, as the school sponsoring body which has the ultimate responsibility for Maryknoll Convent School, the Foundation is nevertheless an organisation whose membership consists of volunteers entirely. This is quite unique compared to most schools run by professional school sponsoring bodies, for example, the La Salle Brothers who are dedicated to education.

So, I can't express enough thanks to our principals, teachers and staff, guided by our supervisors, for their hard work and dedication, and for a great year last year, delivering excellence in all aspects of the Maryknoll education. And may I add, a very smooth opening of the school year, despite fallen trees, various degrees of flooding and water leakages due to Typhoon Saola and the extreme weather condition just a week ago.





And my gratitude also goes to our Advisors for their wise counsel and advice.



and the Councillors for the many hours they put in and always having the best interests of Maryknoll at heart. Please may I ask the Advisors and Councillors to stand up and let's give them a big round of applause.



In January this year, Julia Leung was appointed as the top regulator for the Hong Kong financial services industry. A very demanding but important role serving Hong Kong, and had to resign from the Council. Elizabeth Tse was nominated and appointed to take Julia's place. Elizabeth had had a very successful career in the civil service rising to the rank of permanent secretary before she retired. She's now a key and core member on the Maryknoll Spirit Committee that I talked about, amongst other things. We're so happy to have Elizabeth join the Council. Thank you, Elizabeth!



In May, our beloved Madame, Mrs Lydia Huang passed...



26 July 1930 – 4 May 2023

Madame was a member of the Foundation since its inception and our advisor for many years. Madame's passing in May had created a big hole in the hearts of all of us, but there was also a deep sense of gratitude that we're so blessed to have been touched and nurtured by her.



At the end of August



Ms. Melaine Lee

Thank you



Ms. Meimei Chan

At the end of August, our principal of Secondary Section Melaine Lee passed the baton to Meimei Chan, after 39 years of service at MCS. We are so grateful for her many contributions to the School. The DSE results this year were stellar which is such an appropriate send-off gift for Melaine. Ophelia will be sharing more in her report.

And a very warm welcome to Meimei. Thank you for joining the Maryknoll family. For sure, a most memorable start for you, Meimei, on 1 September with a No. 10 typhoon hitting! Meimei will speak later on so I will not steal her thunder.

My gratitude extends to all of you for your support as members of the Foundation. Barbara Hung will report on our membership activities.





Now let me turn to the second reflection: **One Voice and the Unity of Spirit.**



With the fundraising opportunities our Centenary in 2025 offers, the School, the two sections, the Foundation, the Trust, the PTA and FSA had worked closely together shoulder to shoulder, in one voice, breakfast to tea, and tea to breakfast, meetings after meetings with Maryknollers, friends of Maryknollers, supporters, and government officials, about our vision for the school's future, our vision for the Convent, and what upgrades and resources the Schools need. While there is much work to do and a lot more campaigns the Trust and FSA will run, we are on track to make what seems impossible possible.



Against the background of EDB's rejection of capital funding support for us to fix the Convent Building so that it can be compliant with the standards required for school use, and inspired by our Sisters' spirit of service, a core value of the Maryknoll Spirit that we want to pass on to our young people, we decided to put the Convent to an even more meaningful use. We worked extremely hard to make a credible application to Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust for capital funding to turn the Convent into a centre for service, heritage, and education (SHE Centre), as a platform for offering services to the community, celebrating and showcasing the Sisters' Spirit of Service, and as a platform for young people including our students to learn, experience and live out the true spirit of service.

Some of you may know, application to HKJCCT is not a piece of cake. They are tough, their standards are very high. With full support from Shelley and Emily, especially with Shelley's galvanising leadership, her extensive network, the goodwill she has with HKJC, her unfailing passion, and supported by a very professional and equally passionate application team led by Sylvia Lam and Florine Tang, we managed to - truly against all odds - obtain an approval-in-principle from HKJCCT for \$75M. Hurray!

We further obtained generous donations such as from Christina Lee's father, Joseph Lee, for \$8M over ten years, and from an anonymous donor for over \$4M. There seems to be always a Maryknoller (or a family member of a Maryknoller) around the corner whenever we hit a snag, giving us precious support. This is a touching example of God watching over Maryknoll, helping us make something impossible, possible.

You can see from the chart that Sylvia was engaging consultants to help us with the project, so as to get us to the final approval stage. Sylvia, who is our lead on the Convent project, will share more.



This leads me to the last theme: **The Maryknoll Spirit anchored at source on MMJ's spirituality**

We know how difficult it is to preserve something that is intangible, like a "Spirit". But despite the challenge, we must. When we hear every year, our PS and SS graduates say, with pride: "Once a Maryknoller, forever a Maryknoller", we feel more committed that we should be purposeful and intentional in bringing the best of Maryknoll Spirit, the beacon and essence of Maryknoll education, to our future generations.

This is especially so when we look at the macro reality: a more divisive and selfish world with core values at risk, and the need to handle disruptive technologies like AI and ChatGPT that have deep implications for education.

Our supervisors and principals welcome this piece of work because we know that as educators, we need to have a systematic way to "cultivate" that spirit. The Foundation passed a resolution in November 2022 to adopt the teachings and spirituality of Mother Mary Joseph, the Founder of Maryknoll, as shared in the book "On the Threshold of the Future", written by Sr Claudette to celebrate the centenary of the Maryknoll Sisters Congregation. The book will be used as the "at source" reference to anchor the Maryknoll Spirit. Christina Lee will be sharing more on this.

Let me finish by reporting the visit made by the Foundation to the Motherhouse. Three of us spent a few days there. We experienced first-hand the communal living of Maryknoll Sisters, their faith, their energy (despite their age), and their "naturalness" as humorous-loving and attractive religious women. My friends asked me how I felt about the experience. To me, it was a combination of joy, some sadness, but feeling inspired, and hopeful of our path forward.

What is equally exciting is that about 40 Sisters based in Asia will be in HK in mid-October for their Asia Pacific World Section Meeting. It will be a wonderful occasion for us to meet more Maryknoll Sisters and learn from them. So, with that, let me pass the stage to Sylvia.





The Convent Building Project by Ms Sylvia Yu

**The Adaptive Re-Use of Convent Building**

**The Convent Building Project**



- Declared Monument
- Signature Brick Veneered
- Double Storey + Attic
- Pitched Roof
- 663 sq. m.
- Built in 1937
- As 'Industrial School'
- In 70s, as Sisters Dorm

**In 2019, passed on the Convent Building to us by Sisters...**

Convent Building: View from Boundary Street

The Convent Building is a Declared Monument Building. With our signature brick veneered; a two-storey pitched roof concrete building with a small attic. The total area is about 660 sq. m. It was built in 1937 and was used as an industrial school where the Maryknoll Sisters taught underprivileged women sewing and embroidery skills to earn some money. Until 70's of last Century, the Convent Building was converted into a Sisters Dormitory.





In 2019, the Maryknoll Sisters passed on the Convent Building to us, to Foundation. Therefore, we need to map out the most optimal use of the space of the Convent Building. Hence, in 2020, we commissioned a feasibility study. Whilst carrying out the on-site survey and investigations in the course of the feasibility study, there was the incidental discovery of the Attic. Thus, leading to the very well received “Habits and Haberdashery” exhibition at the Kowloon Park Heritage Discovery Centre in summer of 2022.

In 2021, the feasibility study concluded with revitalization and adaptive re-use of the entire Convent Building. To provide multi-purpose cum heritage-display areas and flexible use of space to the Maryknoll Family. The ballpark estimate was some \$45 million. However, with Covid-19 etc, it was extremely difficult to have fundraising for this large sum of money. And for the Convent Building, we saw nascent signs of disrepair of which eminent rehabilitation work would be required.

In 2022, last year in the AGM, we reported that we would carve out the essential parts of the construction works required, being the Stepping Stone Project, to focus on the necessary repair, restore and rehab (3R) works. As the works would only be a few million dollars, we had confidence to accomplish it. We called this a stepping stone project because we always bear in mind the eventual adaptive re-use and revitalization of the entire Convent Building.

While the Stepping Stone Project is progressing steadily, intense networking and outreaching was carried out with a view to raising funds for the Convent Building Project. Thanks to our Chairlady’s strong leadership. Thanks to Shelley and Emily for their great vision and networking.

**2023**

**The Convent Building Project**

Maryknoll Sisters' Spirit of Service,  
Their Nobility of Soul has inspired us.  
Giving new purpose & new meaning to  
Convent Project.



And, today, in 2023, with Maryknoll Sisters' spirit of service, and their nobility of soul which has inspired us, we came up with "The Adaptive Re-Use of a Declared Monument Building (the Convent Building) as a Service, Heritage and Education (SHE) Centre".

**The Convent Building Project**

**Services for our Community**

- **Heritage conservation centre**
- **Learn English w/ on-site heritage appreciation to students of other schools**
- **Offer study groups service to girls from underprivileged families**
- **Provide open girl guide units to nurture leadership skills, cross-generational harmony & cross-sociocultural inclusiveness**



The SHE Centre will

- (1) set up a heritage conservation centre for thematic exhibitions to drive heritage and conservation awareness, appreciation and education;
- (2) provide fun language learning, partnering with NGOs, to students of other schools through combining English language learning with on-site conservation and heritage appreciation;
- (3) offer after-school study groups service for female students living in underprivileged families, in particular those in subdivided units; and
- (4) provide and/or housing open Girl Guides units nurturing social & leadership skills, cross-generational harmony and cross-sociocultural inclusiveness.

With this, we are broadening our services to the community, especially the underprivileged, similar to what the Maryknoll Sisters did. The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust has given an initial intent to support us for setting up the SHE Centre.



**The SHE Centre**

**The Adaptive Re-Use of a Declared Monument Building (the Convent Building) as a Service, Heritage and Education Centre**

**Engaging consultant for providing a comprehensive proposal to HK Jockey Club Charities Trust to gain full support**

**The Convent Building Project**




With this initial link up with Jockey Club, we are now engaging consultants to provide a comprehensive proposal in order to firm up their funding support.

**The SHE Centre Proposal**

**Repair, Restore, Rehab; Adaptive Re-Use; Revitalization; Conservation**

**\*showcase the key components of Convent when first built in 1937**

**\*upgrade to 2023 building standards**

**The Convent Building Project**







This SHE Centre Proposal, for the building hardware, blankets all the elements that we previously proposed for building conservation, revitalization, adaptive re-use and the 3Rs. It also includes the expensive items for upgrading the building on safety and accessibility to current standards.



**The SHE Centre Proposal**

**\*Provide services to underprivileged to the community**

**\*We are following the Maryknoll Sisters' Spirit of Service, their Nobility of Soul ...**

**The Convent Building Project**

The graphic features a vertical banner on the left with the text 'The Convent Building Project' and decorative floral patterns. To the right, there are three circular images: the top one shows a person sitting at a desk, the middle one shows a group of people dining at a table, and the bottom one shows a group of people in a meeting. The background is a light purple and pink gradient with floral motifs.

For the planned services and activities in the SHE Centre, it is a continuation of services rendered by the Maryknoll Sisters some 80 years ago when the Convent Building was first built. Now, in 2023, with Jockey Club's support, if possible, we hope to breathe new life into the Convent Building to align with the vision of Hong Kong and the charitable spirit of service of the Maryknoll Sisters, and offer a unique enabling environment to support women empowerment and youth development, especially those from the grass root families. Through this SHE Centre project, let's follow the Maryknoll Sisters' spirit and footsteps of service to the community and contribute in our own small ways.

To make this project come true, we Maryknollers need to team up, collaborate and contribute. And I would like to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU to:



**The Adaptive Re-Use of a Declared Monument Building (The Convent Building) as a Service, Heritage and Education (SHE) Centre**

**The Convent Building Project**

**Cordelia Chung**  
**Shelley Lee**  
**Florine Tang**  
**Victoria Tang**  
**Cecilia Yau**  
**Irene Li**  
**David Lui**

**Emily Ngan**  
**Doris Kwan**  
**Christina Chan**  
**Maggie Chong**  
**Christina Lee**  
**Sylvia Yu**

**THANK YOU**

**Barbara Hung**

The graphic features a vertical banner on the left with the text 'The Convent Building Project' and decorative floral patterns. To the right, there is a list of names in two columns. The word 'THANK YOU' is written in large, colorful, block letters. The background is a light purple and pink gradient with floral motifs.

Lastly, we need more and more support from the Maryknoll Community. If anyone would like to team up, collaborate and contribute to this project, please do not hesitate to reach out and contact us.





**Committee on Maryknoll Spirit in MCS Education by Ms Christina Lee**

It is the first time that our Committee is presenting to you at the AGM as our committee is the latest addition to the several Committees of the Foundation.

I am most grateful for the opportunity to deliver the Good News of the cumulative work of the Committee of the Maryknoll Spirit in MCS Education. That's a mouthful, hence we are nicknamed "CMS" - it may ring a bell as it is those exact 3 letters on our school badge during secondary school days.

But it is not really the first time for us to present our work, as ours is actually a continuation from the Taskforce on Preserving and Enhancing the Essence of Maryknoll Education, chaired by Julia Leung.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuation from "Taskforce on Preserving and Enhancing the Essence of Maryknoll Education"</li> <li>• MCS Foundation) sets the vision and mission of the school; gives general directions to IMCs in respect of school policy formation; monitors the performance of IMCs; and ensures the accomplishment of mission through SSB managers</li> <li>• What is the "Maryknoll Spirit"?</li> <li>• Embodied by Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic Foundress Mother Mary Joseph as we gain a more holistic understanding of the Maryknoll Spirituality "at source"</li> </ul>	
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Hence, before I quickly deep dive into introducing some of our work, to ensure I won't run out of time to do this later - I would like to acknowledge and thank the CMS team members, they are Amy Chan, Maureen Chow, Cordelia Chung, Amy Ho, Antoinette Lee, Ophelia Ngan and Elizabeth Tse. And our Video Project Team led by Elizabeth, with Viola Chu, Mrs Ame Coombes, Fatima Lau and Maria Ng.

Doesn't this Crest look familiar? Strangely familiar, almost identical from afar... it is almost like our MCS school crest but it's not. It is actually that of the Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, beneath it is written the Maryknoll Sisters' long cherished motto, bestowed on them by Foundress Mother Mary Joseph in 1941 - "Ecce Ancilla Domini" - Behold the Handmaid of the Lord - meaning Mary's Fiat - and what for the Maryknoll Sisters is utmost important that they should have the same response as Mary to God's request - "Be it done to me according to your Word". It is from the Maryknoll Sisters that we receive the baton, as School Sponsoring Body almost twenty years ago. As custodians of the school that the Sisters built for us and those coming after us, we need to truly know "Maryknoll" so as to perpetuate the "Maryknoll Spirit".

As a continuation of the Taskforce's work, the Council has agreed that the Spirituality of Maryknoll Sister Foundress' Mother Mary Joseph as the Maryknoll Spirit "at source." And we believe that a better understanding of the Maryknoll Spirit can come from careful study of MMJ's Spirituality.

**Maryknoll Roots**



**Maryknoll Founders:**

- Fr. James Anthony Walsh
- Fr. Thomas Frederick Price
- Mother Mary Joseph Rogers

**Schools in Hong Kong:**

- St. Patrick's School
- Bishop Ford Primary School
- Bishop Walsh Primary School
- Bishop Paschang Catholic School
- Our Lady of China Catholic Primary School (Formerly Holy Spirit School #2) \*
- Maryknoll Fathers' School (Primary & Secondary)
- Maryknoll Secondary School
- Kwun Tong Maryknoll College
- Marymount Primary & Secondary School\*
- Maryknoll Convent School (Primary & Secondary)\*

*\*Founded by the Maryknoll Sisters*

Before I lose some of you completely by talking about more elusive or less tangible matters such as Spirituality - let's talk about people who have actually walked the Earth and came to China in the last 100 years - Maryknoll Founders Fr. James Anthony Walsh, Fr. Frederick Price founders of the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America and Mother Mary Joseph of the Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic.

I have listed some schools founded by the Maryknoll Fathers and Sisters in Hong Kong. In fact, they may not all bear the "Maryknoll" name just like the many services over the years in parishes, hospitals, etc. Does bearing the Maryknoll name automatically mean we have the same spirituality? It may have been the case once, but as Maryknoll schools have been returned to the Hong Kong Catholic Diocese over the years, or passed to other congregations or Catholic lay bodies for sponsorship, the Maryknoll Bent or "flavour" may change. Therefore, it takes careful and intentional preservation and cultivation of the "Maryknoll Spirit."

As most of us are "products" or beneficiaries of a Maryknoll education, can we reverse engineer to figure out how the Maryknoll Sisters developed us? As those responsible to carry the school beyond its centenary and more, we can only give what we have, do we know what it is that we have?





## The Maryknoll Sisters Today

280 Sisters, 111 Years in Mission, 7 Hospitals, 17 Schools Founded

In the process of discerning the future of the congregation, they are focused on exploring:

- 1) What it means to be a missionary today?
- 2) The UN Earth Charter of "One Earth Community"
- 3) How they could better communicate with the world as a group

And as we go forward, our memories of our Maryknoll education may be one thing, but what does Maryknoll mean today as a living and breathing congregation? The world has changed so much in the last few years due to the pandemic, not to mention over the 111 years since the Maryknoll Sisters were founded.

Some of the issues that the Maryknoll Sisters are pondering today include:

1. What it means to be a missionary today? With Vatican II in the 1960s, vocations have plummeted steadily. Everyone is called to holiness. Ease of travel, zoom, changes to notions of citizenship and ethnicities and globalisation, these are crucial questions. Furthermore, with the collaboration with lay people, what is the way forward? Bishop James E Walsh of the Maryknoll Fathers once said "The task of a missionary is to go to a place where he is not wanted but needed, and to remain until he is not needed but wanted."
2. On One Earth Community - how the Sisters are concerned not just about the climate and the Earth but human relationships as they started a new mission in Chad in May to respond to the needs of the refugees, their diocese and the Earth

With full effort on the mission field and uniqueness of different missions, what messages should be amplified across all their services, for a better world? This echoes somewhat with our current efforts moving forward as "One Voice".

## Anchoring the Maryknoll Spirit: **Encapsulate – Cascade – Preserve**



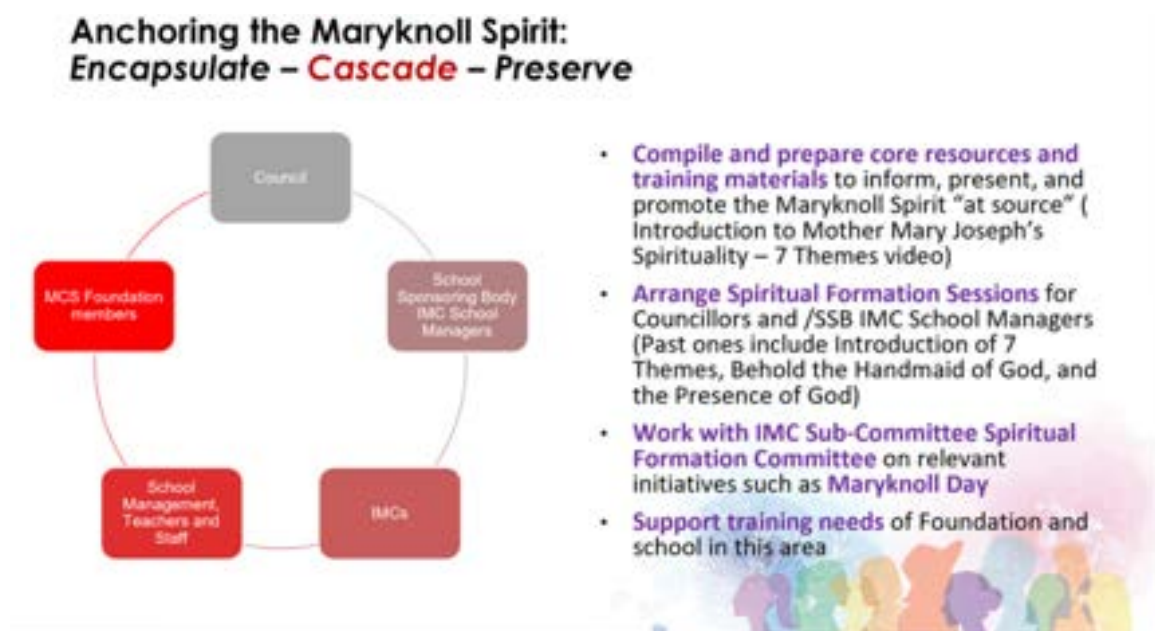
Study in-depth Catholicism with a "Maryknoll Bent" as anchored in Mother Mary Joseph's Spirituality as summarized by Sr. Claudette LaVerdiere's book "On the Threshold of the Future" (Orbis Books, 2011)

- Council adopted "Framework for Preserving and Enhancing the Essence of Maryknoll Education" using the 7 Themes of MMJ's Spirituality as anchor (Nov 2022)
- Our Committee interviewed the Author Sr. Claudette (May 2023)
- Foundation's Visit to Motherhouse (Jun 2023)
- Support Maryknoll Sisters' Asia Pacific World Conference in October 2023

With our anchor now fixed on Mother Mary Joseph's Spirituality as described in Sr. Claudette's book "On the Threshold of the Future"- I would like to present to you our work, as one of MMJ themes is "Contemplation and Action" - we contemplate all that I have shared but also pull up our sleeves and work at the same time:

We adopted the "**Framework for encapsulating and preserving the Maryknoll Spirit in Education**" in November 2022, then came across the wonderful opportunity to interview Sr. Claudette, author of the book, before she and a few other Sisters embarked on mission to Chad. Three months ago, Cordelia our chairperson, Maureen and I visited the Motherhouse on behalf of the Foundation, and coming next month, we are so grateful to know the Maryknoll Sisters will hold their Asia Pacific World Conference for 40 Sisters in Hong Kong. Here I would like to thank Sr. Marilu and Sr. Sue for being such wonderful mentors and companions, and connecting us in so many ways with the Maryknoll Sisters in Hong Kong and abroad.

As you came into the School Hall, you may have already picked up Maureen's personal sharing of our Motherhouse Visit, AND the journey of our Committee. Please do read it and keep and savour it, I hope to hear your thoughts and sharing after the AGM. It is a magical journey where although we are all such different individuals, we are touched in particular ways by our visit, but there is such "resonance" in feelings - perhaps this is what "Unity of Spirit and Diversity of Gifts" is about, this is one theme of MMJ's Spirituality.



As we encapsulate, we also cascade, learning as we go, we have been arranging Spiritual Formation Sessions for ourselves the Councillors and the SSB managers, and we look to expand our audience as we gain more knowledge and confidence in grasping the understanding of MMJ's Spirituality.

The Video team that I have introduced early on, led by Elizabeth, has worked tirelessly for over half a year on preparing an introductory video of the 7 themes. The team is in the final stages of this production, and we look forward to sharing it with you in the future.

As close collaborators with the School, and as the School has been implementors of Catholic Education with a Maryknoll Bent, we work closely with the IMC Spiritual Formation Committee on related initiatives like Maryknoll Day.



## Anchoring the Maryknoll Spirit: Encapsulate – Cascade – **Preserve**

- Propose to use the Centennial school celebrations as an opportunity to review or revise if necessary, the different documents and school policies (including but not limited to the MCS Vision and Mission statement, and the MCS Philosophy of Education) with a view to simplify or rationalize these in relation to the Maryknoll Spirit at source



- Plans to work towards using the same / coordinated Annual Themes for Primary and Secondary Sections for greater impact



As we internalise as a community the Spirituality of the Maryknoll Sisters Foundress, we look to work with the school to look for opportunities to review and renew school policies, plan Annual Themes and documents going forward, hopefully with “One Voice” and closer alignment with the Maryknoll Spirit at source.



- “We cannot not be in the Presence of God” says Sr. Claudette
- Sisters were careful to maintain a respectful silence to foster a spirit of recollection
- How to see one another as God sees them
- The presence/awareness of God was taproot, and shapes them in virtues essential for mission: single-mindedness, transparency, and congruence

“Cultivate” was one of MMJ’s signature words; and by that she accepted that one had to work at cultivation, exert some energy, if one has to reap the gardener’s delight in the promise of a good harvest.



As we contemplate and take action at the same time, I share this beautiful garden, Sr. Joanna’s work with nature...I would like to remind us all of the first theme of MMJ’s Spirituality, Presence of God, Sr. Claudette reminds us that “We cannot not be in the Presence of God.”

Our Committee’s work may take time to evolve, and the journey may have many bends and turns... “(Mother Mary Joseph) recognized that the Sisters would need to be active in their encounter with God’s presence, knowing that God would do the work, but not without them. She never suggested that it would be easy to balance a life of prayer with one of extreme activity.”

We have to work together at cultivating, exerting some energy, often all of our energy, if we are to reap the promise of a good harvest, just like sowing seeds and the gardeners that educators are, of their students.



Sr. Teresa Hougnan, MM

- President of CLT of the Maryknoll Sisters, echoing Mother Mary Joseph: Our characteristics are what we bring to the mission (who we are), we each have something to offer, everyone has a voice, and how we are shaped by the community and shaping it at the same time.



*"Each one of us in her own work, with her own particular attractiveness is to be used by God as a particular tool to do a particular work..."*

*That explains our spirit, an attempt to keep our individuality, casting out what is objectionable in it, finding what is good and beautiful, and using them not for ourselves, not for any honor or distinction, but only with the thought that they will be used for God's honor and glory."*

- Mother Mary Joseph

I would like to end with this slide, here we see Cordelia presenting a Maryknoll Xuxu upcycled bag in a gift box to Sr. Teresa Hougnan, current President of the Maryknoll Sisters. Are we giving the gift, or in fact, are we still receiving gifts from our Maryknoll education? The Maryknoll Sisters are still supporting us in different ways, and making the world better by their courage and selfless services around the world...they are God's gifts to us.

We may be unique individuals but such individuality if offered to the Lord's service, can be used for others, for God's glory and to get there, we need one another - as Sr. Teresa says, we are shaped by the community and shaping it at the same time.

Please keep the Maryknoll Sisters, and our work in your prayers, we certainly are thankful for them and need one another as we come together, On the Threshold of the Future.

Thank you.

### Communications Committee by Ms Christina Chan

Good afternoon everyone. I am Christina Chan. So honoured to be here this afternoon to report the different areas of work on behalf of the Communications Committee. Similar to the previous 2 years, our focus and priorities continue to target at better ENGAGEMENT with our Foundation members as well as the broader Maryknoll community.



#### Areas of Focus

1. Reach out to alumni of different years to better ENGAGE them to solidify the Maryknoll Spirit
2. Support the Council by working closely with :
  - Membership Committee
  - Trademark Committee
  - Committee on Maryknoll Spirit
  - Hon Secretary – AGM support
3. Support special projects :
  - 98<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration
  - The Convent Adaptive Re-use Project



To achieve this, we need to reach out to alumni across different years to solidify the Maryknoll spirit. We have been working hard to support the work of other key committees under the Council. Via the website, we introduced the roles of our very important and newly established committee (CMS). Working with the Trademark Committee, we developed a comprehensive Style Guide to guard the correct application of all registered marks of our school. We are a closely knit community and it is to forge a closer bond between members that in March this year, we joined hands with our Membership Committee to organise a reunion programme to thank our voluntary docents who helped out at the Kowloon Park exhibition last summer. I know Barbara will talk more in her report. Of course, around this time every year, we worked closely with our Hon Secretary, Maggie, to prepare for the AGM.

Other projects that we supported include the launching of the XUXU bags in celebration of our 98<sup>th</sup> anniversary and I am very pleased to report that all the recycled bags made from our school uniforms have been sold out! As Cordelia and Sylvia earlier reported, the Communications Committee has been and will continue to support the exciting adaptive reuse Convent Project.



We have been utilising multiple channels to connect with both our members and potential members including direct push mails, website, FB and the iconic Fireside Chat series. Of course, we participated in different school functions like the Pun Choi, the School Fun Days and stay connected with different generation of Maryknollers and listen to their feedbacks attentively.

The following slides captured some datapoints such as the number of emails we sent out last year.



With the tracking mechanism, we do note the email open rate stands at around 70%. That's why we need more than one channel and we need to communicate, communicate and communicate.

For Facebook, as shown in the following slide, we have close to 2000 followers and we could track that there were over 12,000 page visits and 8,000 engagements in the past year.

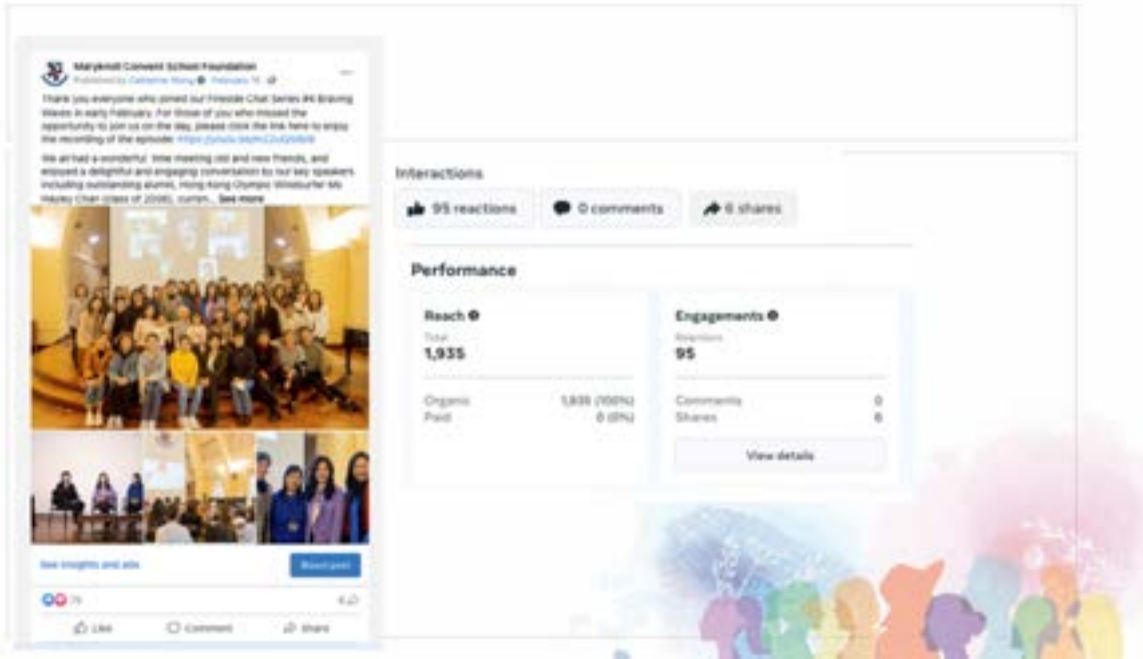


I have to say if you follow our FB page, please do Like and Share and it's only in this way that our message can reach out to many many more Maryknollers. I have to say Thank You to FSA who always share our FB messages with their strong database of followers.

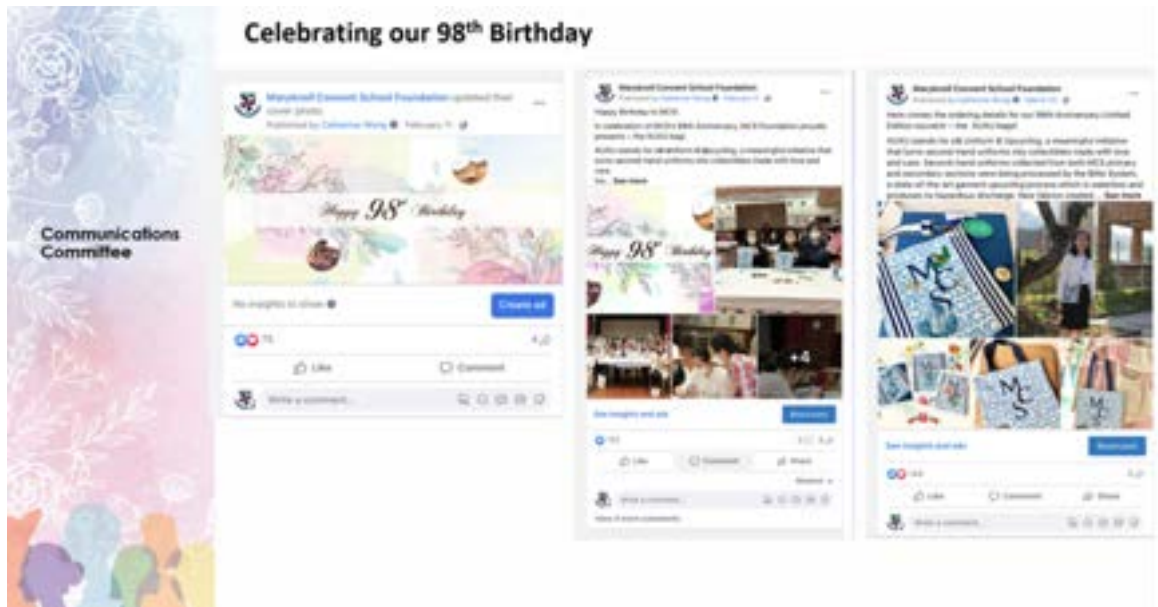
This slide shows amongst our FB followers, 8.4% are male. We also note the geographic locations of our followers, after Hong Kong, are mainly from the US, Canada, UK and Australia.



I mentioned earlier our iconic Fireside Chat. The slide below shows our Episode #4 Braving Waves featuring our 2 Principals Ms Melaine Lee (who just retired) and Ms Doris Yuen from PS with Hayley Chan, Olympic Windsurfer ( class 2008 ) with Barbara Hung as moderator.



These are the photos of the XUXU bags project we launched in celebration of our 98<sup>th</sup> anniversary, in collaboration with the Primary Section and Secondary Section.







### Some Datapoints to Share....

- Foundation **Website** total visits (since Sept 2022): **23,055**
- Most visits come from:
  - Search Engines
  - Facebook
  - Wikipedia
- Most views go to:
  - Homepage
  - Appointment of new school principal
  - Structure
  - Vision & Mission
- Most clicks go to:
  - Member Application

In the coming year, we will be working hard as we support the Centenary Celebration. We'll be supporting the organising committee as convened by Francisca and Lisa. In addition, we will also be putting much more efforts to connect closer with our overseas alumni.



### Coming Up Next

- Support the Centenary Celebration
- Establish Linkage with our overseas chapter



On this note, I would like to invite you all to mark your diary at 11am next Saturday to join our Fireside Chat #5 **One Vision One Voice**. We are so honoured to have invited the President of the Educational Trust Shelley and the Chairperson Emily to be our guest speakers as they will share with us the role and significant contributions of the Trust and their focus beyond the Centenary.



## Mark Your Diary – 23 September 2023



The title **One Vision One Voice** clearly demonstrates how the work of the Educational Trust abides by the vision and mission as laid down by the Maryknoll Sisters. They support the needs of our school and is closely aligned with the School Sponsoring Body's priorities under the four strategic foci and development pillars. The session will be moderated by renowned radio host Chea Suk Mui, who is also a former Maryknoller parent and a staunch supporter of our school. So for sure, it will be a lively dialogue and please don't miss it.



The last slide is not only a Big Thank You to all of you for listening to my presentation. I invite you to join me in thanking my team members: Seneca who generously shared her professional experience and network in video production and event management, Winnie Mui who helped us tastefully design all our visual layouts, our Membership Handbook, posters, AGM templates and all collaterals and last but not least, Catherine Wong, a professional communicator who helped us craft all our FB feeds. This is a wonderful dream team and a highly productive one too! They all come back to serve when the school needs them. We are truly blessed. And as you can see, we do need more helpers in the communications area as we march towards the Centenary celebrations. Please do contact anyone of us direct if you have the expertise, the time and the same calling to serve.

**Membership Committee by Ms Barbara Hung**



We are happy to report that we now have a total of 1009 members, with 74 new members joining the MCS Foundation from September 2022 to July 2023. We also have 10 more members approved just yesterday. At the last AGM, we mentioned that we would like to build up a more diverse membership base and would like to recruit members from more recent years of graduation.

This chart shows the distribution of our newly recruited members by graduation year. We see a healthy spread across different cohorts.



Maryknoll is an aided School. We have to rely heavily on Alumnae resources to provide our students over and above the standard from those provided by the EDB. Apart from the membership fees, we need new members to support the Foundation. Our Recruitment team has worked hard in introducing the work of Foundation to non-members. Membership Recruitment desks were set up at different MCS events to reach out to alumnae. These included the Habits and Haberdashery – Uncovering History and Heritage in the Hidden Attic” Exhibition and docent tours, Fireside Chat, Mentorship Programme and Speech Day at the Secondary Section, the Docent Reunion Lunch, and the Music Association Concert of the Secondary Section.

However, the best way to introduce the work of Foundation to alumnae is through existing members. We appeal to you all to let your classmates know about the important work of Foundation as a School Sponsoring Body and encourage them to join the Foundation to serve the School in whatever capacity they can.

### Membership Drive



Apart from welcoming our new members, I would also like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to our Executive Members (EM) who are committed members with a high level of dedication and contribution

to the School. They serve in different ways, such as serving as members of various committees of the Foundation (e.g. Communication, Membership, Trademark, CMS), or SSB Managers in the IMC of the Primary and Secondary Sections, as well as volunteer their expertise, resources and help at special projects e.g. the Convent Project and the LWT Convent Conservation Project. Many have also progressed to serve as Councillors.

As we prepare for the Centenary, there will be many exciting projects coming up. We would like to appeal to OMs to consider stepping up your contribution to the Foundation by serving as EMs. EMs can be appointed or elected and EMs serve for a term of 3 years. The criteria for appointment of EM are set out on this slide:



### Executive Members

- EMs - an important resource pool of the Foundation with an elevated level of dedication and contribution to the Foundation
- Total number of EMs: 68
- Term of 3 years, appointed/elected
  - A firm believer in the Vision and Mission of the Foundation.
  - Demonstrated the ability and willingness to devote time to contribute to the Foundation by fulfilling one or more of the roles of Executive Members:
    - (i) Grooming ground for potential Councillors
    - (ii) Conduit to help amplify and disseminate Council messages
    - (iii) Sounding board for the Council
    - (iv) Recognition of past contribution of former Council Members
    - (v) Expansion of resources and networks
    - (vi) Cross-fertilization between various Maryknoll organizations
  - Possess the following attributes: an Executive Member will be a team-player, open-minded, positive, responsible, and has integrity.

As Cordelia mentioned, we should be grateful for what our alma mater has given us. One way of showing our gratitude is to serve our School to preserve and enhance the Maryknoll legacy to benefit future generations of Maryknollers and the wider community



You will recall that a large number of alumnae came back to serve as docents for the LWHT Exhibition to introduce the Sisters' legacy and the Maryknoll spirit to the wider community. With Covid-19 easing, we organized a reunion lunch on 18 March 2023 at the Convent to thank our volunteer docents and to further consolidate our bonding.

It was indeed a heartwarming family gathering with many pleasant surprises. First, our guest of honour, Chan Siu Chun, attended the event and shared with us her memories of the days when her mother worked as a seamstress at the Convent and expressed her heartfelt gratitude for all that the Sisters have done for her

mother, herself and all the seamstresses to empower them and shower them with love and care. Sylvia also introduced the Convent Project to the attendees. Maggie Chau brought back historic photos of the school from the MCS Alumni Association in British Columbia. The afternoon ended perfectly with Amy Ho, supervisor of the PS section, giving us a private guided tour of the PS campus with blooming azaleas.



• **Our Gratitude to our Membership Committee Team**  
(in alphabetical order)

- Maggie Chau
- Elliot Chung
- Pauline Dan
- Iris Kwan
- Seneca Lai
- Antoinette Lee
- Irene Li
- Winnie Mui
- Rachel Yuen

The important work of the Membership Committee could not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the Membership Committee team. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the members of the Membership Committee as set out in this slide.

**Message from Chairperson – Ms Cordelia Chung**



I wanted to close our report with this photo by paying tribute to a very special Maryknoller. Who? YES, Barbara Hung, a teddy bear lover and a teddy bear herself in many ways.





Barbara is stepping down as our Councillor after this AGM, after serving the Foundation for 17 years since the Foundation's establishment in 2004, with 6 of those years as our Chairperson from 2014-2020.

### Coming Back to the School is Coming Back to the Heart.



Last year I quoted Sr Jeanne who, apart from being our beloved principal, was also the first chairperson of the Foundation, who said: **Coming back to the School is coming back to the heart**". Barbara has lived out what Sr Jeanne said. Barbara has served the school with all her heart. And throughout her service, she has recruited many many Maryknollers to serve the school, like these teddy bears, and lit up many many candles. I'm one of those teddy bears. To me, Barbara is a special friend, a mentor on anything Maryknoll, and a beautiful human living out the full Maryknoll Spirit.

Let's be inspired by Barbara's example so that we can provide sustainable stewardship to the school that we love.



THANK YOU BARBARA!