

百載恩典路

Blessings along the way

安貧小姊妹

來港百週年紀念

1923 – 2023

百載恩典路

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前言

憂人所憂，急人所急，解人之困，供人之需就是「服務」。服務窮人，老人，病人和受苦的人，作為一個來自天主的召叫時，豐富了我們對「服務」這份召叫的領悟和體會。

生命的路向，必定是沿著「成長和衰老」的歷程前進。「誰能運用思慮，使自己的壽數增加一肘呢？」（瑪 6：27）

即使我們有最先進的科技和醫療設備，最珍貴的藥物和補品，將衰退的過程延緩，但生命仍是有盡頭的。縱然我們不能為長者增加壽數，為病者獲得痊癒；但我們深信愛恆久不變。

一個服務長者的修會，透過服務帶出的不只是物質的幫助，而更要給天主的大愛留下空間，讓這大愛去穿透照耀。安貧小姊妹的服務就是為長輩們提供一個舒適和寧靜的院舍，讓他們住在院舍如住在自己的「家園」一樣。活出晚年這恩寵的時刻，成為家庭和社會的祝福，教會的瑰寶，繼續在夕陽歲月裡盡獻餘暉。而在服務過程中，服事者和被服事者也彼此成為同行者，被對方的生命激勵而建立更豐盛的生命。

百年誌慶，特刊的出版，是希望藉著文字和圖片的記錄及介紹，使我們加深認識修會的使命，歷史發展及修會在香港的百年服務，好讓大家一起繼續以「服務」去侍奉上主。讓所有居住在院舍裡的長輩，修女和服務員工，所有進出這裡的人士們都能感受到天主的關愛，使安老院這服務長輩的地方確實成為天主臨在的地方。

Foreword

Concern for the other, feeling the other's anxieties, finding ways to resolve the other's difficulties, providing for the other's needs, that is "Service". A calling from God – serving the Poor, the Elderly, the sick and the suffering – enriches our understanding and appreciation of the call to service.

Life is inevitably about *growing up* and *growing old*. Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? Mt 6:27.

Even if all advances in medical and health technology seem to defy the ageing process, human life has a natural end. Yet, while prolonging life and health may have a limit, love does not ... it is steadfast and never ending.

Loving service to the Elderly, is not merely providing for their material needs, it is a daily devotedness to them, a showering of God's infinite love upon each of them. That's our mission as Little Sisters of the Poor. We try to give the Elderly, a comfortable and tranquil living space, a "Home" they can call their own, where they can live out their remaining years serenely and happily. And in this Home, a mutual exchange of inspiration and enrichment takes place, between those who serve and those who are served!

We hope this special issue helps you better understand the history and mission of the Little Sisters of the Poor, and the places we call "our Homes" – St Joseph's and St Mary's. We invite you to thank God with us. For it is truly He and His *instruments* – our benefactors, volunteers, friends ... and Staff – who have been our force and strength these past century of service to the Elderly Poor in Hong Kong!



我們的名字

不同的修會，以不同的方式去活化基督的面容，雖然有時這是極微弱的。「安貧小姊妹」這個名字蘊涵了真福八端的神髓，闡釋了天主賜給安貧小姊妹的神恩，也顯示了會祖聖余剛貞小姊妹的靈修焦點。安貧小姊妹的聖召就是活出基督的自謙自下，愛到極點，傾出一己作謙誠的服務。

安貧 — 聖余剛貞透過接待聖愿（The vow of hospitality），以「安養老弱」的善行去服務別人和侍奉天主。天主在弱小者身上等待她，她也在弱小者身上找到天主。「弱小者」給她的聖召下了定義。「成了貧的真好，甚麼也沒有，自天主期待一切。」，聖余剛貞自己也體認到自己是窮人之中的窮人，真正的活出「安於貧、樂於道」。

小 — 聖余剛貞要帶出的「小」的理念和意義，就是浸融在耶穌的自我空虛內，祂「不以自己與神同等為把持，反倒空虛自己，取了僕人的形象」（腓 2：6-7）。還有，就是一個人的偉大處不在於以煊赫事功顯示於人，而在於以渺小來為「偉大」下正確的定義，「誰若自謙自卑如同一個小孩，這人就是天國中最大的。」（瑪 18：4）。聖余剛貞就是以「回到零點」作為恩寵的時刻，甘於放下，樂於渺小，在天主要求的事情上，唯獨做祂工程的工具。

姊妹 — 1842 年修會的小團體取名為「窮人的婢女」。1844 年正式定名為「窮人的姊妹」。那是為了更適當地表達出福音仁愛的精神，和決志與周圍的兄弟姐妹甘苦與共。1849 年，修會在法國的南特（Mantes）創建了一座安老院。安貧小姊妹這個名字，是在該地傳播開來的。這是民眾的智慧，認為這個名字最能表達余剛貞的內心願望：棄絕一切權勢，自我謙下以能更愛他人。

Our Name

In the Catholic Church, different Religious Congregations have “different” ways to reflect the Face of Christ even if this difference is sometimes only *slight*. Our name of *Little Sisters of the Poor* embodies the spirit of the Beatitudes, which Our Lord Jesus pronounced in his Sermon on the Mount; a gift which He also bestowed on our Mother Foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan. Our vocation of Little Sister of the Poor is to live out Christ's humility in service to the Elderly Poor; to imitate His self-sacrificing love to the very limits of self.

Relieving Poverty – the vow of *hospitality* – serving others and serving God well is "relieving the Poor, the weak". God who is in the Poor and the weak, who IS the Poor and the weak. In the first little old woman who awaited her, St. Jeanne Jugan finds God. "The Poor" defined her vocation and she herself identified with the Poor: "It's good to be poor, to have nothing, to depend on God for everything". She was happy and at peace *being* poor because she believed in God's Providence and because she believed, it is the best means to practice “littleness”.

Little – From the very beginning, St. Jeanne Jugan insisted on this virtue which she called *littleness*. She continually reminded her Sisters and especially the novices that the work was and is God's; that they (and we) must “be very little, very humble” because “God will help us; the work is His”. For Jeanne, to live “littleness” is to live Jesus' emptying of Himself, He who “did not regard equality with God something to be grasped at...” (Philippians 2:6-7)

Sisters – Very early on, in the history of the Congregation, St. Jeanne Jugan and her Sisters changed their original name from “Servants of the Poor” to “Sisters of the Poor”. It better expressed their desire to live the family spirit with the Elderly in their care, sharing completely, on an equal footing, their lives as brothers and sisters in the Lord. The people whom they met while on the collecting rounds in Nantes, FRANCE, first began calling them “Little Sisters” since they were like the *little sisters* of the Elderly. The name *stuck* ...

The Poor – By the vow of hospitality, each Little Sister of the Poor, following St. Jeanne Jugan's example spends her life caring for the Elderly poor in whom she finds God. She endeavours to share with the Poor and be one with them, like their dear Mother Foundress.

