

## 聖瑪利安老院

恩理覺主教 (Bishop Valtorta Enrico, PIME 1883-1951) 於 1939 年邀請我們在香港建立第二間安老院。但直至 1958 年白英奇主教 (Bishop Lorenzo Bianchi PIME 1898 - 1983) 及社會福利處再次提出要求時才得以承行。

1958 年 2 月 10 日 – Sr.Estelle de St.Dominique, Sr.Irene de Ste.Marie, Sr.Louise du Bon Pasteur (劉類斯修女) 和 Sr.Rita de St.Pierre 四位修女，還有兩位院友離開牛池灣聖若瑟安老院抵達黃竹坑。當時的黃竹坑是一個小荒丘，周圍都是樹木，野草叢生。雖然四面環海，滿佈漁船，環境幽靜，但交通很不方便，外出時必須上山下山還要搭街渡。直至 6 月香港電力公司幫助裝置電力，才有電力設備。

為了監察工程的進行，修女們從軍隊借來兩個營房。一個供長者住宿，另一個用作聖堂。修女們則住在搭建在旁邊的小木屋。1959 年 3 月 10 日白英奇主教到訪，首次在聖堂營房舉行聖祭，他說：「彷彿在納匝肋一般」。1959 年 3 月 18 日我們接待了九位男長者。其中七位來自社會處在北角的收容所，林德老伯就是其中一位首先入住的，他在安老院住了 24 年於 1983 年 4 月離世。1959 年 4 月 1 日葛量洪醫院的主管醫生 (Doctor Ruiz) 開始為院內的長者義診。雖然院舍還沒有建立，可說安老院已經開始運作了。同年的 9 月 11 日 Sr. Etienne Marie du Sacre Coeur 抵達，整個小團體就齊集了。

香港在六十年代先後受到多個強烈颱風的吹襲，造成重大的經濟損失和嚴重的人命傷亡。先有 1960 年 6 月的「瑪

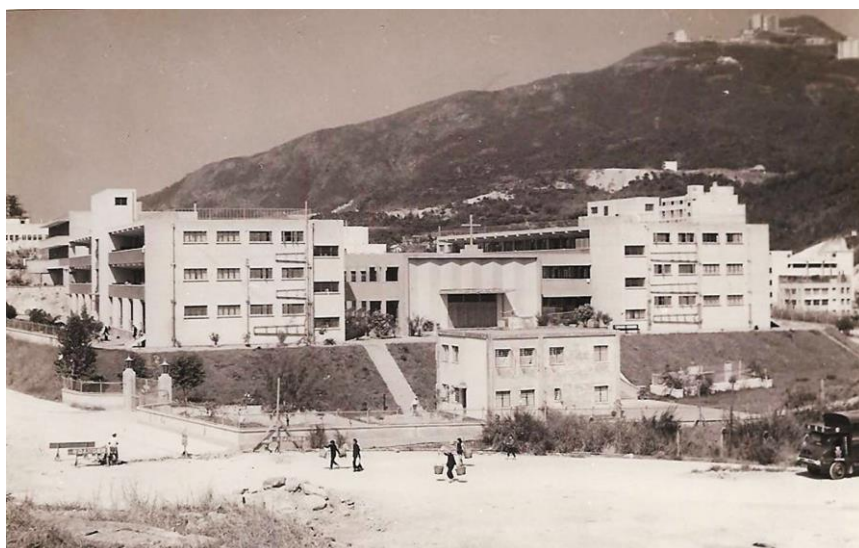


麗」( Mary )吹襲香港，許多漁船被吹毀，失蹤和傷亡無數，災民逾萬。修女們居住的小木屋和院友們住宿的營房也受到雷暴的影響，幸好及時將電源切斷，沒有遭受到火災。

1961 年底修會院舍和女宿舍先後竣工。11 月 7 日第一位老太太陳亞支入住。同年的聖誕節前夕，有五位院友在聖神修院的修生帶領下，學習了教義接受洗禮。

1962 年 9 月 1 日繼有超強颱風「溫黛」( Wanda )正面吹襲香港造成廣泛破壞。許多船隻被打沉，失蹤者和傷亡者難以估計，約 7 萬 2 千人無家可歸，是香港有史以來其中一個最具破壞力的颱風。那時，安老院裡也收留了六百多位從附近艇戶來的災民。颱風過後滿目瘡痍，到處是磚頭瓦片和垃圾，亟待清理。警隊即時支援清理工作。自後，在有需要時他們也常給安老院援手。

颱風過後，聖瑪利安老院如期在 1962 年 9 月 11 日舉行落成正式開幕，奉聖母無玷之心為主保。開幕典禮由港督栢立基( Sir Robert Black )主持，白英奇主列席。再一次讓我們體驗到天主上智和大能的看顧。





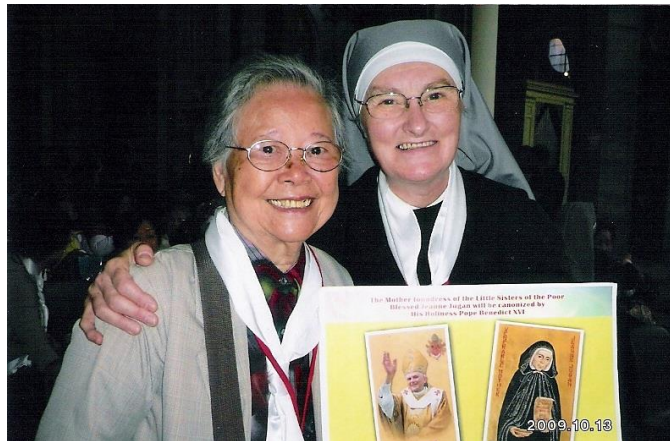


自 1966 年 5 月起，希爾頓酒店將每日餘下的自助餐盛饌和糕餅麵包捐贈給安老院。這捐贈一直繼續到 1994 年該酒店結業為止。而每年一次為院友們舉辦的聖誕聯歡會更是皆大歡喜和期待的。

會祖余剛貞修女 2009 年 10 月 11 日由教宗本篤十六列入聖者的行列，慶典在羅馬舉行。安貧小姊妹會分佈在世界各地的安老院均有長者代表、修女代表和義工朋友前往參禮。

院友戴順英是聖瑪利安老院的長者代表，她說：

「我一把年紀，想不到也能到羅馬參加封聖典禮和朝聖



是多麼難得的機會，要感恩啊！」她雀躍地與不同國家的修女和義工合照，流露的喜悅告訴了我們，人生不管是在那一個階段，均可活得精采豐盛。2009 年更巧逢是聖瑪利安老院建院五十周年，這更是一個獨一無二的「雙喜」機緣。

2001 年 12 月 15 日院友梁保老太太以高齡 110 歲在院裡去世。出生於

1891 年 12 月 2 日她住進安老院時已是高齡 104 歲，是該院自創辦至今，第一位以此高齡去世的院友。





2010年7月1日，院友馮純貞以高齡101歲在院裡去世。她出生於1909年自1968年起就住進安老院，在安老院度過了42年，可算是該院自創辦至今居住最長久的一位長者。

2017年是充滿恩寵的一年。隨著「慈悲禧年」我們步入聖母在葡萄牙花地瑪顯現的百周年紀念(1917-2017年)。教宗方濟各祝聖了六個花地瑪聖母無玷之心像作為「花地瑪聖母一百周年朝聖聖像」。聖像的使命是去到世界各地再次提倡花地瑪聖母在1917年所呼籲的「悔改、補贖、祈禱、和平、恭敬聖母無玷之心」的訊息。香港有幸成為全球首個迎接這聖像的地方。聖瑪利安老院也蒙恩澤，在2017年1月15日上午能夠接待聖母幾個小時。先在院中遊行，隨著進入聖堂，向法地瑪聖母像加冠獻上玫瑰花。彌撒後誦唸奉獻自己、家庭及整個世界給聖母無玷之心誦。在全程三小時的禮儀後，領受聖母聖衣。



在澳門無人不認識的傳教士，被人稱為「眾人之父」的胡子義神父（Fr. Gaetano Nicosia），十五歲時加入慈幼會成為會士，二十歲來中國傳教。1963年到澳門路環服侍癲瘋病人建立聖母村；興建九澳七苦聖母小堂，1967年為無家可歸的兒童開辦了九澳聖若瑟寄宿學校。關心青少年成長，特別是傷殘及智力發展遲緩的兒童及成年人，家庭無

力照顧的學童等等。他一生在澳門駕著電單車穿梭大街小巷為照顧貧弱而奔波。

胡神父在 2010 年 4 月入住了聖瑪利安院。那時他已是 95 歲高齡，不能再到處奔波，但仍精神奕奕的每天主持聖



祭以祈禱事奉天國，見證彰顯天主。其後，他由於耳目不靈光，不能親自主持聖祭但仍不缺的每天參與共祭。除了日常生活，整天餘下的時間就是留在聖堂的經樓祈禱、朝拜聖體和唸玫瑰經。讓人感覺到在聖堂的經樓彷彿迴盪著這個禱聲：「主！在健步如飛時，我以服務事奉祢；在疲憊困苦中，我以軟弱事奉祢；在老邁蹣跚時，我以“一無所有，一無所能”讚美祢！」…「主！為所有不認識祢的人，為所有受苦的人，為沒有時間祈禱的人，為… 求祢俯聽我的祈禱。」。2017 年 11 月 6 日他以高齡 102 歲在聖瑪利安老院裡回到天家。他給我們留下了一幅活出“年老的聖召”，在晚年繼續閃爍出奉獻光彩的感人圖像！而他所懷的那份「主愛世人」的心，永遠活在所有認識他的人的心中。

2019 年 10 月超強颱風「山竹」(Mangkhut) 嚴重肆虐香港，大樹倒塌，海水淹浸，建築物損毀，交通癱瘓。安老院裡也滿目瘡痍，多棵大樹倒塌或被連根拔起，樹下的石枱石凳也被砸碎了。幸好沒有人受傷，建築物沒有塌陷，特別是院子裡那個由白英奇主教贈送並祝聖的高達 11 呎的大苦像，雖然被樹木的斷枝重重壓著，絲毫沒有受到損

毀。很多義工朋友紛紛前來幫助善後清掃。當我們不再視一切為理所當然的，以感恩的心過每一天，我們每天都活在神蹟中。





## St. Mary's Home for the Aged

In 1939, Monsignor Valtorta had already invited the Little Sisters to make a second Home in Hong Kong. But it was not until 1958 when Bishop Lorenzo Bianchi PIME, in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department, brought the matter up again, that the project materialized.

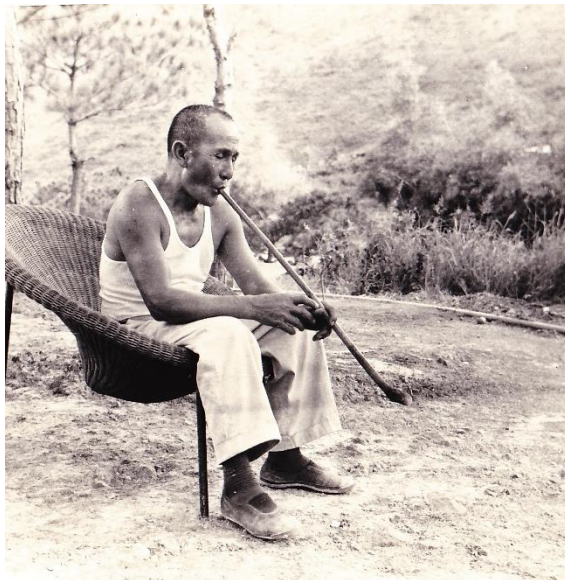
And so it was that on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 1958, four Little Sisters: Sr. Estelle de St. Dominique, Sr. Irene de Ste. Marie, Sr. Louise du Bon Pasteur, and Sr. Rita de St. Pierre along with two men Residents left Sr. Joseph's Home at Ngau Chi Wan and arrived at Wong Chuk Hang, Hong Kong, to begin the foundation.

At the time, Wong Chuk Hang was a small deserted bushy ridge covered by shrubs and surrounded by sea on three sides and filled with fishing boats. This tranquil environment was home to many boat people whose house boats were moored in the inlet of the sea at the bottom of the property of the new Home under construction. Transport was very inconvenient. The property could only be reached either by small ferry boats or by a single plank crossing the water to the main road, which tested the balancing skills of pedestrians. And it was only in June of that year that the Hong Kong Electric Company put up installations that supplied electricity to the area.

In order to survey the building works of the new Home, the Little Sisters were able to borrow two barracks from the British Army: one to lodge the Residents; and the other to use as a Chapel. The Sisters themselves lived in a small make-shift hut beside the barracks.



When Bishop Bianchi visited the foundation on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1959, and celebrated Mass in the make-shift Chapel, he said he felt that he was in Nazareth! On March 18<sup>th</sup> of that year, the Home took in nine elderly men, seven of whom had been transferred from the Social Welfare Department's shelter at North Point. Among these early Residents was a Mr. Lam Tuk, who during his stay of 24 years until his death in April 1983, was famous in the Home for being "an all-rounded handy man". On April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1959, Dr. Ruiz, a member of the management of Grantham Hospital volunteered his consultation services for the Residents. Although construction works for the Home had yet to be completed, the Home was for all intents and purposes "operating". The number of Little Sisters who formed that first Community in St. Mary's was also completed on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 1959, with the arrival of Sr. Etienne Marie du Sacre Coeur.



A number of strong typhoons sweeping through Hong Kong in the sixties left a massive trail of destruction, financial loss and casualties. In June 1960 when Typhoon “Mary” struck, many fishing boats were wrecked and lost, people hurt and killed or missing, the toll exceeding 10,000. The hut and barracks which housed the Little Sisters, and the Residents were struck by lightning and badly damaged. But the electricity was disconnected in time thus preventing the premises from being burnt! Then on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1962, Typhoon “Wanda”, one of the most destructive typhoons ever to hit Hong Kong blew in head-on. It left more than 72,000 people homeless. More than six hundred victims from the neighborhood sought shelter in the Home, where Divine Providence provided for their food along with that of the Residents. Typhoon Wanda also left a litter of bricks and other debris on the grounds of the Home. It was the police force from the nearby training school who assisted in the clean-up, and since then, have always been on hand to help the Home when needed!

Thanks to their help, the new Home, dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, could go ahead as planned on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 1962. The ceremony was officiated by the Governor of Hong Kong, Sir Robert Black and attended by Bishop Bianchi. Once again, we experienced God’s wonderful care.



When the construction of the Convent and ladies’ quarters were completed in 1961, the Home welcomed its first lady Resident, Madam Chan Ah-Ji. What a joy for us when on Christmas Eve of that year, five Residents, who had been taught the Catechism by the seminarians at Holy Spirit Seminary, were baptized.

Since May 1966, the Hilton Hotel donated surplus food and pastries to the Home daily until the Hotel ceased business in 1994. The annual Christmas party which they held for the residents here in the Home was one of the most welcomed events of the year.



When our Mother Foundress, Jeanne Jugan was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009, representatives of the Residents, Little Sisters, and volunteers from our Homes all over the world attended the ceremony in Rome. Upon her return, Resident representative from St. Mary's Home for the Aged, Mdm. Tai Shun-Ying expressing her joy at having been chosen said: "I never imagined that at this age, I could go to Rome on pilgrimage and join a ceremony like this. How can I thank God?!" She was very excited to show all the photos she had taken with the Sisters and volunteers from other parts of the world. 2009 was a year of double blessings since it also marked the Golden Jubilee of the founding of St. Mary's Home for the Aged!



On Dec 15, 2001, one of our residents, Madam Leung Po, aged 110, peacefully returned to our Heavenly Father inside our Home. She was born on Dec 2, 1891. When she moved into our Home, she was already 104 years old. Madam Leung kept the record of the most long lived resident since the establishment of our Home.



On July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010, Resident Mdm. Fung Shun-Ching aged 101, died peacefully in the Home. She first came to the Home in 1968, bringing her stay with us to a grand total of 42 years. Her record as the Resident with the longest stay in our Home remains *unbroken*.

2017 was a year of special grace, being the “Year of Mercy” declared by Pope Francis and also the centenary of Our Lady’s apparitions at Fatima. To celebrate this last event, Pope Francis blessed six statues of Our Lady of Fatima and sent them around the globe for the veneration of the faithful; to reiterate Our Lady’s appeal for “repentance, reparation for sins, prayer, peace and veneration of her Immaculate Heart”. Hong Kong was privileged to be the first to receive one of the pilgrim statues. St. Mary’s



Home was even more privileged to be the first to welcome Our Lady’s statue for a few hours on the very day of its arrival on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Many of the Hong Kong faithful joined our Residents and Little Sisters as we formed a procession around the grounds with her statue. We stopped in front of the Crucifix in the garden and in front of the grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes before entering the Chapel where it was crowned with roses. The Eucharist was then celebrated after which all the participants prayerfully dedicated themselves, their families, and the entire world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary before Our Lady’s statue left for her next stop. The entire ceremony lasted about 3 hours and ended with the distribution and enrollment of the scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Fr. Gaetano Nicosia, a missionary known by almost all in Macau, where he was nicknamed “Everyone’s Dad”, joined the Salesians when he was 15 years old, and went to preach in China at the age of 20. In 1963 he arrived at Coloane, an island in Macau, to take care of the leper patients there. He built a village for them, and named it “Our Lady’s Village” He dedicated the Chapel within the village to Our Lady of Sorrows. In 1969, he established St. Joseph’s Boarding School at Ka-Ho for homeless children.

Much of his life in Macau was spent, traversing the streets and alleys on his motorcycle, caring for the poor and the weak and speaking of Jesus' love for them!

In 2010, aged 95 with his strength failing, Fr. Gaetano finally moved into St. Mary's Home for the Aged. Far from retiring, he celebrated daily Mass enthusiastically, praising God and rendering service by his prayers. Even when his hearing worsened, he still concelebrated Mass, and spending most of his time praying the rosary in the Chapel alcove and adoring the Blessed Sacrament. His prayer resounding from the depths of his being: "Lord! When I moved around swiftly, I served You by serving others. When I was tired and exhausted, I served You by offering my weakness. Now that I am old, I still praise You with my empty hands and my nothingness". ... "Lord! For all those who do not know You, those who are suffering, those who do not take time to pray, hear my prayers."

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017, aged 102, he returned home to our Heavenly Father. His legacy to us:

the beautiful image of the vocation of the Elderly, fulfilled and a radiant and moving witness of a loving and self-sacrificing life well-lived!



In October 2019, Super Typhoon "Mangkhut" arrived in Hong Kong and caused extensive damage all around the city, including our property. However, St. Joseph, our protector made sure no one was hurt with minimal damage to the buildings. Our grounds were the worst hit, with many old and large trees being uprooted and strewn along the interior and exterior roads. In particular, the heavy branches of a huge tree had fallen onto the 11-foot outdoor Crucifix, given, and blessed by Bishop Valtorta in the early days of the foundation. By the grace of a miracle, the Crucifix was literally unscathed! Many volunteers, including people from the neighborhood whom we did not even know came to help us clear up the debris, although it took professional workmen three days to remove parts



of that huge tree.

Living all these events of daily life with a grateful heart, and not taking for granted the help of those around us, every day becomes a miracle!

