

## Canossian Myanmar Mission News Update 19 (July - Dec 2017)

Dear Friends & Mission partners,

With deep gratitude in our hearts we wish all of you  
**A HAPPY NEW YEAR 2018!**



### *Pope Francis in Myanmar: 27-30 Nov. 2017*

Pope Francis' visit based on the theme: "Love & Peace", brought immense joy & hope to the people of Myanmar with his message of "reconciliation, forgiveness & peace."

Sr. Antonia & Sr. Heza sang in the choir at the Mass celebrated by Pope Francis in Kyaik Kasan Stadium, Yangon. Educators from Canossa Home were also present in the huge crowd that gathered there. The Pope also celebrated a special Mass for the youth in St. Mary's Cathedral. His visit not only brought hope to Catholics but also created opportunities for other religions to come to know our faith, especially our Buddhist brothers and sisters.



### **"Canossa Kindergarten"**

Our newly built Canossa Kindergarten attached to Canossa Home started on 1 Nov 2017 with 6 children. It now has 11 lively children in 2 classes: Nursery 1 & Nursery 2, lovingly cared for by their teachers Esther, Sophia, Joanna & Martha. More will join in 2018.



### **Celebrating Christmas**

Canossa Home celebrates the birth of Jesus with children of the neighbourhood & with our kindergarten children





## News from Canossian Formation House Myanmar

*Renewal of Vows: Sr Heza on 27 August & Sr. Antonia on 2 December 2017*



### *Postulants Magdalena & Anita in Singapore: 4 Sept - 25 Oct 2017*

Magdalena & Anita were in Singapore for 2 months for their formation & shared life with the Sisters of St. Magdalene's Community. They had many opportunities to meet the Sisters of the Province and learn about their ministries. They also had the opportunity to assist in Canossian Kindergarten, join in school activities & celebrations, participate in prayer service in Villa Francis during the centennial visit of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima, help in Willing Hearts to pack meals for the poor and enjoy visit & outings with the Sisters & children.



### *Activities in CFHM:*

Sr. Heza & Postulants brought joy to the children in a nearby kindergarten.



Ana Bao gave a session to English teachers in the Parish



A visit from Sisters of St. Joseph's Home, Singapore



### *Sr Marion completed the Accompaniment Programme for Formators in the Philippines (1 July -15 Nov 2017)*

and returned to Myanmar after a break in Singapore. She shared this about her experience:

*"It led me to let God lead me deeper into my missionary calling, convinced that it is God's mission, not mine. The smiles and 'hands on' frame of the seventeen participants from six countries show the readiness to take up the challenges entailed in formation work."*





### ***Christmas Cheer in Yangon & Pekhon: 1-10 Dec-2017***

A team of 9 volunteers: Joseph Tham, Sandra Wong, Patrick Yap, Irene See, Jack Low, Joanna Yu, Anne Siew, Cecilia Villenguez & Ana Bao participated in this year's mission. Sr. Jacqueline, Sr. Heza, Sr. Antonia, Postulants Magdalena & Anita accompanied them. Altogether they visited St. Joseph's Church & 84 mile village in Yangon & 8 other remote villages in Pekhon (Shan State). They journeyed courageously in 4-wheel drive vehicles along bumpy dirt tracks and steep mountain slopes as well as by boat across Inle Lake to bring Christmas Cheer to 1,192 poor children, providing each with a good meal, blanket and goodie bag. In addition, they distributed a sack of rice, cooking oil, biscuits & blankets to each of the 165 poor families in 6 of the villages.



"Everywhere we witnessed villagers living in simple and basic conditions – firewood for cooking, no running water, drinking and bathing from the wells, poor hygiene, etc. Some poor families have only 1 meal a day. There were many heartfelt scenes of mothers sharing a meal with their children, of older children sharing and feeding their younger siblings. Women walked for miles to work on farms or collect firewood from the forests in lonely and remote tracks. Young mothers with infants at their breasts or on their backs walking on muddy tracks to tend to their daily chores. The men folk were not often sighted as they would be away from the village tending to the rice fields, farms, etc and slept there."



### ***Children's Camp at Danbi: 26 Dec- 2017 - 1 Jan- 2018***

The theme of the camp was "Peace and Reconciliation". There were 450 children, 100 facilitators, 50 cooks, 4 St. Francis Xavier Sisters, local community supporters besides the 9 member team: Sr. Jacqueline, Sr. Antonia, Sr. Heza, Postulants Magdalena & Anita, volunteers from Singapore: Ana Bao, Quek Lee Ngoh & Jane Wang. Each day began with morning Mass celebrated by Fr Sune Sune. Sessions on "PEACE" were interspersed with games and meaningful group activities. The children participated enthusiastically in all the activities, particularly in the telematch. Bishop John Mahn Hsane Hgyi of Pathein came to visit. The camp concluded with a reconciliation service and candlelight procession to welcome the New Year. Project Kyrie Singapore sponsored the food, blankets & goody bags.





## Volunteers from Singapore:

### **12-20 August 2017**

Christina Low & Michelle Lee, Martina Wong & James Chan at Gate of Hope (13-17 Aug) & Canossa Home (18-19 Aug) taught IT skills & knowing our neighbouring ASEAN countries.

### **22 Aug-2 Sept.**

Teachers from SACPS: Frances Chua, Angela Tan, Evelyn Gomez & Veronica Yap taught the 10<sup>th</sup> batch educators phonics, drama, speaking skills & percussion instruments.

### **2-6 Oct 2017 PapangoTeam**

Wilson, Jill & Frances taught the 10<sup>th</sup> batch educators science, music, drama & sewing.

### **16-28 Oct. 2017**

Sr. Janet Wang taught 10<sup>th</sup> Batch Educators on Saints of the Catholic Church, Missionary Spirit, Laudato Si' Care for our Common Home & painted murals in Canossa Kindergarten with volunteer Nelly Soh.

### **21-28 Oct 2017**

VOICE Team taught maintenance skills, confidence development, situational English & maths to the 10<sup>th</sup> batch educators.

### **22-25 Nov 2017**

Nurses Susan Loh & Rita Gan taught health care to the 10<sup>th</sup> batch Educators.

**27 -31 Nov.** Marie Kesavan gave some guidance to our Kg teachers on lesson planning as well as art & craft.

### **30 Nov-4 Dec**

Selvathi taught the 10<sup>th</sup> batch educators the Inner Gift of Discipline & her mother helped to cook.

### **4-11 Dec**

Ellen Martin trained the 10<sup>th</sup> batch to present a Christmas Pageant with the singing of carols in English.

### **18-21 Dec.**

M3 Team: Cecilia & Ben, Sharon, Josephine, Rachael, Helen & Leo went up to Taunggyi to teach the children of Bro. Felice orphanage & St. Martin's Boarding House art & craft, science & dental care.

### **25-27 Dec.**

Simon Soh conducted a workshop for the 2<sup>nd</sup> batch of trainees at "Gate of Hope" & visited the 1<sup>st</sup> batch trainees doing internship in the local hotels.

## **News from Canossa Home**

### **June: 23 Children in Canossa Home for the new School Year**



### **The Formation of Educators Course has reached its 10 year! 18 July: Formation of Educators: 10<sup>th</sup> Batch**

22 trainees started their Basic Course on 18 July 2017 and were sent off for their practicum in the villages in mid-December. They will return on 10 Feb and graduate on 27 April 2018.



### **Lessons by teachers from St. Anthony's Canossian Primary School**



### **Lessons by Sr Janet to the Educators & Nelly Soh to the children**





**21-28 Oct: The VOICE Team of 7 volunteers:** Anthony, Dominic, Veronica, Alice, Juliet, Gabriel & Nelly, was at Canossa Home, Thanlyin Myanmar to teach our 22 educators maintenance skills needed for the proper upkeep of the boarding houses and care of the children: painting, housekeeping, gardening, risk management, how to install the emergency solar panels & light sets donated by CHARIS, as well as grooming & deportment, situational English and the teaching of fractions in mathematics. The educators are now putting into practice what they have learnt.

**VOICE Team**



**Painting**



**Gardening**



**Housekeeping**



**Grooming & Deportment**



**Teaching Fractions**



**Morning Prayer & Reflection**



**How to install Solar lights**



**Fire drill**



**27 Oct: Mr Eugene Tan & his friends from Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand & Indonesia came for a short visit, bringing gifts and a box of cakes each for the Educators & children of Canossa Home.**



**THANK YOU  
DEAR  
FRIENDS  
FOR YOUR  
LOVE &  
CARE**



**10-13 Nov: Sr. Geraldine Tan, Sr. Maria Riva, Sr. Anna Ong & Nursing Officer Gillian Beins from St. Joseph's Home Singapore, visited Canossa Home & Canossa Kindergarten. Nurse Gillian shared on health care, Sr. Maria shared the story of her vocation & Sr. Anna taught crochet to the children.**



**10 Nov. Noel & Pilgrimage Group of friends from Singapore 25 Nov. Stephen Heng with family & friends**



**22 – 24 August: Sr. Angela & Hazel conducted training for the catechists of Myitkyina**



**Children of IDP camp thank the ladies of Knit/Crochet For Charity (KFC) of Singapore for the lovely warm woollies they donated.**

**5 Aug: Visit by Eileen Chan, coordinator of KFC & her friend Sue to Canossa Home**





**2-6 Oct 2017: Papango Team - Wilson, Jill & Frances gave sessions to Educators & children**

Sewing & craft sessions: making a triangular purse



Science session - hydraulics



Nutritional gardening & permaculture sessions



Music & drama



Science session on heat transfer followed by baking session with a brick oven



Rehearsing a skit



**15-21 Dec: M3 Team - Cecilia, Ben, Josephine, Sharon, Rachael, Leo & Helen**

visited Bakhita Boarding House and attended the graduation of 12 Trainees at "Gate of Hope". They conducted activities and games for the children of Brother Felice & St Martin's boarding houses and distributed goodie bags to all of them. The children learned to make sail cars and rockets.



4 of them proceeded to Canossa Home. Helen gave a dental talk & Cecilia taught children to make a Nativity scene.





## A Collage of Smiles & Activities ☺

**1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion of children at St. Augustine Church on 10 Dec.**



**Marie, Craig & Ellen Martin at Canossa Home**



**Educators beaming with joy as they received clothes to bring to the villages**



**Pamela visited in Oct & came again with her mum Rebecca**



**CONGRATS  
to Hilda  
Lucia &  
Nolene  
who scored  
straight As**



**Fund-raising by  
M3 Caroline  
Yeo & Sotong  
Team selling  
jade bead  
jewellery &  
rosaries on 18  
Nov. at Christ  
@ Work  
Conference**

**Canossa Kindergarten Murals painted by Nelly, Esther, Sophia, Joana & Sr. Janet with flowers painted by VOICE team of volunteers, educators & children.**





## Happenings @ Gate of Hope

Volunteers Martina & James, Christina & Michelle taught IT skills & knowledge of ASEAN countries.

Simon Soh made a follow-up visit to the 1st batch trainees on internship in Cherry Queen Hotel & Novotel



**2<sup>nd</sup> batch New Trainees** are learning English & attended an introductory workshop on hospitality by Simon Soh

**Graduation of 1<sup>st</sup> batch** of 12 Trainees on 17 Dec at Thanksgiving Mass by Bishop Basilio



**2 graduates** are now attending courses at Singapore Myanmar Vocational Training Institute in Yangoon. The other 10 have happily found jobs in Hotels & restaurants. Well done!

### Family News:

- Sr Joana Da Silva has returned to Myanmar in July after her 3 months home leave in East Timor.
- Sr. Marion is back in Canossian Formation House after her study leave in the Philippines.
- Sr. Maria Ja Awn has completed her Course for WSQ Professional Diploma in Early Childhood Care & has been posted to Canossa Home, Thanlyin upon her return to Myanmar on 17 Jan 2018.
- Sr. Calista Ponnudurai has been transferred on 7 Dec 2017 to our Canossian Mission in Jakarta to teach English to the novices.

Thank you Sr. Calista for your loving service in Myanmar and wish you God's Blessings in your new mission in Indonesia.

**OUR HEARTFEL THANKS** to all our dear friends & donors for your continuous and generous support! May God bless you!

Myanmar Mission Team,

Sr. Angela, Sr. Joana, Sr. Maria Ja Awn, FED Leaders, Educators & Children (Canossa Home Myanmar)  
Sr. Marion, Sr. Jacqueline, Sr. Antonia, Sr. Heza, Postulants & Searchers (Canossian Formation House Myanmar)  
Rose, Lucia, Matilda & Trainees (Gate of Hope Myanmar)  
Sr. Janet & VOICE Volunteers (Singapore)

**DONATIONS:** Cheque to: **Canossian Daughters of Charity - Bldg Fund**  
Write behind the cheque: **Myanmar Formation House**

Or to: **Canossian Daughters of Charity**

Write behind the cheque: **M3 for Gate of Hope or Canossa Home**

Mail to: **Canossian Daughters of Charity, 100 Jalan Merbok, Singapore 598454.**

Kindly include your postal address, so that we can send you a receipt.