



RAYS OF CANOSSA

MATER DEI PROVINCE MALAYSIA

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths Mark 1:3

Dearest Sisters and Friends,



he time is NOW... each new day is a wonderful gift of the Lord to us, individually, as well as a family and community. We are reminded again and again through the various liturgical celebrations of the Church of His coming and therefore of the need to be conscious of our Lord's presence in the daily happenings of our lives.

Advent is one such occasion – where we are called to prepare for His coming in a very specific way. Let us be the Rays that brighten the way and guide people to the Lord. Rays that bring forgiveness, reconciliation, healing and hope to our families, communities and ministries. But first, we have to begin with ourselves, to clear the many blockages and excuses within us that prevent us from spending time with Jesus, listening to Him and letting Him heal and love us. Jesus is God's precious gift to us.

He is the key to our relationships with each other. He is the center from which flows all the goodness and mercy that we need to aspire to and share with all our brothers and sisters without any distinction.

We are all God's gifts to each other imperfect though we may be, externally and also internally. Before the Lord, we are special, unique and deeply loved. He has given to each of us a mission to fulfil - to bring his message of unconditional love to all. His commandment should spur us to '*Love one another as I have loved you*'. (Mt. 22:37-40)

Before I conclude, I wish to express my little ray of gratitude and heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you, my Sisters, for the wonderful age-group gatherings we have had this year. Each age-group had its own unique experiences and all had enjoyed themselves, on land, in the pools or by the beach. The relaxing and conducive atmosphere, away from the ordinary demands of apostolate and community life also helped to make the rare occasion more precious.

The joy of coming together and sharing our own stories and challenges help to deepen our appreciation of each other and give us greater courage and hope for the future. It is truly a time to bond and be bonded. And may it grow ever stronger with time and age.

"Let us regard ourselves, with no exception, as real sisters" said Our Mother Foundress, St. Magdalene of Canossa.

Thus, dear Sisters, let each one of us intentionally seek to reach out to each sister, and pray for each one by name that God, our Father may have mercy on our weaknesses and help us to mend and heal our broken relationships through the guidance of God's Holy Spirit.

Pray that we may radiate humility and charity in all we do and say.

*Yours in Christ,
Sr. Christie Ho*



*Dear Daughter,
Make the Lord
the aim of
your actions,
then neither joys
nor sufferings
will matter
anymore!*

5TH ASIA OCEANIA MARIOLOGICAL CONFERENCE (AOMC)

Theme: "Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment in the Footsteps of our Mother Mary"

(14 – 19 September 2017) Taichung City, Taiwan • 15 Speakers, 160 participants from 17 Countries

(Australia, Cambodia, Canada, Congo, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Vietnam.)



rchbishop Socrates Villegas from the Philippines began his presentation by asking the participants three questions:

1. *Where is your heart?*

My heart should be with God, with the Church.

2. *Where is your joy?*

My joy is with my Son. My joy is in the Cross of Christ, from the Cross to Easter joy! A life without the cross is a life without Christ.

3. *Who really are you?*

You are vocation in the Lord. As Virgin Mary said: "I am the handmaid of the Lord... the

Lord has done great things for me." I am beautiful because I am loved. Miserable yet chosen, beautiful and uplifted. Who I am really is through Christ, the Church, the Call and the conversion, humanity is not self-claimed. As St. Thomas Aquinas said: Humanity is truth, being grateful.

Knowing who I am really can turn my anger into compassion. It changes my pride into conversion. The main message of Fatima is a call for penance and conversion, always inviting people to repent and believe. We live in a dark world, this darkness can only be overcome by light, and Christ is the only Light.

The above is but a little drop of water in the huge ocean of this Mariological experience. First and foremost, it has widened my perspective of Our Lady in various aspects from different dimensions. Secondly, these few days have been a fulfillment of the Mariological experience through the exceptionally warm hospitality of the hosts, the rich variety of missionaries, the polite and warm people, the beautiful cultures, languages, traditions and the expression of faith in such a vibrant reality.

A special gratitude and inspiration from the aboriginal people, their colourful integration of culture and faith expressed in music and dance, the generous amount of food and drink, all this brought about harmony and acceptance!

In this I experienced Our Lady as a Mother for all! Mary, Seat of Wisdom, help me to reach out to the youth so they can discover their vocation and discern your plan of salvation.

By: Sr. Theresa Chew



A R R I V A L

Visitors from Rome ~ A Big Welcome

ON CANONICAL VISIT SR ANNE TAN, VICAR GENERAL & SR. ELMA ESCALANTE



High Tea with the Provincial Council



Para Liturgy and welcoming in Kluang

Sr. Elma Escalante in Malacca



*At the Canossian Heritage Gallery,
Sacred Heart Convent*



Signing the Visitors' book



*Enjoying a meal with the
Community Sisters*



*Giving lesson to
the Community*

At Canossa Convent, Jinjang Utara, Kuala Lumpur



*WARM WELCOME by the children
of our Canossian Kindergarten and
Sisters*



*Sr. Elma with Srs. Mary Heng
and Mary David*

In Perak

Getting to know some of the Lay Canossians in Ipoh.



lessed are those who come in the Name of the Lord.

The arrival of Sr. Elma Escalante, General Councillor on the 2nd of March in Sungai Siput was greeted by the warm welcome of the Sisters. We gathered over tea, while having a lively conversation with Sr. Elma.

In the evening, the community met in the chapel for a para-liturgy. It was a grace-filled moment for the whole community as we thanked God for the visit of Sr. Elma and the blessings showered upon us.

The day ended with a simple and nourishing dinner, not to mention the ample time spent on listening to each other's humorous stories. There was much laughter and joy.

On 3rd March, we had personal encounters with Sr. Elma.

On the same day Srs. Theresa and Santha drove Sr. Elma to Ipoh to meet the Lay Canossians there. Sr. Elma conveyed greetings from the Mother General, Mother Annamaria Babbini, from Rome. The short encounter had been very meaningful and was much appreciated.

It was an encounter which the sisters will always cherish.

In the evening the community got together and listened to Sr. Elma's sharing. She gave a brief account of her observations about community living, our prayer life, relationship with each other and the ministries of charity. She was happy with our community, especially

our faithfulness to prayer, the spirit of inter-ministeriality. She also encouraged us to continue to minister to those in the peripheries.

The one prominent question that Sr. Elma put forward, which got the sisters to think and reflect more deeply was, "How does your ministries of charity help you to deepen your spirituality and be better Canossians? It was a profound and heart searching invitation for each of us.



**BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES
IN THE NAME OF THE LORD**

Later, Sr. Elma checked and endorsed the required documents of the community.

On 4th March, after Lauds and breakfast the whole community together with Sr. Elma left for Kluang for the province assembly. The Province assembly was animated by Sr. Anne Tan (Vicar General) and Sr. Elma Escalante.

By Sr. Santha Rajoo

Animation at Our Canossian Oasis in Kluang

BY SR ANNE TAN (VICAR GENERAL) & SR. ELMA ESCALANTE (GEN. COUNCILOR)



Introductory talk was on communication skills and relationships, way forward, ministries, ***“WHERE CAN I CONTRIBUTE MY ENERGY AND TALENTS FIVE YEARS DOWN THE ROAD? To which ministry can we still contribute?”***



Sr Elma Escalante sharing her reports on the community after her Canonical Visits.

Part of the Processes



Assembly of sisters, listening so very intently



Intense group discussion, joy of listening to one another

THE BISHOP OF THE MELAKA-JOHOR DIOCESE,
THE RT. REV. BERNARD PAUL AND
THE TWO GENERAL COUNCILLORS WITH
THE CANOSSIAN FAMILY IN MALAYSIA.



Small in number but joyful in spirit.



Sr. Christie: “I found it!” It’s ...

WHERE CAN I CONTRIBUTE MY ENERGY AND TALENTS FIVE YEARS DOWN THE ROAD?



Oh me oh my...

**ACTION
PLAN**
PUTTING IDEAS
DOWN ON PAPER



Serious work

SHARING EXPERIENCES
AND INSIGHTS
REGARDING
COMMUNITY LIFE
AND MISSION.



*Towards the end of the Assembly:-
Sr. Christie responding to some questions...
What's the answer to all this?*

THE MARCH BABIES!
The Joy of Celebrating Birthdays Never Ends
B L E S S I N G S



*Birthday girl, Sr Agnes Norris,
is so happy to be 99 years young!!!*

Addition to the Canossian Family

"Friends of Canossa" ~ In Jinjang



here are 15 Lay Canossians from Kuala Lumpur who have taken their promises. We would like to share our spirituality with those who are interested in our vision and mission by becoming "friends of Canossa".

On 18th February 2017, in conjunction with the Feast of St. Bakhita, Sr. Mary Heng together with the Lay Canossians, organized a Mass. There was a half day reflection on St. Magdalene of Canossa, our Mother Foundress and the first African Canossian sister, St. Bakhita. Friends from various Parishes were invited to the celebration. A total of 70 friends turned up for the Eucharistic Celebration.

Our main celebrant was Fr. Eugene Benedict. After Mass there was anointing of the sick and the aged. Many of the participants were already helping us in our Ministries. They came from Kajang, Taman Tun Dr. Ismail (TTDI), Desa, Kepong, Rawang and of course, Jinjang!



Meals and fellowship

Praise the Lord!



The group from Kajang, all engrossed in dialogue



Friends of Canossa at a Formation session with Sr. Mary Heng



The participants gathered in Jinjang Convent for Mass, Healing and Lunch

CAMPUS MINISTRY



*Bishop Bernard
with Sr Shanti and
students of the
campus.*



With the Youth

.....



**Sr. Jennyfer and
the Youth from
Muar Parish**

MINISTRIES



St. Magdalene of Canossa
1774 - 1835
Memorial - 8 May
Foundress of the Canossian Sisters
Daughters of Charity, Servants of the Poor
"Making Jesus Known and Loved"



Celebrating the feast of St. Magdalene by the Kindergarten children in Sungei Siput



Sr. Jennyfer sharing the story of St. Magdalene to the Kindergarten children in Kluang

All Our 3 Kindergarten Teachers' Formation for the Year



The coming together of our Kindergarten teachers and Sisters in Malacca for Formation



Parents' participation at Tadika Canossian Segamat

Christ Church Taska Merpati

Children ages 2-3 years with Sr. Lucia.
Nicole celebrates her birthday



With the Montfort Brothers



Signing of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Brothers of St. Gabriel (Provincial Bro. John Albert) and the Canossian Sisters (Provincial Sr. Christie) witnessed by Sr. Clara Wong.



*Recreating together
at the Sisters' House*



Awwwww!!! So nice.

At Montfort Girls' Center with the Sisters



With the Superior General of the Gabrielite Brothers Bro. John Kallarackal

EMPOWERING WOMEN

Another group of "Friends" from Masai with Sr. Shanti



P/s Esther (seated on the right of Sr. Shanti) is the person who shared that desire to help the less fortunate to the young girls. They chose Miriam Home to offer their services. Till today they are faithful.

This is also the group that comes to our Miriam Home of the Elderly every year to take care of the cleaning and washing of the elderly when the Hindu Staff take their Deepavali off days to celebrate with their family members. Young and vibrant, they sacrifice their holiday to care for the less fortunate. Inspired by St. Magdalene they do it faithfully and lovingly.



LEARNING CENTRE, JINJANG

Children from
Jinjang Learning Centre
expressing the
joy of creativity

LEARNING CENTRE, MELAKA



Waiting for the results!



Good achievement



Can't wait to start...



We are ready



The best preparation
for tomorrow is
doing your best today

H. Jackson Brown Jr.

UPDATE - CANOSSIAN CONVENT SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN KLUANG & SEGAMAT

Launching of the new school canteen in Kluang



The new school canteen for the primary and secondary students of Canossian Convent Schools, Kluang is now a reality



Mr. Wong receives Certificate of Excellence from the JPNJ Pengarah, for outstanding SPM results of Canossian Secondary School in Segamat



Meeting of the minds at SMKCC, Kluang

Retirement in our School



Retirement of the senior teacher Pn. Hajjah Zahawir, Segamat



Mission Authorities and the Ministry of Education gathering for the first time to discuss matters pertaining to education and replacements of principals of mission schools.

Closing Liturgy of our Province Assembly in Kluang, 25-27 August 2017



*Sr. Jennyfer carries the
lighted candle*



*Sr. Margarete leading the
closing prayer service*

Sr. Theresa Chew celebrated her 25th Silver Jubilee and Sr. Sagaya also made her 5th renewal.

The Mass was celebrated by Fr. John Yeow at our Canossian Oasis prayer room on the 26th August 2017.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO
Sr Mary Saw
ON HER 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF DEDICATED LIFE.**



*Sr. Mary Saw and Our Provincial Council,
after her Golden Jubilee*



RETREAT



*Our Retreat Master,
Fr. Philip Chircop S.J.
and Provincial Leader,
Sr. Christie Ho. The beauty
of a smile*



*The group together after Retreat. The Joy of knowing our
Imperfections yet loved beautifully.*

**Remembering the late Elizabeth Neoh,
our Benefactor, with gratitude. May she rest in peace.**



*Canossian Oasis,
the refurbishment
project is
sponsored by
the late
Elizabeth Neoh.*



*Sisters saying goodbye to the late Mrs. Elizabeth
Neoh*



Roaring Sixties

on an outing to Melaka, 16-18th May

*They "roar out"
courageously
to the beach.*



*So I leave my boat
behind... leaving it
on familiar shores*

*Anything
Interesting?
What's up?
or
What's
submerged?*



*Visiting
Susie Cheah,
our ex-
student in
the nursing
home in
Melaka*



*Visit to Sacred
Heart Convent
Can you hear
me? Sr. Mary
Saw...
Sure, loud and
clear. Were
you speaking
through a
trumpet?*

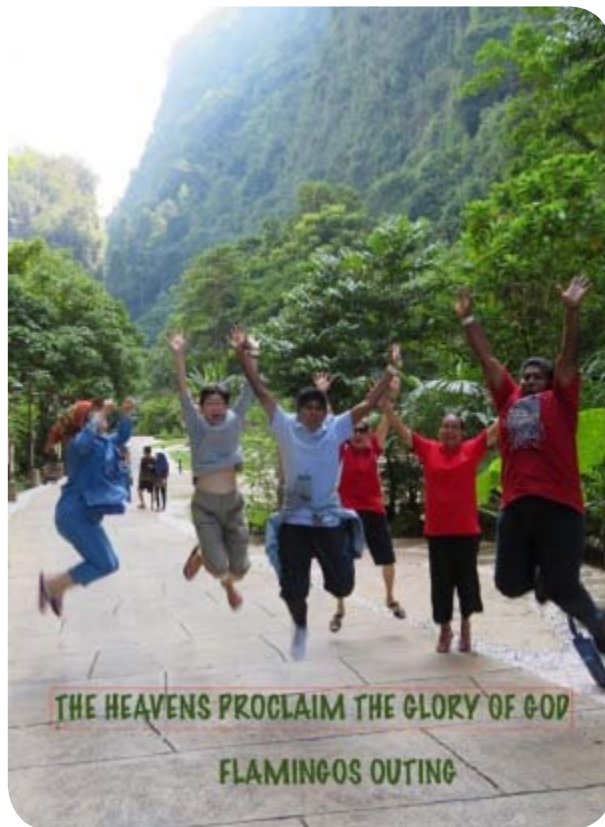
THE FLAMINGOS' OUTING



At the Lost world in Ipoh



A joy ride together



We the Flamingos, here we go... UP, UP

GREENIES OUTING TO...

**BAYU
MARINA
RESORT**



Sr. Sagaya Sr. Shanti Sr. Roslin Sr. Jennyfer

**OUR HUMBLE
BEGINNINGS**

Finally the long awaited outing had arrived... We the youngest age group in the Province had the privilege of a double gathering. Our gathering began immediately after the Province assembly with the sharing of Sr. Retta on the Melaka "Canossian Heritage". We were enriched with the story of our pioneering sisters, who first daringly ventured into Malaysia with the hope to "Make Jesus Known and Love". Can you imagine the 112 years of legacy which began with 4 sisters filled with zeal and love for God. The humble beginnings of our Canossian history in Malaysia with "Nothing" has grown into a huge tree which in return has given offshoot to various other branches from the "womb to the tomb".



M. Victor Felicia

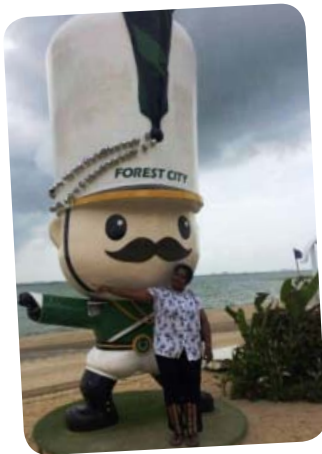


M. Rosario Ermelinda

After our “Canossian Heritage” we the *Greenies* travelled to the “Street Gallery” in Kluang town for integration and recreation. We had glimpses of the reality of Malaysia on the walls of many shop lots. We were fascinated with the beauty of God creations and giftedness of our young Malaysian artist of today. As we admired the wonder of God on each picture, we too had fun and allowed the ‘childlikeness’ within us to dance according to the rhythms of the pictures.



Greenies on the move



Welcome to Forest City

From the street Gallery we moved towards the South of Johor to a “Man-made Island” called the Forest City. This island is standing on a reclaimed land and the buildings are camouflaged with greens. Here come the *Greenies*...



Quick line up! Uncle Singh is waiting for us

Then the *Greenies* moved into “Bayu Marina Resort” for Resting, Relaxing, Recreating, Rewinding, Reflecting and Rejuvenating. How we do it? Through sharing, swimming, sauna, feasting and visiting.



Relaxing and enjoying the togetherness

After all the rewinding, now we were back to our “Home Sweet Home” Oasis to quench our thirst and proceed with the Juniors’ meet. This is another opportunity that the Lord created for us to revisit our own “Religious Calling” following the path that Magdalene herself travelled, called the CANOSSIAN MAP. Once again the Spirit led us to a deeper encounter with the Lord and with each other. The reflection and the exercises helped each one of us identify our own PERSONAL and CANOSSIAN MAP. The sharing of our own journey has enriched, affirmed, challenged and strengthened our bonding with each other. In the end the *Greenies* were glad to walk away with the greater understanding of our womanhood and how we live it learning from our foundress Magdalene of Canossa herself.



Welcome to “Bayu Marina Resort”

WE THE SWEET SEVENTIES



Looking for the hidden treasures?



What is that?...



So cooling and refreshing, young coconuts, so low I can get it...



This is REALLY GOOD! ...



SWEET
SEVENTIES
SMILES

THANKS ONE AND ALL FOR THE JOY OF SHARING...



Sr. Margarete animating our amazing 80's ++



Praise the Lord!



A penny for your thoughts...?



The Word of the Lord



The two cousins "LIMS"

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

I wish to express my sincere thanks to my council, Sr. Clara and Sr. Margarete, for their support and collaboration throughout our 3 year term of office 2015 - 2017.

As we move forward to the next phase of our journey, let us remain open to the plan of God, our Father, for us. He knows what is best for us always.

May you have a Joyful Advent!

Gratefully yours,

Sr. Christie Ho

WELCOME ~ OUR LATEST NEWCOMER TO THE CANOSSIAN FAMILY

Sebestiamah (Evelyn)



ENTRY TO
POSTULANCY
AT
SUNGEI
SIPUT
CONVENT
CHAPEL



Sebestiamah, receiving the medal of Mary our Mother of Sorrows

