

Dear Friends & Mission partners,

Greetings from Myanmar! Here we are to share with you our Myanmar Mission News for a very eventful 1st half of 2019. Here are the main highlights.

Volunteers & Visitors from Singapore:

3 – 5 Feb: Sr. Christina Yeo, Selvathi & her mother visited the Gate of Hope. Selvathi's mother taught the trainees how to prepare some Indian dishes.

15 – 20 March: Mrs. Shirley Tan & team from Church of the Holy Trinity Kindergarten conducted the Lenten Camp for 60 children & teenagers at Mg Chuang Village (Ayerwaddy Division)

16-24 March: Papango Team conducted sessions in Loikaw.

24 – 26 March: Wilson & Jill Wong conducted sessions for the educators in Canossa Home.

15 – 19 April: Brenda Yeow & Mabel Ng conducted sessions for the Educators.

22 – 27 April: SIT Team, headed by Heidi, taught Leadership Skills & Learning Styles to the educators who attended the Intermediate Course.

16 – 19 May: Micah Project team conducted sessions on Responsible Leadership to the FED leaders & educators who took part in the Advanced Training Course.

3 – 7 June: Sr Janet shared on Spiritual Leadership to the group of FED Leaders.

8-10 June: Selvathi facilitated the Review & Visioning Exercise of Canossian Myanmar Mission for the Sisters on 8 June, followed by review of FED programme with the Educators on 10 June.

14 – 16 June: 2 families from Divine Mercy Church: Gilbert, Lilian & Gillian Chuah, came together with John, Michelle, Shawn & Ian Tan to teach the leaders how to make cord crosses & rosaries, as well as how to conduct Liturgy of the Word.

News from Canossa Home

26 April: Graduation of the 11th Batch of 20 Educators upon completion of their Basic Course.



6 May: Graduation of the 10th Batch of 19 Educators who completed the Intermediate Course



29 May: Graduation of 5 Educators upon completion of the one-month Advanced Course.



News from Canossian Formation House Myanmar: Jan - June 2019



Celebrations of the Local Church:

Sr Antonia & Sr Heza took part in the Centenary celebration of the Sower Magazine on 12 January 2019 together with the opening of the library thereafter began with the Mass presided over by the Nuncio of the Union of Myanmar at Our Lady of Fatima Church.



On the same day, Sr Dorothy & Pre-Postulants Flora & Susan attended the blessing of the ruins of antique Portuguese Church in Thanlyin, by Cardinal Charles Bo. Some of the Bishops of Myanmar, the Chief Minister of Yangon region and officials from the government were present.



Formation of Sisters with Temporary Vows:

From 24 to 30 March, Sr Shanti, the formator of Temporary Professed Sisters and Sr Jennyfer came from Malaysia to Myanmar for the retreat conducted by Fr Puspo SJ in Taunggyi. From 3 to 5 April, Sr Shanti conducted formation sessions on deepening our Canossian Charism. The community had an enriching bonding time together.



Entry into Postulancy:

Prior to the Entry, Flora and Susan had their retreat from 5-7 May, after which they entered the Postulancy on 8 May at the Chapel of the Canossian Formation House Myanmar with Sr Dorothy Lim as the Postulant Directress.



Continuing Novitiate in the Philippines:

16 June 2019: Magdalena (L) and Anita (R) from Myanmar are continuing their Novitiate formation in the Philippines together with the novice Jessica from Australia. La Salle Thai Novices Elizabeth & Clare will be returning to the La Salle Congregation in Bangkok in September.

News from Canossian Formation House Myanmar: Jan – June 2019

8 April - 3 May: Sr Heza Zar Zar was invited by Fr Marcian, the Parish Priest of Epiphany Church, to conduct a Summer Camp for 48 children, together with Sr. Antonia, our Pre-Postulants and Novices and Sisters of St Francis Xavier and Sisters of St Charity of St Vincent De Paul of Suwon.



The children were divided into two groups: 5-7 years and 8-15 years of age. They enjoyed the sessions which included Faith Education, English, Music and Games.



Sr. Antonia and Pre-Postulant Flora conducted Faith formation sessions through art and craft activities. Pre-Postulant Susan taught basic music notes to the children while Novice Anita gave them English lessons.



Novice Magdalena taught team work through games. The La Salle Novices Elizabeth and Clare helped to organize and plan the game activities. It had been a good and fruitful experience in learning to collaborate with Sisters of different Congregations and getting the cooperation of the children's parents and willing parishioners to help out in the camp.



During Thingyan Water Festival (15-16 April), the children played water in the morning to celebrate Myanmar New Year and in the afternoon, sessions continued as usual.

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION!

16 – 27 March: 10 Papango Team members: Wilson, Jill, Mag Yip, Lawrence, Jonathan, Priscilla with newcomers Cindy, Chin Hao, Lucas and Philip arrived in Yangon on 16 March. They left for Loikaw the following day to conduct their 6th summer camp trip since they first set foot in Loikaw in 2014. They were later joined by Melanie, Chin Sim and Hui Min in Loikaw on 20 March when Cindy & Chin Hao returned home. They started each day with Mass and morning prayer.



The Dorukhu Summer Camp was attended by about 180 children aged 10-15. The focus of the camp was to bring the wonders of God's world to the children in fun ways. The second camp was held in a high school in Loikaw for 290 children from the surrounding villages. A Tournament was organized with floorball, captain ball & rugby, as well as sideshow stations on face-painting, art & craft & archery. The Camp ended with a concert of traditional dances put up by the children.



Doctors Lawrence & Teoh Chin Sim assisted by villages nurses Luisa, Elizabeth & Ms Kadijah, saw 274 patients at a mobile medical clinic which ran in 3 villages: at Dorukhu, Dotanow and at St. Raphael's Dispensary in Doungankha. 32 ultrasound exams were done. Health education on personal hygiene & dental care was given at the summer camps. Dr. Mya Lay Sein came to visit.



Canossa Home Thanlyin. Jill, Philip and Wilson continued their mission with the 11th Batch of FEDs.

Philip ran a Nutrition session for the girls and left some winged bean seeds for them. Wilson taught rocket science, cell biology & drama. Jill taught the educators how to make twine rosaries for sale at the CHARIS Humanitarian Forum & Fair, as part of the mission's fund-raising.



15 – 20 March: Mrs. Shirley Tan & team of 13 teachers, parents & teenagers from Church of the Holy Trinity Kindergarten conducted the Lenten Camp for 60 children & teenagers at Mg Chuang Village (Ayerwaddy Division). To help the children to create their own prayer space at home, they were taught how to make a prayer bowl using paper mache. They also decorated a candle and a rock to remind them that Christ is always with them even when they are faced with trials and temptations. JOY prayer cards were given to each child for them to write/draw their prayers to/for:

Jesus – to tell Jesus how much they loved Him

Others – their prayers for another person

Yourself – a prayer for themselves

To help them remember Jesus' last moments, each child was given a Way of the Cross booklet so that they could draw and pen a prayer as they follow Him. They also created a butterfly artifact to signify new life in the Resurrection. Accompanying children Alexander and Johnathan reenacted the scene at the Garden of Gethsemane whilst Angelina sang the song Gethsemane.



16 - 18 May: Responsible Leadership Course: Project Micah team comprising Evelyn Tan, Irving Teo, Joanna Tan & Juliana Donna Loh embarked on their mission to provide Leadership Training to 15 Boarding House Leaders and 2 Postulants. Topics covered were: Knowing Self; Knowing Others; Team Building; Journaling; Problem Solving/Thinking Out of the Box; Decision Making & Application in Real Life; Communication, Overcoming Obstacles, Change, S.W.O.T. Analysis and Appreciation of fellow team mates.



Participants were taught how to problem solve; make decisions in real life scenarios; overcome obstacles through games and activities which included: Building a boat for Jesus out of anything they could find and collaborate with their team mates on how to make God known to others using this boat. Go on a treasure hunt for a list of items and how they overcame the obstacles to obtain them. Thinking out of the box through activities like "Two foot race", "Ping-pong ball transfer" and ensuring the "problems" faced get resolved quickly. They were given activities to exercise good communication skills by speaking and acting out their stories using given set sentences and playing charades. Participants had time to reflect on what they hoped to achieve in their lives, changes they had experienced in the past year, friendships made, appreciate their fellow peers by writing positive affirmations and journaling their thoughts.

On 19 May, all participants and trainers, together with Sr. Angela went on a trip to visit a boarding House in Taunggoo some 5-hour coach ride. Here the participants had to plan logistics, entertainment and activities for the 66 children who also received goodie bags.

3 – 7 June: Sr. Janet conducted sessions on Spiritual Leadership to 8 FED Leaders & 2 Postulants. They reflected on Leading from within, Purpose in Life, Prayer & Spiritual Discernment, and shared on how they could put their Spiritual Qualities & Leadership Skills at the service of the community. They spent time to chart their spiritual journey and were encouraged to continue to keep a spiritual journal.



22-27 April: The Team from the Singapore Institute of Technology headed by Heidi taught the Educators who returned for the Intermediate Course after serving in the Boarding Houses for one year Leadership Skills and Learning Styles.



14 – 16 June: 2 families from Divine Mercy Church Singapore came to visit Canossa Home.

Gilbert, Lilian & Gillian Chuah, came together with John, Michelle, Shawn & Ian Tan to teach the leaders how to make cord crosses & rosaries, as well as how to conduct Liturgy of the Word.



SHARING OUR JOY

15-19 April:

Brenda Yeow taught Discovery Science & Mabel Ng taught Speech & Drama with Story-telling.



26 April:

Priests, Sisters & guests at the Graduation of the 11th Batch of 20 Educators.



21 March 2019: Canossa Pre-school

joyfully held its first graduation ceremony for the 1st batch of 10 children.



The proud and happy Principal Sr. Maria with the teachers of Canossa Pre-school, Thanlyin, taking care of 40 children.



1 June: 23 children of Canossa Home started their new school year. 6 year-old Rosy (in red floral longyi) was welcomed to Canossa Home on 24 May. 18 year-old Theresa Ma Wa has completed her 10th standard and is now a trainee in a local hotel. She is happy to learn a new skill.



8 June: Visit by Provincial Leader Sr. Christina Yeo & Vicar Provincial Sr. Geraldine Tan for a Review & Visioning Exercise of Myanmar Mission facilitated by Selvathi.



10-11 June: Selvathi facilitated a Review of the Formation of Educators Programme which was going into the 12th year with Sr. Angela & the core group of FED Leaders.



After looking at what is happening in the world and the changes taking place in Myanmar, the group explored options to empower young ladies from poor families who have few opportunities for their future, in the following areas:

- Self-development through the FED programme
- Career paths open to them e.g. Preschool or community school teachers, village nurses, employees in the hospitality industry, etc.
- Service to others in Karuna, NGOs, etc.

Happenings @ Gate of Hope



6 Feb.
Sr. Christina,
Sr. Angela &
Fr. Peter
visited the 17
Trainees of the
3rd Batch. The
group is flanked
by Rose, the
Head of Gate of
Hope & trainer
Mary Si.



In May
Sr. Joana
taught the
trainees how
to bake bread,
prepare Nasi
Lemak &
other
delicious
dishes

4 May: Marie, Jacinta, Veronica & Assunta completed their Course at SMVTI in Yangon.

Ambassador Ms Vanessa Chan presented Veronica with a scholarship for 6 months internship at Shangrila Hotel in Singapore, starting on 22 July.



CHARIS Humanitarian Forum & Fair on 1 June 2019

VOICE Team, M3 & Canossian Lay Missionaries participated in HFF 2019 on the theme of "Encounter". Many came to visit our booth and supported our livelihood project through the sale of Myanmar jade bead rosaries, bracelets & handicrafts. Many were interested to find out more about our Myanmar Mission.



A good number of friends interested in our Myanmar Mission came for the follow-up Briefing Session on 29 June



28 June: Hazel & Martha completed their Asiaworks Leadership Course & an English course at the British Council, sponsored by our M3 friends in Singapore. OUR HEARTFELT THANKS!

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, Novices & Postulants
(Canossian Formation House Myanmar)

Rose, Lucia, Mary Si & Trainees (Gate of Hope Myanmar)

Sr. Janet with VOICE & M3 Volunteers (Singapore)



DONATIONS: Cheque to: **Canossian Daughters of Charity**
Write behind the cheque: **for Gate of Hope or Canossa Home or Myanmar Formation House**
Mail to: **Canossian Daughters of Charity, 100 Jalan Merbok, Singapore 598454.**
Kindly include your postal address, so that we can send you a receipt.

Website: <http://www.canossians-sg.org> **Email:** voice.sg.myanmar@gmail.com

