

Canossian Myanmar Mission News Update 23 (July - Dec 2019)

Dear Friends & Mission partners,

Greetings from Myanmar! Here we are to share with you the main highlights of a very eventful 2nd half of 2019..

Volunteers & Visitors from Singapore:

12-15 August: Nicole Loh was at Gate of Hope to teach the trainees Hospitality skills.

6-9 Sept: Selvathi taught the 12th batch of Educators the Inner Gift of Discipline.

16-20 Sept: Belinda Chong & Theresa Chan taught educators Inter-personal Life Skills.

11-13 Oct: A group of SIT students taught educators Team-building Skills.

22-25 Oct: Thila & Chandra taught FED leaders Visionary Leadership.

28 – 29 Oct: Dominic Lim visited the preschool in Mg Chuang Village (Ayerwaddy Division) with Sr. Angela, Sr. Joana DS & Hazel on a resee trip.

10 – 11 Nov: Students & teachers from St. Anthony's Canossian Secondary School visited Canossa Home & Gate of Hope.

18 – 22 Nov: VOICE Team taught educators Maintenance & Teaching Skills as well as confidence building.

22 Nov: Christopher Chua came with 2 friends for a short visit to Canossa Home.

25 – 29 Nov: Sr Janet shared with educators on Canossian core values & the document of Pope Francis on "Care of our Common Home".

24 Nov: Thomas Wolf came to Canossa Home for lunch with the Sisters.

27 – 30 Dec: Ana Bao, Anne Siew, Jack Low, Naomi & Etienne Chen conducted the children's camp at Danbi village.

23 – 25 Dec: Lena, Lee Beng & Kelly visited Gate of Hope & Bro Felice Orphanage in Nyaung Shwe and Canossa Home Thanlyin.

26 Dec – 1 Jan: Selvathi & her mother were at Canossa Home.

News from Canossa Home

13 Dec: The 12th Batch of 17 Educators was sent to the Boarding Houses for their practicum.



24 Dec: Graduation of 16 Trainees at Gate of Hope upon completion of the Hospitality Training Course.



20 Dec: Canossa Preschool celebrated Christmas with a Nativity Play. The children in costumes looked so cute.



News from Canossian Formation House Myanmar: July – Dec. 2019

2 - 5 July: Sr. Heza attended the seminars and workshops on "A new approach to people with disabilities."

4 Sept: Sr. Geraldine Tan and the first group of St. Joseph's Home Staff came to visit CFHM and had tea with us.

11 Sept: Sr. Mary Tan came to visit with the second group of St. Joseph's Home Staff. Susanna and Clare accompanied them to attend the dinner and cultural dance at Karawaik.



15 Sept: On the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, the community gathered together for Vespers and tea in Thanlyin. Lay Canossians Clement and Ester joined the community for tea.



30 Sept: Sr. Sunantha, Superior General of the La Salle Sisters, came from Bangkok to express her heartfelt thanks to Sr. Christina Yeo and Sr. Marion Liong for the Novitiate Formation of Elizabeth Mali Nimitkirimas and Clare Penchan Chongkojarun from 14 September 2018 – September 2019. Novices Elizabeth & Clare are very grateful for the formation received during their canonical year.



News from Canossian Formation House

8 Oct: Sr. Heza started her work at RV Singapore International School from Monday to Friday for three months. It was an interesting learning experience for her to teach the children who were eager to learn.

9 Nov: Lay Canossians had their annual retreat from 9am to 3pm at CFHM. The theme was "Walking with Jesus." Sr. Jacq led the opening prayer. Fr. Paul Lim Htu came to celebrate Mass for them at 10am. LC Magdalene Tan from Singapore shared on her personal experience "living the life of a Lay Canossian". Sr. Marion gave them some reflection points. At 3pm, they had a meeting to draw up next year's plan.

23 – 24 Nov: 4 members of the Canossian Educators and one Kindergarten teacher from Thanlyin came to CFHM to join the "Come and See" programme conducted by Sr. Maria, Sr. Heza and Sr. Antonia. The programme ended with high tea at 3pm on 24 November, after 2 fruitful days of encounter with the Lord.

23 Nov: Sr. Janet shared on Pope Francis' document: "Christ is Alive" with Postulants Susanna & Flora.

28 Nov: Sr. Antonia joyfully renewed her vows during Mass celebrated by Servite Father Emmanuel at Canossa Home followed by fellowship dinner.

10 Dec: Sisters welcomed Sr. Joanna Tong from Singapore to the CFHM community.

28 - 30 Dec: Sr. Heza helped to conduct the Annual Children's Camp in Danbi, Patheingyi Diocese organized by Ana Bao and the Singapore Team.

28 Dec: The different religious congregations and the parishioners gathered at St. Columban Cathedral in Myitkyina to raise funds to support the people who teach Catechism at the IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) camp. As Sr. Antonia Mya Mya Lone was in Myitkyina for her practicum at St. Luke's parish and Sr. Maria Ja Awn was on home leave, they participated in the fund-raising by making and selling fruit punch. At the same time they distributed the pamphlets of St. Magdalene and St. Bakhita and talked to many young people about the Canossian Sisters and our mission. They also helped to raise funds for Pro-Major Seminary on the feast of the Epiphany at St. Patrick's Parish and distributed our pamphlets to many young people who attended the function.



VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION!

16 – 20 Sept: Belinda Chong & Theresa Chan facilitated a series of Life Skills Workshops.

The topics taught were focused on Interpersonal Skills such as labelling emotions and getting in touch with their emotions, managing their emotions and releasing strong emotions in healthy ways, and mental health. The educators were also taught techniques in Active Listening. The topic of Empathy was shared using texts from Scripture, role play and video. The educators enjoyed the fun way of learning through activities and discoveries, like using rice dough models to express their feelings. They expressed the desire to know themselves better.



11 – 13 Oct: The Team from the Singapore Institute of Technology taught the educators Team-building skills.



4 Sept: Sr. Geraldine Tan & a group of staff from St. Joseph's Home Singapore paid a visit to Canossa Home to wish the Sisters, educators & children.

2 – 3 Nov: Fr. Paul Yeo, Fr. Vincent Chee & team from Our Lady of Lourdes Church came to share the Word of God and conducted Praise & Worship session for the educators & children.



24 Nov: Bernard Low and Mercy team shared their musical talents with the educators & children. They presented the Home with a keyboard and taught the girls how to use it.



14 - 18 Oct: Wilson & Jill Wong came to Canossa Home to conduct sessions. Jill taught the educators sewing and craft, including twine rosary-making for fund-raising sale in Singapore, and showed the children how to make fish-shaped cloth handbags and create tape art. The children were so delighted.



Wilson rehearsed the educators for their graduation drama "Grateful", comprising 3 short skits on the theme of gratitude in the midst of disappointment & tragedy. He also ran science sessions with the children on electricity, salt water batteries and rockets.



13 Sept: Kristin and her two friends visited & brought gifts for our children.



6 Dec: Fr. Gregory from Star of the Sea Parish visited Canossa Home with a group of friends from 3 parishes.



10-15 Nov: 33 students from St. Anthony's Canossian Secondary School, Singapore, accompanied by 5 teachers & Sr. Jessica Teo, went on a Cultural Learning Journey to Myanmar. They popped in to visit Canossa Home in Thanlyin on 10 Nov. and were entertained by the educators & children.



They visited Gate of Hope at Nyaung Shwe on 11 Nov. to find out about the hospitality training programme.



25 – 29 Nov: Sr Janet shared with the educators on Canossian core values exemplified in St. Magdalene of Canossa & St. Josephine Bakhita, Qualities of Canossian Educators & touched on the document of Pope Francis on “Care of our Common Home” (Laudato Si’).



16 -23 November: The VOICE Team 2019,

headed by Anthony, included the veterans Juliet, Gabriel, Gerard, Debbie, Margarete, Tracy, Nelly, Emily, Rodney and Veronica plus 3 new members: Jennifer, Agnes Wong and Agnes Tan. From 17 to 19 Nov, the team conducted training sessions for the 17 Educators in 3 groups to equip them with skills to manage boarding houses, including Maintenance, Housekeeping, Hygiene & First Aid, Emergency Evacuation, Confidence Building as well as Conversational English. Nelly taught the leaders how to make different kinds of nonya kueh which the team had the joy to sample and taste. Gerard prepared some yummy meals for the team but had to leave earlier for health reasons.



3 - 12 Dec: Magele, Christine, Florence, Ann & Daphne taught the educators English, beading and Christmas craft in Canossa Home. At Gate of Hope they taught service values to the 4th batch of trainees. They also taught the children of Bro Felice Orphanage team work through creative Christmas crafts.



23 – 25 Dec: Lena Tan, Chua Lee Beng & Kelly Hing were at Gate of Hope to teach the Trainees & the children of Bro Felice Orphanage Christmas craft. They attended the graduation of the 3rd batch of trainees on 24 Dec morning, celebrated Christmas Eve there and returned to Yangon to celebrate Christmas at Canossa Home with the Sisters & children on Christmas Day.



The children visited the Home for the Aged to bring Christmas Cheer to the elderly by singing Christmas carols. Some of them dressed as Joseph & Mary carrying Baby Jesus, and the 3 Kings bringing love and joy to the residents of the Home. Sr. Angela also brought them to visit an elderly retired priest.



28 – 30 Dec: Annual Children’s Camp in Danbi, Pathein Diocese: Volunteers Ana Bao, Anne Siew, Jack Low, Naomi & Etienne Chen from Singapore together with Sr Heza conducted the camp for 407 children and 40 facilitators. The theme was “Christ is Alive”.



They meditated on the Gospel reading of the resurrection and reflected personally on “Who Jesus is to me.” They learnt about the stories of some saints and what is expected of them as Christians through role play, games, drawing, videos and songs. Four priests were present for the sacrament of reconciliation on the second day and they ended on a high note with lots of singing and dancing.



Happenings @ Gate of Hope

12 – 15 August: Nicole Loh was at Gate of Hope to teach the trainees Hospitality skills.



9 – 13 Dec: Cheryl Tang, Goh Soh Ngee & Lim Guat Ha taught the trainees English, phonics & cooking.



SHARING OUR JOY



Canossa Preschool now has 50 lively children



Canossa Home has a new Annex with 2 rooms for teaching sewing & cooking as well as 3 new outdoor toilets with a big sewerage tank to replace the old ones.



THANK YOU!

Educators & children were so happy to choose what they liked from the pre-loved clothes donated by Singapore friends.

28 – 29 Oct: Dominic Lim visited **St. Magdalene's Preschool in Mg Chuang Village** (Ayerwaddy Division) with Sr. Angela, Sr. Joana DS & Hazel. It is run by 2 of our educators and has 30 children. They are hoping to have a proper building in future.



We pray daily for all our benefactors, volunteers, supporters & friends.

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, Sr. Joanna Tong, 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