

Extraordinary General Meeting & Annual General Meeting 2006

October 28, 2006 was an eventful and fruitful day for many Maryknollers and friends of the School. It was the day of the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) and the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the MCS Foundation, as well as the launch of the brand new Mentorship Programme, a joint endeavour of the School and the Foundation.

About forty members attended the EGM, which was scheduled to run back to back with the AGM. Mr Lester Huang, our Honorary Legal Advisor was also present. The purpose of the EGM was to resolve amendments to the Memorandum & Articles of Association of the MCS Foundation on wording that more concisely define the number of years of service of Councillors and Executive Members. The amendments were proposed and seconded.

Following immediately after the EGM, the AGM opened with Sr Jeanne delivering a detailed account of the Foundation's activities in 2006. After the reports from the Chairperson and Honorary Treasurer came the elections. New Councillor Ms Joanne Yow, a graduate of the 1990 class, was elected to take the seat vacated by Sister Betty Ann Maheu who had to return to the U.S. in November on new pursuits for the Maryknoll Mission. God bless Sr Betty Ann – we will miss you!

Two new Executive Members joined the rank this year. Ms Pinny Yip (1984) took the stand to introduce herself as the newly **elected** Executive Member while Ms Patti Chan (1987) came forth as the newly **appointed** Executive Member. Both were active members of the Former Students' Association. Ms Pinny Yip was also the event specialist for our 80th Anniversary Dinner at the Hong Kong Exhibition & Convention. Ms Patti Chan was a Trustee of the MCS Educational Trust. Congratulations to our new recruits!

There being no further business, the Foundation AGM adjourned at around 4:00 pm. Attendees were invited to stay behind for refreshment and photo-taking. Some members stayed on further for the briefing session of the Mentorship Programme which was scheduled to open at 5:30 pm.

Mentorship Programme

The Mentorship Programme was designed to help perpetuate the Maryknoll tradition and culture by having Alumni share, inspire and support our student's personal growth. Initially, Form VI students would participate in the programme during its pilot year 2006. Each alumni member of the Foundation who enrolled as mentor would be matched to one or, at the most, two Form VI girls. It would be up to each mentor-mentee group to decide on the frequency and mode of communication between them. For the evening of October 28, a Launching Party was held at the Secondary School Hall.

Evening of Launch

After a briefing session by Ms Amy Ho, Chairperson of the Mentorship Programme Facilitator Group, mentors were ready to go down from the second floor Conference Room to meet their mentees for the first time in the School Hall. The six formers were seated at their assigned tables which were complete with white tablecloths, candles and tealights. The seventy plus girls cast eager eyes on the mentors as they filed through the side doors into the hall. Despite initial shyness, instant chemistry between the carefully paired mentors and mentees were not uncommon.

The evening opened officially with an introduction by Ms Amy Ho. Guests for the evening included Sr Jeanne Houlihan, Sr Rose Duchesne, Sr Marya Zaborowski & Sr Betty Ann Maheu and Dr Linda Tsui of the HKU Mentorship Programme, Councillors of the Foundation, Members of the School Management Committee, Members of the MCS Educational Trust, and Exco members of the Parent-Teachers' Association and Former Students' Association. Soon came the moment of candle lighting. Electrical lights were dimmed. Sr Jeanne lit a large candle on stage. Four councillors were called to pass the flame from Sister's large candle onto four smaller candles for mentors to light their candles which would light up the tealights of their mentees at their individual tables. Lights ablaze, Maryknollers across the generations stood up to sing the school song. It was a touching scene.

With blessing from Sr Jeanne and words of wisdom from Ms Melaine Lee, the Principal of the Secondary Section, mentors and mentees were left to roam the school grounds. Rapport was built easily and quickly. The sumptuous dinner buffet obviously added to the ease and relaxed ambience of the evening.

Ms Amy Ho wrapped up the evening with a few inspiring words for all. Mentors and mentees were invited to sign on the huge signing board which was designed to echo the backdrop on stage. Mentors who were unable to come for the launch could meet their mentees at the make-up gathering to be held again on school grounds on November 11.

The evening, in fact, the whole of the Mentorship Programme, would not have been possible without the leadership of Sr Jeanne, Ms Amy Ho and Ms Maria Lee, the coordination and support of the Facilitator Group - Ms Melaine Lee, Ms Cynthia Ho, Ms Alice Lui, Ms Anna Chiu, Ms Alice Kwong, Ms Kenzie Lau, Ms Rosita Li, Ms Maggie Chau, Ms Patti Chan and Ms Joanne Yow.

The Foundation called for your continual support and participation. Do watch out for our upcoming activities and new updates by clicking on this link. See you all soon!