

同心共建 *Building with Our Hearts*

Dear Students, Teachers and Parents,

August 2009

1 September 2009 will mark the beginning of the new 2009/2010 academic year. For the newcomers, a very warm welcome! For those returning for another new school year, you will be led by your teachers through another exciting exploratory journey in the vast sea of limitless wealth of knowledge. As you face the new challenges ahead, many must be wondering what the new senior school system 3:3:4 will mean to you and your studies. Your parents and teachers will no doubt be equally, if not more, concerned about this new system and how it will impact your future, and are doing their utmost to guide you and see you through.

As you strive in your studies, you may be happy to know that you belong to the oldest girls school in Hong Kong----we are looking to celebrate our 150th anniversary next year. Throughout our long established past, our alma mater has turned out many Sacred Heartists who have since established high flying careers, become illustrious leaders in many fields, succeeded in life and set shining examples of living the true Sacred Heart spirit, at both work and play. Apart from academic and professional achievements, some of our younger Sacred Heartists are now setting new sports and liberal arts achievements and records that certainly do us proud.

As we approach our big 150th birthday in 2010, the Alumnae Association believes you will be the future generations of Sacred Heartists who will continue to carry on our fine and long-established traditions and bring our alma mater to the next high level of achievements. We have always felt a strong affinity with you, and in the past, have demonstrated our commitment to you in the many scholarships we have awarded you, the many school projects financial subsidies we have provided you and, most recently, in the new school gymnasium we have purposely built for you. In honour of our landmark 150th anniversary and the time-honoured Sacred Heart spirit, the Alumnae Association hopes to contribute to our alma mater and your continuing growth by building for you and future Sacred Heartists HK\$50,000,000 new school extension facilities. With this extension, substantial valuable auditorium space will be added to the existing school hall to create a modern and befitting venue for your music, arts, drama, other fine art performances and public lectures by eminent speakers with proper audio-visual equipment, as well as to yield much needed multi-function rooms and sports area for your whole host of school

and extra-curricular activities ranging from dance practice, sports training to tai-chi sessions. The new building will also create an all weather covered assembly area and other much needed activity space for the whole school for daily morning prayers, gatherings, school activities and many other exciting actions that are needed under your new 3:3:4 senior school system. God willing, we hope to be able to have raised sufficient funds to start the building of the project in summer 2010 for the extension to be ready for use by you in late 2011.

We are fully aware of the vast sums of money that will be needed to realize this dream. There will not be any government help. We, the Alumnae Association, will need to raise every cent of this targeted \$50,000,000. It will not be easy. We will need all the help, encouragement, support and donations we can get from each and everyone. The School Management Committee has given its seal of approval. Our School Supervisor has confirmed Canossian Mission's support. Your school principal is fully behind us. We are working together as one big team.

It does not matter if you are young or old, student or parent, teacher or alumnae. For this project to succeed, only one thing counts: we must act in unison and be totally committed in our goal to want the best for our beloved alma mater and Sacred Heartists. Dollar by dollar, step by step, day by day, together we will be able to progress with this project and complete it successfully. Let us begin by sharing with you in person more about this exciting project at the morning assembly on 1 September. More consultation and discussion sessions will be held shortly with parents and teachers separately to hear all voices and views.

Are you ready today to share in this Sacred Heart spirit and do your part?

Come join hands and hearts with us to make this your project as much as ours.

Wishing you God's abundant blessings and yours in the Sacred Heart spirit,

Shirley CHUA, Chairman, Sacred Heart Canossian College Alumnae Association
cc. School Supervisor, School Principal and School Management Committee Members