








In all things to love and to serve

Irish Jesuit Mission Office Newsletter

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Jesuit Schools in Hong Kong

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Vision

Our Vision is a just and humane world based on Gospel values and Ignatian Spirituality

Core Values

Inspired by the Gospel and sent on mission to the new frontiers of our time, Irish Jesuits and their collaborators are called to:

-  Become instruments of reconciliation in a divided world.
-  Build a new world of right relationships with God, with other human beings and with all creation.
-  See the world from the perspective of the poor and marginalised.
-  Make the lives of people better in the poorest parts of the world.

To learn more about our missions or to make a donation, please contact:

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Wah Yan College was first founded as a private school on 16th December 1919 by Mr. TSUI Yan Sau, Peter with only four students enrolled. Wah Yan College, Hong Kong (WYHK) became a 'Grant-In-Aid' school subsidized by the Government of Hong Kong in 1922. The so-called branch school, Wah Yan College, Kowloon (WYK) was opened in Portland Street (Kowloon) in 1924.

WYHK was transferred to Jesuit sponsorship in 1932 with Fr. Gallagher, S.J. being the first Rector of the school. The college was subsequently called the 'College of Christ the King'. In 1946, a year after the Japanese invasion, WYK was also transferred to Jesuit sponsorship with Fr. Toner, S.J. being the first Jesuit Rector and this college was called the 'College of the Sacred Heart'.

With the diminishing number of Jesuits serving at the schools and our increasing emphasis on Jesuit-lay collaboration, WYK has its first lay principal, Mr. Norman So, appointed in 1992 and WYHK has its first lay principal, Mr. George Tam, appointed in 1996. The supervisor of the two colleges, whose role is to preserve the Jesuit ethos, remains a Jesuit.

As of this academic year 2010-2011, one Jesuit Chaplain and the Jesuit Supervisor serve WYHK, whereas one scholastic, one retired teacher, the Chaplain, and the Supervisor are the four Jesuits serving WYK. All other staff are lay people with about 30% of them Catholic. Student enrollment this year is 906 on the Hong Kong side and 1156 on the Kowloon side with a majority of our students being non-Christian.

Jesuit's Contribution to the Colleges

Since so few Jesuits are serving at the two colleges, the Chinese Province has made the vision of Jesuit education explicit in written form since 2008.

"We offer a holistic, liberating and transforming Catholic education within a learning community for students and staff to become progressively competent, committed, compassionate, spiritual, and ethically discerning persons with a universal heart contributing to the welfare and happiness of all, in particular the poor and the neglected."

In order to help us better form our colleagues and students, the Province produced in 2008 the 'Profile of the Ignatian Educator' and the 'Profile of the Jesuit Student at Graduation'. Based on these documents and the school-based context, all our colleagues of the two colleges contributed to drafting the mission statement/goals for their respective schools in 2009.

Start your Easter Egg Hunt here, find out more inside this publication



A Word from the Editor



Easter is a time of hope-discovering hope beyond hope and seeing light in the darkness. Given the present economic crisis in Ireland the increase of the number of hungry people in our world it is easy to fall into a kind of despair about our world. However, the stories in our newsletter tell us of events

of hope. How our Jesuit schools dispersed around the world bring freedom and hope to so many over the years. They are indeed miracles of hope. The re-opened Jesuit school in Wau \south Sudan where young men and women who have part of the last 25 years are now sitting in classrooms which were formerly occupied by soldiers--indeed swords have been turned into plough shares.

This has been done through the commitment, generosity of Jesuits, lay partners, donors and supports over the years who are indeed signs and instruments of hope. The Kiswahili proverb which say 'elimu ni ufunguo wa amani na maendeleo' - 'education is the key to freedom and development is indeed true, and this is so true for girls in Jesuit schools in Africa. This key gift of education continues to be apriority in Africa and the plan to open a school in Kasungu, Malawi is an indication of how the Jesuits take their mission to bring freedom and development through education the poorest in our world today.

Today all this is made possible through our readers and supporters who through prayer, generosity and donations help us to do what we can to bring true and enduring hope.

Fr. John K. Guiney SJ

Annual plans are further drawn from the mission goals by the teachers and school administration.

Furthermore, we want to help our colleagues adopt the 'Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm' in their teaching so that our students can be formed with reflection as an integral part of their lives.

Wah Yan's Influence in Hong Kong through Our Alumni

It is desirable for us to maintain our education as essentially Jesuit because of the positive influence that Jesuit education has had on Hong Kong over the years. Many of our alumni have continually played some pivotal leadership roles in the community. The current Chief Executive of Hong Kong, Donald Tsang, Secretary for Education, Michael Suen, Secretary for Constitutional Affairs, Stephen Lam, Chairman of Hong Kong Hospital Authority, Anthony Wu, Chairman of the Securities and Futures Commission, Eddie Fong, Co-



Founder of the Democratic Party, Martin Lee, Leader of the Civic Party, Alan Leong, are among our many eminent past pupils.

Even with an impressive band of alumni and the tremendous respect that we have received from the public, Wah Yan Colleges cannot afford to live in the past. With the fading of the Irish Jesuits, we must learn to create a future that can honor our past as well as remain truthful to our Jesuit vision. We need your prayers and support!

Fr. Stephen Chow, S.J.

School Supervisor

Chairman of the Education Commission of the Chinese Province



Canisius High School Chikuni Mission, Zambia



In the middle of the last century the Jesuits realised that there was a great need in Zambia for formal education. Education at any level was very scarce. The Jesuits had been instrumental in establishing many primary schools, but there was need to expand and move into secondary education.

And so in 1949 the Jesuits established Canisius High School as the first Catholic secondary school in the country. It is located on Chikuni Mission, which is in a very rural area and in the Southern Province of Zambia about 240 km south of the capital city, Lusaka, and about 280 km north of the tourist destination of Livingstone and Victoria Falls. In 1949 Canisius was only the second secondary school in the country, but was the first to admit Zambian students. The other secondary school was located in Lusaka and was exclusively for the children of expatriate diplomats, civil servants, and business men. And so the Jesuits, by establishing Canisius, addressed a very important need by offering secondary education to the local people.

Canisius presently has an enrolment of 720 boys. Originally it was exclusively a boarding school, but in 1993 the Jesuits made a deliberate option for the poor. This translated into offering to educate the local poor rural boys. In order to accomplish this, a day section was established in the school and day boys were admitted. Presently there is a policy to have 470 boarders and 250 day boys, but these mix normally in each class. The day boys are local boys who otherwise would not qualify for secondary education in a boarding school or who are not able to pay for the boarding fees. And because Canisius is located in a rural area where there is no public transport, all of these day boys will have to walk or cycle to school.

Some of them may walk for two hours to get to school and two hours to get home. Many of them will have no breakfast. The school provides lunch for all the boys, and so they at least receive some nourishment in the middle of the day. And even though the fees for the day boys are minimal and much lower than for a boarder, many of the families of day boys struggle to find the money to pay these fees.

The Jesuits offer financial help to many of these boys, but because of inflation and rising costs, this help is available to fewer and fewer students. There have been cases where day boys will stop their education because of not being able to pay the school fees.

Academically Canisius has an excellent reputation throughout the country for producing good results. Many of the important and influential people in government, medicine, law, education, and other fields are graduates of Canisius. The school is consistently ranked among the best secondary schools in the country. Usually more than 95% of our grade 12 boys get full 'O' level certificates, while the national average is generally about 60%. Because of its good academic record there is a high demand from parents from all over the country to have their sons enrolled at Canisius.



And besides providing a good academic education, the school makes efforts to instil Ignatian values in the pupils. Each senior pupil must engage in a community service programme and write a report on his experience. The boys are also constantly reminded that they are being formed to be people for others. And the school aims "to form leaders in service, in imitation of Christ Jesus, men and women of competence, conscience, and compassionate commitment."

Peter-Hans Kolvenbach

Loyola Secondary school, Wau, South Sudan



Education forms a very important ingredient of human development in every aspect of life - socially, intellectually, psychologically and spiritually. For such education to take place, fertile soil is required where it can grow and prosper. This belief led four Jesuits from the Detroit Province to

start a Senior High School in Wau, South Sudan as the first Jesuit school in the Eastern Africa Province. What inspired these men was the spirit of St. Ignatius and the history of the Society of Jesus in education. Loyola Secondary School in Wau, therefore, began before the civil war that engulfed the Sudan in 1983.

In late 1982, a Jesuit residence and two classrooms were started and in 1984, Loyola had its first intake of students. Fifty of these completed the programme successfully while some others dropped out due to unforeseen circumstances. The second group of students joined the following year with three more Jesuits who were helping in administration, but future intake was in doubt because there were very few primary schools in the area.

Many of the students were adults who had been forced to discontinue their studies earlier due to the instability of the educational system and these often had the blessing of their employers. Due to the insufficient supply of students, Loyola suspended operations in 1985 for two years hoping that the graduates of the recently established John Paul II Intermediate School would fill their ranks. Loyola was then occupied by the army throughout the civil war, and so the suspension lasted 22 years.

During this war, the school buildings were used by the Sudan People's Liberation Army. The current school administration offices and library served as the commanders' offices, while the current classrooms served as torture chambers and prison cells. Thankfully this usage of the school has for some time been consigned to history.

After the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in January 2005, hope was rekindled that



Loyola would be reopened. In September 2006, the first Jesuits returned and in May 2007 teaching resumed with students in form one and in preparatory classes. Now the student population is 198 girls and boys and the number is anticipated to increase when six new classrooms are completed later this month.

In the Referendum of January 2011, the Southern Sudanese people voted to separate from the North, and so a new republic of South Sudan will be declared in July 2011. As a consequence, many of those who have been refugees in neighbouring countries are returning home. Providing educational and social services for all of these will be quite a challenge, but it will also be a great opportunity. At present, Loyola serves students from many distant areas, and this is seen as an essential step in preparing future leaders for the new Sudan.

While the school is expanding rapidly, there is still a great shortage of specialised rooms like laboratories and computer rooms. The aim is to have about a thousand students in Loyola, but it will take a number of years yet to reach this goal.

By Albert Onderi SJ, a Jesuit scholastic in Wau

Gonzaga Primary School

Gonzaga is located in Mabibo in The United Republic of Tanzania. The Jesuit Fathers have been in Mabibo since 1995 when they founded Loyola High School. The positive effects that have been brought about by the establishment of Loyola High School has brought substantial and continued help to the pupils, their families and the local community. It has led to the increase in children going to school in this area and has especially brought hope. Studying in a good school environment for children from poor families has helped changed the attitude of many.

The idea of constructing and running a primary school in Mabibo came from the Loyola High School students themselves. Since its own beginning Loyola students have been going out of the school to give a helping hand to the people who live nearby. On one such visit they discovered a “school” for orphans that was being organized and run by a lone retired teacher. The school had no facilities. The students from Loyola decided to offer their assistance in helping to teach the children.

During this time a group of Canadians visited and having observed the situation they offered to fund the building of the school if the Jesuits agreed to run it. The Jesuits were joined in this effort by the Sisters of the Company of Mary who administer the day to day affairs of the school. Thus Gonzaga Preparatory and Primary School came into being. To encourage a mix of students of different background it was agreed that the fees would be kept as low as possible. We want all our students (the poor and rich) to afford good education as well as forming one community.

Plans have been made by the association of parents, guardians and teachers to see how students from poor family background can be helped. A grant aid scheme is one of the ideas that has been established. There has been fundraising done by local people and help was also given in buying the land needed. The Jesuit Mission Office has assisted with the purchase of furniture and a water purification system.

Gonzaga College gives equal opportunity of education to both boys and girls. Teachers of both genders are employed and women are encouraged to join school committees.

Preparations have begun to educate some of the staff members in management so that the school will continue when the Jesuits and Sisters eventually withdraw.

Mission News

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