

Maryknoll Convent School Celebrates Silver Jubilee

Last Saturday the Maryknoll Convent School in Kowloon Tong observed its twenty-fifth anniversary in the Colony.

The Silver Jubilee was commemorated by a solemn Pontifical Mass at 8:30 a.m. in St. Teresa's Church, sung by students of the School. Thomas Cardinal Tien officiated at the Mass, assisted by Rev. William Kupfer, M.M., deacon, and the Rev. William Downs, M.M., sub-deacon. Arch-priest assisting at the Mass was the Rev. Andrew Granelli, and the Master of Ceremonies was the Rev. Joseph Alessio. Deacons at the Cardinal's throne were the Rev. Charles Hilbert, M.M. and Rev. Thomas Bauer, M.M.

Members of The Staff at The Entrance To The School

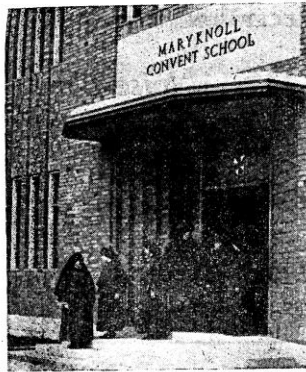


Photo By Constantine Burns

The "Open Day" programme of classes conducted for the benefit of parents commenced at 10:00 a.m. and lasted until noon.

Reception of parents and friends was in the afternoon and following tea and singing by the students of Maryknoll Convent School, there were talks by Rev. Andrew Granelli, Rev. Patrick Joy, S.J., Mr. Lim Hoy Lan, President of the Hong Kong Teachers' Association. Acting for Mr. T. R. Rowell, Director of Education, was Mr. J. M. Wilson, Inspector of Schools.

The blessing in the afternoon following the talks by guest speakers was given His Excellency Bishop Siegbald Kurz, O.F.M. in the absence of Bishop Henry Valtorta who was unable to be present on account of illness.

The Maryknoll Sisters first came to Hong Kong from the United States in 1921 and established a Convent to serve as a centre for the benefit of Sisters who would be engaged in missionary work in the interior of south China. The Convent was also to serve as a school for new Sisters from America who would study the Chinese language there preparatory to assignment of active missionary work in China.

Students At Play



Photo By Constantine Burns

In The Classroom



Photo By Constantine Burns

It was due to the urgent requests of the people of Hong Kong that the headquarters of the Maryknoll Sisters at Ossining, New York, finally consented to open a school in the Colony.

One room attached to the former Maryknoll Convent at 103 Austin Road was assigned as a Maryknoll Kindergarten classroom on February 11, 1925. Twelve children answered the first roll call. Outside of school hours, the classroom reverted to its original use as a Community Room for the Sisters.

Through the untiring efforts of His Lordship, Bishop Valtorta, Father Andrew Granelli and Father C. Orlando, property was secured, plans were laid, and technical difficulties were overcome to start the actual construction of the present Maryknoll Convent School.

IN THE CLOISTER

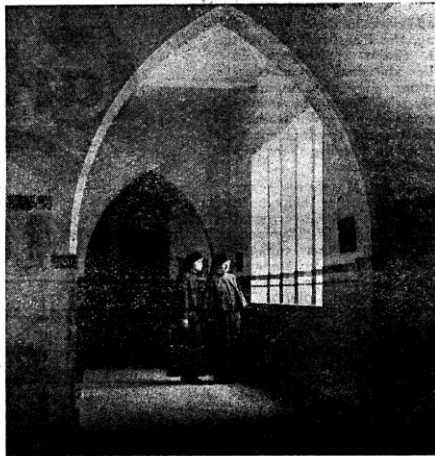


Photo By Constantine Burns

The steady increase in enrollment by the fall of 1925 necessitated the Maryknoll Sisters pressing into service an unused garage which was made into an attractive classroom.

Later a flat in King's Terrace, and still later an entire house on Kimberly Road were secured to provide additional space to accommodate the overflow of students. But it was soon evident that the Maryknoll School would need its own building to meet the growing list of students enrolled.

In May 1936, Sir Andrew Caldecott, Governor of Hong Kong, laid the corner-stone. That same year saw the Maryknoll Convent School accredited as a 'grant-in-aid' school; and its first student entered the Hong Kong University.

Exactly one year later, the Maryknoll Sisters were at last settled in their own building, and the enrollment of students was nearly 800.