

'OUR LADY'S SCHOOL'

New Girls' Primary School in Kowloon

By Father Paul J. Duchesne, M.M.



Photo Marcus Mak

THE new school seen in the photo has written across a front wall the lovely name "OUR LADY'S SCHOOL". It is the property of the Sisters Daughters of Mary Help of Christians or the Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco as they are perhaps better known.

Our Lady's is a girls' primary school at Chuk Yuen overlooking Kai Tak airfield. It has 412 pupils, 120 of whom are in three kindergartens. Another kindergarten conducted by the same Sisters in nearby Diamond Hill has 79 children.

The Salesian Sisters who began work in Hongkong in 1950 now have 20 Sisters here, eight of whom are Chinese and the others of several foreign nationalities.

It was in Kukong, Kwangtung, back in 1922 that they began their work. There they conducted both elementary and middle schools, an orphanage, blind home, home for the aged, and dispensaries. Their reward for thirty years of charitable work was expulsion from China after house arrest. In Shanghai they left primary and secondary schools which they had been operating since 1934.

The Congregation of the Daughters of Mary was founded in 1872 by John Bosco and Mary Mazzarello, to do for girls what the Salesian Fathers do for boys. Today both founders occupy

places on either side of the altars in the Sisters' chapels for both are saints of the Church. Mother Mazzarello was canonized on June 24, 1951.

Growing Congregation

Today the Congregation has 14,112 sisters, plus 1,344 novices in 1,154 houses on three continents. The language of the Congregation is Italian, the language of the house is that of the country in which they live.

In Macau the Sisters conduct a kindergarten — primary I, II, III, IV. They also operate the book binding department of the Salesian Press.

In August 1956 a novitiate will be opened at Chuk Yuen — Aspirants may call on the Superior at Our Lady's School.