

一個二百多年的故事

「愛德像野火，不斷蔓延，並把一切都燃燒起來。」
(錄自：聖嘉諾撒瑪大肋納)

會祖聖嘉諾撒瑪大肋納(1774-1835)在意大利北部的韋羅娜城誕生。在拿破崙的霸權統治下，歐洲多國，民不聊生，義大利亦不能倖免。在無數被迫害的貧民和街童身上，瑪大肋納看到十架上苦難的基督。主的熱忱驅使她於1808年，在韋羅娜開始各項仁愛及教育工作，好讓人們認識和愛慕耶穌。

於1860年，即她去世後二十五年，她的夢想終於實現了。受教廷委任為香港監牧的Luigi Ambrosi 蒙席，邀請了第一批嘉諾撒仁愛會的修女東來，以香港為第一傳教站。從此，香港便成了前往外方傳教的基地：於1868年，拓展至神州大地；1874年，拓展至澳門；其後至亞洲其他國家，如：印度、印尼、馬來西亞、星加坡、菲律賓、日本，以及澳洲等地。

默默耕耘的傳教事業.....

這6人團先鋒隊，於1860年4月12日抵達香港中區的水域。從意大利威尼斯到香港，足足度過了46天的航程。她們抵達香港的那天晚上，第四任港督John Bowring 爵士的女兒Aloysia Emily小姐，竟成了上主賜

給修會的第一份大禮物。她成了香港本土第一位嘉諾撒仁愛會修女，修會第一所學校的首任校長。

很難想像這6位女先鋒，年齡由22至39歲，完全不懂得絲毫本地語言及文化，竟如此勇敢地，自願離鄉別井，來港傳教。若非由於她們對上主的愛戴和熱忱，切願回應「願所有的人都認識和愛慕基督」的呼召，以及她們對上主安排的絕對信賴，決不能作出這樣的決定。她們開始到處以愛服務，作上主慈愛的生活見證，讓這份關愛，傾注在那些無助和極需要幫助的人身上。

聖嘉諾撒瑪大肋納的理想，例如：教育女青年們成為一個健全的社會公民，輔助在神形方面貧困的人，並幫助人去認識和愛上主等，都成了來港傳教先鋒的主要任務。在隨後的一個半世紀期間，傳教修女和本地修女，秉承她們的精神領袖嘉諾撒瑪大肋納的熱忱，繼續奮發地把這火炬傳往亞洲其他地區；今天，全球各地的修女都謹隨會祖瑪大肋納的啟發，致力於促進與在俗人士的合作，培育嘉諾撒在俗會成員。同時，也藉靈旅伴行，去協助那些願意尋找上主旨意的人。

願我們閱過這短短的故事和參觀嘉諾撒澤仁紀念館的人，也能成為嘉諾撒瑪大肋納意念中的「塵粒」，以生命影響生命，把基督無條件的大愛傳揚開去。

A Story of 200 Years

“Charity is like a wild fire that ever spreads and embraces all...”
(St. Magdalene of Canossa)

St. Magdalene of Canossa (1774 – 1835) was born on 1st March in Verona, northern Italy. Under the dictatorship of Napoleon Bonaparte, Europe at that time was wrecked with sufferings and oppression. In the suffering common people and in the street children, Magdalene saw the Crucified Christ. Urged by her love for Jesus, in 1808, she started her works of charity and education in Verona to help them to know and love Jesus.

In 1860, twenty five years after her death, her missionary dreams were finally realized. At the invitation of the Prefect Apostolic of Hong Kong, Mgr. Ambrosi, the first batch of Canossian Sisters made Hong Kong their first Mission. From here, other Missions were founded: 1868 in Mainland China, 1874 in Macau, then other Asian countries followed: India, Timor, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Japan and later, Australia.

Humble Beginnings of a Mission...

The little band of six Canossian Sisters disembarked at the waterfront of Central District of Hong Kong on 12th April 1860, after 46 days of travel from Venice, Italy. On the very night of their arrival, the Sisters were presented with a ‘gift’ in the person of the daughter of the 4th Governor of Hong Kong: Ms. Emily Bowring, who became the first Canossian Sister from Hong Kong and the first Principal of the Italian Convent School.

It is quite unthinkable how the six pioneer Sisters, age ranging from 22 to 39, not knowing neither the language nor the local culture would have the courage to volunteer to leave their homeland and come here to serve. Nothing but their great thirst to “make Jesus known and loved”, and, above all, their trust in the Divine Providence, would have enabled them to do this. Thus they went about their mission of loving service, bearing witness to His immense Love and Compassion, letting this overflow into those who were helpless and in dire need in these regions.

Since the beginning, the vision of Magdalene to educate young women to be good citizens for the society, to assist the sick both physically and spiritually and, above all, to help people to know and love God was initiated by these few pioneer Sisters in Hong Kong. In the following one and a half centuries, both the Missionaries and the local Sisters perpetuating the same zeal of their Spiritual Leader, St. Magdalene of Canossa, ever energetically strive to spread this zeal to other parts of Asia and Oceania. Today, following Magdalene’s inspiration, we also commit ourselves to promoting cooperation with the laity in the formation of the Lay Canossians, and, to accompanying people of goodwill in the search of God’s will in spiritual accompaniment.

May we who read this brief story and visit this Canossian Heritage also become Magdalene’s *‘fine dust’*, so that with our lives we tell the story of His Unconditional Love to all whose lives we touch!