

Mrs. Tong Yu Sheung Woon, M.B.E.
(29 December, 1911 - 5 November, 2005)

唐余湘畹 校長



Mrs. Tong Yu Sheung Woon was the founding principal of Maryknoll Fathers' School. She served the school for two decades until her retirement in 1977. She moved to Toronto, Canada in 1989 and passed away at the age of 94.

Prior to collaborating with the Maryknoll and Father Reilly, Mrs. Tong was appointed as the headmistress of Yan Pak English School. In early 1957, Mrs. Tong devised an ambitious and detailed plan for the organisation of Maryknoll Fathers' School, which included the number of classes in the primary and secondary sections, types of teachers desired, dates for interview and selection, comprehensive curricula for teachers and classes, subjects and standards for entrance examination, and interview and selection processes for prospective students. Despite the Education Department's recommendation to make Maryknoll Fathers' School a Chinese Middle School, Mrs. Tong insisted on offering classes in both secondary English and Chinese streams, which gave the first senior class of students and their teachers one year to adapt to the new school and to prepare for the exit examination. Her audacious plan was not only an extreme expression of confidence in her own ability and acumen but also her keen knowledge of and faith in her students and colleagues.

Mrs. Tong's passion for education was not confined to Maryknoll Fathers' School. She also served as the chairman of the Subsidized Secondary School Council, chairman of the Secondary Schools Association, vice-chairman of Subsidized School Provident Fund Scheme, a member of the Board of Examinations for all foreign civil servants sitting for the Chinese written and oral examinations, etc. Upon the invitation of the U.S. State Department, Mrs. Tong had a lengthy visitation to secondary and tertiary educational facilities in the country as a special guest in her early appointment at MFS. In 1971, Mrs. Tong was recognised for her extraordinary contributions to education with the Award of the Member of British Empire (M.B.E. Award).

Maryknoll Fathers' School would like to take this opportunity to show the deepest gratitude to Mrs. Tong, whose scrupulous and prudent plan for our school has paved the way for her successors and teachers to provide exceptional education to hundreds of thousands of students.