

Our Spring dinner at Victoria Seafood Restaurant on March 10 was a success in that we achieved our dual purposes of bringing people together and reconnecting, and at the same time raising funds for a worthy cause. Among the 41 guests in attendance, there were 6 alumnae from Maryknoll Sisters School. The dinner was held in a warm and cordial atmosphere, and everybody had good fun.

We were so blessed to have the Sisters as our teachers and educators, who inspired and educated us in our formative years, and helped us open doors in our lives. We now want to give back to them by being a part of the project, which is to convert the four existing bathrooms (built in 1932) to handicap accessible ones, so that the Sisters who are wheel-chair ridden will have more room and independence with the new facility. The total cost is US\$200,000.00. Edwina Shuster, who was there last October for the premiere of the film "Trailblazers in Habits", had spent a few days at the Motherhouse together with some of her 1967 classmates. She gave us a PowerPoint presentation of the Motherhouse and the Sisters who live there. The slide show included pictures of Sr. Miriam Xavier Mug, Sr. Marie Corinne Rost, Sr. Rose Duchesne Debrecht, Sr. Jeanne Houlihan, Sr. Teresa Leung, Sr. Rose Bernadette Gallagher, Sr. Ann Carol Brielmaier, Sr. Marie Ann Lipetzki, Sr. Mary Diggins and others. But the joy of seeing their happy faces was tinged with sadness because Sr. Mary Diggins, a long-time missionary in China, passed away peacefully in her sleep on February 2, 2013; she was 89.

A 7-minute trailer featuring the Sisters' missionary work in China from the early 1920's through recent years was also shown, witnessing their profound contributions to the Chinese community.

We also announced the cheering news of Mother Mary Joseph's induction into National Women's Hall of Fame... an honour so well-deserved!

We are working on a series of fundraisers to achieve our contribution goal of US\$10,000.00 in the next few months, for example, a premiere of the "Trailblazers" film in Vancouver, a bazaar in the summer, so please stay tuned for these upcoming events. If any member who would like to contribute their fundraising ideas, please talk to any one of us in the Committee; the names are listed in the newsletter.

Proceeds from the dinner, raffles and sale of souvenirs were \$1,645.00, together with personal donations of \$1,525.00, making a total income of \$3,170.00. A very encouraging sum of money, and we very much hope that with your help, so much more is possible. For donations, you may either mail your cheque to MCS Alumni (BC) Association, PO Box 61078, Langara Postal Outlet, 571 West 57th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6P 6S5, or directly deposit funds into our account at HSBC, account number 570-000262-240, held in the name of Maryknoll Convent School (*designated account for Motherhouse*). Thank you for your support!