

聖神修女會在台灣—開拓簡史

SSpS Mission in Taiwan – The Beginning

最早踏上台灣土地的聖神會修女是盧思 德修女和沈恩愷修女。二人都曾在大陸傳教, 1953 年 12 月 18 日自菲律賓抵達台灣。五十 年後的今天,92 高齡的沈恩愷修女仍然住在 省會院,與修女們一起高興地慶祝省會第五十 個生日和她在台傳教金慶。

最初幾年修女人數迅速增加。首先是當 年被大陸共產黨驅逐出境的外國修女被派來 台灣,1957年又有來自歐洲的年輕修女,葛 思德修女和舒厚德修女。接著幾年都有新的傳 教修女來台服務。

1965 年 9 月 8 日,首位在台入初學的中 國聖召在入初學後即至菲律賓接受初學陶 成。1966 年 10 月 3 日二位本地聖召入會, 是另一個新的開始,她們在台灣接受陶成。之 後,斷斷續續地有一些本地聖召加入修會。

頭幾年,修女們常搬家。最初住在新竹 市大同路,耶穌會為修女準備的小房子;不久 搬到北大路租來的日式房子。因為團體越來越 大,房子太小,就加蓋了一間相同的日式房 子。之後,海星幼稚園落成,幾位修女每天傍 晚過馬路到幼稚園過夜,才略有個人活動的空 間。幼稚園有幾年還身兼本堂,服務教友。 1960 年在幼稚園對面終於看到了新的聖神修 院,修女們總算有一個家了。原有的日式房子 The first two SSpS Sisters to set foot on Taiwan were Sr. Otgerina Luters and Sr. Euphemiana Schenk. Both, were former China missionaries, who arrived from the Philippines on December 18, 1953. Now, after fifty years, Sr. Euphemiana is still among the sisters in the provincial house and happy to celebrate the golden jubilee of the Province.

The first years saw a rapid increase in the number of sisters. First, the former China missionaries, who had been dispersed to other countries after the take-over of the Communists of Mainland China, were sent to Taiwan. In 1958, the first new young missionaries, Sr. Athanasia and Sr. Celiana came from Germany. New missionaries kept coming also in the following years.

On September 8, 1965 was the first investment of a Chinese sister, but she was still sent to the Philippines for the novitiate.

On October 3, 1966, two postulants entered. They were the first to receive their formation here in Taiwan. They were followed by a number of other local vocations.

In the first years the sisters were kept on the move. From the small place in Ta Tung Rd, only rented for them by the Jesuits, they soon moved into a house on Bei Da Rd. Since this house was much too small for the growing number of sisters, they built a second house in the same Japanese style. After the kindergarten was built, a number of sisters went across the street every evening for their night's rest there. In the early years, the kindergarten also served as the parish church. In 1960 the new Holy Spirit Convent opposite the kindergarten became a new home for one community of sisters. The original house became the St. Joseph's Convent. But also this house was later 取名聖若瑟修院,後因經不起多次颱風的侵 襲,乃拆掉重建,並設有診所和縫紉班。修女 們投身於多項工作 : 講授要理、準備領洗者、 診治病人(來診所者和在家者) 幫助貧困者、 指導縫紉技巧、洗燙新竹多處本堂的祭衣祭台 布等衣物。

在聖神修院的修女們主要的使徒工作是 學校教育。先有幼稚園,1960 年又創辦了曙 光女中;一年後,費主教請修女們接辦他創辦 的、位於聖若瑟修院對面的小學。

天主的降福一直伴隨著修女們和她們的 使徒工作。她們在很多人心中播下信仰的種 子,使教會快速成長。 replaced through a new building strong enough to resist the many typhoons that roar across the island every year. Attached to the convent, a dispensary and a sewing school were built. The sisters were involved in various activities: teaching religion, preparing for baptism, treating the sick in the dispensary and also visiting them in their homes, helping the poor, teaching sewing, and taking care of the vestments of the increasing number of parishes in Hsinchu.

The sisters living in the Holy Spirit Convent were mainly engaged in the teaching apostolate. After the kindergarten, they opened a high school in 1960. A year later, Msgr. Fahy asked the sisters to take over the primary school he had built opposite the first St. Joseph Convent.

God's blessing accompanied the work of the sisters. They could sow the seed of faith into many hearts and the Church grew rapidly in those early years.

