

SPOTLIGHT ON ST ANTHONY'S CANOSSIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Where every young girl will feel accepted, loved and understood ...



Perpetua Ho

"Those who love are never tired, since love knows no burden." These are the words of our Mother Foundress, Saint Magdalene of Canossa. Her desire to make Jesus known and loved to all through her charitable works and a life of total dedication to God is the charism by which the Canossians seek to live their lives by.

St Magdalene believed firmly that "Education is the Formation of the Heart" and she saw the importance of allowing every young girl to feel accepted, loved and understood as an individual. Thus, following in her footsteps and her teachings, the mission of St Anthony's Canossian Primary School is to nurture and empower Canossians to be persons of integrity, committed to serving God and others.

Commitment, compassion and cheerfulness are attributes that the school aims to develop in Canossians through the different programmes.

Commitment

St Magdalene had a deep commitment to the human and Christian formation of girls and youth. She had a strong conviction that to grow as a person, it was necessary to grow as a Christian. Hence, the school sees great importance in the formation of the faith through nurturing and caring for the spiritual growth of each child.

Through the Pastoral Care programme, all students have the opportunity to deepen their faith through various activities such as Level Masses; Stations of the Cross; Rosary; a Lenten Retreat; family Masses in Easter and All Saints' Day.

Sr Geraldine Lim, the school chaplain, also conducts AGAPE, a Catholic Youth

Prayer Ministry, to allow students to deepen their faith and their love for God so that they may continue to be living witnesses of their love for God and others through their words, thoughts and deeds.

Alyssa Loh, a Primary 5 student shared that AGAPE sessions are calming and peaceful, allowing her to connect with God and to learn more about the meaning behind the parables.

Emma Teo, another Primary 5 student, shared that the ministry allows her to be in touch with Church activities. She enjoys the time spent with the Sisters and also appreciates the time spent praying for the needy and those who are unwell.

The school also has a Catholic Students' Council where our Catholic students have the chance to be empowered in their faith and to lead the school in prayer and in centering sessions during morning assembly.

Compassion

This year's school theme of "Love through Service" aims to instil in the young Canossians a spirit of love through service in the footsteps of St Magdalene. It embodies Faith in Action through humble service to each other.

As part of the Values-in-Action programme, Primary 5 and 6 students go forth to serve the community through their outreach to kindergarteners and to the aged. The Primary 5 students visit the kindergartens to educate children on topics such as observing personal hygiene and to encourage a healthy lifestyle.

The Primary 6 students visit St Joseph's Home to spend time with the aged residents. Through these projects, our students are able to develop empathy as well as practise the school's

core values of charity and humility.

Primary 4 students have the chance to serve the inner community through the Buddy Programme in which they look after their Primary 1 sisters in the first week of school during recess to show them around school and to help them ease well into primary school life.

All students are also encouraged to contribute to the works of the Canossian mission through the annual Gift of Love project where students practise almsgiving during the period of Lent.

The attribute of compassion is encouraged in all students through morning centering sessions where students reflect on the school's values and the sharing of stories of the lives of our Canossian saints and other individuals who have made contributions to mankind.

Cheerfulness

In line with AGAPE's move to develop a joy of learning in the students, the school has allocated a period once a week aptly named Canossians Connect (CC). This period is designed for students to connect with their peers and to discover the joy of learning through various level programmes such as Learn Through Play, Project Work and Class Bonding Activities.

These programmes aim to build strong teacher-student relationships within the classroom and to allow for bonding time. The Learn Through Play programme empowers students to exercise choices as they are given the opportunity to choose their preferred activity at the different learning stations set up around school.

Through these programmes, the school hopes to provide students the opportunities to make decisions, observe, investigate and reflect. □

Milestones and history

August 1, 1879 – St Anna's School, a small house in Middle Road was started by Fr Jose Pedra Santa Anna de Cunha for the children of his poor parishoners.

February 23, 1886 – Fr Nicholas Pinto built a larger building and named it St Anthony's Boys' and Girls' School.

November 1893 – The schools were separated into St Anthony's Boys' and St Anthony's Girls' Schools.

December 11, 1894 – Four Canossian Sisters arrived in Singapore to take over the girls' school.

1971 – The Primary and Secondary schools were separated and renamed St Anthony's Convent Primary School and St Anthony's Convent Secondary School.

1995 – Moved to Bedok North Ave 4 and renamed St Anthony's Canossian Primary School.

2017 – Visit of The International Centennial Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Fatima.

2018 – Canossian Girls' Leadership Symposium was held and attended by Canossian Student leaders and representatives from India, Philippines and Malaysia.

2019 – 140 years' celebration in conjunction with SG Bicentennial. □



Primary 6 students at St Joseph's Home with Canossian Sisters.



Reaching out to the little ones at a kindergarten.

Photos: St Anthony's Canossian Primary School