

Gratitude is the Memory of the Heart

I love the article, 'Dialogue with Mud', written by Liu Hsia (劉俠), whose pen name is Xing Lin Zi (杏林子).

Someone queries Mud, "Lotus has an enchantingly beautiful appearance. Her sweet fragrance and her graceful charm attract so many literary writers and poets, who have composed prose and verse to praise her, and so many artists who have painted images of her. Countless people admire and like her. But what about you, Mud? You have none of the above!"

Mud responds, "I own all of the growth experiences of Lotus in her lifetime, from her budding into new life to her wilt and final death. I still see to the nurture of her next generation. All you have is merely her outward appearance. Rather, I possess the whole of her life."

This fable is rightly analogous to my educational beliefs. Education is comparable to serving as a lighthouse to guide, support and accompany students as they are growing up. When students are in their:

budding stage	—	I marvel at God's wonderful creation;
embarrassing puberty	—	I understand their anxieties and troubles of growing up;
blooming phase	—	I like to listen to the secrets they share with me;
success stories	—	I silently share the happiness of their bumper harvests;
mature adulthood	—	I look forward to their nurturing the next generation of theirs.

My educational mission has enabled me not only to accompany my students and witness their growth, but also to gain insights into their inner thoughts and feelings as they are growing up, thus providing me with the opportunity to guide them to cherish life and other divine gifts.

Thanking God for His wonderful arrangements, I am able to participate in the educational mission of the Diocese over the eight years that have flown past. He has broadened my horizons through my leadership role and my involvement in making appropriate decisions. During my tenure, there were successes and failures, joys and worries, consolations and misunderstandings. However, the greatest benefit I have gained is that from a self-confident person to one that is able to realize one's own limitations. My eight years' service has smoothly come to an end, but I shall always treasure such a memorable experience. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my colleagues for their cooperation and tolerance, to the Procurator for the incessant support of its staff, to the Curia for its collective wisdom and guidance, especially to Cardinal John Tong Hon for his trust and encouragement.

Life is like a book with its different chapters. Whether its contents are substantial or not, it depends very much on the author. We ourselves are the authors. In the coming days I believe I may have another splendid page of my life. To fill up the contents of my book, I shall follow in the footsteps of our Mother Foundress, St. Magdalen of Canossa, by "letting people know and love Christ through me." I pray that:

I may have no regret dedicating my whole life to education;
I may be a worthy messenger of Christ to preach His Good News;
I may joyfully accept without complaint the challenges that may be in store for me.

Last but not least, may I extend my sincerest best wishes to Cardinal John Tong, Bishop Michael Yeung, all priests, supervisors, principals, staff, and especially my colleagues in the Catholic Education Office.

With prayerful wishes,

Sr. Cecilia Wong

Sister Cecilia Wong
Episcopal Delegate for Education



Follow
the Good News
of Christ

Nurture
the talents
of all

家書 (十二)

永懷感恩

我很喜歡杏林子作品中與「泥」對話的一段：

「荷、有美麗的外形，芬芳的氣息、亭亭的風姿，古今中外，多少騷人墨客吟詩作詞讚頌他，畫家藝人描繪他；多少人欣賞他，多少人喜愛他。而泥，好像什麼都沒有……」

泥的回應：

「我有荷的整個生長經歷。由他萌芽新生至枯殘死亡，我仍為他負擔哺育下一代的責任。你們所有的，不過是荷外在的形象，而我却擁有他整個的生命。」

這一段寓言，正好比喻我一生從事教育工作的信念。教育儼如導航明燈，扶植幼苗。當莘莘學子們在

茁壯成長時 我會驚喜上主奇妙的創造和化育
青澀歲月中 我體會到他們成長中的憂慮
含苞待放時 我願聆聽他們隱藏的心事
學有所成時 我默享他們豐收的喜樂
未來歲月裏 祈望他們培育下一代-----生命的延續。

教育的使命，不獨能分享學子們的成長，更能參與他們成長的心路歷程，讓他們懂得珍惜生命的恩賜。

駒隙八載，能參與教區的教育事務工作，實為上主美好的安排。祂讓我能在領導工作上，擴闊視野，作適切的策劃；期間有成功、亦有失敗；有喜樂、也有擔憂；有安慰、或不乏被誤解；然而、最大的裨益是由一個充滿自信的我，體會到自己的不足。八年的使命，能順利完成，幸得各位同儕的合作與包涵、總務處的支持、主教公署各位神長的啟導，我更衷心感謝湯漢樞機的信任和鼓勵。謹向各位致以由衷的感謝。八年歲月裏，給我留下無數珍貴的回憶。

人生就如一本書，內有不同章節。至於書的內容是否充實，有賴書的作者，而書的作者是我們自己。在未來的日子，相信是我人生精華的一頁。我會竭力充實這書的內容，秉承會祖聖女瑪大肋納嘉諾撒的訓示；「讓別人在我身上認識及愛慕基督。」但願我能

無悔把一生獻給教育

無愧成為傳達基督訊息的使者

無怨地欣然接受上主未來給予的挑戰。

寥寥數語，謹向湯漢樞機、楊鳴章主教、各位神長、校監、校長、老師們，及教育事務處各位同儕献上摯誠的祝福。



黃若嫻修女

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