

## FR LIONEL XAVIER'S SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT



### Fr Xavier, we'll always miss you!

A sad news broke in the early morning on 18th October 2011 our beloved Fr Lionel Xavier OP, the former Principal of Rosaryhill School and the Honorary President for Life of the Rosaryhill School Old Students Association, passed away in Macau.

A special Wake Mass was held in the evening on the same day at Macau Catholic Funeral Home and Fr Xavier's Funeral Mass was held at Macau Cathedral on 20th October 2011 and the Cathedral was filled with a large number of family, friends, former colleagues and students.

A special memorial service was also subsequently held in Rosaryhill School on 28th October 2011 and the school hall was fully packed by people who love and miss our beloved Fr Xavier.

As an important icon of Rosaryhill School, we certainly have lost a great leader but we certainly will





TOP LEFT: WAKE FUNERAL MASS AT MACAU CATHOLIC FUNERAL HOME ON 19/10/2011

TOP RIGHT: FUNERAL SERVICE AT MACAU CATHEDRAL ON 20/10/2011

LEFT IN MIDDLE: CREMATION OF FR XAVIER'S REMAINS IN ZHUHAI, CHINA

BOTTOM LEFT AND RIGHT: MEMORIAL SERVICE AT ROSARYHILL SCHOOL ON 28/12/2011

## JOHN 15:16

*“You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and have appointed you, that you should go, and should bring forth fruit, and your fruit should remain, that whatsoever you shall ask of the Father in my name, He may give it to you”*



## Brief Biographical Notes of Fr Lionel Xavier

- 1930 Born in Hong Kong
- 1956 Joined the Order as a novice at St. Albert's Priory, Hong Kong
- 1959 Transferred to Manila to continue studies
- 1963 Ordained as priest on 27 April 1963
- 1966 Appointed as the Principal for 3 sections of Rosaryhill School
- 1967-90 Principal of Secondary Section
- 1993-97 Principal of Primary and Secondary Sections
- 2004 Retired from Rosaryhill School
- 2004 Appointed as Superior of St. Dominic's House and Director of Religious Department at Escola Sao Paolo
- 2011 Passed away at around 5:15am on 19 October 2011 in Macau

# In memory of Father Xavier – Edwin WL Ginn, class of 1974

Didn't realise that it is so difficult to write about Father Xavier and keeping it short. Still, I have promises to keep but where shall I begin and how dare I disturb his universe? Shall I write about the welcoming change from a rather harsh and cool Primary Principal (my impression only) to a warm and engaging fatherly figure? Or about the happy days as an altar boy under his mentorship; the adventurous outings, the hikes and camps with 'Lao Xa'? Or corresponding with the 'Old Dog' during my college years that kept me going while I was studying abroad; the infrequent but regular, yet most memorable dinners with the 'Old Devil' throughout my working career? I have selected below but only two of our meetings but I think that would suffice.

The first was a visit with my family to RHS when my kids were still young. Visits to the school were not uncommon but a guided tour of the rooftop garden and greenhouse by Father was a rare treat. Father Xavier's eyes beamed with enthusiasm and explained to us how he nurtured his favourite plants and flowers, especially the orchids that he secretly smuggled from the Mainland. Even devoted priests were liable to sin once in a blue moon! He took much pleasure in watering, weeding and fertilising the plants; witnessing the growth and well being of his plants. We were ~~astounded not only by the beauty and health of the plants and flowers but also by his blissful smile in seeing the healthy growth of his garden, and perhaps of us too.~~

The second was a lunch at the Educational Restaurant in Macau a day after his 2011 birthday. There were no signs of decaying health then. His signature iron grip handshake was still impressive and I assumed that he was fine and in good health, just a tad overweight. He was a very happy man in Macau, looking after potential young Dominican priests, free from the vagaries and worries of managing a school. We took photos and had a most happy and enjoyable lunch. This turned out to be the last that we would see of him in good health before the downturn of events, his ailing struggle in hospital upon his return to Hong Kong and in St Dominic's Priory in Macau and his ultimate departure. The mournings, not yet completely gone, are gradually waning and healing with time.

Father Xavier lived and preached by example, leading a holy, humble, healthy, simple and yet happy life; shying of material possessions, helping others to do good, contributing positively to those around him, to Church and society. Old man, you live forever in our memories. We will visit you from time to time and you will be a constant source of strength and inspiration for all of us.

## THE GANG



# FR XAVIER, 我們會永遠懷念您！



## In memory of Fr Xavier - Ms Cathy Lau (former Deputy Principal)

我們都會認同，Fr. Xavier 是天主一個忠心的僕人。天主的旨意，他順服；天主的真道，他持守。他的信德、望德及愛德，為天主作了美好的見證。

Fr. Xavier 留下給我們的，是他的愛和關懷。祈求我們能以他的一生作我們的典範，得著天主賞賜的同一恩典及福氣。

Fr. Xavier，我們永遠懷念您！

我所認識的Fr. Xavier，溫柔謙厚，親切平和；有力而不恃，有才而不誇，有利而不奪；常常關顧別人的感受及需要。無論與他共事或共處，他總會令我感到舒服、安全和穩妥。

劉連芳

2012年1月

多年前在多倫多渡假時，我與兄長一家五口及從美國上來會合的姪兒，一起駕車往滿地可及魁北克市旅遊，並邀請 Fr. Xavier 同行。在旅程完畢後，他們已視 Fr. Xavier 如親人。因為，他就是一個能令你感到樂於接近的親人。

# Interview with Fr Lionel Xavier OP

RHSOSA conducted an exclusive interview with Fr Xavier shortly before his 80th birthday in 2010, which can be found at RHSOSA's following website:

<http://www.rhsosa.org/e-news/rosarians.php?i=13388408>

