



Helen Mak

1966, F5

Former Principal of St. Paul's School (Lam Tin), 1989-2003

Days went by and Days to memorize

Congratulations to St. Paul's Convent School on her 160th Anniversary!

Time flies but memories are still alive. The approach of the 160th Anniversary of St. Paul's Convent School takes me back to the days when I was a little girl with a hazy mind just graduated from a Chinese primary school. It reminds me again of our respectable Sister Rose Mary the School Principal, Sister Carmela the inspiring Music teacher, Ms. Kwok the demanding Chinese teacher, Ms. Fang my motivating Mathematics teacher, and all expatriate English teachers. The high academic standard set by the School for all the Paulinians, coupled with the English-speaking milieu, pressed me on unrelentingly. But in retrospect, I must say that it was also the motivating vigor needed for each and every young girl admitted into the School and necessary for every woman for her future life.

Challenging school work notwithstanding, the freedom endowed to us Paulinians made 'the sweet days of my girlhood'. In this 'beloved school of mine', I worked and played with all my heart – time to participate in the tedious Choral Speaking competitions, time to shout aloud and giggle happily during recess, time to play netball at lunch, and time to cycle at Caroline Hill Road and Cotton Path (in uniform!) after school. Memorable activities as they were, they are now a part of my 'golden links with childhood'. I learned unrestricted and I got the necessary support and guidance from my teachers to grow up confident and independent, laying the foundation for my study abroad and future career. Whenever I sing the school hymn years after my graduation, these treasured memories come back and I realize how true the hymn is in saying that 'my pains and joys... are closely linked' with the School.

I am fortunate to have been educated and nurtured by the Sisters of St. Paul during my youthful days and in my professional life. The Paulinian spirit developed when young and the years of connection with the Sisters finally converted me to become a Catholic able to 'rejoice in God' and feel the great work done by the sisters in the field of education. On this joyous occasion when the School celebrates her 160th Anniversary, let me wish the School further success in the realization of her education mission and hope that it will continue to flourish under the Sisters so that more

youngsters would feel the hope and joy that heaven brings to their girlhood and their future life.