



Mrs. Diana Lau

1955, F7

Former Vice Principal of SPCS

**Once a Paulinian, Forever a Paulinian...
From Student to Teacher and Vice Principal**

Mrs. Diana Lau, Our Legendary Paulinian

“Qi pao”, classic curly hair, authoritative voice, morning assembly... No doubt each and every Paulinian who graduated before 1993 can still vividly recall this as the iconic image of Mrs. D. Lau. Having joined SPCS in 1948 as a Class 8 student (equivalent to Form 1 nowadays) and retired from her 30+ years of teaching tenure with SPCS in 1993, Mrs. D. Lau has been a role model to all teachers and students for her passion in teaching, her care for students and her respect to each and every staff working in the SPCS school compound.

Years as a SPCS Student

Mrs. D. Lau started her “SPCS journey” when she first attended Class 8 in 1948. At that time, SPCS was called the French Convent School as the school was founded by the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres from France in 1854. Together with 3 younger sisters, Mrs. Lau attended school and stayed at the school dormitory (SPCS had a boarding unit in the old days). Besides studying, Mrs. Lau needed to take care of her 3 younger sisters at school and in the dormitory as her parents were in Mainland China at that time, busy taking care of the elder family members and their business during war time. As a new emigrant from Mainland China to Hong Kong, Mrs. Lau could hardly speak any Cantonese, not to mention English. Understanding her own deficiency, Mrs. Lau studied really hard during her school years. She was one of the students in Hong Kong who sat for the very first Advance Level (A-Level) examination in 1955 and was one of the very few who passed the A-Level examination and was admitted to The University of Hong Kong.

When talking about fond memories in SPCS as a student, Mrs. Lau showed us a few old and precious pictures taken with her classmates at the old school compound and “Sr. Paula’s Garden” as the background (now the new hospital building) in the 1950s. Mrs. Lau recalled that all teachers who taught her were very good and caring teachers and she could still recall the teachers’ names. The Sisters managing the school dormitory at that time were very gentle and kind. Mrs. Lau recalled that there was one sister who asked all boarding students every morning what they would like to have for meals and she would prepare different dishes for students on that day.

Years as a SPCS Teacher, Disciplinary Head and Vice Principal

During her tenure with SPCS, Mrs. Lau wore different hats in terms of responsibility – as a teacher she taught a number of subjects like Chinese, Chinese History; as a Vice Principal, she was responsible for the administration of daily school operation. But for many of the Paulinians, Mrs. Lau is most remembered for being the Disciplinary Head leading moderate teachers and Prefects’ Board to administer the discipline of SPCS students. For naughty students, “Mrs. D. Lau” should be the most feared name. Students would become more behaved and obedient when they knew that “D.

Lau” was coming. But for those who had the honour to be taught by Mrs. Lau, they would know that Mrs. Lau is a very knowledgeable, gentle and caring teacher. Mrs. Lau believes that the school provides a very good platform for students not only to learn academic knowledge, but also to encourage us to become a well-behaved young lady. Mrs. Lau emphasized that each Paulinian has a responsibility to show respect to the school uniform. “People may not know who you are individually, but they do know which school you are from when you are wearing the school uniform. When you are wearing the school uniform, you are representing the school as a whole, not an individual,” said Mrs. Lau.

She could still remember that MTR had presented the first medal to SPCS for the “Best Behaved School Children Award” and she was really proud to have received the award as a disciplinary teacher.

A Few Words to Student Paulinians

“Study Hard,” said Mrs. Lau, “and one should be thankful as students in Hong Kong can have the luxury to enjoy a good study environment, while in some other parts of the world many children have been deprived of the chance to study due to wars and natural disasters.” Apart from studies, Mrs. Lau also encourages us to stay positive and not to give up in the face of problems and challenges as Mrs. Lau sees that each challenge is a learning opportunity for us to grow wiser and learn from mistakes.

At the end of the interview, Mrs. Lau mentioned that she kept a school souvenir which is a glass engraved with “**Once a Paulinian, Forever a Paulinian**”. Mrs. Lau has truly demonstrated the spirit of a Paulinian which all of us should look up to.

Thank you Mrs. Lau, our legendary Paulinian, for everything you have contributed to SPCS.

Written by Lily Chan (1992, F5)