



December, 2011

Dear Maryknoll Former Students, Staff and Friends,

As you celebrate the Winter Festival with all your family, I wish you the Peace and Joy of the Christmas Season. I can imagine the delicious food and gratitude all of you have for the blessings of the year 2011. I, too, would like to express my appreciation for your generosity to me as I left. Words are indeed not adequate.

While the bamboo wireless may be in tact, I will still share with you what I have been doing since I left in July. First, I went home to visit my family for one month. This longer period with the family was very relaxing and enjoyable. However, it was so hot – 100+ F, I did not try to swim. My eldest sister at 94 is frail, but the other, three are doing well considering the ages 85, 82 and 78. My brother-in-law fell and dislocated his vocal chord (one learns new, medical information every day), but a new medication has helped his voice which was slurred. The vocal chord is now in the right place and he can speak without slurring.

After my home visit, I joined other sisters from around the world on renewal and transition. This is a wonderful time to learn about ministries in other countries. There are many aspects that are similar to all countries, e.g. poor are getting poorer and the rich are getting richer. Many Sisters spoke of the lack of clean water. Hong Kong is blessed with delicious, clean drinking water. Then on October 1st, I began working as the sacristan. I am responsible for the Main Chapel and one medium-sized and one small chapel. So, you are in my prayers as I go about accomplishing the day's duties.

Guests: Annie Yao, Mr. Yan, Tanya Chan, Annette Chan, Vivien Ng and Nancy Tong, Bonnie Chau are delightful visitors to change the pattern of any day. I do not believe one can be bored at the Center as there are so many events in one month.

One of my plans was to take former HK sisters out for a ride to see the Autumn Foliage, but Hurricane Irene ended that. My second attempt was thwarted by 6 inches of snow. There should be some lovely days in late November and early December; however, the weather patterns are contrary to what is normal. One can easily ask: "what is normal?"

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I have given several mission awareness talks to several high school students in New York City. Going to the city, not the tourist route, can be challenging. However, I was able to do it by leaving the Center at 7 A.M. to take the Metro North into Grand Central Terminal and then catching the bus/taxi to the schools, depending on what time the classes began.

Do keep in touch. If, you are coming to New York, please let me know before your arrival so I can be at home.

My new address is as follows:

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Love and prayers,

Sister Jeanne Houlihan