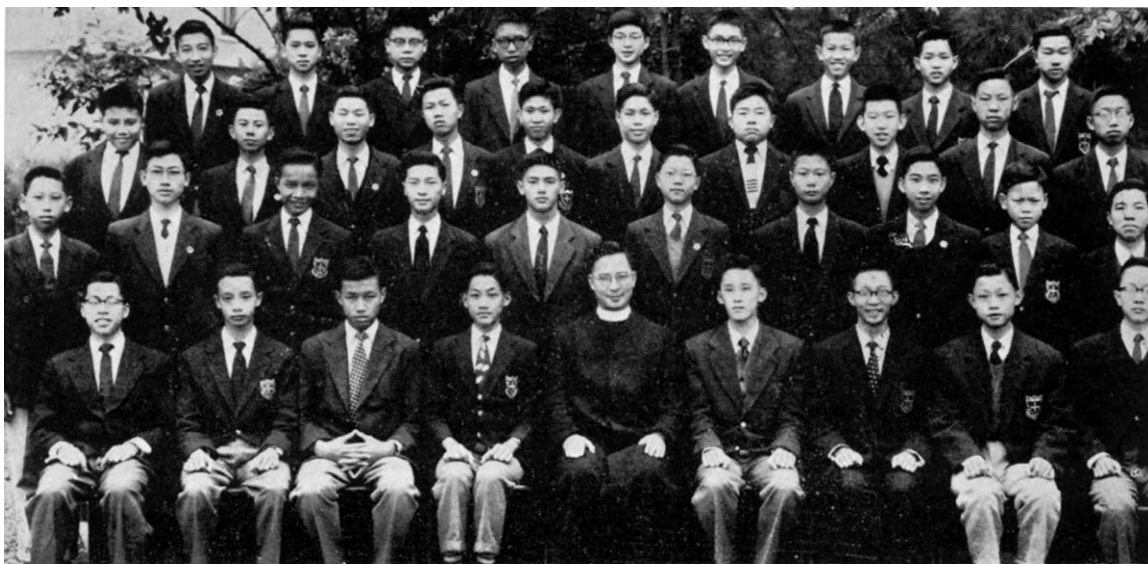




In Memoriam – Fr Francis Fook-Wai, S.J.
陳福偉神父
(January 29, 1923-December 4, 1993)
Taught at Wah Yan College, Kowloon, 1956-1988
As Prefect of Studies, 1959-1965

A. Class Photographs



FORM III C

F3C, 1956-1957



FORM IV C

F4C, 1958-1959

B. With Fr Farren and the School Prefects



THE SCHOOL PREFECTS, 1960-1961

D. From The Shield 42 (1994)

The Vineyard

In Memory of Father Chan

In Memory of



Rev. Francis Chan, S.J.
(1923 - 1993)

In Memory of Fr. Chan

Jesuit Father Francis Chan died of illness in Ireland

Fr. Francis Chan, who used to serve in the St. Ignatius Chapel of Wah Yan College Kowloon, died of illness on 4th December 1993 in Ireland at the age of 70. Fr. Chan was born in Hong Kong in 1923. He joined the Jesuit in 1940 and received his primary education and spiritual philosophy training in the Philippines and Ireland. It was in 1956 that he came back to Hong Kong and made his first acquaintance with Wah Yan College Kowloon. From then on, he started to teach in Wah Yan and, at the same time, undertook Pastoral work at the school chapel until his retirement in 1988. Four years later, he was assigned to Britain to serve the fellow believers there. He spent himself entirely to education and the Jesuit, and was loved by teachers, students and Catholics. A Requiem Mass for the happy repose of his soul was celebrated on 18th December 1993 at 2:00p.m. in the Ignatius Chapel.

Having known Fr. Chan for 30 years, Fr. H. Naylor said he was a prudent, patient, responsible and industrious person. Fr. Chan was the Principal of Wah Yan College Kowloon and fulfilled his duties with success. He was also compatible and was trusted by many families in the Ignatius Chapel. They also followed him and received Baptism. Fr. H. Naylor added that Fr. Chan was the first person born in Hong Kong to join the Jesuit.

Fr. A. Deignan and Fr. B. J. Shields also agreed that Fr. Chan was enthusiastic and dedicated to his work. He also tried his very best to help others and was concerned about students and fellows. His death was a great loss to all of them.

May his generous soul now rest in peace he so richly deserved.



In Memory of Fr. Chan

By REV. HAROLD NAYLOR, S.J.

*Fr. Francis Chan- First Hong Kong Jesuit
Born Shamshuipo, Kowloon 29 Jan.1923 Died Dublin
4 Dec. 1993*

Though it had been expected for the last few months, it was sudden news when Ms. Emily Siu phoned from Harold's Cross Hospice Dublin to say that Fr. Chan had died peacefully at 23.50 on Sat, Dec. 4th. She had flown to Dublin on Dec. 2nd with her husband William when she learnt his condition was terminal. She was the secretary of the parish office here for a decade, and she and her husband were close friends of his for more than fifteen years, when he was pastor in St. Ignatius Chapel, Wah Yan College, Kowloon. In April 92, Fr. Chan then the Chinese priest of the Westminster

Diocese, London, had gone to Dublin for treatment. After an operation on an abdominal cancer, he recovered to return to St. Patrick's Church in Soho Square. He visited Hong Kong in Jan 93, knowing that it would be his farewell. Returning to London he could only serve for a few more months, until he had to return to Dublin.

He will be remembered as the Jesuit Priest at Wah Yan College, Kowloon, where he lived from 1955 to 1990. He was a teacher of English and Religious Knowledge at Form Five Level, and also of European History. He had earned a Master Degree in Regina Saskatchewan in 1973, but that year also saw him take charge of St. Ignatius Chapel. Here he threw himself into pastoral work. He often had three groups of adults for baptism every year. He was one of the very few priests in the diocese who catechised and baptized groups of adults regularly. Thus he became very well known and loved, especially when he baptized whole families, from children to grandparents. He organized outings and trips for the Catholics





and was frequently at dinners and meals at homes.

He had joined the Society of Jesus in Aug. 1940, after being a student at Wah Yan College, Robinson Road. He was an altar server at the Convent of the Precious Blood Sisters in Shamshuipo, where his family lived. For his Jesuit formation, he was sent to Manila, where he did two years of novitiate and three years of humanistic studies and three years of philosophy. He returned to Wah Yan College, Robinson Road to teach, until he went to Milltown Park in Dublin to study Theology for four years. He was ordained priest there in July 1953, and then after a spiritual year in North Wales he returned to Hong Kong as a fully formed Jesuit priest in 1955.

As a patient and prudent priest, he had the capacity of concentration and hard work. He was kind and dependable as a man and priest. He was much esteemed by people, not only his past students who number in the thousands, but also by family people. His discretion, devotion and sincerity shine in the memories of tens of thousands. May he rest in peace.



In Memory of Fr. Chan

An INTERVIEW WITH FATHER YUEN

Father Yuen came to Hong Kong in 1984. At that time he was the Assistant Head Priest of St. Ignatius Chapel, while the Head Priest was Father Francis Chan. From 1988 to 1991, Father Chan dedicated his time on the Chapel and the duties of being a priest. About thirty years ago, it was he who helped a lot in the reconstruction of the Chapel. So he was really an unforgettable man to us.



Father Chan, according to Father Yuen, was very earnest and always offered help to those in need. Apart from this, he was also an energetic man. He always visited the aged, the orphans, and patients in hospitals.



In 1988, he retired from his teaching in Wah Yan since he was already 65. In 1991, he was asked by the parish in London to go there as a priest and to serve the Chinese Catholics. He agreed and went there afterwards.

When Father Yuen had his first sight on Father Chan, he said that Chan was rather thin. But afterwards Chan got his appetite on many foods, especially snacks, he gradually became stronger and fatter. Besides, he thinks that Chan was a quick-tempered person and he did not want to spend any of his time doing something boring, like having

a conference. But anyway, Father Yuen still thinks that Chan was a prudent and praiseworthy man.

As a whole, in Father Yuen's mind, Chan was a generous person and dedicated himself to others. He was a man who could give up all his benefits and serve others as his relatives. As a result, Yuen admires him very much and believes that Father Chan is a good example for us to pursue.

In Memory of Fr. Chan

An INTERVIEW WITH MR. SO WAI HONG

Mr. So Wai Hong, Francis knew Father Chan because he taught Mr So geography in Wah Yan College, Hong Kong in about 1949. The strongest impression of Mr. So about Father Chan is his teaching method.

It was the time after World War II, and the English standard of students at that time was quite low. Nearly all of the students were just learning alphabets. However, the textbooks were mainly in English. Moreover, Father Chan used English to give all the lessons. Apart from these, he



also loved to question the students in English and requested them to answer in English, too. This is not all easy task for students just learning alphabets. If the students did not know the answer, they would have to go to detention class. Although there were only two geography lessons per week, every student's heart gave a great thump in these two lessons. This bad situation gradually improved after half of the academic year.

Mr. So concluded that Father Chan was a serious person and he always did his best in job.

An INTERVIEW WITH MR. C. P. LAI

Mr. Lai felt great sympathy about the death of Rev. Fr. Chan. Mr. Lai knew Fr. Chan when he started teaching in Wah Yan in 1971. In Mr. Lai's memory, Fr. Chan was an optimistic person, always wearing a smile. At the same time he was serious and responsible. But, Mr. Lai hadn't got much chance to work with him, since Fr. Chan only taught a few subjects at that time, such as History, while Mr. Lai was teaching mathematics. From the several incidents working with Fr. Chan, Mr. Lai discovered that he was friendly, open and energetic. The memory of Fr. Chan will always remain in his mind.