A Special Regular Friend – Ana Maria Jara, a Lay Missioner from Chile

Ever since Maria found out about Casa Famiglia in February, she has become a Regular Friend of Radiance and has gradually developed a precious friendship with the members of Casa Famiglia. In this issue, we wish to share with our readers the recent inclusive and harmonious life of Radiance through introducing you all to this Regular Friend.

Maria helped with the Flower Show activity

Maria enjoys the equestrian theatrical spectacular – CAVALIA with members of Radiance and their housemothers

2. 協助平日晚上活動

Helping with Night Activities during Weekdays

Since Maria was a teacher for persons with intellectual disabilities in Chile, Radiance invited her to delight the Casa Famiglia members’ regular weekday nights by teaching them how to DIY hanging accessories and key chains. She also taught them English to enhance their abilities to express themselves in English.
3. 向其他朋友介紹扶康家庭
Introducing Other Friends to Casa Famiglia

瑪利亞認同扶康家庭的服務，故邀請了她修會的神父韋格光神父及兩位在俗傳教士到超榮軒探訪。最特別的是由於韋神父是鄰近耶穌復活堂的神父，對超榮軒的成員也有點認識，但當他到訪時才發現原來超榮軒與耶穌復活堂原來是這樣的接近，感謝瑪利亞的協助，讓超榮軒的成員可以與韋神父有更深入的認識。

Identifying with Casa Famiglia’s services, Maria invited Rev. Gregorio Vignola, PME and two lay missionaries from her religious group to pay a visit to Radiance. What was remarkable was that Rev. Vignola served at the Resurrection Church nearby and therefore knew a little about the members of Radiance. However, it was not until he visited Radiance did he realize how close Radiance and Resurrection Church were. We would like to thank Maria for her help in enabling members of Radiance to get to know more about Rev. Vignola.

韋格光神父及兩位在俗傳教士在瑪利亞陪同下探訪超榮軒
Rev. Gregorio Vignola, PME and two lay missionaries visited Radiance in Maria’s company.

不經不覺瑪利亞服務超榮軒已有幾個月了，她很高興與我們分享她的感受：
Time flies and Maria has already served at Radiance for a few months. She would like to share with us how she feels:

瑪利亞的個人感想
Maria’s Personal Thoughts

我喜歡到超榮軒，我愛他們。

最初來的時候，因為我不懂講廣東話，所以我很害怕，甚至覺得自己一生也不會學懂，為此我很不開心。但是，這兒的成員很好，他們幫我。在其他地方，一般人見我是外國人，都不會對我說廣東話。可是，超榮軒的成員不會，他們繼續講，他們很友善，常常笑，他們願意接納我不懂得講，而且他們很有耐性，並且嘗試幫助我，這兒的環境幫我學到廣東話。

君榮是我的老師，他教我寫中文，我嘗試寫，他會糾正我。

燕銘很照顧我，即使是韋神父也看得出，她常特別照顧我，如食飯後確保我有紙巾用，外出活動時抱著我，我很享受這種被照顧的感覺。

作為一位在俗傳教士，我很感謝天主給予我一個機會到超榮軒學習，這讓我從另一個角度看到生命。由於我以往是一位老師，又是一位傳教士，我被教要愛別人及教導別人。但由於不懂廣東話，我變成什麼都不懂，這個情況令我學會謙遜：學習怎樣從別人身上學習，接受自己的限制，耐心地面對他人，學習怎樣接受別人的給予，及為別人對自己的付出而感恩。

Key chain-making by Maria and the members together

Everyone holding up their DIY products cheerfully

Ming Lai with members - making key chains

Group photo of people holding up DIY products
I like being at Radiance. I LOVE them.

When I first got here, I was scared because I did not know how to speak Cantonese. I was pretty upset as I doubt I would ever be able to learn the language. But the members here are fantastic. They would help me. Elsewhere, people normally won’t speak to me in Cantonese because I am a foreigner. But the members of Radiance won’t do that. They would keep speaking to me in Cantonese. They are friendly and great all the time. They are willing to accept my inability to speak Cantonese. They are very patient and are willing to help me. The atmosphere here helps me pick up Cantonese.

Kwan-wing is my teacher. He teaches me the Chinese characters. I would try to copy the words and he would correct me. Yin-mei takes good care of me. Even Rev. Vignola can tell that she takes exceptionally good care of me. She would always make sure that I have a piece of paper towel after each meal and she would hold my hands whenever we go outdoors for activities. I enjoy being taken care of.

As a lay missioner, I thank God for granting me a learning opportunity at Radiance. This experience enables me to see life in a new light. Before I came, I was a teacher and a missioner. I was taught to love and guide others. However, my inability to speak Cantonese turned me into someone who knew nothing. Under such a circumstance, I learnt to be a humble person. I also learnt how to learn from others, accept my own incapability, be patient to other people, accept what others have to offer and be thankful to what others have done for me.

The members of Radiance make me think of my elder brother. We had a huge age gap but I loved him nonetheless. I was inconsolable when he passed away. He was also with intellectual disability. It was his deep concern and love that made me decide to serve persons with intellectual disabilities. It is indeed fun being friends with persons with intellectual disabilities.

對於有朋友是從遠方來的，超響軒的成員感受又如何呢？

And how do the members of Radiance feel about having a friend from a foreign country?

家庭成員的感想

Members’ Thoughts

志成 Chi-sing

可以透過瑪利亞說多些英文，她又帶其他朋友來，我們又可以識多些人。

I am able to enhance my English skills through Maria. We are also given the opportunities to know more people because Maria always brings along her friends.
When Maria comes, we would greet one another and chat. We are happy when she comes.

Maria teaches the members English

Maria celebrates Chi-sing's birthday with the members

Donation 捐款

I would like to make a donation to Casa Famiglia!

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- Cash – Direct pay-in to our HSBC account 119-290005-438
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