Sr. Angelia Chieh-Liang Ying, SSS

Her Work at St. Bridget Chinese Catholic Church
Chinatown, Los Angeles 1954-1963

As told by Sr. Angelia



I was born in a Catholic family in Beijing, China. In 1946, two of the Sisters of Social Service of Los Angeles were sent to Shanghai, China, to start a mission. Among them was Sr. Candida Wei, the first Chinese in this Community.

One of the family friends, a Chinese priest, introduced me to the SSS. I contacted Sr. Frederica Horvath, SSS General Superior in Los Angeles. I visited SSS in Shanghai to learn more about their mission and lifestyle. In 1948, the Community accepted me to enter the Novitiate for training in Los Angeles. I had hoped that after the training, I could return to China to serve my people.

Around 1954 I was asked to work with Fr. O'Doherty, a Columban priest, at St. Bridget's Church in Los Angeles Chinatown. The church served as a Catholic Center for Chinese people. When Fr. O'Doherty was away, different Columban Fathers came to help in the church. He retired around 1960 or 1961. As a parish Social Worker, I started home visits in the neighborhoods, homes, and shops where people work and around the city. This was to let people know they might come to Mass in their own language, meet other friends in the Center, and participate in various activities to welcome newcomers. On weekdays, I was accompanied by Mrs. Fung for the visits.



Over the weekends, children were brought in for Catechism, preparation for First Communion, and other Sacraments. Several groups were organized. Older women formed a Ladies Altar Society group to care for the altar. There was also an Altar Boys group and a choir group. On Saturdays, volunteers were invited to help the church set up. A Men's Council group was led by Mr. Chan.

The annual Bazaar was held during Summer time. It was for all the

Chinese in Los Angeles. Friends from Chinatown donated abundant food and goods to make the event very colorful. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the meal, snacks, and games. The income helped to cover some of the church expenses for the rest of the year.

After Fr. Quinn took over the church, he not only continued what had already been done, like the Annual Bazaar, but he also started the Mother of the Year celebration and other celebrations of Feasts in the Center to encourage people to join us.

In the Spring of 1963, I was among the five SSS sent to Taiwan to start a new Mission. Therefore, I left St. Bridget's Chinese Catholic Church.

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