



**In Memoriam – Fr Richard McCarthy, S.J.**

**(April 19, 1921-November 3, 1995)**

**Taught at Wah Yan College, Kowloon, 1955-1961**

**Years as Form-master at Wah Yan College, Kowloon**

<b>1955-1956</b>	<b>F5D</b>	<b>1958-1959</b>	<b>F5C</b>
<b>1956-1957</b>	<b>F5D</b>	<b>1959-1960</b>	<b>F5C</b>
<b>1957-1958</b>	<b>F5D</b>	<b>1960-1961</b>	<b>F5A</b>

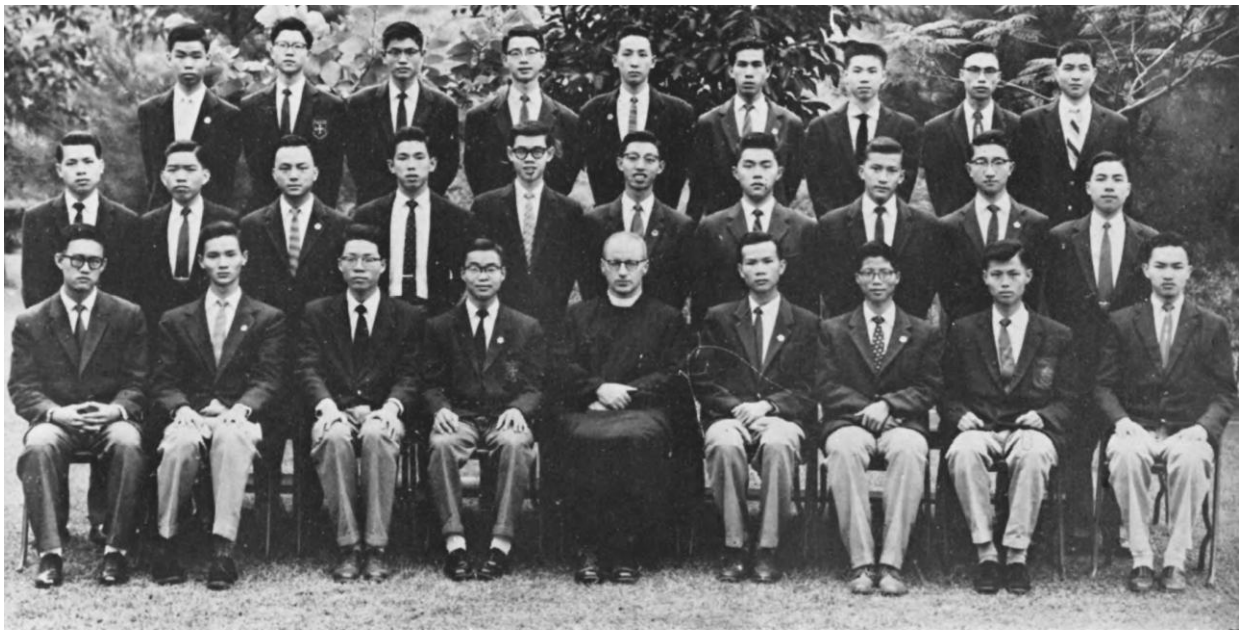
**A. Photographs, 1955-1961**

**As Form-master**



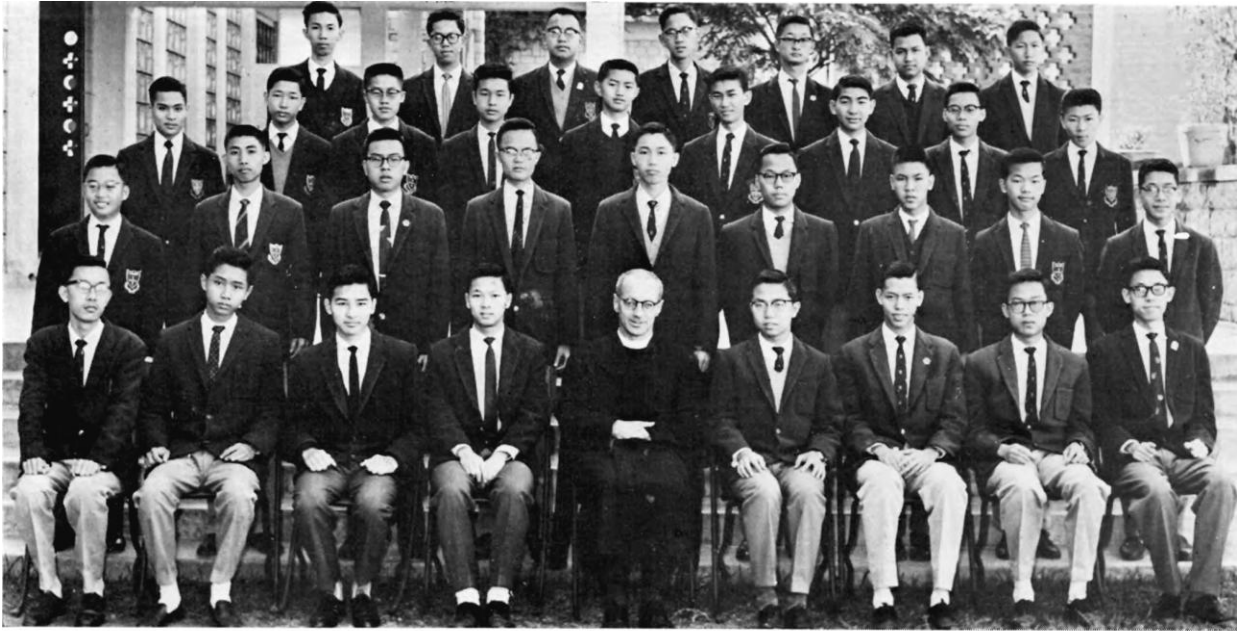
**FORM V D.**

**F5D, 1957-1958**



**FORM V C**

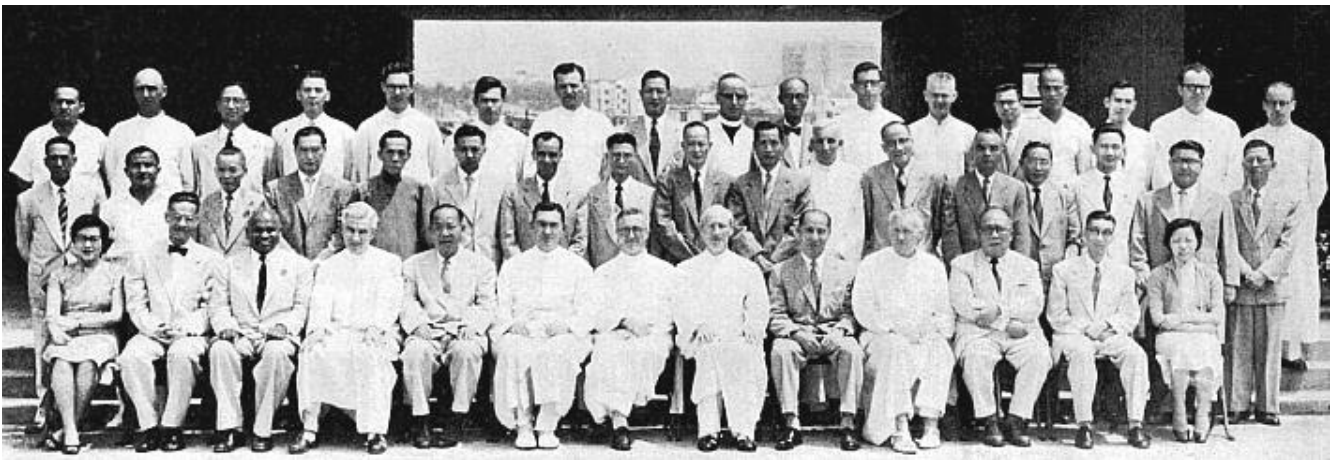
**F5C, 1958-1959**



FORM V A, 1960 - 1961

**F5A, 1960-1961**

**As Staff of Wah Yan College, Kowloon**



**1955-1956 – top row – 1<sup>st</sup> right**



1959-1960 – 2<sup>nd</sup> row from bottom– 2<sup>nd</sup> left



1960-1961 – 2<sup>nd</sup> row from bottom– 2<sup>nd</sup> left

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事務主任科理神父

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負責人萬貴理神父

Rev. F. Chan, S.J.

陳福偉神父

Rev. T. Doody, S.J.

杜達明神父

Rev. S. Doris, S.J.

莊鶴思神父

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候奕純神父

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紀烈義神父

Rev. R. Kennedy, S.J.

簡理察神父

Rev. R. McCarthy, S.J.

穆嘉田神父

Rev. M. Morahan, S.J.,

*Student Counsellor.*

公教學生神師莫樂天神父

Rev. J. Moran, S.J.

*Editor "The Eastern Messenger"*

東方聖心報編輯武倫神父

Rev. J. O'Meara, S.J.

馬良神父

Rev. J. Smyth, S.J.

石憫神父

Rev. E. Sullivan, S.J.

蘇惠民神父

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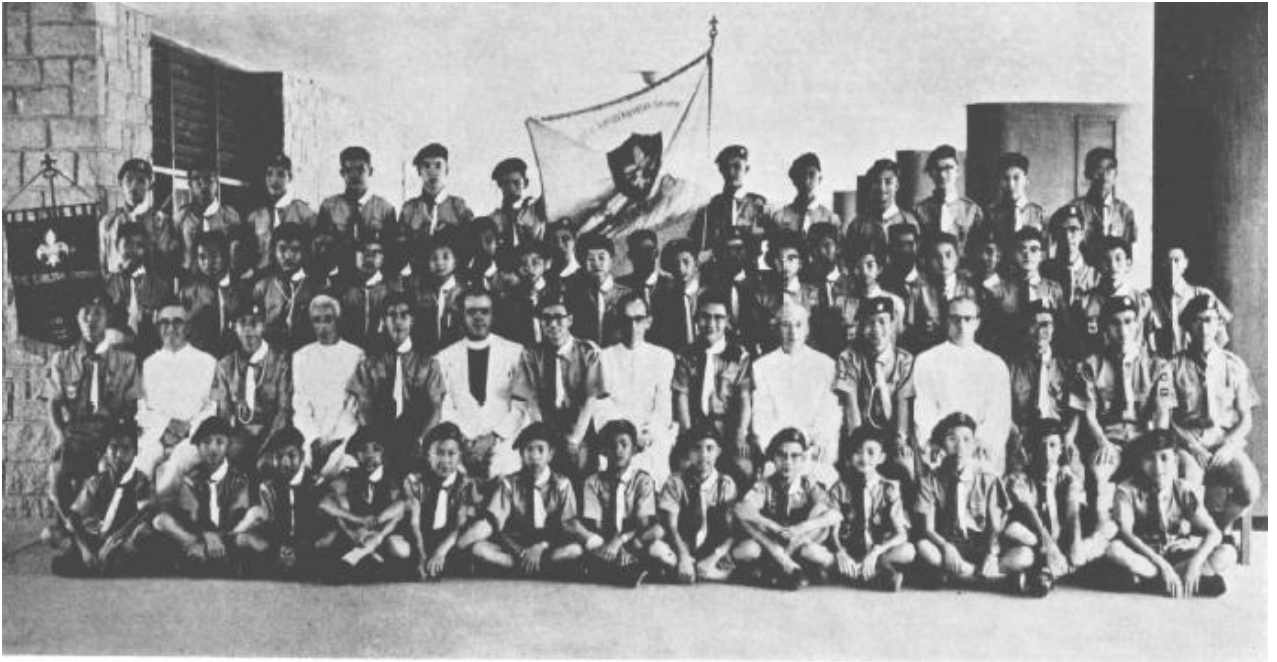
Alex Chan Jao Yau, Esq., *Assistant Secretary.*

陳佐堯先生

1956-1957, Staff list

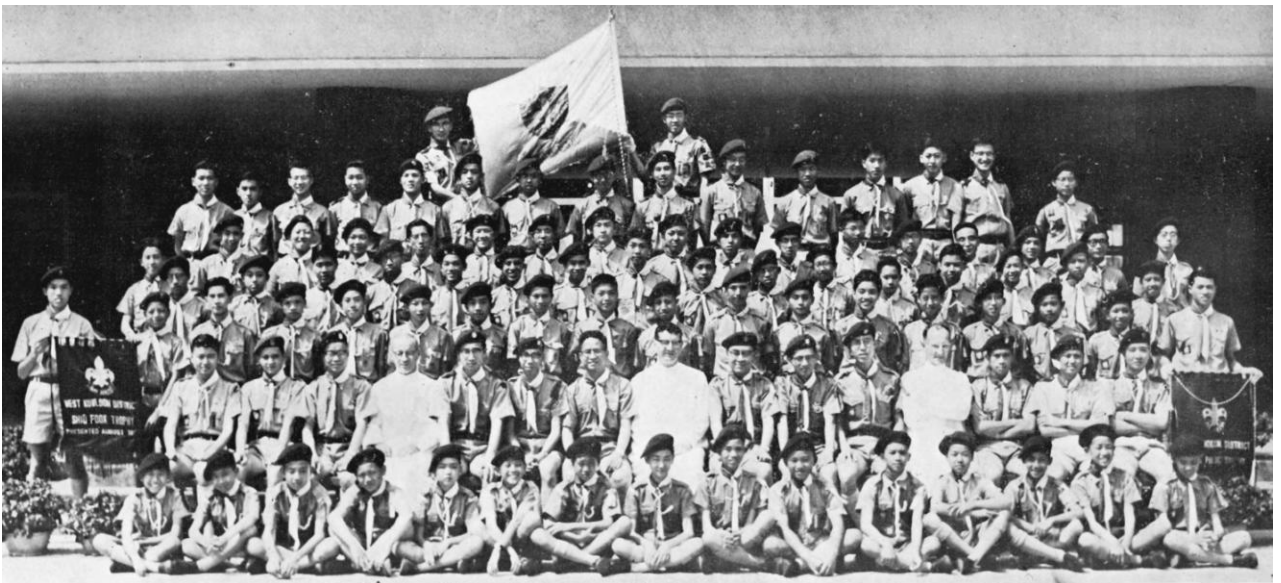


**As Scout Advisor**



*The 11th Kowloon Group*

**1957-1958 – seated – 4<sup>th</sup> right**



*The 11th Group, Kowloon.*

**1960-1961 – seated – 4<sup>th</sup> left**

## B. School Activities



*It looks serious —  
like a detention  
note — but it's only  
recording a winner!*

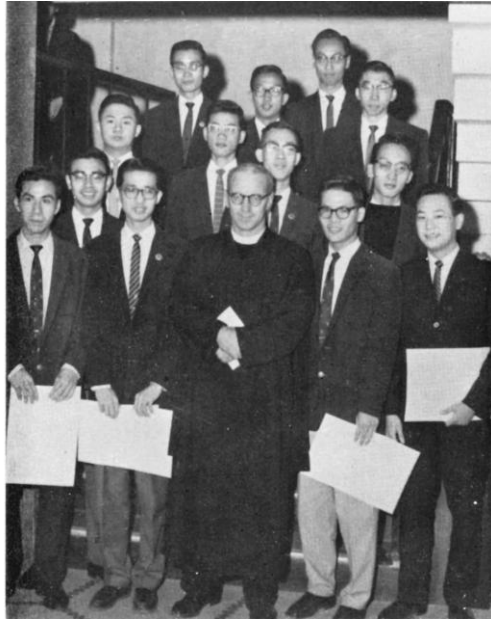
### 1957-1958, Sports Day



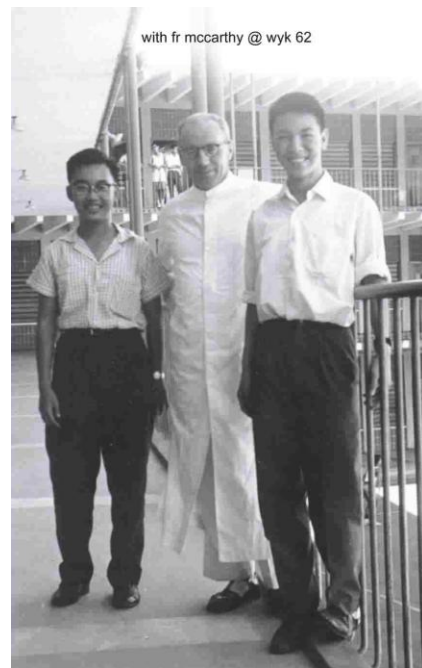
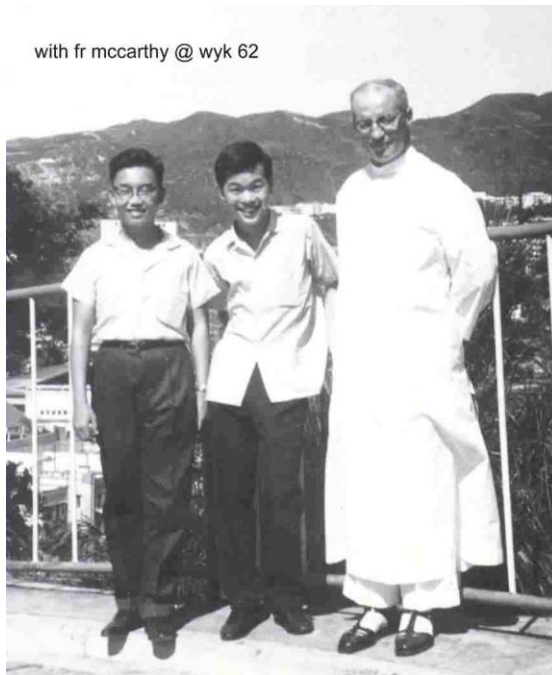
*Now! — all together — and up we go!*

### 1960-1961, directing scouts

*Magisterial Causes,*



**1960-1961, Prize Distribution Day**



**1962, meeting former students ('61), two photos**



**From Mr Laurence Tam's pictures**



**1950s. Teachers' picnic to Shatin – top row – 2nd left of the clock**



**1957, Teachers' picnic to Nam Wai – 1<sup>st</sup> right**



**1959, Teachers' picnic to Loke Yuen**





**1960-1961, Teachers' party**

**From Fr Morrissey, S.J.'s "Jesuits in Hong Kong, South China & Beyond", p 801**



**1960s, football match with Wah Yan Hong Kong boys – standing – 2<sup>nd</sup> left**

## C. Memories

### Memories of Fr McCarthy

“The Owl and the Pussy Cat went to sea,  
In a beautiful pea green boat.  
They took some honey, and plenty of money.  
Wrapped up in a five pound note...”

So goes the marvelous nonsense of Edward Lear. Every time I came across these lines, the image of Fr McCarthy would spring to mind, for he it was who introduced us to the poem, contained in *The Overseas Poetry Books, Book II* (edited by Dennis Herbert, M.A. (Lord Hemingford), with illustrations by Gabriel Pippet. London: Longman, first published 1937. It was in either Form 2 or Form 3 (1957-58 or 1958-59) that Fr McCarthy taught us English and that poem. He was an impressive presence, stocky, round-faced with glasses that held lenses so thick they made his eyes seem narrow. He had a sonorous voice that carried to every corner of the classroom, delivered with forcefulness and clarity. Coming from him, the conversation between the Owl and the Pussy Cat was a wonder to hear. Never mind the words we did not understand: “mince,” “quince,” “bong-tree,” “tarried.” Few of us knew what a “pound” looked like and what a “shilling” was worth. But Fr McCarthy brought the poem to life, in an amalgam of humor and absurdity. And the wonder grew, for as he read, he looked perfectly Owlsh to me in his round-rimmed glasses! No wonder the poem has stuck like some kind of wonder-glue.

Another time, he introduced some Gilbert and Sullivan to us in a grandiloquent tone. “I am the very model of a modern Major-General. I've information vegetable, animal, and mineral. I know the kings of England, and I quote the fights historical, from Marathon to Waterloo, in order categorical,” I can still rattle off that much of the lyrics of *The Pirates of Penzance* today, thanks to him. He produced the comic musical in the 1959 – 1960 school year (musical director: Mr Wilson Hsueh), so continuing the tradition of musicals in WYK. Other memorable poems he had taught are “Before Sleeping” (“Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, Bless the bed that I lie on”), the romantic “The Sea” (The Sea! the Sea! the open sea!) and the dramatic “Inchcape Rock.” The seeds of literature were thus sown in me.

But Fr McCarthy was able to put fear into us as well. One day, he walked into the classroom with a fearsome look, very red in the face, and glowered at the class. He was about to return our homework to us! Without saying a word, he threw a few exercise books down on the raised platform far away from where he sat. We all bowed our heads without looking up or round. He scolded us roundly for our slovenly work. We held our breath. Then he went through some of the points of the exercise again.

I was in his class again in Form 5, but, such are the vagaries of my memory, I can recall little of that year. But one thing is sure: I was always careful in doing Fr McCarthy's homework, i.e. English. And the efforts paid off, for I managed to get a decent grade in the subject. Thank you, Fr McCarthy.

There was another side of Fr McCarthy that I noticed. He was quite sporty, and supported student sports by refereeing, recording, giving out trophies and so on. He even took part in football games against the student team, and he was involved in scouts activities. It was obvious he enjoyed the extra-curricular side of school.

He transferred to Wah Yan Hong Kong the year we graduated from Form 5 in 1961.

He came from the town of Limerick, just like Fr John Coghlan and Mr Patrick O'Flanagan.

Yu Fong-ying ('61), February 8, 2012

Appendix:

Just for the record, here is a list of the musicals that formed part of the Wah Yan music tradition in our days (1955-1963), unearthed by Wong Hin Shing from The Shield, for which many thanks:

1953 – 1954 musical Snow White (Producer: Fr Morahan)

1955-1956 Trial by Jury (Producer: not mentioned) (Director: Fr Morahan) (Conductor: Mr Alexander Wong)

1956-1957 HMS Pinafore (Producer: Fr Morahan) (Director: Mr Alexander Wong)

1959-1960 Pirates of Penzance (Producer: Fr McCarthy) (Director: Mr Hsueh)

1961-1962 Iolanthe (Producer: Mr O'Flanagan) (Director: Mr Hsueh)

1962-1963 Mikado (Producer: Mr O'Flanagan) (Musical Director: Mr Hsueh) (Director: Fr Egan)

1963-1964 Yeomen of the Guard (Producer: Fr Egan) (Musical Director: Mr Hsueh) (Stage Directors: Mr Francis Kong & Mr Joseph Lai)

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**E N D**

Compiled by Wong Hin-Shing, with the assistance of Yu Fong-ying, Feb 8, 2012