

– SISTER DOROTHY ANN KELLY, O.S.U. WOMAN OF CONSCIENCE AWARD RECIPIENT –

MOTHER CECELIA WANG, O.S.U.

Mother Cecelia Wang, O.S.U. is Prioress General of Ursulines of the Roman Union. Teacher, counselor, administrator, and leader, she walks in the footsteps of St. Angela Merici modeling charity, courage, and creativity. These special gifts of charity, courage, and creativity have been especially present to her students and colleagues during her years of service in the often challenging political climate of her native Taiwan.

Mother Cecelia was born and grew up in Taiwan where she was among the first graduates of Wenzao Ursuline College (now known as Wenzao Ursuline College of Languages). Wenzao is an institution familiar to The College of New Rochelle, and the Ursulines of the Community of St. Teresa having shared several faculty. Mother Cecelia earned her bachelor's degree in English from Tamking Univeristy, Taipei. The year she graduated from Tamking she entered the Ursulines of the Roman Union. After her final profession of vows she was sent to Loyola University in New Orleans, Louisiana to study and earned a master's degree in educational administration there.

Returning to Taiwan, she taught English and personal growth/ethics at Wenzao College, Stella Maris High School, and Stella Maris Primary School. The course in personal growth/ethics, integrating Christian values, personal growth and liturgy, was greatly valued by students and creatively responded to the prohibition of religious education in schools.

She served as Principal of the Ursuline Stella Maris High School in Hualien on the east coast of Taiwan, home of many minority groups, especially the aboriginal people. The aborigines are marginalized in many ways in Taiwanese society, thus the school created a special program for these students. Linked closely with the student's families, this program helps them preserve their languages and cultures and has allowed them at the same time to develop their self-esteem and integrate themselves better and more successfully into the mainstream Taiwanese culture. The design and mission of this program profoundly shares the practices and the mission of Ursuline educators around the world.

In 1996 Mother Cecelia went back to teach at Wenzao and started a Center of Spirituality to promote Christian spirituality through personal growth courses, activities, and volunteer services among students and to offer private lessons for initiation into Catholicism. In an environment where only slightly more than one percent of the population is Christian, this was a conscious commitment to promote Christian values on a college campus. Her leadership in creating this Center of Spirituality is contemporaneous with and deeply resonates with the discernment and activities of Catholic Higher Education in the United States toward the re-affirmation, recommitment, and reinvigoration of Catholic identity motivated by the promulgation of *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*.

As principal of an Ursuline school and mentor to students, she has given much of her time to the formation of younger sisters. In 2004 she was appointed Provincial, and at the General Chapter meeting of the Ursulines of the Roman Union in 2007 she was elected Prioress General. A truly global leader in this office, she has travelled widely visiting sisters in many of the 36 countries where sisters of the Roman Union live and minister. She has followed St. Angela's counsels to "go often and visit dear daughters and sisters" and by example "seek to spread peace and concord." In the words of St. Angela:

See how important is this union and concord. So, long for it, pursue it embrace it, hold onto it with all your strength; for I tell you, living all together thus united in heart, you will be like a mighty fortress, a tower of strength. (LAST COUNSEL)

For her charity, her courage, her creativity and moral leadership as educator and leader of Ursulines of the Roman Union, The College of New Rochelle names Mother Cecelia Wang, O.S.U. a Woman of Conscience and presents to her the Sister Dorothy Ann Kelly, O.S.U. Woman of Conscience Award.

