

# History of Guangren Catholic Elementary School

## When one grain of wheat dies, it produces many grains of wheat

In 1954, Fr. 文懷德, a missionary of CICM in Inner Mongolia, moved to Taiwan with Fr.袁士林 and Fr.巴昌明. Archbishop 郭若石 of the Taipei Archdiocese gave the Wanhua area of Taipei City and the areas of Shimen, Sanzhi, Jinshan, and Wanli in Taipei County (now named New Taipei City) to the CICM as a garden for the spread of the Gospel.

In early 1959, helped by Father 司代天, Bishop 范普厚 founded Guangren Catholic Elementary School at Dongyuan Street, Taipei, hired Ms.宋曼西 as the first principal and invited Nun 趙懷仁 to engage in the school affairs. And Father 司代天 and Father 裴理天 served as counseling priests.

When Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (C.I.C.M.) founded this school, the average incomes of Taiwanese citizens were still low. Given that for a running a school well, the priority is to settle down the life of teachers and to create a good educational environment; thus, C.I.C.M. decided to raise funds overseas and the foundation was therefore financially enriched. Improving the treatment of faculty, settling down the life of teachers and setting up prizes and scholarships for students to encourage children of the city to study here – these efforts laid the cornerstone of stable development for Guangren Catholic Elementary School.

### History:

1. In September, 1959, the Sacred Heart of Mary Catholic Church approved the establishment of "Taipei City Private Guangren Elementary School" by the Board of Directors of the Department of Education, Taipei City Government in the letter No. 5568 dated September 21, 1959.
2. In September, 1959, the school enrolled one class of first and second grade students and one class of kindergarten students.
3. In October, 1959, Department of Education, Taipei City Government approved the establishment of Taipei City Private Guangren Elementary School and Kindergarten with Ms. Song as the first principal and kindergarten director.
4. December 27, 1959, Board of Directors Meeting resolved that the 6th day of the first month of each year (the day the three kings came to visit the school) would be the school's celebration day.

5. On January 17, 1960, the dedication ceremony of the Guangren Building was officiated by the Apostolic Nuncio to Republic of China, Mr. Gao Li-Yao, and attended by the Honorary President, President Yu.
6. In 1963, a music class was established.
7. In 1971, a class for special education was established.
8. On August 11, 1973, we were allowed to register as a foundation.
9. In July, 1981, the first principal, Ms. Song, retired and was replaced by Sister Shih.
10. In September, 1982, the school was renamed as "Taipei City Private Guangren Elementary School and Kindergarten" by letter No. 47 551, dated September 21, 1982, from the Department of Education, Taipei City Government.
11. In August of 1984, Sister Shih, the second principal, was promoted to the presidency of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and Ms. Lo, the head teacher, became the acting president.
12. August 1885, school board of direction employed Ms. 羅慧曼 as third principle of Guangren Elementary and Preschool.
13. February 1997, Ms. 羅慧曼 retired from school board of direction, school board of direction employed Ms. 陳瑤美 as principle of Guangren Elementary and Preschool.
14. 29th of February 2008, Mr. 洪山川, Catholic Diocese of Taipei, was elected as the 6th chairman of board during the 17 annual 5th board meeting.
15. July 2008, Ms. 陳瑤美 stepped down as 4th principle, school board of direction hired Ms. 龍玉琴 as 5th principle.
16. June of 2008 Guangren Kindergarten was established.
17. January of 2012, to cope with Kindergarten and Preschool Intergrate Policy, our kindergarten was renamed to Affiliated Preschool of Guangren Elementary school.
18. July 29th 2014. 19 annual 1st board meeting, Catholic Diocese of Taipei Mr. 洪山川 was reelected as chairman of school board.
19. July 2015, 5th principle Ms. 龍玉琴 retired, school board of direction hired Ms. 何怡君 as 6th principle.
20. ESL program started at August 2015
21. July of 2019, Ms. 何怡君 stepped down as 6th principle, board of direction hired Ms. 何碧蓮 as 7th principle.

22. On the 9th meeting of 20 annual council meeting 2020, Catholic Diocese of Taipei Mr. 鍾安住 was elected as the 7th chairman.

Important events: Since the establishment of Guangren Catholic Elementary School in 1959 (R.O.C. 48), lots of outstanding students have been created and the foundation of Guangren's stable development is settled.

**The list of important events are below:**

**1. The first Catholic elementary school in Taiwan:** With the belief of caring for people and pursuing fairness and justice, the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary founded the first Catholic elementary school with "caritas" as the school motto, dedicated to promoting all-around education and shaping a school culture based on love.

**2. The first school in Taiwan, which offers music classes:** The first experimental music class was established in 1963. It's pioneering music education in private schools and nurturing many outstanding talents for the music industry in Taiwan. For more than 60 years, Guangren Catholic Elementary School has been nurturing music talents and establishing a unique brand of music education through a holistic and systematic curriculum.

**3. The first school in Taiwan, which offers special education classes:** The first special education class was established in 1971. We accept students with special needs in a spirit of love and care, using professional special education to allow them to develop appropriately, integrating with education successfully that allows other students to express love and care for those students with special needs through practical actions.

**4. The achievement for an actualized environment :** Meigui, Boai, and Guangren buildings were completed or reconstructed in 1985, 1995, and 2005. For faculty and all students, both hardware and software have been continuously in renewal for a better and more commodious learning space and environment. In recent years, with systematic updates on school security surveillance networks, children are under a more complete care. We also promote digital teaching by expanding online platforms and information appliances year by year, with the aim of making teaching vital and learning delightful.

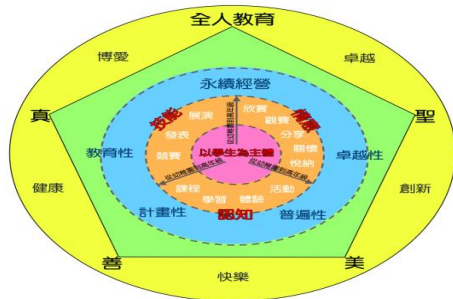
**5. Continue to hold ESL Program:** Since 105 academic year, Grade 1 will be divided into two Excellence classes, two ESL classes and one Music ESL class. The curriculum, teachers, teaching materials and pedagogies are collaborated by the Canada School Board, and qualified teachers teaching in Taiwan are recruited by Teacher Research Centre. Teacher Research Centre is recommended by the School

Board. The School Board has also appointed co-principals to observe teachers' teaching in schools and conduct teaching seminars with teachers to integrate with the teaching in Taiwan.

### 6. Recognition Of School Performance:

For more than 60 years, Kwang Ren has been upholding Happiness, Innovation, Excellence and Wellbeing as the school's vision, strengthening the commitment of providing quality education to students. In recent years, the school has attained outstanding awards and recognition in Music, Science, Language and Sports. Not only have we been awarded with 「2022 Benchmark School Certification」 by the Department of Education - Taipei, Kwang Ren has also received School concept image

「Outstanding Learner Experience」 「Curriculum Development」 Regarding students as the main body, under the premise of considering education, planning, universality, excellence and sustainable management, our school creates a rich learning environment, systematically plan courses, and pays attention to students' cognition (including courses, learning, experience, activities, and activities) skills (including performances, presentations, competition



Fr. 司代天 & kids	Principal Ms. 宋曼西	With the president (First prize of National Science Fair)	Champion (Education Cup)	Cultivate morality with music	Guided Writing